

Justice, Peace and Life

April 2020

Doing Social Good While Social Distancing

Whether we are staying at home or still in the workplace as essential workers, we all have a role to play in keeping our communities healthy. Even during this strange and unsettling time, let's ask ourselves, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "What are we doing for others?"

Here are a few things we can do, even now:

Continue to pray for the ill and their caretakers, and also for the farmworkers, the truckers and the cashiers who are keeping us fed.

Donate to your local Catholic Charities.

They're doors are open and they're still serving poor and vulnerable people.

Support your local economy

Workers and small business owners are hurting and will continue to hurt throughout this astounding drop-off in economic activity. If you have the means, use your money for good.

Instead of giving your money to mammoth billion dollar companies with terrible records of exploiting their workers, use your money wisely to support **locally owned stores and restaurants.**

- ◇ Order take-out food from a local restaurant
- ◇ Buy gift cards from your favorite little stores to use later
- ◇ If you must go out, stock up on food and toiletries from the small pharmacy in your neighborhood or the mom-and-pop grocery store nearby.

Keep advocating for the Common Good

If you're stuck at home, now's the time to learn who your state and local elected officials are, and about current issues of justice, peace and life.

Now that the federal government has passed the enormous relief bill and the NYS legislature has passed the annual budget, our representatives may soon begin to turn their attention to other issues as well.

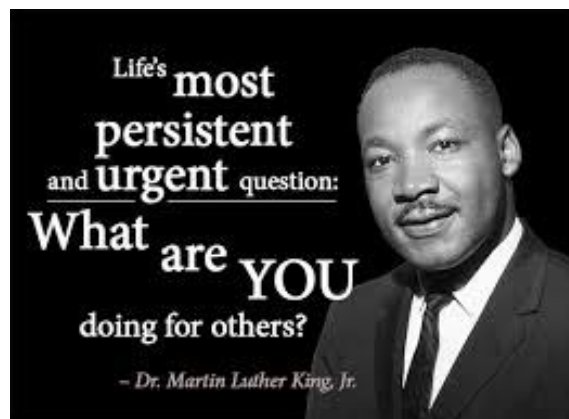
Here are a few links to online petitions on issues that Catholics are called to speak out on:

[Reducing the nuclear threat](#)

[Welcoming asylum seekers](#)

[Opposing physician-assisted suicide](#)

[Curbing climate change](#)



In commemoration of Dr. King's death on April 4, 1968, consider reading the US Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter "[Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter against Racism](#)"

and for Holy Week, praying the [Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism](#), based on this teaching.



"...we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. ...Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!" -Pope Francis

Our annual Diocesan Social Ministry Conference, slated for May 14, has been postponed.



We are planning to re-schedule the conference for September or October.

Please stay tuned!



Don't forget your Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl

During these final days of Lent, please continue to contribute to your Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl. You'll find prayers, stories about CRS' work and international recipes for meatless meals at www.crsricebowl.org.

Special prayers for Holy Week are here: www.crsricebowl.org/holy-week

Reading and listening to the stories of people from around the world help us to remember that we are all one family in Christ even though we are physically apart.

Collection of the Rice Bowl offerings can be delayed until we are able to return to our normal parish Mass and school schedule.

PLEASE don't turn in a bowl full of coins and loose bills! Be kind to your parish staff who don't have time to roll coins. Count your Rice Bowl collection yourself, then write a check for that amount made out to your parish, write "Rice Bowl" in the memo, and put it in a plain envelope marked "Rice Bowl" before you place it in the collection basket.

*May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close
remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.*

As fear grips our world, let us choose love.

*During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be
the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.*

Amen.

Together, we can ensure
that our community receives the
resources it needs.

United States®
**Census
2020**

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

Fill Out Your Census! And Tell Your Family and Friends!

The every-10-year-census count is extremely important. It determines how many state and federal representatives our region will get, and informs the distribution of billions of dollars of federal and state funding.

We need to get everyone counted!

You can answer the quick census questionnaire at www.my2020census.gov/ or by calling **844-330-2020**.

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