

Despite summertime fun, there is....

No Vacation from Social Justice Advocacy

Please take a few minutes to learn about and speak out for immigrants, working poor people, and prisoners.



“Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew what it meant to leave their own country and become migrants”

Pope Francis

Speak Up for Our Immigrant Sisters and Brothers Today!

Join our bishops in calling on the federal Administration to increase the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. Sign the petition today:

“Between FY 2016 and FY 2019, the Administration reduced the annual goal for refugee admissions to the U.S. from 85,000 to 45,000 to 30,000... Jesus calls us to welcome newcomers as they flee from persecution and seek to build new lives in our country. As the Administration consults with Congress on refugee admissions, I am concerned that the Administration will once again substantially cut the annual goal and I implore you to support an admission level of **95,000**, a level consistent with historical norms of the nearly 40-year-old program.”

<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/category/action-alerts/>

Fight Hunger, Help Stop Cuts to SNAP!

SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program, formerly called Food Stamps) helps millions of Americans to access food. The federal Administration is proposing changes to eligibility which would end individual states' right to make SNAP available to more people through less restrictive income and asset eligibility thresholds. For example, owning a car to travel to a job or having a small amount in a bank account doesn't have to mean people get cut off from this help.

New York State makes provisions for exactly these kinds of situations to help more New Yorkers attain adequate nutritional intake.

Speak out against these proposed changes by adding your personalized comment at the Feeding America [website](#). If you're a food pantry volunteer, teacher, or nurse or simply a Christian who knows that feeding the hungry is an imperative of our faith, you'll have something good and important to say!



Putting Healthy Food
Within Reach

Federal Government to Resume Killing Prisoners

Late last month, U.S. Attorney General William Barr ordered the reinstatement of the federal death penalty for the first time in 16 years. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops quickly spoke out against this step backwards for justice. (See next page for excerpts.) You can too. To express your opposition to the government taking lives in your name:

Call the Department of Justice at 202-353-1555 or send a message via the web site at:
www.justice.gov/doj/webform/your-message-department-justice

“It must be strongly confirmed that condemning a person to the death penalty is an inhumane measure that humiliates, in any way it is pursued, human dignity.” -Pope Francis

You're famous!

Check out this blog post lifting up the advocacy work you are doing in your parishes, entitled *Public Policy in the Pews: How the Diocese of Rochester NY Engages Catholics in Advocacy* <https://togoforth.org/>

"To Go Forth" is a blog from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Dept. of Justice, Peace & Human Development.



When we subjectively determine when life begins and ends, when it is viable or not, or when it is too burdensome to endure, we begin a path toward self-destruction. Life is no longer precious, but just another commodity in the business of living. Relativism becomes the absolute, and even the value of life itself is questioned."

—Bishop Salvatore Matano, *Statement Regarding Physician Assisted Suicide, January 2016*

Federal Government to Resume Killing Prisoners...

Statement from Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development on the federal government's decision to resume the use of the death penalty:

"In his address to Congress during his 2015 Apostolic visit to the United States, Pope Francis, echoing the views of his predecessors, called for 'the global abolition of the death penalty.' He further stated that, '[A] just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation.'

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church now provides, "The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person." ...

I am deeply concerned by the announcement of the United States Justice Department that it will once again turn, after many years, to the death penalty as a form of punishment. I urge instead that Federal officials take this teaching into consideration, as well as the evidence showing its unfair and biased application, and abandon the announced plans to implement the death penalty once more."



Gearing Up for the 2020 Legislative Session

Because legalization of physician-assisted suicide (PAS) is again being proposed in the New York State legislature, our Diocesan Public Policy Committee will be providing educational materials and encouraging advocacy against this assault on the dignity of human life. Please start to learn and pray about this issue.

You'll find educational and inspiring videos at

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/assisted-suicide/

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