

Justice, Peace and Life

February 2021

"Hunger is criminal. Food is an inalienable right."

-Pope Francis, [Fratelli Tutti](#), encyclical on fraternity and social friendship

CLICK AND SHARE TO FIGHT HUNGER

Catholic Extension



This month Bishop Matano and our Diocesan Public Policy Committee are encouraging Catholics to voice their support for **Nourish New York**. This New York State program provides funding for food banks to purchase products from New York State farmers, fisheries and food processors. Those food banks in turn provide this food for free or very inexpensively to local food pantries. Food pantries distribute it for free to people struggling to make ends meet.

Demand for this food has skyrocketed during the pandemic. With hundreds of thousands of people unemployed in our State, and many businesses closed, it's imperative to ensure households have enough to eat.

So **Nourish New York** is a win-win! It provides much needed income to farmers and other food producers, and it helps ensure low income people have food on their tables.

The wording of our diocesan petition is:

We call on state leaders to allocate \$50 million for fiscal year 2021-2022 to make NOURISH NEW YORK an ongoing program to respond to the need for hunger relief and survival of farms, fisheries, and food processors in New York State.

In order to collect lots of signatures during this time of social distancing, the Diocesan Public Policy Committee is asking people to **sign the petition online** at www.dor.org/petition

YOU can help spread the word. **Please share that link through e-mail and your social media.**

You can also share this page which includes a short video about how the program has helped New York State farmers: www.agriculture.ny.gov/NourishNY

Take the next step— call your state legislators too. There are many new Assembly Members and State Senators from our diocesan region. If your representatives are newly elected, they especially need to hear that you want them to support this funding for Nourish NY.

State Senate switchboard:

(518) 455-2800

State Assembly switchboard:

(518) 455-4100

The operators can look up and connect you to your elected officials' offices.

When financial speculation manipulates the price of food, treating it as just another commodity, millions of people suffer and die from hunger. At the same time, tons of food are thrown away. This constitutes a genuine scandal. Hunger is criminal; food is an inalienable right.

POPE FRANCIS
FRATELLI TUTTI, 189



Criminal Justice Reform

Another issue our Diocesan Public Policy Committee will be educating parishioners on this year is criminal justice reform. Our current “corrections” system falls well short of treating the incarcerated as we would Christ.

One part of this issue is capital punishment. To our great shame, our government executed all of the prisoners we advocated for in December and January. After the spate of federal executions carried out from July through January, we are now hopeful that new policies will prevail.

Please sign this petition from Catholic Mobilizing Network asking President Biden to end the Death Penalty:

www.catholicmobilizing.org/biden-end-federal-dp

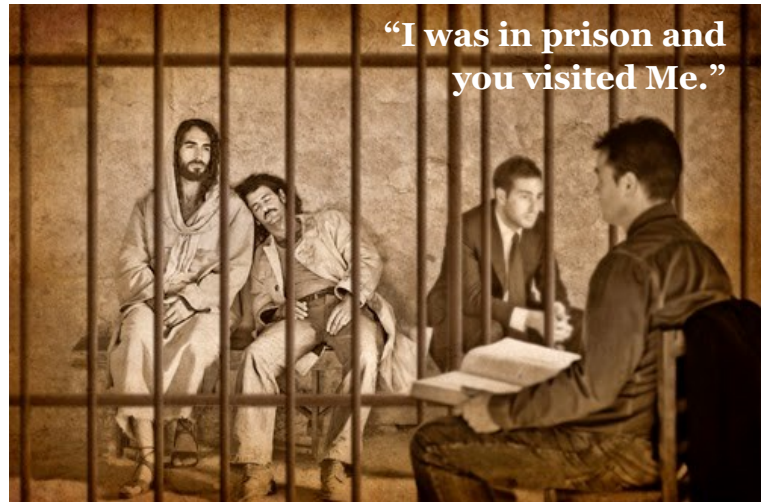
It reads:

At the center of my Catholic faith is a respect for the inviolable dignity of the human person and a belief that all people should be afforded the opportunity for redemption — including those who have committed grave harm.

I thank you for the public opposition to capital punishment that you showed during your campaign, especially in light of the unprecedented spree of federal executions carried out during the Trump administration following a 17-year hiatus from the practice.

As you take office, you will have many pressing issues to address. I urge you to count the abolition of capital punishment among them by immediately suspending all federal executions and taking steps toward:

- **Declaring an official moratorium on executions at the federal level**
- **Commuting the sentences of all those currently on the federal death row**
- **Advocating to end the death penalty in law with Congress and the states**

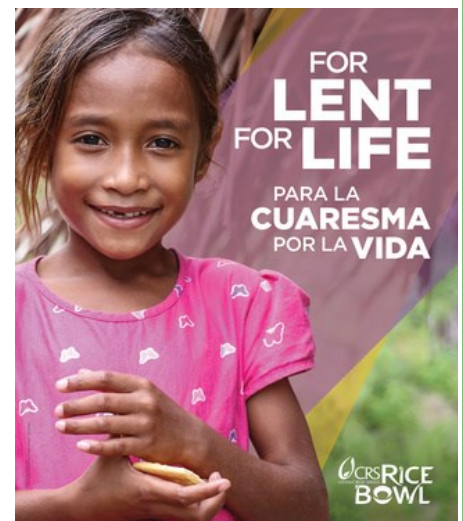


JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WITH CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Lent starts on February 17! As part of your prayer, fasting and almsgiving, please take part in the **CRS Rice Bowl's** activities. Catholic Relief Services is our US Catholic development agency, working in dozens of low income countries around the world to support our sisters and brothers there in improving their health, nutrition, education and well-being.

By giving up treats and adding the money to the Rice Bowl, or by raising funds in other ways, we are part of this work. We are giving of ourselves to walk with people from the Global South as they build better lives.

But we don't just “give money”. We also get to know them through the Stories of Hope at crsricebowl.org. Spend some time this Lent reflecting on our solidarity with people from around the world.



crsricebowl.org | crsplatodearroz.org

Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

Monroe: Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202 MEbenhoe@cfrochester.org

Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga: Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; Kathy.Dubel@dor.org

Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne: Robert Vona 315-789-2235 ext. 112 Robert.Vona@dor.org

Livingston: Amy Patterson; 585-658-4466 ext. 25; Amy.Patterson@dor.org

Steuben: Gina Reagan 607-776-8085 ext. 2216; Gina.Reagan@dor.org

Tompkins: Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org

Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator: Shannon Kilbridge 585-328-3228 ext. 1218 Shannon.Loughlin@dor.org