



## YOU CAN HELP NYS FARMERS AND THE HUNGRY

**Nourish New York** is a New York State program that provides assistance for food insecure families and for farmers who have been struggling with the economic hardship brought on by the pandemic. This initiative provides funding to Food Banks to purchase New York State-produced farm products.

This accomplishes two goals: it offers market support to farmers, the fishing community, and food processors who have been impacted by the lockdown, while getting high-quality food to individuals and families in communities across the state through the regional Food Banks, who in turn provide low-cost food to local food pantries.

Nourish New York has provided **\$35 million** in funding during the period May 1- December 31, 2020. Over 17 million pounds of high-quality New York-produced food has been provided to New Yorkers in need. This food came from 4,152 New York farms to date.

Nourish New York ended December 31, 2020. It is imperative that this effective program be renewed. Because of the continued financial crisis, our Diocesan Public Policy Committee has made this our **advocacy focus for 2021**. Catholics around the diocese are asked to call on their New York State elected officials to provide suitable funding to make Nourish New York an ongoing program to support hunger relief and farm survival.

Parishes will be provided petitions, announcements and bulletin notices on this topic in the lead-up to Public Policy Weekend in February.

To learn more about Nourish New York and to view a short informational video about how it's helped our farmers, go to [www.agriculture.ny.gov/NourishNY](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/NourishNY)

## Killing in Our Name Continues

The Trump administration reinstated the federal death penalty in 2019. Since July 2020 the government has put 20 prisoners to death. Three more executions are scheduled for next week.

Let it never be said that we were silent in the face of this affront to the God-given dignity of every single human life.

Speak out against these three scheduled executions by signing this online petition: [www.catholicismobilizing.org/take-action-stop-federal-executions-1](http://www.catholicismobilizing.org/take-action-stop-federal-executions-1)

and by calling the White House at **202-456-1111**



## Catholics Mobilizing Network Vigils for those about to die

**Virtual Vigil for Lisa Montgomery, a woman survivor of sexual abuse and childhood trauma who is mentally ill**  
Tuesday, Jan. 12 | 2-3 p.m. EST

**Virtual Vigil for Corey Johnson, a man with a lifelong intellectual disability**  
Thursday, Jan. 14 | 2-3 p.m. EST

**Virtual Vigil for Dustin Higgs, a man who was not the gunman in the crime for which he was sentenced to death**  
Friday, Jan. 15 | 2-3 p.m. EST

Sign up for links to vigils here: <https://catholicismobilizing.org/virtual-vigils>

## January 22: A day of sorrow and hope

Friday January 22 has been named the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children” as it will mark the 38th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the U.S. A powerful way to commemorate this sad occasion is by joining in the 9 Days for Life novena at [www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life](http://www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life) developed by the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. You can visit the web site each day from **January 21 to 29** to find prayers, reflections and suggested actions for building a culture of life. Or you can sign up to get reminders via text or email.



Suggested prayers of the faithful for your parish during January:

*For the legal protection of unborn children and for loving support for their mothers before and after their births;*

*May all who suffer from participating in abortion turn to God's loving forgiveness;*

*For public servants: May God grant them the humility, wisdom, and courage to defend all human life;*

*For our nation: May God unite us in peace and respect for each other and reverence for all human life;*

*May friends and families of women with difficult pregnancies provide loving, life-affirming support for both mother and child;*

**But in hopeful pro-life news...** January 22, 2020 also marks the day when the **United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** will come into force. This accord was approved by 122 members of the U.N. General Assembly in 2017, and has just recently been ratified by the legislature of the 50th member country, so it will now become international law. The treaty declares that the countries ratifying it must “never under any circumstance develop, test, produce, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.”



Pope Francis prays at the Nagasaki ground zero site, November 24, 2019. Credit: Vatican Media.

We pray for the day when the U.S., the only country to detonate a nuclear weapon in war, will ratify the treaty and repent of the sin of possessing these anti-life weapons.

***"the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral"*** -Pope Francis, Address at the Peace Memorial Hiroshima, Japan, November 24, 2019

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