

# Justice, Peace and Life

March 2013

*Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke? ~Isaiah 58:6*

During Lent we are called to fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Let's work for a more just society as part of our Lenten disciplines. Consider fasting from TV, Facebook or some other recreational pursuit and then dedicating that time to **advocating for unborn children** this month. Through **CRS Rice Bowl** your almsgiving will connect you with poor people working for change around the world. And may we pray for eyes open to see and hearts open to address **the root causes of injustice**. Read on for details...

## Stop the NYS Abortion Expansion Bill

In January, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his intentions to pass the **Women's Equality Act** during his 2013 State of the State address. Unfortunately a bill with such a good-sounding name has an enormously bad side to it. We anticipate that provisions of the "Reproductive Health Act" will be included in this legislation.

RHA is a bill that the New York State Catholic Conference and others have been fighting since it was first introduced in 2007, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that partial-birth abortions were illegal. RHA could allow legal abortions through the ninth month of pregnancy (as unimaginable as that is) and allow abortions to be performed by people who are not physicians (despite how unsafe that could be).

For the most up-to-date information on the bill's status, visit [www.facebook.com/NYS4Life](http://www.facebook.com/NYS4Life)

**The Governor and the New York State Senate in Albany need to hear that you oppose this expansion of abortion in our state. Make your voice heard!**

### **\*Contact the Governor Cuomo and your state senator**

To learn more about the bill and to send an email, go to [www.nyscatholic.org/2013/01/re-the-abortion-expansion-bill/](http://www.nyscatholic.org/2013/01/re-the-abortion-expansion-bill/) and click on the "Just go HERE" line.

In addition, you can also call the NY Senate switch board at 518-455-2800 and ask for your state senator's office. If you don't know who your state senator is, the operator will look that up for you and then connect you to the right senator's office.

### **\*Attend the Candlelight Vigil in Albany on Monday April 15 at 5:00 p.m.**

The New York State Catholic Conference is calling all of us, especially *women*, to attend this vigil in opposition to RHA and in support of life. Bring your children! Be part of the visible presence letting our public officials know that we stand on the side of life.

To learn more and to reserve a place on the bus going from Rochester, contact Jann Armantrout, our diocesan Life Issues Coordinator, at [armantrout@dor.org](mailto:armantrout@dor.org) or (518) 328-3210 ext. 1304.



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# FOR LENT FOR LIFE

WHAT YOU  
GIVE UP  
FOR LENT  
CHANGES  
LIVES.

## WHAT WE GIVE UP FOR LENT CHANGES LIVES!

During Lent, Catholics in the U.S. support the work of Catholic Relief Services, the global humanitarian relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community (us!) through participation in CRS Rice Bowl and by contributing to the Catholic Relief Services collection on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

CRS Rice Bowl teaches us about people struggling for a decent life, and gives us the opportunity to make sacrifices that will directly effect them.

Consider this reflection from the CRS Rice Bowl program:

*We have been blessed with a planet that sustains us with food and water. Even where there is not a lake or stream nearby, water still flows beneath us. We might just need to dig deep. This was the secret to bringing life-giving water to a small town in Pakistan. The village lacked a nearby source of clean water, and much of the day's labor was spent in hauling water. When Catholic Relief Services helped the community build a pump right in the village, a transformation occurred. Not only did it bring clean water to the village and increase the time they could spend on tending crops and livestock, but it brought the villagers together in a way that strengthened the community as a whole, as they shared responsibility for building and maintaining their water supply. The fruit of their labor has been increased productivity in their farms and herds as well as a steadier income that benefits all.*

*In communities [like ours!] blessed with healthy sanitation and water delivery systems, a glass of clean water is typically just a short walk away, flowing from a tap or drinking fountain. And while the water running from our faucets is very clean and costs just pennies a serving, we are often tempted to buy it in multiple plastic bottles which cost much more to produce and often make their way to landfills. This month, fill a reusable bottle with water to carry with you, and place what you could have spent on bottled water in your Rice Bowl. What we give up for Lent, changes lives!*

It's not too late to participate in the CRS Rice Bowl program. Find resources at [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) For more information about Catholic Relief Services, contact Kathy Dubel, Catholic Relief Services coordinator for the Diocese of Rochester at [kdubel@dor.org](mailto:kdubel@dor.org) or (607) 734-9784 ext.2135.

### **A Lenten Prayer**

*May Lent be for us  
A time of learning to see  
Where Christ is crucified today,  
A time of learning  
To recognize the complex roots of injustice,  
To recognize the Gethsemanes  
In our global community.  
May we witness the suffering  
Of God's children  
As Mary witnessed  
Her beloved son's suffering.*

*May Lent be for us  
A time of learning to become  
An Easter people,  
A time of learning  
To recognize the deep roots of compassion,  
To recognize we too are called  
To witness the empty tomb and  
To announce  
To a world in despair  
The Hope of the Resurrection.*

*by Jane Deren, Education for Justice,  
[www.educationforjustice.org](http://www.educationforjustice.org)*