

From Womb to Tomb: Respecting Life at All Stages



During Respect Life month, we are called to reflect on the sanctity of human life. We must recognize that **all** people are unconditionally loved by God and made in God's image. Let us recommit ourselves to defending the precious worth of every person.

Take a look at this year's Respect Life materials from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/>

They include "10 ways to Support Her when She's Unexpectedly Expecting" and "Supporting Families Who Receive a Pre-Natal Diagnosis."

A woman diagnosed with terminal brain cancer tells her story [here](#). The mother of a little boy with Down syndrome describes the difference he makes in his family's life. Below is an excerpt from her reflection, "A Perfect Gift":

Help Stop Assisted Suicide: A Training Conference for Catholics

Sponsored by the NYS Catholic Conference

**Saturday November 7
10:30am-2:30pm**

St. Pius X Church Parish Hall,
23 Crumitie Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

Learn the best medical, legal and ethical arguments against the legalization of physician-assisted suicide. Be inspired by a young father battling cancer. Be enlightened by those who care for the aged and infirm. Get the facts about legislation that could legalize euthanasia in our state.

Pre-registration is required. Send your name, address, phone number, and \$10 registration fee (checks payable to NYS Catholic Conference) to:

NYS Catholic Conference
Attn: Cindy Miller
465 State Street
Albany, NY 12203
Or register online at

www.nyscatholic.org/registration

Contact: Cindy Miller at 518-434-6195 or
cmiller@nyscatholic.org

Love in a family where one member has a serious disability may look unappealing from the outside. Indeed, love in any family is messy; there are faces to wipe and sacrifices to make. It's natural to fear that such sacrifices will require too much. But this is where the deep mystery of sacrificial love becomes apparent.

In our family we have found that our hearts, rather than being weighed down, have become larger. Caring for Charlie has given us more patience, more compassion, and more love for others—especially those on the outskirts of society, whom Pope Francis so often calls us to care for.



...[E]very life is a good and perfect gift. Many know this on an intellectual level, but those who love someone with a disability see it in their loved one's face in a particular way. Our love for them has nothing to do with what they can or can't do. **We love them simply because of who they are.**

Understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone, whether they have a disability or not. We also begin to understand our own worth, which depends not on our skills or appearance, but solely on the fact that we are persons created in the image and likeness of God. Our lives—all our lives—are worth living.

“Invest in Kids” Advocacy on the State Budget

The Diocesan Public Policy Committee is asking all parishes to gather petition signatures this fall requesting Governor Cuomo and State legislative leaders to include increased funding for **child care subsidies** in the upcoming state budget. Child care can cost \$5,000, \$7,000, up to even \$14,000 per year, depending on the type of care and the age of the child. Without subsidies, this expense is simply out of reach for low income families, who have to choose between quitting a job or placing children in undesirable and even unhealthy child care situations.

Increasing access to child care subsidies is **one of the most important things we can do to decrease the number of children in poverty in our state.**

You'll find stats on childhood poverty in your county along with the petition to the State leaders [here](#).

Please return your signed petitions to the Justice & Peace Ministry staffer for your county by **November 13**. See below for their contact information.



Support for Refugees

Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War. This presents us with great challenges and many hard decisions.

On this continent, too, thousands of persons are led to travel north in search of a better life for themselves and for their loved ones, in search of greater opportunities. Is this not what we want for our own children?

We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal. We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome.

Let us remember the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (*Mt 7:12*).

-Pope Francis, Address to United States Congress

To learn more about and to support Catholic Relief Services' efforts to provide welcome and relief to the refugees entering Europe to flee war and violence, go to this [link](#).

Join the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in calling for our government to accept 100,000 refugees and to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Contact your Senators and Representative:

Senator Schumer: 202-224-6542

Senator Gillibrand: 202- 224-4451

House of Representatives switchboard: 202-224-3121

**EVERY LIFE
IS WORTH LIVING**

Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

Monroe 585-546-7220 Marvin Mich ext. 7021; MMich@cfrochester.org / Ruth Marchetti ext. 7099; RMarchetti@cfrochester.org

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

Cayuga/Ontario/ Seneca/Tompkins/Yates Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; LKonwinski@dor.org

Livingston Tabitha Brewster 585-658-4466 ext. 13; TBrewster@dor.org

Steuben Lynda Lowin 607-776-8085 ext. 217; LLowin@dor.org

Wayne Peter Dohr 315-331-4867; PDohr@dor.org

Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator: Suzanne Stack 585-328-3210 ext. 1304; SStack@dor.org