

# Justice, Peace and Life

April 2016

## 2016 Diocesan Social Ministry Conference



### *Caring for Each Other and Our Common Home in the Year of Mercy*

**Saturday May 7, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.**

**Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua**

**Registration & Hospitality from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

**\$15 registration fee, includes lunch and materials**

**Registration deadline: Tuesday May 3**

Is your parish doing amazing social ministry work that could inspire other parishes?  
Or do you want to breathe new life into your parish's efforts to live out the Gospel? **Please join us!**

All parish staff and parishioners, especially parish council members, religious education teachers, youth group leaders, and social ministry committee members, are invited to attend the Diocesan Social Ministry Conference, sponsored by Catholic Charities. Take this opportunity to share with and learn from Catholics from around the diocese.

We'll focus on themes fitting for this Jubilee Year of Mercy— how to show greater mercy toward poor and vulnerable people, and toward our Common Home, the Earth. We have a line-up of expert speakers who'll raise our awareness on the connection between justice and mercy, the realities of childhood poverty in our region, and how we can respond to beloved Pope Francis' teaching on care for creation.

Workshops will cover a variety of social concerns connected to Catholic Social Teaching in small group discussion format.

If you have an idea for a workshop, please contact the Justice & Peace Ministry staff from your area. You'll find their contact information on the bottom of this page.

You should also contact your Justice & Peace staffer to register. Please do so by **May 3!**

#### **Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:**

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### Now and At the Hour of Our Death...

*Our Diocesan Public Policy Committee has chosen [Physician Assisted Suicide \(PAS\)](#) as one of our education issues during the current legislative session.*

*Justice, Peace & Life will continue to raise awareness on the many reasons to oppose the proposal to legalize PAS in New York State.*



#### **Reason #1: PAS compromises the sacred role doctors play in patients' lives**

The American Medical Association opposes PAS on ethical grounds.

*"It is understandable, though tragic, that some patients in extreme duress--such as those suffering from a terminal, painful, debilitating illness--may come to decide that death is preferable to life.*

*However, allowing physicians to participate in assisted suicide would cause more harm than good.*

*Physician-assisted suicide is **fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer**, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks."*

*[American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics](#)*

#### **Reason #2: PAS can be the first step on a slippery slope of defining whose lives are worth living**

*"The Nazi party used very emotional propaganda films about terminally ill people who needed the [so-called] compassion of assisted suicide... Once they sold the German people on assisted suicide and had some doctors on board, the Nazi party moved into the concept of "useless eaters." Germany was in a terrible depression in the 1930s, worse than America's. "Useless eaters" were criminally insane, severely handicapped children, very very elderly, etc. Once they eliminated "useless eaters," the Nazis went on to killing -- well, you've got the idea."*

*-Jane St. Clair*

[30 Logical Reasons Against Assisted Suicide](#)

### Easter Season Education on Care for Creation

You'll find wonderful resources from the Diocesan Public Policy Committee on care for creation for your parish to use during this Easter Season. You can access them on the diocesan web site [here](#). They include prayers of the faithful, bulletin notices, and many suggestions on how your parish and individual parishioners can follow Pope Francis' call to take better care of the Earth, Our Common Home.

A few ideas:

\*Ask your parish staff to include the prayers at Masses and the bulletin notices, and to find ways through liturgy and faith formation to bring Pope Francis' message to your parish.

\*Look for ways to eliminate your use of parish's Styrofoam and other disposables. Have people donate mugs to the church kitchen. Hold a fundraiser to raise money for an energy efficient dishwasher if you don't already have one.

\*Commit to eliminating plastic water bottles. Serve water in pitchers.

\*Replace incandescent bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs. CFLs produce the same amount of light with a quarter of the energy, and last 7-10 times longer. Better yet, make the switch to even more efficient LED light bulbs.

\*Encourage parishioners to support small, local organic farmers, particularly by buying shares in [Community Supported Agriculture](#) (CSAs) which provide local farmers with greater financial security and families with delicious local produce.



*O, Lord, forgive us for the ways our lifestyles destroy Your creation and give us wisdom and generosity to change.*