

## Voting for Life: The “Equal Rights” Amendment Ballot Measure

It doesn't feel right to oppose anything to do with “equal rights”, but here's a circumstance where words are deceiving. The so-called “Equal Rights” amendment being proposed as an addition to our New York State constitution actually promotes abortion and puts parental rights at risk.

**It will be on the ballot this year as Proposal One, so now is the time to learn about it.**

The New York State Catholic Conference explains:  
*The Bishops of New York State are urging Catholic New Yorkers to oppose **Proposal One**.*

*“This hastily written amendment is presented as a means of banning unjust discrimination against people for a range of characteristics.*

*However, by singling out both age and gender identity and expression, it opens the door for judges to permit minor children to make life-altering decisions about their bodies without any parental approval or notification,” said Dennis Poust, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference. “Additionally, it would make it impossible to ever pass even the most common-sense restrictions on abortion.*

*“New York already has robust protection of civil rights in state statute and in the Constitution, as well as in many local and county human rights laws. In fact, the Constitution already specifically guarantees to everyone the equal protection of the laws, regardless of any defining characteristic or identity. There are also extensive civil rights protections under federal law and the U.S. Constitution. There is no evidence whatsoever that this broad network of legal protections is inadequate. We believe it is always correct to oppose unjust discrimination against any individuals, but this proposal sweeps far too broadly in language and scope, and would result in far more harms than positive advancements.*

**“We urge all New Yorkers to oppose it.”**

### Vote NO on New York's Prop 1 on Tuesday, November 5th

- New York State could have more authority than parents in making important medical decisions for children.
- Minors could have the right to irreversible transgender procedures without their parent's notice or consent.
- Biological males could be allowed to compete against biological females in school sports without restrictions.

Visit [ProtectKidsNY.com](https://ProtectKidsNY.com)

Paid for by The Coalition to Protect Kids-NY



The Coalition to Protect Kids  
NEW YORK



Braver Angels

### Following Jesus in a Polarized World: Follow up from our social ministry conference

Learn how to have more civil and respectful conversations with people you disagree with on important matters of politics and faith. Invite **Braver Angels**, an organization dedicated to guiding people in bridging the divide, to present at your parish or group!

In the Northern Tier of the diocese, contact: Brady Fergusson at [brady@climategfl.org](mailto:brady@climategfl.org) or Kaitlin Pontzer at [kap257@cornell.edu](mailto:kap257@cornell.edu). Kaitlin is also a member of St. Mary's church in Canandaigua! In the Southern Tier, contact: Heather McCarty at [hbmccarty@gmail.com](mailto:hbmccarty@gmail.com).

Check out some other great resources at [www.civilizeit.org](https://www.civilizeit.org) from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and [www.braverangels.org](https://www.braverangels.org). Braver Angels' podcast, called A Braver Way, can be found at this [link](#).

## Putting “Labor” Back into Labor Day

“...[S]ociety and the State must ensure wage levels adequate for the maintenance of the worker and his [or her] family, including a certain amount for savings. This requires a continuous effort to improve workers' training and capability so that their work will be more skilled and productive, as well as careful controls and adequate legislative measures to block shameful forms of exploitation, especially to the disadvantage of the most vulnerable workers, of immigrants and of those on the margins of society. **The role of trade unions in negotiating minimum salaries and working conditions is decisive in this area.**

-Pope St. John Paul II, in his encyclical [Centesimus Annus](#), marking the centennial of Rerum Novarum



Did you know that the Catholic Church opposes abortion? **YES!**

Did you know that the Catholic Church opposes physician assisted suicide? **YES!**

Did you know that the Catholic Church supports labor unions? Um, **WHAT??**

Yes, it's true, even if we don't usually hear much about the dignity of work and the rights of workers as an **aspect** of Catholic teaching. For over a century, the Church has declared again and again in papal encyclicals and bishops' pastoral letters that workers have the right to organize into labor unions in order to protect their dignity by advocating for living wages and safe workplaces. Learn more at this [link](#).

September is right around the corner. Start now to find ways to put **labor** back into Labor Day. **Remember workers**, especially low-wage workers, who are struggling against exploitation, unsafe working conditions and starvation wages. **Stand with workers** striving to form labor unions to protect their rights. Make the effort to buy **Fair Trade** and **union-made products**. Ask your pastor to include the following prayer during Masses on Labor Day weekend:

*Lord God, Master of the Vineyard,*

*How wonderful that you have invited us who labor by the sweat of our brow to be workers in the vineyard and assist your work to shape the world around us. As we seek to respond to this call, make us attentive to those who seek work but cannot find it.*

*Help us stand up for living wages for those who work hard to provide for their families but still have trouble making ends meet... Open our eyes to the struggles of those who are trafficked and exploited and help us speak for just wages and safe conditions, the freedom to organize, and time for renewal.*



*Work was made for humankind and not humankind for work. Let it not be a vehicle for exploitation but a radiant expression of our human dignity.*

*Give all who labor listening hearts that we may pause from our work to receive your gift of rest. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that you might work through us to let your justice reign. Amen.*

Based on Prayer for the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers  
Copyright © 2020, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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

**Monroe:** Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202; Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org;

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

**Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne:** Robert Vona 315-521-6684; Robert.Vona@dor.org

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

**Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator:** Elizabeth Johnston 585-328-3228 ext. 1278; Elizabeth.Johnston@dor.org