

Justice, Peace and Life

February 2022

“Love is the only light that can constantly illuminate a world grown dim.” -Pope Francis

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Loving Our Neighbors.... All of Them

During this month of “hearts and flowers,” let’s put real love into action by showing up for and speaking out with our neighbors on the margins.

Love for Low Income Families and People with Behavioral Health Issues

Diocesan Public Policy Weekend is coming soon! Please speak up for babies and toddlers growing up in poverty in New York State and for community mental/behavioral health services. Here’s our message to the Governor and state leaders:

In order to be truly “New York Strong” we must first take care of those most vulnerable in our state. One way to do this is to create a budget that uses equity and justice as its guiding principles. In particular we are speaking out for low-income families with babies and toddlers, and for people struggling with addiction and mental illness. Two specific initiatives we are advocating for are:

- ♥ Including children ages 0-4 in the New York State Child Tax Credit
- ♥ Including a 5.4% COLA and a \$500 million investment in the New York State Budget for workforce, service, and support for behavioral health service providers who care for people with addictions and mental illness



PUBLIC POLICY WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 12-13

SIGN THE PETITION!

Please sign the Diocesan petition at church or online at:

www.dor.org/petition

Love for Expectant Mothers and Their Unborn Children

Contact Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand to ask her to support Senate Bill 1486, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act: <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me> or call her office at (202) 224-4451

Urge Congress to **pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (S. 1486).**

This legislation will make the workplace safer for pregnant women and their unborn children by requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.

Common accommodations requests are:

- A chair
- Modified schedule
- Light duty
- Being able to carry a bottle of water
- Additional bathroom or water breaks





"Jesus Christ is always waiting to be recognized in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and in exiles, and through them he calls us to share our resources"

Pope Francis

Love for Our Undocumented Neighbors

For many years, Catholics have been advocating for comprehensive federal immigration reform. Please contact Sen. Charles Schumer to remind him that we still want measures to provide legal status with a pathway to citizenship to millions of Dreamers, Temporary Protective Status holders, and undocumented farmworkers. The House of Representatives passed the American Dream & Promise Act. It's time for the Senate to pass similar legislation.

Contact Sen. Schumer's office by phone or email:
(202) 224-6542

<https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email->



Love for People on Death Row

President Biden has instituted a moratorium on executing prisoners on death row in federal prisons. But we need to end the federal death penalty entirely, so that future presidents don't allow its use again. The Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act (H.R. 262/S. 582) would do that. Please use the link below (found on our Diocesan Life Issues Office web site LifeRoc.org) to connect to an online petition to your members of Congress

<https://www.liferoc.org/repeal-the-federal-death-penalty/>

OHIO may be the next state to abolish the death penalty. If you have friends or family there, please pass this link along to them to advocate for passage of that pending legislation in their state.

<https://catholicsmobilizing.org/action/2021-03/take-action-against-ohios-death-penalty>



And Some Love for Our Spouses, Too!

Find links to prayers and resources on strengthening marriages at:

<https://www.liferoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/word-of-life-2022-02.pdf>

www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/

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