



Bishop Clark's episcopal motto was
"God's love endures forever."
May he rest in that love
for all eternity.

In Memoriam: Bishop Matthew Clark, Friend of Catholic Charities and Champion of Social Justice Advocacy

In 2009, on the occasion of Bishop Clark's 30th anniversary as bishop of our diocese, the Catholic Courier quoted then Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities, Jack Balinsky:

"Day in and day out he is a strong supporter of Catholic Charities in our service delivery and in our advocacy efforts. ... He has done that for 30 years, and that's why we now have a physical presence in each of the 12 counties. This would not have been possible without Bishop Clark's support. His wonderfulness and support of Catholic Charities is not only known in this diocese, but throughout the country. I say often that when I go to state or national meetings I am the envy of my counterparts. They often say how wonderful it must be to work for Bishop Clark, and I say, 'Amen.'"

Help End Human Trafficking

On February 8 we celebrate the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in Sudan in 1869, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery as child. For years she was subject to terrible violence. Eventually she was "purchased" by the Italian consul and after some time was brought with him when he returned to Italy. She was given to another Italian family who gave her the task of caring for their child. Both were sent to live with the Cannossian Daughters of Charity, who taught Josephine about Christ.

She was baptized in 1890. When her "owner" came to retrieve her from the convent, she refused to leave. The sisters advocated on her behalf and a court case declared that Josephine was free, as slavery had actually been illegal in Sudan at the time of her birth and was illegal in Italy.

She entered the Cannossian order in 1893, and served her community for 42 years, until her death in 1947. She was known for her gentle voice and smile, her forgiveness towards those who had enslaved her, and her good cheer even in the face of physical pain. She had a deep desire to bring God to those who did not yet know Him. St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of the victims of human trafficking.



Liberate People from Slavery: *[Peruse these resources](#) about modern day human trafficking, which affects tens of millions around the world, watch this [video](#), and read this [info](#) from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. *[Purchase items](#) made by trafficking survivors who are putting their lives back together. *In order to stop kids from being lured into trafficking, [pledge](#) to help keep kids safer online. *Order these [Freedom Stickers](#) and place them in public restrooms to publicize the national trafficking hotline to help people escape slavery. *Organize a group to [label soaps](#) with that hotline number and distribute them to hotels. *Support the organization [U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking](#) *Ask for St. Josephine's [prayers for the victims of human trafficking](#)

**From the
NYS
Catholic
Conference**



Take Action to Stop Doctor-Assisted Suicide in NYS

“Proponents of doctor-assisted suicide are making a full court press to legalize this deadly practice in New York State, and lawmakers need to hear from their constituents if we hope to avoid yet another assault on human life here. Assisted suicide is dangerous for patients, caregivers, and vulnerable populations such as the elderly and people with disabilities. **Suicide is not medical care.** Please tell your State Senate and Assembly representatives that you oppose this dangerous and deadly practice. Contact your state legislators now!”

To send a message to your state legislator on this issue, please visit <https://www.nyscatholic.org/action-center/>

Doctor-assisted suicide discriminates against people with disabilities.

It threatens improvement of palliative care.

It puts vulnerable people at risk of coercion to end their lives by the heirs to their estates.

Learn more about these and other dangers of doctor-assisted suicide at www.nosuicideny.org and from author Jane St. Clair, quoted below, from www.authorsden.com.

A few of the many reasons to oppose Doctor-Assisted Suicide:

“[A]ssisted suicide laws will put poor people and those without health insurance at an extreme disadvantage within the medical system. Think of the money we’d save on CAT scans, x-rays, medicine, nursing care, rehabilitation, disability payments, etc. if we had this cheap alternative: suicide. ...

If you tell a psychologist that you are suicidal, he or she has the power to put you in a hospital because you are a danger to yourself. Legally, you have diminished capacity and are unable to make important and rational decisions.

If you say a dying person has a good enough reason to kill his/herself, why not a person in a wheelchair? Someone whose family was killed in an accident? Someone who faces financial ruin? Suicidal people need treatment for depression, not help committing suicide.”



As part of your Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving, please take part in the **CRS Rice Bowl's** activities. By giving something up (for example meat, treats, alcohol, restaurant meals) and adding the money saved to the Rice Bowl, or by raising funds in other ways, you'll be part of CRS' work. You'll be walking with people from the Global South as they build better lives through CRS' programs.

Get to know some of our neighbors served by CRS through the Stories of Hope found at crsricebowl.org. Spend some time this Lent reflecting on our solidarity with the people featured in these stories from Honduras, Kenya, and the Philippines.



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