

Stop the Legalization of Physician Assisted Suicide

Let's Help People Live, Not Help Them Kill Themselves

For several years, we have been opposing legislation that would legalize physician-assisted suicide in New York State. A bill to this effect has again been introduced during the current legislative session. Several states have already passed similar measures, and there is grave concern that ours may follow.

As Catholics we believe in the sanctity of **every** human life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. We believe that every person has inviolable, God-given dignity. No one should be helped, let alone encouraged, to purposefully end his or her life.

As we gear up to speak out against physician-assisted suicide (PAS), it's important to be clear on what PAS is and what it is NOT. PAS is not the same as allowing natural death to occur. For example:

- Choosing not to undergo another round of chemotherapy when faced with terminal cancer **is not** PAS.
- Administering narcotic pain medicine to a dying person with the intention of reducing her pain **is not** PAS.

PAS means a physician —who should be bound by the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm— is facilitating a person's death by providing the means and/or the information to enable that person to end her life.

PAS legislation is morally problematic in many ways. It endangers vulnerable elderly patients and people with disabilities who may be coerced into taking their own lives. It provides no counseling for patients with clinical depression whose mental illness may be driving them to this action. It flies in the face of society's suicide prevention efforts.

**[Legalizing PAS sends]
“a dangerous message to society
that when someone is considered
a ‘burden’ to someone else,
his or her life
is no longer worth living.”
-NYS Catholic Conference**

Learn more about this issue at this [video link](#) and further details about the bill [here](#).

Then contact your state legislators to ask them to oppose the legalization of PAS, which is Senate bill S2445-Assembly bill A995-A. Use this [link](#) at the New York State Catholic Conference web site.

Join the Catholic Action Network

The New York State Catholic Conference sends out legislative alerts through the Catholic Action Network. You'll receive news of current issues in Albany that call for our voices, and easy ways to contact your New York State elected officials. Put your faith into action to help build a more just and loving New York State.

Click here to [join](#) for email alerts or text the letters CAN to 50457 to receive text alerts.



**New York State
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THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE EMPIRE STATE



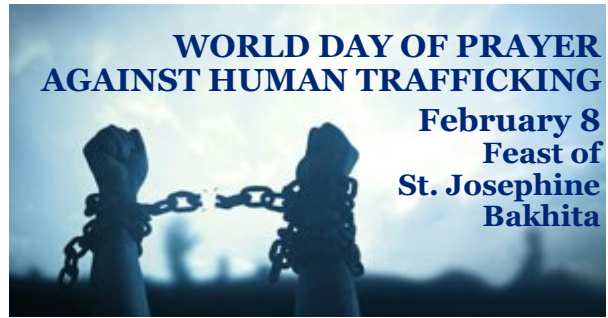
CRS RICE BOWL

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

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 you save to the Rice Bowl, or by raising funds in other ways, you'll be part of CRS' work, improving the lives of people in 120 countries around the world.

At crsricebowl.org you'll find:

- ♥ videos of people from [Uganda](#), [El Salvador](#), and [Indonesia](#) who are served by CRS
- ♥ a [calendar](#) of Lenten reflections
- ♥ Stations of the Cross [prayers](#) and [videos](#)
- ♥ a [Eucharistic Adoration](#) service
- ♥ delicious international [meatless recipes](#)



The feast of the Sudanese Saint Josephine Bakhita, a victim of trafficking in the 1800s, is a fitting day to pray and act to end [this horror](#).

Find prayers and educational material for the World Day of Prayer [here](#)

[Advocate](#) for legislation to curb online child sex abuse

Organize a group to [label soaps](#) with the national trafficking hotline to help people escape sex trafficking, and distribute them to hotels.

Download the Dept. of Labor's [Sweat & Toil](#) app on your phone to learn which goods are made by forced labor

[Buy](#) coffee, accessories and apparel produced by trafficking survivors



Read about [St. Josephine](#)

Teach your kids, grandkids and students about the [signs and risks](#) of trafficking, and that ["Real Men Don't Buy Sex"](#)

If there are so many young women victims of trafficking who end up on the streets of our cities, it is because many men here — young, middle-aged, elderly — demand these services and are willing to pay for their pleasure. I wonder then, is the principal cause of trafficking really the traffickers? I believe the principal cause is the unscrupulous selfishness of the many hypocrites in our world. Of course, arresting traffickers is an obligation of justice. But the true solution is the conversion of hearts, cutting off demand in order to dry out the market.

-Pope Francis,

Address to the Participants in the 2018 World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking

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