

Justice, Peace and Life

February 2026

Jesus Was Anti-Hunger; You Can Be Too!

Every year, the national ecumenical Christian advocacy organization Bread for the World guides church communities in advocating for federal anti-hunger policies. For over 50 years, they have empowered Christians to understand and speak out in support of the government programs that feed tens of million of people around the globe.

Church communities across the U.S. take up an **“Offering of Letters”** as part of this advocacy. Volunteers from the churches explain the current policy issues and guide their fellow parishioners in writing letters to their members of Congress.

Let’s get 30 churches in our diocese to participate this year. Can you organize an Offering of Letters at YOUR parish?

Learn more by joining the national online Offering of Letters launch on **Tuesday February 10 at 8pm**. Bread for the World staff will speak on the issues we’ll be advocating for and explain how to organize an Offering of Letters. You can register at [this link](#). And you can learn more about the Offering of Letters at www.bread.org/offering-letters/



“Nutrition is one of the best drivers of development:

it sparks a virtuous cycle of socioeconomic improvements, such as increasing access to education and employment.”

— KOFI ANNAN,
former UN Secretary-General

In 2023, more than **47 million** people in the United States experienced food insecurity, including **1 in 10 children**. Nutrition assistance programs like SNAP and WIC help families weather short-term hardship, support mothers and babies, and protect the health and development of future generations.

In our letters to Congress, we’ll be advocating for full funding for SNAP (food stamps) and for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children – better known as WIC. As the Bread web site explains, WIC is “the premier U.S. public health nutrition program for pregnant women, mothers, and children up to age 5. In 2024, the program served nearly 7 million participants per month, including **almost 40 percent of all infants in the United States.**”

We’ll also be advocating for increased funding for international humanitarian aid, which was slashed with the decimation of the U.S. Agency for International Development last year. As Bread explains, “UNICEF estimates that almost **45 million children** under the age of 5 suffer from wasting (a condition whereby a child is severely thin for their height due to poor nutrition).” We’ll all be held accountable for that sin.

Jesus fed the hungry and told us to do the same. Be anti-hunger like Jesus!



Lent begins on February 18!

Get ready to make the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl part of your Lenten observance.

“Almsgiving is more than simply making a financial donation; it’s giving of ourselves, it’s walking alongside those most in need, it’s learning their stories.”

Go to crsricebowl.org to start learning the stories of people supported by Catholic Relief Services. This year, CRS is highlighting stories of people from Ghana, Guatemala and Timor-Leste. Listen to a reflection on Lenten almsgiving [here](#). And find simple, delicious vegetarian recipes for Lent at www.crsricebowl.org/recipes like Batar Da’an from Timor-Leste; it’s the squash, bean, and corn stew, pictured here. →



Ask Your NYS Assembly Member to Support Assembly Bill 44: Give Parents the Right to Better Understand Pre-Natal Diagnoses



“The above-referenced bill would require written notice be provided to pregnant women regarding the possibility of false-positive prenatal testing results. The New York State Catholic Conference wholeheartedly supports this legislation.

In 2023, the *New York Times* reported in detail on the high number of false-positive results provided by many prenatal tests. Anecdotally, we’ve long heard stories of babies being born healthy despite a devastating prenatal diagnosis. To have this phenomenon confirmed through research and data is extremely disturbing. It is horrifying to imagine wanted babies being destroyed in the womb based on false diagnoses.

Pregnancy is a stressful and difficult thing. A terminal or debilitating prenatal diagnosis can seem overwhelming, unmanageable, and impossible for already anxious expectant parents. Doctors even go so far as to suggest termination as the best option in the face of some positive results. Sadly, the sheer terror of it all leads many women to end their pregnancies.

Women need support, care, and resources to safely carry their babies to term. They should never be pushed to life-altering, destructive decisions by misleading or incorrect prenatal test results. Requiring written notice about the possibility of false-positives, and the rates at which they occur, will ensure women have the information and knowledge necessary to make the best possible decisions for themselves and their babies. We urge you to support this critically important measure.” -From the NYS Catholic Conference

Call your NYS Assembly Member at the Capitol Switchboard: **518-455-4100**
They’ll look up your representative if you don’t already know who that is.
Or find out at this link: www.nyassembly.gov/mem/search/

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