

Justice, Peace and Life

June 2025

DON'T
assist
suicide



Keep Calling, Keep Speaking Out for Life!

Please continue to speak out against the legalization of physician-assisted suicide (PAS) in New York State.

The NYS Senate will end its legislative session on June 8. **It's GO TIME!** We have stopped this bill in past years and we can do that again!

Go to this link: nosuicideny.org/take-action/contact-your-legislator/ where you can call AND email your state senator and ask for a **NO vote on PAS!**

See www.nosuicideny.org and this [link](#) from author Jane St. Clair for **a few of the many reasons to oppose PAS:**

"American teens kill themselves at a rate of about one every two hours. About 19% of our teens tell researchers they have experienced depression, and half of those have had suicidal thoughts. Our kids take three times the number of prescription drugs for depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions than do European teens."

"By okaying assisted suicide laws, we are telling our teenagers that suicide is okay and necessary sometimes."

"In his autobiography, *Still Me*, Reeve describes the despair he felt after becoming paralyzed in a riding accident. ...He asked his wife to help him commit suicide, and she said, "I understand how you feel, but you're still you and I love you." What Reeve confesses is that he was testing her to see if she was willing to take over his care.

He went on to live a life of example. Not only did he write an inspiring book, he also acted in and directed several movies and worked tirelessly to get funding for victims of paralysis. He never gave up trying to walk. He became a real superman."

"Hope" and "Jubilation" are not words heard often these days, and yet during this Jubilee Year, we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope.

At this year's Social Ministry Conference, let's reflect together on how we can foster hope and jubilation during this time of wars, division, and hunger.

Diocesan Social Ministry Conference

The Jubilee Year and the Legacy of Pope Francis

**Wednesday June 18, 2025
9:30am-3:30pm**

**Notre Dame Retreat House
5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua NY**

**\$30 - \$40 sliding scale
includes lunch and materials**

**To register, contact:
Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org
or 607-272-5062, ext. 12**

*Debt Forgiveness -
Solidarity with Immigrants-
Prison Reform - Hunger Relief*

THE JUNETEENTH FLAG



"On June 19th we commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, and we also honor all of those who have, and continue to, advocate for freedom."

-Archdiocese of Chicago

THE COLORS

The red, white and blue colors represent the American flag, a reminder that slaves and their descendants were and are Americans.

THE ARC

The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for Black Americans.

THE STAR

The white star in the center represents both Texas (the Lone Star State), as well as the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

THE BURST

The bursting outline around the star is inspired by a nova, a term that astronomers use to mean a new star. This represents a new beginning for African Americans.

THE DATE

The date marks the day enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas learned of their freedom when Union troops arrived to announce the Emancipation Proclamation.

God of all peoples, of all nations, on this day of freedom, we celebrate triumphantly with all people of goodwill that we might walk arm in arm towards justice for all.

Breathe into us your eternal breath, that we may never tire of ensuring a flourishing life for all people, but most especially, those brothers and sisters whose growth has been stifled by the trauma of being enslaved.

O God, we know and have seen your goodness, and because of it, we cling to the hope that unity and liberation for all are within our grasp. Continue to show us your goodness, that we may have the strength to advance your kingdom with humility and grace. - Catholic Health Association

Click [here](#) for an essay by our newsletter editor and [here](#) for a video by Bishop Joseph Perry on the significance of Juneteenth.

"The generational effects of slavery, segregation, and the systemic use of violence...are realities that must be fully recognized and addressed in any process that hopes to combat racism." -Open Wide Our Hearts

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