

# Justice, Peace and Life

March 2023



## Stop Assisted Suicide

Killing is not a medical treatment

TAKE ACTION

## Your Voice Is Needed to Stand Up for the Dignity of Human Life

Our Diocese of Rochester has been joining with the New York State Catholic Conference for years now in raising our voices against the proposed legalization of **physician-assisted suicide** (which is euphemistically referred to as “Medical Aid in Dying”). Unfortunately, there is a real risk that the bill will start moving forward in our state legislature.

As part of your Lenten almsgiving, please donate a few moments of your time to **call your NYS State Senator and Assembly member** and ask them to **oppose** Senate Bill 2445 and Assembly Bill 995.

State Senate switchboard: 518-455-2800  
State Assembly switchboard: 518-455-4100

Even if you don't know who your state legislators are, the switchboard operators can look them up for you.

Learn more about the dangers of doctor-assisted suicide at [www.nosuicideny.org](http://www.nosuicideny.org) and from author Jane St. Clair, quoted below, from [www.authorsden.com](http://www.authorsden.com).

*“Assisted suicide laws give societal approval to suicide. These laws create a world where everyone agrees it's okay to check out at certain times. In fact, we'll help you do it. We'll make it legal. Society approves. This creates more suicides among people who are not sick, and leads to increased medical killings. It creates incentives to do less medical research and to save money on medical care by offering people poison pills. This is already happening in Oregon.”*

*“In the Netherlands, assisted suicide has moved into mercy killings of deformed babies, and into allowing mentally ill people to kill themselves rather than seek treatment. There is no reason to believe the United States would do any better if such laws are passed here.”*

**“[T]he rejection of physician-assisted suicide is not solely a Catholic position, it is a human rights imperative.”—Bishop Salvatore Matano**

“We're better off addressing the underlying issues of better access to health care, better access to end-of-life medication and palliative care, and better support for patients and their families during this time, than trying to push something that is such a danger to the most vulnerable members of our community.”

—Shannon Kilbridge, PhD  
Life Issues Coordinator  
for the Diocese of Rochester

Quoted in this article from  
[www.CatholicCourier.com](http://www.CatholicCourier.com)

Save the Date...

## Diocesan Social Ministry Conference Thursday May 4



## Launching/ Revitalizing Parish Social Justice Ministry

Pastors, parish staff, parish council members, and social ministry volunteers are invited to learn new skills to inspire and expand parish efforts that build up Christ's reign of justice and peace.

Details to follow!

## A Generous Lent: CRS Rice Bowl

[www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org)

**Please participate in the CRS Rice Bowl to share your love with our sisters and brothers in need around the world.**

“When we reflect on the charity of the good Samaritan, we sometimes miss the second part of the man’s almsgiving. He leaves the innkeeper with these words—and a few coins: “Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.

He gives freely and wholeheartedly in equal measure to the need of the one whom he serves. No reservations. No disclaimers.

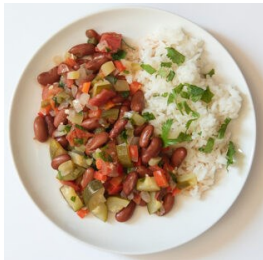
This Lent, almsgiving is your way to become a “good Samaritan.” As we journey from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week to Easter, we invite you to consider CRS an innkeeper in your Lenten almsgiving.

### How CRS Uses Alms

For more than 45 years, Lenten alms given through CRS Rice Bowl have supported programs that prevent hunger and poverty around the world, including the countries featured in the Lenten stories of hope. Seventy-five percent of gifts help support CRS’ work in **more than 100 countries**. Twenty-five percent of gifts remain in each U.S. diocese where they are given to support hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in those communities— like food pantries and community meal programs.”



**Find delicious meatless recipes for Lent— and all year— from around the Global South at**



[www.crsricebowl.org/recipe](http://www.crsricebowl.org/recipe)



**But honestly, these look so good you probably shouldn’t count eating them as penance.** 😊

## 2023 Re-Authorization of the Federal Farm Bill This is BIG!



The Farm Bill, which is re-authorized every five years, funds SNAP (“Food Stamps”) and other vital nutrition programs for low income households in the U.S. along with international food aid.

Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and the ecumenical anti-hunger advocacy group Bread for the World are all asking for grassroots advocacy so that fewer people go hungry. To bring a letter writing campaign to your parish, see: [www.bread.org/offering-letters/](http://www.bread.org/offering-letters/)

### Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

**Monroe:** Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202 [Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org](mailto:Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org);

**Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga:** Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; [Kathy.Dubel@dor.org](mailto:Kathy.Dubel@dor.org)

**Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne:** Robert Vona 315-789-2235 ext. 112; [Robert.Vona@dor.org](mailto:Robert.Vona@dor.org)

**Livingston/Steuben:** Leigh Shepard (585) 658-4466 ext. 11; [Leigh.Shepard@dor.org](mailto:Leigh.Shepard@dor.org)

**Tompkins:** Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; [Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org](mailto:Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org)

**Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator:** Shannon Kilbridge 585-328-3228 ext. 1218 [Shannon.Loughlin@dor.org](mailto:Shannon.Loughlin@dor.org)