

# Justice, Peace and Life

May 2023

## Truly Pro-Life: Honoring Mothers and Helping Them Thrive

*As we honor mothers this month and work to protect unborn children always, we lift up the NYS Catholic Conference's reminder of the need to support women and children holistically:*

### **From the New York State Catholic Conference: A Pro-Life, Pro-Woman Legislative Agenda for NYS**

To be truly pro-life is to care for people from life's beginning to its natural end. Moms and babies deserve the full support of society not just to survive, but to thrive. As New York continues to prioritize only one choice for vulnerable women, we offer a different vision. True choice exists when women, mothers, children, and families are supported. We stand in radical solidarity with moms and their children through the following pro-life agenda:

#### Prenatal Care and Maternal Health

The United States has a shockingly high maternal mortality rate, and New York is no exception. The numbers are even higher for women of color. Reversing these unacceptable statistics must be a priority for New York State. Women must be supported with comprehensive prenatal care and a focus on maternal health both during and after pregnancy.

#### Empire State Child Tax Credit

New York State should make it easier to raise children through initiatives such as the Empire State Child Tax Credit. Currently, the credit is available for parents of children ages 4-17. It should be expanded to start at birth. It should also be made more generous and fully refundable. Easing economic burdens is an important way to support children and families.

#### Adoption Tax Credit

It is a noble and blessed gift for a woman to carry a baby to term, and society must do all it can to support the choice of adoption. The process should be incentivized on both ends so that all parties are supported. Adoption tax credits are one way to do this.

#### Childcare Expansion

Parents should be able to work to support their families and know that their young children are cared for. Affordable childcare is a critical part of a true pro-life agenda and must be expanded in New York to make raising children less burdensome.

#### Educational Options

Parents need access to the schools and educational programs that best meet the needs of their children. New York should assist families with the cost of tuition at private and public schools; expand access to all public and private Universal Pre-K settings statewide, regardless of income; and ensure that children have needed transportation services to the school their family chooses.

## A Novena for Life

*honoring* the Feast of the Visitation

May 22-30 | Sign up: [respectlife.org/visitation](https://respectlife.org/visitation)



*On May 31st, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast commemorates the Blessed Mother's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and the encounter of Jesus and St. John the Baptist while in the wombs of their mothers.*

*Join in praying "A Novena for Life" in the lead up to the Feast of the Visitation from May 22-30.*

Sign up at:

<https://www.respectlife.org/visitation>

May every human life be protected in law and welcomed in love.

*"O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties."*

*-USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activi-*

## A Pro-Life, Pro-Woman Legislative Agenda for NYS, contd.

### Affordable Housing

Housing is a human right. We must provide a safety net for the vulnerable to ensure that no one, especially mothers and children, become homeless. The expansion of affordable housing is crucial to showing solidarity with moms and babies across the state.

### Domestic Violence Issues

Pregnancy increases a woman's chances of becoming a victim of domestic violence. Through prevention and support, New York must aid victims and vulnerable women so that they and their children are safe and cared for.

### Nutrition

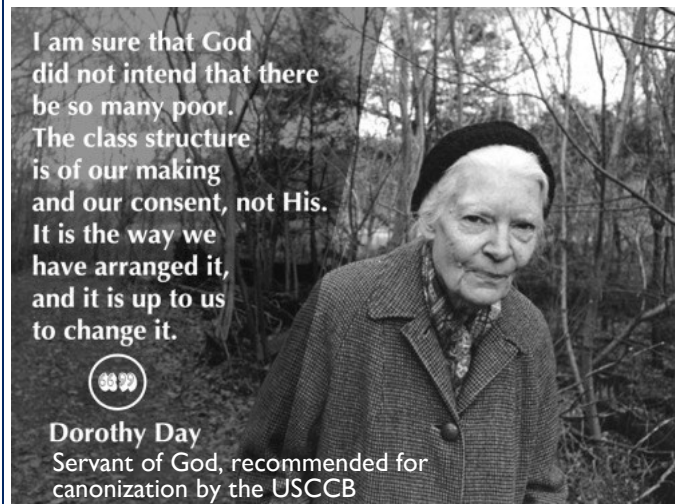
New York should help struggling families by improving state-level outreach and education efforts related to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and expanding the federal School Lunch Program to provide universal free school meals to all children.

### Paid Parental Leave

New parents must have ample opportunity to bond with their newborn, adopted, or foster children. Paid parental leave should be expanded so that parents are not forced to choose between their career and the well-being of their children.

## Happy 90th Anniversary to the Catholic Worker Movement

“The Catholic Worker Movement traces its beginnings to May 1, 1933, when Dorothy Day and three others distributed an eight-page tabloid newspaper in the midst of a crowded, festive Union Square in New York City. [The crowd was celebrating International Workers’ Day] ... The newspaper was *The Catholic Worker*, founded “for those who think that there is no hope for the future, no recognition of their plight,” [an editorial inside the paper](#) explained. “It is printed to call their attention to the fact that the Catholic Church has a social program — to let them know that there are men of God who are working not only for their spiritual, but for their material welfare.”



As distribution of the paper swelled in the following years, Day and other “Catholic Workers” attempted to live out the ideals they wrote about, founding “houses of hospitality” for the poor and “farming communes” for the unemployed. A movement was born.”

—from [www.catholicworker.org/](http://www.catholicworker.org/)

Learn more about the Catholic Worker’s work of hospitality to the marginalized and work of opposing war, militarism and social injustice. (The [Two Feet of Love](#) in action!) Check out these Catholic Worker communities in our diocese:

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

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

[arkportcatholicworkerhomestead.wordpress.com/](http://arkportcatholicworkerhomestead.wordpress.com/)

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

### 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)