



Feeding the Hungry Through Our Advocacy

Feeding the world is good but “American Farmers Feed the World” will be destructive. That sounds like a contradiction, but a current proposed federal bill with that title is opposed by Catholic Relief Services and many other organizations, including the ecumenical anti-hunger advocacy group Bread for the World.

A longstanding international humanitarian assistance program called Food for Peace began decades ago to deliver food from the United States to economically poor countries. This can be life saving in situations of famine and war when farmers in those countries can't grow enough food. However, dumping free commodities like rice on a Third World country when there isn't an emergency situation means that the local farmers can't compete with the price. They have to stop growing their own rice because they are losing money. The country becomes more and more dependent on foreign assistance.

Food for Peace has evolved over the years to make it possible for aid organizations like Catholic Relief Services to use funding through the program to train farmers in better agricultural practices. The proposed American Farmers Feed the World bill would radically change the Food for Peace program, taking away the flexibility to address hunger in low income countries in ways that meet local needs and promote self-reliance.

This is one of many issues that is being debated in negotiations about the federal Farm Bill, which funds many anti-hunger programs in the U.S. and around the world. The House and the Senate have finally created their own versions of the Farm Bill, so as the work out the differences now is the time to pressure them to ensure that the final bill leaves fewer people hungry.

Go to: <https://support.crs.org/act/farm-bill> to advocate with CRS for Food for Peace.

And click this [link](#) to advocate with Bread for the World for other anti-hunger programs, including SNAP (food stamps) and the GusNIP program, which gives low income households easier access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Even better, call your representatives directly and ask them to oppose “American Farmers Feed the World” and to support SNAP and GusNIP in the Farm Bill. **Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121**

LET US ACT WITH HOPE: Planting Creation Care Teams

Creation Care Teams raise awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on the care of our common home, discover practical ways to promote ecologically sound practices, and foster a thriving sustainable community within your parish

As we commemorate the 9th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* this month, let's re-commit ourselves to putting the teaching into practice in our parishes.



Join us for two evenings of focused presentations, reflection time, and opportunities to share ideas to start and maintain a Creation Care Team in your parish.

Two virtual gatherings: May 16 and May 23 from 6:30pm – 8pm

To Register: www.rcdony.org/laudatosi



A joint project of the Dioceses of Syracuse and Ogdensburg, but all people of faith are invited to attend!

Defending Human Dignity at the End of Life



New York State lawmakers need to hear from their constituents that we oppose the legalization of physician-assisted suicide. It is an attack on human dignity that would pressure vulnerable people, especially the elderly and those with disabilities, to end their own lives.

The legislative session in Albany ends in early June, so please call your State Senator and your Assembly Member **today** :

State Assembly
Switchboard:
518-455-4100

State Senate
Switchboard:
518-455-2800

Use this [link](#) to contact them via email and watch this video for inspiration:

www.usccb.org/prolife/assisted-suicide



Join the Catholic Action Network

Sign up for e-mail alerts from the Catholic Action Network [here](#) or text the letters CAN to **50457** to receive text alerts. Be a voice for justice, peace and life!

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