

Justice, Peace and Life

October 2020

"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." - Pope Francis

Catholics care. Catholics vote.

In case you missed it, this is an election year in the USA....

Our Diocesan Public Policy Committee has developed resources for individuals and parishes to use to promote what our US Catholic Bishops call **Faithful Citizenship**. We are called to form our consciences before we fill out our ballots. Voting shouldn't be simply about protecting our own finances and self-interest. Like everything else we do, we should vote in the light of Christ's teaching and to advance The Common Good— the interests of all.

You can access bulletin announcements, prayers of the faithful (see samples below), reflection questions and more at the diocesan web site: www.dor.org (scroll down the home page to "Public Policy" under the "Catholic Charities" section.) **Please ask your parish to use these resources.**

You can read the Bishops' Faithful Citizenship document [here](#) and a short summary on what it means to form our consciences [here](#).

This year, the Bishops are also promoting a campaign called **Civilize It**, which includes a pledge to recognize the human dignity of those whose political opinions differ from our own. See www.wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it for that pledge and other resources including the prayer below and a [novena](#):

A Prayer for Civility

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where uncivil words prevail, show me how to model love.
Help me remember the God-given dignity of all and invite others to do the same. Show me how to build bridges and not walls and see first what unites us rather than how we diverge.
Let me seek to understand before asking to be understood.
Give me a listening heart filled with empathy and compassion. May I be clear in sharing my own position and respectful and civil in describing those of others.
Let me never tolerate hateful ideas. May I invite all to charity and love. Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and mercy.
Make me an instrument of your peace. Amen.*

Intercessions for Mass

For those who serve in elected office, that they may lead with courage and wisdom, reflecting the Church's teaching that the moral test of our society is how the weak, the poor, and the vulnerable are faring, we pray to the Lord

For all citizens of the United States, that our participation in the upcoming election may lead to a world of greater respect for life and commitment to justice and peace, we pray to the Lord



FORMING
CONSCIENCES **FOR** **FAITHFUL**
CITIZENSHIP



You'll find six short, instructional videos on Faithful Citizenship and participation in civic life from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops at this link at youtube.com

Please ask these to be posted to your parish's social media and even shown before or after Mass. And please watch them yourself, as part of forming your conscience for voting.

Ensure that you are registered to vote at

<https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

Learn how to vote by absentee ballot:

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>

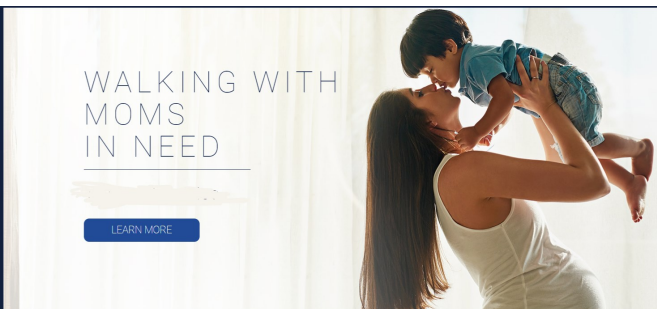


While the ongoing concern over covid-19 has meant the cancellation of our annual diocesan Respect Life Month Mass, please commemorate and celebrate LIFE in your families and at your parish. Check out our diocesan Life Issues Office web site liferoc.org and respectlife.org from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

From the reflection [Live the Gospel of Life](#):

As the Church celebrates the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's prophetic encyclical [Evangelium vitae], let us reflect on how we personally live out the Gospel: Do I talk about and act towards others as I would talk about and treat Jesus himself? Do I inform myself of the Church's teachings and engage in the civic arena as first a follower of Christ? Do I support and advocate for laws and policies that protect and defend human life? Do I help pregnant and parenting mothers in need? Am I ready to support a loved one nearing death?

Excerpted from Respect Life Program, copyright © 2020, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.



["Walking with Moms in Need"](#) is a year of service where Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need. Everyone should know how to help moms in difficult circumstances." Now could be the time to prayerfully consider this program for your parish and to learn about our [diocesan life liaisons](#).



Many thanks to all who supported the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. There's still time to support positive social change. Checks should be made out to your parish with "CCHD" in the memo.

Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

- Monroe:** Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202 Marcus.Ebenhoe@cfcrochester.org;
- Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga:** Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; Kathy.Dubel@dor.org
- Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne:** Robert Vona 315-253-2222 ext. 102 Robert.Vona@dor.org
- Livingston:** Amy Patterson; 585-658-4466 ext. 25; Amy.Patterson@dor.org
- Steuben:** Gina Reagan 607-776-8085 ext. 2216; Gina.Reagan@dor.org).
- Tompkins:** Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org
- Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator:** Shannon Kilbridge 585-328-3228 ext. 1218 shannon.loughlin@dor.org