



“We need to show every person who is addicted to opioids that there is help and there is hope. We need to get the message out... that those with an opioid addiction need not fear coming forward and seeking help; they need to know that we will not judge them, that we will not condemn them and that, above all, we care for them. We need to let every parent, child, sibling, friend or coworker struggling with the effects of dealing with an addicted person know that they are not alone. We need them to hear loud and clear that the family of the Church is here to walk with them and support them.”

[A Pastoral Letter on the Drug Abuse Crisis:
From Death and Despair to Life and Hope](#)

by Bishop Edward C. Malesic, JCL, Bishop of Greensburg PA

Responding to the Opioid Crisis with Love

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on average, “115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. In 2016, over 11 million Americans misused prescription opioids, nearly one million used heroin, and 2.1 million had an opioid-use disorder due to prescription opioids or heroin.”

Here in the Diocese of Rochester, Bishop Matano and the Diocesan Public Policy Committee are asking our parishes to be part of the solution to this opioid crisis.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships has developed a helpful resource entitled [Opioid Epidemic Practical Toolkit: Helping Faith and Community Leaders Bring Hope and Healing to Our Communities](#). The first suggestion of ways congregations can help is

Open Your Doors:

Offer your space for weekly recovery pro-grams and/or self-help support groups for people with substance-use disorders, as well as their families.

Offer free transportation to treatment services and/or recovery support programs.

Advertise local recovery meetings in bulletins, and on websites and social media

When offering congregational prayer — particularly prayers for the sick— pray for people who are suffering opioid disorder.



See upcoming editions of *Justice, Peace & Life* for further suggestions on how you and your parish can respond to this terrible loss of life and human dignity. Please start reflecting on what you can do.

VICTORIES FOR LIFE in the New York State Legislature

The 2018 NYS legislative session ended in June with no advancement on the **abortion expansion** bill. This bill would have legalized abortion in the third trimester and opened the door for non-physicians to perform abortions. The effort to legalize **physician-assisted suicide** also did not advance. This means greater protection for people with disabilities and terminally ill people who might have been pressured to end their own lives. These are victories for the sanctity of human life!

Thank you to all who advocated against these measures. We’ll remain vigilant in the upcoming months as these bills will most likely be re-introduced.



**Share the
Journey** ✨
#sharejourney

STANDING WITH OUR IMMIGRANT SISTERS AND BROTHERS

As part of “Share the Journey”, Pope Francis’ worldwide campaign, our solidarity with and advocacy for migrants and refugees continues.

Opposition to the Travel Ban

On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of Trump v. Hawaii, which involves a challenge to President Donald Trump’s Proclamation No. 9645 restricting travel from several predominantly Muslim-majority countries. The Supreme Court in a 5-4 ruling upheld the travel ban.

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, chair of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, issued the following joint statement:

“The travel ban targets Muslims for exclusion, which goes against our country’s core principle of neutrality when it comes to people of faith. We are disappointed in the Court’s ruling because it failed to take into account the clear and unlawful targeting of a specific religious group by the government. The Catholic Church takes a strong stand against religious discrimination, and we will continue to advocate for the rights of people of all faiths, as well as serve migrants and refugees through our various ministries.”



Opposition to Family Separation

Take a listen to Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president of the New York Catholic Conference, and read what Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn wrote about the immorality of separating immigrant families at our border: www.nyscatholic.org/category/bishop-statements/

“We need a good dose of love and charity.” - Cardinal Dolan

Filling the Vacancy on the Supreme Court - Stand Up for Fairness and Life

Sign the online petition to our Senators here: www.voterveice.net/USCCB/home

“By any measure, abortion is not a settled issue and may be one of the many important matters before the Supreme Court in the future. I urge you to respect the serious and persistent divisions on this issue and not to condition your support for a nominee on his or her support for Roe.”

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