



Justice for Farmworkers: The Time is Now

Call Your State Senator, Assembly Member
and Gov. Cuomo

Did your parish take part in Diocesan Public Policy weekend supporting the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices act? If so, you were part of an amazing effort that collected **10,372 signatures** supporting equal labor rights for farmworkers.

Catholic Charities' Justice & Peace Ministry staff and social ministry volunteers from parishes have been delivering the petitions to our state elected officials. But to get this bill passed we need to keep nudging them! You can help by making some quick phone calls.

Here's what you can say:

I'm calling to ask your support for the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act, which is Senate bill 2837 and Assembly bill 2750. People in our Catholic diocese of Rochester have collected over 10,300 signatures supporting this legislation.

This bill would end the exclusion of farmworkers from basic workplace rights granted to other workers in New York State, including overtime pay, a guaranteed day of rest per week and protections while bargaining collectively.

I support this bill because...

I believe that farmworkers deserve equal rights....

As a person of faith, I believe that all workers should be treated with respect ...

There is no moral or legal justification for excluding this group of workers from labor laws...

Or speak from your own experience and convictions!

State Senate switchboard: (518) 455-2800

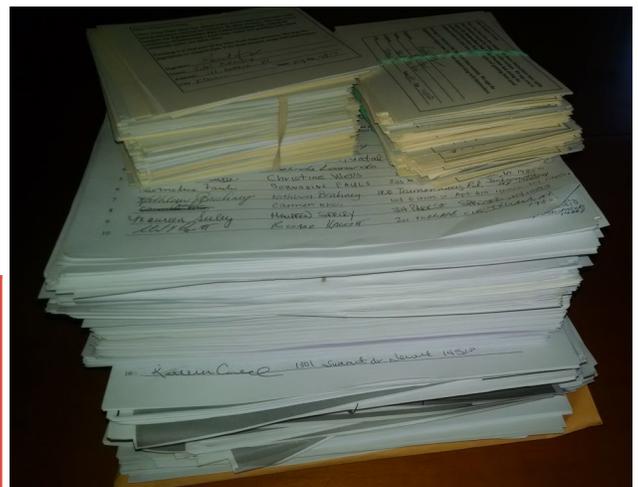
State Assembly switchboard: (518) 455-4100

Governor's office: (518) 474-8390

The switchboard operators will connect you with your state senator and assembly members, and can even look up for you who they are if you don't know.

"We must ensure that farmworkers are treated humanely and with dignity, in the same way we work to ensure other workers of our state are treated. This is not about putting farmworkers ahead of farms. You can't support the farmworkers without supporting the farms, and vice versa. Both depend on and need the other.

Justice and human dignity demand, however, that changes come to the industry in terms of how workers are treated."



10,372 petition signatures are headed to Governor Cuomo's office

Testimony on the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act at a regional Joint Hearing of the NYS Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Senate Standing Committee on Labor
Presented by Shannon Kelly, Chief Operating Officer, Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster, May 2, 2019

**Speak Up for our Sisters and Brothers
Fleeing Violence and Oppression:
Increase Admittance of Refugees**

The current number of refugees being allowed in to the US is at an historic low, while there are **over 25 million refugees worldwide.**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is supporting the **Guaranteed Refugee Admissions Ceiling Enhancement (GRACE) Act** which would establish 95,000 as the minimum goal for refugees admitted each year.

Call your Congressional representative to ask for support of this bill: **(202) 224-3121**



open wide our hearts

the enduring call to love *a pastoral letter against racism*

Materials Available for Your Parish on the Pastoral Letter

"All of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform." -Open Wide Our Hearts

The U.S. Bishops' recent pastoral letter *Open Wide Our Hearts* has much to teach us about the sin of racism and how we should address it in ourselves and in our society. You'll find prayers and materials for guiding children, youth and adults to better a understanding of this issue at USCCB.org under Issues & Actions -Racism. You can also contact the Justice & Peace Ministry staff member for your county (see list below) for ideas on how to bring this message to your parish.

This video from www.catholicismobilizing.org summarizes the five key lessons from the pastoral letter including "Racism often takes the form of a sin of omission" and "Racism is a life issue."



Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

Monroe: Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 marcus.ebenhoe@cfrochester.org; Ruth Marchetti 585-267-9583; rmarchetti@cfrochester.org
Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga: Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; kathy.dubel@dor.org
Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne: Ellen Wayne 315-789-2235 ext. 107; ellen.wayne@dor.org
Livingston: Tabitha Brewster 585-658-4466 ext. 13; tabitha.brewster@dor.org
Steuben: Tess McKinley 607-776-8085 ext. 2211; tess.mckinley@dor.org
Tompkins: Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; laurie.konwinski@dor.org

Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator: Suzanne Stack 585-328-3210 ext. 1304; suzanne.stack@dor.org