

Justice, Peace and Life

June 2019



*It's the bottom of the ninth, the two minute warning.
We're approaching the 18th green.*



*Whatever sports analogy you'd like to use....
Get you're A-game on, take courage and get pumped:*

*"I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice" -
Isaiah 42:6*



It's Go Time!

Don't kick back into summertime mode just yet. We have a **lot** of work to do before the end of the legislative session in Albany and the summertime recess in Congress.

The New York State Legislature will end the 2019 session on **June 19**. Our elected officials are scrambling to negotiate many different issues before the close. We have to keep the pressure on to ensure the bills we care about are voted on and passed, and that the policies we oppose are stopped. Keep telling **other people too!**

Justice for Farmworkers:

Yes, call again. You've signed a petition, made a call. Bravo! Now do it again! Keep reminding your state assembly member and state senator that our diocese collected over 10,000 signatures in support of the **Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act**, *Senate bill 2837/Assembly bill 2750*. (More info at www.farmworkersny.org) They need to keep hearing from you, their constituents.

It's crunch time. We've been trying to get this bill passed for nearly 20 years, and this is the year it could finally happen. But it could also just die in committee and farmworkers could continue to be denied the basic workplace rights granted to other workers in our state. Let's keep fighting!

We also need the particular support of two state senators outside our diocese, Sen. Rachel May and Sen. Jen Metzger. You can help by sharing this message with folks you know from their districts, which include **Syracuse & Madison County** and **New Paltz & Orange County**.

Surrogate Parenting:

"This involves the creation of human embryos in a laboratory through in vitro fertilization (IVF), using egg and sperm that may or may not be from the intended parents, which are then transferred to the uterus of a surrogate mother. This woman, who is genetically unrelated to the child, will then bear that child with the intent of relinquishing the child at birth to the "intended" parent or parents, pursuant to a monetary contract." -*from the New York Catholic Conference*

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.

In New York State it is still illegal to pay a woman to, in essence, rent out her body in this way, but current legislation, **Senate bill 2071/Assembly bill 1071**, is being considered that would legalize it. Experience in other countries has found this practice to be terribly exploitative of poor women. The practice has been almost entirely banned in European Union nations.

Such a practice treats humans in utero and humans who are born as commodities. It treats women and their wombs as factories. Please **call your state elected officials** to ask them to ensure this bill is stopped and sign the petition here: www.nyscatholic.org Learn more about this issue at www.nyscatholic.org/gestational-surrogacy/



Speak Up for our Immigrant Sisters and Brothers Today!

Immigrants brought to the U.S. as children,

Immigrants from countries suffering from natural disasters and civil strife too dangerous to return to,

*These sisters and brothers of ours need our solidarity **right now!***

The vote could happen this first week of June!



Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all

-Pope Francis

Ask your Congressional representative to vote YES on H.R. 6

This bill would provide critically important permanent legal protection to Dreamers and holders of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). These people are living in a state of uncertainty and fear as Congress continues to fail to pass immigration reform.

You can use these words when you make the call:

*“As a person of faith, I believe in protecting the God-given dignity of every human being. As your constituent, I urge you to vote in favor of passing H.R. 6, **the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019**, as currently written, and to reject any amendments which would curtail the bill's critical protections.*

Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status and DED holders are our neighbors and an important part of our community. They have prayed with us in houses of worship, contributed to the U.S. economy, attended schools and colleges, and served in our military.

As you consider your vote on H.R. 6, please know that the Catholic community stands with you in supporting the people and families that will be helped by this legislation.

Thank you for your important work in Congress on my behalf and for promoting the human dignity of immigrants and refugees.

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

You can also sign the online petition at www.justiceforimmigrants.org — but **make the call too**, as that will carry much more weight with your member of Congress.

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: Robert Vona 315-253-2222 ext. 102 robert.vona@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