**Life Support: Updates from Life Issues**

**Every Life is Worth Living**

The theme of this year’s USCCB Respect Life Program, highlighting the value of all human life, no matter what. On October 22, 2015, Governor Cuomo affirmed the value of women’s lives by signing the bill into law that had passed the Women’s Equality Agenda, with the notable exception of the abortion expansion bill. Women’s lives in New York State now have more protection against dangerous late-term abortions that would have been legal in New York if that bill had passed.

Human life has just as much value at the end of life as anywhere else along its continuum. Every life is truly worth living, and this is why bills that would allow assisted suicide in New York State must be strongly opposed.

The Consistent Life Network supports the dignity of all human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Assisted suicide is NOT natural death as it allows a terminally ill patient to get a prescription for a lethal dose of medication to end his or her life.

California recently became the fourth state to allow assisted suicide and New York is now being targeted to be the next state to allow this. Assisted suicide puts vulnerable people, including the elderly, disabled, and seriously ill, at risk to lose support for end-of-life treatment and be offered this less expensive option instead. Rather than allowing assisted suicide, government should be consistent in its efforts to prevent suicide.

New York’s message that “Life Is Worth Living,” is underlined by this legislation.

The USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program, Every Life is Worth Living, has several resources on this issue, as does the NYSS Catholic Conference, which launched a web-site addressing this at http://www.catholicendoflife.org/. Efforts are underway to educate Catholics on end of life issues to help plan for natural death and to oppose this legislation.

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**MARCH FOR LIFE 2016**

**Diocese of Rochester**

**CHOOSE LIFE**

**JANUARY 22, 2016**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Suzanne Stack, Life Issues Coordinator
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester
sstack@rdor.org • 585-328-3210 • x1304

**www.MarchForLife.org | #WhyWeMarch**

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**Catholic Charities of Wayne County Awarded Major Federal Grant**

Catholic Charities of Wayne County has been awarded a grant of $1,650,429 in Federal funding through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Healthy Marriage and Education Grant Program. The grant was announced jointly by U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand and U.S. Representative John Katko. In expressing appreciation to these government officials, Peter S. Dohr, Executive Director and Inga Rojas, Director of Clinical Services, indicated that the Thriving Family Program will provide services to help families, at-risk youth and unemployed and underemployed individuals in the region.

Catholic Charities of Wayne County will work in partnership with six agencies to bring new resources for case management assistance and family education services to county residents. CCWC will work in collaboration with Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes, Literacy Volunteers, Victim’s Resource Center, Wayne County Action Program and the Ad Council to use educational programs to foster increased economic stability and mobility.

The ability of one of our smaller agencies to administer this large program is an excellent example of the strength of our decentralized governance structure. Decisions and implementation are carried out at the local level, the local agency can count on the back-office infrastructure support of the $70 million Diocesan Catholic Charities organization.

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**Catholic Family Center CEO Named Executive of the Year**

Catholic Family Center’s President and CEO, Marlene Bassetti, was named Executive of the Year in the 2015 Greater Rochester Awards program, sponsored by the Rochester Business Journal and the United Way of Greater Rochester. The Greater Rochester Awards program recognizes and honors non-profit staff, executives, volunteers and programs that make our community a better place to live.

The award was given in recognition of Marlene’s strategic leadership of CFC through some challenging times, combined with the leadership role she played in the creation and launch of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative.

Marlene was honored at a luncheon that took place on October 21st at the Joseph A. Fiorello Rochester Riverside Convention Center. In commenting on the award, Marlene expressed appreciation to Bishop Matano and Diocesan Director Jack Balinsky for their leadership and support.

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**Catholic Courier Christmas Appeal**

Catholic Courier urges support of the Catholic Courier Christmas Appeal through which much needed funds are made available for emergency assistance to Catholic Charities agencies.

Send your Contribution to:
Christmas Appeal
P.O. Box 24379
Rochester, NY 14624-0379

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**To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus.** — Pope Francis
Catholic Charities Community Services

NOAH GALLOWAY—BREAKFAST WITH FRIENDS

Catholic Charities Community Services will close out the celebration of its 35th Year of Service at Breakfast with Friends on Friday, March 4, 2016 at the Rochester Piper Hotel. We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker will be Noah Galloway—former United States Army soldier personal trainer and motivational speaker.

Noah was injured during the Iraq War, losing his left arm from the elbow down and left below the knees. Parts of his ABC television series Dancing with the Stars will remain in his performance to this day. “I talk about how I had to go through depression and how I got out of it. It happens in a way which is always helpful, just and, frankly, we need to avoid a common temptation nowadays to discard whatever proves troublesome.”

Catholic Charities is committed to giving life to the words of Pope Francis by working with our community partners to overcome the challenges posed by the increase in the number of refugees and warmly welcoming the arrivals to the Rochester community.

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO HOPE AND RECOVERY

Mealing Stella, a beautiful young inquisitive woman with a warm, humble personality, is hard to believe she has put her life in the hands of another to assist her in her recovery. The decision to entrust another to aid in her journey is a difficult one, but Stella’s small steps toward change prove her determination to continue on this path. The first step was 20 and 30 hours in and out of jail and alcohol treatment, and steadily getting to bed. In 2009, Mealing Stella was treated for an addiction to alcohol, bringing the total of years she has been treated to 15. Though the journey has been challenging, she has continued to strive to improve her life. During that time, she has had five children and just lost a child, but she’s keeping her head in the game and working on something.

The second step she searched for? Stella came in to her session later in her service session— the reason she has been helping people. Stella was helping people. She was helping people. She was helping people. She was helping people. She was helping people.

One of the major missions of the organization is to provide Drug and Alcohol Services to those that need it. The organization also helps people who are receiving services. A partnership with Weldon Community Services will help the organization to continue to mentor and encourage growth in the residents. In the rapidly changing world of services that help families and individuals, there is a new opportunity to improve the situation and help those in need.

Catholic Charities of Steuben County

CELEBRATING PROGRAM ANNIVERSARIES IN 2015

Catholic Charities of Steuben (CCS) is celebrating three anniversaries this year. CCS is commemorating its 50th anniversary, its Child Day Care Center is celebrating 30 years, while Holy Family Services is celebrating 40 years. CCS offers a wide variety of services that help people in need. The annual Hoedown for Hunger, held in September provided a fun and exciting way to raise awareness and financial support for the Genesee Community Lunch Program. The program has seen an increase in the number of people utilizing the service. CCS is also reaching out to communities to make arrangements for the annual Hoedown for Hunger.

Catholic Charities of Livingston County

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS

Our congratulations go out to Stephanie Clinton, Children’s Court Services, Child and Family Services Coordinator, Broker and Fiscal Intermediary Liaison who was presented at the first annual Fiscal Intermediary and Self Directed Budgeting Awards presentation by the New York State Association of Community and Residential Programs on October 8, in Troy, NY. Stephanie was part of a panel of volunteers, providers, and individuals along with their family members on who were asked to share their personal stories of living life with a self directed life. A Rochester family receiving fiscal intermediary services, Stephanie’s story was one of how they were able to set goals. They were able to set goals. They were able to set goals. They were able to set goals.

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga

THE “YES” CLUB

“Their awesome kids,” says Whitney Bauer, about the members of the Youth Engagement Services (YES) club, who were honored on October 15th for their ongoing commitment to helping people in need. The YES Club provides a forum for people to set goals. They were able to set goals. They were able to set goals. They were able to set goals.

Bath Community Child Day Care Center Director Diana LaRue, CCS’ Child Day Care Program Director, commented, “The YES Club is a vital service to working families and employers alike.”

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Catholic Charities of Schuyler County

CELEBRATING PROGRAM ANNIVERSARIES IN 2015

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The ability of one of our smaller agencies to administer this large program is an excellent example of the strength of our decentralized governance structure. Decisions and implementation are carried out at the local level, the local agency can count on the back-office infrastructure support of the $70 million Diocesan Catholic Charities organization.

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