

The Biodiversity & Climate Crisis

The Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition



Advocate for God's Creation: A Message from the Global Catholic Climate Movement for the Year 2021

"2021 is a super year for global meetings related to caring for our earth – there are two United Nations summits [called Conferences of Parties, or "COPs"] coming up where world leaders have the power to act boldly to care for creation. These global meetings are all happening within a global pandemic which has further deepened poverty and inequality around the world. It will take massive public pressure to ensure leaders are not influenced by corporate lobbyists who are concerned about profit over people and the planet."

"We have an opportunity like no other. At the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in October, world leaders can set meaningful targets to protect creation. In November, at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), countries will announce their plans to meet the goals of the Paris agreement."

"Ahead of those meetings, it is our responsibility as Catholics to lift up the voices of the most vulnerable and advocate on their behalf. We must act now."

Sign the petition to these COP leaders at www.thecatholicpetition.org

Challenge: Get 50 other people to sign! Send it out to friends, ask that it be put in your parish's bulletin and on your parish's social media. Go to www.thecatholicpetition.org/resources/ for promotional resources.

Extreme heat waves, drought and wildfires will get worse if we don't address climate change. Love your neighbors across the country and around the world. Speak up!

In the U.S., 110 people
have been executed
over the past 5 years.



End the Death Penalty: Every Life is Sacred

If you haven't already—ask President Biden to end the federal death penalty by

- Declaring an official moratorium on executions at the federal level
- Commuting the sentences of all those currently on the federal death row
- Advocating to end the death penalty in law with Congress and the states

Please **sign this petition** from Catholic Mobilizing Network www.catholicsmobilizing.org/biden-end-federal-dp

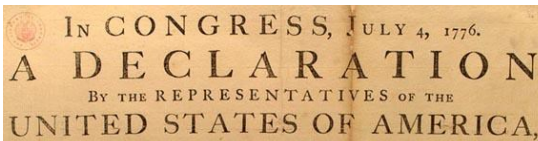


Keep Your Hand on the Plow

Review of advocacy efforts of the 2021 New York State legislative session

Our U.S. Catholic Bishops have taught us that “**participation in political life is a moral obligation**”, but they never said it’d be easy. Catholics from the Rochester Diocese advocated with elected officials on many issues during the 2021 spring legislative session. Below is a summary of some of the results.

Some of these efforts turned out the way we wanted, and some didn’t. We did not, and will not, give up. We keep our hands on the plow and remain faithful to the call to work for the Common Good.



Independence Day Prayer

God, source of all freedom,
this day is bright with the memory
of those who declared that life and
liberty
are your gift to every human
being.
Help us to continue a good work
begun long ago.
Make our vision clear and our will
strong:
that only in human solidarity will
we find liberty,
and justice only in the honor that
belongs
to every life on earth.
Turn our hearts toward the family
of nations:
to understand the ways of others,
to offer friendship,
and to find safety only in the
common good of all.
We ask this through Christ our
Lord.
R/. Amen.

Prayer taken from the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition
(Washington, DC: USOCB, 2007), 176. Copyright © 2007, United States Conference of
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Criminal Justice:

The **Fair and Timely Parole** and **Elder Parole** bills which we worked so hard to promote were not called to a vote on the floor of the Assembly or State Senate. This is heart-breaking for older incarcerated people and for their families. Don’t give up this struggle!

But the **HALT Solitary Confinement** bill we advocated for was passed and signed into law! It will dramatically reduce the use of the torture that is solitary confinement in our state.

Economic Justice:

As previously reported, **Nourish NY**, the program that provides money to food banks to purchase food from New York State farmers and other NYS food producers, has become a permanent program in the NYS Dept. of Agriculture! The program received \$25M in March and will receive an additional \$25M in funding for the upcoming budget year. It’s a win-win all around!

Respect for the Dignity of Human Life:

Thankfully, a bill to legalize of **physician-assisted suicide** failed to get voted out of committee. However, we must continue to be vigilant on this issue, as it will likely not go away soon.

A bill to legalize the **composting of human remains** was not called to a vote in either chamber. Similarly, we will need to continue to advocate against this affront to human dignity.

Read more of the legislative round-up by the New York Catholic Conference: www.nyscatholic.org/2021-end-of-session-round-up/



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