



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Dear Pastoral Leaders

January 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit everyone hard. In particular, the pandemic has focused a spotlight on two vulnerable groups in New York State: *farmers* and our *neighbors who are food insecure* – many are newly hungry due to job losses caused by the pandemic. The Diocesan Public Policy Committee invites you to join in **helping both** on our annual Diocesan Public Policy Advocacy Weekend – February 13/14, 2021.

We will call on New York State leaders to provide \$50 million to fund the *NOURISH NEW YORK* initiative for state fiscal year 2021-2022 to continue this effective program that responds to the need for hunger relief and farm survival across New York State. *NOURISH NEW YORK*, created during the early months of the pandemic, provides funding to Food Banks to purchase New York State-produced farm products which are then made available to neighbors-in-need through local food pantries and cupboards – many located in parishes and communities across our diocese.

The Diocesan Public Policy Committee has developed a variety of resources to help you help your parish learn about these issues and take action. These are attached to this letter and can also be found on the Diocesan website (www.dor.org (click on Offices/Ministry then select Public Policy)):

- **Social Postings** for your parish Facebook page developed by the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis
- **Bulletin Articles** (four weeks - January 24, 31, February 7, 14)
- **Prayers of the Faithful, Pulpit Announcements, Tips/Other Information**
- **Postcard Template** (post on parish website, print in bulletin, have copies in church - invite parishioners to sign and either drop in box at church or mail)
- **Diocese of Rochester Public Policy Committee** - public policy agenda for 2021

Please do not hesitate to contact the Justice and Peace staff in your county's Catholic Charities agency for assistance – we have included their contact information in this resource packet – they are eager to serve you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Father Dan Condon
Chairperson
Diocesan Public Policy Committee