

Justice, Peace and Life

February 2014



What Does Love Demand?



Chocolate, roses, and PajamaGrams might pass for expressions of “love” at this time of year, but real love is love in action. The early Christians were known for their love for one another. Would they “know *we* are Christians by *our* love?” Here are a few ways to put love into action in the midst of a suffering world:

Catholics at the Capitol Wednesday March 19, 2014

Join our New York State Bishops at their annual lobby day in Albany. Wake up early. Travel down that long highway. Do it for the love of Jesus and His sisters and brothers in need. Be a voice for the voiceless.

During “Catholics at the Capitol Day” we’ll meet directly with our state representatives (members of the Assembly and of the State Senate). We’ll talk to them about our concern for

- Pre-born children, threatened by abortion expansion legislation
- Farmworkers, who are denied basic labor rights
- Low-income people, who continue to suffer from high unemployment and cuts to government assistance
- Catholic Schools, which deserve timely reimbursements for mandated services
- Incarcerated people, who really are still Children of God and deserve humane treatment

You can register at:

www.nyscatholic.org/public-policy-day-information/

Then contact the Justice & Peace staffer from your county (see bottom of next page) to sign up for training workshops to prepare for the legislative meetings and to connect with rides to Albany by bus or car.

“Catholics at the Capitol Day” includes Mass with the bishops at the Albany cathedral. A box lunch will also be provided. Registration is free, but please sign up soon. We need your voice. Our vulnerable brothers and sisters in Christ need you too.



Pray for Peace, Speak out for Peace

“The definitive revelation of God in Jesus Christ makes every recourse to violence in God’s name ultimately impossible. It is precisely because of [Christ’s] refusal of violence, because of his having overcome evil with good, with the blood of his Cross, that Jesus has reconciled men to God and each other.”

-Pope Francis

Prayers for peace:

- 1) For patience, good-faith dialogue, and success in the negotiations between the governments of the U.S. and Iran on Iran’s nuclear program
- 2) For an end to the murder and suffering of civilians caused by terrorism and drone strikes
- 3) For an end to civil war and sectarian violence in South Sudan, Syria and Iraq

Actions for peace:

- 1) Tell your Congressional representatives to heed the words of the recent statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB): **“We strongly urge that members of Congress do not take any actions, such as passing legislation to impose new or conditional sanctions in Iran, which could undermine the negotiation process.”**
- 2) Read the “Background on Armed Drones” statement from the USCCB’s Office of International Justice & Peace, which calls into question the morality of U.S. drone strikes. Contact Pres. Obama to voice your opinion on these strikes.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/upload/background-on-armed-drones-2014-01.pdf>

CRS RICE BOWL- WHAT WE GIVE UP FOR LENT CHANGES LIVES!

Lent begins Wednesday, March 5! If you participated in CRS Rice Bowl last Lent, your faith formation resources for Lent 2014 will be arriving soon. If you did not participate during Lent 2013 but want to make CRS Rice Bowl part of your 2014 Lenten journey, please contact our diocesan CRS liaison Kathy Dubel at KDubel@dor.org or 607-734-9784 ext. 2135. It is not too late to participate. The resources are rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and available free in quantity.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official international humanitarian relief and development agency of the Catholic community in the United States (us!). The money collected in our Rice Bowls supports both local and international efforts. In poor countries around the world, CRS funds:

- Agriculture projects that help farmers improve harvests
- Water and sanitation projects that bring clean water to communities
- Microfinance projects that support small businesses
- Mother and child health projects that offer health and nutrition services
- Education and job-training projects that help people reach their potential



Locally, 25% of Rice Bowl funds “come back” to our area to fund hunger-relief projects across the diocese. See page 3 for a list of the dozens of local organizations that benefited from our sacrificial giving in 2013.

At the Rice Bowl web site, www.crsricebowl.org, you'll find meatless recipes, prayers, family activities and a trove of other information on how participating in the CRS Rice Bowl can make Lent a more meaningful time for you and your children. You'll also learn about the five countries that are the special focus of Rice Bowl's educational component this year: Kenya, Malawi, Philippines, Haiti, and Guatemala. You can even download an app which will deliver-right to your phone- daily reflections and stories of people who benefit from Rice Bowl prayers and almsgiving. Please put love into action and join CRS in changing lives this Lent!

SAVE THE DATE— Saturday May 10, 2014

Diocesan Social Ministry Conference

St. Francis-St. Stephen School, Geneva NY

Please plan to join other parish staff and social ministry committee volunteers to hear and share new ideas for engaging your parish in social concern ministry. Bishop Salvatore Matano will open the conference with morning Mass. Stay tuned for further details.

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Where Does the Money Go? Lent 2013 CRS Rice Bowl Local Hunger Relief Grants in the Diocese of Rochester

Chemung County ~ \$1,742.70

Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry
Elmira Community Kitchen
Catholic Charities Samaritan Center

Tioga County ~ \$892.39

Tioga County Rural Ministry
The Bridge
The Open Door Mission
Catholic Charities Tioga Outreach

Schuyler County ~ \$351.67

Catholic Charities Schuyler Outreach

Tompkins County ~ \$910.43

Groton Food Providers
Freeville Food Pantry
Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen
Trumansburg Food Pantry

Steuben County ~ \$925.08

Corning Turning Point Food Pantry
Bradford Food Pantry
Bath Catholic Charities Turning Point
Food Pantry
Sister Jude Ministry

Livingston County ~ \$1,035.04

Mt. Morris Food Pantry

Wayne County ~ \$947.42

St. Joseph the Worker Parish
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
St. Michael Parish

Yates County ~ \$416.27

Milly's Food Pantry
Naples Food Pantry
Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Ontario County ~ \$381.06

St. Felix Food Cupboard
Phelps Food Cupboard
Twin Cities Food Cupboard
Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard

Cayuga County ~ \$452.28

Good Shepherd Catholic Community
Food Pantry
Cato-Meridian Backpack Program
Cato Christian Food Pantry
Port Byron Food Pantry
Weedsport Food Pantry

Monroe County ~ \$16,380

Bethany House
East Rochester Community Resource Center
Eastern Service Workers
Holy Apostles
Holy Name of Jesus
HOPE Ministry
House of Mercy
Life Solutions of Hamlin
Mary's Place – Cathedral Community
Maplewood Edgerton Emergency Cupboard
Oak Orchard Community Center
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini at
Our Lady of the Americas
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini at St. Michael's
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini at
Sister Regis Food Cupboard
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini at Matthew's Closet
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini at
St. Andrew Area Food Cupboard
Saint's Place
St. Boniface
St. Charles
St. Helen
St. Martin's Place
St. Peter's Kitchen
Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf