

Justice, Peace and Life

February 2020

Public Policy Weekend is almost here!



Please be sure your parish is all set to collect petition signatures for Public Policy Weekend. All parishes are asked to collect them this month and turn them in to the Justice & Peace staff member from their county by March 4.

Ask your parish staff to include the prayers of the faithful and to make announcements at Mass so all are aware of the issue of **physician-assisted suicide**.

You'll find that information and more at www.liferoc.org, the web site of our Diocesan Life Issues Office.

*All humans have dignity,
even the sick and dying.*

"If you tell a psychologist that you are suicidal, he or she has the power to put you in a hospital because you are a danger to yourself. Legally, you have diminished capacity and are unable to make important and rational decisions.

If you say a dying person has a good enough reason to kill his/herself, why not a person in a wheelchair? Someone whose family was killed in an accident? Someone who faces financial ruin? Suicidal people need treatment for depression, not help committing suicide."

*-Jane St. Clair
30 Logical Reasons Against
Assisted Suicide
from www.authorsden.com*



"Loving our neighbor as ourselves means being firmly committed to building a more just world, in which everyone has access to the goods of the earth, in which all can develop as individuals and as families, and in which fundamental rights and dignity are guaranteed to all."

Pope Francis

U.S. Bishops' Chairmen Very Concerned About Impact of Recent Supreme Court Decision on Public Charge

On January 27, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a decision allowing the Trump Administration to implement its "[public charge](#)" rule everywhere in the United States (except Illinois) Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of Washington and chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, issued the following statement:

"Yesterday's Supreme Court decision allowing the Administration to move forward with implementing its new changes to the 'public charge' while lawsuits are still pending is very concerning, as it will have an immediate and negative impact upon immigrant and newcomer families. In our experience serving the poor and vulnerable, we know that many immigrant families lawfully access important medical and social services that are vital to public health and welfare. There is already misinformation about the 'public charge' rule circulating in immigrant communities, and this decision will further deter families eligible for assistance from coming forward to access the services they need, such as nutrition assistance and housing. The Supreme Court's decision will have devastating consequences for immigrant communities, as those impacted are cast into the shadows because they fear deportation and family separation for seeking critical support. . . The Church upholds the dignity of all human life, and the Gospel compels us to serve those who are in need, regardless of their circumstances. Preventing anyone from having access to life-saving services is contrary to our belief that all life is sacred from its beginning to its end." justiceforimmigrants.org



MARIA ANA FROM HONDURAS

TRINH FROM VIETNAM

YVONE FROM KENYA



Lent begins February 26...

Make Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl part of your Lent.

Learn about three young ladies from Honduras, Vietnam and Kenya whose hard-working families have benefitted from Catholic Relief Services' aid. Pick up a bowl at your parish and please be generous in your giving this Lent. You'll find prayers, stories about CRS' work and international recipes for meatless meals at www.csricebowl.org.

As we look ahead to our Lenten journey, may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms an offering of peace, and our prayers a reflection of humble and grateful hearts.

We ask the Holy Spirit to accompany us as we spend these 40 days reflecting on our responsibility to share what we have with our global human family.

How may our Lenten reflection inspire us to reach out to those most in need?

How may our prayers, fasting and almsgiving support people worldwide, especially those who are hungry and lack proper nutrition?

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen from www.csricebowl.org



Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking: Saturday February 8, Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869, kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. As a victim of human trafficking, she was beaten and mistreated. Eventually she was brought to Italy where she obtained her freedom, was baptized and joined the Canossian order of religious sisters. She lived a life dedicated to God and was much loved by the people in her community. She was canonized in 2000.

In honor of St. Josephine, pray for an end to human trafficking and slavery. Learn about trafficking at www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/human-trafficking.cfm Learn about how your own consumer choices can promote human trafficking at www.slaveryfootprint.org. Support Fair Trade products instead.

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