



DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 3, 2015

Dear Pastors, Priests, and Institutional Leaders:

Catholics in the State of New York, particularly those in our Diocese, should be very alarmed by movements promoting assisted suicide legislation. As we are doing now with the Education Investment Tax Credit and have done in the past about important issues regarding life, we must work together to educate, inform and encourage our people to engage actively in pushing back any legislation which compromises the gift of life.

While we do not expect this issue to come to the forefront until after the budget is settled, it is important to raise awareness and encourage appropriate action now.

First, I ask each of you to reach out to all in your parish and entity encouraging their active involvement in this issue. I have enclosed a brief list of "talking points" that can serve as a good basis for an e-mail or notice from you to your parishioners, employees, etc. In your writing, please encourage parishioners to visit www.catholicendoflife.org as solid information and resources can be found here. We also need Catholics throughout the Diocese to contact the Governor's office and the Long Island delegation of assembly members and senators. This is easily done through the Catholic Action Network at www.nyscatholic.org. The Respect Life Office has provided additional resources to assist you.


Second, please utilize the enclosed ads, or some version of them, in your parish bulletin, parish website, entity website or in any upcoming e-mail communication. Three versions of the ad have been attached for your convenience. These are general and can be placed in the bulletin any time in the next few weeks. We must make sure this information is extended as far and wide as possible in the upcoming days. We will provide additional resources in the weeks ahead.

Third, please consider making use of document, *Now and at the Hour of our Death*, published by the bishops of New York State. The very user-friendly document provides important and relevant information that parishioners can utilize in their own formation and advocacy. You can visit www.nyscatholic.org to order copies of the document, in English and in Spanish.

This is a very fluid situation at the moment and legislation can change very quickly. The New York State Catholic Conference is closely monitoring the situation in Albany. Please pay careful attention to any action or information alerts you receive from the conference or from our Diocese.

Finally, let us commit to praying for the gift of life and the conversion of hearts and minds for the respect and dignity of God's greatest gift, from natural conception to natural death.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre