



Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry
240 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13202 • Lisa Hall, Director • (315) 472-6754 Ext. 1 • e-mail: lhall@syrдио.org

Opposing Assisted Suicide in New York

Assisted suicide advocates are pushing to legalize this deadly practice in New York State. This bill threatens patients, caregivers, and especially the elderly and those with disabilities-- which is antithetical to medical care. Catholics are called to respect and advocate for all human life. **Though the Assembly has passed the bill, you can still voice your opposition by calling your Senate representatives today!**

To take action or learn more, visit nyscatholic.org.

Statement of Cardinal Dolan and New York State Bishops on State-Sanctioned Suicide Bill

“Euthanasia and assisted suicide are a defeat for all. We are called never to abandon those who are suffering, never giving up but caring and loving to restore hope” - Pope Francis, 2019

On Easter Monday, April 21, Pope Francis ended his earthly journey and entered eternal life. The Holy Father gave us many examples to emulate throughout his life and ministry, even right to the end when he gave us an example of a holy, natural death.

Sadly, the very next day, news reports indicated that the New York State Assembly would take up legislation (A136/S138) to legalize state-sanctioned suicide for those who are diagnosed with a terminal illness. Euphemistically titled the Medical Aid in Dying Act, this bill would usher in a dangerous new era in our state, turning the Hippocratic Oath taken by physicians to “do no harm” on its head and leaving vulnerable individuals - people with disabilities, the elderly, and those in impoverished and medically underserved communities - subject to pressure and coercion to end their lives so as not to be a “burden” to society or an excessive cost to insurance companies.

One only need to look to the example of our neighbor to the north, Canada, to understand the risk. That country passed a similar law to New York's bill in 2016. Within a few short years, it was expanded to allow not only those with terminal illnesses, but also those with “chronic” illnesses, such as arthritis, to end their lives. In 2027, the law is set to expand to those whose only underlying condition is mental illness, such as depression, anxiety or anorexia.

At a time when New Yorkers are rightly concerned with issues such as affordability, crime, homelessness, federal cuts to Medicaid, behavioral health access, and their children's education, it is unconscionable that lawmakers would consider now an appropriate time to legalize suicide for a segment of the population.

Think of the message this sends. Sadly, we are facing a suicide crisis among young people in our state, and the government rightly spends large sums of money to prevent these tragedies and to deliver a consistent message that life is worth living. Now our state will be telling its citizens that some lives - perhaps where there has been a loss of autonomy or a disability - are not worth living. We pray that the legislature reconsiders this disastrous public policy, and we call on Governor Hochul to exercise her veto authority should the bill come to her desk.

Habemus Papam!



Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love and peace for all the world. Amen.

From the National Catholic Register

Prayer for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis



O God, faithful rewarder of souls,
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom
you made successor of Peter
and shepherd of your Church,
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,
which he faithfully ministered on earth.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the USCCB

Person of Life: Rev. Joseph Scardella

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself. How did you get involved in the pro-life movement?

I have been a priest in the Diocese for 43 years. I have always been very interested in the Pro-Life Movement and involved in many parish ministries supporting this effort.

2. You've started a ministry called Mary's Closet. What brought this about? What is the goat of Mary's Closet?

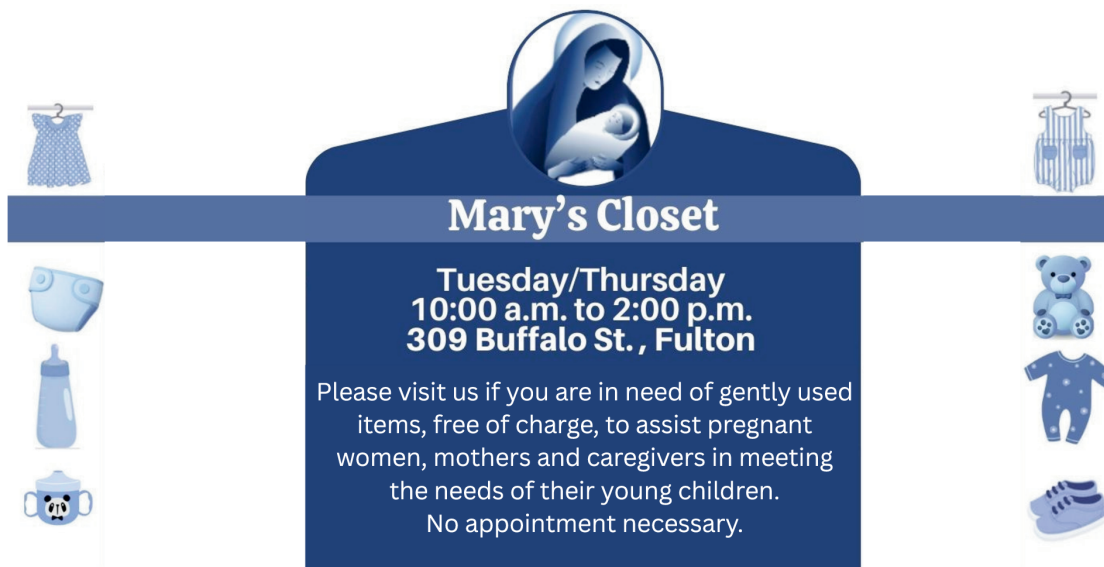
Mary's Closet grew out of my concern for the people of our country. Over 51% of the population Oswego County are on some form of social assistance. When we had one of our first (free) Community Dinners with past winter, I noticed a family with children in attendance and the children had no shoes! Many years ago, we had a Pregnancy Center using our space as a satellite office from Mexico, NY. I thought, why not use that space to open a women's center for Moms in Need. Our Family/Respect Life Committee of St. Stephen and Holy Trinity began to work on transforming the space. The goal is to offer assistance with clothing, diapers and other care items for all moms in our county who are in financial need. All the items are free of charge to the clients.

3. How can people support Mary's Closet?

All the items in Mary's Closet are donated by parishioners and friends. We accept diapers of any size, wet wipes, lightly used children's clothings from infant to 5X., children's socks and shoes, blankets, baby bottles, toys for young children, women's personal care products. All these can be brought to the Holy Trinity Parish Office at 309 Buffalo St. Fulton from Monday through Thursday, 9am-2pm.

4. What is your advice to anyone who would like to walk with Moms in Need and start a similar ministry at their own parish?

The need for young mothers is great! I would encourage parishes to investigate the need in their area and take a step in faith. God works wonders!



Mary's Closet

**Tuesday/Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
309 Buffalo St., Fulton**

Please visit us if you are in need of gently used items, free of charge, to assist pregnant women, mothers and caregivers in meeting the needs of their young children.
No appointment necessary.

HOLY TRINITY AND ST, STEPHEN PARISHES



Family Retreat Opportunity: Family Guggenheim

August 21-24



Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come and enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy (often outside) and special prayer services. Come celebrate family, be strengthened by what you experience, gain insight from other families you meet, share the love of your family with others. Family Guggenheim is sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

2:00pm Thursday, August 21- 4:00pm Sunday, August 24

For more information, please contact: Steve Tartaglia in the Family Life Office, 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

Pray for our New Priests!

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia presiding

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 | 10 AM

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



LIVE
STREAM

[YOUTUBE.COM/@SYRDIO](https://www.youtube.com/@SYRDIO)



Rev. Mr. John Brusa III



Rev. Mr. Joseph Ryan

Bishops' Call to Prayer for Supreme Court Decision on Chemical Abortion

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has invited Catholics to pray and share the following prayer, invoking the intercession of St. Joseph in response to the U.S. Supreme Court hearing "oral arguments in a case that has the potential to make a major impact in the widespread accessibility of chemical abortion (abortion pills)." The decision for the case is expected in June.

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life -especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

For more information or to access this prayer online, visit:
usccb.org/prolife/nationwide-invitation-prayer

The Dangers of the Abortion Pill

What It Is:

The abortion pill is a drug used to take the life of an unborn child up to 10 weeks gestation. The regimen involves ingesting two drugs: mifepristone and misoprostol. This inhibits the child from receiving progesterone, preventing the child from receiving nutrients and, ultimately, ending its life.*

Abortion Pill Complications

Women who undergo chemical abortions suffer complications up to four times of those who have surgical abortions. Up to one in five women who have a chemical abortion have complications, and up to 15 percent of women will hemorrhage.*



Abortion Pill Trauma:

The abortion pill is promoted as "convenient" and has even been compared to a woman's period. In reality, for some, it can be even more traumatic than a surgical abortion, as it often occurs in a woman's own home. Project Rachel founder Vicki Thorn explained that some women "get really panicked because they see the baby" as the process of the chemical abortion takes place.

*Sources: 1. Live Action: <https://www.liveaction.org/abortion-pill-kills/>
2. Lozier Institute: <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-risks-and-complications-of-chemical-abortion/>

The Church Stands With Women and Children

Local Resources:

For Crisis Pregnancies:

New Hope Family Services, Syracuse
Birthright of Onondaga County, Syracuse
Willow Network Pregnancy Centers of CNY
Birthright of Binghamton, Binghamton area
Mary's Closet, Fulton

For Abortion Pill Reversal:

877-558-0333, 24/7 Hotline

Shelter for Women and Children:

Joseph's House for Women, Syracuse
Evelyn's House, Utica

Natural Family Planning Week: July 20-26

Pursue a lasting love ...

MARRIAGE

Create hope for the future!

Natural Family Planning...supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage



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Learn more about honoring God's gifts of love and life in marriage:

Visit: syracusenfp.org

If you'd like to speak with our office about NFP,
contact Kristin Dievendorf at kdievendorf@syrdio.org or (315) 472-6754.

Our office's own Kristin Dievendorf shares her reflections about the
cross of infertility in a 4 part blog series with
The Fruitful Hollow.

To read each of these blog posts, visit: thefruitfulhollow.com/blog.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

- **DAY OF HOPE AND HEALING FOR WOMEN, July 12, 2025:**
Have you felt sad, ashamed, or not forgiven due to an abortion? Experience God's mercy and peace at a Day of Hope and Healing. For more information, call Project Rachel Ministry at (855) 364-0076 or email: hopeandhealing@syrdio.org. All calls and emails are confidential.
- **THIRD OPTION MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MEETINGS:**
Meetings are held on Sunday's from 6:30pm to 8:30pm online or in person at the parish center of St. Michael and St. Peter Church at 4780 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215. Come build your marriage in the comfort of your own home. Upcoming topics and dates are: June 1 -- "Breaking the Hurt Spiral in Marriage"; June 22 -- "Practicing Forgiveness in Marriage: The Way We Start Over"; July 13 -- "Rebuilding Trust in Marriage: It Can Be Done"; Aug. 17 - "The Two Great Secrets of Happily Married Couples" ; Sept. 7 -- "Ending the Blame Game in Marriage" ; Sept. 21 -- "Understanding Expectations Can Transform Your Marriage". For more information or to participate, contact Stephanie at sstewart@syrdio.org or 315-472-6754.
- **BRANCH OUT AND GROW, Support Group Meetings for those affected by separation and divorce:**
Online zoom meetings every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Meeting topics: June 4 -- Family and Friends; June 18 -- Financial and Legal Issues; July 2 -- Conflict; July 16-- Forgiveness; Aug. 6 -- Your Former Spouse; Aug. 20 -- Single Living; Sept. 3 -- Brighter Days. If you are interested in joining the meetings, learning more, or talking one-on-one, contact the Family/Respect Life Office at familyrespectlife@syrdio.org or 315-472-6754 Ext. 4.
- **NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING WEEK, July 20-26, 2025:**
This year's theme is "Create Hope for the Future!" For more information and resources, visit: usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/national-nfp-awareness-week.

UPCOMING FAMILY/PRO-LIFE HAPPENINGS

- **JOSEPH'S HOUSE 11TH ANNUAL "BIRDIES FOR BABIES" GOLF TOURNAMENT, June 9, 2025:**
Skaneateles Country Club, 3344 W. Lake St., Skaneateles. Enjoy 18 holes of golf Captain and Crew, gourmet lunch on the course and more. All proceeds from the fundraiser support the programs and services for the women and children at Joseph's House. To register for golf or become a sponsor, visit jhfw.org/birdies-for-babies.
- **THE THIRD OPTION MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MEETINGS, The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica:** Meetings are held via Zoom from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Learn from the experience of others on how to improve your relationship and find the joy in living a happier, healthier life together! Upcoming dates are June 11, July 2, July 16, July 30, Aug. 13, Aug. 27, and Sept. 3. Contact Michele Jones at (315) 735-6210 for more information.
- **MOM'S HOUSE "HART & HILLS MEMORIAL" GOLF TOURNAMENT, July 26, 2025:** The Links at Hiawatha Landing. To register or become a sponsor for this fundraiser, visit momshouseny.org or call (607) 644- 9972. Mom's House provides free New York State licensed childcare to low income, single parents that are enrolled in school part time or full time. Mom's House is located at 770 Harry L. Drive, Johnson City, NY 13790.
- **NEW YORK STATE RIGHT TO LIFE'S CAMP ESTHER, August 1-3, 2025:** A weekend of intensive pro-life training for youth 14 and up. For more information, visit nysrighttolife.org.*

**Please note that Camp Esther operates independently from the Diocese of Syracuse and thus is not bound by its Child and Youth Protection Policy or Code of Conduct.*

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A Prayer for Fathers

Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers
as they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience;
support them in the work they have to do,
protecting those who look to them,
as we look to you for love and salvation,
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.

Amen.



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