

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE

The parishes of Our Lady of Mount Virgin, **Sacred Heart** and Saint Joseph (BB) are sponsoring a bus which will leave from the Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish Center parking lot (on Drake Avenue). The bus will leave at 7:00AM,



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19. Pilgrims must be in the parking lot, ready to board the bus by 6:40AM. The bus will be returning to the parking lot at approximately 8:30PM. **The cost is \$30 per person.** Pilgrims should bring a bagged lunch and dinner. Limited food is available at the Shrine, and the bus will be making only a "rest stop". We will not be stopping at a restaurant. **Payment must be received at the parish office THIS WEEK.**

Checks should be made out to *Church of the Sacred Heart*. To reserve a seat on the bus, please contact the parish office and speak with Ralph Quaglia at 980-756-0633 X142.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MASS - The Diocese of Metuchen invites all to the 2016 HISPANIC HERITAGE MASS on **Friday, October 28**, at 7:30PM, Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, 32 Elm Avenue, Metuchen. We celebrate our Faith! Sisters and Brothers Together! Sent forth to Evangelize! For information call the Office of Hispanic Ministry at (732) 243-4573.

PAPAL QUOTE AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - THEME 6: Solidarity

- We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

"The solidarity which binds all men together as members of a common family makes it impossible for wealthy nations to look with indifference upon the hunger, misery and poverty of other nations whose citizens are unable to enjoy even elementary human rights. The nations of the world are becoming more and more dependent on one another and it will not be possible to preserve a lasting peace so long as glaring economic and social imbalances persist. *On Christianity and Social Progress (Mater et Magistra)*, #157, Pope John XXIII, May 15, 1961.

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: "Father, we honor the heart of your Son, broken by our cruelty, yet symbol of love's triumph, pledge of all that we are called to be. Teach us to see Christ in the lives we touch and to offer him living worship by love-filled service to our brothers and sisters. We ask this through Christ, our Lord." — *Alternative Opening Prayer, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart* (Sacramentary, 1973)

For the response of the New Jersey Bishops to the *Catholics for Choice* national pro-abortion ad visit the diocesan website: <http://diometuchen.org/CFC-ad>
Copies are also available at the entrances of the church.



DIocese of METUCHEN

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October 16, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Mercy Changes the World!"

On **World Mission Sunday, October 23**, Pope Francis invites each of us to promote change that our world so needs. God's Mercy, "the beating heart of the Gospel" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 12) can bring about that change.

On this upcoming 90th World Mission Sunday, our diocesan family will join our sisters and brothers around the world as we gather at the Lord's Table. With them we shall celebrate our common vocation as missionaries. Our own prayers and financial sacrifices, through the Churches missionary arm, The Propagation of the Faith, will help to continue the work of the Mission Church, in more than 1,100 missionary dioceses.

In the words of Pope Francis, as we witness to Christ and serve the poor

"Let us not close our hearts within our own particular concerns, but let us open them to all of humanity."

I echo these words of our Holy Father, as I ask you, please, to open your hearts as you and I connect on World Mission Sunday with every corner of the globe. You can continue this connection with the Mission Church all year long, through MISSIO, (online at missio.org).

I am grateful for your generous heart and spirit. I ask our Lord to bless you and your loved ones as we share the joy of the Gospel and help those spiritually and physically needy, on this upcoming World Mission Sunday.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+ James F. Checchio

Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

offered throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and also for the intentions of our Bishop James and the Holy Father. Amen.



"Anything we do, without offering it to God, is wasted." — St. John Vianney

Physician-Assisted Suicide What is at stake?

The so-called "Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act" (A 2451), a bill authorizing assisted suicide, was introduced earlier this year. The companion Senate bill (S2474), was introduced on August 2, 2016. Modeled after similar laws in Oregon and Washington, this legislation would ostensibly allow an adult, with a terminally illness who is thought to have six months or less to live, to 'voluntarily' request a prescription for life-ending medication that can be self-administered - if and when the individual chooses - to end their life.

In the previous legislative session, the Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act (previously call the "Death with Dignity Act") was released from the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee and passed the full Assembly in a historic vote on November 13, 2014. Bill sponsors hope to bring the bill up for another vote this fall and advocates intend to keep the pressure on.

New Jersey

"Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill" Act

A2451/S2474

Would give a patient diagnosed with a terminal illness and given a prognosis of less than six months to live, the ability to request a lethal prescription to end his/her life. If passed physician-assisted suicide would become legal under New Jersey law.

Laws like these are Dangerous!

Suicide is always a tragedy

Reasons to Oppose A2451/S2474

- ▶ A 6-month prognosis for a terminal illness is extremely difficult to predict.
- ▶ There is no requirement for a patient to consult a psychiatrist before receiving the prescription to commit suicide, only if appropriate. Many terminally ill patients are clinically depressed.
- ▶ There is no requirement for the patient to consult a palliative care or hospice expert, it is only recommended.
- ▶ No physician is required to be present when the patient takes the lethal prescription.
- ▶ The physician is required to sign the patient's death certificate, indicating the underlying illness as the cause of death, not the lethal prescription.
- ▶ We should be supporting improved hospice and palliative care state-wide, not legal suicide.
- ▶ The supposed safeguards are inadequate. And nothing in assisted suicide legislation will protect patients when there are pressures, whether financial or emotional, which distort patient choice.
- ▶ Assisted suicide legislation is a recipe for elder abuse. Key provisions allow an heir or abusive caregiver to serve as a witness and to communicate the desire for the lethal drugs for the patient if the patient is unable to do so and no witnesses are required when the drugs are taken.

Contact your state representatives and urge them to vote "NO" on A2451/S2474

If you don't know who your state representatives are, call the Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630 or find your legislators here: <http://njcatholic.org/legislators-by-diocese>

For more information visit: noassistedsuicidenj.org or www.usccb.org/toliveeachday
or call your local Diocesan Respect Life Office