

Catholic Charities of Western New York and the Diocese of Buffalo is looking for Catholic teenagers who want to:

- ★ **Take action to create a more just society**
- ★ **Learn more about the political process**
- ★ **Witness to your beliefs to those with political power**
- ★ **Meet other Catholic teens from across New York State**

If these statements describe you, then please join us for

PUBLIC POLICY DAY

FOR THE NEW YORK STATE
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

***Complete details on reverse side.
Some highlights are:***

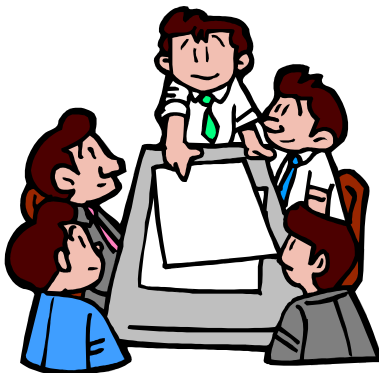
Cost = FREE! That's right, FREE!

Why take part? Because youth should have a say in what laws are passed in our state! Because Catholics should have a say in what laws are passed in our state! This is the way that we can share our voice with those who have political power.

What will we do? Meet with a state legislator (or staff member). Attend a workshop with other teens from across New York State. Talk about issues that Catholics care about.

How much time is involved?

- ◆ **Mandatory training: Saturday, February 26, 2011, 9 AM to 12 Noon**
- ◆ **Trip: Monday, March 7 – Tuesday, March 8, 2011**



- Who's invited? All Catholic teenagers in grades 9-12. Juniors and seniors are especially encouraged to attend, as this program is educational in nature and connects with material they have studied in government classes. Teens who are interested in learning more about government, helping to create a better, more just society, and meeting others who share their values will truly enjoy this program! Space is limited and will be given on a first-come, first served basis.
- What is it? A two-day (one overnight) trip to Albany, NY to lobby with state legislators for the New York State Catholic Conference's agenda of issues. In addition to meeting with state legislators, young people who attend will also attend an educational workshop for youth where you will meet peers from around the state.
- What is the cost? **FREE!** Yes, absolutely **FREE!** Because this activity is so important for the work of our Church and because it is critical to involve young people in building our society, the Diocese of Buffalo and the New York State Catholic Conference are underwriting all expenses.
- When is it? Public Policy Day is **Tuesday, March 8, 2011**. Participants will **depart on Monday, March 7** (approximately 1 PM) and **return on Tuesday** (approximately 10 PM). Both days will be considered excused school absences, and the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry will notify your school.
- Where is it? Public Policy Day occurs in the state capitol, Albany, NY. Youth participants will stay overnight at the Dominican Retreat Center in the area.
- What is the time commitment? In addition to the two-day trip to Albany, young people **MUST attend a training workshop on Saturday, February 26 from 9 AM to 12 noon at Catholic Charities Office, 741 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209**. This workshop will help you to understand the issues that you will speak about and learn how to conduct a meeting with a legislator. Attendance at this training is mandatory.
- Can adults attend? Yes! Adult chaperones are needed, and you can be involved in the lobbying, too! Please contact Deacon Don Weigel at Catholic Charities for more details at ccadvocacy@ccwny.org.
- Questions? Contact Deacon Don Weigel at **Catholic Charities**
741 Delaware Ave.,
Buffalo, NY 14209, Fax 218-1400
Email: ccadvocacy@ccwny.org

**REGISTRATION FORM
FOR
ALBANY PUBLIC POLICY FORUM
March 8, 2011**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE(S): Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

PARISH/SCHOOL/INSTITUTION _____

NYS ASSEMBLY PERSON* _____

NYS SENATOR* _____

TRAINING SESSION

Training Session will be held on **Saturday, February 26th at 9:00am to 12pm** at Catholic Charities offices at 741 Delaware Ave, Buffalo 14209. This Training session is **essential** to attending the Albany Public Policy Day. **Please make attending the training session a priority.**

TRANSPORTATION

I will travel on the diocesan bus, which will leave on March 7th and stay overnight in Albany and return on March 8th. Please check at which site you wish to be picked up:

- 1:00 p.m.: Our Lady of Perpetual Help – 2052 Lakeview – Lakeview
- 1:45 p.m.: St. Benedict – 1317 Eggert Road – Eggertsville
- 2:15 p.m.: Days Inn/Bob Evans off Batavia Exit of Thruway
- I will travel on my own to the Forum in Albany and arrange my own accommodations.

RETURN REGISTRATION BY FEBRUARY 8, 2011 TO:

Deacon Don Weigel
Catholic Charities
741 Delaware Ave.,
Buffalo, NY 14209, Fax 218-1400
Email: ccadvocacy@ccwny.org

***If you do not know your representatives please go to <http://nymap.elections.state.ny.us/nysboe/>. Make sure that you have checked BOTH State Assembly and State Senate, put in your address information and click “FIND”. The information of both your Federal and State representatives will be listed on the right-hand side. Please put your Senate and Assembly Member information in the areas above.**