**Diocesan Public Policy Committee – Rev. Fr. Daniel J. Condon, chair**

***NOURISH NY* advocacy issue - Diocesan Public Policy Advocacy Weekend February 2021**

**Update for your Parish Bulletin**

** WE HELPED MAKE THE *NOURISH NEW YORK* PROGRAM PERMANENT.**

 **BUT THE BILL WAS NEVER SENT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR SIGNATURE! PLEASE HELP!**

The New York State Legislature voted to make NOURISH NEW YORK (NYS Senate Bill S4892A), the state’s farm to food bank/pantry initiative, a **permanent state program**. This pandemic-initiative provides funding to New York’s food banks and emergency food providers (such as Catholic parish food pantries and other community food pantries) for the direct purchase of New York-produced fruit, vegetables and dairy products to feed those in need. To-date, food banks have purchased and passed through to food pantries, 21 million pounds of agricultural products from New York farms which fed 1.3 million food-insecure families across the state. *NOURISH NEW YORK* invests in a statewide food system that expands market opportunities for farmers, eliminates food waste, and makes sure no New Yorker goes hungry**.**

Our advocacy on Diocesan Public Policy Weekend (February 2021) helped make the *NOURISH NEW* YORK program *permanent*, but legislative leaders never sent the bill to the Governor for signature!

**Please contact Governor Kathy Hochul**. Ask her to request that the *NOURISH NY* bill be sent to her by the Legislature for her signature. 518-474-8390 or governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form

**Please contact these State legislative leaders** to urge that they send the bill to Governor Hochul today and call your NYS Senator and Assemblymember – ask them to get the *NOURISH NY* bill signed.

**Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins** **Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**

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**Senate Ag Committee Chair Michelle Hinchey** **Assembly Ag Committee Chair Donna Lupardo**

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