

# *Respect Life*

## *Parish Representative Manual*

**Archdiocese of Miami**

EACH OF US IS A

**MASTERPIECE**

OF GOD'S CREATION.



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## ***FOREWORD***

Dear Parish Representative,

Thank you for accepting the position of Respect Life Ministry Parish Representative. Your willingness to serve as the Parish Representative shows that you have a heart for those whose lives are at risk, forgotten, or dismissed. In your new role you will have many opportunities to become, and form, other “missionary disciples” in building a culture of LIFE.

Human life must be protected and defended from the first moment of conception to a person’s dying breath. Our faith is not a private affair. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis explains that true evangelization leads to a transformation of the social order and must be built on a solid foundation: the defense of the unborn, a defense which is inextricably linked to protecting the dignity of all (213-214.) With your help, we will raise awareness of the need to restore the sanctity of all human life and transform our society into a community of peace and justice.

Each parish helps make this a reality through prayer & action. You will be working with your Pastor, Parish Representative Coordinator, and the Respect Life Administrative Office to implement the *Bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Pro Life Activities* in four key areas: Education, Pastoral Care, Public Policy, and Prayer & Worship. Prayer is the most important part of your efforts. Pope Benedict reminds us: “Before [Christ’s] gaze all falsehood melts away” (Spe Salvi, 47) so build on prayer and you will have a strong foundation for all you do.

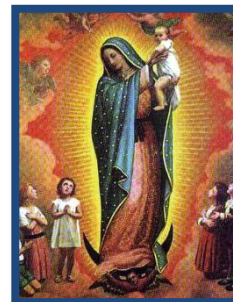
This handbook provides some guidance and suggestions for you to use in your parish. While it may not be possible to apply all the suggestions in this manual, there is sufficient material to stimulate your thinking on how to fulfill your responsibilities. In consultation with your pastor, it is our hope that you will be able to use this resource as a basis for developing a vital and vibrant Respect Life Program in your parish.

God bless you for your dedication and commitment to this leadership role. Let us consecrate ourselves and our work to Our Lady of Guadalupe to provide for whatever is lacking in us.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Crown  
Respect Life Director “Emeritus”  
Archdiocese of Miami 2006-2018



## *Pro-Life Manual Acknowledgement*

This manual is provided to assist the Archdiocese of Miami Parish Representative volunteers with direction, ideas, and activities to proclaim the Pro-Life message of the Catholic Church. Many of the ideas, suggestions, and excerpts provided within are from other dioceses and Pro-Life organizations from around the country. Respect Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Miami would like to acknowledge and thank these groups for publishing and making their own diocesan pro-life manuals available as follows:

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
- Office of Human Life & Dignity, Diocese of St. Augustine
- Office for Social Concerns, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
- Archdiocese of Baltimore Respect Life Coordinators Manual
- Office of Pro-Life Activities and Social Concerns, Diocese of Allentown
- Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Newark
- Office of Human Life and Dignity, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh

For more information or additional copies of the manual, contact the ADOM Respect Life Ministry Education Coordinator, Sandi Le Bel @ 954-981-2922 or via email at [slebel@respectlifemiami.org](mailto:slebel@respectlifemiami.org).

# RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Administrative Office

4747 Hollywood Blvd. • Suite 103 • Hollywood, Fl. 33021

Phone: (954) 981-2922 • Email: [ilovelife@bellsouth.net](mailto:ilovelife@bellsouth.net)



[www.respectlifemiami.org](http://www.respectlifemiami.org)



[facebook.com/RespectLifeMinistryMiami](https://facebook.com/RespectLifeMinistryMiami)

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Respect Life Ministry, in faithfulness to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, exists to uphold the sanctity and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

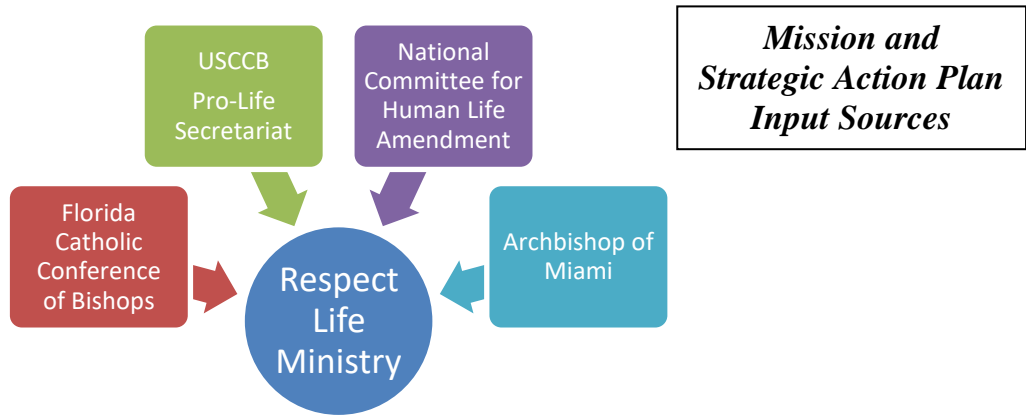
Our goal is to implement the U.S. Catholic Bishops' **Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities** which focuses on four major areas:

- **Pastoral Care:** addressing the needs of women facing unplanned pregnancies, those seeking healing after abortion, and men and women struggling to understand the critical moral issues related to life. We evangelize through our example of love and service to the Truth.
- **Education and Information:** on the current day threats to the sanctity of all human life - including but not limited to - abortion, infanticide, artificial contraception, embryonic stem cell research, in-vitro fertilization, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the death penalty.
- **Public Policy:** working towards legal protection of the fundamental right to life wherever legislation threatens to erode our Judeo-Christian values. A threat to the life of some people is a threat to all, born or unborn.
- **Prayer and Worship:** "Only with prayer will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life."

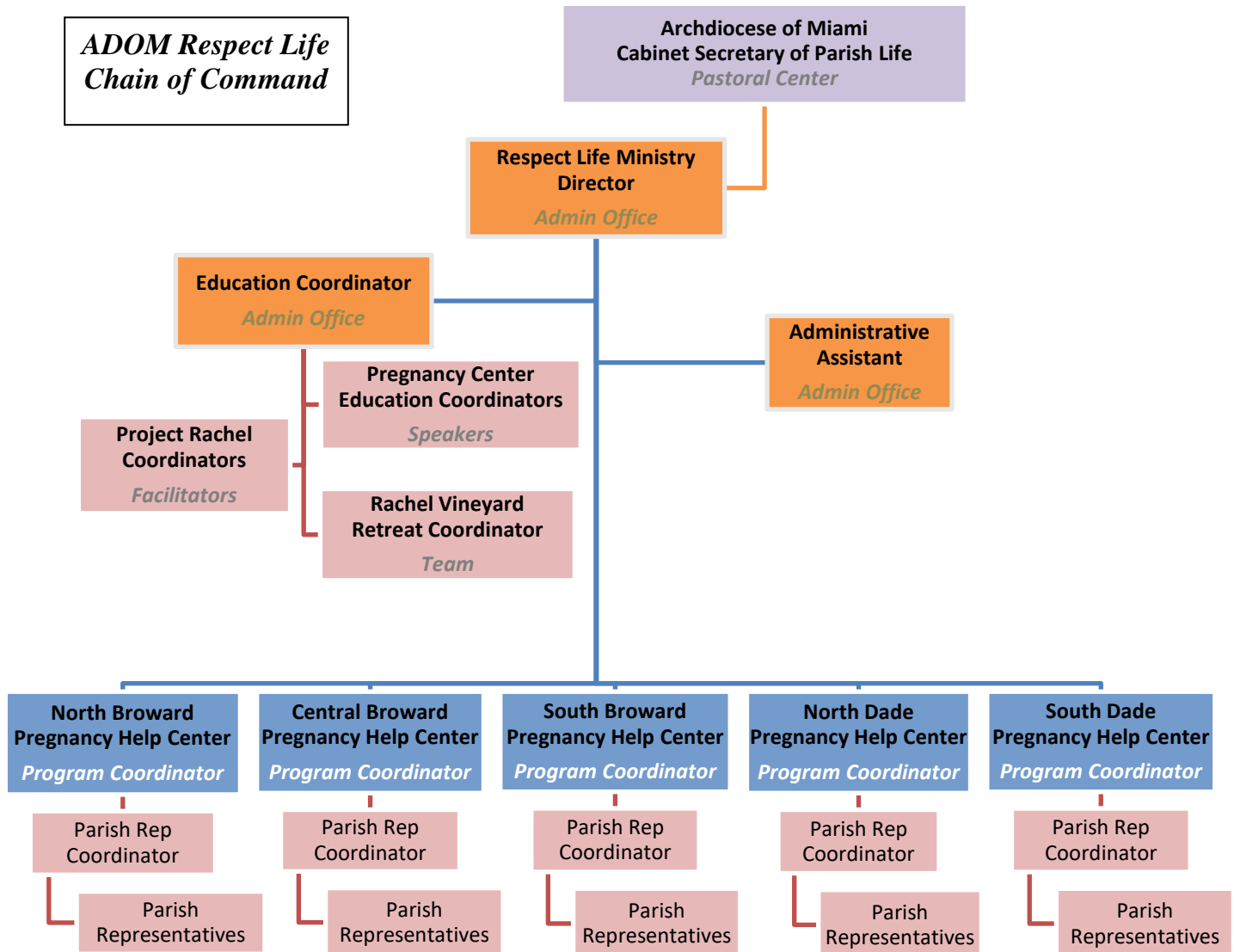
**"THE GOSPEL OF LIFE is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture."**

**-JPII, *Evangelium Vitae***

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## *ADOM Respect Life Chain of Command*





# Respect Life Ministry Staff and Offices 2018

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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## PREGNANCY HELP CENTERS

[www.pregnancyhelp.me](http://www.pregnancyhelp.me)



### DADE

#### North Dade

1515 NW 167 St., Bldg. 4, Suite 190  
Miami Gardens, FL 33169  
305-653-2921 or 786-452-0266  
Fax 786-452-0280  
[respectlifeministry@comcast.net](mailto:respectlifeministry@comcast.net)

Program Coordinator: Maggie Martinez Olmedo

#### South Dade

3410 S.W. 107<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Miami, FL 33165  
305-273-8507 or 305-273-8508  
Fax 786-219-3878  
[southdadepregnancyhelp@gmail.com](mailto:southdadepregnancyhelp@gmail.com)

Program Coordinator: Kathy Weissinger

### BROWARD

#### North Broward

5115 Coconut Creek Pkwy.  
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[sbrespectlife@att.net](mailto:sbrespectlife@att.net)

Program Co-Coordinators:  
Angela Curatalo & Marcela Villegas

*"If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be, if anyone serves me, him the Father will honor."* **John 12:26**



# ***GETTING STARTED***


# Where Should I Begin?

Whether you are starting the Respect Life Ministry program in your parish, or if there hasn't been much activity in some time, or you are being trained by the outgoing Parish Representative who has a flourishing Respect Life program in the parish...this manual will be a helpful tool in getting started!

## Checklist for a Parish Representative

1. Pray for the graces and charisms you will need to enlarge Christ's Kingdom within your parish's geographic boundaries. Ask for Our Lady's intercession in bringing hearts to the Gospel of Life.
2. Get acquainted with your local Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center
  - ❖ Meet with the Program Coordinator and Parish Rep Coordinators. Tour the center.
  - ❖ Read this manual prayerfully and attentively.
  - ❖ Read the Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life.
  - ❖ Make a preliminary plan and calendar of suggested actions based on the annual Respect Life USCCB Program & the activities of the Archdiocesan Respect Life Ministry's office.
3. Meet with your Pastor
  - ❖ Meet with your Pastor and ask if he has Respect Life priorities or goals. What are his deepest desires for the parish? To build community? To bring fallen away Catholics home? To turn it around financially?
  - ❖ Communication. Ask how he prefers for you to communicate. Email? One page summaries as needed? How will you notify him on cases for post-abortion confession or healing?
  - ❖ Introduction. Ask how he will introduce you to the parish and school. Mass? A letter to the parishioners? Your contact info in bulletin, etc.
  - ❖ Recruitment. Request a "Life Roll" Sunday. Set up a table to sign up committee and other members. Utilize Ministry Sunday to add members.

<b>Life Roll</b>	
Join our efforts to <i>Respect Life!</i>	
"I believe that all people: the unborn, infants, the handicapped and the elderly, all have a unique dignity that comes from God."	
"I am opposed to abortion, infanticide, abuse and euthanasia. Please add my name to the list of those supporting LIFE."	
<b>I am interested in:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Joining my Parish Respect Life Committee	
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending an Educational Workshop	
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering in a Respect Life Office	
<input type="checkbox"/> Working from home with the telephone ministry (if available in my area)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving e-mail updates of pro-life news	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding with my Legislators	
<input type="checkbox"/> Doing public speaking on the pro-life issues	
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____ Zip: _____	
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	
<b>Location of Pregnancy Help Centers</b>	
<a href="http://www.p.sana-cvbc.com">www.p.sana-cvbc.com</a>	
So. Dade 305-273-6527	Central Broward 954-565-6229
North Dade 305-473-7729	North Broward 954-977-7768
So. Broward 954-963-2229	



## 4. Know your Parish

Every parish has a certain makeup. Is it an older parish? Younger parish? Does your parish have many ministries? A school? Is it a strong community where people want to serve? Traditional?

- ❖ Who are the key people? Create a contact list. Reach out to the most effective people.
- ❖ What are the strongest organizations? Attend different ministry meetings to introduce yourself and explain the role/goals of joining the Parish Pro-life committee.
- ❖ How is the liturgy planned? Who is in charge of writing the intercessory prayers at mass?
- ❖ What is the deadline for submitting notices for the bulletin and how are they approved? How are they submitted? Do they prefer a .pdf, .doc, .pub file?
- ❖ How are notices, flyers and posters put on the parish bulletin board, chapel, windows?
- ❖ How is material approved for the pamphlet rack, monthly newsletter, or parish app?

# *Your Job Description*

## ***Goal of the Parish Representative:***

To help build a Culture of Life by actively evangelizing every person in your parish about Respect Life issues, and to reach out to various ministries to raise awareness. To make Respect Life issues visible and real to the parish. To facilitate an environment that fosters Respect Life action in the community.

## ***Qualifications for the Respect Life Parish Representative:***

- Shall be appointed by the parish pastor for a term of one year, renewable for additional years, and shall act in accord with Christ's will in obedience to the pastor and Archbishop.
- Shall read and become familiar with church teaching on life issues found in Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life* which can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/pastoral-plan-prolife-activities.cfm>
- Shall develop a relationship with the pastor to learn about his intentions for the parish.
- Shall serve as a liaison, between the pastor and parish committee and the Respect Life Office, on issues and projects related to the promotion of the sacredness of life.
- Shall comply with, and maintain, ADOM fingerprint and Virtus requirements.

## ***Responsibilities of the Respect Life Parish Representative:***

- Communicate with the pastor and parish, at his discretion, regarding all Respect Life projects and activities, including but not limited to, providing copy for the parish bulletin.
- Work, at the direction of the pastor, to organize a parish committee or structure that will implement the *Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities* through goals & activities that promote education/awareness as developed by the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office.
- Invite and encourage others, always in accord with the pastor, to participate in Respect Life Ministry sponsored activities and projects, at the parish or Archdiocesan level.
- Serve as Chairperson of the parish committee and fund activities as directed by pastor.
- Support prayer, at the direction of the pastor and in collaboration with him, for the restoration of the sanctity of life within the parish at large and within suitable parish organizations.
- Attend the annual parish representative commissioning and the Parish Rep Symposium/ education day. Participate in education/training that is offered on the pertinent issues.
- Attend the monthly meetings, at least occasionally, held at the local pregnancy help centers within the Archdiocese and shall remain up-to-date on their activities and issues.
- Complete and properly submit the Annual Parish Representative Review tool.
- Meet at least annually with the Program Coordinator and the Parish Rep Coordinator.
- Develop or maintain a solid, consistent prayer life and frequent the sacraments.
- At all times, speak the truth in charity.
- Cooperate with God's grace to know thyself, strengths and weaknesses. Pray for the humility and courage to have the heart and knowledge needed to be an effective missionary disciple.

## *Parish Pro-Life Committee*

**GOAL:** To become informed and keep informed on the life issues; to inform others in the parish on the life issues; to implement the annual USCCB Respect Life Program; to recruit volunteers & raise funds for the parish committee activities and Respect Life Pregnancy Help Centers; to support service projects to aid those chronically ill, disabled or dying, distressed pregnant women, and women/men suffering the after effects of abortion.



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*Excerpt from Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life pg. 36-38:*

“Actively promoting a renewed respect for human life is the responsibility of every Catholic. The parish pro-life committee assists in a special way by helping to make the parish a center of life, a place where parishioners understand the issues and the importance of meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable—especially mothers and their unborn children, and those who are seriously ill or dying and their families. It may be a distinct committee, or it might be a subcommittee of another parish organization. Whatever its structure, its membership should include representatives of both adult and youth parish groups, members of organizations that represent persons with disabilities, persons of minority cultures, and those responsible for education and pastoral care.

The chairperson of the parish committee is appointed by the pastor, and it is important that the two be able to work well together. The chair recruits volunteers to help meet the needs the committee serves. Parish committees should be mindful of the need for renewal from time to time in regard to membership, talents, and interests.

The parish committee relies on the diocesan pro-life director for information and guidance. The committee should play a vital role in parish life and enjoy the strong support of priests and other key personnel. The committee should also dovetail its efforts from time to time with other programs of the parish. For example, in many parts of the country, parishes conduct programs where parishioners study and discuss the teachings of the faith. Members of the pro-life committee should take part in such programs and invite other program leaders to take part in pro-life initiatives.”

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*May the “people of life” constantly grow in number and may a new culture of love and solidarity develop for the true good of the whole of human society.*

*-Pope John Paul II, the Gospel of Life, no. 101*



# Structure of a Parish Pro-Life Committee

One parish representative, or two co-representatives are appointed by the pastor. **Imagine yourself as the information “hub” on Respect Life matters in the parish...**like one of those old time telephone operators, your role should enable information on the life issues to get from one person/ministry to another within the parish.

The representative (or co-reps) will invite others to join the Parish Respect Life Committee. The representative (or co-reps) will chair the committee. The representative(s) **should seek to include members and leaders from various parish ministries** such as RCIA, Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes, Youth Ministry, Retreat Groups, “*Why Catholic?*,” school staff, PTA, Parish Council, Charismatic Renewal groups, prayer/intercessory teams, Couples for Christ, Marriage Encounter, Men’s/Women’s Groups, Visits to the Sick, etc.

The committee members should share their calendar of events, and information on the life issues across the parish ministries.

**Example of collaboration:** Parish Representative provides Project Rachel information and literature for a committee member whose ministry is offering a retreat. Together they discuss plans for a course of action for retreat leaders on how to help a man/woman who experiences repentance or concern about past abortion during the retreat.



## Involving other groups in Respect Life Parish Committees

1. Request to attend your Parish Council meeting and introduce yourself / bring a flyer or handout on some of the Respect Life initiatives in your parish. Ask your pastor for assistance in recruitment.
2. Ask to speak prior to a Knights of Columbus meeting. Request that they appoint a liaison to come to your committee meetings and keep the Knights apprised of Respect Life initiatives and ways they can help.

You may also choose, with your pastor’s approval, to create two groups:

- 1.) **Activities committee** – consists of members who
  - are available to help at most activities,
  - may include persons for roles such as hospitality, telephone, communications
  - attends parish and Archdiocesan Respect Life Ministry pro-life events,
  - attends Archdiocesan Respect Life events, trainings, or conferences.
- 2.) **Advisory committee** – consists of members from various ministries who
  - agree to meet at least quarterly
  - generate ideas and plans to implement both short and long range goals approved by pastor,
  - work on details of a plan/event that will be presented to the pastor,

Is there an E-mail Address for your Group?

It’s a good idea to use a distinct e-mail address for parish pro-life activities. This address can then be passed on from one representative to the next and save lots of work.

3. Meet with your Youth Minister or DRE and ask them to appoint a youth member of the Respect Life committee to serve as liaison with the youth.
4. Invite a bilingual friend, and set up a table outside of your Hispanic mass with Respect Life materials and an invitation to participate in activities.
5. Meet with the director of your Nursing Home ministry or ministry to sick and shut-ins to offer support. It is appropriate to ask them to ask for prayers for life from the people they visit. This also avoids duplication of efforts. (If there is no such ministry in your parish, consider starting one.)
6. If your parish has a school, meet with the principal and offer to make presentations to the students. Ask if they can include a daily intention or a pro-life prayer or display fetal models in science class.
7. Make sure you have regular Respect Life announcements in the parish bulletin. Many parishes have a Respect Life Corner that is always reserved for quotes, upcoming events, post abortion healing, pregnancy help center contact information, and other Respect Life activities.

## *How Can I Become An Effective Leader?*

### *Guiding Your Respect Life Parish Committee*

1. Set goals
2. Find individual committee member’s strengths
3. Work through your objectives as a team

***Be knowledgeable.*** Read. Be informed. Be up to date on current materials and life issues. Get FLCAN Legislative updates. Review this manual periodically and the websites/resources suggested. “For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34)

***Have confidence.*** Have faith in your calling. God equips the ones He calls for the work of ministry (Eph 4:12). *Our fears are often rooted in self-reliance...because it fails us.* Get on a new basis of trusting and relying on God and cooperating with the solution God Himself has already planned! “Whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies.” (1 Peter 4:10)

***Delegate responsibility.*** Utilize all the talent on your committee. Set meeting dates and create a calendar, perhaps on a shareable electronic platform such as google docs, facebook, or other tech aids. The leader who does it all will soon become overloaded and experience ministry burnout. Be joy filled and you will inspire others to join.

***Know your leadership style.*** Are you a “power wielder”, “avoider”, “accommodator”, or a “transformational leader”? Raise your self-awareness in the sense of what is going on in your heart, how you come across to others, and how you may need to change by cooperating with God’s grace.

***Be an enthusiastic servant.*** God’s primary agenda in your life is to change you so that you become more like Jesus (Romans 8:29).

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control.”

**Galatians 5:22**

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many.”

**Matthew 20:26-28**

## *Becoming a Missionary Disciple*

CHANGED  
PEOPLE CHANGING  
PEOPLE

We cannot expect to build a Culture of Life if we do not first uphold the dignity of every person we encounter and treat them with the same respect and reverence as those whose lives are in danger in our society. Pope Francis has challenged the Church to continue to go out, to go forth, to the peripheries, in search of those who are in need of the Lord Jesus Christ and of his mercy and grace. You are called to bring the healing message of the Gospel to a world wounded by sin.

- ✚ Your spiritual life is an important part of your effectiveness. Pope Francis has called on Catholics to “*embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by the joy of the Gospel.*” Reflect. Am I a joyful witness? Do I spend time in adoration with Jesus? Do I avail myself to prayers and opportunities for healing?
- ✚ To become ever more, and to form others as, missionary disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Holy Father says, “*Every Christian is missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God and Jesus Christ.*” Reflect. Have I lost my “first love” or do I need to let Christ renew the fire? Do I attend opportunities such as a Life in the Spirit seminar or Emmaus retreat to allow the Holy Spirit to transform me into the image of Christ?
- ✚ Only in prayer can we discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us “*to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel.*” Reflect. Who are the forgotten in the parish? Who am I being sent to reach?
  - Quotes from Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel)
- ✚ Missionary discipleship is passed on person-to-person through the **art of accompaniment**. When was the last time someone said to you “**I don’t know what you got, but whatever it is you got, I want it.**” In 2017, the USCCB released a compelling resource called *Living as Missionary Disciples: A Resource for Evangelization*. Here are the four key pillars it discusses:



**Encounter.** Reflect deeply on your own experience of encounter with Jesus through prayer, sacraments, adoration, Scripture, works of mercy, etc.

**Accompany.** Walk with others and support them in their own journey toward union with Christ, especially in their struggles. Stop rushing from one thing to another and remain with someone who has faltered along the way.

**Community.** Leaders need to find support and ongoing formation in parish life, apostolic movements, diocesan networks and small faith groups. Work to make your parish a place of welcome, catechesis and solidarity.

**Sent.** Leaders are sent to evangelize. They have been given mission by the Church to go outside the walls of their community and church. A new generation of missionary disciples is among us...

# *Your Relationship with Your Pastor and Community*

When your desire is to engage a community & raise the awareness of Respect Life issues for parishioners, *relationships* are vital to your effectiveness. We cannot expect to build a Culture of Life if we do not first uphold the dignity of every person we encounter and treat them with the same respect and reverence due.

**Q:** What if my parish is full of weeds...ego-driven people, negative thinkers, victims, control freaks, gossipers and unsupportive parish staff or leadership? **A: BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED.**

**“Our perceptions of the world around us flow directly from our perceptions of ourselves.”**

- ✓ Do you see the world as an opportunity for learning and growth or is the world out to get you?
- ✓ Do you have a collaborative spirit or one that says ‘I am better off doing it myself.’
- ✓ Do you embrace Romans 3:23...‘For we have ALL sinned and fall short of the glory of God.’
- ✓ Is there a lot of “whining” on your Committee (i.e. “Why won’t Father support us? Ah, why won’t Father let us do this? Why do we live in a dead parish? Why doesn’t Father like us or affirm us?”)



*“Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering and the lonely right there where you are -- in your own homes and in your own families, in your workplaces and in your schools. ... You can find Calcutta all over the world, if you have the eyes to see. Everywhere, wherever you go, you find people who are unwanted, unloved, uncared for, just rejected by society -- completely forgotten, completely left alone.” ~ St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

“We may be stuck in older and even childish ways of thinking. We want Father to like us. To pat us on the head. We want to be approved. But whining is an indictment against our faith and the Holy Spirit. Let’s not whine when it comes to our parishes and pastors... It’s not about bringing people to our ministry, it’s about bringing them to the Lord! It’s not about us, it’s about HIM! Don’t be afraid to risk your reputation. Find some sinners!” - David Thorpe, *Serving Parishes in Renewed Life*, NSC 2009

When our Archbishop named your pastor, he received a precise description of the parish boundaries starting in the NE corner, proceeding for x miles, then proceeding SE to ...and told he was named to pastor and care for the **souls of all in that territory**. You were appointed by him and are therefore called to serve with him; *you share his mandate to care for ALL the souls in that territory*.

Ask your pastor **what is his wish list?** or what is the thing the parish most needs to be done that no one will do? You may have to serve breakfast once per month, or run a booth at carnival, or clean the church windows, but you are **connecting with your pastor’s deepest desires for his mission territory**.

- ❖ Your parish is your mission territory. It is a geographical area, not just the souls that show up for Mass. CLAIM that territory for Christ and the Gospel of Life on a prayer walk. This is spiritual OUTREACH! Turn loose your intercessory prayers and renew the life and mission of your parish.
- ❖ Are you only thinking of what can be done publicly in the name of the parish? Think about what you can do on a one-on-one basis: your testimony, approach ministries and ask for 15 minutes at their meeting, etc.
- ❖ Be involved in liturgical ministries. Your visibility with parish meetings, religious education, parish festivals, etc. gives you credibility as a concerned, committed, responsible leader in the parish.
- ❖ Be organized. Have a track record of “follow through.” Advance planning is critical. Last minute ideas do not work. Provide short written communications and updates to your Pastor & committee.



## *Funding Projects*

This section is still a work in progress. When the guidelines for managing expenses such as Movie licenses, Parish Fetal Model sets, etc. are fully developed with input from the Pregnancy Center Program Coordinators and Parish Rep Coordinators, we will send you the replacement page to insert in your binder here.

# Calendar

## Holydays, Feast Days and Special Observances

### January

- January 1  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
*Blessing of Mothers*  
Feast of the Presentation  
*Blessing of Infants*  
Feast of the Epiphany  
*Baby Shower*  
*Holy Hour*  
Local Walk-for-Life events Jan 6-Jan 22
- January 22  
Roe v. Wade Anniversary  
*March for Life, Washington D.C.*  
*National Prayer Vigil for Life (all night on eve on March for Life)*  
*9 Days for Life – USCCB Novena*  
*Cross Project*  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls (church bells ring for aborted babies)*

### February

- February 11  
World Day of the Sick
- February 14  
Valentine's Day  
*Heart Crib Baby Shower*  
*Chastity Days in Catholic Middle Schools for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders*
- Ash Wednesday  
*40 Days for Life Campaign*
- Lent  
Corporeal works of mercy  
*Visit Nursing Home*  
*Prison Ministry Visits & Death Penalty Awareness*

### March and April

- TBD  
Catholic Days at the Capitol  
Mass for Nascent Life
- March 19  
Feast of St. Joseph  
*Blessing of Fathers*
- March 25  
Feast of the Annunciation  
*Blessing of Pregnancy*  
*Holy Hour*  
*Spiritual Adoption Program*
- April  
National Post Abortion Recovery Awareness Month  
Easter Sunday  
*Life theme/Easter Basket of Hope Baby Shower*  
Divine Mercy Sunday  
*Post Abortion Healing awareness campaign*

### May

- Mother's Day  
*Blessing of Mothers*  
*"Thanks for Life" Mother's Day Flower sales*
- May 31  
Feast of the Visitation  
*Advertise Pregnancy Centers*

## **June**

June 15  
Father's Day

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
*Blessing of Fathers*  
*Father's Day Candy Bar with prayer fundraiser*  
*Blessing of the sick and those with handicaps*

## **July**

July 4

Independence Day  
*Prayer for those denied a right to life*  
*Patriotic Rosary*

## **August**

August 15

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
*Rosary for Life*

## **September**

Labor Day

Begin preparations for Respect Life Sunday  
*Archdiocesan Office Middle School Essay Contest*  
*Parish & School Coloring or Poster Contests*

September 8  
September 14  
September 15

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children  
Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
Our Lady of Sorrows

## **October**

Respect Life Sunday  
Respect Life Month  
October 7

*Special altar décor*  
*Respect Life Pastoral Plan – sent to Parishes*  
Feast of the Holy Rosary  
*Importance of Prayer*  
*March for Life- begin plans for reserving bus/busses*  
*National Pro-Life Cupcake Day*

October 9

## **November**

November 1  
November 2

National Adoption Month  
All Saints  
All Souls Day  
*Candlelight Prayer Service "What Might Have Been"*  
*Memorial Service for those who lost a child*  
*Education on Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*

November 21

Presentation of Mary  
*Holy Hour*

## **December**

Advent

*Christmas Cards for the Chronically ill or Disabled*  
*Christmas Caroling event outside abortion clinic*

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
*National Night of Prayer*

December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
*Prayer for the Unborn*

December 25

Christmas  
*The gift of a child*

December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 30

Feast of the Holy Family  
*NFP Awareness event*

***PUBLIC INFORMATION***  
***and EDUCATION***

# *Introduction to Education*

*“To deepen respect for human life and heighten public opposition to abortion and euthanasia, a two-fold educational effort is necessary; one directed specifically to the Catholic community, the other directed to the general public.”* - *Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities*

*“...you shall not stand by idly when your neighbor’s life is at stake.”* - *Leviticus 19:16*

## *I. The Catholic Community*

Just as Jesus formed his disciples and commissioned them to go out and spread the good news, when parish educators are formed correctly on Respect Life issues, they will be able to spread the Gospel of Life to the rest of the parish community. The most comprehensive overview of the Church’s teaching in regard to the sanctity and dignity of human life is found in Pope John Paul II’s encyclical letter *The Gospel of Life*.

Education efforts should include the following as appropriate:

Abortion (procedures, risks, consequences)	End of Life Issues
Abortifacient Contraceptives	Euthanasia
Abortion/Breast Cancer Risk Link	Fetal Development
Advance Directives for Health Care (living wills)	Homosexuality
Assisted Suicide	Human Cloning/ Stem Cell Research
Bioethics	IVF/Infertility/NaPro Technology
Chastity Education	Perinatal Hospice
Contraception	Post Abortion Healing (Project Rachel)
Death Penalty	Pregnancy Help Center Assistance
Disabilities	Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV

*To learn more about these topics and church teaching visit:*  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity>

- Encourage the involvement of priests, deacons, religious, CCD teachers, youth ministers, parents, council of Catholic Women, Knights of Columbus, DRE, Respect Life Speakers Bureau
- Biblical and theological foundations
- Scientific information on humanity of unborn children
- American founding principles that reflect the unchanging truths about the human person

## *II. The General Public*

The primary purpose of an educational effort directed to the general public is the development of pro-life attitudes and the rejection of abortion and euthanasia. This is where we take the pro-life message to the *public square* such as with: Lifechain, March for Life, Health Fairs, or a Prayer Vigil in front of an abortion facility. As we read in *Gospel of Life n. 101*:

**“The revelation of the Gospel of Life is given to us as a good to be shared with all people.”**

### III. *Assessing the Respect Life Program of Your Parish*

- ❖ Are Respect Life themes included in homilies several times throughout the year, including Respect Life Sunday and the Sunday before the anniversary of Roe v Wade (Jan 22)?
- ❖ Do you have regular or frequent Respect Life bulletin inserts or articles?
- ❖ Do you have a Respect Life pamphlet rack (*Life Matters* series by USCCB), books, or videos?
- ❖ Can a parishioner easily find and get in touch with the Respect Life Parish Representative?
- ❖ Does your parish school have an educational program to promote the virtue of chastity and respect for human life? Use videos, pamphlets, speakers? Attend the annual Chastity Day event hosted by Respect Life Ministry Admin Office and participate in the essay contest?

### IV. *How Should I Keep Myself Informed?*

#### **READ!**

##### Church Documents

- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities (USCCB, 2001)
- Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II)
- Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life, Pope Paul VI, 1968)
- Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death (USCCB, 2005)
- Culture of Life Series brochures @ [flaccb.org/culture-of-life](http://flaccb.org/culture-of-life)

##### Respect Life Electronic News

- People of Life e-news (USCCB)
- LifeNews.com\* and LifeSiteNews.com/Catholic Edition\*

##### Respect Life Books

- *Theology of the Body for Beginners*, Christopher West
- *Aborting America*, Dr. Bernard Nathanson
- *unPLANNED*, Abby Johnson
- *Love and Responsibility*, Pope John Paul II
- *Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities*, USCCB
- *A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World*, Carl Anderson
- *Won by Love*, Norma McCorvey

#### **LISTEN to TALKS!**

AustineInstitute.org  
FORMED.org  
*Contraception Why Not?*  
Janet Smith  
*The Theology of the Body Series*,  
Christopher West

#### **WATCH!**

Crossroads of the Heart  
<https://vimeo.com/151082684>  
180 Degrees by Living Waters  
[www.180movie.com](http://www.180movie.com)  
*Who Was the Real Margaret Sanger?*  
[www.Sangervideo.com](http://www.Sangervideo.com)  
Life Issues Seminar DVD  
@ [Local RL Pregnancy Help Center](http://LocalRLPregnancyHelpCenter.com)  
Attend Annual Florida Respect Life  
Conference. See [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org)

### ***Education CONTENT must be set to the RIGHT MUSIC***

Many times a person educating others on correct Church teaching may have the ---

“...right words, but the wrong music. And what affects the heart more, the words or the melody? We may have been given ‘correct’ teaching in our Christian upbringings, but if it was set to the wrong music, our hearts didn’t (and even couldn’t) respond openly and positively. I don’t care if it’s the greatest story in the world, if a movie has an abrasive soundtrack you’ll still want to leave the theater. So I did – the theater being the Church. I left as a teen and, after quite a journey, came back in my twenties. Through much searching, I had found someone who knew how to set the Church’s teaching to the right music. That someone was Pope John Paul II.”

- Christopher West, President of Cor Project and Theology of the Body Institute



## V. *Life Issues Highlights– Teachings of the Catholic Church*

### ➤ **ABORTION**

“Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.”  
(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2270)

“Abortion, the direct killing of an innocent human being, is always gravely immoral. Among all crimes which can be committed against life, procured abortion has characteristics making it particularly serious and deplorable.”

(*The Gospel of Life*, no. 57-58)

### ➤ **ASSISTED SUICIDE**

“Any state which would make a request for euthanasia legitimate and authorized it to be carried out would be legalizing a case of suicide – murder, contrary to the fundamental principles of absolute respect for life and the protection of every innocent life.”

(*The Gospel of Life*, no. 72)

### ➤ **DEATH PENALTY**

“Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,’ and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide (Pope Francis, Oct. 11, 2017)

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2267 - August 2018 Update)

“The dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform.”

(Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 1995)

### ➤ **END OF LIFE ADVANCE DIRECTIVES**

*The Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* – a healthcare advance directives, is promulgated by the Catholic Bishops of Florida. Download the information at [flaccb.org/declaration-on-life-and-death](http://flaccb.org/declaration-on-life-and-death).

### ➤ **EUTHANASIA**

Euthanasia is an act or omission of an action which of itself or by intention causes death in order that all suffering may be eliminated. Food and water are NOT medical treatment. They are basic necessities for life; removing them will guarantee death.

“Intentional euthanasia, whatever its forms or motives, is murder. It is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator.”

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2324)

“Those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect...Even if death is thought imminent, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted.

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2276, 2279)

## ➤ ***HOMOSEXUALITY***

"The Church seeks to enable every person to live out the universal call to holiness. Persons with a homosexual inclination ought to receive every aid and encouragement to embrace this call personally and fully. This will unavoidably involve much struggle and self-mastery, for following Jesus always means following the way of the Cross.... The Sacraments of the Eucharist and of Penance are essential sources of consolation and aid on this path."

- USCCB, *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination* (2006), p. 13

"Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved."

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2357)

## ➤ ***HUMAN REPRODUCTION***

Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by an intrusion of a person other than the couple (donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus), are gravely immoral.

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2376)

"Periodic continence, that is, the methods of birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods, is in conformity with the objective criteria of morality. These methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them, and favor the education of an authentic freedom. In contrast, "every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible is intrinsically evil."

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2370)

"Separate sex from babies and you also separate sex from marriage – both in principle and in practice. So long as the natural connection between sex and babies is retained, we realize intuitively that sexual intercourse is the domain of those who have committed themselves to raising children: that commitment...is called marriage. Insert contraception into the tight-knot nexus of marriage-sex-babies and everything will start to unravel."

(*Eclipse of the Body*, Christopher West pp 16-17)

## ➤ ***INFANTICIDE***

"The Second Vatican Council defines abortion, together with infanticide, as an unspeakable crime."

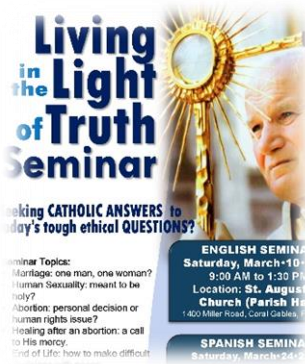
(*The Gospel of Life*, no. 58)



# Education Projects

## A CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE

*“We pray that Catholics will be advocates for the weak and the marginalized in all these areas. But being right in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life. Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the rightness of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community.” (Living the Gospel of Life, no. 23)*



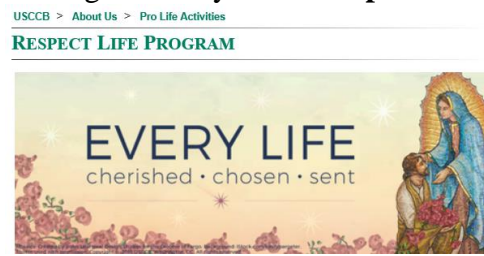
### A. Host a “Living in the Light of Truth” Seminar -

**GOAL:** To provide an in-depth look and Catholic Answers to today’s tough ethical questions.

**ACTIVITY:** This Life Issues Seminar is presented by the Respect Life Admin Office and other specially trained speakers. It is available in English or Spanish. Speak with the Respect Life Administrative Office about current scheduling opportunities. Follow the Parish Rep guidelines for hosting a seminar.

### B. Respect Life Month & Respect Life Sunday

The annual Respect Life Program is a year round, nationwide effort that begins each year on **Respect Life Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in October**. The USCCB publishes a program kit to help Catholics understand and become engaged with building a culture of life. Each parish kit contains information on current issues, program suggestions, liturgy resources and clip art, along with poster, prayers and parish bulletin briefs. Please contact your Parish Rep Coordinator by June of the current year to order/receive a parish kit. Respect Life Admin Office does a bulk purchase for the Archdiocese. See [www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program)



### C. Bulletin Inserts-

**GOAL:** An easy way to raise Respect Life awareness is through the parish bulletin.

**ACTIVITY:** See if you can get a designated corner in the bulletin: “Respect Life Corner”

- ✓ Have “permanent” section with your local Pregnancy Help Center contact # and Project Rachel #.
- ✓ Add content about upcoming Respect Life events/meetings/prayer/etc.
- ✓ Suggested bulletin inserts can be found in your Annual RL Parish Kit and online through Word of Life, a monthly resources for dioceses and parishes. You can download or SUBSCRIBE or ask your parish bulletin editor to subscribe at [www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities-word-of-life/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities-word-of-life/index.cfm). It is available in both English and Spanish. Each month, you will find: Feature of the Month, Intercessions for Life (more), Bulletin Quotes, and Bulletin Art (more).



### ***D. Book/Pamphlet Rack-***

**GOAL:** With Pastor's approval, Pamphlet and/or book racks should be found in the vestibules of the church. Ensure your rack contains a selection of pro-life materials and information on your local Pregnancy Help Center and Post-abortion healing.

**ACTIVITY:** Educational materials can be purchased from websites such as [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org). Check with the Respect Life Admin Office for additional approved materials available from [www.hh76.com](http://www.hh76.com)



### ***E. Carnival Booth / Parish Ministry Fair***

**GOAL:** Raise awareness in the parish AND public community. Be an involved ministry of the parish.

#### **ACTIVITY/IDEAS:**

- ✓ 4-6 weeks prior to the fair work on LOGISTICS:
  - Contact person in charge of exhibit tables and reserve one for Respect Life Committee.
  - Make eye-catching banner or backdrop. Invite parish school students or youth group to help.
  - Purchase brochures, sales items, reserve fetal models/table cloths from Pregnancy Center.
  - Request electricity to booth if you are going to use DVD player to show fetal develop video.
  - Get time slot commitments from Committee Members who will volunteer to man the booth.
- ✓ Set up tables with display boards, fetal models, literature, signage, and props.
- ✓ Attract visitors with creative giveaways: a theme cake for you to cut and serve visitors (see pg. 29) colored candy, chastity bracelets, homemade items or artwork to raffle at end of fair, etc.
- ✓ Have the fetal development 3 min video on a continuous loop on an iPad or DVD display.
- ✓ Sell precious feet pins, pro-life t-shirts, scarves, or other pro-life merchandise.
- ✓ Display literature on fetal development, Respect Life Pregnancy Help Centers, post-abortion healing, End-of-life, NFP, Euthanasia.
- ✓ Set up a FREE PRAYERS & FREE HUGS signs with chair. Have the prayer group team join you in the booth to offer prayers. It is very powerful way to evangelization and spread's God's love to those who may come to carnival, but not to church.



### ***F. Health Fair or Book Fair***

**GOAL:** Raise awareness in the public square about the consequences and health risks of sexually transmitted disease, education on fetal development.



**ACTIVITY:** Reserve a table at your county book fair, local college health fair, or other public fair. Bring fetal models, brochures and trained volunteers on fetal development, sexually transmitted diseases, etc. and volunteers to help speak to the public.



## G. Promote “Theology of the Body” (TOB) by Pope John Paul II

**GOAL:** To promote the study of the working title that John Paul II gave to the first major teaching project of his pontificate. First written as a book by Karol Wojtyla, John Pual II adapted his manuscript for the Wednesday Audience Format, divided into 135 addresses and delivered between 1979-1984. This catechetical work presents an in-depth biblical reflection on **the meaning of human embodiment**, particularly as it concerns **our creation as male and female** and the call of the two to become ‘one flesh.’”

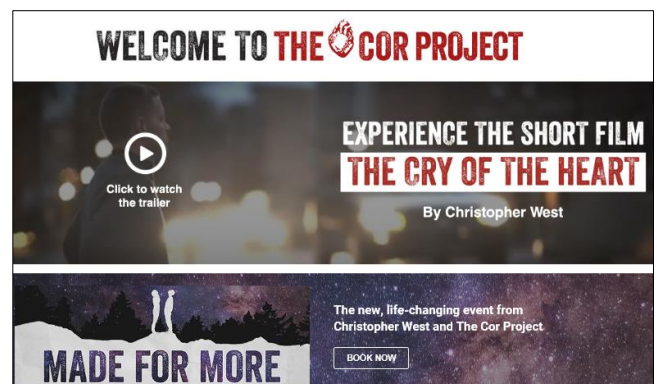
The whole of the TOB constitutes ‘an extensive commentary on the doctrine contained precisely in *Humanae Vitae*’ (TOB 133:2.)

George Weigel in his book, *Witness to Hope*, suggests that John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* is a “theological time bomb set to go off, with dramatic consequences, sometime in the third millennium of the Church.” For full text of this introduction to Theology of the Body visit USCCB site at:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/catholic-teaching/theology-of-the-body.cfm>

### ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Order free copies of *Theology of the Body for Beginners* by Christopher West, for your Committee members from **DynamicCatholic.com**. Ask the pastor to order copies for parishioners as Christmas gift.
- ✓ Share the short film “A Cry for More” by Christopher West via social media and parish website/app available at **www.corproject.com**
- ✓ Host a “**Made for More**” Event with Christopher West, the world’s most recognized teacher on TOB, at your parish. Visit [corproject.com/madeformore](http://corproject.com/madeformore). It’s an exciting 2.5-3 hour evening that is planned 6 months in advance with the CorProject Team. Ticket sales avg. \$20. Combine with another parish too!
- ✓ Provide a YOU Theology of the Body video for 8<sup>th</sup> grade CCD, confirmation class or RCIA groups.
- ✓ Schedule a TOB speaker from ADOM
- ✓ Run a Theology of the Body Study Group



## H. Cross Project-

**GOAL:** To raise awareness of the # of years abortion has been legal in USA and how many lives are lost.



**ACTIVITY:** during Respect Life Month, we placed one cross for each year abortion has been legal in the US with a banner on the church front lawn with a bulletin insert and pulpit announcement explaining what they represented. There were also huge signs promoting Project Rachel and Rachel’s Vineyard information to promote healing and hope. Your committee can work with Knights of Columbus to construct crosses out of 8’ boards and 3/16” round head through bolts. Your Parish Rep Coordinator has instructions on how to build them.

## I. Natural Family Planning

**GOAL:** to raise awareness of Natural Family Planning (NFP). See the Archdiocese of Miami website under Ministries/Marriage and Family Life/Human Sexuality to find information and refer parishioners to upcoming seminars in your area. Visit:

[https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Human\\_Sexuality](https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Human_Sexuality)

### ACTIVITIES:

- Make NFP materials, brochures, pamphlets available in the vestibule and include them in new parishioner packets.
- Contact RCIA director to request the information be given to candidates in program.
- Make available the ADOM contact information for NFP



## J. Plan a MOVIE Night

**GOAL:** Builds community, fellowship, attracts youth, and promotes a Pro-Life themed message.

**ACTIVITY:** Allow at least a month of planning and publicity for all 4 weeks with signs, bulletin announcements, emails, parish website notice, etc. Borrow or purchase a pro-life film such as *BloodMoney* ([www.BloodMoneyfilm.com](http://www.BloodMoneyfilm.com)) or *Bella* ([www.Bellamoviesite.com](http://www.Bellamoviesite.com)), “40” (a documentary on abortion [www.the40film.com](http://www.the40film.com)), *October Baby* ([www.octoberbabymovie.net](http://www.octoberbabymovie.net)), or *Gosnell: The Trial of America’s Biggest Serial Killer (Oct. 2018)* ([www.gosnellmovie.com](http://www.gosnellmovie.com)) or other title to show in church.

Order pizza or popcorn. Ensure all audiovisual equipment necessary is set up and an operator will be on hand to troubleshoot. Obtain any necessary viewing licenses. Suggestion: find Catholic/Christian websites or facebook pages that alert you on current/newly released films such as at [facebook.com/LightInDarkPlace](https://facebook.com/LightInDarkPlace). Share this with your Parish Rep Coordinator who can alert other Parish Representatives who may desire to plan a similar movie night.

## K. Free Cupcakes on National Pro-Life Cupcake Day October 9th

**GOAL:** A friendly, non-confrontational way to remind others that not every child has a birthday because of abortion.

**ACTIVITY:** On October 9<sup>th</sup>, bake or purchase, cupcakes and decorate with simple words like “LIFE”, “BABY”, or “LOVE”. Hand them out for free at school, work, sidewalk, neighborhood, etc. When you hand out the cupcake simply reply when asked why you are giving away free cupcakes, “*We just want people to remember that not every baby has the chance to have a birthday because of abortion.*” Visit [cupcakesforlife.com](http://cupcakesforlife.com) for more ideas.

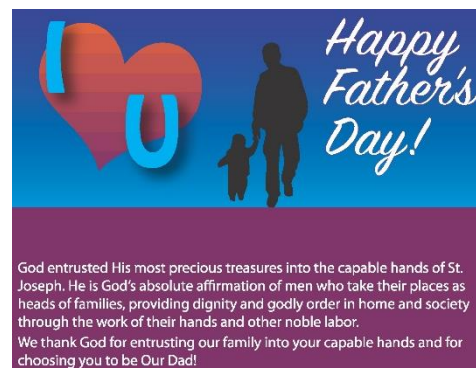
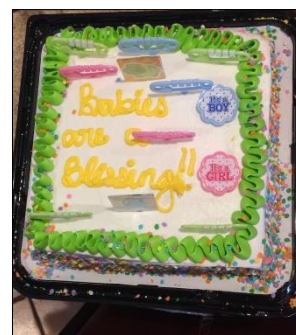


## L. College Campus Connections

Keep your parish Youth and Young Adult ministers informed on [www.studentsforlife.org](http://www.studentsforlife.org) activities and national conferences. Connect with your local college chapter and see how you can help. Visit [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org) to learn more about current changes in landscape of religion & demographics.

## M. Other Quick & Creative Education Ideas:

- ✓ Place a **Red Rose** on the Altar during Respect Life Month
- ✓ Show the **Respect Life Pregnancy Center Short Video** during RL Sunday
- ✓ **Bake a cake and decorate** for carnival booth, a parish baby shower event, Respect Life Sunday, or other project as a way to promote LIFE and attract people to your booth. Cut and share the blessing!
- ✓ **Wear pro-life gear** and engage anyone who comments on it. Heritage House ([www.76hh.com](http://www.76hh.com)) and Pro Life Depot have good selections.
- ✓ Distribute or Sell Respect Life Audio CDs from **LighthouseCatholicMedia.org**
- ✓ **Pro-Life Poster in every Religious Education** classroom. Suggested poster is the USCCB “The Child Before Birth” poster which is an image of an unborn child at 18 week gestation.
- ✓ Speak to your DRE about a Respect Life **Coloring or Poster Contest** for CCD
- ✓ Sell **Father’s Day Candy Bar** with Prayer on wrapper and “**Thanks Mom for Life**” Flower sale in May for Mother’s Day. Obtain from local pregnancy center.
- ✓ Host a Mother-Daughter Tea & **Modesty Fashion Show**
- ✓ **Promote Catholic Medical Professionals Association** ([cathmed.org](http://cathmed.org)) and the local CMA guild to physicians and healthcare providers in your parish community.
- ✓ **Host a Pro-Life Speaker** for CCD class, youth group, seniors group, RL Committee or KofC meeting, dinner event, etc.
- ✓ Create a “**Respect Life**” **parish resource box** with Table Cloth (order from your local pregnancy center), fetal model display (available at Heritage House at [www.hh76.com](http://www.hh76.com)), brochures, posters, markers, etc.
- ✓ **Follow pro-life organizations** on social media, Twitter, Pinterest and Facebook and be sure to share their messages with your friends.
- ✓ Start a **Knitters-for-Life** group. Invite parishioners then provide time, space and yarn for volunteers to join in the making of baby blankets, bonnets, etc. to donate to your RL Pregnancy Help Center.
- ✓ Attend a local **Luncheons4Life** event
- ✓ Read a **pro-life book then pass it on** to someone you know or in your parish!
- ✓ Host a **Christmas caroling event** outside an abortion clinic.
- ✓ Organize a **walk-a-thon** and donate funds to your local Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center
- ✓ Include pro-life pamphlets, Life Roll, and Respect Life Ministry Brochure in **new parishioner packets**.
- ✓ Encourage your Youth Ministry or YA group to run **carwash “Wash4Life”** fundraising event for your committee’s goals.
- ✓ Create a **monthly e-newsletter** to keep parishioners abreast of pro-life news. Share this project with other parish reps on the Respect Life Team. **Attend the monthly meetings at your Pregnancy Center to keep current on issues and events!**



RESPECT LIFE  
ST LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Don't miss these upcoming events!

Please check out details, below there will be flyers, links and additional information.

- Prayer Vigil Every Saturday 10 - Noon We stand in prayer across of Eve's Medical Ctr. Praying for a change of hearts and minds of all involved in abortion. Details below.
- September 4th 10:00 a.m. Memorial Services for Father Daniel I. Kubala. [Founding director of the Respect Life Office](#), long time pastor of St Thomas the Apostle Church. Mass on Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 10 a.m., all at [St. Mary Cathedral](#), 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami.
- September 8th 8:30 a.m. NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ABORTED CHILDREN - Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Cemetery, 11411 N.W. 25th Street, Miami, FL 33172 Contact: Raiza Rodriguez & Cesar Aguzzi 305-496-4464 [raizaaguzzi@yahoo.com](mailto:raizaaguzzi@yahoo.com)
- September 10th and October 24th - Priest for Life 2018 Vote for Life Training Seminars Priests for Life is conducting voter training seminars both online and in various cities
- September 22nd-23rd [Rachel Vineyard](#). Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile

# *PASTORAL CARE*

# *Introduction to Pastoral Care*

***“The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus’ message. Everyone has an obligation to serve life.”***  
***- Pope John Paul II***

*“Providing pastoral care to those in need is a primary way that the Church expresses its love for all God’s children.”*  
*-Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities*



## *4 Areas of Activity in Pastoral Care:*

- ❖ Pregnancy Services
- ❖ Post-Abortion Healing & Reconciliation
- ❖ Care for Those Who are Chronically Ill, Disabled, or Dying
- ❖ Care for Prisoners, Those on Death Row, and Victims of Violent Crime

## *Archdiocese of Miami Respect Life Ministry Commitment of Care*

We are committed to address the special needs of women with problems related to pregnancy, of men and women struggling to accept responsibility for their power to generate human life, and of all persons who have had or have taken part in an abortion. We serve people at our Pregnancy Help Centers without regard to age, gender, race, income, nationality, religious affiliation, disability, or other circumstance.

We believe every person has inherent dignity and we strive to treat everyone with respect. We believe that every woman, if loved and supported, can rise to her highest capacity in relationship to herself and others. Visit our website [www.respectlifemiami.org](http://www.respectlifemiami.org) for up-to-date programs, events, and information.

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## *Assessing Your Parish Program*

- Do you seek out distressed pregnant women and get them help with counseling, support, medical referrals and material assistance at your local Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center? (*The Archdiocese of Miami operates its own (5) pregnancy help centers through the Respect Life Admin Office.*)
- Does everyone at the parish, rectory, school, know where and how (contact #) to refer those in need?
- Do you make altar announcements directing people to our Pregnancy Help Center, Project Joseph & Post-Abortion help programs (Project Rachel and Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat)?
- Does the parish support the local Pregnancy Center with financial aid, volunteer recruitment, clothing, and baby equipment collections? Is our professional brochure available in a visible place in your parish?
- Does your parish promote Natural Family Planning and direct couples to NFP training programs?
- Are the needs of the disabled, the dying, and the elderly met? Support with difficult end-of-life decisions?
- Does your parish encourage outreach (visitation, letter writing, sacraments) to prisoners and their families, especially pregnant women and new mothers in prison? Foster pastoral outreach to victims of violent crime?

# Pastoral Care Projects

## I. Pregnancy Services

You play a critical role in fostering awareness of the location and services available at our five Respect Life Pregnancy Help Centers in the Archdiocese of Miami. Priests, deacons, rectory staff members, as well as most parishioners, often do not know where to refer a friend or family member that is facing a crisis pregnancy in order to help them make an informed decision on the precious life that may already be developing in the womb.

It is important that you become familiar with, and display in the parish vestibules, chapel, confessional, etc. with pastor approval, the key professional cards and literature that we offer:

**Respect Life**

We offer the following confidential services, FREE of charge:

- Pregnancy Test
- Limited Ultrasound
- Referrals
- Counseling (parenting, ethics, health, and social services)

**Positive Pregnancy Tests:**

- To promote abortion alternatives by discussing:
  - Fetal development
  - Adoption as a viable option
- To help them make an "informed decision" by discussing:
  - Fetal development
  - Abortion procedures
  - Abortion complications (physical and emotional)

**Negative Pregnancy Tests:**

Discuss change of life-style to avoid unplanned pregnancies in the future and preservation of sexual integrity.

**Project Rachel**

A grief alternative counseling and reconciliation program open to women who are experiencing the negative effects of an abortion.

**Respect Life Ministry Administrative Office**  
 (954) 981-2922  
 3600 S.W. 22 Blvd. • Miami, FL 33133  
 ROL@RESLIFE.MIAMIOHIO.DIOCESE.US • WWW.RESLIFE.MIAMIOHIO.DIOCESE.US

**Respect Life Ministry**  
Archdiocese of Miami

**WORRIED?**

**NEED HELP?**

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU**  
[www.pregnancyhelp.me](http://www.pregnancyhelp.me)

**Pregnant? Scared?**  
 Don't make a decision based on fear... know your options.

We are here to help you make an informed, educated decision about your future.

**All services are free and confidential**

- Pregnancy Tests
- Limited Ultrasound
- Counseling
- Referrals
- Material Assistance Through Parenting Classes
- Adoption Plan

**Additional Programs**

**Project Rachel**  
 For women and men feeling the emotional effects of a past abortion.

**Project Joseph**  
 Men mentoring men toward responsible fatherhood.

**Pregnancy Help Centers**

<b>South Dade Office</b> Miami • 305-273-8507	<b>South Broward Office</b> Bollywood • 954-963-2429
<b>North Dade Office</b> Miami Lakes • 305-654-2921	<b>North Broward Office</b> Margate • 954-977-7769
<b>Central Broward Office</b> P.O. Lauderdale • 954-565-6229	

**¿Preocupada?**

**¿Necesitas Ayuda?**

**ESTAMOS AQUÍ PARA AYUDARTE**  
[www.pregnancyhelp.me](http://www.pregnancyhelp.me)

**¿Embarazada? ¿Tienes miedo?**  
 No tomes una decisión basada en miedo...  
 Infórmate sobre tus opciones.

Estamos aquí para ayudarte a hacer una decisión informada y educada acerca de tu futuro.

**Todos los servicios son gratis y confidenciales**

- Pruebas de Embarazo
- Ultrasonido Limitado
- Asesoramiento
- Referidos
- Ayuda Material al Tomar las Clases de Crianza
- Plan de Adopción

**Programas Adicionales:**

**Proyecto Raquel**  
 Para el hombre y la mujer que sufren las consecuencias emocionales de un aborto.

**Proyecto José**  
 Hombres inspirando a otros hombres a vivir la paternidad responsable.

**Centros de Ayuda a Embarazadas**

<b>South Dade Office</b> Miami • 305-273-8507	<b>South Broward Office</b> Bollywood • 954-963-2429
<b>North Dade Office</b> Miami Lakes • 305-654-2921	<b>North Broward Office</b> Margate • 954-977-7769
<b>Central Broward Office</b> P.O. Lauderdale • 954-565-6229	

## A. Assist the Archdiocesan Office in finding other Pastoral Care Programs

**GOAL:** Provide the Respect Life Admin Office with information about new resources you encounter with the potential to become pastoral care initiatives at parish and Archdiocesan levels.

**ACTIVITY:** Communicate with the Education Coord. (pg. 8) as you hear of programs aimed at ministering support and help for childbearing, miscarriage, and same sex attraction such as:

[www.elizabethministry.org](http://www.elizabethministry.org)    [www.ncregister.com/site/article/healing-after-miscarriage](http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/healing-after-miscarriage)  
[www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org)



## ***B. Organize a Baby Bottle Campaign***

**GOAL:** To raise funds for your local Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center while raising awareness.

**ACTIVITY:**

### **1. BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN STARTS**

#### **1a. MEETING WITH YOUR PASTOR:**

- This meeting should take place as soon as possible once you decide to host a baby bottle campaign.
- Explain the purpose of the campaign; which is to support the Respect Life Pregnancy Care Center assigned to your parish.
- Discuss possible dates for the campaign. Be mindful of the other activities on the parish calendar so that you don't have a conflict of events. You will need three weekends: one to distribute the bottles and one or two for bottle pick-up.
- Ask the pastor if a speaker from the parish Respect Life committee could briefly explain the campaign at all the Masses. If the pastor will NOT permit this, ask if the explanation might be read by the lector and placed in the bulletin. (If no explanation is given, people are very confused as to why baby bottles are being distributed!)
- Determine the number of baby bottles needed based on the number of parish bulletins that are distributed weekly. (Note: usually 50 - 60% of the number of parish bulletins would be the number of bottles needed)
- If your parish has a school, ask the pastor if they would be included in the parish campaign or would conduct a separate school event. You may then have to meet with the school principal to determine dates and number of bottles needed.
- Discuss with the pastor the Processing and Depositing Procedures in this handout. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!**

#### **1b. INITIAL PREPARATION:**

- Notify the Program Coordinator / Parish Rep Coordinator from the local Respect Life Pregnancy Center of the dates available for the parish event. **TOGETHER**, schedule a date.
- Notify the parish and pastor of the date decided.
- Give the Program Coordinator / Parish Rep Coordinator the approximate number of bottles that you will need in case they have to order the bottles. Ordering bottles could take up to 2 weeks.



It's bottle time!

**Fill a bottle, save a life!**

Help us share the truth with young women and teens who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.

We will distribute empty baby bottles on the dates shown below. When you return them full of coins, bills and checks, your gifts will help those served by the:

**Respect Life Ministry**

Baby Bottle Pick Up Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Baby bottle Return Date: \_\_\_\_\_

"Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made: wonderful are your works." Psalm 139:13-14

Respect Life Ministry • 954-961-2922 • [loveife@belkouth.net](mailto:loveife@belkouth.net) • [www.respectlifemiami.org](http://www.respectlifemiami.org)

## 1c. FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN:

- Check with the Program Coordinator / Parish Rep Coordinator to make sure the bottles have been ordered.
- Pick up publicity materials from the Respect Life Pregnancy Center at last 2 weeks before the campaign. This includes: posters, flyers, business cards and Project Rachel cards.
- Bulletin announcement should be published for 2 weeks before the campaign date. Use the same information for both weeks.
- Pick up the baby bottles from the pregnancy center. Call ahead to schedule a convenient time.
- Sign up volunteers who will assist you throughout the campaign. You should try to cover as many entrances to the church as possible when distributing bottles.
- If you have a school, request help from the 8th graders who could earn service hours. The school might give you a list of names of phone numbers of students willing to volunteer.
- Discuss where and how money will be deposited with Program / Parish Rep Coordinator. (This will differ from office to office.)



## 2. **DISTRIBUTION WEEKEND:**

- Set up your table about ½ hour before the first Mass at the main entrance. Many parishioners will pick-up bottles before Mass.
- This table should display all the publicity items you obtained from the Respect Life Pregnancy Center and if possible, other baby items. This will attract parishioners to ask questions about the campaign. (Displaying a set of the fetal models is always a big attraction.)



- Have volunteers hold up the bottles so that parishioners will know where to pick up their bottle. Extra bottles should be in a canvas bag next to the volunteer.
- Get permission from the pastor to leave the table set up for all the Masses.
- Keep some bottles that are not distributed for the following weekend as some parishioners who were not at Mass on the distribution weekend might want a bottle.

- Remind parishioners to bring back their bottles. Display the “*Please Bring Back My Bottle*” poster.

### 3. PICK-UP WEEKEND

- Set up table similar to last weekend at least ½ hour before Mass. Most parishioners will return their bottles on the way into Mass.
- Volunteers should be posted at all entrances with canvas bags or boxes to receive the bottles.
- Put the returned bottles in clear plastic bins on the table for a reminder for those parishioners who forgot their bottles. To transport bottles, put them in canvas bags. DO NOT overfill as some bottles will be very heavy. IMPORTANT: Arrange for proper accountability and security during process. When collecting bottles, NEVER leave bins or bags unattended!
- If possible, make arrangements to store baby bottles in a secure place in the parish after the Saturday Mass. If your parish has a Sunday evening Mass, you need to store the bottles between the afternoon Mass and / or / the evening Mass.



- If this is NOT possible, you should notify the Program Coordinator / Parish Rep Coordinator from Respect Life to discuss other arrangements.
- In between Masses, you should transfer bottles from the plastic bins into the canvas bags to transport to a secure place.
- Any movement of filled bottles should be done by two or three people for security.
- Baby bottles will continue to be returned for the next couple of weeks. Check with your parish to determine where the bottles can be dropped off. Some examples: Parish office, gift shop, school, or a visible, designated receptacle at the Church entrance with a sign that reads, “PLACE FILLED BABY BOTTLES HERE!” If a receptacle is used, someone should be assigned to check it after each Mass. Bottles are then put in canvas bags to transport to a secure place.

### 4. PROCESSING AND DEPOSITING PROCEDURES

4a.) If your pastor will allow this procedure in the parish, ask the following:

- Where would bottles be stored?
  - Will there be access on Sunday night after the final Mass?
  - Who will have the key?
  - Will it be possible to process the bottles on Monday morning?
- ✓ You will need 5 or 6 volunteers to help empty bottles and separate coins from checks and bills. It is important to arrange for SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY for this procedure.

- ✓ Make sure that checks are made out to Respect Life. If a check is made out to the parish, ask them to replace it with a check made out to Respect Life.
- ✓ Provide a preliminary accounting of check totals and bills. Separating bill denominations will be helpful.
- ✓ It is not necessary to separate coins into money value, BUT, it would help the Pregnancy center tremendously. You will need to clean out any foreign objects from the coins such as medals, buttons, paper clips, foreign coins, lint, etc. Members of the Knights of Columbus might be able to assist in this process.
- ✓ Arrange with your Parish Rep Coordinator or the Program Coordinator for transport of the money to the center. Request a report of the amount collected for the purpose of informing the parish. NOTE: This process may take several weeks as some banks will only allow deposits once a week.

**Fill a Bottle, Save a Life!**



**LIFE....**the most precious gift of all. Now you have the opportunity to make a difference in the life of an unborn child.

After Mass, **see date below**, we will be distributing beautiful baby bottles.

For the next few weeks you can use these bottles to show friends and family that you support life. Take it to work with you. Use it to teach your children how much God loves them.

**THEN...**on the designated date return the bottle to our church full of coins, currency, or a generous check. Whatever you give will make a difference. Your gift means our ministry will be here to help mothers give the gift of **LIFE** to their children.

Thank you for your generosity!!!!

**RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**

Distribution date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return date: \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ The ideal situation would be: that the pastor allows you to deposit money into the parish account and then gives you one check for that amount.
- ✓ Return all publicity and unused bottles to Respect Life Pregnancy Center as soon as possible. (Note: the posters are very expensive to replace if damaged or lost.)

**4b. If your pastor will NOT permit the processing procedure at the parish:**

- Contact the Program / Parish Rep Coordinator
- Together, determine another secure place to process the money
- Then follow same steps as above

**5. THANK YOU:**

We suggest that a “Thank You” be sent to the pastor about a month after the campaign when you have the total amount collected. This amount should then be put into the parish bulletin for the parish community to see with a special “Thank You” to them as well. You can include a photo with the items purchased because of their donation/campaign. Post it on Parish Website/app!



## *C. Throw a Baby Shower*

**GOAL:** To collect maternity clothes, baby clothes, layette items, good baby furniture and equipment, baby formula, and disposable diapers to distribute to the Respect Life Pregnancy Help Centers, [www.pregnancyhelp.me](http://www.pregnancyhelp.me) .

**IDEA: Try a THEME BABY SHOWER.**

### *Epiphany Baby Shower Bulletin Announcement*

As the three Magi celebrated the birth of the Christ child by showering him with generous gifts, you are asked to be a modern day Magi and bring a gift for a baby to the Church on the Feast of the Epiphany. These gifts will be used to help needy babies through our local Respect Life Ministry Pregnancy Help Center. All items may be placed near the nativity scene. Please do not wrap your gift. Used items are acceptable, but must be safe, clean and functional. Gift ideas are listed below:

Infant Clothing size 0-12 months, Disposable Diapers Sz 3-4, Car Seats....

### *Valentines Day "Heart Crib"*

The Respect Life Heart Crib will be in the main entry of the church during the first two weeks of February. We are collecting items for our local Pregnancy Help Center in North Dade. Paper hearts labeled with items for moms and babies are inside the crib. Please take home a heart, and return it with your gift and place in the crib. You can write a short note of encouragement on the back of the paper heart, addressed to the young mom in need, who will be receiving your gift.

### *Easter Basket of Hope*

Respect Life Parish Committee invites you to share the Hope of Our Savior's Resurrection among our expectant and new moms in the community with financial need. There will be a bassinet in the church with Easter eggs containing gift ideas for a baby shower for one of our Pregnancy Help Center clients.



## **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

### 1. Four Weeks Before Collection

- Solicit volunteers for a "shower committee." Your shower committee volunteers will make either the hearts and eggs listed in above themes, or blue and pink booties out of construction paper to hang on a tree in the church.
- Speak with the Program Coordinator about what **items** the Pregnancy Help Center *is in most need of* (such as Size 4 Diapers, Boys clothing size 0-6 months, Car Seats, baby shampoo, etc.) to write on each paper.

### 2. Three Weeks Before Collection

- Meet with volunteers to make booties. Hook paper clips on each one so they can be hung on a tree. Make as many as you think will be taken by the parishioners in your parish.
- Put up fliers about the upcoming baby shower. Place an announcement in the bulletin explaining the baby shower.
- Get a small dead tree without leaves and paint it white. Fill a large plastic bucket with four bricks (to steady the tree) and fill it with sand. Hang the pink and blue booties on the tree. Cover the bucket to make it more attractive. Place it in church and set a white bassinet next to the tree. Decorate the bassinet with pink and blue ribbons.

3. Two weeks Before the Collection

- Place the tree in the church and have the celebrant ask the parishioners to take a bootie and bring back the item the following week. Have them attach the bootie to the gift. Parishioners with pink booties should bring items for girls. Those with blue booties should bring items for boys.

4. Weekend of the Baby Shower

- Have the celebrant ask those who have brought an item for the collection to place it in the bassinet. Thank those people who brought gifts for their generosity toward those mothers and babies who are less fortunate.

5. Week After the Collection

- Ask your Respect Life Committee members to help you take the items to the Pregnancy Help Center.
- Take a photo at delivery time and have the Program Coordinator post it on RL Facebook page. Share with your parish office staff to also post.
- Write a thank you note to be placed in the bulletin thanking parishioners. Tell them the items are being donated to the local Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center.

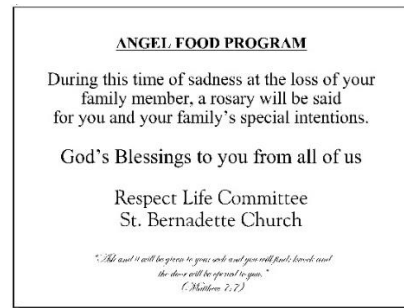
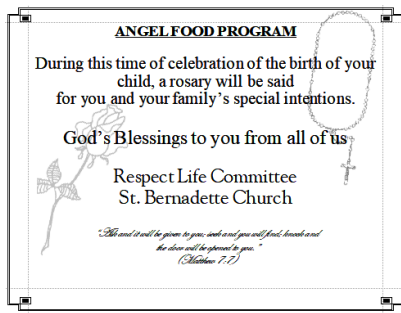


### D. Angel Food Program

**GOAL:** Provide physical and spiritual nourishment to members of the community who have just had a new baby or any family who just lost a family member. Also helps active Catholics evangelize their non-practicing family members with Angel Food Meals Delivered with LOVE!

**ACTIVITY:**

- Committee recruits volunteers who will offer to deliver a meal to any family who just had a new baby, or any family who just lost a family member.
- Contact a restaurant, flower store, grocery store, or other business partner in the community who will agree to provide a donated meal, fruit basket, flowers, or other article that will help the family during this time of transition.
- Create a bulletin ad inviting parishioners to call the parish office with their name, address, contact information, and day/time most convenient for the delivery of the meal.
- Have a committee member assigned as the key contact for the parish office to call when a parishioner requests this service.



## E. Recruiting Volunteers for Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center

**GOAL:** You have a critical role in recruiting volunteers to help keep the Respect Life Pregnancy Help Centers running and operating with the people resources needed for extended hours and services to serve your community.

### IDEAS:

1. **Set up an Open House Tour of your local Pregnancy Help Center.**  
Speak with your Parish Rep or Program Coordinator to choose a day and time where the pregnancy center is closed to the public and can be toured by your parishioners. Plan on light refreshments since you usually won't have an accurate head count or RSVP. Trust the Holy Spirit! The coordinator will work to ensure volunteers are present during the tour such as Ultrasound Tech, Earn While You Learn Parenting Class teachers, Counselors, etc. to speak about the corporal works of mercy we do at our centers and various ways they can join in those efforts. Invite ministry leaders, friends and families, Priest/deacons, Ushers/Eucharistic ministers, Youth group, PTA and more! Be a JOYFUL missionary disciple!



2. **Run Bulletin "ad" promoting benefits and types of volunteer opportunities.**

These are available with customized name and address of your local pregnancy center in Spanish and English. Ask your Parish Rep or Program Coordinator for a digital copy to give you parish bulletin editor.

3. **Direct potential volunteers** to call the pregnancy center and meet with the program coordinator. They will be directed to get Virtus certified and fingerprinted with ADOM code for Respect Life (FPAOMOtherVol) from FieldPrintFlorida.com if they will serve at the center.

**Join the Respect Life Volunteer Team**

**READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

At Respect Life's S. Dade's Pregnancy Help Center, we are women supporting women, and men mentoring men.

We **serve everyone** in the community without regard to age, gender, race or religious affiliations, and we hold all information in the strictest confidence. Our **counselors provide** a safe place for women & men struggling with problems related to pregnancy to: explore their feelings about their unique situation, to get the facts about the solutions they are considering, and receive the **loving support** they need to make an informed decision. We do **NOT** offer or recommend abortion.

**WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?**

- ◆ Attend a Respect Life "Living in the Light of Truth" Seminar to learn more about Catholic teaching on Life Issues.
- ◆ Volunteer at the Pregnancy Center 4 hours/wk as a counselor, teacher, receptionist, stocking items, etc.
- ◆ Donate new/gently used baby items, or a tax deductible monetary gift, to support the Center.
- ◆ Join the speakers bureau and get trained to give presentations on Life Issues.
- ◆ Help with pro-life tables and booth at Carnival.
- ◆ Attend the annual Catholic Days at the Capitol to meet with our legislators.
- ◆ Intercede with rosary for the unborn & our mission

Join us for Prayer Vigils and 40 Days for Life campaigns

Contact your parish rep to find out how to get more involved!

South Dade Pregnancy Center 3410 SW 107th Ave. Miami, FL 33165 (305) 273-8507 [www.pregnancyhelp.me](http://www.pregnancyhelp.me)

## F. Other Pregnancy Services Pastoral Care Resources

- ❖ **Support for Adverse Prenatal Diagnosis.** Isaiah's Promise ([www.isaiahspromise.net](http://www.isaiahspromise.net)) is a helpful website for parents. ElizabethMinistry.org also has sensitively written booklets such as: *Prenatal Testing: A Closer Look* that informs readers about the medical, emotional, spiritual and moral issues involved and *Our Unborn Baby Has a Problem* which guides couples who received a prenatal diagnosis showing their unborn baby has a problem.
- ❖ **Support for Miscarriage, Stillbirth, or Early Infant Death.** Provide resources to your parish from [www.Elizabethministry.org](http://www.Elizabethministry.org) store such as "Mourning a Miscarriage", and "Healing Together."
- ❖ **Support for those Recovering from Same Sex Attraction.** Announce the apostolate Courage (and EnCourage for family members) available at [www.couragerc.org](http://www.couragerc.org)
- ❖ **Support for Those Struggling with Pornography Addiction.** Online "Reclaim" healing program available at [www.elizabethministry.org/reclaim-sexual-health](http://www.elizabethministry.org/reclaim-sexual-health).

## II. Post-Abortion Healing & Reconciliation – Pastoral Care Projects

**Goal:** To bring awareness to the parish and diocese about the suffering of those who have had abortions. To connect people to our Archdiocesan post-abortion healing resources (Project Rachel one-on-one program, and Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat weekend program) via multiple media such as bulletins, posters, parish app, parish website, ADOM website and social media.

### A. Project Rachel:

Without a doubt, abortion is one of the most traumatic experiences a person can have. For Catholics, the pain of abortion is intensified by a sense of alienation from God and Church. Both before and after abortion, feelings of fear, anxiety, guilt, panic and pressure are common – not only for the woman who undergoes the abortion, but also for the father of the unborn child, the grandparents, close friends, even medical personnel.



Project Rachel is a confidential reconciliation and healing program based on love, forgiveness and mercy. It is named for the Old Testament figure who wept inconsolably over the loss of her child.

*“Rachel mourns her children; she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more. Thus says the Lord: Cease your cries of mourning. Wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward. There is hope for your future.” - Jer 31:15-17*

Each Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center has a Project Rachel Coordinator and team of facilitators who are trained to lead clients through this program which is open to anyone, male or female, who is experiencing the negative effects of an abortion. Confidentiality is always protected and there is no charge for services.

The program consists of 9 sessions which last about 1-1.5 hours. The client meets with the facilitator at a Respect Life Pregnancy Help Center or at a parish. The facilitator and client meet weekly or as dictated by the client’s schedule and emotional needs. In some cases after an initial meeting with the client, as is often seen in the case of a newly aborted woman who is very fragile and is often not ready to undertake the healing process, we may suggest professional help or that the client wait until a later time to enter the program.

### Resources:

#### 1. Bilingual business cards.

Available in English and Spanish – featuring our confidential phone line (954) 981-2984 and (888-456-4673.) Calls ring directly to our Respect Life Admin offices and are answered by our Director or Education Coordinator. Obtain the business cards from your local pregnancy help center.

<p><b>PROJECT RACHEL</b> 954-981-2984 • 1-888-456-4673 Post-Abortion Counseling &amp; Reconciliation</p>	<p><b>PROYECTO RAQUEL</b> 954-981-2984 • 1-888-456-4673 Consejería y Reconciliación despues de un Aborto</p>
<p><b>RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY</b> Archdiocese of Miami</p>	<p><b>MINISTERIO DE RESPETO A LA VIDA</b> Arquidiócesis de Miami</p>
<p><i>Thus says the Lord: Cease your cries of mourning. There is hope for your future. Jeremiah 31: 16-17</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.respectlifemiami.org">www.respectlifemiami.org</a></p>	<p><i>Así dice el Señor: Reprime tu llanto, las lágrimas de tus ojos... Hay esperanza para tu futuro. Jeremías 31: 16-17</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.respectlifemiami.org">www.respectlifemiami.org</a></p>



## 2. Bulletin Ad.

The Respect Life Admin Office has developed ½ page sized bulletin ads featuring what post abortion syndrome is, and the benefits of participating in the program. Available as .pub, .pdf or .jpg files for your parish bulletin in Spanish and English, vertical or horizontal format. Request files from your Parish Rep Coordinator or the ADOM Education Coordinator and forward to your parish bulletin editor.



**Project Rachel Is...**

**A** post-abortion counseling and reconciliation program open to anyone who is experiencing the negative effects of an abortion.

Counseling is a huge help to many women trying to come to terms with their abortion experience. One-on-one counseling in a **PRIVATE, CONFIDENTIAL SETTING** provides a place to speak openly about your experiences in a safe environment. The program allows you to process the feelings you are experiencing to get "unstuck" from the cycle of emotions and come to a greater self-awareness. You can learn methods of healthy functioning and problem solving. Through counseling, many women

**Project Rachel**

**Is A Post Abortion Healing Program**  
Local: (954) 981-2984  
Toll Free: 1-888-456-4673


have been able to reach a place where they are no longer haunted by past regrets and are able to live with hope for the future. Project Rachel offers free, professional, confidential counseling to any woman wounded by an abortion experience, regardless of how long it has been.

Project Rachel counselors at Respect Life Centers are specially trained to help women deal with abortion experiences. They recognize and understand that abortion physically, emotionally, and spiritually violates women and often elicits intense feelings of hopelessness, fear, or loss of control.

**South Broward Pregnancy Help Center**

4747 Hollywood Blvd., Suite #101  
Hollywood, FL 33021  
Phone: 954-963-2229  
Email: sbrespectlife@atl.net  
Website: www.pregnancyhelp.me

A Best Practices Example of Custom Ad: Bilingual content featured in a bulletin by St. Katharine Drexel parish shows another creative layout for use on web or bulletin. You could recreate it and feature your Respect Life Parish Rep name, your local Pregnancy Center contact information, or just opt to put the Admin office's Project Rachel Program dedicated phone # in the center square.

<p><b>DO YOU KNOW WHAT POST-ABORTION SYNDROME IS?</b></p> <p>If you have gone through the experience of an abortion, either a few months ago, or maybe some time ago, you may be suffering from Post abortion Syndrome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings of guilt.</li> <li>• Depression.</li> <li>• Suicide thoughts.</li> <li>• Nightmares.</li> <li>• Retrospective scenes.</li> <li>• Problems with your partner.</li> <li>• Repression of feelings, anger.</li> <li>• Fear / Alienation of God.</li> </ul> <p><b>Project Rachel</b> is a response to the drama of abortion. It is the way of healing and reconciliation of the inner wound that both women and men suffer. It is a program that immerses you in the mercy and healing grace of God.</p> <p><b>You who have suffered because of the options you may be regretting, you should not despair, because the mercy of God can heal your wounds and give you back your hope.</b></p> <p>"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong.</p> <p>But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same Father and his mercy you can with sure hope entrust your child."</p> <p><i>Evangelium Vitae, Saint John Paul II March 25th, 1995</i></p>		<p><b>¿SABES QUE ES EL SÍNDROME POSTABORTO?</b></p> <p>Si has pasado por la experiencia de un aborto, ya sea hace unos meses, o quizás hace algún tiempo, puedes estar sufriendo del Síndrome Postaborto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentimientos de culpa.</li> <li>• Depresión.</li> <li>• Pensamientos de suicidio.</li> <li>• Pesadillas.</li> <li>• Escenas retrospectivas.</li> <li>• Problemas con tu pareja.</li> <li>• Represión de sentimientos, rabia.</li> <li>• Temor/Alienación de Dios.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proyecto Raquel</b> es una respuesta al drama del aborto. Es el camino de sanación y de reconciliación de esa herida interior que sufren tanto mujeres como hombres. Es un programa que te sumerge en la misericordia y en la gracia sanadora de Dios.</p> <p><b>Tu que has sufrido debido a opciones que hoy puedes estar lamentando no debes desesperarte, porque la misericordia de Dios puede curar tus heridas y devolverte la esperanza.</b></p> <p>"Una reflexión especial quisiera tener para vosotras, mujeres que habéis recurrido al aborto. La Iglesia sabe cuántos condicionamientos pueden haber influido en vuestra decisión, y no duda de que en muchos casos se ha tratado de una decisión dolorosa e incluso dramática. Probablemente la herida aún no ha cicatrizado en vuestro interior. Es verdad que lo sucedido fue y sigue siendo profundamente injusto. Sin embargo, no os dejéis vencer por el desánimo y no abandonéis la esperanza.</p> <p>Antes bien, comprended lo ocurrido e interpretadlo en su verdad. Si aún no lo habéis hecho, abridos con humildad y confianza al arrepentimiento: el Padre de toda misericordia os espera para ofreceros su perdón y su paz en el sacramento de la Reconciliación. Podéis confiar con esperanza a vuestro hijo a este mismo Padre y a su misericordia."</p> <p><i>Evangelium Vitae, San Juan Pablo II 25 de Marzo 1995</i></p>
<p><b>Respect Life Ministry</b> Beatriz Capdevielle: 954-682-2592 Marisa Di Mella: 954-775-4067 <b>Pregnancy Help Center:</b> (954) 527-0810 527 NE 13th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 www.respectlifemiami.org <b>PROJECT RACHEL: Post Abortion Counseling &amp; Reconciliation</b> (954) 981-2984 / 1-888-456-4673</p>		

## B. Divine Mercy Sunday

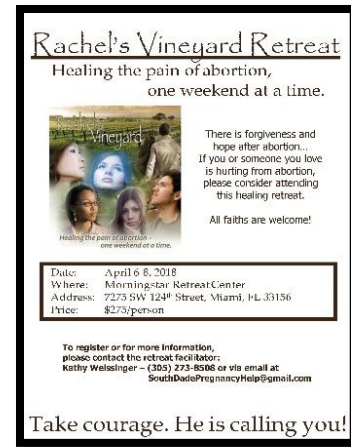
Feature an announcement from the pulpit and in the bulletin about post-abortion healing on this feast day of mercy. Make sure the pastor, assistant pastors, and deacons have the information in advance.

## C. Spread the Ministry to the Community

- Leave Project Rachel cards at public high schools and college campuses, in public restrooms, at coin laundry mats, place ads in local community papers.
- Promote our website [www.respectlifemiami.org](http://www.respectlifemiami.org), "Like" our Facebook page at facebook.com/RespectLifeMinistryMiami, follow on Twitter @ProjectRachel-USCCB, and invite your friends to help spread the message of hope and healing.

## *Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Retreat:*

These 3 day retreats are a national program offered locally by our Rachel's Vineyard Ministry team, usually in Dade County. Your Parish Rep or Program Coordinator will forward to you information when retreats are scheduled so you can display posters at your parish (idea: with pastor's approval, hang a poster on the inside of each women's bathroom stall door.) Poster can also include tear tabs with confidential phone # to call. Be sure to request inclusion in bulletin.



### *III. Care for Those Who are Chronically Ill, Disabled, or Dying*

**GOAL:** Build up the spirits of the chronically ill, disabled, or dying, especially during the holiday season.



#### **A. ACTIVITY:** Holiday Cards

**DESCRIPTION:** Call a local agency that cares for the chronically ill, disabled, or dying to see if they will accept the parish's gift.

Invite parishioners, after mass, to make a card for the patients at a local nursing home. Pre-make some cards or print out cards for children to color. Ask the school principal, home school group, DRE and/or youth minister if their students can participate. **NOTE:** if this is a school project **NEVER** include child's last name.

#### **B. ACTIVITY:** Visit the Chronically Ill, Disabled or Dying. Let us go out into the "peripheries."

**DESCRIPTION:** Organize a group of volunteers to visit an agency that cares for people with these difficulties. Ask volunteers from the music ministry to come sing/play instruments. Check with school and Youth Ministry as this may also be an opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Ask your committee members to help contact the school principal, home school group, DRE, youth minister, or any other ministries that may be interested in participating.

#### **C. ACTIVITY:** Provide Rides for Those Who Need Assistance

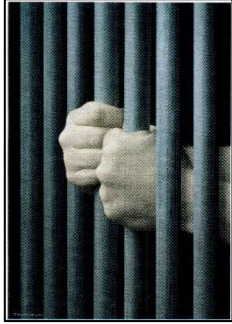
**DESCRIPTION:** Assist those who cannot drive, or need companionship, with rides to Mass, the grocery store or their senior center. You and your committee should discuss feasibility with your pastor. Then, place an announcement in the bulletin asking for volunteers. Organize the group of volunteers who will be available to assist those in need of a ride. Run an announcement in the parish bulletin for those who need assistance to call the front office for a ride to Mass.

*"Euthanasia and assisted suicide can appear a reasonable and even compassionate solution to the suffering of individuals and families struggling with illness or the dying process. Yet these are not real solutions – they do not solve human problems, but only take the lives of those most in need of unconditional love."*  
*- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities*

## IV. Care for Prisoners and those on Death Row

**GOAL:** Care for prisoners and those on death row.  
Coordinate with a Prison Ministry leader at your parish.

**A. ACTIVITY:** Encourage parishioners to get involved in prison ministry. Donate paperback books and Bibles to prison libraries, write letters to inmates, collect toiletries. Pray for prisoners, families of prisoners, and those on death row. Contact Archdiocese of Miami Prison Ministry for additional information at [www.detentionministry.org](http://www.detentionministry.org) for information on webinars, how to volunteer, facilities we partner with, etc.



**B. ACTIVITY:** Attend local execution vigils. As the Florida Governor signs death warrants, the Archdiocesan prison ministry organizes prayer vigils, at the Cathedral and elsewhere, to pray for the prisoner facing execution. When this information is released, the Respect Life Admin office forwards it to you.



### LIFE MATTERS: A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE DEATH PENALTY

“In the first chapter of EV, ‘The Voice of Your Brother’s Blood Cries to Me from the Ground’ (Gen 4:10), Blessed John Paul II presents the story of Cain and Abel to illustrate that God’s mercy embraces even a murderer...

Certainly, one of the principal failures of the death penalty is that it denies the opportunity for repentance and conversion by definitively cutting short the efforts of the Holy Spirit to transform the condemned person’s soul in this life. In effect, we are condemning the accused not only to death, but possibly also to hell. The finality of the death penalty compels us to ask, who are we to thwart God’s desire that all might be saved?”

- USCCB. 2013

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

***Forgive them anyway.***

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

***Be kind anyway.***

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

***Be honest anyway.***

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

***Be happy anyway.***

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

***Do good anyway...”***

- St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

# ***PUBLIC POLICY***

# *Introduction to Public Policy*

*“It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop.”*

*– Pope John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life**



Public policy, especially in our democratic society, is very important and yet is often forgotten. The Bishops remind us that *“protecting and promoting the inviolable rights of persons is the most solemn responsibility of civil authority.”*

By speaking to our legislators and informing them of our views, especially pertaining to protecting and enhancing the sanctity of human life, we can actually make a difference! By publicly making these views known, it brings respect life issues out of the dark; it raises awareness and causes people to move out of their apathetic comfort zone and choose: life or death.

*“I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore **CHOOSE LIFE** that you and your descendants may live.  
- Deuteronomy 30:19*

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## *Assessing Your Parish Program*

- ✓ Do you promote letter-writing and calls to public officials in support of respect life issues?
- ✓ Does the parish participate in community pro-life activities such as Catholic Days at the Capitol, Life Chain, and the annual March for Life in Washington, DC or your local march?
- ✓ Have you and your committee signed up for legislative alerts with FLCAN, a Florida Catholic Advocacy Network, the nonpartisan public policy voice of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops?
- ✓ Do you publicly commemorate January 22?
- ✓ Do you monitor the media and respond to attacks on the sanctity of life by advising the Respect Life Admin Office and also through letters to the editor or phone calls to radio/television stations?
- ✓ Does your parish have a Facebook or Twitter account or parish app to post Respect Life News?

### **IMPORTANT !!!**

As a parish representative, your leadership at your parish is very influential. In order for the Catholic Church to have a consistent voice, you are asked to **ONLY** share legislative action alerts and updates from the following resources:

- ❖ Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.flacathconf.org](http://www.flacathconf.org)
- ❖ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- ❖ National Committee for a Human Life Amendment [www.humanlifeactioncenter.org](http://www.humanlifeactioncenter.org)

## ***HOW DO I KEEP MYSELF INFORMED?***

- I. VISIT [WWW.USCCB.ORG/ISSUES-AND-ACTION/FAITHFUL-CITIZENSHIP](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/ISSUES-AND-ACTION/FAITHFUL-CITIZENSHIP)**
- II. READ: *FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP* AND**
- III. MAJOR CATHOLIC STATEMENTS ON PUBLIC LIFE AND MORAL ISSUES**

The following documents from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) explore in greater detail the public policy issues discussed in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. The documents are listed chronologically, except for under the first heading, where they are grouped generally by topic and then by year.

For more information on these and other documents, visit the USCCB website: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Documents marked with an asterisk are not available online.

### **Protecting Human Life**

- *Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology, 2009*
  - *Married Love and the Gift of Life, 2006*
  - *On Embryonic Stem Cell Research, 2008*
- *Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life, 2001*
  - *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics, 1998*
  - *Faithful for Life: A Moral Reflection, 1995*
- *A Matter of the Heart: A Statement on the Thirtieth Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, 2002*
  - *Resolution on Abortion, 1989*
  - *Documentation on the Right to Life and Abortion, 1974, 1976, 1981\**
- *A Call for Bipartisan Cooperation on Responsible Transition in Iraq, 2007*
  - *Statement on Iraq, 2002*
- *A Pastoral Message: Living with Faith and Hope After September 11, 2001*
  - *Sowing the Weapons of War, 1995*
  - *The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace, 1993*
- *A Report on the Challenge of Peace and Policy Developments, 1983-1888, 1989\**
  - *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response, 1983*
- *To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide, 2011*
- *Nutrition and Hydration: Moral and Pastoral Reflections, 1992 Statement on Euthanasia, 1991*
  - *Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities, 1999*
- *Pastoral Statement of United States Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities, 1984*
  - *Confronting a Culture of Violence, 1995*
  - *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death, 2005*
  - *Statement on Capital Punishment, 1980*
- *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (Fifth Edition), 2009*

## Promoting Family Life

- *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, 2009
  - *National Directory for Catechesis*, 2005
- *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*, 1998
  - *Principles for Educational Reform in the United States*, 1995
- *To Teach as Jesus Did: A Pastoral Message on Catholic Education*, 1972\*
- *When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women*, 2002
  - *A Family Perspective in Church and Society*, 1998
    - *Blessings of Age*, 1999
- *Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers About Marriage and Same-Sex Unions*, 2003
- *Walk in the Light: A Pastoral Response to Child Sexual Abuse*, 1995
  - *Follow the Way of Love: A Pastoral Message to Families*, 1993
- *Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation and World*, 1992\*



## Pursuing Social Justice

- *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (Fifth Edition)*, 2009
  - *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, 2003
- *A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children*, 2002
  - *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*, 2000
    - *In All Things Charity: A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium*, 1999
- *One Family Under God*, 1995\* *Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action*, 1995
  - *The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace*, 1993 *A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform*, 1993\*
- *Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation and World*, 1992\*
  - *New Slavery, New Freedom: A Pastoral Message on Substance Abuse*, 1990\*
  - *Called to Compassion and Responsibility: A Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis*, 1989
  - *Homelessness and Housing: A Human Tragedy, A Moral Challenge*, 1988\*

# *Political Activity Guidelines*

The following guidelines were developed in consultation with the General Counsel of the United States Catholic Conference and the diocesan attorneys of the Florida dioceses. The Bishops of Florida have approved them for use by pastors and parishes.

1. Parishes and other church institutions may, and in some cases should, engage in issue-oriented activities and lobbying. As a general rule, the limitations on the extent of such lobbying would not be a problem for parishes or active church institutions, such lobbying would be an insubstantial part of their total work. The following are examples of such acceptable activity:
  - Educational efforts about issues in support of legislation
  - Encouragement of letter writing campaigns and other contacts with state or federal legislators designed to educate them and to develop support for legislation
  - Distribution of fliers containing a statement about an issue or issues before the Congress or the Florida legislature which contains the names and addresses of senators and representatives
  - Preaching and distribution of pertinent information concerning particular issues; especially those affecting human life
2. Non-partisan voter registration campaigns and get-out-the-vote campaigns are proper and a recommended activity for parishes and church organizations.
3. Materials prepared for use in educating citizens, including surveys or polls must emphasize educative objectives.
4. Surveys or polls of political candidates may be distributed at churches, or reported in parish bulletins ONLY IF:
  - the poll is objectively worded and objectively taken
  - poll results are accurately reported and free of bias
  - poll results do not contain discussions of issues
  - the poll is multi-issue involving various issues as discussed in the introduction of this document or other relevant issues
  - **the validity of the poll has previously been approved by the Florida Catholic Conference or the diocesan attorney**
  - parish bulletins containing reports of polls should point out that the parish does not endorse or oppose candidates and that the polls are distributed to inform and educate voters

**Note:**

Pastors and others should be wary of outside organizations seeking to distribute voter education materials through parishes. The issues covered in outside materials may not address the range of issues of importance to the Church. Moreover, their content, format and presentation may not satisfy IRS regulations applicable to Catholic organizations. Though distribution of these materials elsewhere may have value, they still may not be appropriate for distribution in Catholic parishes.



5. Evaluations of candidates or political parties should be avoided. Types of objectionable evaluations are as follows:
- encouraging readers or listeners (e.g., a homily) to vote for or against a particular candidate or party
  - labeling a candidate or party as “pro school choice” or “anti-life”; such a practice removes objectivity by not allowing readers to evaluate a candidate’s position themselves
  - using plus (+) or minus (-) signs or similar markings to evaluate the candidate or party
  - rating candidates or parties on a scale of “one to ten” for example, or otherwise saying “X is good,” “Y is better”
  - the use of marked sample ballots
6. No diocesan or parish entity or organization shall endorse, oppose or campaign for or against any political party or candidate for public office, nor shall any funds of any such entity or organization be contributed to any political candidate, party, campaign or political action committee. Judicial retention elections are included under these provisions.
- Note:  
Parishes may sponsor unbiased public forums, debates and lectures in which candidates explain their views to the public but there must be no indication of a bias for or against any candidate, any party, or any position. Those sponsoring candidate forums should endeavor to invite all candidates qualified for election, have questions prepared and presented in non-partisan fashion, cover a broad range of issues, give each candidate an opportunity to present views on issues discussed, and make no comments indicating approval or disapproval of any candidate.
7. No diocesan or parish entity or organization, or other 501 c 3 exempt church organization shall engage in voter education communications which directly or indirectly suggest that a particular candidate or party should be supported or opposed.
8. Pastors or other religious leaders are urged to avoid endorsements, contributions, electioneering, or other political activity. Although not prohibited, **it may be difficult to separate their personal activity from their role as a representative of the Church.**



The above guidelines are based on more extensive directives related to constitutionality and other matters. Questions which arise should be referred to the diocesan attorney or to the Florida Catholic Conference.

## *Laws Less Than Perfect*

“While at times human law may not fully articulate the moral imperative – full protection for the right to life – our legal system can and must be continually reformed so that it will increasingly fulfill its proper task of protecting the weak and preserving the right to life of every human being, born and unborn. In *The Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II explains that one may support ‘imperfect’ legislation--legislation that, for example, does not ban all abortions but puts some control on a current more permissive law by aiming to limit the number of abortions-if that is the best that can be achieved at a particular time. In doing so one seeks to limit the harm done by the present law: ‘This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects’ (no. 73).”

- *Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities*



## *Tips for Connecting with Your Legislators*

1. **Identify Yourself as a Constituent.** Put Your Name and Complete Address at the Top of the Message. Your representative wants to know if you live in his or her district.
2. **Use Proper Forms of Address.** Address your lawmaker as “The Honorable.” Get their title correct, e.g. Senator, Representative, Assembly Member. Use the Honorable in address and the office title in the salutation (Dear Senator Smith.)
3. **Be Brief and Simple.** Keep your letter to no more than two pages; one page is preferred. In first paragraph state your purpose and what you want. Avoid explaining the legislation.
4. **State and Repeat Your Position.** Make your position and request clear in opening/closing paragraphs. For example, “I would like you to support H.R. 100.”
5. **Be Polite and Avoid Ultimatums or Rudeness.** Everyone responds better to praise than criticism. Abusive letters appear more desperate and are seldom taken seriously.
6. **Don’t Become SPAM.** Don’t send Congress a message every day about all the issues. Establish your credibility; don’t change or share statistics that are not substantiated.
7. **Proof read your letter or email.** Take a break before you press send then re-read it before sending.
8. **Subscribe at [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org) for a text or email subscription with Florida Conference of Catholic Bishop’s nonpartisan public policy voice (FLCAN) for important updates and easy links to write your legislatures.**
9. **Visit [www.faicitizenship.org/parish/planning](http://www.faicitizenship.org/parish/planning) for more information and guidelines.**



# Public Policy Projects

## A. Promote USCCB Faithful Citizenship

**GOAL:** “In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue and participation in political life is a moral obligation.” USCCB, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, No 13

**ACTIVITY:** Join the Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (FLCAN). Sign up for e-mail alerts on important life issues and share with your parish, family, and friends. [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org) and [www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/bulletin](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/bulletin)



## B. National March for Life

**GOAL:** Hundreds of thousands of people gather at our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to commemorate the infamous Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

**ACTIVITY:** Go onto the official March for Life website [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org) (or call 202-LIFE-377) to find more information about organizing a group from your parish to attend this event to give public witness to our belief in the sanctity of all human life from the womb to the tomb. If your parish does not send a bus to the March for Life, have a special Mass, Rosary, or Holy Hour on the day of the March for Life to pray for those marching, for the unborn, and for their parents.



## C. Catholic Days at the Capitol

**GOAL:** Each year Catholics from across the state gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol. This two-day event provides an opportunity for the faithful to put a call to political responsibility into action and to strengthen the presence of Catholic values in the public square. By joining together to advocate for laws that protect and defend human life and dignity, Catholic Floridians can give a voice to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in our state and help promote the common good for all Florida residents.

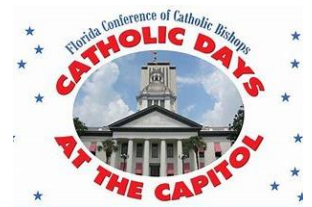
**ACTIVITY:**

- Have your Committee promote this opportunity in the parish.
- FLCCB announces date. Usually held between Jan-April. The Respect Life Admin office organizes a bus and hotel for a small fee.
- A legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity is provided.



- Pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers
- A luncheon for Catholic Days participants, Florida's bishops and legislators
- Group photos of each diocesan delegation with their bishop
- Tours of the current and historic capitol buildings
- The opportunity to view the legislative process in action
- Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by the bishops of

Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government



### ***D. Letters to the Editor***

**GOAL:** To respond to current events or editorial comments which affect the sanctity of human life and dignity.

**ACTIVITY:** Letters should be brief and to the point. Your remarks should directly address points with which you differ from the original letter or editorial that you are answering. Speak the truth in love without compromising our faith belief in the sanctity of all human life.

### ***E. Letter Writing Campaign***

**GOAL:** To inform your legislators of your opinions on relevant legislative issues.

**ACTIVITY:** Organize a table after the Sunday masses or after parish events to write letters to legislators concerning important issues to the Catholic faith. Make a copy of bullet points of the issues needing to be addressed. A personal letter or an e-mail to your legislator is an easy and effective way to express your views as constituents. The letter should be typed or very legible, identify yourself and state the name of the legislation about which you are writing including the bill number if known. State your reason for writing and explain how the issue would affect you. Ask the legislator to state their position in their reply. Be courteous and remember to thank your legislator if you are pleased with the vote on the issue.

### ***F. Annual Life Chain Sunday***

**GOAL:** On the first Sunday in October, LIFE CHAIN invites the churches in our archdiocese and across North America to stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for **90 minutes**, while holding one of the following approved pro-life sign messages:



- **ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN**
- **ABORTION HURTS WOMEN**
- **PRAY TO END ABORTION**
- **ADOPTION: THE LOVING OPTION**
- **LORD, FORGIVE US AND OUR NATION**
- **EL ABORTO MATA NINOS**
- **EL ABORTO LASTIMA A LAS MUJERES**
- **JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS**
- **LIFE—THE FIRST INALIENABLE RIGHT**

### ***G. Choose Life License Plate***



**Goal:** Take a stand for Life by displaying a Choose Life license plate on your car. Help raise awareness about the benefits of adoption as you drive.

**Activity:** For more information please visit: [www.flchoose-life.org](http://www.flchoose-life.org)

### ***H. Parish Monument to the Unborn***

**GOAL:** These monuments are erected to the memory of those innocents who have died unjustly, whose lives were taken from them while they grew silently in their mother's wombs.

“May these monuments be a memorial to their memory, a reminder of our own sinfulness, and a call to do penance for our sins and the sins of the whole world. May we trust in God's mercy, encourage and strengthen all who have sinned and seek justice in a world too often filled with sin and selfishness and hate.”



# ***PRAYER AND WORSHIP***



## Introduction to Prayer and Worship

Since the Respect Life Ministry is constantly in spiritual battle and on the front lines against the culture of death, *we must be exceptionally rooted in prayer.*

**Remember:** “Prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life. Our efforts—whether educational, pastoral or legislative—will be less than fully fruitful if we do not change hearts and if we do not ourselves overcome our own spiritual blindness. Only with prayer – prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and our souls – will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life.”

-Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God...Let us therefore discover anew the humility and the courage to pray and fast so that the power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many...the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life.”

Pope St. John Paul II  
*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 100

### Intercessory Prayer

“In a series of General Audiences from May 2011 through May 2012, Pope Benedict XVI expounded on the *mystery of prayer* – that amazing reality that allows us to listen to and dialogue with almighty God! In his reflection of May 16, 2012 he reminds us that all prayer is a work of the Holy Spirit, referring to Romans 8:26: ‘The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought.’ In the same reflection, Pope Benedict described intercession as one type of supplication. It is the prayer of the believer that *opens itself to sharing the suffering of our time*, the suffering of others and becomes a channel of hope for all creation and an expression of the love of God that is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit and thus helps in the redemption of the world. Can we have a *more noble* calling than this?...

In the *prayer of intercession*, we draw near to God on behalf of another (person, community, or situation) through Jesus, who ‘always lives to make intercession for those who approach God through him’ (Heb 7:25).

When we intercede, we rely on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit who ‘himself intercedes for us and intercedes for the saints according to the will of God’ (Rom 8:26-27). The Catechism of the Catholic Church beautifully *describes intercession as ‘characteristic of a heart attuned to God’s mercy’* (2635.)”...

Some individuals are specifically gifted with a *charism* of intercession marked by frequency or intensity of intercession...However, the *role* of intercessor, the responsibility to pray for others, belongs to each of us.”

- *Intercessory Prayer*, National Service Committee Leaflet, 2014

### Assessing Your Parish Program

- Do the General Intercessions at Mass regularly include petitions to foster respect for all life, especially the unborn, the dying, special needs, human trafficking, and those on death row?
- Do you have a pro-life liturgy on Respect Life Sunday? Do you have a special mass emphasizing penance on January 22, the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the U.S.?

- Every parish is requested to have a Holy Hour for Life or Rosary for Life weekly or monthly to pray for all the victims of abortion, those at the end of life, and those facing execution.
- Is the Church’s post-abortion ministry, Project Rachel, incorporated into parish activities? Are the respect life liturgies sensitive to the post-abortion difficulties many experience? Is the local and toll free referral number (954-981-2984 and 1-888-456-4673) publicized?
- Is there an organized prayer chain to assure continuous prayers to bring about a culture of life? Has your committee identified and reached out to those with *charism of intercession*, members of *prayer groups*, and bible studies who would include these petitions in their prayers?
- Do you have other programs such as spiritual adoption, special blessings, prayer breakfasts, or retreat to encourage respect for life?
- Does your parish have a copy of *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*, published by USCCB, for blessing of expectant mothers during mass (usually during Mother’s Day weekend)?

## *Prayer and Worship Projects*

### **“MUST HAVE” RESOURCE:**

**GOAL:** Every Parish Rep should have access to the USCCB.org website where you can see, download, and print important prayers and devotions, and help your parish/parishioners pray in union with the Universal Church on the Life Issues as ONE voice before God’s throne of mercy! Visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prolife-prayers.cfm>

#### PRO-LIFE PRAYER SUBSCRIPTIONS

- [Word of Life](#) (monthly parish resource)
- [Pray for Life](#) (monthly pro-life prayer guide)
- [9 Days for Life](#) (annual pro-life novena)
- [Call to Pray for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty](#) (weekly intentions)

#### RESPECT LIFE LITURGY GUIDES

#### PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONS

- [Blessings](#)
- [Divine Mercy Sunday](#)
- [Holy Hours](#)
- [Intercessions](#)
- [Litanies](#)
- [Novenas](#)
- [Rosaries](#)
- [Stations of the Cross](#)

### ***A. Prayers of the Faithful –***

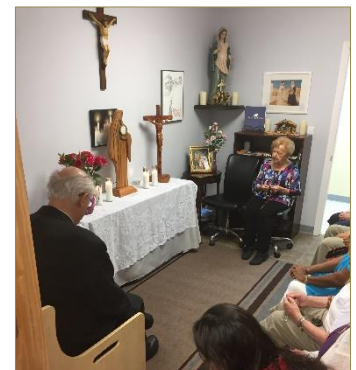
**GOAL:** Pray for Respect Life issues in the Prayers of the Faithful during every Sunday Mass.

**ACTIVITY:** Ask your pastor and/or director of liturgy to include respect life prayers in the Prayers of the Faithful. Utilize the Respect Life Program monthly bulletin inserts from Word of Life, USCCB, or go to [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship) then type in the search bar “Word of Life.”

### ***B. A Holy Hour for Life –***

**GOAL:** All parishes are requested to have a Holy Hour for Life weekly or monthly which should be scheduled and advertised. Invite your parish to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for respect life issues.

**ACTIVITY:** Review sample liturgy for the Holy Hour for Life from the USCCB. Ask your pastor if he’ll need help preparing the worship space. Place a table in the middle aisle with program sheets or booklets. Invite music ministry to play hymns with life themes.



### C. Prayer Vigils at Local Abortion Facility -

**GOAL:** To pray for the victims of abortion but also for the conversion of the doctors & staff at the facility.

**ACTIVITY 1:** Ask a prayer leader from your parish (priest/deacon/or lay leader) to accompany a group of people to pray on public property in front of a local abortion facility. Check local city ordinances regarding necessity of a permit. Advertise the event several weeks in advance to promote attendance. You must have a leader who is familiar with our guidelines available on our website and ADOM website. [Register your event](#) with the Archdiocesan Education Coordinator (see contacts page 8.) [Follow RL Guidelines](#) (pg 60.)



**ACTIVITY 2:** Promote the local 40 Days For Life Campaign in your county. Visit [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) for prayer sites and to register. There is a Lenten Campaign that runs from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, and a Fall Campaign (Sept-Nov.)



### D. 9 Days for Life National Prayer Campaign-

**GOAL:** 9 Days for Life is the U.S. Bishops' annual pro-life novena from Jan. 14-22. It is a "digital pilgrimage" of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person's life. The novena highlights a different intention each day and provides reflections, bonus information, and suggested actions.

**ACTIVITY:** Join to receive the novena through the 9 Days for Life app, daily emails, or daily texts. See the [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) website for information on how else you can get involved! #9DaysforLife #OurPrayersMatter



*"Our prayers matter. Every prayer matters, and if you can't start at the beginning, jump in when you can!"*

— Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York

### E. Rosary for Life:

**GOAL:** To foster a deeper prayer life for the end of abortion and euthanasia at your parish. This frequent prayer activity raises awareness of the gravity of the critical LIFE issues in society today.

**ACTIVITY:** Incorporate this prayer project on a scheduled frequency and invite other parish groups to attend the Rosary for Life. Download and print the meditations available through USCCB/Prayer –or- Priests for Life/ Prayers at these links below:



[www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/rosary](http://www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/rosary)

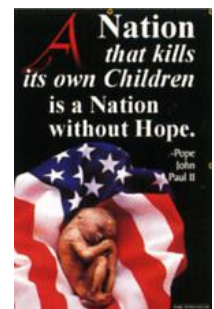
[www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/pro-life-rosaries.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/pro-life-rosaries.cfm)

### F. Patriotic Rosary:

**GOAL:** To pray the rosary with special intention for the conversion of our country, for its leadership, and for each individual state and every soul in that state.

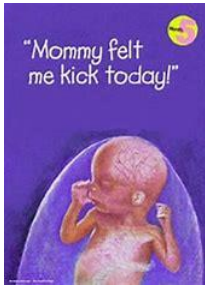
**ACTIVITY:** Request a copy of the Patriotic Rosary from your Parish Rep Coordinator or download the rosary at:

[www.sacredheartmilledgeville.org/Freedom%20Rosary%20and%20Litany.pdf](http://www.sacredheartmilledgeville.org/Freedom%20Rosary%20and%20Litany.pdf)





## G. *Spiritual Adoption:*



**GOAL:** To raise awareness of the humanity and development of the unborn child in his mother's womb; and, to pray for the safe delivery of all children.

**ACTIVITY:** A 9 month or 9 week program with descriptions of fetal development, pictures, and prayers to help parishioners spiritually adopt one child and his mother, known only to the Lord, to choose life.

[www.nyfamilylife.org/respect-life/spiritual-adoption](http://www.nyfamilylife.org/respect-life/spiritual-adoption)

## H. *Candlelight Prayer Service: What Might Have Been*

**GOAL:** To recall the story of creation and life's purpose on earth, as well as remembering the loss of so many children through the killing of abortion. We have *not* forgotten those who might have been; we remember them in this prayer service.

**ACTIVITY:** Allow approximately 45 minutes for this activity, and 12 candles. You will need a Narrator to read the script, someone to advance the PowerPoint slides, and volunteers to light and extinguish the candles throughout the presentation. See your Parish Rep Coordinator for a hardcopy of the outline and script of this activity.



### I. *Blessings for Families, Parents, and Children*

**GOAL:** To provide not only support and God's blessing for expectant parents and their child in the womb, but also an effective witness to the sanctity of human life from the first moment of conception. To not only encourage those parents receiving the blessing, but also all who witness it in the parish community.

**ACTIVITY 1:** Suggest this *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*, USCCB, 2008 to be done on Feast of Annunciation or Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, at the Masses. You can download the blessing, or encourage your pastor to purchase the book, available from USCCB.org store.



**ACTIVITY 2:** From the *Book of Blessings* (Liturgical Press), discuss with your Pastor the following:

- Chapter 1 - Order for the Blessing of a Family
- Chapter 1 - Order for the Blessing of Children
- Chapter 55 – Order for the Blessing of Mothers on Mother's Day
- Chapter 56 – Order for the Blessing of Fathers on Father's Day.

**ACTIVITY 3:** Mass for the Gift of Human Life (found in *Third Edition of the Roman Missal*)

Sample bulletin/parish website/parish app/vestibule announcement:

“Are you expecting the birth of a new baby in your family? Our parish wants to celebrate with you the wondrous gift of life given to you by God. This special celebration will be on (date) and (time) in the church. A reception will follow for all parishioners in the parish hall. Please email (name) at (contact) for more details and to register. All are invited to attend and share in this joyous time of anticipation with their families and unborn child.”

Decide on a special gift for the mothers (i.e. medal/holy card/flower). Invite choir and organist.

## J. Procession for Life

**GOAL:** A Eucharistic procession led by the parish priest is a very powerful prayer experience...

**ACTIVITY:** Plan a route with your pastor along the street of your parish, to a near-by abortion clinic, or local pregnancy center, keeping the distance to approx. 1 mile or less.



- ❖ Prior to the Procession, walk the entire route with several members of your committee to spot any trip hazards, sidewalk uneven elevations, etc. and make signs or have volunteers stationed at these locations to help everyone arrive safely. Measure the distance and average walking time.
- ❖ Plan to have water and guides along the way on the day of the procession, and cars/drivers to shuttle back to the point of origin for anyone who needs help along the way.
- ❖ Invite the Knights of Columbus to be Eucharistic escorts. Invite youth group and Legion of Mary to process with Our Lady.
- ❖ Advertise the Procession or Jericho Walk in your parish bulletin a few weeks before the event.
- ❖ Conclude with refreshments and an open house if traveling to the Respect Life Pregnancy Center.



**JERICO WALK**  
**A EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION**  
 On the seventh day, march around the city seven times...The wall of the city will collapse.  
 Joshua 6:4-6

**JUNE '11** 11 AM PROCESS FROM RESPECT LIFE CENTER  
 4747 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD (Parking in Blue)  
 TO PROCESS AROUND "A WOMAN'S CENTER"  
 3829 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD

The Eucharistic Procession continues by circling the abortion facility 7 times with healing prayers for life.  
 The procession continues back to the Respect Life Center for an Open House and refreshments.

For Info: 954-445-4525



**EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION**  
 Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see the unborn child!

**APRIL 22, 2018**

11:30 AM Mass, then Process from Nativity to "A Woman's Center" 3829 Hollywood Blvd

The Eucharistic Procession continues with prayer in front of the abortion facility, and concludes by processing back to Nativity Church.

Bring water and comfortable walking shoes.

Nativity Catholic Church  
 5220 Johnson Street  
 Hollywood, FL 33021

For info 954-445-4525



### ***K. National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children – Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>***

**GOAL:** Help mobilize Pro-Life Americans to honor the gravesites of our aborted brother and sisters.

**ACTIVITY:** Solemn Prayer Vigils, co-sponsored by the *Citizens for a Pro-Life Society*, *Priests for Life*, and the *Pro-Life Action League*, and held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of September. For more information, visit [www.abortionmemorials.com](http://www.abortionmemorials.com) to find date/times at local cemetery where the prayer vigils will be held.

### ***L. Families Dedicated to Life***

**GOAL:** To encourage family prayer and involvement in bringing about an end to abortion & euthanasia.

**ACTIVITY:** Encourage parishioners on last Sunday of December (*the Feast of the Holy Family*) to commit their family to one day of prayer, attend mass as a family, and pray the rosary as a family. Consider handing out copies of “Pro-Life Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary.” Sample bulletin or lector announcement:

“As part of our parish’s on-going efforts to bring about a culture of life, all families are encouraged to commit one day each year to a day of family prayer and sacrifice for the end of abortion and euthanasia. As a part of this day, families are encouraged to attend mass, say a family rosary, or make a contribution to the Respect Life Ministry. Fliers regarding this effort will be handed out after Mass.”

### ***M. National Night of Prayer***

- Overnight Prayer Vigils are held on December 8<sup>th</sup> (feast of Immaculate Conception) from 9pm to 1am, to coincide with the hours of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s, patroness of the Americans and the unborn, first appearance to St. Juan Diego.



### ***N. Memorial Service for Those Who Have Lost Children, Born or Unborn***

**GOAL:** To meet the spiritual needs of parents whose child(ren) died because of miscarriage, accident or abortion while also emphasizing the Church’s respect for the sacredness of all human life regardless of age or stage of development.

**ACTIVITY:** Memorial service can also include a candle lighting ceremony service, music, readings, prayers, time of reflection and a small memento for the guests or a simple reception following the service.

### ***O. Other Fruitful Prayer and Worship Projects:***

- Create a beautiful tribute to the unborn on the altar for Respect Life Sunday
- Promote “In Memoriam” gifts to the ministry
- Lead a Father’s Day Meditation to St. Joseph
- Request USCCB Prayers for Life in Liturgy
- Use Pro-Life Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary by Priests for Life, Fr. Pavone.
- Pray the Election Prayer to Mary
- Attend the annual Parish Representative Commissioning and Nascent Mass at Cathedral





## Pro-Life E-Tools to Know .....

### 7 WEBSITES YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1 **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- 2 **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities**  
Pro-life office of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.  
[www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife)
- 3 **USCCB Respect Life Program**  
Browse, download (for free), or order materials today!  
[www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife)
- 4 **Hope after Abortion**  
Healing stories, letters, prayers, and local ministry contact information for the Church's Project Rachel Ministry for post-abortion healing.  
[www.HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://www.HopeAfterAbortion.org)
- 5 **Conscience Protection**  
Latest information regarding threats to rights of conscience.  
[www.usccb.org/conscience](http://www.usccb.org/conscience)
- 6 **HumanLifeActionCenter.org**  
At [HumanLifeActionCenter.org](http://HumanLifeActionCenter.org), an initiative of the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, you can easily contact Congress regarding pro-life policy and help protect life and liberty in law.
- 7 **EndRoe.org**  
Visit [EndRoe.org](http://EndRoe.org), a project of the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, for a comprehensive look at *Roe v. Wade*, the decisions that led up to it, and subsequent Supreme Court abortion cases.

### E-TOOLS IN YOUR INBOX



**SIGN UP** for any of the following subscriptions at [www.usccb.org/ProLifeSubscriptions!](http://www.usccb.org/ProLifeSubscriptions!)

Links to archives and other information are also on this webpage.

#### **9 Days for Life: Prayer, Penance, Pilgrimage**

Nine days of prayer and action focused on cherishing and protecting God's gift of life. Daily intentions are posted online and shared via email, text message, a mobile app, and social media.

[www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)

#### **Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty**

Weekly prayer intentions shared via email, text message, and social media are part of the U.S. bishops' national prayer campaign.

[www.usccb.org/pray](http://www.usccb.org/pray)

#### **Life Issues Forum**

A pro-life column addressing culture-of-life issues. May be reprinted in full for use in bulletins, newspapers, etc.

#### **People of Life E-Newsletter & Action Campaign**

Latest news on pro-life issues, people, events, and the U.S. bishops' ongoing pro-life efforts. Follow us on Facebook, too!

[www.facebook.org/peopleoflife](http://www.facebook.org/peopleoflife)

#### **Pray for Life**

Monthly pro-life messages with new prayer intentions, short reflections, suggested actions, and more! Available online and by email or text message.

[www.usccb.org/prayforlife](http://www.usccb.org/prayforlife)

#### **Pro-Life Federal Legislative Action Alerts**

Be a voice for the voiceless! Sign up for pro-life federal action alerts at [HumanLifeActionCenter.org](http://HumanLifeActionCenter.org).

#### **Word of Life**

A monthly liturgical resource containing pro-life intercessions, bulletin quotes, downloadable bulletin art, and occasional supplements like homily notes.