

Live the Gospel of *Life*

"to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps"

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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



Working together to spread the Gospel of Life across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Being Pro-Life: The Problem with Artificial Birth Control

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

Responsible men can become more deeply convinced of the truth of the doctrine laid down by the Church on this issue if they reflect on the consequences of methods and plans for artificial birth control.

Let them first consider how easily this course of action could open wide the way for marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards... Another effect that gives cause for alarm is that a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman, and, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires. (Paul VI, Pope, 1897-1978, Humanae Vitae, 17).

This is just one quote from St. Pope Paul VI's famous encyclical on artificial birth control that proved prophetic, even fifty years later. It

would be difficult to deny that these predictions came true. He affirmed Church teaching that marital love is about giving oneself completely to the other, using the words "total", "faithful" and "fecund" (fruitful). He went on to discuss the damage that is done to a relationship when those principles are not followed, and how it would damage society as a whole as well.

I spoke with Dr. Diann Ecret of the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), about artificial birth control. In addition to Church teaching, Dr. Ecret spoke about the medical problems with artificial birth control as well. There are physical health risks such as heart disease, loss of bone density, and even infertility



after long-term use. She also discussed emotional side effects such as depression and lack of attraction to your spouse. The modern world seriously downplays these risks, comparing them to the concern of tolerable side effects of a drug designed to cure a terminal illness, as if pregnancy is comparable to death. Advocates of birth control also seem to presume that there are only two options for people: artificial birth control or pregnancy. They ignore the very real and positive choice of abstinence for single people and Natural Family Planning for married couples, a much more effective method that promotes respect, mutual love and other virtues essential for a fulfilling marriage.

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Welcome

Thank you for your openness to God's call to foster respect for human life at all its stages, from conception to natural death. We live in a time when so many in our culture promote values contrary to human life itself. These include life issues such as abortion and euthanasia, and issues of human dignity such as advocacy

for those with disabilities or victims of violent crime. It is a monumental task, but one worth pursuing. What is needed is people of love and humility, devoted to God, immersed in the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, and open to the direction of the Holy Spirit in helping others bring a greater respect for all human life to the lives of all.

May God bless you in this work. Know that I am truly grateful to work with you in this. Together, let us build a culture of life here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati!

Bill Wunzbacher

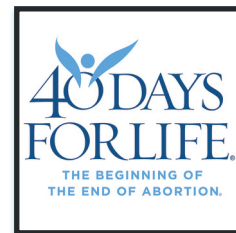
Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

40 Days for Life *By: Noelle Collis-DeVito*

Beginning on **September 23**, people across the world will gather outside of abortion facilities to lift their voices in prayer for the women and men who enter, the workers who provide abortion services, and the innocent lives lost. Those who commit to these 40 days of prayer and fasting, do so peacefully in the spirit of hope that someday we will see a world where the killing of unborn children is unthinkable.

As the Fall Campaign for 40 Days for Life approaches, I encourage you to get involved. If you have never prayed outside of an abortion clinic, attend one of the upcoming vigils as we raise our voices to God to proclaim the Gospel of Life. If you have previously attended a vigil, consider signing up for a shift or two outside of the clinic to cover those inside with prayer.

To learn more about 40 Days for Life in both the Dayton and Cincinnati regions, check out our **Being Pro-Life Podcast** specifically devoted to the topic. Listen to stories from area leaders, Shawn Carney, and Abby Johnson, and access the webpages for the **Dayton** and **Cincinnati** chapters. Click the name of the chapter for a downloadable flyer.



SEPTEMBER State of Life Luncheon

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Join Dayton Right to Life for the State of Life Luncheon on Thursday, September 10 at the Mandalay Banquet Center. The cost of the event is \$50 and it will feature speaker Steven Mosher who is an international authority on China and populations issues [CLICK HERE](#) for an event flyer or [REGISTER HERE](#).

March for Life Theme Reveal

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Discover the 2021 March for Life Theme ... and hear from top pro-life leaders about the most pressing issues of our day! This event will take place digitally at 9:00pm on September 10. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Coordinator's Corner

This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org.

- 01- Word of Life & Pray for Life
- 02- National Day of Prayer for Peace
- 03- Respect Life Program Packets
- 04- Walking with Moms in Need



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's Word of Life includes a short reflection on racism in light of the Pastoral Letter: "Open Wide Our Hearts." It also includes resources for praying for peace. (PDF: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)) In the September edition of Pray for Life, we pray for mothers pursuing educational goals to receive help and support. (Prayer guide: [English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- 02 The U.S. Catholic bishops suggest that parishes "could use the *National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities*, which falls on the feast of St. Peter Claver (**September 9**), to organize activities that foster community, dialogue, and reconciliation. These encounters will help open our minds and hearts more fully and continue the healing needed in our communities and our nation." Click the title for a [SAMPLE PRAYER SERVICE](#) and [PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL](#).
- 03 The Respect Life Program Packets will be mailed at no cost to your parish by Friday, September 11. These Action Guides provide great resources for Respect Life Month in October, and for other life-affirming celebrations throughout the year. This year's theme is "Living the Gospel of Life." [CLICK HERE](#) to access the 2020 Webpage to preview and download the materials. If your parish does not receive a packet by mid-September, please contact us so that we can provide one.
- 04 If you are interested in learning more about Walking with Mom's in Need, you can now access the [Introductory Webinar](#) for a more in depth explanation of this parish-wide program. There are also a plethora of resources for parishes to use on the designated webpage. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or contact the Office for Respect Life Ministries with questions.

Ohio Safe Haven Laws *By: Susan Kues*

IN OHIO, NO ONE EVER HAS TO ABANDON A NEWBORN AGAIN.

Most adults are likely to have a home to provide shelter and security and an adequate income to meet basic needs. For an unborn child, it is the mother's womb, which provides nourishment and protection. For a newborn infant, it is parents who provide all the child's needs. However, not every woman who becomes pregnant is prepared to raise a child. Sometimes she gives birth and sees no option except to abandon the baby, often at an unsafe place. Ohio's "Safe Havens for Newborns" law provides a better alternative.

Under this law, a birth parent, either mother or father, may anonymously leave a newborn infant up to 30 days old with a medical professional at a hospital, a medical worker at a fire department or other emergency organization, or a peace officer at a law enforcement agency. Though the birth parent is not required to provide any information, including his or her name, basic health information about the pregnancy and family health history can be helpful for the child.

The law protects the parent(s) from any legal consequences as long as the infant has not been abused or neglected. The child will be provided medical attention, if required, and placed in the care of the county's children services agency. *Continued on Page 4*

iVoteCatholic

We are called to live our faith in all aspects of our lives, but – when it comes to voting – this can be difficult. Over the next several weeks, immerse yourself in the Church's teaching and gain a fuller understanding of the Church's commitment to a consistent ethic of life which guides us to be advocates for a variety of issues related to life and human dignity. To learn how your parish can become involved in this important reflection, and to access resources that are focused on forming your conscience, go to www.ivotecatholic.org.

Pray a Minute

What might happen if every Catholic would pray just one minute more than they already do, every day, for the specific intention of peace, justice and goodwill? From now until January 1, the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Catholics from across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are invited to unite in prayer for the spiritual renewal of our country. Together, we will pray one million hours! Learn more and commit to doing your part at <https://www.prayaminute.com/>

SEPTEMBER Nat'l Day of Prayer for Peace

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The feast of St. Peter Claver is an opportunity to highlight the connection between racism and various attacks against human life. Join people from around our nation in a day of prayer for peace in our communities. For more resources or to organize a prayer service within your own parish, see Coordinator's Corner on page 2.

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Nat'l Day of Remembrance

On Saturday, September 12 join us as we lift our voices in prayer in remembrance of our brothers and sisters lost to abortion. Prayer services will take place at Woodland Cemetery (Dayton) and [Gate of Heaven Cemetery](#) (Cincinnati). Click the name of the location for an event flyer.

Caring for the Addicted *By: Kara Ross*

In our society, addiction runs rampant. We see young adults struggling with alcohol and substance abuse. We see teens and young men who are addicted to pornography. We see children whose entire world revolves around their number of followers. These addictions can destroy the lives of their victims and often impact the lives of those who love them. As pro-life people, it is our duty to take time to pray for those who suffer from addiction as well as find ways to support those seeking recovery.

To admit to an addiction is to admit that you are out of your element, out of control. It is an act of trust to come to someone with the hope that they can help you or point you in the right direction. So, what can you do if someone brings an addictive behavior to your attention?

1. Stop and pray with them. Take five minutes to pause whatever else is going on and entrust the behavior to God. Ask for the intercession of St Maximilian Kolbe and St Mark Ji. You can read about both of them [HERE](#).
2. Point them to AA, NA, or other addiction support groups in your area. They can easily call the national helpline from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) as a starting point
3. Connect them to [Catholic in Recovery](#), a group that cares for those struggling with addiction from a Catholic charism.
4. Hold them accountable. If this person has come to you for help, embrace that trust and offer it back. Agree to call or text them to check in, or, if you cannot be that person, help to find them someone who can talk them out of taking the next drink or buying the next pill.

All of us can help end addiction in our communities, and by the grace of God, we can help others find the Way, the Truth and the Life. Because no drink, drug, or technology can fill the God-sized hole in our hearts.

Being Pro-Life Cont'd

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Listen to the podcast to hear the full interview. This is only one of the four bioethics topics covered this month on our video/podcast series. Find the full podcast list at being-pro-life.buzzsprout.com/ or watch the videos at www.catholiccincinnati.org/being-pro-life. Let us strive to educate ourselves so we can all take a stand for life on these important medical issues.

Podcast Schedule

September 8: Dr. Ted Furton, vaccines and aborted fetal cell lines

September 15: Dr. Diann Ecret on artificial birth control

September 22: Dr. Paul Day on ethical and unethical treatment for infertility

September 29: Terri Schaivo's death and Catholic teaching on end-of-life issues

Radiate Christ

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,
Present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.

Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples

Who follow him with enthusiasm and joy,
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit

In our Archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.

Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses,
To radiate Christ in all we do,

So that all people might know, love and follow your Son

Through this life and into the next. AMEN.

Ohio Safe Haven Laws Cont'd

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If you have recently given birth and are unable to care for a newborn or, if you know someone in this situation, please consider the "Safe Havens" option. For more information about Safe Havens and to download a copy of the voluntary medical history form, visit <https://jfs.ohio.gov/safehavens/>.

If you think you are pregnant and will be unable to care for a child, you can call or visit any local pregnancy center for advice and help with your pregnancy, whether you plan on keeping your baby or placing the child up for adoption. Most of these centers offer free medical quality pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and material assistance before and after the baby's birth. All their services

are provided confidentially. You can find a pregnancy center in your area at: <https://helpinyourarea.com/ohio/>



Do you have an article or interesting story to share? Contact us and you might see it in this newsletter!

OCT Day of Reflection (Project Rachel)

03

The Project Rachel Day of Reflection is designed for ANY PERSON affected by an abortion experience. All are welcome: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, etc. This event is free of charge and will take place in the Cincinnati Area. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or [REGISTER HERE](#).

OCT Respect Life Sunday

04

On the weekend of October 3 & 4, a special collection will be taken for the Respect Life Fund. This fund provides direct monetary grants to local organizations who promote the Gospel of Life through their work. Please assist us in promoting this collection and to properly kick off Respect Life Month in your parish!



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This is the time of year when many Parishes display the Cemetery of the Innocents in order to memorialize the millions of children lost to abortion. In order to also care for women and men who have experienced abortion, the Office for Respect Life Ministries would like to suggest that in tandem with these displays parishes also include Project Rachel information. Our office has printed a number of banners that are available for your use free of charge. We also have a number of printable resources for parishes on our Project Rachel Page. Please contact us at respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org in order to borrow one of our signs or to obtain more information about Project Rachel.



Do you have something that you would like to share in our upcoming issue?
Contact us at respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org or (937)281-4128.