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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

Pregnancy Loss is Real Loss

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

She practically danced into the doctor's office for her standard, 20 week ultrasound appointment. Nothing unusual was anticipated. But, after some time, the technician asked when the last time was that she felt a kick. Her heart skipped its beat as the technician informed her there was no heartbeat from the small person within her. The baby was measuring the size of an earlier stage of pregnancy. The baby had died. This mother left the office devastated and ill-prepared to share the news with her family.

She is not alone. According to WebMD, between 15-25% of known pregnancies in the U.S. end in miscarriage, and that doesn't count earlier losses like an ectopic pregnancy or later losses defined as stillbirth. That's a significant number of people, and any of us could do a better job reaching out and ministering to these members of our congregations.

If we believe that life begins prior to birth (at

conception in fact), then death can also happen prior to birth. Still, too many people don't seem to recognize this as loss, and many parents end up suffering in silence. Believe it or not, this is also true of women who have lost a child due to abortion, who were taken advantage of by the abortion industry at a time when they were most vulnerable and needing real help.

How can we better support those suffering from a pregnancy loss? First of all, recognize that this is real grief. Comments like, "Well, at least you now know you can have children", "You still have your other children" or even "At least we know your baby is in Heaven" sound more like a dismissal of their current grief than something

comforting. Ask how they are feeling rather than telling them how they ought to be feeling. If parents who lose an older child can grieve the loss of a future wedding or graduation, shouldn't the parents of a lost unborn child grieve the same things, in addition to the loss of first steps and late-night feedings?

Rather than thinking that the shorter the life the less there is to grieve, recognize that grief also includes what could have been.

What can parishes do? Be prepared to minister to a family who suffers a pregnancy loss just as you would the death of an older loved one. Offer a memorial service. If your parish has a cemetery, reserve a special, designated space for families who want



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Nov 2020

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Issue 8



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!

Bob Wenzelbacher

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

Pregnancy Loss is Real Loss Cont'd

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to bury remains and have a grave marker. **Heaven's Gain** is a local ministry that specializes in providing products and grief services for families suffering the loss of a child through miscarriage or stillbirth. They will also be featured on our Nov. 17 Being Pro Life podcast series [HERE](#). If this loss is due to abortion, please refer them to our **Project Rachel** ministry.

This is not the whole story. Check out our video interviews from people who experienced **pregnancy loss**, or **loss due to abortion**. Together we can help raise awareness, and continue to work together to minister better to those grieving pregnancy loss.



NOVEMBER All Saints & All Souls Day

01
& 02

As we approach November and remember our loved ones who have gone before us in the hope of the Resurrection, we reflect upon how we are called to prepare for passage from this life into eternal life. These [end-of-life considerations](#) will help us prepare for death, not with fear, but with the hope of living peacefully with God for eternity.

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Respect Life Award Deadline

Do you know someone who exemplifies the Gospel of Life in your community? Each year the Archdiocese of Cincinnati honors one lay person and one person in religious life who embodies the call to proclaim the sanctity of human life. Please submit all nominations [HERE](#). All nominees will be recognized as well!

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@catholicaoc.org.

01- Word of Life & Pray for Life

02- Priorities at the Polls

03- Solemnity of Christ the King

04- Stop Mail Order Abortion



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01** The month's Word of Life includes extra resources that focus on resources that address our priorities at the polls. (PDF: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)) In the November edition of Pray for Life, we pray for expectant mothers making adoption plans that they may receive support and care from the Christian community. (Prayer guide: [English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- 02** The USCCB has put together a number of resources for Respect Life Coordinators to use leading up to the election in a week. These resources include a letter written by Archbishop Naumann that can be found on [page 3](#) in the format of a [bulletin insert/flyer \(Spanish\)](#) and a [social media graphic \(Spanish\)](#). Even so near to the election, we can share this important resources with our fellow parishioners to help preach the Gospel of Life in our communities.
- 03** The Solemnity of Christ the King was instituted as a means to counter the strong pull to eliminate Christian influence from political life. The Solemnity of Christ the King is a fitting moment in the liturgical year to promote the Church's teaching on religious freedom. This year, the USCCB has provided resources that address the issue of religious freedom on this feast day. These resources include [bulletin insert \(Spanish\)](#), [lectionary notes \(Spanish\)](#), and [social media graphics](#) that address the importance of protecting religious freedom in our nation and world.
- 04** A new bill has been introduced that could help protect mothers and babies from chemical abortion. The Support and Value Expectant (SAVE) Moms & Babies Act ([H.R. 4399](#) | [S. 3072](#)) could help improve regulation of chemical abortion pills. [ACT NOW](#) and share with your friends!

The Serenelli Project

A New Approach to Prison Ministry

By: Kara Ross

One of the biggest missing pieces in the American Prison System is support for those who are leaving incarceration. Many find themselves returning to an environment that encourages the behavior that began their prison experience. A person may experience rehabilitation while in prison, but without support to continue that change after their sentence, they may struggle to continue the new patterns they have enacted in their lives. The goal of incarceration should be full rehabilitation so that people are all to enter into a new, better life once they have served their sentence. There is a new initiative to fill this gap and assist people in their integration back to society.

This fall, Marty Arlinghaus, director of Prison Ministry, announced the start of the Serenelli Project, a Catholic re-entry monastery community. As the name



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NOVEMBER

7, 14
& 21

Cloud of Witnesses

Join us for an in-depth educational experience as we strive to inspire the Christian faithful through the witness of Black Catholic candidates for sainthood. We will celebrate how they triumphed over tragedies and learn how we can do the same. This event is scheduled for three consecutive Saturdays. [CLICK HERE](#) to register for this ONLINE event.

Priorities at the Polls

Archbishop Joseph Naumann

As Catholics approach the polls, we are asked to weigh many important issues. The U.S. bishops have reaffirmed that "the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed."^[1] While they did warn us not to "dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty, and the death penalty," they did give priority to upholding and defending our brothers' and sisters' most basic right—to live.

Catholics are called to defend human life wherever it is threatened and stand up for human dignity wherever it is violated. The enormous number of human lives destroyed by abortion is one factor that elevates its importance. The most recent available data indicates over 2,000 children per day die from abortion in the United States. Since abortion was legalized in 1973, over 61 million children have been killed—and untold numbers of women and men suffer in the aftermath.

The tragedy of abortion is also distinct in that it is currently legal to directly and intentionally take the life of an innocent human being. Current laws in our country fail to protect the lives of unborn children. Our highest Court does not recognize children in their mothers' wombs as persons and claims that abortion is a constitutional right. Further, many political leaders work actively to increase access to abortion. Some falsely describe it as health care and even as a basic human right.

People of good will must boldly stand up against this intrinsic evil, especially when it is occurring on a massive scale, implemented in law and funded, in some instances, by the government. As believers and citizens inspired by the Gospel and guided by the shepherds of our Church, we must do what we can to end violence in the womb, to ensure that unborn children are fully recognized and protected by our laws, and to support mothers and fathers in embracing life.

^[1] *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States, Introductory Letter, p. 6. Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2020. ^[2] Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), 11.

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A Story of Success

By: Noelle Collis-DeVito

If you follow our Being Pro-Life Series, you might remember the story of Jaymin, a teenage boy who at the age of 12 was introduced to the Foster Care System after his mother was arrested for drug use and child neglect. Last year at the age of 16, Jaymin revealed that while his younger brother had been adopted, he had remained in foster care and was fearful that he might never have a home of his own. You see, a person can no longer be legally adopted after his/her 18th birthday. Happily, shortly after the airing of our Podcast, Jaymin was adopted! He and his new adoptive mother will be featured in a special podcast coming up on November 11 to share their story and give us an update on how they are doing. To read, watch, or hear more about Jaymin's story [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our Being Pro-Life page or [SUBSCRIBE HERE](#) to our Podcast so you don't miss Jaymin's update!



Champions of Mercy

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Join Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio for a livestream report on how we have all responded together as a positive force against the pandemic crisis. Champions of Mercy: Partners in Hope will be livestreamed on Catholic Charities' website on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00pm. [CLICK HERE](#) for the link.



Being Pro-Life Updates & New Ministry

The month of November, we are taking a break from our monthly topics to provide you with some updates on previous podcasts and some new exciting news about happenings throughout the Archdiocese! [CLICK HERE](#) to subscribe to our Being Pro-Life Podcast and check out the schedule below!

Podcast Schedule

November 3: Lynn, parent of transgendered adults

November 10: Jaymin is Adopted: We revisit our 2019 interview with a 16 year old foster kid, and his story of being adopted.

November 17: Heaven's Gain: Ministry for parents who have lost a child to miscarriage and stillbirth

November 24: New Office for Persons with Disabilities

Champions of Mercy: Partners in Hope

On **Tuesday, November 10**, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio will be celebrating the 5th Annual "Champions of Mercy." The focus of this year's event will be to recognize our Partners in Hope – individuals and organizations who have collaborated with Catholic Charities and Su Casa throughout the year to serve those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year we will be sharing an online, livestreamed report on how Catholic Charities and our partners have responded together as a unified, positive force against the pandemic crisis and the many consequences to lives of local families. Champions of Mercy: Partners in Hope will be livestreamed on Catholic Charities' website on **Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 PM** at: www.ccswoh.org/champions-of-mercy-2020/



NOV Solemnity of Christ the King

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The Solemnity of Christ the King is a fitting moment in the liturgical year to promote the Church's teaching on religious freedom. This year, the USCCB has provided resources that address the issue of religious freedom on this feast day. Check out [Coordinator's Corner](#) for more information.



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The Serenelli Project Cont'd

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suggests, this community will be modeled after the community who helped Alessandro Serenelli, the murderer of Saint Maria Goretti, after his conversion. The goal of the Serenelli Project is to create a place where men and women who are leaving prison may encounter the forgiveness of Christ and receive the chance to rebuild their lives. While still in its beginning stages, this community will be an incredible stimulation to this vibrant ministry.

Prayer for Prisoners

Father of Mercy, the secrets of all hearts are known to you alone. You know who is just and you forgive the unjust. You alone are the Almighty Judge. We are not worthy of judging anyone. Your mercy is enough for sinners. Hear our prayers for those in prison. Give them repentance and let them believe in you. Give them patience and hope in their sufferings, and bring them home again soon. Comfort their near and dear ones. Let them trust in Jesus Christ and live with hope. AMEN.

Please pray for the Serenelli Project as it gets underway, and if you would like to become involved contact Marty at marlinghaus@catholicaoc.org.

NOV Adoption Awareness Month

**01-
30**

Given the national observance of November as National Adoption Month, we'd like to draw your attention to several adoption-related prayer and educational resources, including reference information and a novena to St. Joseph. Visit usccb.org/adoption-resources.



January is a time when 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](#). Contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org to reserve your banner in advance!



Do you have something that you would like to share in our upcoming issue?

Contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org or (937)281-4128.