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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

Who Lives? Prioritizing Care in a Time of Limited Resources

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy was hitting New York City, and Bellevue Hospital was facing the failure of their main generators. Left with only six working power outlets for 50 patients in intensive care, the medical director had to make decisions she never wanted to make. Which of the 50 would be able to continue to have their very lives supported by powered equipment, and which would not.[1]

We have all heard the news by now. Many estimates suggest that as COVID-19 continues to spread, the demand for ventilators—a key component in treating severe cases—may exceed the supply in some areas of the country. We could also simply run out of critical care beds in our hospitals. Deciding when one patient can be released from the ICU so another can enter is something healthcare workers decide on a daily basis, but that kind of scenario on a grand scale with a great number of patients in need of critical care is something new. Hospitals are having to dust off their policies about how to decide

who gets care and who doesn't, and hope they never have to use them.

I spoke with Dr. Ken Craycraft, Chair of Moral Theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, on this topic. The first rule of thumb he mentioned was that if someone already has a terminal illness, and curing him or her of COVID-19 is not going to change the status of the other terminal illness, that would be a factor in deciding who would not receive critical in a time of scarcity. What he stressed was this: "What we don't consider is age, we don't consider mental capability, we don't consider factors that don't have to do with survivability." That means we don't consider any issues related to disability. That is an affront against



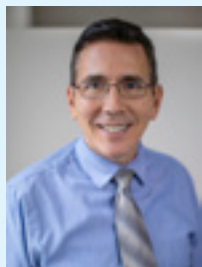
the dignity of every human person, no matter the physical ability.

There is always a silver lining to any crisis, and one of them could be that more people look to advance directives and health care proxies that are in keeping with Catholic teaching on end-of-life issues, before they find themselves in a crisis. You can find an example on our website [HERE](#).

If you want to listen to the full interview with Dr. Craycraft or the podcast or watch a shorter video of the interview, check out that topic on our Being Pro Life pages [HERE](#). As our country moves forward with responding to this current crisis, may we fearlessly move forward in a way that respects the inherent human dignity of all of us.

[1] *The Hardest Questions Doctors May Face: Who Will Be Saved? Who Won't?* U.S. News, March 21, 2020.

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!

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

COVID Vaccines & Fetal Tissue

Bishops Ask for Ethical COVID Vaccine

As we work to create a vaccine for the coronavirus, it is essential that we support ethical means of vaccination. While it is illegal for a company to utilize any new aborted fetal tissue in the creation of a vaccine, it is not illegal to utilize descendant cells. These cells are a medium for vaccines that come from a line of fetus cells that were aborted in the 1970's. While it is considered morally acceptable to receive a vaccine with these descendant cells if no other option is available, we are called as Catholics to request vaccine alternatives that do not utilize aborted fetal tissue as a medium.

Four USCCB Committee Chairmen, along with 20 healthcare, bioethics, and pro-life organizations, have urged Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to ensure that vaccines for COVID-19 are developed ethically and are free from any connection to the exploitation of abortion. To view all signers and to read the letter, [CLICK HERE](#).

As our nation works to defend itself from the deadly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), we write to express our gratitude to you and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for all of its efforts to combat the virus and to ask for your help to ensure that Americans will have access to vaccines that are free from any connection to abortion."



Rosary for Life

Join us each week day morning at 10:00am on Facebook LIVE as we pray the Rosary for Life together. We offer up these prayers for an end to abortion and for all those who have been impacted by the coronavirus.

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Walking with Moms in Need

The 25th anniversary year of Evangelium vitae gives us a wonderful opportunity to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. Join the nationwide effort to reach out through assessment and prayer. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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Parish Respect Life Coordinator Resources

Coordinator's Corner

01- Word of Life & Pray for Life

02- Resources for Mother's Day

03- Laudato Si' Week

04- PERSERVERANCE

- 01 The May edition of Word of Life is available: [English](#) / [Spanish](#). Suggestions are provided for adapting the resources for digital use. In the May edition of Pray for Life, we're praying that our Blessed Mother will draw women facing unexpected or challenging pregnancies close to her heart. (Prayer guide: [English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- 02 Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the vocation of motherhood and the gift of life entrusted to mothers by God in a very special way. At the same time, it can be a difficult holiday for many people. One of several adaptable resources in the [Mother's Day action guide](#), the homily helps ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)) provide insightful background and considerations for observing the occasion with sensitivity and compassion.
- 03 On the fifth anniversary of the encyclical, Pope Francis invites Catholics to participate in Laudato Si' Week (May 16 - 24). Drawing from the encyclical, article [Serene Attentiveness to God's Creation](#) explores how healthy relationships with God, one another, and all creation are key to a culture in which we value human life and care for God's creation at every level. [Graphics & pre-written lead text](#) are perfect for sharing in parish newsletters.
- 04 Shawn Carney has published the latest 40 Days for Life Webcast for Spring 2020 entitled PERSERVERANCE. This webcast covers news from around the world regarding the 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign. It is truly inspiring to see the magnitude of this campaign. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video on YouTube.

Mater Filius Queen City

Serving Greater Cincinnati

Mater Filius Queen City is a non-profit home created to help pregnant women who find themselves without the support of family or who are experiencing financial difficulties. One of our many services include providing a transitional residence for women in a crisis pregnancy. Mothers will learn to appreciate and understand the great blessing that has entered their life and how to best care for that blessing in a healthy and stable manner. Our mission is to safeguard the life of the unborn child and defend the dignity of the child's mother, regardless of how the child was conceived.

Our hope is to see all pregnant women healthy, supported, safe, empowered, and equipped with the necessary life and relationship skills they

need to build happy successful lives. We live our mission by helping expectant mothers learn about good parenting through our parenting workshops and through the education, caring and support of our volunteers, many of whom are mothers themselves.



Following Catholic social teaching, we recognize that we are responsible to and for one another. This foundation is at the core of implementing our mission and running our home. The Mater Filius community values that guide our work includes Love, Hospitality, Community, and Excellence. We pray to see a decrease in the number of homeless pregnant teens and women in the Greater Cincinnati Ohio area. To get involved [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



Being Pro-Life Universal Design

Universal and Accessible Design focuses on making sure everything about our parish and catechetical programs is accessible to those with disabilities: from physical access, to communication availability with ASL to accommodations for those with developmental disabilities. We talk with Cindi Swanson who is blind and has a son with Down Syndrome, to Fr. Matt Schneider, LC, a priest with autism, and Taylor Hyatt who has cerebral palsy, as well as Anne Masters of the Archdiocese of Newark. There are also a plethora of resources available that pertain to this topic on our newly designed Inclusion Ministry Webpages. [FOLLOW US](#) on Social Media, [READ OUR ARTICLE](#) in the Catholic Telegraph, [WATCH](#) the video interviews, and [LISTEN](#) to the Podcast for more!



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COVID- 19 Daily Update

Join Dominick Albano daily at 12:00pm for an update of what is happening here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Each day he interviews various members of the Archdiocesan staff to share what efforts are being made in each of the various offices. [CLICK HERE](#) for a link.

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Now & at the Hour of Our Death

The Office for Respect Life Ministries along with the Office for Divine Worship will be presenting a virtual workshop on Catholic Medical & Funeral Planning for End of Life. See more information [BELOW](#) or [CLICK HERE](#) to download a flyer.



Nine Months with Christ

In this time of difficulty, as we focus on social distancing, it has become a struggle to connect with others. We have begun to focus on lifting our voices together in prayer. Nine Months with Christ in the Womb is a wonderful opportunity to do just that. From March 25 to December 25, 2020, we are encouraging EVERYONE to join us in participation of this Respect Life Prayer Campaign. Promoting a consistent ethic of life, this campaign reflects on Christ's fetal development as well as a variety of other life issues such as immigration, death penalty, care for the elderly, concern for the disabled, etc.

Parishes, families and individuals are encouraged to participate through daily prayer, short weekly reflections, monthly reflections, and special events. [REGISTER HERE](#) for the campaign to receive weekly emails with prayers and reflection materials.

There is also a Nine Months with Christ APP on both Google Play and the iStore. The APP has all of the information you need to fully participate in this very important campaign.



Now & at the Hour of Our Death

Catholic Medical & Funeral Planning for End of Life

It's never too soon to begin thinking about our own funeral, end-of-life care, and who will be making those decisions. Join us to learn about how to get started on planning a Catholic funeral and what the Church teaches on key end-of-life issues. Join us Tuesday, May 19 1:00pm - 2:30pm OR Wednesday, May 20 7:00pm - 8:30pm for a virtual workshop to address these important issues. [REGISTER HERE](#) to receive an email with the online meeting information. Topics will include:

- Pre-planning the three stages of the Catholic funeral
- What the Church really teaches about cremation
- How to approach difficult end-of-life decisions with your loved ones from a Catholic perspective (life support, medical power of attorney, etc.)



Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary

During the COVID Crisis



O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you,

Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



House Mother Needed

We have an immediate opening for a house mother. The house mother is the centerpiece of the operations of the Mater Filii home which is located in the west side of Cincinnati. The Mater Filii home will allow us to serve up to three women at a time. The ideal candidate must be a single woman, mission driven and embrace her Catholic faith. This is a full-time paid position which will offer room and board as part of the compensation package. Interested or have further questions, please contact the director: Betsy Jacquez – 513.351.3368, mfqcity@gmail.com To learn more about us visit our website at MFQC.org



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Cross the Bridge for Life

Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, this year's Cross the Bridge for Life event has been cancelled. The committee has decided to take the funds that were raised for the event and distribute them to affiliated organizations.

You can show your support for Cross the Bridge for Life by donating to your local Pregnancy Care

Centers. We are also asking anyone who might have participated in the Cross the Bridge for Life event to join us as we CELEBRATE LIFE on Sunday, June 7th. Wear your favorite Cross the Bridge t-shirt of years past, obey all social distancing protocols, and get outside and with your family for a walk! You can also post a photo on social media on the Facebook Page or with #CTBforlife.



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

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