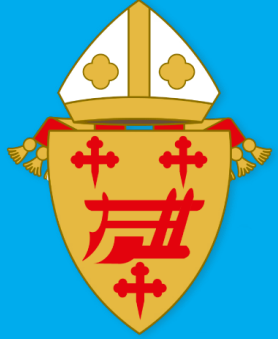




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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

Respecting Life During the COVID Crisis

COVID-19 has crossed the globe, and everyone is scrambling to figure out how to best address the illness and stop the spread. It is too late to prevent this outbreak from happening, but we are called to rise to the challenge with compassion, prudence, empathy, faith, and justice.

These times are unprecedented. Some of us are adjusting to working from home as much as possible. Some of us, like me, are trying to work from home and homeschool our kids at the same time, which never goes nearly as well as we think it is going to, even with a written up schedule!

Others must go to their jobs despite the dangers: people in healthcare, emergency response workers, even those in grocery stores, and so many others. With so many businesses affected, many are seeing much

smaller paychecks, or perhaps none at all.

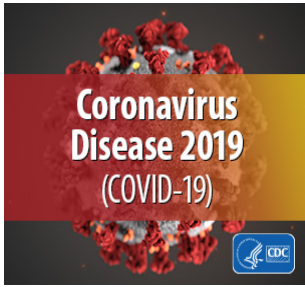
We are all in this together. We want to encourage people who can, to continue to be responsive to people in need in ways that are appropriate during this time of social distancing. If you haven't seen it yet, please check out our COVID-19 Response page. There you can find a short video and a link to our March 24th podcast episode on "Helping the Vulnerable During the Corona Virus Pandemic", full of ideas on how to look out for you neighbor at this time.

I encourage you to continue to pray, look to the welfare of your neighbor while follow-

ing the social distancing guidelines, and give what you can to your parish, your local food pantry, and other crucial organizations that really need our help.

Most of all, continue to be connected to Christ through prayer. We may not be able to attend Mass, but Christ is still present with us. Let us use this time to grow in appreciation for the incredible gift of the Eucharist, so we may be more open to His unfathomable grace when we may receive Him again. As we

look forward to that day, may we continue to be mindful of what Christ would have us do to help our neighbor, giving all the human dignity they deserve.



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

GET INVOLVED

Advocacy & Service: What Can You Do?

Everyone is experiencing great disruption in their lives, but it is the poor, marginalized, and low-income who are being disproportionately affected. As people rush to purchase supplies, protect their families, and quarantine themselves, it is critical to think about those who may not have the means and resources to take these measures. Please know – we VERY STRONGLY encourage you to follow the guidelines set out by the [CDC](#), the [Archdiocese of Cincinnati](#), and [Ohio public health officials](#).

We also encourage you to think about those who are less fortunate and consider how you can be in solidarity with them, treating them as your sisters and brothers in Christ. In order to properly care for the most vulnerable during these difficult times, it is essential to know the truth and work to encourage others to get involved in efforts to help. To the right are a few websites that can assist you in advocating for and serving those in need. Click the title to be taken to the sites or visit our [COVID-19 PAGE](#) for more detailed information.

[Catholic Social Services](#)

[Catholic Charities](#)

[CCHD Organizations](#)

[Feeding America](#)

[Cinci Public Schools](#)

[Dayton Public Schools](#)

[St. Vincent DePaul](#)

[Mutual Aid- Cinci](#)

[Mutual Aid- Dayton](#)



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.

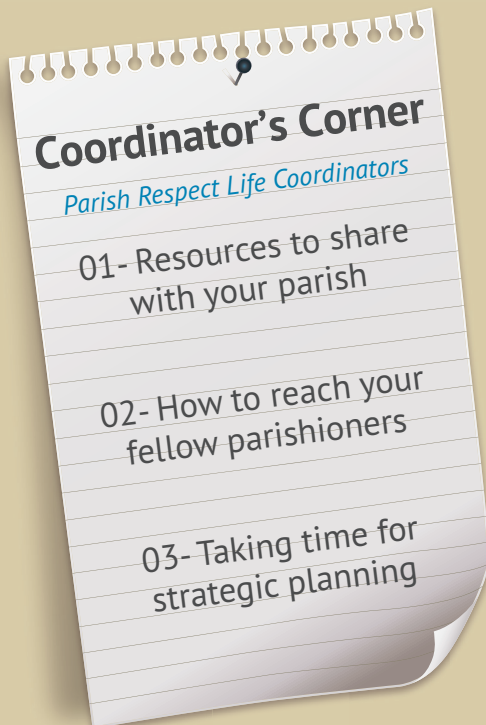
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40 Days for Life

Sunday, April 5 is the final day of the 40 Days for Life Campaign, but the prayers must continue. As many elective surgery facilities are closing their doors, abortion clinics remain open and busy. Please consider extending your prayer and fasting for this cause.

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Ideas for Parish Ministry:



- 01 **CLICK HERE** to be taken to our Coordinator's Page to find a list of online resources for you to share with your parishes. If you have any trouble finding any of our resources, please contact our office and we will be happy to assist you: respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org
- 02 As we navigate life in quarantine, many parishes have begun to include online resources for their parishioners as a means to stay involved. Consider sharing some of our resources online as well- particularly our Being Pro-Life Series and the Nine Months with Christ prayer campaign.
- 03 Make an effort to do some intentional planning on ways to grow your ministry. Host an online meeting with volunteers, come up with a tentative schedule of future events, and talk with your pastor about your plans.

Support E

[5 Tips for Prioritizing Your Family's Mental Health During Quarantine](#)

[How Church Can Help as Social Distancing Raises Risk of Isolation and Loneliness](#)

[USCCB Resources for Catholics at Home During COVID-19](#)

↗
Click the links to access the resources listed.

Parish Life & COVID-19

“Christ is with us in this trial, and He wants to be present to those in need through us. Let us band together as Christians. Let us be witnesses to the love of God which conquers all things. Let us offer a world in need the peace that only Christ can give – the peace He has entrusted to each of us!” ~Archbishop Dennis Schnurr

As we wait for a time when we can return to the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, it is important for us to continue to recognize and support our faith communities. Our pastors and church staff members are working hard to provide alternatives to our usual programs and communal gatherings. There are countless opportunities to LIVE STREAM Mass and join in prayer online. Parish organizations- particularly youth ministry programs- are turning to online forums to keep parishioners engaged in their faith. And our priests have grown increasingly creative in providing



the Sacrament of Reconciliation ranging from “drive-thru confession” to moving the confessional outdoors. As disciples of Christ, we are called to enter into this desert time with open hearts and treat it as a time of renewal. Just as many of us are feeling the financial burden of COVID-19; our parishes are seeing unprecedented drops in donations, which are usually received during Mass. If you are able to continue to tithe during this time, please consider donating to your parish online. The Church is working hard for us and needs the support of Her people to continue.



Being Pro-Life

International Issues- Part 2

Respect Life issues are in many ways the same across most of the world. Catholics and other people of good will struggle against the legalization and acceptance of abortion, and of assisted suicide. They struggle with government-issued regulations about sex-education in schools, even in Catholic schools. And they struggle with issues of religious freedom, from the lack of any hope to change a law or even the ability to speak against injustice. Check out a new video/podcast interview each week as we talk with people on every inhabited continent in the world. Even if you are unhappy with our government on many issues, you may find yourself grateful that we do have a lot more freedom than anyone else we spoke with to still live out our faith, even in areas where those freedoms are not supported by our laws. [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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Virtual Listening Session

The Office for Respect Life Ministries will be hosting a Virtual Listening Session at 1:00pm on Zoom. All persons with disabilities and their families are invited to join us to share thoughts, suggestions, and experiences so that we can better welcome ALL. [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

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COVID- 19 Daily Update

Join Dominick Albano daily at 12:00pm for the daily 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.

Resources

[Pope Francis: COVID-19 Teaches Us We Are One Human Community](#)

[How Can We Be the Body of Christ When Coronavirus Closes Our Churches?](#)

[5 Lessons Pope Francis Has Taught with His Actions](#)



Nine Months with Christ

In this time of difficulty, as we focus on social distancing, it has become a struggle to connect with others. In order to unite our voices, we are encouraging EVERYONE to participate in 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. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the new Android App.

Pregnancy Care Centers

How have they been impacted?

Pregnancy Care Centers have been hugely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis that has rocked our nation. Some have closed their doors due to a lack of volunteers, others have remained open and are seeing clients for pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and material assistance. PCC's rely very heavily on donations to sustain the many services that they provide. Throughout the year (particularly in the Spring), these centers host banquets or other large events as fundraisers; however, due to the COVID-19 crisis many of these major money-making events have been cancelled. Please consider showing your support for these essential organizations in our community by making a donation to your local PCC. [CLICK HERE](#) for



a list of centers in your area.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary

During the COVID Crisis



A Time for Prayer

One of the primary ways that we can unite and show solidarity with one another in this difficult time is through prayer.

There are a plethora of prayer resources available, and as we prepare to enter Holy Week it seems only fitting to share some of the prayer resources in this newsletter. Here we will feature some resources from the Vatican, the USCCB, and our own Archdiocese of Cincinnati to help enhance your prayer life at home.

The Vatican: Offers podcasts, programs, Liturgy of the Hours, Mass with the Pope and a plethora of prayers to search through. Take time during Holy Week to see what special offerings the Vatican has available.

The USCCB: Has many pages specifically dedicated to prayer and reflection during the

coronavirus crisis. There is a Pilgrimage with the Lord During Holy Week, Stations of the Cross, and more. There is also a specially written prayer card that can be printed by clicking the image below.

The Archdiocese: has published a live list of all of the local happenings available online including the time and URL for various local LIVE Streamed Mass. There are also prayer and reflection resources available.

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.



Walking with Mom's 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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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.

The Examen for COVID-19 (In English & Spanish)

The Examen is a traditional method of prayerful awareness that is a bedrock in Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit education. It's a short, easy way to reflect on your day and become more mindful about where you are experiencing grace or goodness and where



there is room in your actions and life for growth. Especially in times of uncertainty and rapid change, taking time to reflect becomes essential. *Click the coordinating image to download a PDF.*



Contact Us



BOB WURZELBACHER
Director
bwurzelbacher@catholiccincinnati.org
(513) 263-6674

NOELLE COLLIS-DEVITO
Associate Director
ndevito@catholiccincinnati.org
(937) 281-4128

KARA ROSS
Associate Director
kross@catholiccincinnati.org
(937) 281-4128

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

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