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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

The USCCB Recognizes a New Threat

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

The Hyde Amendment and similar laws have been protecting taxpayers from funding elective abortion for 45 years. Now, our president and members of Congress want to take away these laws that both Democrats and Republicans used to support for nearly half a century.

The Hyde Amendment has been signed into law every year since 1976, whether the Congress and the White House were led by Republicans or Democrats. In 1979, the Supreme Court held in *Maher v. Roe* against the idea of a right to a free abortion when it ruled that *Roe v. Wade*, "implies no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public



funds." Even President Obama recognized the need for that kind of compromise when he signed an executive order pertaining to the Affordable Care Act and taxpayer funding of abortion. Today, according to a **recent poll**, a majority of Americans still oppose using taxpayer money to fund abortions. This year, however, for the first time, there is an

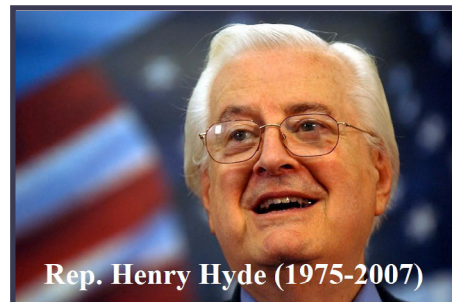
explicit call for the Hyde Amendment to be repealed.

Protecting conscience rights is one reason to support keeping the Hyde Amendment in place, so that pro-life Americans aren't forced to pay for something that ends human life. In addition,

it is fair to presume that when something is subsidized, it will become more common. Estimates vary, but the Charlotte Lozier Institute in 2016 estimated that the Hyde Amendment had already saved **over 2 million lives**.

The USCCB is vehemently opposed to revoking the Hyde Amendment, and is encouraging all of us to send a petition to members of Congress, to urge them "in the strongest possible terms," to ensure that the Hyde Amendment and other

similar life saving appropriations remain in place with any legislation enacted. Check out the **No Taxpayer Abortion** page and sign your name, and pass the link on to everyone in your parish!





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

Lebanon Makes History

On May 25, by unanimous vote of city council, the city of Lebanon became the first Sanctuary City for the Unborn in Ohio. This means that, by city ordinance, not only is it unlawful to procure or perform an abortion, but also to possess or distribute abortion drugs. While there is no abortion facility within the city of Lebanon, this ordinance also restricts the growing use of the abortion pill.



Mark Harrington, President of Created Equal and the director for the Ohio initiative, said, "Joe Biden has stated he wants abortion in every zip code in America. Hence, citizens across America are acting by preventing abortion from being committed in their communities!"

Mark Lee Dickson, Founder of Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn, said, "Cities must be prepared. The future of the abortion industry is not necessarily brick and mortar but abortion by mail or abortion by vending machine at a school or outside of a grocery store."

To watch the full proceedings [CLICK HERE](#).

JUNE

ASL Mass (St. Max Kolbe Parish)

Join us for a special Mass prayed in American Sign Language (ASL) by a deaf priest, with a hearing interpreter, as part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Marian Pilgrimage, during the stop at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish in Liberty Township. For more information on this and other ASL accessible events, [CLICK HERE](#).

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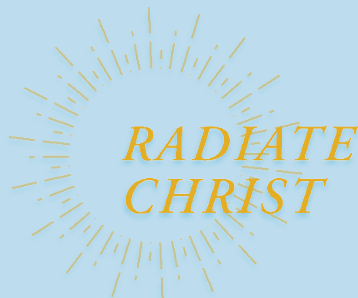
Project Rachel Retreat (Dayton)

THE PROJECT RACHEL RETREAT is designed for mothers affected by an abortion experience, where they can grow in their healing journey with other women who have shared a similar experience. The weekend offers a loving and confidential environment where participants can experience the love and mercy of God.

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
- 02- Father's Day Action Guide
- 03- No taxpayer abortion
- 04- Before I Formed You in the Womb

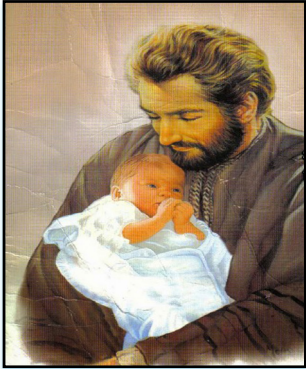


Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes resources, suggested prayers of intercession, bulletin announcements and images for Religious Freedom Week and other issues pertinent to the month of June. (PDF: [English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- 02 The Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities has created a Father's Day Action Guide that focuses around parish activities to do in June and on Father's Day. Some of it requires more advanced planning that would need to wait until next year, but there is still time to do much of it this year. The guide includes homily helps, bulletin announcements and a parish activity. Make this year the time your parish celebrates the important role fathers have in the life of the family and in building a culture of life. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the action guide.
- 03 The Hyde Amendment and similar laws have protected taxpayers from funding abortion for 45 years. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away these laws that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century. [CLICK HERE](#) for resources to educate your parish including a webinar, a flyer, bulletin announcement, and a link to contact your legislators to oppose any bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion.
- 04 *Before I Formed You in the Womb* is a terrific new pastoral letter by Archbishop Cordileone of San Francisco on human dignity of the unborn, Holy Communion and Catholics in public life. It includes sections on law and science, cooperation in moral evil, reception of Holy Communion, and Catholic in public life. This is a great resource for any Respect Life Coordinator. [CLICK HERE](#) to read his full letter.

Catholic Fatherhood

By: Kara Ross



Becoming a father is often a moment filled with excitement, uncertainty, and great love for your spouse and for the child you anticipate welcoming. However, our culture is losing the sense of how important fatherhood is. As the feminist movement moves further to an anti-male extreme and gender theory continues to confound what biological sex is, men are losing their voice.

In our Catholic tradition, we are given the example of the Holy Family to strive for in our family lives. The Holy Family would not be complete without Saint Joseph. He

was protector and guardian of the most precious gift God could give to us. Through his example, the Church has realized the pivotal role of the father as head of the domestic church. When the father is invested in his faith, saints are forged. An often cited Swiss study from the early 2000s shows that the father's influence is what keeps children coming back to church as adults. You can read more about the study [HERE](#). As we celebrate Father's Day this month, let us pray that all fathers, spiritual and physical, answer the call to be strong examples of faith to their children. Happy Father's Day!

Being Pro-Life

Getting Involved at Any Level



Despite the great efforts of so many people who care for women in crisis pregnancies, the disabled and the elderly, who fight for protective legislation, or who pray constantly for our efforts, our culture still seems to be turning more and more against a respect for life in all its stages. People often ask, "What can I do?" This month we focus on people who have boots on the ground on the local, state, federal and even international levels, who can share what they are doing and how

you can get involved, whatever your abilities and time allows. Head to the website at www.catholicaoc.org/beingprolife or watch the interviews and learn how to impact your local or broader community.

June 8: Cincinnati and Dayton Right to Life

June 15: Ohio Sen. Steve Huffman on state legislation

June 22: Tom McClusky, President of March for Life Action

June 29: Fighting Infanticide and Gendercide Across the Globe

JUNE

Adaptive rosary (St. Ignatius)

Are you still looking to be a part of the Marian Pilgrimage? Experience an Adaptive Rosary, mini-pilgrimage on a walking track, Mass, Baptism, and Holy Hour as part of our Archdiocesan Marian Pilgrimage events at St. Ignatius Parish in Cincinnati. For more information on times and location, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Pilgrimage Closing (Cincinnati)

The largest Marian pilgrimage in the United States comes to its final consecration event at Fountain Square in Downtown Cincinnati with a live-streamed reconsecration from the Cathedral Basilica St. Peter in Chains, and a family-friendly concert with Village Lights. For more details [CLICK HERE](#).

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Journeying With Mary

By: Noelle Collis-DeVito

Bicentennial Pilgrimage 2021

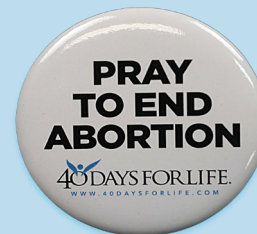
The Marian Pilgrimage has been a wonderful opportunity for renewal and devotion to Christ through the Blessed Mother here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and it has been such a privilege to be a witness to the faithful participation of so many individuals and families. The first week of the Pilgrimage, the Office for Persons with Disabilities led an "Adaptive Rosary Prayer Service" at Bremenfest Park in New Bremen. Families began to gather early in anticipation of the arrival of the pilgrims and the statue of Our Lady. They brought roses to place on the platform, and there was quite an enthusiastic welcome when the pilgrims finally arrived. We used large, poster-sized images for each of the prayers and mysteries of the Rosary, and it was almost completely led by children in the community. They held up the posters that were sometimes larger than the children holding them and led the prayers with great reverence. Sometimes an extra Hail Mary was recited and occasionally some of the words of the prayers were mistakenly omitted, but it was absolutely one of the most holy experiences of my life. Seeing so many children with such a heart for their faith was inspiring. It was almost as if I could hear Jesus saying, "Let the children come to me."

This Pilgrimage offers an opportunity for every person in our Archdiocese to participate in some capacity. There are daily events along the route that provide prayerful occasions for everyone to be engaged more deeply in their faith. [Check the map](#) to find a parish near you that is hosting an event and bring the whole family or a couple of friends. There is a [page for the Deaf Community](#) with ASL Resources and a list of events that are accessible for the Deaf. There will be more of the Adaptive Rosary Prayer Services throughout the Pilgrimage that offer an experience for families with children or persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to pray with visual aids and simplified language. To hear more about the incredible happenings along the route, join the [Facebook Group](#) for daily updates.



40 Days for Life

The Pilgrimage Makes Some Special Stops



As most of you know, the 40 Days for Life campaign officially launches twice each year, once during Lent and the other in the Fall, but did you know that people pray outside of the two abortion centers in the Archdiocese every day?

This year, the Archdiocesan Marian Pilgrimage will be making stops at each location as well. It will stop outside of the Kettering Center sometime in the afternoon on June 1, and outside the Cincinnati Planned Parenthood center sometime in the afternoon on June 18. Please make a plan to attend and pray for the intercession of Mary that the women who come to these centers in their time of crisis, actually receive the help they and their babies need. When we have more exact times to report, we will post them on our [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) or email us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org and we can email you back when we have more information. Thank you for your support of life!

Walking With Mom *Kara Ross*

Last year, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of *Evangelium Vitae*, the encyclical by Pope Saint John Paul II. With the anniversary of this pivotal document, the USCCB Respect Life Secretariat also launched the **WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED** initiative to help parishes better support women in crisis pregnancy. Often, people who are pro-life are accused of simply being pro-birth. While the issue of abortion is at the crux of the pro-life movement, pro-life people know that we are in this to help both baby and the mother.

The program is set up to be a year of service that the parish dedicates to helping women facing crisis pregnancies. In one year, a parish can create a core team and become an ongoing resource for those facing uncertain circumstances. It is never too late to begin this year of service! The Diocese of



Fort Worth in Texas is about to launch this program and we are praying that many lives are saved through their ministry. Check out the website for Fort Worth [HERE](#). If your parish is interested in starting the program, reach out to us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org. We will partner with you to begin this incredible journey!

belonging

Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities works to establish a culture of inclusion and meaningful participation for persons with disabilities and their families in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. If you have any questions or need any assistance, you can contact our office at opd@catholicaoc.org.

As we explore what it looks like to worship Together, it is important for our parishes to take pause and extend an invitation to persons with disabilities and their families. One excellent way to demonstrate that a parish community truly welcomes persons with disabilities is to host regularly scheduled Sensory-Friendly Liturgies. These liturgies are not difficult to implement. They only require some small accommodations such as lower lighting, softer music, and the use of a Children's Lectionary for a more literal interpretation of the readings; but by simply setting aside a regularly scheduled Mass to directly invite persons with sensory needs, you can send a message to persons with disabilities and their families that they are wanted and expected at your parish.

The Office for Persons with Disabilities has all the resources needed to assist parishes in implementing these basic changes to make Mass more accessible to persons with autism, Down Syndrome, Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Contact Noelle Collis-DeVito to begin the process of making your parish a place of belonging for all!

JUNE Father's Day

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God, giver of all life, human and divine, bless all fathers. May they be the best teachers of their children, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from the USCCB Prayer for Fathers

Religious Freedom Week

22-29

At the end of June, Catholics around the world will pray for Religious Freedom. Join us, June 22-29 as we pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad. This year's theme is Solidarity in Freedom. To check out the resources available for you and your parish, [CLICK HERE](#).



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Life Through the Cross

Adapted from Fr. Jeff Kemper

Over the years, white crosses have been displayed at churches to recognize the lives lost through abortion. Because it can be disheartening to see all of the crosses and realize how many babies have been lost, consider starting to display the crosses for a different purpose—to save future lives from abortion. Display the crosses and partner with your local pregnancy center to help remove one cross for each gift a donor makes directly to the pregnancy center. This is an opportunity to turn our sorrow to joy and share the great work of the pregnancy centers. Contact us today for more information on how to implement this at your parish!



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

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