



- 02** WELCOME
Adoption Month
Coordinator's Corner
- 03** Care for Caregivers
CCHD
Respect Life Award
Being Pro Life
- 04** The Youngest of Saints
Belonging
White Crosses
Project Rachel

RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

The End of Roe?

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

Have you heard of the upcoming Supreme Court case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*? Mississippi's Gestational Age Act was signed into law in March of 2018. In doing so, the people of Mississippi sought to better protect not only the life and dignity of unborn children, but also the health and wellbeing of pregnant mothers whose health is even more at risk with late-term abortions. Mississippi's law recognizes the medical reality that by 15 weeks, a baby has a heartbeat, can move and kick, can sense movement outside the mother's womb, has eyes and eyelids that are beginning to open, can hiccup, and can hear her or his mother's heartbeat. Mississippi's law is also consistent with what the vast majority of countries worldwide already do. In fact, the United States is an extreme outlier in abortion law, being one of only four countries that allows the abortion of a child any time during a woman's pregnancy. The other three are China, North Korea, and Canada. Shortly after Mississippi's law was

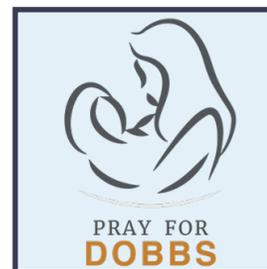
enacted in 2018, the only abortion clinic in Mississippi challenged the law. Last May, the Supreme Court granted review of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The specific question the Court will answer is whether a state may enact limits on abortion before viability. Many believe this case would require the Court to decide if *Roe v. Wade* or *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* ought to be overturned. Notably, the State of Mississippi explains in its brief that neither the right to an abortion nor a viability line have any basis in constitutional text or history, and that the medical research into fetal development over the last half century establishes that states have a compelling interest in protecting unborn life at 15 weeks.

What can we do? Pray and fast! Invite your entire parish to join Christians praying for the end to abortion and for the outcome of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*

Organization, an online event, **Thursday, November 18, at 8PM** at prayfordobbs.com. Please join Archbishop Schnurr for **5:15PM MASS** on **Tuesday, November 30** at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter-in-Chains, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as we pray in a special way for the dignity of all human life. If you

cannot attend, we will likely be able to livestream it as well, so check out our **FACEBOOK PAGE** for updates on that. Finally, check out this **LINK** to find other resources you can use to encourage your pastor to have a Mass, Holy Hour or a parish-wide Rosary for Life on December 1 and regularly from

now until the decision is reached, which is expected next summer. With God, all things are possible. Let us continue to hope and pray for the unborn and their mothers, to end the tragedy of abortion in this country.





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

November is Adoption Month

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

November is recognized as **National Adoption Month**. According to a news story on WLWT5, there are over 3,000 children in foster care in Ohio currently waiting to be adopted. Why do kids end up in foster care in the first place? The primary reasons are abuse and neglect, but other common reasons can be incarceration or death of a parent. An underlying current behind all of those reasons is often drug addiction, and the current opioid crisis is part of the reason for the recent increase in need.

Another piece of the problem is the age of children. The older a child is, the fewer families there are willing to take them in. Of the 64 licensed families in Warren County, only 5 of them are willing to take children older than 6; however, about 60% of the children in foster care in that county are over 6. That creates a serious need for foster families willing to take older children.

I invite you to consider being an adoptive parent. You do not have to be young, wealthy or have a large home, and agencies can even provide child care for families with working parents. What you do need, however, is a lot of love. No child enters the foster care system devoid of some trauma, and they can come with behavioral issues. Agencies will work with you, however, on whatever professional help a child needs. Contact your local agency, or check out some Ohio profiles **HERE**.

Of course, there are other ways to help as well. Invite a speaker to come to your Church to learn more about your local needs. You can also donate to your local child services agency. This time of year, you can even donate specifically to purchase Christmas presents for children who are in a living situation where they simply wouldn't have any presents to open from anyone otherwise. Contact your local agency to find out how to donate.

NOV All Souls and All Saints

01-02

As the Church year comes to a close, we take time to honor those we know are praying for us in Heaven and those who need our prayers in purgatory. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls gives us time also to walk with those who are bereaved. Take time to pray for those who are mourning.

Now and at the Hour...

07

Dayton Right to Life will be presenting on end of life issues at Saint Christopher's in Vandalia. Please join us in person or via live-stream. **REGISTER** by November 4th to secure a space.

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- Christ the King
- 03- January Resources
- 04- Action Alert!



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's Word of Life shares several resources for **Adoption Awareness Month** including a Novena to St. Joseph: For Those on a Path to Adoption. (PDF: **English | Spanish**) You can also find the **PRAY FOR LIFE** page that includes monthly prayers for moms in need written in both English and Spanish.
- 02 This month we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe. The USCCB puts out resources to encourage parishes to take this feast as an opportunity to focus on our first, most-precious freedom, that of religious liberty. Christ is our King regardless of our political affiliations. Check out the **WEBSITE** for resources to use in bulletins and in other media publications!
- 03 The General Instruction of the Roman Missal designates January 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, as a particular day of prayer and penance for the legal protection of unborn children. **CLICK HERE** to find an action guide and further resources to help parishes observe this day of prayer.
- 04 Contact Your Senator! The Catholic Conference of Ohio is urging all the faithful to contact their Ohio Senators to support a bill aimed at saving the lives of unborn children. Called the Human Life Protection Act (SB 123), this legislation would ban most abortions in Ohio in the event that Roe v. Wade is overturned, and states are given the power to set abortion policy. This legislation applies felony penalties to abortionists but provides immunity to mothers. **CHECK OUT THIS LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Who Cares for Caregivers?

By: Kara Ross



More than 6 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's disease. According to the Alzheimer's Association, caregivers provided an estimated 15.3 billion hours of care to people with this degenerative disease in 2020. As our population continues to age, more and more people will find themselves caring for a loved one. Providing care to the sick is a work of mercy. Those who are able to be full time caregivers know the regular grind of that care and how difficult it can become to see Christ in the face of the one you are serving.

Our job, as people of life, is to ensure that those who are offering mercy are supported and loved. We care for the Body of Christ by ensuring that caregivers do not feel alone or isolated as they work within a beautiful yet challenging ministry. Be the hands of Jesus to caregivers by offering to do a grocery run, spend time with the person who is ill so that their family can go Mass or get something to eat. There are also support groups for caregivers through **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHWEST OHIO** that can help provide a place to talk and be with others who understand what care giving entails.

Finally, our parishes must be places where we accept all of God's children and comfort them in times of illness. The National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities has **GREAT RESOURCES** on how we can be Christ to those who need us.

40 Days Finish

The Fall 40 Days for Life campaign has come to its end. Thank you to everyone who participated in the prayer vigils this year. God worked powerfully through the witness of those on the sidewalks both locally and nationally. We are thankful for each child saved during this time and we look forward to praying again in the Spring with the new campaign! It is never too early to start recruiting prayer warriors in your parish. If your parish has never participated, this is an excellent time to start! The **Spring Campaign** will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 2**. More details to come at www.40Days.com.

Respect Life Award

There is still plenty of time to nominate people for the **Respect Life Award!** This award is to honor anyone who works to spread the Gospel of Life in our community. Past winners have included those working in our pregnancy centers, those ministering to people in prison, and those who help post-abortive women heal from the trauma of abortion. Share with us the amazing stories of the culture of life. **CLICK HERE** to nominate someone today!

NOV Sensory Mass at St. Max

14

St. Maximilian Kolbe (Liberty Township) will be hosting a community-wide, Sensory-Friendly Mass on Sunday, November 14 at 2:00pm. A special invitation is extended to any person with sensory sensitivities, but all community members are welcome to attend. See the back page for more information.

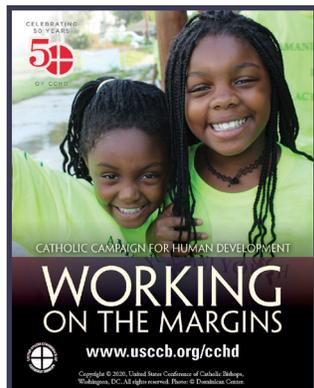
18

National Pray for Dobbs

As the SCOTUS prepares to hear arguments regarding **Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization**, join with Catholics and Protestants to pray that this care be the one that overturns Roe v Wade. **CLICK HERE** to register for the prayer vigil.

CCHD Fights for Dignity

By: Mickey Townsend



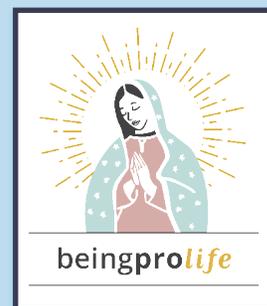
Fifty years ago the U.S. Catholic Bishops established a program that was specifically focused on addressing the root causes of poverty. The goal of the **CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD)** is to make systemic changes to racial and social-economic issues that hinder members of our community. CCHD's annual collection weekend is November 20-21, and everyone is encouraged to support this mandatory collection. The monies collected go to CCHD which then allocates the funds to grant recipients working to fight against injustices and systemic issues. Larger grants are distributed by the national office, and smaller grants are distributed by our **LOCAL CCHD OFFICE** (run out of the Catholic Social Action office). The money collected could help fund organizations such as Oasis House, an organization that helps women survivors of abuse, or Dream Builders, an after-school program that helps young kids learn leadership skills. One local organization that has received national grants is

Community Matters, which – among many other projects – opened a community laundromat. In addition to laundry, folks at the Washing Well encourage their neighbors to get involved in issues that affect their community. Resident Leader and artist Dominic Robinson paints window boards at the Washing Well laundromat, reminding everyone to make their voices heard. He then spends time out in the community registering his Lower Price Hill neighbors to vote.

CCHD needs your help to continue to stand up with – not for – our neighbors. Please consider donating on **November 20 and 21** to help support the fight against injustice.

Being Pro Life

Pray for Dobbs Special



Bob talks with Mary Parker, Director of Legislative Affairs for Ohio Right to Life, about the bill currently in the Ohio Senate that would make abortion illegal, should Roe v. Wade be overturned through the Dobbs case in the coming year. It isn't posted yet, but stay tuned for the podcast at **BEING PRO LIFE** (buzzsprout.com) or the **VIDEO HERE**, and listen in when it goes live later this month! You can also always check our **BEING PRO LIFE WEBPAGE** for more information and important resources for you to get involved.

The Youngest of Saints

Donna Murphy (author) is the Director of *Heaven's Gain Ministries*.

In November of 2006, I sat in Adoration and I looked up at the tabernacle and prayed. It had been a very hard year as we had lost our son that June. He was only 8" long but he was my baby, and always will be. With tears in my eyes, I bowed my head and prayed to Jesus, who is my only hope, that I will be with my baby again someday.

My son was already dead when he was born so he couldn't be baptized. Babies who die are often ignored by society and sometimes even by the Church. On All Soul's Day that year, I looked up and saw the names of the faithfully departed on a large banner. My sadness changed to anger as I realized my son's name was not on the banner. This was my church, which believes life begins at conception, yet they did not acknowledge him. This added to my sorrow and I cried tears of anger and sadness.

A couple years later, I realized why my pastor did not include my son's name. I learned the story of another family who lost their little girl just a week before she was due. My priest told this mother that her daughter's name did not belong on the banner because she wasn't in purgatory. He said that she never sinned and the more appropriate place for her would be on a separate banner for All Saints Day. Those words were so healing for me and still bring me joy to this day.

Please remember families who have lost a baby this month on the Feast of All Souls. They need others to acknowledge their baby's short but meaningful life and maybe repeat the words of Father Doerger, "the more appropriate place for her would be on a separate banner for All Saints Day."

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.

St. Maximilian Kolbe in conjunction with the Office for Persons with Disabilities of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be hosting a community-wide, Sensory-Friendly Mass on **Sunday, November 14 at 2:00pm**. A special invitation is extended to any person with sensory sensitivities, but all community members are welcome to attend. This Mass will include lower lighting and softer music. However, the biggest difference is the stigma free environment. Families and individuals are encouraged to get up and move if needed, to bring alternative seating, fidgets or noise cancelling headphones, and to participate in the liturgy just as they are. If you are interested in learning more about these liturgies, you can visit our **SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASS PAGE** or join us at this upcoming Mass to observe! Please contact Noelle at (937) 281-4128 or ndevito@catholicaoc.org for more information or with any questions.

NOV First Sunday of Advent

28

Happy New Year! In this season of Advent, let us joyfully await the birth of Christ at Christmas! Meditating on the fiat of Mary and her journey as the Mother of God can bring us closer to understanding the Incarnation. Check out this **BEAUTIFUL REFLECTION** from Father Peter West!

NOV Dobbs Mass

30

Please join Archbishop Schnurr for 5:15pm Mass on Tuesday, November 30 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter-in-Chains, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as we pray in a special way for the dignity of all human life. **CLICK HERE** for more information.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Contact Us

BOB WURZELBACHER
Director, Respect Life & Disabilities
bwurzelbacher@catholicaoc.org
(513) 263-6674

NOELLE COLLIS-DEVITO
Associate Director, Persons with Disabilities
ndevito@catholicaoc.org
(937) 281-4128

KARA ROSS
Associate Director, Respect Life
kröss@catholicaoc.org
(937) 281-4127



January is a time when parishes display the Cemetery of the Innocents in order to memorialize the millions of children lost to abortion. This is a powerful witness to the horror of abortion. As a Church of reconcilers, it is vital that we also include messages of hope and healing for those who have experienced abortion first hand. We ask that with each cross display, you 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.