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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

Walking with Moms in Need

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

When a woman finds herself in a crisis pregnancy, she needs more than just to be convinced that her unborn child is a person. She may need material assistance like clothes, diapers and formula. She may need counseling and relationship classes. She may need help with drug addiction for her and her baby. What she needs may be as simple as a listening ear, or as involved as a place to live for several months, along with job training and child care. In the end, she needs to know that there are people out there who are able to walk with her, no matter the circumstances, to help ensure her life and the life of her child, will hold more promise than she is able to see right at that moment. What it really comes down to is hope. She needs the hope that comes from Jesus, through the work of so many hands who do His work right here in this Archdiocese.

With that in mind, the USCCB began a program last year called "Walking with Moms in Need." It is an invitation for parishes to be active in promoting the existing resources within our

Archdiocese, to ensure that every mother in a crisis pregnancy knows how to find the help she needs to choose life for her child, whether through parenting or adoption.

To get started, head to the USCCB website at

www.walkingwithmoms.com.

Click on Get Started: Parish Resources, and check out the information webinar, the Action Guide Summary, and even a Parish Inventory Tool where you can sit down with a group from your parish and start to look at ways your parish can better educate your entire community on how to help moms in need. We are working on a webpage ourselves

to help you know what resources are in this Archdiocese. Check it out [HERE](#). It is a work in progress, so if you know of anything that needs to be added to our site, please let us know!

This isn't about turning your parish into a pregnancy care center. This is about making sure everyone at your parish knows what resources are out there—including the nearest pregnancy care center, material assistance services and other agencies—so that

when someone is in need, you are ready to help. As Pope Francis reminded us in a 2015 address, "...our parishes and communities [should] become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference." We should all know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

For a little more inspiration, please check out [our interview with](#)

[Kat Talalas from the USCCB](#) on their Walking with Moms initiative. Together, we can all make sure every mom in crisis finds the help she needs to choose life!





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!

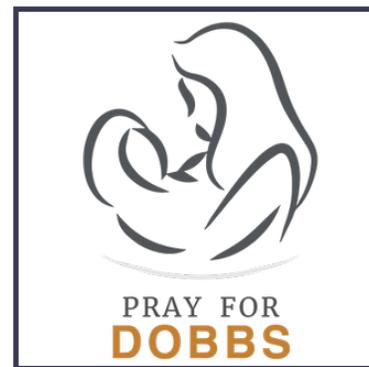
Bob Wurzelbacher

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

Keep Praying for Dobbs!

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

In the United States, abortion has taken the lives of over 60 million babies since 1973, and still well over 600,000 each year. An upcoming Supreme Court case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, could change that, as the court considers the question of whether it is constitutional to ban abortion at any point pre-viability. This could be the case that we have been waiting over a generation for, that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Parish leaders are asked to invite parishioners to pray and fast in any number of ways from December 1st (the beginning of oral arguments) and the following months until the case is decided next summer. With God, all things are possible. Encourage your parish to start a weekly **ROSARY FOR LIFE**. Invite your friends to make personal sacrifices for the cause. To find even more resources for additional prayer opportunities- **CLICK HERE**. Let us continue to pray and fast for the unborn and their mothers, to end the tragedy of abortion in this country.



DECEMBER Immaculate Conception

08

On this Solemnity, we reflect on the blessing bestowed upon Saint Anne to bear a child without sin. Mary the Mother of Jesus was sinless upon conception and became the new ark of the covenant. It is also the National Night of Prayer for Life. **CLICK HERE** for more information on how to participate.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

12

This is a special feast for all who work to spread the Gospel of Life. Our Lady is the Patroness of life and this is why we use her image for our **BEING PRO LIFE** logo! The image of our Lady on Saint Juan Diego's tilma shows that she is with child. Take time to reflect on the miracle of life today!

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- 9 Days for Life
- 03- Immaculate Conception
- 04- January Action Guide



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's Word of Life includes resources for Respect Life Month focused around St. Joseph as a defender of life. (PDF: **English** | **Spanish**) Also included are a sample intercession for each Sunday of the month, bulletin quotes and artwork. You can also find the **PRAY FOR LIFE** page that includes monthly prayers for moms in need written in both English and Spanish.
- 02 The 9 Days for Life Novena is starting next month! This is a chance to prayerfully enter into the March for Life and the many other prayer events that surround the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. The program includes intentions and suggestions for fasts each day. **CLICK HERE** to find out more and consider starting a group at your parish to lead the community in 9 Days for Life!
- 03 On December 8 we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. **CLICK HERE** to download a bulletin insert recognizing the importance of this feast day. You can also access Pope Francis' **PRAYER FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**. You can also offer this **PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**. The front of the printed **PRAYER CARD** seeks the intercession of Mary Immaculate.
- 04 January is a busy time for Respect Life efforts across our nation. The USCCB Pro Life Secretariat has created a wonderful **ACTION GUIDE** for Parish Respect Life Coordinators to use in planning events that focus on the issue of abortion. Our office can also help organize events this month!

A Project Rachel Testimony

By: Kara Ross

The holidays can be a difficult time for the men and women who have lost a child to abortion. They are reminded that they are unable to celebrate the birth of Christ with their full family. No matter how long a person has been healing from that experience, the pain and guilt can quickly resurface. Project Rachel is here for those who need support as they mourn their child and find reconciliation with God and with the Church. May the testimony of one woman in the ministry be a source of hope for all those in need of healing.

"Once I claimed and named my baby, my heart began to soften. I began to let go of the guilt & shame, and mourn the loss of my baby. I was able to accept God's forgiveness and work on forgiving myself. My heart was filling with love from God & my daughter. I go to the cemetery and visit the Rachel statue to honor my daughter. My daughter is my intercessor, I pray to her for support and guidance for myself, my husband & her brothers. I not have my daughter here with me on earth but I have her forever in my heart. She has helped through many situations. I shared my story with a young woman who was pregnant and unsure if she should keep the baby. She decided to keep the baby and she brought her over to introduce me to her. That day was a gift from God, I didn't save my daughter but between my daughter's support & me we saved that little girl. God has blessed me many times with His grace & mercy, I am grateful that now I am able to see and feel His gifts to me. Project Rachel changed my life."

Please [EMAIL PROJECT RACHEL](#) for more information.

The End of the Year of St. Joseph

With the start of Advent, we reach the end of the year of Saint Joseph. This has been a great year to meditate on how Joseph accepted the Gospel of Life when called to be the foster father of Jesus. Joseph was asked to be the leader and protector of the Holy Family. He accepted his role in the drama of salvation and remains for us a powerful intercessor as we answer the call of the Gospel in our own lives. Each of us is called to witness to the dignity of life within our vocation. While the official year may be over, we can always ask Saint Joseph for the strength to respond to God's call, even when we are unsure how it will all come together in the end. Continue to foster your relationship with this pro life saint as we move into a new liturgical year. May his example of fatherhood inspire us all to trust in our Heavenly Father's plans for us.

Beacons of Light Survey

Effective leadership from priests, deacons, lay staff and other parish leaders will be critical to the success of **BEACONS OF LIGHT** and the future of our Families of Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. During 2022, there will be opportunities for formation in leadership, growth in the skills needed to lead pastoral planning, and orientation to the Beacons process itself. Please give us feedback by **December 10** on what opportunities for formation, training and topics you would benefit from the most, what media and times work best for you, and your thoughts on how we can all be better leaders in our Church.

DECEMBER

Christmas for the Preborn

15

Please join us for a one-hour vigil of song and prayer, fellowship, hot apple cider, and cookies to commemorate the lives of the preborn babies lost through elective abortion. This event is held each year during Advent outside the Women's Med Center abortion facility. It begins at 11:00am. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

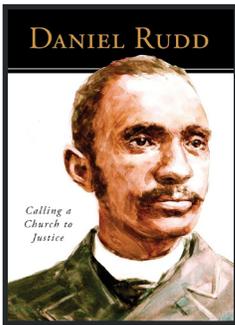
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Christmas Day

As we celebrate the coming of our Saviour, let us embrace the call to renewal and rebirth in our faith. May we work to proclaim the Gospel of Life through our works, actions, and prayers. For resources on how to live out Christmas in the New Year, [CLICK HERE](#).

Honoring Daniel Rudd

By: Andrew Musgrave



An Ohio Historical Marker, installed on the grounds of St Raphael (225 E Spring St., Springfield) to commemorate Daniel Rudd, will be dedicated on Sun. 12/5 at 1:00pm.

Who is Daniel Rudd? He was born into slavery in 1854 and moved to Springfield after the Civil War. Having been born and raised Catholic, he joined St. Raphael, and their philosophy of racial equality solidified his vision of justice.

By 1885 Rudd had established his own weekly newspaper. He rebranded it The American Catholic Tribune (ACT) after moving to Cincinnati and claimed it was the only Catholic newspaper owned by an African American. At its height it had a circulation of 10,000, and in 1893 Rudd was asked to chair the Afro-American Press Association.

Rudd explained his vision: "We will...show that it (the Catholic Church) is worthy of at least a fair consideration at the hands of our race, being as it is the only place on this Continent where rich and poor, white and black, must drop prejudice at the threshold and go hand in hand to the altar."

In 1888 Daniel Rudd, endorsed by Archbishop Elder, formed the Congress of Colored Catholics. The delegates gathered, worshiped, and met with political leaders, including President Grover Cleveland. Today this organization lives on as the National Black Catholic Congress. Throughout his life, Rudd fought segregation and inequality in schools, hospitals, and other public accommodations.

Finally, more than 85 years after his death, the life and work of Rudd are being honored. Andrew Musgrave, director of the Catholic Social Action Office, is thrilled to support bringing this long-overdue memorial to fruition. "Rudd is a critical figure in Black Catholicism in Ohio and the United States, and our office is honored to help make this dream a reality."

Being Pro-Life

Podcast Resources

Have you ever wondered why the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was chosen for our Being Pro Life logo? Our Lady of Guadalupe is known as the Patroness of the Unborn. In this image, given to St. Juan Diego



in 1531, Mary is pregnant, speaking to the Aztecs and Christians of the time, as well as our time today, of the dignity of human life. There are also many details about the image that can only be explained as miraculous. Check out our interview [HERE](#) with Fr. Ethan Moore about the miraculous story of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, some of the inexplicable details in the image, and why it is an icon of the pro-life movement today. You can also always check our [BEING PRO LIFE WEBPAGE](#) for great information and important resources for you to get involved.

Welcome Becky Schoenfeld!



We would like to introduce everyone to our new Associate Director for Respect Life Ministry, Becky Schoenfeld. Becky is replacing Kara Ross, who has done a fantastic job with us for the past 3 years out of the Dayton office. Taking over for Kara, Becky will be heading up our Project Rachel Ministry and social media pages, as well as taking over most of the website maintenance. She will work part-time out of the Cincinnati office.

Becky grew up on the westside of Cincinnati in a large, Catholic family. In 2013, she earned her bachelor's degree in music from Mount St. Joseph University, and began teaching at local grade schools within the Archdiocese. In 2019, she became Music Director for St. Ann Catholic Church. During that time, she felt a strong call to be involved in pro-life ministry and began volunteering for Pregnancy Center West as a client advocate. After much discernment, she and her husband, Jason, then decided to pursue the journey of adoption to grow their family. "The Respect Life movement has touched my life in such a powerful and personal way. I'm so grateful to continue this mission through the work of the Project Rachel Ministry and the other ministries within the Archdiocese." Becky and Jason have been married for 5 years and have a dog named Ranger, who is patiently waiting to be upgraded to "big brother."

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.

You have heard mention of Sensory-Friendly Liturgies recently, particularly from our office, but what are they and why are they important?

On Wednesday, December 8 at 1:00pm, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability will be hosting a learning session pertaining to Sensory-Friendly Mass. This learning session will provide information on creating an accepting environment for persons with disabilities by providing accommodations during Mass so they can have meaningful participation and experience in the Eucharistic celebration. Noelle Collis-DeVito, from our very own Office for Persons with Disabilities will be one of the presenters at this online session. If you are interested in learning more about these liturgies, why they are important, and what they entail, [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the event.

JANUARY Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

22

One of the greatest violations of human dignity in our nation is the act of abortion. January 22 marks a shameful day in our nation. Let us take time to pray and fast for an end to abortion and for healing for all who have participated in an abortion in some way. For prayer service and liturgical resources [CLICK HERE](#).

JANUARY 9 Days for Life

19-27

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. [CLICK HERE](#) to access countless resources for parishes and personal prayer.



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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.