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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

In Full Communion

Christine Baumgardner, Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Sorrows in Monroe, shares her experience preparing two very special young men to receive their Sacraments.

“Over the summer months I had the privilege of working with the McClure and McBee families so that their children, Colin and Bryce, could receive the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Working with the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) made this a much easier process than I ever imagined it would be. Both Colin and Bryce have profound cognitive disabilities that made me wonder how this information could be presented in such a way that they would understand it.



Both do not talk but do verbalize and give great non-verbal cues to indicate understanding. Per the recommendation of Noelle (former Associate Director of the OPD) we used the Loyola Press adaptive catechesis program. Both sets of parents were equipped and qualified to catechize their children, which helped immensely. I checked in with them frequently throughout this process and would see them at Mass. Both

families reported how much they liked the adaptive catechesis products and found them easy to use and implement at home. Two weeks before the liturgy we practiced for the big day. The practice, quite honestly, was more for the clergy and liturgical ministers, than for the young men. All did fantastic and there were few

changes we needed to make. Of course, the day of the sacraments didn't go quite as planned, but Fr. Paul Gebhardt (pastor) pivoted well and followed the cues from the boys. Making small adaptations to what we planned vs. what we did I believe made it even more meaningful to the candidates and their families. The wonderful news? We have two more fully initiated Catholics to celebrate in our Archdiocese.”





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

Annual Respect Life Award



Do you know someone who is a defender of life? Consider nominating them for the Respect Life Award!

The requirements for a qualified candidate are:

Nominees must be Catholic, living out his or her faith in a visible way, and "proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who

receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self, and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence" (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life. A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2001, page 1). This award encompasses work in areas such as abortion, care for the chronically ill, disabled or dying, advocacy for prisoners and victims of violent crime, and a host of other issues covered by the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities.

Submissions are due Friday, November 4th, 2022. The award will be given out at the Respect Life Mass on January 15th, 2023. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

September

National Day of Remembrance

10

Gate of Heaven Cemetery will be hosting a prayer service for the National Day of Remembrance for children lost to abortion. For more information click [HERE](#).

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

28

40 Days for Life will begin their fall campaign! To sign up for a campaign near you, click [HERE](#).

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- Respect Life Collection
- 03- Called to Serve
- 04- Webinar for Respect Life Month

Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE**, intercessions for life, new Respect Life materials, bulletin quotes, graphics for your bulletin and social media, and more! Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 02 Parishes all across our archdiocese will be having a collection for the Respect Life Fund during Respect Life Sunday. This collection will be on October 2nd and October 3rd. You can also give online [HERE](#). Thank you for your generosity!
- 03 **CALLED TO SERVE** features more materials for Respect Life Month, prayers for pregnant mothers, and flyers for **WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED**. These graphics can be used on social media, bulletins, or to post around your campus/ church gathering space.
- 04 The USCCB presented a **WEBINAR** for parishes to prepare for Respect Life Month and how to get your parish involved! Check out these **SLIDES** that feature action guides, homily helps, intercessions, and more!



High School Highlight



Starting in October, we would like to begin highlighting local high school respect life clubs and what they are doing to promote the Gospel of Life in their schools and communities.

Last year, we featured several enthusiastic young people from our local high schools on our Being Pro Life podcast. Head to our **VIDEO CHANNEL** and scroll down to

videos 50-53 to check out those interviews or listen to the audio versions on our podcast **HERE**.

If you know of a school that is doing something really great for the pro-life cause, please let us know so we can feature them in our newsletter! You can email us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org

We are looking forward to seeing all the amazing things that our young people are doing for women, our communities, and those who are the most vulnerable. Thank you for all you do to continue spreading the Gospel of Life!

The State of Abortion After Dobbs

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

As you know, Ohio's Heartbeat Bill has been in effect since June 24th, when the Dobbs case overturned Roe and Casey, restricting abortion in Ohio upon detection of a fetal heartbeat. Kentucky has banned all abortions with rare exception, and Indiana just passed an abortion ban that goes into effect in mid-September. Because surgical abortions are not typically performed prior to the development of the child's detectable heartbeat, most abortions that legally still occur in Ohio are going to be through chemical abortion. The surgical abortion centers in our area are still seeing clients, but they now are either being pressured into an abortion more quickly than before, or actively referred to an affiliate in the nearest state with less abortion restriction (such as Michigan or Illinois). So, despite the big win of the Heartbeat Bill in Ohio, there is still much work to do to give every child an opportunity at life, and save every woman from the tragedy of abortion.

We still have women in difficult pregnancies. Please continue to support our pregnancy care centers in your local communities. We also need to advocate for stronger laws that shut down our abortion centers so they can't refer people to other states. Finally, we need to continue to fast and pray for a complete end to abortion. Unlike the abortion industry, the pro-life community actually supports the life and health of women and their children.

September

Braver Angels

29

'**DEPOLARIZING WITHIN**' is a virtual workshop that helps participants develop strategies to engage in politics without demonizing, and constructively intervene in social conversations with like-minded peers. This is the first of a three-part series that will be offered free of charge.

October

Respect Life Fund Collection

01-02

This annual collection is used to help fund grants for local pro-life organizations. Check out our **PROMOTIONAL VIDEO**, share on social media, and Inform your parish about this collection. If your parish doesn't have the collection, or for those who are unable to attend Mass, you can also **DONATE ONLINE**.

Civility & Peace During the Election Season

By: Andrew Musgrave

We all know how divided our society (and – even more tragically – our Church) has become. We've become so entrenched in our political identities that we've lost sight of who we are, especially who we are as sisters and brothers in Christ. In an attempt to heal ourselves and our community from these dehumanizing and demonizing behaviors, the Respect Life and Catholic Social Action offices are partnering with **BRAVERANGELS** to offer a series of three on-line workshops during the election season.

- On Thursday Sept. 29, we'll offer '**DEPOLARIZING WITHIN**', a workshop that teaches participants to look within and develop strategies for engaging politics without demonizing, and how to constructively intervene in social conversations with like-minded peers.
- On Thursday October 20, we'll offer '**SKILLS FOR BRIDGING THE DIVIDE**', a workshop to help you through difficult political conversations with people in your life, considering how to talk across the divide in a constructive, empathetic way (<https://SkillsBridgingDivide.eventbrite.com>).
- And finally, on Thursday Nov. 10 (two days after Election Day and just two weeks before Thanksgiving), we'll offer '**FAMILIES AND POLITICS**', a workshop that shows how we can talk about politics with our loved ones in a way that brings us closer together – not pulls us farther apart.

You can register at the links listed above, and you can attend one, two, or all three of the sessions. **All workshops will start at 6:30pm, are offered free of charge, and will be offered virtually.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Andrew Musgrave at amusgrave@catholicaoc.org. We look forward to meeting, praying, and working with you for a more compassionate world.

Being Pro-Life

40 Days for Life



Even though Roe has fallen, we are continuing our 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigils. Starting on September 28, we will begin our 40 Days Fall Campaign. As this date approaches, we

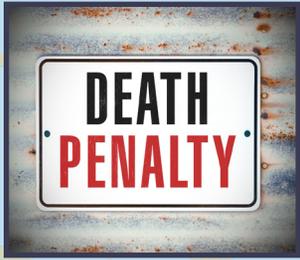
encourage you to get involved. If you have never prayed outside of an abortion clinic, attend one of the upcoming vigils as we raise our voices to God to proclaim the Gospel of Life. If you have previously attended a vigil, consider signing up for a shift or two outside of the clinic to cover those inside with prayer.

We will continue our 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigils until every abortion center is closed permanently, and every life cherished from conception to natural death.

To learn more about 40 Days for Life in your area, click **HERE** to find a campaign near you!

Ohio Innocence Tour

By: Bekky Baker



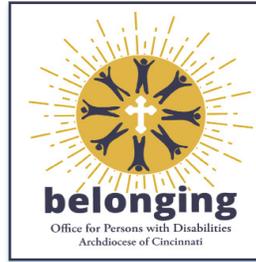
The #NoDeathPenaltyOH campaign, in partnership with our friends at Witness to Innocence and the Ohio Innocence Project, is hosting the statewide Ohio Innocence Tour in October, featuring the voices of men and women who spent years — sometimes decades — on death row,

for crimes they didn't commit. Cincinnati will host the tour on Monday, October 10th at the University of Cincinnati College of Law building from 7 - 8:30pm and will feature the stories of **KWAME AJAMU**, Derrick Jamison, and Ray Krone.

Wrongful conviction is far too common, especially on death row. For every five people Ohio has executed, we have exonerated one person. At this event, you will hear the powerful stories of facing death for a crime people did not commit and learn about ways to end the death penalty to protect the sanctity of all life. You can find more information [HERE](#). You can RSVP on Facebook [HERE](#).

A Deaf Mass with Fr. Mike Depcik

By: Lisa Averion



Our office celebrated Mass with Fr. Mike Depcik and the Deaf Community in July. Fr. Depcik, a graduate of St. Rita School for the Deaf in Cincinnati, Ohio, has a Master of Arts degree in Divinity from Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary and Master of Arts degree in Mental Health Counseling from Gallaudet University. He is one of the few Catholic deaf priests in the world.

On October 8, 2022, our Deaf Community will be celebrating Mass with Archbishop Schnurr and Fr. Mike Depcik. We would like to invite the hearing community to join us in the celebration at St. Francis of Assisi, Centerville. Reconciliation: 1:30pm (deaf community only) Mass: 3:00pm. Interpreters will be present. We will have a small reception following the Liturgy.

Please spread the word about this beautiful ministry as it continues to grow and serve the deaf and hard of hearing community throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Please contact Lisa Averion for more information at laverion@catholicaoc.org

October Ohio March for Life

05

We are encouraging everyone to organize your groups, churches, schools, etc. and join us in Columbus, OH for the Ohio March for Life. **REGISTER HERE!** If you are planning a trip, let us know by emailing respectlife@catholicaoc.org.

October Deaf Mass with Fr. Mike

08

Archbishop Schnurr and Fr. Mike Depcik will celebrate Mass for our Deaf Community. This is a beautiful opportunity for our hearing and Deaf Community to share in the Sacred Liturgy together. All are invited to attend. There will be an ASL interpreter available. 3:00pm Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville, OH.



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Contact Us

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

LISA AVERION
Associate Director, Persons with Disabilities
laverion@catholicaoc.org
(937) 281-4128

BECKY SCHOENFELD
Associate Director, Respect Life
bschoenfeld@catholicaoc.org
(513) 263-3366



Project Rachel Ministry

By: Project Rachel Team

In July, the Project Rachel Ministry was featured on Spectrum 1 News! Fr. Norm Langenbrunner, Mary Anne Boyd, and Becky Schoenfeld were each interviewed about their involvement with the ministry. The interview was done shortly after the decision of *Dobbs* was released.

During the interview, Fr. Norm discusses the importance of God's grace and forgiveness and how that plays an essential role in the healing journey for women and men seeking hope after an abortion experience. Mary Anne Boyd speaks about her founding experience in bringing this ministry to Cincinnati and how the Holy Spirit worked in her life so that Project Rachel could get off the ground and reach the women in the tristate area. Becky Schoenfeld, Coordinator of the Project Rachel Ministry, shares the resources available to women and men that are in need of services, whether that be counseling, therapy, support groups, or a weekend retreat.

Check us out on Spectrum News [HERE!](#)

If you would like the Project Rachel Ministry to come and speak at your school or parish, please contact **BECKY SCHOENFELD**. Feel free to contact us at: (513) 784-0531 or visit ProjectRachelOhio.org