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# RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

## End of Life Decision Making

*By: Bob Wurzelbacher*

Two years ago, I wrote an article mentioning the experience I had going through the death of my father and that of my father-in-law. Because we had family meetings and discussed issues in advance, my father's end-of-life care went relatively smoothly. Because we did not do that for my father-in-law, many decisions were fraught with agonizing questioning and second-guessing, unsure of the best course of action. I'm sure that if my father-in-law realized what he was going to put his daughter through, he would have acted differently before he became too sick to make decisions for himself. As it was, he was unwilling to have those conversations when it really could have made a difference.

It can be uncomfortable discussing sickness, illness and death. Many of us perhaps presume we will all die quietly in our sleep at an appropriate old age, so there is no need. However, **ACCORDING TO THE CDC**, the vast majority of people die in hospitals or hospice care, involving end-of-life decision making. It can be difficult to care for a loved one in the dying process. Adding to that the struggles of wondering what the best course of action is for care when you cannot consult your loved one—whether due to an inability to communicate or a lessened ability to understand what is happening—can make things vastly more difficult, perhaps especially when multiple

family members are involved. Taking care to avoid putting all that burden on children or spouses, while perhaps uncomfortable at first, can be the greatest gift you can give them if the time comes.

You may wonder what there is to discuss. The Catholic Church of course does not condone assisted suicide, and thus we should always be respecting the dignity and sacredness of life until natural death. At the same time, we do not believe that every treatment is appropriate in every circumstance, and in some situations it is appropriate to decline treatment and allow a person to more peacefully enter the dying process. There is a lot of gray area there, and that is where advance conversation and planning can be helpful.

As Catholics, we commonly use the terms "ordinary" and "extraordinary" care to help us decide what type of treatment must be used, and what is optional. Often times, these distinctions can be differentiated by questions about whether a particular treatment will provide real and proportionate benefit compared to the burden it may cause. Levels of



effectiveness, pain of side-effects, and even cost can all be factors in deciding if some treatments should not be pursued.

I should also point out that it is not possible to plan out in advance the details of all decision-making that could happen, and trying to do so risks making unethical choices. Many standard forms make those very mistakes. We can, however, spell out some general principles, then officially appoint a health care power of attorney to make the final decisions for us, in the event we become physically or mentally incapacitated.

To read more, I recommend a website put out by Greater Columbus Right to Life, found at **FAITHFULATTHEENDOFLIFE.ORG**. There you will find further explanations of Catholic teaching on end of life, as well as ethical forms for you to use to prepare you or your loved ones for who should be making decisions in the event someone becomes unable to speak for themselves. Take some time to read through these tips and fill out the appropriate forms. This could be the best gift you give your family.



# 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

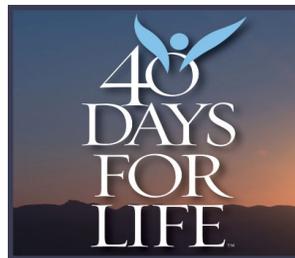
for those with disabilities or victims of violent crime. It is a monumental task, but one worth pursuing. What is needed is people of love and humility, devoted to God, immersed in the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, and open to the direction of the Holy Spirit in helping others bring a greater respect for 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!

*Bill Wunglbacher*

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

## 40 Days Closing Vigils



On October 14th, the Heartbeat Bill was suspended by a county judge here in Ohio. This means that abortions are obtainable again in Ohio up to 20 weeks, putting more lives at risk. This issue will surely come to the Ohio Supreme Court in 2023, so be sure to take that position into consideration when you cast your vote for judges on November 8th! We

must continue to do what we can to protect each human life, and serve those in need within our communities.

Consider also joining a 40 Days for Life Closing Vigil on November 6th in **CINCINNATI** or **DAYTON**. With the federal government trying to hard to stifle our voice through its lack of investigation of pro-abortion violence and active pursuit of pro-life witness, it is more important than ever to sign up to participate in your local **40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN**. The campaign runs every day, 7am-7pm, from now through November 6th.

For more information check out the **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** page.

### November

#### All Saints and All Souls Day

01 & 02

As we remember our loved ones who have gone before us in the hope of the Resurrection, we reflect upon how we are called to prepare for passage from this life into eternal life. These **END-OF-LIFE CONSIDERATIONS** will help us prepare for death, not with fear, but with the hope of living peacefully with God for eternity.

05

#### Deaf Retreat with Fr. Shawn Carey

Location: St. Francis DeSales  
20 Desales Dr., Lebanon, OH  
Retreat: 9:00am-1:30pm, Reconciliation:1:30pm  
Mass: 3:00 Potluck: 4:00-6:00pm  
Questions? Contact Lisa Averion at  
[LAVERION@CATHOLICAOC.ORG](mailto:LAVERION@CATHOLICAOC.ORG)

## Coordinator's Corner

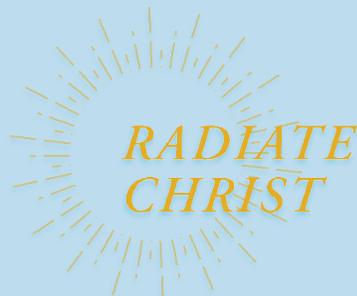
This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at [respectlife@catholicaoc.org](mailto:respectlife@catholicaoc.org).

01- Word of Life

02- The Truth about Women's Health

03- Solemnity of Christ the King

04- Hospice and Palliative Care Month



## Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes information on Adoption Awareness Month featuring an **ADOPTION STORY**, accompanying **EXPECTANT MOTHERS CONSIDERING ADOPTION**, and a **NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH** for those on the path of adoption, intercessions for life, and more!
- 02 The truth about abortion and women's health is a one-page resource that dispels the myths which claim that restriction to abortion will limit a women's access to life-saving healthcare. Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 03 The Solemnity of Christ the King was instituted as a means to counter the strong pull to eliminate Christian influence from political life. The Solemnity of Christ the King is a fitting moment in the liturgical year to promote the Church's teaching on religious freedom. Check out these resources containing a **NOVENA**, **LECTIONARY NOTES**, and **SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS** available!
- 04 November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. This is a great time to highlight the topics of hospice, palliative care, and the importance of end-of-life decisions. More information can be found **HERE**.

## Highlighting Seton High School's Saints for Life Club



The Saints for Life Club mission is to inspire in our community a desire to recognize the inherent dignity of human life at every stage and in every moment, and to work together to reflect and echo this message throughout the world. The Saints for Life Club meets twice a month to pray together for respect for human life at every stage and age, and to plan ways to support

efforts in our community to foster and truly live out a respect for all human life. In October the Saints for Life were blessed to have Joanna Kunath from Pregnancy Center West come and speak to the girls about chastity. They also participated in a spiritual adoption where each member received a prayer card and small "baby blanket" to remind them to pray for the next nine months for an unborn child in danger of abortion. The Saints will also hold a "baby shower" drive where they will collect items for local pregnancy centers. We end the day with baby shower games and celebrate the families that our donations will support. We will also attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C., as we continue to share with the world the beauty of God's plan for each human life.

*If you know of a high school doing awesome things for life, tell us about it! Email us at [RESPECTLIFE@CATHOLICAOC.ORG](mailto:RESPECTLIFE@CATHOLICAOC.ORG).*

## Beacons of Light Updates



**Beacons Roundtable: For Parish Leaders**  
**When: Tuesday, November 8th & 22nd,**  
**1:30pm- 3pm, Online**

Join other parish leaders – priests, deacons, lay staff, and parishioner leaders – to focus on success in Phase 1 of Beacons of Light. November 8th will focus the vision for parish vitality and forming a Love in Action team. We'll talk on November 22nd about how to foster a culture of Stewardship in your Family of Parishes and look ahead to creating a vision for your Family in Phase 2.

To find more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

November

40 Days Closing Vigil

06

Join us at 2:00pm in **CINCINNATI** or **DAYTON**.  
 Cincinnati: 2413 Auburn Ave. Cincinnati, OH  
 Dayton: 1401 E. Stroop Rd. Kettering, OH

09 & 14

Now and at the Hour...

Join us to learn about how to get started on planning a Catholic funeral and what the Church teaches on key **END-OF-LIFE ISSUES**.

Topics include:

Planning the Catholic funeral, What the Church teaches about cremation, and navigating difficult end-of-life decisions with your loved ones from a Catholic perspective.

## Catholic Campaign for Human Development

*By: Andrew Musgrave*

As you well know, the Catholic Church has long been one of the strongest supporters of life across the globe. We are a people of faith who believe in the dignity of every person, taking special care of the poor and all of God's creation and standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers across the globe. We carry this out both through direct service to people (e.g. donating food and providing shelter) and the commitment to changing systems that seek to marginalize and impoverish people. To address this second goal, the U.S. bishops established the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), a program that strives to empower people in poverty, supporting them as they work to restore their own dignity and strengthen their community. To learn more about the program, check out the website [HERE](#).

Every year, on the weekend before Thanksgiving, the Church takes up a collection to support these efforts. CCHD is the primary vehicle through which the U.S. Catholic Church fights poverty, and by contributing to this campaign you are supporting thousands of Catholics and their partners in creating a more just and compassionate society.

The CCHD collection weekend takes place this year on Nov. 19th and 20th. Envelopes should be available at your church, but if not, you can send your donation directly to the Archdiocese Pastoral Center and mark "CCHD" in the Memo line.

Here in our Archdiocese, we currently support nine wonderful non-profits with local grants, and three amazing non-profits receive larger national grants. Please prayerfully consider supporting this critical program, and if you have any questions, please contact our CCHD Diocesan Director, Andrew Musgrave, at 513.263.6691 or check out the [WEBSITE](#).

## Being Pro-Life Heaven's Gain Ministries

The month of November is dedicated to the those who have gone before us, and children who died in their mother's wombs are no exception.



We must be ready to healp women and families who have lost a child to miscarriage or stillbirth. **LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST** or **CHECK OUT THE VIDEO INTERVIEW** with Nick and Christine who share their story on the loss of their daughter, Hope, through miscarriage, and how Donna Murphy of Heaven's Gain helped them through that challenging time. The interview also includes tips on what to say and not to say if you know someone who has suffered the loss of a child.

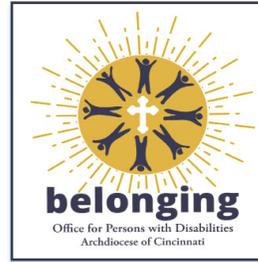
## Nominate for the Respect Life Award!



Do you know someone who is deserving of this award? Nominate them by clicking the link below!

Click **HERE** for more information and to complete the nomination form.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, November 4th!



The month of October was busy for the Office for Persons with Disabilities as they joined the Center for the New Evangelization XLT Tour for three stops. OPD was able to offer a sensory room during the tour for those who needed a break from the noise, smell of incense, music, or space.

For the event at St. Mary of the Assumption, Springboro an ASL interpreter was present. It was a blessing to have Reagan sign the message from Joel Stepanek from Life Teen, the music during adoration, and prayer during benediction. It was an inclusive environment for all those embracing the opportunity to spend time with Jesus!

Please spread the word about this beautiful ministry as it continues to grow and serve the special needs community throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Please contact Lisa Averion for more information at **LAVERION@CATHOLICAOC.ORG**

### November Trauma Informed Care

# 15 & 16

A workshop for Pregnancy Care Center workers with Dr. Josh Englefield, MSSA, LISW-S. This workshop will be offered on Tuesday, November 15th in Cincinnati and Wednesday, November 16th in Dayton from 9:30am- 3:30pm. Register **HERE**.

### December Night of Prayer for Life

# 08-09

We traditionally gather on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to spend time in adoration and pray the Rosary for Life to Our Lady for the end of abortion. Invite your pastor to hold a holy hour sometime that evening. **CLICK HERE** for more information on how to participate.



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## Contact Us

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## Project Rachel Ministry

By: Project Rachel Team



What a busy year we have had! From redesigning our website to retreat weekends, Days of Reflection and support groups, presenting to the seminarians and deacons, we are blessed to continue our work in this ministry and bring healing to those who need it most. Our next Day of Reflection will be Saturday, March 4th, 2023. Days of Reflection are open to anyone, including men, who have been effected by an abortion. Please share this information with anyone that may need it!

Thank you to all the parishes who also displayed a Project Rachel banner during the Cemetery of Innocence white cross weeks in October. All of our banners were loaned out! Because of this, women and men who pass those crosses will know that there is healing and forgiveness from God's boundless mercy. To request a banner email us at **PROJECTRACHEL@CATHOLICAOC.ORG**

We encourage you to share our ministry with your church, school, workplace, etc., to spread the news of forgiveness and mercy. You can find various printable materials **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**