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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

A Second Look at the Racial Disparity of Abortion

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

Pro-life activists have been pointing out for a long time that the founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, had eugenics in mind (based primarily on race and disability), and this bias still carries true with their practices today. It is undeniable that abortion disproportionately effects minority populations.

Take a look at the table below I gathered from the 2021 *Induced Abortions in Ohio* report from the Ohio Department of Health:

Ohio Resident Abortions

	2011		2021	
White	12,166	52.3%	8,036	38.8%
Black	8,986	38.6%	9,234	44.6%
Other	2,098	9.0%	3,446	16.6%
Total	23,250		20,716	

While total abortion numbers have gone down over the past 10 years in Ohio, they have only gone down among whites. Abortions have actually increased among blacks and those listed as "other". While whites used to be the majority of abortions in Ohio, they now consist of less than 40%, even though whites make

up **OVER 80% OF THE OHIO POPULATION**. Since blacks and African Americans make up only 13% of Ohio's population, if my math is correct, that means the 2021 abortion rate in Ohio for the black community (in regards to total population) is **seven times greater** than those of whites.

It so interesting, though, how the abortion business is well aware of this, and tries to turn that on its head. Do a quick web search of abortion and racism today, and you will mostly find articles on how the pro-life movement is historically racist, claiming it was founded on the idea of **NOT WANTING SLAVES TO HAVE ACCESS TO ABORTION** so they could be sold and trafficked. Perhaps there were people in the history of the country who profited from slave trafficking, and because of that fought access to abortion. But that does not translate to the founding of the "anti-abortion" movement being based on that belief. If anything, using abortion in whatever way you must to make the most profit is exactly what the abortion industry is doing today, with no regard to how racist it may be.

Some claim that the obvious disparity of abortions among minorities means that

abortion proponents have a racist agenda of deliberately trying to obliterate minority populations. I don't believe one can make that conclusion. It is far more likely that abortion providers are simply targeting whatever populations where they believe they can be the most successful in getting the most business. Still, the fact that abortion so clearly disproportionately effects minority populations, makes it a problem of racial disparity that ought not be ignored. The pro-life movement reaches out to these communities with real help including (among other things) material assistance, relationship counseling, care for those suffering the trauma of a past abortion, and even college scholarships to help women better care for their families. The abortion industry offers nothing but the empty promise that an abortion will solve their problem, when they are most vulnerable to believing it. When it doesn't, they offer a **WEBSITE**.

Instead of allowing the abortion industry to profit from exploiting mostly women of color at their most vulnerable moment, we need to empower them to choose life and support programs that support families.



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

2022 Respect Life Award Winner

On Sunday, January 15, the 2022 Respect Life Award was presented to Dennie Stieritz. As a young mother shortly before the enactment of *Roe v. Wade*, Dennie worked with other concerned citizens to block an abortion law in Ohio, helping organize what is known today as the Right to Life Society of Dayton, and served as one of its first presidents. After the 1973 *Roe* decision, they began directly helping women in crisis pregnancies through education scholarships, material assistance and parenting programs in area hospitals. These programs would later become the basis for many of the pregnancy care centers established in the 1980's.



From 1986-2012, Dennie taught theology at Carroll High School where she continued her prolife education with the students, bringing in prolife speakers, taking groups to the March for Life in Washington, DC, and growing the school's Respect Life group, known as Pats for Life.

Dennie has always used her voice to speak for the mothers and babies impacted by abortion. She understood the importance of both supporting women in their crisis pregnancy, and sharing that need with those in her community.

February

For HER

04

A pro-life gathering for HER sponsored by Cincinnati Right to Life. The day will begin with 8:15 Mass at St. Susanna, followed by a coffee and morning snack kick-off before our three speakers, lunch and time to visit with local pro-life organizations. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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40 Days Kick-Off

Join us at 2pm as we gather in prayer and song to kickoff of our spring 40 Days for Life campaign. We are hoping to begin our kickoff program in **CINCINNATI** at Holy Name Church, 2422 Auburn Avenue, and in **DAYTON** at Women's Med Center 1401 E Stroop Rd. Kettering, OH.

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- Healing Within Marriage
- 03- 7 Considerations of Infertility

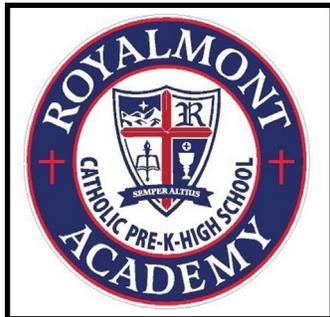
Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes intercessions for life to be used each week, materials for **NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK**, and graphics for your bulletin. As always, there is also a **SPANISH VERSION** available.
- 02 In the spirit of National Marriage Week, take a look at this great resource for **HEALING WITHIN MARRIAGE FROM AN ABORTION**. Couples can learn how to support one another through the healing process and how to discuss an abortion experience with their spouse. Bulletin inserts and articles are available for download, as well as brochures to order.
- 03 Check out this resource for supporting couples and families experiencing infertility. Many couples do not know the Church's teachings regarding fertility treatments. Read more about **SEVEN CONSIDERATIONS WHILE NAVIGATING INFERTILITY**.



High School Highlight

Royalmont Academy



At Royalmont Academy we are proud to be a Theology of the Body school, teaching our students about their inherent, God given dignity and goodness in all aspects of our curriculum. Part of this curriculum is affirming the beauty and dignity of each life from his or her conception to natural death by participating in Pro-Life activities around the anniversary of the tragic *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court ruling. Every year our high school

students have the opportunity to attend the March For Life in Washington, D.C. as a group, which enables them to witness the Pro-Life movement on a large scale outside of their families and school. Additionally, Royalmont students in grades 5-8 participate in a two mile "Mini March For Life" in our town of Mason, OH to share with our neighbors our commitment to LIFE! We always get many friendly "honks" of support from drivers! Back at school, our kindergarten through fourth graders support both marches with a Pro-Life rosary. Most importantly, every day students are taught that their lives are important, and that every human being is worthy of love and respect. LIFE is loved at Royalmont Academy!

Beacons of Light



The next Beacons Roundtable is Tuesday, February 28th. Join other parish leaders – priests, deacons, lay staff, and others – for Beacons Roundtable on Tuesday, February 28th from 1:30-3:00pm online. We'll continue focusing on leading change, creating and communicating vision, and self-care for parish ministers. The staff of the Center for the New Evangelization will share a vision for new approaches to evangelization and discipleship in a Family of Parishes. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP.](#)

February

Deaf Mass and Confession

25

Join Fr. Mike Depcik for a Deaf Mass (3pm) and Reconciliation (1pm) on Saturday, February 25th, at St. Charles Borromeo in Kettering. The hearing community is also welcome to attend this Mass and celebrate the liturgy in such a beautiful way! For details please contact [LISA AVERION.](#)

Beacons Roundtable

Consider joining online for the next Beacons Roundtable discussion. As mentioned above, you will get the chance to join other parish leaders and lay staff to continue discussing evangelization and discipleship in our parishes. Register [HERE.](#)

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Marriage and Stillbirth Advocate Training



One in four women has faced the pain of miscarriage or stillbirth. They sit in the pews next to you. You pass them in the hall. They suffer under the weight of their loss. Often, they face that loss alone. What if your parish could help?

Heaven's Gain Ministries has recently received an Archdiocese Respect Life grant to train two representatives from seventeen parish families to serve these parents before, during and after the delivery of their precious baby. Heaven's Gain Ministries' certification program, Advocates for Parents of Perinatal Loss (APPL), was designed to empower those trained, to guide grieving parents through the perils they will face, to defend their child's inherent dignity, and to uphold their right to grieve. With over 1,000,000 miscarriages and stillbirths each year, one ministry could not possibly serve all grieving families. However, certified advocates who are appropriately trained, can offer much needed support. HGM is proud to offer a 12-hour essential course to instruct advocates in non-medical methods to help grieving families. As Catholics, we have tried to meet the many needs of pregnant women, but the missing piece is helping parents with miscarriage and stillbirth. The next training is March 9-10. For more information or future training opportunities, email HEAVENSGAINMINISTRIES@GMAIL.COM or call (513) 607-6083.

Being Pro-Life Supporting Healthy Marriages

National Marriage Week happens this month (February 7-14), which makes it a great time to talk about how building a culture of life begins with supporting and nurturing families and marriages. One wonderful organization right here in our



Archdiocese, [MARRIAGE WORKS! OHIO](#), does just that. Located in Dayton, they offer group classes, mentoring and therapy to people who are dating, engaged or married, to help couples improve their relationships and form stronger marriages and families. If you would like to learn more about how [MARRIAGE WORKS! OHIO](#) can support your marriage or those in your parish family, check out the [PODCAST HERE](#) with Greg Schutte, Director of the organization and author of the *Discovering Our Deepest Desire* Catholic marriage program. Also, check out other resources on the USCCB website at WWW.FORYOURMARRIAGE.ORG.

40 Days for Life:

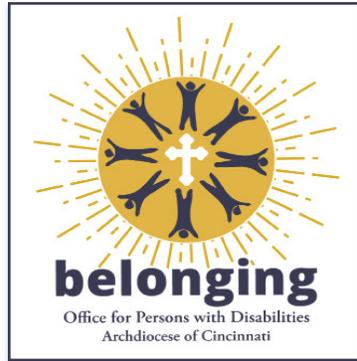
The Beginning of the End of Abortion



As we do every year, this Ash Wednesday (February 22) marks the beginning of the Spring 40 Days for Life vigils held in front of the two abortion centers in Cincinnati and Dayton, ending on Palm Sunday (April 2). Through prayer and fasting, 40 Days aims to close abortion businesses and end the tragedy of abortion, so that the killing of unborn children is unthinkable. For those who have never been before, I understand the fear and hesitation. It can be a scary thing to do, and you may wonder if it makes any difference. Know that you will not be alone. Sign up with a friend, at an hour where someone else is already signed up, or ask the organizer to make sure someone joins you. Know that this vigil is occurring at over 1,000 other centers at the same time across the world. And while you may never become aware of anyone changing her mind about an abortion because of your prayer, know that there are many women who have made abortion appointments, and while driving there prayed for a sign from God not to do this, and your presence was that sign, resulting in her driving right by and choosing life for her child. Those stories you may never hear about this side of heaven, but they happen. The battle to end abortion begins with changing hearts, and prayer is our best weapon. Sign up for a local vigil at www.40daysforlife.com.

OPD Updates

By: Lisa Averion



HELP NEEDED! Interested in joining the Belonging Task Force? The BTF is a group of parents, teachers, and community members who meet monthly to discuss ways to help and support families on their faith journey. What is special about the BTF? The families we support are those families who have a loved one with a special need. We support the blind, deaf, hard of hearing, and disabled. Would you like to learn more about the Belonging Task Force? I would like to schedule a time to visit your deanery to meet with you.

For questions please contact Lisa L. Averion, Associate Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities at LAVERION@CATHOLICAOC.ORG

"We are all one family in the world. Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights and responsibilities makes the world a better place to live." -St. John Paul II

March Day of Reflection

04

Are you, or someone you know, suffering from the longterm effects of an abortion experience? Consider attending a Day of Reflection to feel God's unconditional love and mercy. This event is open to anyone that has been effected by abortion. Contact BECKY.SCHOENFELD for more information.

HGM Training

09-10

Heaven's Gain Ministries will be presenting a 12-hour essential course to instruct advocates in non-medical methods to help families grieving a miscarriage or stillbirth. For more information email HEAVENSGAINMINISTRIES@GMAIL.COM or call (513) 607-6083.



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Project Rachel Ministry

Project Rachel Ministry



Day of Reflection:
Cincinnati: March 4, 2023

Weekend Retreat:
Cincinnati: March 24-26

For more information email us at ProjectRachel@catholicaoc.org or visit ProjectRachelOhio.org

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