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# RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

## Taking Care of Loved Ones at the End of Our Lives

*By: Bob Wurzelbacher*

My father passed away from cancer in October of 2018. He actually called a family meeting months earlier, to discuss the pros and cons of whether to start chemotherapy treatment, and what other issues might look like at the end of his life. The whole family was on board with his decisions.

My father-in-law passed away in March 2019. He was quite ill with several issues for years, and even lived with us off and on for the last five years of his life. Still, when my wife tried to broach the topic, he was unwilling to discuss healthcare decisions. At the end of his life, when difficult choices had to be made, he was not always mentally cogent, forcing my wife to make decisions without always knowing what he would want. These were some of the most difficult decisions my wife has ever had to make.

Yes, discussing your own death can be difficult,

even with those we love. Still, having this conversation while you can, is one of the greatest gifts you can give your loved ones. It is suffering enough to watch a loved one die. Why add to that suffering by passively forcing your loved ones to make difficult medical decisions without knowing your wishes? Even within the context of solid Catholic ethics, there can be many situations where treatment could be pursued or denied. Having those questions discussed in advance can avoid a whole added layer of suffering, and even some family conflict that may never heal.

In addition to having this discussion, it is

important to appoint a healthcare power of attorney to make decisions on your behalf if you become unable to do it yourself. This should be someone who knows Catholic end-of-life teaching—or will consult someone who does—and knows best what you would want if you can no longer communicate. You can also put in place an advanced care directive with some general Catholic principals in place to help guide your representative. [CLICK HERE](#) to find a version of these directives on our website. Even if you are perfectly healthy right now, it is never too soon to prepare.

You can always change your plan as situations evolve. It could be the best gift you ever give your family.

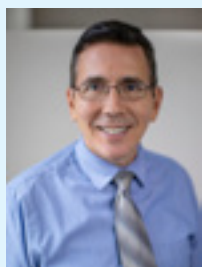


June 2020

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Issue 3

# 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.

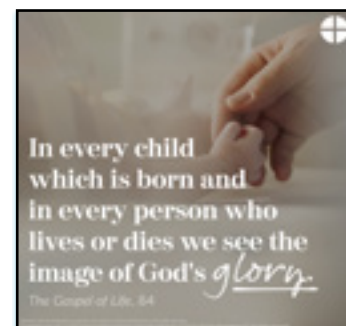
May God bless you in this work. Know that I am truly grateful to work with you in this. Together, let us build a culture of life here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati!

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference." Everyone in the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

The 25th anniversary year of *Evangelium vitae* gives us a wonderful opportunity to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. Parishes are invited to join a nationwide effort from March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021 entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service."

For this Year of Service, the Pro-Life Committee is developing educational, pastoral, and action-oriented resources for parish use. To access these resources [CLICK HERE](#) to be taken to the *Walking with Mom's in Need* webpage. You can also take the pledge to prayerfully support pregnant women in your community [HERE](#).



# 07

## Cross the Bridge for Life

Join us as we CELEBRATE LIFE on Sunday, June 7. While we cannot be together for Cross the Bridge for Life this year, show your support online. Wear your favorite Cross the Bridge t-shirt, get outside, and snap a selfie to post online on the [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) or with #CTBforlife!

# 16 & 17

## Coordinator Virtual Check-In

All Parish Respect Life Coordinators are invited to join us for a Virtual Check-In on Tuesday, June 16 at 1:00pm or Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00pm. During this hour-long virtual meeting, we hope to discuss the changes that have taken place due to the COVID-19 Crisis. [RSVP HERE](#) in order to receive a link via email to attend the meeting.

### Coordinator's Corner

01- Word of Life & Pray for Life

02- Resources for Father's Day

03- Coordinator Virtual Check-In

04- Religious Freedom Week

## Parish Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The June edition of Word of Life is available: [English](#) / [Spanish](#). Suggestions are provided for adapting the resources for digital use. In the June edition of Pray for Life, we pray that expectant mothers be supported by the fathers of their children in welcoming new life.. (Prayer guide: [English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- 02 While not a liturgical observance, Father's Day is an appropriate time to recall the essential role of fathers. Resources suitable for in-person or socially distanced circumstances are available in the [FATHERS DAY ACTION GUIDE](#) to help your parish honor the fathers in your community and highlight the essential role of fathers in the life of the family and in building a culture of life.
- 03 As we adapt to the new normal of social distancing, we would like to invite you to a [VIRTUAL CHECK-IN](#) to better assess what we can do to assist you in your parish ministry efforts. These hour-long meetings will take place on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm and Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Please [RSVP HERE](#) to receive a link via email.
- 04 Religious Freedom Week is coming up June 22<sup>nd</sup> - June 29<sup>th</sup>. The USCCB Committee on Religious Freedom is providing resources to help Catholics pray, reflect, and take action for religious liberty, both in the USA and abroad. This year's theme is *For the Good of All*. [CLICK HERE](#) to access these useful resources for your parish.

# Fatherhood & the Culture of Life

## A Father's Day Reflection *By: Kara Ross*

In today's culture, many men are losing sight of what it means to be a true man. God designed the human person to exist in two sexes. Two parts that balance one another to beautifully participate in God's creation by bringing life into the world. However, we have lost the appreciation of the duality of our design. We are told that our biological sex has no meaning and even that we have the power to choose to change it. This month, we have a chance to celebrate true masculinity as it appears in fatherhood. Children need fathers to show them how to be bold, be strong, and be doers in the divine. While mothers model receptivity, fathers show faith in action. Fatherhood is proven vital in that



God ensured that His son have an earthly model in Saint Joseph. Joseph shows how human fathers, with prayer and the support of a community, are able to overcome unexpected experiences, including pregnancies, to become leaders. Joseph was the head of the Holy Family, with the Incarnate Word and the Immaculate Conception to lead! No small order. And yet, this human man, with grace, was able to help form the family that all our families should follow! Fathers provide security and love in a way no mother can. Let us take Father's Day to appreciate and build up the fathers, both physical and spiritual, in our lives.



## Being Pro-Life Prison Ministry

Prison Ministry includes helping those who are in prison, and those who are returning to society. It is about recognizing that all of us are called to continuing conversion, and should not be defined by the worst thing we may have done. Bob talks with Marty Arlinghaus, Director of Prison Ministry, Tessie Castillo, a death row advocate, Steve Brinkmoeller, a former inmate, Lyle May, a current death row inmate, and Wilson Willard, director of a returning citizen program. Each of these interviews are featured individually in our weekly podcasts with a new episode available each week. There are also resources available on our Being Pro-Life June 2020 Page. [FOLLOW US](#) on Social Media, [READ OUR ARTICLE](#) in the Catholic Telegraph, [WATCH](#) the video interviews, and [LISTEN](#) to the Podcast for more!



### Father's Day

21

While not a liturgical observance, Father's Day is an appropriate time to recall the essential role of fathers in the life of the family and in building a culture of life. It is also an opportunity to highlight spiritual fatherhood, which all men are called to embrace.

22-29

### Religious Freedom Week

At the end of June Catholics around the world will pray for Religious Freedom. Join us, **June 22 - June 29**, as we pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad. This year's theme is *For the Good of All*. Interested in this topic? Check out our episode of Being Pro-Life focused on Conscience Protection.



## Nine Months with Christ

In this time of difficulty, as we focus on social distancing, it has become a struggle to connect with others. We have begun to focus on lifting our voices together in prayer. Nine Months with Christ in the Womb is a wonderful opportunity to do just that. From March 25 to December 25, 2020, we are encouraging EVERYONE to join us in participation of this Respect Life Prayer Campaign. Promoting a consistent ethic of life, this campaign reflects on Christ's fetal development as well as a variety of other life issues such as immigration, death penalty, care for the elderly, concern for the disabled, etc.

Parishes, families and individuals are encouraged to participate through daily prayer, short weekly reflections, monthly reflections, and special events. [REGISTER HERE](#) for the campaign to receive weekly emails with prayers and reflection materials.

There is also a Nine Months with Christ APP on both Google Play and the iStore. The APP has all of the information you need to fully participate in this very important campaign.



## Cross the Bridge for Life

### Show Your Support on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

Join us as we **CELEBRATE LIFE** with a Cross the Bridge for Life Digital Event. As you may have heard, this year's Cross the Bridge for Life event has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Crisis. The committee has decided to take the funds that were raised for the event and donate them to affiliated organizations.

Here is where you come in... on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> wear your favorite Cross the Bridge t-shirt of years past, obey all social distancing protocols, and get outside and with your family for a walk! Then, post a photo on social media on the Facebook Page or with #CTBforLife! You can also show your support



for Cross the Bridge by donating to your local Pregnancy Care Centers.

## Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary

During the COVID Crisis



O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you,

Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



## House Mother Needed

We have an immediate opening for a house mother. The house mother is the centerpiece of the operations of the Mater Filii home which is located in the west side of Cincinnati. The Mater Filii home will allow us to serve up to three women at a time. The ideal candidate must be a single woman, mission driven and embrace her Catholic faith. This is a full-time paid position which will offer room and board as part of the compensation package. Interested or have further questions, please contact the director: Betsy Jacquez – 513.351.3368, [mfqcity@gmail.com](mailto:mfqcity@gmail.com) To learn more about us visit our website at [MFQC.org](http://MFQC.org)



### Rosary for Life

Join us on Monday mornings at 10:00am on Facebook LIVE as we pray the **ROSARY FOR LIFE** together. We offer up these prayers for an end to abortion and for all those who have been impacted by the coronavirus.

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### Divine Mercy Chaplet

On Fridays at 3:00pm we will join our voices in praying the **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** with special guest Carson Kissell. Carson is an inspiring boy, who despite suffering from Epidermolysis Bullosa, has developed a strong faith and devotion. He was recently featured on EWTN. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch on Youtube.

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**HOPE**  
AFTER ABORTION  
project rachel  
Peace starts here  
www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel/  
Helpline  
(513)784-0531

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Do you have something that you would like to share in our upcoming issue?

Contact us at [respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org) or (937)281-4128.