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# RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

## Being Anti-Racist: Our Call to Stand with Our Brothers & Sisters

*By: Bob Wurzelbacher*

Liz, a white woman, was running through her neighborhood pushing the stroller with her adopted child, who is black. A man was coming the other way walking his dog. Just as he passed her, he blurted out, "This isn't Africa."

This is just one of many stories relayed to me in several interviews on the issue of racism. So why is racism the subject of a column devoted to Pro-Life issues? In their 2018 Pastoral Letter, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the US Bishops wrote, "As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue." More recently, Archbishop Schnurr stated, "Opposing racism must... be an integral part of our pro-life witness as Catholics." Racism is an issue related to the dignity of human life, and that makes it a pro-life issue.

This month's interviews feature several people, black and white, including white parents who have adopted black children. Some of their

stories show that racism can still be quite blatant. Caroline is a white woman whose neighbor stopped letting her grandchild play in her yard after she adopted a black child, not wanting her to associate with "that n\*\*\*\*\* boy." But more often, racism is subtle, like presuming a black person in the workplace must be the janitor or showing great surprise that a black person could write a good report. If you don't believe racism still exists, you need to hear these stories. And while our natural response might be, "I'm sorry that happened to you," we need to do more.

As Esperanza from our Racism Task Force said, "Maybe God wants you to work on racism in healthcare. Maybe God wants you to work on racism in education. Pray on it and see where God might lead you." In other words, we cannot be indifferent. We need to stand with our

hurting brothers and sisters.

Some choose to respond to the injustice of racism by asserting something like, "All lives matter." That's certainly true, but is it helpful? Perhaps it would have been in a different time and place. Today, however, it is easily heard as ignoring the reality of what our black neighbors have endured throughout the history of this country. Debbie, a leader in the pro-life movement in our Archdiocese says that such a response "just disregards everything the person was saying before that." Liz, who I mentioned

at the beginning of this article, put it this way, "If my child comes to me with a scraped knee and says, 'Mommy, I'm hurting!' and my response to her is, 'Everyone hurts sometimes,' that's true, but it would be a cruel and hurtful response." So when the black community tells us, "We are

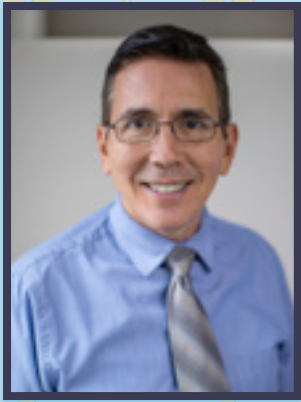


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[respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org)

**Issue 5**



# 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!

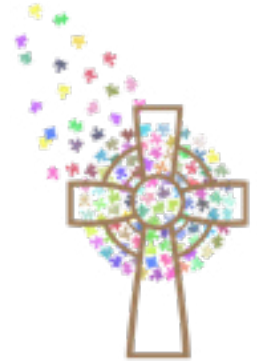
Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

## Office for Persons with Disabilities

By: Noelle Collis-DeVito

After prayerfully evaluating the needs of the community within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Archbishop has approved the development of an Office for Persons with Disabilities. This new office will serve the Archdiocese of Cincinnati by working to create a culture of inclusion and meaningful participation for persons with disabilities and their families. This office will organize and provide consistent support, advocacy, and awareness for our parishes while also implementing practices and policies within the Archdiocese to assist parishes in their role of offering the fullness of the faith to all people.

The Office for Persons with Disabilities for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will work to focus its efforts around the **USCCB's Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities**. This document encourages individuals, families, parishes, and the Church at large to work towards welcoming persons with disabilities into full participation in our ecclesial communities and to advocate for the needs of persons with disabilities in the secular realm.



### AUGUST Feast of St. Dominic

# 08

Saint Dominic received the Rosary from Our Lady. In honor of his feast day on Saturday, August 8, join us in praying the **Rosary for Life** to be protected and cherished! Also available in **Spanish**.

### Feast of the Assumption

# 15

Mary's Assumption into heaven reminds us that life on earth is a pilgrimage to our ultimate destination. We prepare in hope for our own passage into eternal life by the choices we make today. **CLICK HERE** for a great reflection on the Feast of the Assumption.

## 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@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:respectlife@catholiccincinnati.org).

01- Word of Life & Pray for Life

02- St. Dominic's Feast Day

03- Respect Life Action Guides

04- Walking with Moms in Need



## Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's Word of Life includes a short reflection that draws connections between the Blessed Mother's assumption into heaven and our respect for human life on earth. This and accompanying photos are featured in August's issue of Word of Life. (PDF: **English** | **Spanish**) In the August edition of Pray for Life, we pray for mothers and their children to have access to quality, life-affirming medical care. (Prayer guide: **English** | **Spanish**)
- 02 Saint Dominic received the Rosary from Our Lady. Mary asked him to promote it particularly in response to a heresy that included the belief that our bodies are bad. In honor of his feast day on Saturday, August 8, join us in praying the **Rosary for Life** to be protected and cherished! Also available in **Spanish**.
- 03 The Respect Life Action Guides provided by the USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat will be arriving sometime during the month of August. We provide them to parishes at no cost. These Action Guides provide great resources for Respect Life Month in October, and for other life-affirming celebrations throughout the year. If you are not sure that your parish has received an Action Guide in years past, please contact us to be included in the mailing.
- 04 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. Join the nationwide effort to reach out through assessment and prayer. This program is meant for parish-wide participation, and there are a plethora of resources for parishes to use. **CLICK HERE** for more information.

# Being Pro-Life: Anti-Racism

*Continued from Page 1*

hurting,” our response needs to be, “I hear you. I stand with you.” Ignoring the particular and pervasive pain of racism is not being faithful to our call to comfort the afflicted.

So what can we do? As already mentioned, start with prayer. Look into your own heart and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in what you should do. Actively reach out to people of a different race and hear their stories. Teach your children about the inherent dignity of every human being, regardless of the color of

**Podcast Schedule**

**July 28:** Stories of Racism Today

**Aug 4:** Bishops Say “Racism Is a Life Issue”

**Aug 11:** Challenging Racism Today

**Aug 18:** First Steps in Ending Racism

their skin, and share stories of saints of different races in your home. Participate in a peaceful rally. Find these and more ideas by tuning in to our August 18 podcast, “First Steps in Ending Racism.” Let us have the courage to stand with our brothers and sisters to put an end to the sin of racism in our world today.

# iVoteCatholic

Join fellow pastors, music ministers, deacons, teachers, and other parish and school leaders for the launch of iVoteCatholic, the new initiative in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to help form consciences for faithful citizenship leading up to this fall’s general election. This launch event on **Tuesday, August 11, from 1:30p-2p** will introduce you to this initiative and the many ways you can help your worshipping communities better understand the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Please ask at least one representative from your parish or school to use this URL to join us: <https://catholiccincinnati.zoom>.

# Pray a Minute

What might happen if every Catholic would pray just one minute more than they already do, every day, for the specific intention of peace, justice and goodwill? From now until January 1, the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Catholics from across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are invited to unite in prayer for the spiritual renewal of our country. Together, we will pray one million hours! Learn more and commit to doing your part at <https://www.prayaminute.com/>

## AUGUST Now & at the Hour...

# 18 & 19

Due to popular demand... The Office for Respect Life Ministries along with the Office for Divine Worship will AGAIN be presenting a virtual workshop on Catholic Medical & Funeral Planning for End of Life. See more information BELOW or [CLICK HERE](#) to download a flyer.

# OL

## 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.

## Vaccination as Catholics *By: Kara Ross*

This month is national vaccine awareness month! While usually this awareness month is probably only celebrated by pharmaceutical reps, our current public health crisis has made vaccines a hot issue as we all continue to socially distance and mask-up. All of us want to see an end to the COVID19 pandemic and many hope that a vaccine will be just that. However, as Catholics, there are a few moral ideas we should consider.

First, we are called to use morally-sourced vaccines when these are available. This means that if a vaccine was developed using cells lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, we must do our research to find out if there is another vaccine available that has been developed from an alternative source. Sometimes, as in the case of chicken pox, there is no alternative and parents must make the best choice for their child’s health. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the USCCB’s statement.

**Fetal Tissue Cell Lines**

It is important to note that the tissue used in vaccines does not come from recently aborted babies. The practice of harvesting fetal tissue has been outlawed for years. The tissue in question comes from the growth of a cell line that was developed in the 1960’s from two different fetuses. While many vaccine makers no longer use these cells, there are a few that are still utilizing cells that were developed from fetal tissue.

As a COVID19 vaccine is being worked on, we have a unique opportunity to stand for life in terms of how medical research is conducted. We can demand that health care companies use cell lines from sources other than abortions to create and test a new vaccine. To be a voice for this change, you simply have to call or write your senator or representative. Tell them to vote now for a law that would restrict big pharmacy in how they can create a new vaccine. A moral choice is not a slower choice, it simply means that all people will use the new vaccine rather than risking some not using it due to moral concerns.

## Now & at the Hour of Our Death

In case you missed this workshop the first time...

It’s never too soon to begin thinking about our own funeral, end-of-life care, and who will be making those decisions. 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. Join us Tuesday, August 18 7:00pm - 8:30pm OR Wednesday, August 19 1:30pm - 3:00pm for a virtual workshop to address these important issues. [REGISTER HERE](#) to receive an email with the online meeting information. Topics will include:

- Pre-planning the three stages of the Catholic funeral
- What the Church really teaches about cremation
- How to approach difficult end-of-life decisions with your loved ones from a Catholic perspective (life support, medical power of attorney, etc.)



## Radiate Christ

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,  
Present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.

Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples

Who follow him with enthusiasm and joy.  
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit

In our Archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.

Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses,  
To radiate Christ in all we do,

So that all people might know, love and follow your Son

Through this life and into the next. AMEN.

## Ultrasound Blessings

By: Erin Fledge

On Memorial Day weekend 2019, the St. Margaret of York Respect Life ministry partnered with our Knights of Columbus council to begin an Ultrasound Initiative. We were not sure if the message would be well received or if the funding we sought would come in. We prayed that the SMOY parishioners would see the need for an ultrasound machine at ENLC and assist mothers in crisis pregnancy. Not only did parishioners respond, but they did so quickly and within two weeks we had funding to not only fund the

machine for ENLC Women's Center in Lebanon, we had money to spare and began the process of looking for another pregnancy center to assist. In December, we received word that the Family Life Center of Auglaize County in Wapakoneta, OH was looking for an ultrasound machine for their new center. SMOY was once again able to provide the funding needed along with the Knights of Columbus match to purchase this life saving equipment in their center. On July 25th, Fr. Jason Bedel was able to bless FLCAC's ultrasound machine and pray for the women who would come to the center seeking assistance! We pray that through our efforts and the generosity of the SMOY parishioners, hearts will be changed and lives will be saved for generations yet to be seen!



### SEPT Day of Reflection (Project Rachel)

# 11

The Project Rachel Day of Reflection is designed for ANY PERSON affected by an abortion experience. All are welcome: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, etc. This event is free of charge and will take place in the Cincinnati Area. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or [REGISTER HERE](#).

### OCT Day of Reflection (Project Rachel)

# 03

The Project Rachel Day of Reflection is designed for ANY PERSON affected by an abortion experience. All are welcome: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, etc. This event is free of charge and will take place in the Dayton Area. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or [REGISTER HERE](#).



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## Contact Us

**BOB WURZELBACHER**  
Director, Respect Life & Disabilities  
[bwurzelbacher@catholicaoc.org](mailto:bwurzelbacher@catholicaoc.org)  
(513) 263-6674

**NOELLE COLLIS-DEVITO**  
Associate Director, Persons with Disabilities  
[ndevito@catholicaoc.org](mailto:ndevito@catholicaoc.org)  
(937) 281-4128

**KARA ROSS**  
Associate Director, Respect Life  
[kross@catholicaoc.org](mailto:kross@catholicaoc.org)  
(937) 281-4127



Edited By: Noelle Collis-DeVito

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.