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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

Radiate Christ Through Mary

Abortion restrictions are being eroded. More states are legalizing assisted suicide. Identifying as transgender is seen as a source of pride rather than an illness. The U.S. is one of very few first world countries who still uses the death penalty. Trafficking cases rose sharply in 2020. The country needs Mary's intercession to bring us back to a culture of life.

This summer, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is beginning its bicentennial celebrations with the longest Marian procession in the United States. Covering more than 300 miles over 33 days, the Marian Pilgrimage will begin Sunday, May 16, with a Mass at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Russells Point. From there, pilgrims will begin this pilgrimage with a special statue of Our Lady of Fatima, blessed by Archbishop Schnurr for this occasion. The pilgrimage will make stops at parishes in every deanery of the Archdiocese, and end at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains on the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Saturday, June 19. On that day, the Archbishop will re-consecrate the Archdiocese to Jesus through Mary during a special Mass commemorating the bicentennial.

As we prepare to take part in this historic pilgrimage, our Office for Persons with Disabilities is working hard to ensure accommodations are put in place so

that everyone who wants to participate will have the opportunity to do so. We want to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families have full access to this monumental event meant for our entire community, so we may pray truly pray together as one family.



The main family events will all include ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters for the deaf community and sensory-friendly tents to aid families of people with sensory needs.

We are also planning to highlight portions of the route that are most accessible to those with mobility issues. These will be portions of the pilgrimage located on flat, paved paths that avoid major intersections and should

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

be easier to navigate. Additionally, we plan to have three adaptive prayer opportunities along the route—one in each area of the Archdiocese—for persons with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities. We also hope to make it easier for persons with blindness to find access to transportation. Even those who are homebound are encouraged to participate in the pilgrimage virtually.

Our hope is to create a culture of inclusion and meaningful participation for persons with disabilities and their families here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. We want to provide an opportunity for persons with disabilities to truly participate in this pilgrimage, and to provide an example of what can be done at a parish level to create a sense of belonging for all.

For those who are very able-bodied, we still need many Statue guardians to help carry the statue along the route. For more information on how to sign up for a particular leg of the route nearest you, check out <https://200.catholicaoc.org/marian-pilgrimage/join-in> and click on "Become a Guardian."

For more information on all the events and how to participate, check the website at 200.catholicaoc.org/marian-pilgrimage/.

May 2021

respectlife@catholicaoc.org

Issue 14



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!

Bob Wungblachen

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

Saint Joseph, a Pro-life Patron

On May 1st, the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. This feast was established in 1955 by Pope Pius XII in the face of Communist, secular "May Day" celebrations. The Pope wanted the working class to find a connection with the humble, working foster father of Christ. Saint Joseph was not a rich man. He understood the value of work and prays that all workers be shown dignity in their places of employment and in society. Saint Joseph also knew that Christian work is not confined to our 9-5 job. Christian work includes caring for our families, friends, and communities. Saint Joseph was entrusted as the protector of the young Jesus and His Holy Mother. Not many job descriptions can match that assignment. But Saint Joseph rose to the task and did protect the vulnerable Mary and her precious Son. Saint Joseph continues his prolife work as a heavenly intercessor for the Prolife movement. He serves as an example to all fathers to trust in God's plan and to respond in faith to what God asks. Happy Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker! May he pray for the work we do to spread the Gospel of Life!



Back in March, Bob spoke with Fr. Angelo Anthony, the pastor of Saint Joseph's in the Dayton Deanery, about how Saint Joseph is a model for all Catholics who work to preserve and protect life. Check out the episode at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/210499/8170295>

May Mother's Day

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Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of motherhood. May all mothers be beacons that shines the light of Christ to their children as well as the children that they encounter everyday. You are the Light of the World. May all mother's reflect that light. Amen.

Our Lady of Fatima

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On this great Feast of Our Lady, may we pray for those lost in sin. We know that abortion, euthanasia, and all other attacks on life pierce Mary's heart. Our Lady, please bring them close to your Immaculate Heart. O my Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy.

Coordinator's Corner

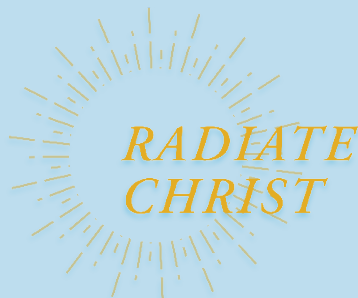
This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org.

01- Word of Life & Pray for Life

02- Mother's Day Action Guide

03- Oppose the Equality Act

04- Support the Marian Pilgrimage



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's Word of Life includes resources for Mother's Day including an Action Guide. (PDF: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)) You can also find the [PRAY FOR LIFE](#) page that includes monthly prayers for moms in need written in both English and Spanish.
- 02 The Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities has created a Mother's Day Action Guide that focuses around honoring the vocation of Motherhood. Included are bulletin resources, homily considerations, and activities you can do within the parish or at home. Check out the resources [here](#).
- 03 The Equality Act has passed the United State House of Representatives and is being actively considered by the Senate. If passed into law, this act would force religious institutions to go against their moral teachings on biological sex, marriage, and abortion. This law poses a serious threat to religious liberty, one of the founding tenets of our nation. [CLICK HERE](#) to take action now and ask your Senator to oppose this dangerous legislation.
- 04 As the 33 Day Marian Pilgrimage begins this month, round up volunteers from your parish to provide lunch for pilgrims, join the pilgrimage for an hour or two, or become a spiritual pilgrim and join the consecration to Our Lady for the Archdiocese. Check out the website on the front page for more information!

Mental Health Awareness

Did you know that one in five adults suffers from mental illness? That number may seem high, but like many other disabilities, mental illness is referred to as an “invisible disorder.” Often people suffer silently due to the stigma that is affiliated with a mental health diagnosis. Mental illness is not often addressed by the Catholic Church, but we are called by Jesus to recognize those who are suffering in our midst and to accompany them on their journey. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, which provides us with a wonderful opportunity to shed some light on Mental Illness, and to work towards eliminating stigma that prevents people from feeling fully welcomed into their faith communities. Below are some links to resources that you can use to promote Mental Health Awareness in your parish. The Office for Persons with Disabilities works to establish a culture of inclusion and meaningful participation for persons with disabilities and their families in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. If you have any questions or need any assistance, you can contact our office at opd@catholicaoc.org.

[Mental Health Awareness Bulletin Insert](#)

[Prayers of the Faithful for Mental Health Awareness | NCPD - National Catholic Partnership on Disability](#)



40 Days for Life Success!

The Spring Campaigns for 40 Days for Life are at an end. Last year, the Pandemic meant that 40 Days for Life could not continue in the traditional sense. Despite being unable to gather for prayer, we never stopped praying for an end to abortion in our nation. This year, our Spring campaigns in Cincinnati and Dayton were well-attended and many joined the vigil virtually if health concerns meant they had to pray from home.



From Dayton, Holly Kistler shares an amazing story. Those praying outside the clinic in Kettering noticed a young woman who seemed to have a heavy heart as she walked in. Though she spoke with sidewalk counselors, she did enter the clinic. Later, a clearly distressed young man drove up in his car. He was looking for his girlfriend to ask her to choose life for their baby. Those praying outside urged him to ask for permission to see his girlfriend. Though he was not allowed to enter the clinic, the security guard did pass his message onto his girlfriend. Shortly after, the girl the prayer warriors had spoken with that morning came out to talk to him. She did eventually leave with her boyfriend after deciding to keep the baby. Praise God that this father stood up for the life of his child. We continue to pray for this young couple as they decide to either parent or place their baby for adoption.

Remember that our prayers are not finished because of the end of Lent or the end of an official campaign. There are many opportunities to pray for life between the Spring and Fall Campaigns. In Cincinnati, there will be a Candle Light vigil outside of Planned Parenthood on the Friday before Mother's Day (May 7th) at 7 PM. This is the first of many vigils. See our [Facebook page](#) for more information on the event. We hope you can join us! May the prayers and fasting offered throughout the world bring an end to abortion.

May

Unplanned Showing

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Incarnation Parish in Centerville is hosting a showing of the movie Unplanned with special guest Joe Knopp, a producer of the film. The doors will open at 6 PM and the movie begins at 7 PM. Please join us for this free event. Remember that the film is rated R. Children under 17 must have adult permission to attend.

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Feast of the Visitation

This feast commemorates the Blessed Mother's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and the encounter of Jesus and St. John the Baptist while in the wombs of their mothers. Join us in praying A Novena for Life in honor of this special feast day. <https://www.respectlife.org/visitation>

A Month for Mothers

By: Kara Ross

Despite the unexpected snow shower of a few weeks ago, this month brings with it the start of beautiful spring weather and all of our hearts naturally begin to think of new life and what another spring will mean for us. The Church, and even our culture, embraces the signals of Creation and takes May as a special opportunity to honor motherhood. During the month of May, we remember all of our mothers. We remember the mother who nurtured us in her womb, who carried us from our conception to our birth close to her heart. We remember the mother figures in our lives, maybe aunts, grandmothers, teachers, close friends, and mentors, who guided us and showed us love that we never had to earn. We remember our Blessed Mother who walks with us every day and prays for us to her Beloved Son. Every mother in our life, whether spiritual or physical, has taught us more about how God cares for and loves us. Check out the ideas below for how to make Mother's Day special for the mother in your life.

Taking your mom to Mass and then having breakfast

Offering a rosary for her on Mother's Day with her intentions in your heart

Making a gift in her honor to a local pregnancy center

Sending her a handwritten note (not just a Hallmark card)

Preparing a dinner for her that she taught you to make

Regardless of how you choose to honor your mother this month, be sure to honor all mothers, especially Our Lady. May all mothers be blessed this beautiful month of May!

Being Pro-Life

The Beauty of Adoption

When a woman is in a crisis pregnancy, there are many reasons why it is very difficult to see adoption as a viable option. Choosing to continue the pregnancy, letting everyone know you are pregnant, going through childbirth and saying goodbye to the baby at the end of that journey takes a heroic amount of courage and love.



This month we focus on beautiful stories of adoption from different perspectives. Through them, we can hopefully gain a better perspective of the beauty and courage behind the choice to place a child for adoption, and how we can support those who

most need our help.

Listen to this month's podcasts on each of these topics at being-pro-life.buzzsprout.com.

Ohio Bans Death Penalty for People with Severe Mental Illness

In January of this year, Gov. Mike DeWine signed into law House Bill 136, which prohibits imposing the death penalty for individuals who have severe mental illness. Ohio is the first state in the nation to offer this kind of legislation.

The specific diagnoses listed in the legislation are: Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, and Delusional Disorder. Being diagnosed with the disorder alone, however, is not sufficient for the ban. The law also requires that the illness "significantly impaired the person's capacity to exercise rational judgment in relation to [his or her] conduct" at the time of the offense. Individuals who qualify for the ban on execution would still be eligible for a lifetime prison sentence.

This type of legislation has long been supported by the American Bar Association, several national and state mental health associations as well as the Catholic Conference of Ohio (Ohio's Conference of Bishops). Of this legislation they said, "We are pleased to join with the many mental health groups that support this legislation." The legislation passed the Senate 27-3 and the house 67-12, and was signed into law on January 9, 2021.



Ohio Born Alive Protection Act

On April 13th, the Ohio Senate introduced the Born Alive Infant Protection Act. The bill is sponsored by Dr. Terry Johnson and Dr. Stephen Huffman, both Ohio Senators. The bill mirrors the intention of the national legislation that continues to be blocked in the House of Representatives. Children who survive an abortion procedure would be ensured life-saving medical treatment rather than being left to die from medical neglect. It is one step toward helping our culture understand that life in the womb is human life. Please pray that this bill becomes law that reaches peoples' hearts and minds. Particularly, we pray for those involved in the abortion industry. May saving the lives of born children inspire them to save the lives of the unborn. You can read the bill [here](#).

MAY

Marian Pilgrimage

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The Marian Pilgrimage begins Sunday, May 16, 2021 with a Mass at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Russells Point in the Northern area of the Archdiocese and will travel all the way to the Cathedral Basilica for a final Mass with the Archbishop on June 19. For more information about this exciting opportunity, [CLICK HERE](#).

June

Project Rachel Retreat (Dayton)

11-13

The Project Rachel Retreat is designed for mothers affected by an abortion experience. These retreats are a way to grow in one's healing journey with other women who have shared a similar experience. The weekend offers a loving and confidential environment where participants can experience the love and mercy of God.



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

Contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org or (937)281-4128.