



02 WELCOME  
A Pro Life Education  
Coordinator's Corner

03 40 Days Fall Campaign  
Beacons of Light  
Social Action: DACA  
Being Pro Life

04 Pro Life Evangelization  
Belonging- ASL at Mass  
Project Rachel  
Contact Us

# RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

## The Importance of Project Rachel Ministry

*By: Bob Wurzelbacher*

While many of us are starting to return to a more normal way of life following the COVID-19 lockdowns, we must not forget the other pandemic that has left millions wounded in our society. With the isolation of 2020, abortionists were prescribing more women RU-486, the abortion pill. While there are two surgical abortion facilities in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, there are many other clinics where women can be prescribed this at-home abortion regimen without anyone telling her how painful and traumatic it will be to end the life of her baby at home, alone.

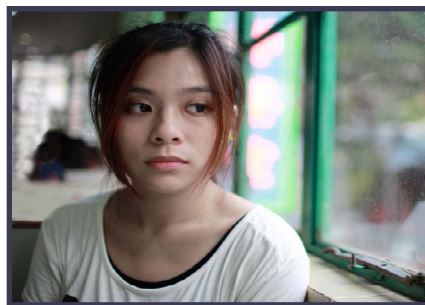
We are blessed in our Archdiocese to have a ministry specifically for the women and men who have experienced the pain and guilt of an abortion experience. **Project Rachel** ministry is available for anyone who needs God's love and mercy to revive their broken hearts, whether the abortion occurred in 2020 or in 1973. For nearly 30 years, Project Rachel has offered support and healing through one-on-one peer ministry, referrals to priests and professional counselors, day

and weekend long retreat experiences, and support groups that allow those who are deeply hurt to begin their healing journey.

A veteran of the ministry shared her experience:

*"After years of hiding a secret burden...God opened my heart to receive all that He had for me within the women of Project Rachel. I came to realize that I had been running from the pain of mourning my lost child.... I know now that I have a daughter in Heaven who is my intercessor and who loves me. I now do my best to honor that daughter by living a life of grace in her name. I hope all those who have been hurt by abortion can find healing through **Project Rachel**."*

We all carry wounds left by sin. God extends healing through His great mercy. This is no different for those who have suffered from



abortion. While we rightfully condemn the attitude that it is a woman's right to choose abortion, and mourn the loss of over 60 million lives, behind each one of those lost lives is a person who is silently suffering. She is suffering from a decision that was made from coercion by a loved one, deceit by someone she trusted, or motivated by fear, for which she all too often feels isolated and condemned by the same

Church that should offer the forgiveness of Jesus. Whenever any of us make statements about the evil of abortion, let us always remember to—in the same breath—invite those affected by abortion to come find healing through **Project Rachel**. We are a Church of saints and sinners. May our response to abortion always be full of mercy and love because we are all in need of grace.



# 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 Wungblachen*

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

## A Pro Life Education

By: Kara Ross

In 2020, many parents found themselves thrust into their children's education, and parents adapted to ensure that their children did the best they could. There are advantages to continuing to stay engaged in our children's education, even as they return to a typical classroom. Now, parents can focus on passing down topics of faith and moral teaching to their children in a perhaps more intentional way.

This month, parents, children, and teachers will begin to prepare for a new school year. This is also an opportunity for families to discern how to complement the academic lessons students are receiving with faith-based teachings children need to be well-rounded Catholics. The family remains the primary source of education, and creating the space for dialogue, even with young children, helps those children know that they can bring questions about more than just math homework to their parents as they explore and understand the world around them.

**HERE** you can find ready-made curricula that you can use for homeschooling middle or high school aged children. Another option is to use the **MOVIE DISCUSSION GUIDES** (toward the bottom of the page). Most importantly, open up the lines of communication so that your kids know that you are there to help them explore the world academically and spiritually.

## AUGUST Day of Reflection

# 14

Project Rachel invites anyone affected by an abortion experience to a day of healing and hope. This event is open to men and women. Please **REGISTER HERE** today.

## Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe

# 14

**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE** is often seen as a pro life saint as his life and martyrdom were a testament to respecting the lives of all he came into contact with. May his humble sacrifice encourage us to give for the good of all God's children.

## Coordinator's Corner

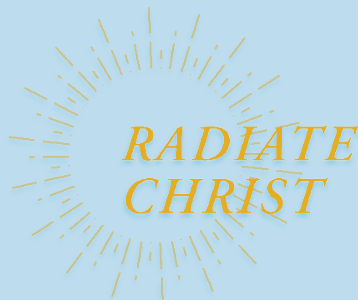
This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at [respectlife@catholicaoc.org](mailto:respectlife@catholicaoc.org).

**01-** Word of Life

**02-** No Taxpayer Abortion

**03-** Walking with Moms in Need

**04-** Respect Life Resources 2021



## Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01** This month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes resources for the feast of the Assumption. While always on August 15, this year it falls on a Sunday. Also included are a sample intercession for each Sunday of the month, bulletin quotes and artwork. There is also a Spanish version available **HERE**.
- 02** We continue to see a battle in D.C. as legislators attempt to either protect or destroy the Hyde amendment and other pro life legislation. Now more than ever, we must encourage our parishioners to contact their national representatives and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Watch the video **HERE** to learn more, and sign the petition by visiting [www.notaxpayerabortion.com](http://www.notaxpayerabortion.com).
- 03** Have you initiated **WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED** in your parish yet? Some new resources have been released to help parishes implement this program, including **12 NEW PRAYER GUIDES**. Find out how to start this life-saving program at your parish!
- 04** The 2021 Respect Life Mailing will be sent out later this month. Each pastor and registered **Respect Life Coordinator** will receive the mailing, which includes a letter, poster, and web address where you can find all of the new resources for the upcoming year. The website is not yet up at the time of printing, but you will be able to find all of the 2021 resources **HERE** as soon as they are published.

## 40 Days Fall Campaigns

By: Kara Ross

It is already time to begin planning for the 40 Days for Life Campaigns in Cincinnati and Dayton. The vigils will run from September 22 to October 31 and prayer warriors are needed! A prayerful and merciful presence can speak volumes to men and women who are considering abortion. These forty days are a chance for us to stand for life in a way that truly changes lives. Please consider gathering other volunteers from your parish and joining us on the sidewalks in Cincinnati or in Kettering.



If you have often volunteered for hours during a past vigil, consider becoming a day captain this year. You can help the leaders ensure that someone is always there during the vigil and not one woman or child is forgotten. If you are unable to physically join the vigil, there are many other ways to participate. Commit to a specific sacrifice for the 40 Days; consider giving up your late night sweet or your cup of afternoon coffee.

You can also join by offering a sacrifice of prayer. Offer a rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet each day. Offer a daily Mass once a week. The battle to end abortion in our time is a battle of changing hearts and prayer is our best means of helping our culture become a culture of life. For more information about the local vigils and to sign up, go to [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

## Beacons of Light

*"The status quo can have no place in our vocabulary."*

Archbishop Schnurr shared this powerful statement in his letter to the faithful about Beacons of Light. In the letter, Archbishop says, "Our local Church is a part of the Lord's plan for His people, and that plan cannot fail. God's love is too powerful for that. It is up to us to rely on that love and respond to it, both as individuals and as members of the one Church. As we look to the future, we can be certain that the Gospel will continue to be preached, the sacraments will continue to be celebrated, and the Lord will always be with His people." You can read the full letter [HERE](#). Stay informed about Beacons of Light. Be heard. **SIGN UP** for the monthly Beacons Update newsletter [HERE](#).



### AUGUST Monthly Remembrance Mass

# 19

Gate of Heaven Cemetery has resumed their **MONTHLY REMEMBRANCE MASS** on the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm. This Mass commemorates our recently deceased about a month after the initial shock has faded.

# 20

### Pro Life Mass

A Mass for Pro life intentions will be offered on this day at the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood at 12 noon. Please join us to pray for a culture of life in our nation.

## USCCB Responds to Latest DACA Ruling

By: Sr. Christine Pratt



For many decades the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for immigration reform. Its most recent attention has been toward addressing DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). The July 6th Texas court ruled the DACA program to be unlawful. DACA has allowed certain undocumented individuals brought to the United States as children-known as Dreamers-to remain in the country. It has provided temporary protection from deportation and grants work authorization, but it does not create a path to citizenship. Today there are approximately 650,000 active DACA recipients in the United States and approximately 3.6 million total Dreamers.

Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of Washington and chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration issued a statement regarding the latest ruling. In the statement he conveys the bishops' disappointment in the ruling, while acknowledging that DACA was never meant to be a permanent solution for Dreamers. It is simply a most recent development in a long list of events warranting action by Congress. In fact, the Senate currently has multiple bills before it that would grant permanent relief to Dreamers, including the American Dream and Promise Act passed by the House of Representatives.

The bishops urge the Senate to join the House of Representatives in passing legislation that would provide legal status and a path to citizenship for all Dreamers. The statement links this issue to our respect for life teaching when it adds: "This is not only a matter of human dignity but also family unity, considering the 250,000 U.S. citizen children with Dreamers as parents."

## Being Pro Life

### Keeping Kids Safe Online



For most of us, because of the pandemic, the past year has seen an exponential jump in the use of technology to reach out to people, access information, work, play and even shop with the ease of our mobile devices. With all of these advances, however, comes

increased access to things that are harmful, which affect not only ourselves, but our children as well. This month we talk to professionals who have kids at home who are dealing with the same struggles as all of us, but who have advice on how to utilize technology while keeping their kids away from things like pornography, bullying and even non-Christian ideals about family life. Check out this month's podcasts for some tips from every day parents on how to keep your kids safe while using technology. [CLICK HERE](#) to listen to the episodes from this month.



## Pro Life Evangelization

By: Kara Ross



Many of our local counties are beginning to prepare for large, community events that were placed on hold during 2020. Some of these include parades, fairs, and other opportunities for people to gather, especially outside. Many of our local Right to Life groups take advantage of these occasions each year. They may have a booth with different resources on prolife issues. They may offer family-oriented raffles or balloons. These events provide a unique opportunity to evangelize to people not only within our parish, but also within our community at large.

St. Christopher's Pro life Group has a booth each year at their parish festival. The festival draws many from the area, and allows the pro life advocates to have conversations with folks they would never meet otherwise. They include fetal development models from Dayton Right to Life that kids can handle and touch. They can see what a baby is like from 6 weeks to birth. For some, this is the first time they have thought of a baby in the womb, and they can humanize that baby much more easily.

How can you evangelize this season? Check for upcoming local events or contact us at [respectlife@catholicaoc.org](mailto:respectlife@catholicaoc.org) and we can get you started!

# belonging

Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

Did you know that only 4% of the Deaf population attend church and that only 6% of churches in North America provide any services to reach out to Deaf Christians? As I reflect on these statistics, I am reminded of the parable of the lost sheep. Jesus left behind the 99 for the sake of the one who was missing. Like the image in this parable, we are missing a part of our parish community when there is not an opportunity for Deaf Catholics to participate, and it is our call as church to provide the necessary accommodations to welcome Deaf Catholics to the Lord's table. A simple first step would be to begin offering consistent ASL Interpreting at Mass each weekend. While we do have a few parishes that offer ASL Interpreting weekly, it would be ideal for the Deaf Community to have at least one parish nearby where they could regularly attend Mass and be assured that they will be able to fully participate in their own language. If your parish is considering providing ASL at Mass and would like some support in these efforts, please **CONTACT US** for more information. There are also resources about interpreter services on our **RESOURCES PAGE**. Through the simple effort of providing an ASL Interpreter during Mass, a parish can open the door to a new cultural perspective and an entire community of people.

## AUG 40 Days Interim Vigil

# 27

Between campaigns, the Cincinnati 40 Days for Life team invites all to come to prayer vigils on the last Friday of the month outside of Planned Parenthood at 7 PM on Auburn Ave. For further information contact Brigid Duffy at [bswartz@fuse.net](mailto:bswartz@fuse.net).

## SEPT Project Rachel Retreat (Cinci)

# 24-26

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.



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
CINCINNATI

## 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  
[krass@catholicaoc.org](mailto:krass@catholicaoc.org)  
(937) 281-4127



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

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