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# RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

## Walking With Moms in Need

*By: Bob Wurzelbacher*

Hopefully by now, you have heard of the USCCB program Walking with Moms in Need. With *Roe* and *Casey* overturned and abortion now illegal in Ohio at the detection of a heartbeat, it is more important than ever to be as ready as we can to support women in need who find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy.

As your parish heads more fully into the Beacons process, one of the things that we will all need to do is form a Love in Action core team for your Family of Parishes. Each family will have different starting points and work at different speeds, but part of each Love in Action team should be a person or subgroup that works on Respect Life issues. That makes this the perfect time to get the USCCB Walking With Moms program up and running at the parish level. The more parishes in your family, the more likely it is that your family will need to take more time to get this Love in Action core team up and running. Taking time with that process can be a good and necessary thing. But the work of Walking With Moms in Need at the parish level does not need to wait.

First, check out the page we put together at [WWW.CATHOLICAOC.ORG/WALKINGWITHMOMS](http://WWW.CATHOLICAOC.ORG/WALKINGWITHMOMS). There, you will find the **RESOURCES FOR MOMS** page we put together on local resources for women in need. Underneath that you will find the **RESOURCES FOR PARISHES** link we made to help you navigate the Walking with Moms initiative. Thankfully, you will find that most of the work in the inventory or local resources page is already done for you, listed at the **LOCAL RESOURCES** link for moms already mentioned.

As we have mentioned before, this isn't about turning your parish into a crisis pregnancy center. This is about learning what resources are out there to help women in need, making a plan on how the parish might support these agencies, communicating that to everyone in your parish, and enlisting everyone's

help to work together to aid these agencies in appropriate ways in their charitable work. As Pope Francis reminded us in a 2015 address, "...our parishes and communities [should] become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference." With many hands come light

work, and we can really make a difference in not only helping women, but helping the culture understand that Catholics are not only for saving the lives of the unborn, but also equipping mothers with what they need to make better choices for themselves and their babies. Let us change the false narrative that being

pro-life is exclusively about the unborn, and show the world that we have always also been about offering real help for women in need.





# 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

## March for Life- October 5th, 2022



Our annual March for Life will look a little different year. Instead of heading to Washington, D.C. for the anniversary of *Roe v Wade*, we invite you all to join us in Columbus, OH on Wednesday, October 5th.

The Respect Life Office will not be organizing a trip throughout the Archdiocese. Instead, we are

encouraging schools and Respect Life coordinators in parishes to plan and organize their own groups to attend this march.

Abortion is now illegal at the detection of a heartbeat in Ohio, but we still have a long way to go to ensure that every life is protected from conception.

Please consider joining us as we march peacefully in front of the Ohio Statehouse and pray for the protection of our state's unborn children! You can **REGISTER HERE**.

### AUGUST

### Abortion and Liberal Tradition

# 02

Exclusive Cincinnati Right to Life Membership Event! Please join us virtually Tuesday, August 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. for an exclusive viewing of a video accompanying Dr. Derr's brilliant speech: "Abortion & Liberal Tradition." For more information click **HERE**.  
RSVP to: [mgreen@cincinnatirighttolife.org](mailto:mgreen@cincinnatirighttolife.org)

### PCW Banquet

# 11

Join Pregnancy Center West for their 2022 Annual Banquet on Thursday, August 11th, featuring guest speaker Leah Darrow, the founder of the Lux app, author of "The Other Side of Beauty," and the host of "Do Something Beautiful" podcast. For more information and to reserve your tickets click **HERE**.

## Coordinator's Corner

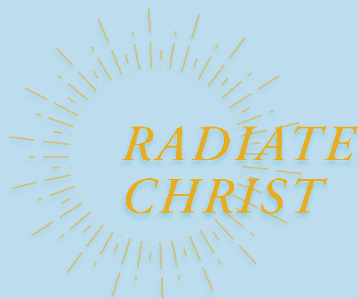
This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at [respectlife@catholicaoc.org](mailto:respectlife@catholicaoc.org).

**01-** Word of Life

**02-** For Life Page

**03-** Post-Roe Parish Resources

**04-** Palliative and Hospice Care



## Respect Life Coordinator Resources

**01** The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes intercessions for life, a reflection on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, bulletin quotes, information on **HOW TO BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE** and more! Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.

**02** Check out our **WEBSITE** for women who may be experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Here you can find local pregnancy centers, services for women and families, and other resources for life-affirming assistance. **CATHOLICAOC.ORG/FORLIFE**

**03** Additional resources for parishes on *Walking with Moms in Need* can be found **HERE**. There are **LOCAL RESOURCES**, **PARISH RESOURCES**, and a list of **PRINTABLE RESOURCES** to use in your parish!

**04** Palliative Care is specialized medical care for someone who is seriously ill. The focus is to relieve them from symptoms and stress while they are still seeking curable treatment. Palliative and Hospice Care are beautiful acts of charity as the individual waits for treatment or approaches the end of life. To learn more, click **HERE**.

## Commit2Women Campaign



There is still time to donate to the **COMMIT2WOMEN** Campaign! Learn how to get involved to continue supporting these centers so they can serve the women and families in our communities.

In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Archbishop Schnurr asked that a second collection be taken up at all Masses the weekend of July 16-17 to directly benefit more than 30 pregnancy care centers and

agencies across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. In his letter of June 24, the Archbishop stated, *"I urge everyone in our archdiocese to both pray for and actively assist all expectant mothers. Together, let us redouble our commitment to caring for women, children and families so that abortion is not only illegal, but unthinkable."* Supporting pregnancy care centers and agencies is an important and tangible way to do this.

100% of the funds collected will be distributed to the various organizations without archdiocesan assessment. If you were not able to donate at Mass, you can still give directly by clicking **HERE**. 100% of the funds collected will be distributed to the various centers. Please be generous! Thank you.

## Bereavement Training for Priests

Now that we have settled into our new parish families, the need to minister to our parishioners is greater. Heaven's Gain Ministries is teaming up with the Respect Life Office to present a one-day workshop for priests on the mindset and trauma associated with stillbirth and miscarriage and how priests can best serve these families.

Many families leave the Church after experiencing the loss of a baby, but our priests have the ability to help them understand that God did not abandon them. The training will include real-life testimonies, relevant statistics and opportunities to practice with peers. Since one in four pregnancies end in loss, this is an essential area for all priests to be able to serve women and families in grief.

*This training is for priests only.* Remind your pastor of this important training to continue serving those in our parish families.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 19th

**Time:** 10am - 3pm

**Location:** Ruah Woods Auditorium in Cincinnati.

To register click **HERE**.

**AUGUST**

### Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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The Assumption is the observation of Mary received into heaven, body and soul. Since it falls on a Monday this year, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. We have included a suggestion for **BULLETIN ART** to use in your communications.

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### Saturday Pro-Life Mass

Mass at 8:00 a.m. every Saturday at Holy Name Church on Auburn Avenue, followed by prayer vigil in front of Planned Parenthood. For more info, contact John Wendeln at 513-218-1938.

## Living Out Our Baptism Call

By: Andrew Musgrave

In *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), Pope Benedict XVI named the three essential elements of Church – *proclaiming the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity*– and declared that they “inseparable.” (#25) In other words, there is an essential connection between our faith and the way we put our love into action in the world. Drawing from the USCCB’s “Sacraments and Social Mission,” over the upcoming months I’m going to highlight how each of the sacraments faithfully draws us into acts of mercy and charity.

Naturally, we will start with baptism, that beautiful sacrament that initiates us into the Community of the Church resulting in, as St. John Paul II says, a “mystical unity” (*Christifideles Laici*, #12) between Christ and His disciples. It makes us members of one another and reveals the equality and dignity of every person. In baptism, we profess our commitment to the Church’s teachings and reject sin, re-assessing our values, decisions, and lifestyles. Through baptism we are invited into a vocation of holiness and the practice of charity which is intimately connected to our membership in the “Communion of Saints.” (#17) At a baptism, the whole community joins in the profession of faith, which shows our connection across generations, time, and space. We are all incorporated into the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the world and led to imitate Christ – healing the wounds of sin, practicing the Beatitudes, and loving God and neighbor. We share a responsibility for the Church’s mission by caring for the sick, the oppressed, the marginalized, and the forgotten. Baptized Christians, in the end, are called to contribute to the sanctification of the world, protecting the life and dignity of all people and caring for God’s creation here on Earth.

How are you living out your baptismal call?

## Being Pro-Life

### Ohio’s Heartbeat Bill

Now that *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, Ohio’s 2019 Heartbeat Bill is in effect, making abortion illegal at the detection of a heartbeat. Bob talks with Elizabeth Whitman, Director of Communications for Ohio Right to Life, about the Heartbeat Bill, and misconceptions about what that bill means and doesn’t mean in the state of Ohio on topics such as ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage and women’s privacy. To listen to the podcast, click **HERE**.





## Welcome, Lisa Averion!



Lisa Averion was recently hired as the new Associate Director for the Office of Persons with Disabilities. Please join us in welcoming her aboard!

A little bit about Lisa:

"I live in Lebanon, Ohio and attend St. Francis De Sales parish. My family moved to the Cincinnati area four years ago from Southeast Ohio. I have been married to my husband, David, for 25 years and we have five children. Four of my children have a

disability. My three older children have juvenile onset macular degeneration called Stargardt's Disease and my younger daughter has Down Syndrome.

I was born and raised in Steubenville, Ohio and attended Catholic grade school, high school, and college. I graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education and Ohio University with a Master's degree in education. I am passionate about the Catholic faith, education, and advocacy for all.

I feel blessed to be the new Associate Director for the Office for Persons with Disabilities."

## A Note from Noelle Collis-Devito



Over the last four years, I have had the incredible privilege of serving the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in both the Office for Respect Life Ministries and the Office for Persons with Disabilities.

On August 1, I will be leaving my position as Associate Director to start a new journey in Campus Ministry at the University of Dayton, but the experiences that I have had and the people that I have met will leave me forever changed.

I am grateful to all of you that I have encountered, and I am thrilled to be passing the torch to Lisa Averion who will continue our mission to create a culture of inclusion and meaningful participation for all people here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati!

*We thank Noelle for her time, talent, and love that she put into the Office for Persons with Disabilities. May God bless you on your new adventure!*

### AUGUST 40 Days Interim Vigil

# 26

Between campaigns, the Cincinnati 40 Days for Life team invites all to come to prayer vigils on the last Friday of each month outside of Planned Parenthood on Auburn Ave. For more information contact Mary Clark at [cincy40days@fuse.net](mailto:cincy40days@fuse.net)

### SEPTEMBER Project Rachel Weekend Retreat

# 16-18

If you or someone you know is struggling from trauma related to abortion, consider joining us for a weekend of hope and healing. Register [HERE](#).



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## Contact Us

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## Project Rachel

*By: Project Rachel Team*

As summer comes to a close, the Project Rachel Ministry is gearing up for the next set of Weekend Retreats and Days of Reflection!

Our next retreat weekend will be *September 16th-18th* in Cincinnati. Retreat weekends are designed specifically for women who have suffered the trauma of abortion. At these retreats she is able to share her story at her own pace. Through various witness talks

and small group activities, she is able to recognize that she is surrounded by support and love. She is there with other women who have walked this path and she is not alone on this journey. To register for this retreat, click [HERE](#)

The next Day of Reflection is Saturday, October 8th in Dayton. The Day of Reflection is open to anyone who has been affected by abortion. This could be the father of the child, grandparent, sister, brother, etc. Participants are able to share their experience, feel the love and support by others present, and partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a Healing Service. It is like a mini-retreat but only for one day and still very rewarding. To register for the Day of Reflection, click [HERE](#)

Check us out on Spectrum News [HERE!](#)

*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](http://ProjectRachelOhio.org)*