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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

Get Out the Vote in August!

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

On May 10, Ohio lawmakers passed a resolution to put before voters in a special August election, the question of whether to make it harder to amend the Ohio Constitution. The resolution would do three things:

1. Raise the passage threshold of a ballot initiative from a simple majority (50% plus one) to 60%
2. Raise the requirement to have signature representation from only half of the Ohio counties to all 88
3. Eliminate the 10 day grace period that allows more time to collect signatures if too many collected signatures were thrown out

That first point would apply to the abortion amendment likely coming up in November, making it much more difficult for it to pass. This makes the August election a critical one in the fight to defeat the initiative.

Late last month, the Bishops of Ohio met to discuss whether to support the August resolution, and because it is not a moral issue, chose to remain neutral. This means that

parish workers are not permitted, while in an official Church capacity, to directly encourage people to "Vote Yes on Issue 1". So, what can you say?

You can say things that are factual and unbiased statements related to the issue. You can tell people that this will increase the threshold of what it takes to add an amendment to Ohio's Constitution from a simple majority to 60%, making it more difficult to do. You can also say that the outcome of this election will go into effect immediately, having a direct impact on the November ballot (as well as all future initiatives). Finally, you can add that a "yes" vote on Issue 1 will make it easier to defeat the November ballot, whereas a "no" vote on Issue 1 will make it easier for the abortion amendment to pass. All of that is unbiased and factual information that educates the voter, and they can decide what to do from there.



With those tips in mind, the Ohio Catholic Conference is encouraging everyone not only to get out the vote in August, but to hold voter registration events at your parish. You can

even find an official guide for how to hold a voter registration drive at your parish at the bottom of the Parish & School Resources page [HERE](#). The only thing that might be difficult is getting permission from your pastor. If that is a barrier, hopefully showing him that the Ohio Bishops are encouraging it will help. Once you get your pastor's approval to go ahead, from there all you need is a few volunteers, tables

to catch people on their way out of Mass, and some laptops or tablets with internet access. People can check if they are already registered in seconds at VOTEOHIO.GOV. If they are not, they can register to vote right there if they have their driver's license or other official identification. For more, check out my latest interview with Brian Hickey of the Ohio Catholic Conference coming June 7th to our [BEING PRO LIFE](#) page!



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 we need are 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 Wurzelbacher

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

Cross the Bridge 2023!

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

Please join us for our annual Cross the Bridge for Life event on Sunday, June 4, 2023! We need to show our region that our message is one of love, joy and empowering women. Formed as a collaborative effort between the Diocese of Covington and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cross the Bridge for Life is co-sponsored by many life-affirming organizations and businesses from Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.



We will gather at 1PM for family-friendly fun at Festival Park Riverboat Row in Covington with live music by Lee Roessler, free t-shirts, face-painting and balloons for kids of all ages. New this year, we will have FREE HOT DOGS for the kids! A short program with speakers will begin at 2PM, followed by a walk across the Purple People Bridge. Archbishop Schnurr of Cincinnati and Bishop Iffert of Covington will lead the walk. Mark your calendars for June 4 and bring the whole family to help us celebrate life in 2023! For more information, see the website at WWW.CROSSTHEBRIDGEFORLIFE.ORG.

June

Cross the Bridge for Life

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Join the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for Life for the annual family-friendly Cross the Bridge for Life! The fun begins at 1pm at Riverboat Row, followed by the walk at 2pm led by Archbishop Schnurr of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Bishop Iffert of the Diocese of Covington. For information click [HERE](#).

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Belonging Task Force

Join us for "Coffee and Conversation" about inclusion in your parish. Parents, caregivers, professionals, advocates, and clergy are welcome to attend. We will discuss how to plan, organize, and advocate for individuals with special needs in our community. Click [HERE](#) for locations and more info!

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
- 02- Ntl Right to Life Convention
- 03- May Zoom Meeting
- 04- CCO Resources



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** features information on the **NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL** that begins its second year on June 11th, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. There is also a **FATHER'S DAY ACTION GUIDE** with access to a webinar, some family activities, and a prayer to St. Joseph! Also available in **SPANISH**.
- 02 For more than 50 years, the **NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION** has been hosted by pro-lifers throughout the country. This is a great way to learn about what we can be doing in a post-Roe America and how our efforts might change to better serve our communities. This year, it will be held in Pittsburgh, PA. You won't want to miss this!
- 03 In Case You Missed It: In May, the Respect Life Office held a zoom meeting to talk about the August special election and the November Ballot Initiative. If you would like the link to the video meeting and other resources that you may have missed, please email us at RESPECTLIFE@CATHOLICAOC.ORG
- 04 Check out these **RESOURCES** from the Catholic Conference of Ohio all about the Abortion Ballot Initiative. You can find resources for your **SCHOOL AND PARISH, INFORMATION ON THE AMENDMENT**, and how to **GET INVOLVED**.

Mental Health Ministry

By: Lisa Averion



The month of May was Mental Health Awareness month. As our brothers and sisters in Christ struggle to walk each day, allow us to be reminded to help them carry their cross. "Christ himself needed help carrying his cross," Dr. Bottaro, founder of the CatholicPsych Institute, says. "That's how we see ourselves. Our vocations are to be like Simon of Cyrene, to help bear the burden of Christ's cross with the people who are suffering."

The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (CMHM) partners with the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and **CLICK TO PRAY** to offer a Monthly Day of Prayer for Mental Health. The second Monday each month, CMHM offers prayers and a blog post, connected to the Pope's monthly prayer intention. Please consider adding this to your parish bulletin to support families in your parish.

On Monday, June 5th our office will be offering Mental Health First Aid - Youth training. Due to the overwhelming response, we will be offering another class later this summer. Contact **LISA AVERION** for more information

Spiritual Adoption

By: Becky Schoenfeld

As we started the Walking With Moms In Need initiative last year, many parishes began discovering and innovating new ways to continue supporting women and moms in our communities.

An important aspect of this initiative is prayer and spiritual support. But how can we do that better? Consider spiritually adopting a child! Spiritual adoption means committing to praying for a baby in danger of being aborted, through all 9 months of pregnancy. As a family you can name this child together. Though you won't get to meet him/her, you are specifically praying for a child who needs prayers, and for the mother who may need support and guidance during her pregnancy.

There are some great resources available through the **ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE** that contain age-specific prayer cards for kids in 1st-8th grade. It's a great way for kids to learn about the sanctity and dignity of each human life.

Another resource that we highly recommend is **HOLY HEROES**. This site has great activities geared toward younger children to help them learn about the miracle and beauty of life! They can even follow along all 9 months and see the development of their baby that they have adopted. Each participant is encouraged to pray Archbishop Fulton Sheen's Spiritual Adoption Prayer throughout this 9 month commitment.

June

Happy Father's Day!

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We wish all fathers and father-like figures a very blessed Father's Day! May your life shine as a beacon to all around you and may the Lord's grace bless you abundantly.

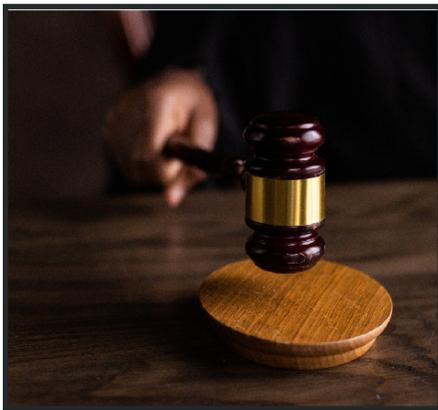
23-24

Natl Right to Life Convention

This year's theme in "Unthinkable". Come learn about what has changed, and not changed, in this post-Roe America and how we continue moving forward. This year it will be held in Pittsburgh, PA! Click **HERE** for more info.

Abolish the Death Penalty in Ohio

By: Catholic Conference of Ohio



Our desire to foster a culture of life throughout Ohio requires a commitment to recognizing the sanctity of human life in all stages and circumstances, including those who, at one time, blatantly disregarded the humanity of others and need to face justice. Additionally, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person." It is time for Ohio to end this practice and ensure our laws respect life without exception.

Click "**TAKE ACTION**" to ask your Ohio Senator to support SB 101 and abolish the death penalty by sending the following message:

For 46 years, the Catholic Conference and Catholics throughout Ohio have sought to end the death penalty in Ohio. Our desire to foster a culture of life throughout Ohio requires a commitment to recognizing the sanctity of human life in all stages and circumstances, including those who, at one time, blatantly disregarded the humanity of others and need to face justice. Additionally, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person." It is time for Ohio to end this practice and ensure our laws respect life without exception.

Being Pro-Life

Transgender Issues

Erin calls herself a former trans kid, who as a child felt she was a boy. She talks about how not being affirmed in a male identity, but instead being affirmed that girls can enjoy things that are culturally more associated with boys, helped her. She also discusses problems with legal bans on real psychological help for kids who identify as transgendered. Hear her story **HERE**.



For more testimonies like Erin's, check out these stories below:

"A Detransition Story"- **WALT**

"The Dangers of the Transgender Movement"- with **DR. JENNIFER ROBACK-MORSE**

"A Parent's Perspective" with **LYNN MEAGHER**

"A Catholic Perspective" with **FR. TAD PACHOLCZYK**

Sensory-Friendly Mass

By: Lisa Averion



Make sure you are registered to vote by July 10th to participate in the August 8th election!

To Register to vote, click [HERE](#)

Creating an environment for members of our church with Autism, Down Syndrome, and other sensory-processing issues; also, those living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease is essential. Offering a weekly mass following the "Necessary Components" will help your parish family to respond to the needs of all members of your community. Please contact **Lisa Averion** if you need help planning a Sensory Friendly Mass.



1. Inform attendees that to create an accepting environment, anyone is welcome to get up and move around; to bring alternative seating, fidgets, noise canceling headphones, or other helpful items; and to be understanding of possible noise or other disruptions.
2. Spread awareness of the SF Mass as an ongoing ministry or effort in the parish or families of parishes.
3. Music and singing should be softer and have a lower tone. Singing or cantering in the soprano range should be avoided.
4. Turn off as many fluorescent lights as possible.
5. Do not use incense.
6. Do not encourage clapping.
7. Overall, the Mass is shorter with fewer parts sung, shorter prayer choices, and shorter homilies.

June Religious Freedom Week

23-29

Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. The USCCB invites all Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom. To access graphics, prayers, reflections, and bulletin inserts, click [HERE](#).

June Pro-Life Bootcamp for Teens

29-7/3

Want to be a pro-life warrior? Check out this pro-life leadership training camp for high school students run by the Franciscan Daughters of Mary. High school students (ages 14-17) may register as campers and young adults (ages 18-25) may also register as "special forces." Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

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Love in Action Team at Your Parish

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

The first year of the Beacons of Light process is nearly over, and so each family should by now have a designated Love in Action Coordinator who is forming a Love in Action Transitional Team and had some type of "get acquainted" event for the team.

If your parish has not yet formed a **LOVE IN ACTION TEAM**, the Department of Life, Human Dignity and Charity is happy to assist. We have created a simple retreat that could be implemented by the Family without a great deal of work. The retreat was designed to provide a space in which the team could prayerfully reflect on the many ways in which each parish has been actively practicing Love in Action. For an overview of what Love in Action is, check out this **PATHWAY PAGE**.

Over the past year, a number of parishes enlisted the assistance of staff from the Department of Life, Human Dignity & Charity to gather for the retreat provided on the Portal or a similar gathering of prayer and celebration. Such events have happened in all corners of the Archdiocese. At each of these events, one of the most powerful moments occurred as the parishes shared the various Love in Action ministries in which they engage. There were moments of excitement and wonder at how many activities that promote human dignity, respect for life, solidarity and the other principles of **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING** are part of the fabric of every parish.

As Families of Parishes move forward together, the Love in Action Pathway offers very real and exciting opportunities for parishioners to come together in a united effort to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world. As year two begins, we encourage you to offer this retreat if you have not. Staff of the various offices of the Department of Life, Human Dignity & Charity are ready and willing to help.

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