

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

radical
solidarity



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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

We Are Down to the Final Stretch to November 7th

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

We have about one month left, so it never hurts to remind people where to find all the resources available to help us educate voters and get out the vote all this month, to soundly defeat this extreme abortion amendment coming to Ohio.

First, continue to pray and fast. Participate as much as you can in our **54 DAY ROSARY NOVENA**. On that website you can find links to beautiful print outs, daily sants, and advertising materials for social media and bulletins. Please do not forget to encourage everyone to combine this novena with fasting, as Jesus reminds us in **MARK 9:29**. Your fasting can be as strict as our Ash Wednesday requirements, or as simple as forgoing sugar in your coffee, but please do *something*. If we unite a personal sacrifice with the immense sacrifice of Christ, the graces bestowed on us from our prayers will be multiplied.

Second, you can find all the resources at **CATHOLICAOC.ORG/VOTENO**. You can find both of the newest flyers there--the "Where

Does It Say That?" and "FAQ's"--as well as the recent Archbishop's letter, his April op-ed in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and others. Three of the six homily videos related to Issue 1 are already posted there, and three more are still coming in the coming weeks. Our new *Know the Facts About Issue 1* video is a must watch, and



more are still on the way. All include the embed codes to share on social media, or just find them posted on the **RESPECT LIFE FACEBOOK** page and share them directly from there. You can find more high-quality informational videos at **PROTECTWOMENCINCINNATI**, or my **BEINGPROLIFE** video podcast page as well. If you need someone to speak at your parish for a town hall event, please **CONTACT OUR OFFICE** as well and we can connect you with one of our trained speakers. If you need yard signs, see the back page of this newsletter for more information on that.

Third, be willing to talk to your friends. We can't win this if we don't convince our "Pro-Choice" friends to vote "No". Educate yourself with the materials listed above, and be ready to bring up the conversation in a kind and respectful way with those who you think might not completely align with your pro-life values. Don't let people think this is about whether abortion should be legal or not. This is about whether we want to put in our State founding document an inherent right to abortion for any reason, up until birth, with no parental notification laws or medical safety standards in place for women that an abortion provider would consider a "burden". We are talking about ambulatory privileges for abortion providers, regulations that hallways are wide enough for a journey in case of an emergency, 24-hour waiting periods, and requirements that the abortionist is actually a licensed physician. All these have the potential of being eliminated under the guise that they are burdens to abortion access. Of course, once the amendment is in place, we will be unable to pass new laws to limit it. This is more extreme than what the vast majority of voters want. They just don't realize it. We have to do our duty as faithful followers of Christ and let them know. Lives are at stake.



Welcome

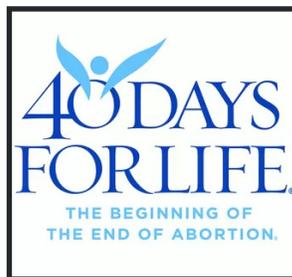
Thank you for your openness to God's call to foster respect for human life at all its stages, from conception to natural death. We live in a time when so many in our culture promote values contrary to human life itself. These include life issues such as abortion and euthanasia, and issues of human dignity 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

Sign up for 40 Days!



Beginning September 27, people across the world gathered outside abortion facilities once again to lift their voices in prayer for those who enter, the workers who provide abortion services, and the innocent lives lost. Those who commit to these 40 days of prayer and fasting, do so peacefully in the hope that someday we will see a world where the killing of unborn children is unthinkable.

As the most extreme abortion amendment to ever enter Ohio is now only one month away, I encourage you to get involved. If you have never prayed outside of an abortion clinic, attend one of the upcoming vigils and sign up for an hour or two. If you have volunteered before, consider becoming a day captain and help recruit others to fill needed slots. And don't forget the fasting portion. Like we all do during Lent, commit to a specific sacrifice during the 40 Days vigil, such as giving up phone games or sweetener in your morning cup of coffee.

If you are unable to physically join the vigil, you can still join us in prayer. Offer a rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet each day, or a daily Mass each week. The battle to end abortion begins with changing hearts, and prayer is our best weapon. Sign up for a local vigil at WWW.40DAYSFORLIFE.

October

Capital Punishment

04

We are encouraging everyone to pack the Ohio Statehouse (room 313) in Columbus at 10 AM this day for the latest hearing on the bipartisan bill to end the death penalty here in Ohio. Sign up to be on the [INFORMATION MAILING LISTS HERE!](#)

Ohio March for Life

06

Let's make a strong showing by organizing your groups, churches or schools to join us in Columbus, OH to promote the beauty and dignity of every human life, especially during this final push before the November election. For more information, [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.

- 01- Word of Life
- 02- Respect Life Collection
- 03- Called to Serve
- 04- Webinar for Respect Life Month



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes **RESPECT LIFE MONTH MATERIALS**, intercessions for life, pulpit announcements, prayer cards that can be ordered, graphics for your bulletin and social media, and more! Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 02 Parishes all across our archdiocese had a collection for the Respect Life Fund during Respect Life Sunday last weekend. This money goes to support the work of pro-life agencies like Pregnancy Care Centers right here in this Archdiocese. If your parish missed the collection or you still want to give, let people know they can still donate online [HERE](#). Thank you for your generosity!
- 03 **CALLED TO SERVE** features more materials for Respect Life Month, prayers for pregnant mothers, and flyers for **WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED**. These graphics can be used on social media, bulletins, or to post around your campus/church gathering space.
- 04 As we make our way closer to the Nov. 7 election, your pastor may be overwhelmed with the amount of materials he is being given about it. You can find all the resources, including the flyers, videos, bishop letters, materials for the 54-Day novena, and a recording of the Archbishop's Respect Life Sunday homily at CATHOLICAOC.ORG/VOTENO.

2023 Ohio March for Life



Our second annual Ohio March for Life is taking place in Columbus, OH on Friday, October 6th.

Since pilgrims would come from across the Archdiocese to a location not far away, the Office for Respect Life Ministries 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. If you don't have time to organize a trip, just get in your car and go!

It is very important that we make a strong showing in preparation for the upcoming November election that seeks to enshrine a right to abortion for any reason into our Ohio constitution. We clearly have a long way to go here in Ohio to ensure that every life is respected and protected.

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, especially against the upcoming November vote! Find more information [HERE](#).

EXALT Tour

Please join the Center for the New Evangelization on the EXALT Tour this month, with help from the Office for Persons with Disabilities to make it friendly for all. What is EXALT? It is a night for the whole family with praise & worship, a kerygmatic keynote, and a time of Eucharistic Adoration. You won't want to miss this special night with your family. This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival, and I can't think of a better way to kick it off with your ENTIRE family. Jesus came for EVERYONE, and we want you to be there!

Oct 4th 7PM *Minster Elementary School, 50 East 7th St., Minster, OH*
 Speaker: Archbishop Dennis Schnurr
 Sensory Friendly space

Oct 8th 7PM *St. Francis of Assisi, 6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville, OH*
 Speaker: Sr. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM
 Sensory Friendly space, ASL

Oct 9th 7PM *St. John's, 9080 Cincinnati Dayton Rd., W. Chester, OH*
 Speaker: Sr. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM
 Sensory Friendly space

October

Coffee & Conversation

07

Parents, caregivers, professionals and anyone who cares about those with special needs should attend this session to discuss how to plan, organize, and advocate for individuals with special needs, Deaf Community, or mental wellness challenges. 9-11:30 AM at St. Ann's, (2900 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati).

Voter Registration Deadline

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Many people think their vote doesn't matter and do not ever bother to register. First of all, ask all of your friends and family to be sure they check their registration at VOTEOHIO.GOV, and have a registration drive at your parish if you can. Then encourage everyone to vote early in person, or by mail starting October 11!

Caring for God's Creation in the AoC

By: Andrew Musgrave



The Archdiocesan Care for Creation Task Force started almost 15 years ago and is focused explicitly on the issues of climate change and caring for God's creation. Building on the great work of the Catholic Climate Covenant and their St. Francis Pledge, the task force has worked with parishes, schools, religious orders, and the broader community to bring the Catholic Social Teaching values of dignity, commitment to the poor and vulnerable, solidarity, and rights and responsibility to bear on all that makes up God's creation. (You can learn more about the task force here.)

Six years ago, the task force launched a program that encouraged Catholic institutions to apply

this work to their facilities and populations and celebrated the fruit of that work. It is called Laudato Si' Communities, named after Pope Francis' game-changing encyclical, Laudato Si'. To date, over two dozen communities have been honored, and this year we are proud to honor two more.

Please join us over Zoom on **Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7:00pm** as we recognize these groups. At this event, we'll also celebrate the Feast of St. Francis (10/4) and introduce Pope Francis' new exhortation, Laudato Deum, a follow up to Laudato Si'.

Being Pro-Life Interview with Rachel Citak

Just in case you haven't met the new President of Cincinnati Right to Life yet, Rachel Citak is a Constitutional and Civil Rights attorney who operates her own law firm servicing her clients in Ohio on advocacy, litigation and representation on constitutional conservative issues. Rachel has authored multiple pro-life Op-Eds, bringing her legal knowledge to conservative issues. She definitely knows what she is talking about when it comes to Issue 1 in Ohio and how it will effect the existing statues and the Ohio Revised Code related to abortion and religious freedom, so please check out the latest **BEING PRO LIFE** episode featuring Rachel. If it isn't there yet, it will go live sometime this week.



It's Time To Nominate!



Do you know someone who you would like to see win our Archdiocesan Respect Life Award? The deadline to nominate someone for the 2023 award is November 10th! Our most deserving individuals cannot win if they are not nominated!

The requirements for a qualified candidate are:

Nominees must be Catholic, living out his or her faith in a visible way, and "proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self, and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence" (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life. A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2001, page 1). This award encompasses work in areas such as abortion, care for the chronically ill, disabled or dying, advocacy for prisoners and victims of violent crime, and a host of other issues covered by the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities.

Submissions are due Friday, November 10th, 2023. The award will be given out at the Respect Life Mass on January 14th, 2024. Click [HERE](#) to nominate someone who is deserving of this award!

Mental Health Ministry

By: Lisa Averion



"Whoever suffers from mental illness 'always' bears God's image and likeness in himself, as does every human being."

- Saint John Paul II

Mental Illness Awareness week is October 1st-7th.

Did you know...

- **1 IN 5** U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- **1 IN 20** U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- **1 IN 6** U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year
- **50%** of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24
- Suicide is the **2ND LEADING** cause of death among people aged 10-34

Visit our website for resources for your parish or contact our office to learn more about Mental Wellness Ministry that will be piloted in two parish families later this year.

Our office along with Catholic Charities offers Mental Health First Aid training. Please contact Lisa at laverion@catholicaoc.org to learn more.

October Mass for the Deaf

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Members of our Deaf Community gather for Mass and fellowship at St. Christopher in Vandalia, Ohio. Mass will be offered with ASL interpretation, so all are welcome to attend. It is truly a gift to gather at the table with our hearing brothers and sisters.

November 40 Days for Life Closing

05

The 40 Days Fall Campaigns close, as always, with a prayer service. This year, it is 2 days before election day. Let's make it a big one! Both are at 2PM. Check their respective web sites, **DAYTON** or **CINCINNATI** for more details!



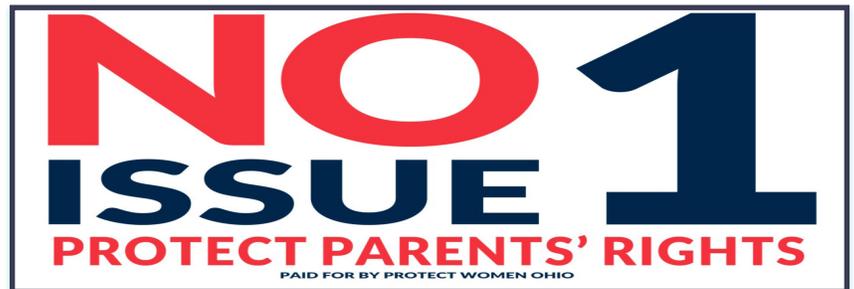
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Get Your VOTE NO! Yard Signs



More signs have been ordered of all sizes. The small yard signs can be requested and then picked up at Cincinnati Right to Life (513-728-7870) and Dayton Right to Life (937-461-3625) to be placed anywhere. Please also reach out to your parish, a nearby non-Catholic church, your child's school, or anyone you know with a home or business especially in a high-traffic area for one of our 4x4 or even 4x8 signs. For the larger signs, text the name of the business where the sign will be posted, the contact name and phone number, and the size of the sign you would like, to Kristen at 513-279-8339. From there delivery or pick up can be arranged at one of the distribution centers, including installation, if you are unable to do that yourself. We really need these large signs to be visible all over the city, so actively reach out to anyone you know, especially our non-Catholic church friends, to get more signs up and around the state this month.