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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

The Miscarriage/Ectopic Pregnancy/Life of Mother Arguments

If the vitriol I have experienced on the internet is any indication, we are still failing to educate people on how Issue 1 is not needed to care for women in medical emergencies. We have one week left to help people understand that abortion restrictions do not threaten women's health. Here are some resources to help you:

Miscarriage and Ectopic Pregnancy:

The Ohio Revised Code (2919.11) defines abortion as "the purposeful termination of a human pregnancy...with an intention other than to produce a life birth or to remove a dead fetus or embryo." Miscarriage is removing a dead fetus and clearly falls outside of any abortion restrictions. As to ectopic pregnancy, even Ohio's Heartbeat Bill (not currently in effect), specifically defines an ectopic pregnancy exception in ORC 2919.191 saying that the law's restrictions "apply only to intrauterine pregnancies, i.e., only when implantation is in the uterus, not in the fallopian tubes, as occurs in an ectopic or tubal pregnancy." Any stories about doctors afraid to care for women in these cases are either lies, or cases of malpractice. No doctor would truly be confused about that language.

What if the mother's life is at stake?

First of all, when pregnancy threatens the mother's life, the safest thing to do for the mother's health is always to deliver the baby alive and do what is necessary to save the life of the child, or provide comfort care if the baby is too premature. It is never safer for the mother to dismember the child first, and then forcibly remove it. Nonetheless, as far as the law is concerned, all abortion-restricting laws in Ohio have an exception for both "to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to avoid a serious risk of the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function" (ORC 2919.16). For more information on the life of the mother argument, please watch this video on [LIFE OF THE MOTHER](#). On the terminal diagnosis argument, see this video on [TERMINAL DIAGNOSIS](#). Another similar argument on the fallacy of Rape Exceptions can be found in this video on [RAPE](#). The truth about abortion and women's health is a one-page resource that dispels the myths which claim that restriction to abortion will limit a women's access to life-saving healthcare, available in [ENGLISH](#) and [SPANISH](#).

The other thing I sometimes hear related to abortion up to birth is that this makes up less than 1% of all abortions. First of all, I don't understand why that is at all relevant. If chain saw murders make up less than 1% of all murders, does that mean we should make it legal? Nonetheless, the overall low US late-term abortion statistic does not account for the fact that they are illegal in most states. If we look at the states where it is legal, that tells a much different story. Look at the following chart taken from [these 2019 CDC stats](#):

State/Age	16-17	18-19	20+	Total
CO	1.7%	1.2%	1.9%	5.1%
NJ	2.9%	2.8%	2.4%	8.1%
NM	2.1%	2.9%	11.6%	16.6%
OR	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%	5.1%
VT	1.8%	1.8%	1.5%	5.1%

Make it legal, and stats go up. Again, utilize the information available at [CATHOLICAOC.ORG/VOTENO](#). We have to do our duty as faithful followers of Christ and let people know the truth. Lives are at stake.



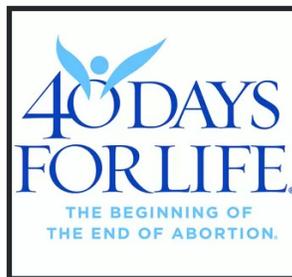
Welcome

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!

Bp. Wurzelbacher

40 Days Closing Vigils



As a vote on the most extreme abortion amendment to ever come to Ohio is now only days away, I encourage you to attend the closing prayer service of your local **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** event on Sunday November 5 at 2PM (same time in Cincinnati, Dayton or Hamilton). It is important to have a great showing at all of our locations. Additionally, if you have never prayed outside of an

abortion clinic, there are still open time slots and we would appreciate you finding a friend and signing up for an hour or two even in this last week. Also, don't forget the fasting portion. Like we all do during Lent, commit to a specific sacrifice during the 40 Days vigil, even as simple 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. Attend daily Mass this last week, continue your rosary novena, a Divine Mercy Chaplet or Holy Hour each day, or whatever you can do. The battle to end abortion begins with changing hearts, and prayer is our best weapon. Check their respective web sites for Cincinnati, Dayton or Hamilton locations for more details by heading to the website at

WWW.40DAYSFORLIFE.COM

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, CINCINNATI** or **HAMILTON** for more details!

06 - 07

Fatima Statue Prayer Vigil

Join Catholics across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for a 24-hour prayer vigil with the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima at St. Gertrude parish in Madeira, for the defeat of Issue 1. 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- Phone Calls using i360

03- Christ the King

04- Hospice Palliative Care Month



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes an article on **CATHOLIC CARE FOR THE SICK AND DYING**, a 2-page handout on **RESOURCES ON END OF LIFE CARE**, and more. As always, there are weekly intercessions for life, bulletin quotes and suggested downloads for each week. Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.

02 There is ONE WEEK LEFT! It is not too late to make phone calls, and it isn't very difficult. Just register at **VOLUNTEER.CREATEDEQUAL.ORG**, and you will be sent a password. Download the i360 app on your phone and sign in. The app will target only those whose voting records indicate they should be open to hearing what you have to say, and it gives you the complete script. Spend as little or as much time as you have. It may make all the difference.

03 The Solemnity of Christ the King was instituted as a means to counter the strong pull to eliminate Christian influence from political life. This call to actually use our moral teaching to influence legislative decisions is very important today as well. The Solemnity of Christ the King is a fitting moment in the liturgical year to promote the Church's teaching on religious freedom. Check out these resources containing a **NOVENA**, **LECTIONARY NOTES**, and **SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS** available!

02 November is dedicated to National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. This is a great time to highlight the topics of hospice, palliative care, and the importance of end-of-life decisions. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Respect Life Award 2023!



Do you know someone who you would like to see win our Archdiocesan Respect Life Award? Perhaps you know someone whose efforts towards November 7 have been heroic. 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. 2001, p. 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.

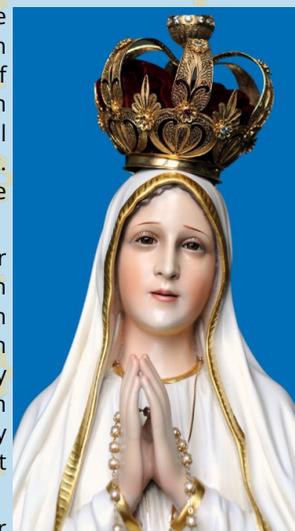
Submissions are due Friday, November 10th, 2023. The award will be given out at the Respect Life Mass on January 14th, 2024. Click [HERE](#) to nominate someone who is deserving of this award!

Fatima Statue Prayer Vigil

Of all the places in the world that the original International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima could be on the eve of the November election and on election day, this famous image of Our Lady will be in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, at St. Gertrude Parish in Madeira. This should be a source of hope for all of us.

All are welcome to attend this prayer 24-hour prayer vigil which begins with an opening presentation at **7:00 PM on Monday, Nov. 6.** The Rite of Exposition begins at **8:00 PM** followed by a rosary on the hour every hour, until Benediction at **7:30 PM on Tuesday, Nov. 7.** Daily Mass will also be celebrated on Tuesday at **7:00 AM, 8:00 AM and 11:30 AM.**

Come anytime during the 24 hour prayer vigil to unite together and pray for the protection of human life and dignity and the defeat of this dangerous amendment, Issue 1. For more information please check out the website by [CLICKING HERE.](#)



November

Election Day

07

Many people intend to vote on election day, but then something happens--rain, illness, work--and end up being unable. I encourage everyone to vote early at your local Board of Elections. It is easy, saves money for targeted advertising, and ensures you actually vote. But above all, vote!

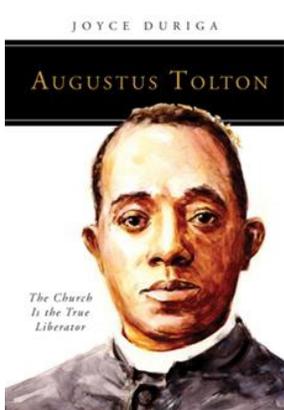
08 & 14

Now & at the Hour of Our Death

Join us for one of two online sessions on Catholic funerals and what the Church teaches on key end-of-life issues. Topics include: Planning the Catholic funeral, Catholic teaching on cremation, and navigating difficult end-of-life decisions with your loved ones from a Catholic perspective. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Black Catholic History Month

By: Deacon Royce Winters



November is National Black Catholic History, and we must remind ourselves and the whole Catholic Church of the gifts of blackness which enriches the entire Church. We take seriously our responsibility to never forget the sacrifice of our ancestors who handed down to us our rich heritage and faith in the One, who is the Savior of world, Jesus, the Christ.

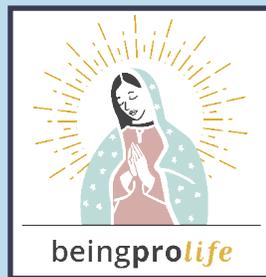
On July 24, 1990, the National U.S. Black Catholic Clergy Caucus designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics. Two commemorative dates fall within this month: St. Augustine's birthday (Nov. 13) and St. Martin de Porres' Feast Day (Nov. 3). More importantly, November not only marks a time when we pray for all saints and souls in loving remembrance, but also a time to recall the saints and souls of Africa and the African Diaspora.

Today, we stand on the shoulders of those who tirelessly kept their eyes on Jesus with the hope of receiving the glorious crown of salvation; we are now holders of the faith! It is a time when we remember that the faith we profess is rooted in the apostolic tradition, thus it is infused with the faith of Africans.

Despite the evil of racism, ignorance, and indifference, we honor the six candidates in the Cause of Canonization who are credible witnesses of what it means to be authentically Black and Catholic: Fr. Augustus Tolton (above), Sr. Thea Bowman, Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, Mother Henriette DeLille, and Julia Greeley.

Being Pro-Life Palliative Care

November is a great month to talk about end-of-life issues and palliative care, but palliative care is not only about pain management for those in the dying process. The term palliative care also includes relieving the stress and symptoms of any serious medical condition, even while pursuing curative treatments. In this podcast, Bob talks about the broad spectrum of palliative care and how well it fits in with Catholic teaching with Denise Hess, Executive Director of the Supportive Care Coalition, as well as a Dr. Tim Jessick, DO, and Katalin Vogt, MSW. They also discuss how to access it if you or you loved one needs it, and how anyone can get involved in spreading the word about its importance. Check out the video at [BEING PRO LIFE](#) and be better prepared to care for your loved ones should the need arise.



Welcome Emily!



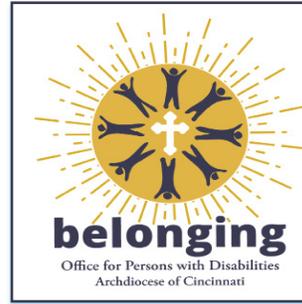
Emily Branscum is the new Associate Director for the Respect Life Office. She is a cradle Catholic born and raised in Cincinnati. She feels blessed to have attended Catholic schools at St. Ignatius and McAuley HS. She went on to study theology at Valparaiso University in Indiana. She graduated in 2015 and worked for three years at Saint John Neumann parish in adult formation.

In 2018 she was blessed with the opportunity to return to her home parish as the youth minister and has enjoyed every minute of nearly six years serving the youth of Saint Ignatius. She is currently working on her MA in Theology at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary and School of Theology.

Emily says, "I'm incredibly excited and humbled by the opportunity to work in this field, proclaiming the Gospel of Life in such a direct and meaningful way. In my 8 years of ministry, I have often reflected upon Pope Benedict XVI's quote that says 'Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary'. I look forward to helping everyone in our Archdiocese realize this profound truth, that they may know their dignity and worth before God and be inspired to protect that dignity in their neighbors."

Deaf Fest and Upcoming Retreat

By: Lisa Averion



On Saturday, October 14, 2023, the Office for Persons with Disabilities hosted a booth at Deaf Fest at Wright State University. It was an opportunity to evangelize and invite nonpracticing Deaf Catholics back to church. As we wait for the arrival of Fr. Charles Munachiso Onumaegbu in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to serve the Deaf Community, we continue to host our Deaf Community Masses and meetings every third Saturday at St. Christopher in Vandalia at 5:00 PM. Fr. Charles is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and will serve the Deaf Community through sacramental preparation, Masses, bible studies and other formation opportunities.

On Saturday, November 4, 2023, we will host a Fall Retreat with Fr. Shawn Carey from the Archdiocese of Boston at St. Rita from 9:00-4:00. We have participants from our Deaf Community attending from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Diocese of Columbus, and the Diocese of Covington. It will be an opportunity for our community to grow in faith, enjoy fellowship, and encounter Jesus through the Eucharist.

November Mass for the Deaf

18

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.

December National Prayer for Life

08 - 09

We traditionally gather on the Feasts of the Immaculate Conception and St. Juan Diego to spend time in adoration and pray the Rosary for the end of abortion. Invite your pastor to hold a holy hour sometime that evening. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information on how to participate.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

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In Memory of Colin McClure 2000-2023



On August 28, 2022, my first official assignment as the Associate Director for the Office for Persons with Disabilities was to attend Colin McClure's First Holy Communion and Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe. Witnessing Colin receive the sacraments along with another young man confirmed my decision to pursue a career in advocacy. Colin was 22 years old and had never received Jesus in the Eucharist. It was all because one person noticed he did not join the communion line weekly but venerated the cross on Good Friday 2022. Christine Baumgardner was the Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Sorrows and approached Colin's parents after Mass and asked if he would like to receive the

sacraments. Colin had cerebral palsy, was confined to a wheelchair, and had limited words; however, through Loyola Press Adaptive Sacrament preparation he was able to prepare to receive the sacraments.

Colin passed away unexpectedly on October 18, 2023. It is a gift to know that he was able to be in full communion with the Church through the sacraments before his passing.

Colin is survived by his parents Chuck and Susan McClure, half brother Allen McClure and Grandmother Patricia McClure.