



# MARCH FOR LIFE



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# RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

## A Pilgrimage for Life

*By: Noelle Collis-DeVito*

Last year, for the first time since the pivotal ruling of *Roe v. Wade*, the streets of our nation's capital were nearly empty on January 22. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and political unrest, we were forced to adapt our prayerful efforts to end abortion on a more local level. The Office for Respect Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati created a **MARCH FOR LIFE TOOLKIT** to empower parishes, schools, and respect life groups to join in the vigil at home, and we focused our energies on our surrounding communities.

This year, we return to the March for Life with a renewed sense of hope as the Supreme Court considers a major abortion case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. It is more important than ever for us to unite our voices in prayer for the Supreme Court Justices who will be making such a monumental decision for our country. While the COVID-19 pandemic is still creating obstacles for many to attend, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office for Respect Life Ministries and the Center for the New

Evangelization are working together to provide a pilgrimage experience to Washington D.C. for nearly 200 students and adult volunteers. This pilgrimage approach to the trip will allow for a more prayerful and spirit-filled experience that will lead the participants to a deeper understanding of our call as disciples to spread the Gospel of life in our world.

While many will be unable to travel on the pilgrimage to the March for Life, all are welcome to join us on a spiritual pilgrimage beginning on Wednesday, January 19. We have created a **WEBSITE** with an abundance of resources ranging from **PRO-LIFE MOVIE NIGHT** options to **YOUTH MINISTRY LESSON PLANS** to **PRO-LIFE PRAYER SERVICES**. There is also a listing of all the upcoming **PRO-LIFE EVENTS** that are taking place here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Finally, we will be

sharing our journey on our **SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES** with intentions along the way as a means of being united in prayer with those participating at home.



Please consider joining us through fasting, praying, or attending a local event this month in honor of the millions of lives that have been lost due to the atrocity of abortion. Let us pray together for the countless women and men who are suffering from the consequences of their choice that they might find healing and forgiveness, and let us

work ardently to create a culture of life and justice here in this nation.

It would be incredible if the 50th Annual March for Life was one of celebration and remembrance instead of mourning and loss.

Jan 2022

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Issue 22



# 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

## Might the Abortion Facilities Close?

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

The Born Alive Protection Act, SB 157, was signed into law on December 22. Sponsored by Senators Terry Johnson and Steve Huffman, the Bill makes it a crime to withhold life-saving treatments on babies who survive an abortion attempt. Many thanks to those of you among the hundreds who called and sent emails to our representatives in support of this bill.

Another key aspect to this bill is that it prohibits physicians employed at state-funded universities from working as back-up doctors at abortion facilities. In Ohio, surgical centers outside of hospitals must have transfer agreements with local hospitals in case of emergency. The two abortion facilities in our area (Dayton and Cincinnati) do not have transfer agreements but rely on a variance to employ physicians also employed by state universities. Once this law goes into effect, if these two facilities cannot find different physicians, both facilities could close. See [www.wrightstateabortion.com](http://www.wrightstateabortion.com) for more details on the Dayton facility.

While the rest of the world was struggling with a pandemic last year, abortion facilities remained open and abortion rates increased. As we continue to pray that the Dobbs case will soon end the tragedy of Roe in this country, here in Ohio we are already putting in place laws that protect the unborn regardless of what happens in that case. Let us continue to do everything we can to truly help women in crisis pregnancies and end the scourge of abortion in our communities.

### JANUARY Mini March for Life

# 16

Join Cincinnati Right to Life on Sunday, January 16 at 2:00pm in front of Planned Parenthood on Auburn Ave. for prayer honoring the lives lost to abortion in our nation and in our community. For more information contact Monica DeFosse at [mdefosse@cincinnatirighttolife.org](mailto:mdefosse@cincinnatirighttolife.org). Signs are encouraged! RSVP on Facebook [HERE](#).

### Prayer Vigil to End Abortion

# 16

Join Miami County Right to Life on Sunday, January 16 at 2:00pm at the Troy Hayner Cultural Center for a gathering of prayer and reflection. This event will feature guest speakers- Mrs. Amy Simmons and Fire Chief Matthew Simmons. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

## 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 & Pray for Life
- 02- 9 Days for Life
- 03- Continue to Pray for Dobbs
- 04- January Action Guide



## Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's Word of Life includes a **PARISH ACTION GUIDE** for the *Anniversary of Roe v. Wade*. (PDF: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)) Also included are resources for the **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children** including suggested readings. You can also find the **PRAY FOR LIFE** page that includes monthly prayers for moms in need written in both English and Spanish.
- 02 The 9 Days for Life Novena will take place from January 19 - 27. This is a chance to prayerfully enter into the March for Life and the many other prayer events that surround the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The program includes intentions and suggestions for fasts each day. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more and consider starting a group at your parish to lead the community in 9 Days for Life. You can even sign up for daily text messages!
- 03 Please continue to **PRAY FOR DOBBS!** Sign up for continuing updates and use these resources to invite others to pray and fast until the decision (likely in late June 2022). Let us all lift our voices together in continuous vigil as we pray for guidance for our justices.
- 04 January is a busy time for Respect Life efforts across our nation. The USCCB Pro Life Secretariat has created a wonderful **ACTION GUIDE** for Parish Respect Life Coordinators to use in planning events that focus on the issue of abortion. This **ACTION GUIDE** for the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade contains many simple, ready-to-use resources for helping parishes highlight the gift of human life during the month of January. USCCB staff walk through the website and resources available in this **INTRODUCTORY WEBINAR RECORDING**.

# Abortion Pill and Reversal

By: Bob Wurzelbacher



Sarah was pregnant with her fourth child at the age of 26. A single mom with no support from the father, she reluctantly scheduled an appointment for an abortion. She was given two pills. She took the first pill (mifepristone) while in tears, and was advised to take the second one 24 hours later. She went home and cried.

She realized she no longer wanted to go through with it, but wondered if it was already too late.

That same day, Sara picked up her other kids from daycare and thought, "I love you and we're making it. Why does this baby not deserve that same chance to love and be loved and be a sibling?" Thankfully, Sarah went online and discovered the website [www.abortionpillreversal.com](http://www.abortionpillreversal.com). She was blown away that there was a nearby doctor who knew the treatment, and was able to get her seen within a few hours. An ultrasound determined her baby was still alive, so she started progesterone therapy, and a few months later gave birth to a perfectly healthy baby boy, Isaiah. "He's the happiest baby ever" says Sarah, "because he's happy to be alive."

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# Beacons Roundtables Return!



Please join us for the first in the new series of Beacons Roundtable webinars. This series is for all parish leaders – priests, deacons, staff, and parishioner leaders. Beacons Roundtable features timely information, examples from archdiocesan parishes, and opportunities for you to share your experiences, thoughts, and ideas with other participants. Highlights of the first in the 2022 series:

## January 18, 1:30 – 3:00

**Warmup for Pastoral Planning:** getting oriented to the prayer, learning, and preparatory work parish leaders can do in the coming months

**Journeying Together:** bringing the theology of Families of Parishes to Life with Fr. Earl Fernandes

Additional spring series dates: February 15, March 15, April 26 (adjusted for Easter week), May 17, and June 21

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the full series.

## JANUARY 9 Days for Life

# 19-27

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. To join the Novena, you can find all of the prayers, reflections and resources [HERE](#). ([CLICK HERE](#) for Español).

# 22

## Day of Prayer for Unborn

[CLICK HERE](#) for liturgical resources.

"In all Dioceses, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." -GIRM

# The Synod on Synodality

By: Noelle Collis-DeVito



Pope Francis has called the *entire* church to come together to participate in a series of conversations to enliven the Holy Spirit within our church. This two year process begins with the voices of the local people of each diocese across the world and we are starting the process here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati beginning with regional meetings on Thursday, January 6. These gatherings are intended to be accessible to all and there will be ASL interpreters and Spanish interpreters available at some of the locations.

"A synodal approach involves hearing from all the baptized in discerning the will of God on how to best accomplish the

mission of the Church. This includes all Catholics, regardless of how engaged they are in the faith, as well as non-Catholic Christians, the young, the old, the disabled, the poor, migrants and immigrants, women, religious, the laity and the clergy." This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the life of the church as we come to better understand what it means to be Catholics in today's world. "Synodality represents the main road for the Church, called to renew herself under the action of the Spirit and by listening to the Word. The ability to imagine a different future for the Church and her institutions, in keeping with the mission she has received, depends largely on the decision to initiate processes of listening, dialogue, and community discernment, in which each and every person can participate and contribute." (Preparatory Document, 12)

The Archdiocese has developed a website that provides a more detailed explanation of synodality, a timeline for the process, and a list of ways to get involved (including dates for upcoming gatherings).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Archdiocesan Webpage or you can access the [USCCB PAGE HERE](#). This is our Church and we are all called to as part of the Body of Christ to be a part of its future.

# Being Pro-Life

## Human Trafficking

Anne was an elderly woman living alone on social security. A young couple offered to let her live with them if she turned over the rights to her checks, promising to let her keep \$300 a month. She quickly



discovered, however, that they never gave her any money, and made her work harder every day with less access to food. She never left because they had her identification, her money, and she had nowhere to go. January is Human Trafficking awareness month.

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to other personal stories on video podcasts, and learn what you can do at your parish to help end the scourge of trafficking here in our communities.

# Abortion Pill & Reversal

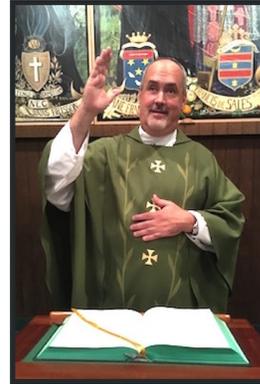
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Last month, the FDA announced they permanently eliminated the safety requirement of in-person dispensing for the chemical abortion drug. While that requirement was already temporarily lifted due to COVID concerns, this paves the way for clinics to dispense the abortion pill even more regularly through online pharmacies and drug delivery services. An in-person evaluation is necessary even for the health of the mother, simply to evaluate gestational age and if the pregnancy is ectopic, among other reasons. The **USCCB CONDEMNED THE MOVE**, saying, "One of the essential tasks of governments is to safeguard the health and well-being of citizens. As such, the FDA ought to act to protect the lives and health of mothers and children, rather than merely succumbing to the abortion industry's pressure to loosen safety standards."

This move makes information about the availability of Abortion Pill Reversal treatment more important than ever. Abortion Pill Reversal is simply a treatment of progesterone, the natural hormone blocked by the first pill. By countering the effects of the drug, the nutrients continue to flow and the baby can be saved. According to a 2018 study published in "Issues in Law and Medicine", this therapy has a 64%-68% success rate. Additionally, another study showed no increased risk of birth defects. Check out our **VIDEO INTERVIEW** to learn more about those studies, and help spread the word to your parish about the **ABORTION PILL REVERSAL WEBSITE**, so that more women can save their babies to live happy lives, like Isaiah.

# belonging

Ministry with Persons with Disabilities



We are excited to announce that Fr. Michael Depcik will be returning to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for ASL Mass and Reconciliation on Saturday, January 29 offering Reconciliation from 1:30PM - 2:30PM with Mass at 3PM at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Centerville. Fr. MD, as he is known, was ordained a priest in 2000 in the congregation of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and is among fewer than a handful of culturally Deaf priests worldwide. He currently ministers to Deaf Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and is a graduate of St. Rita School for the Deaf in our very own Archdiocese. While these sacramental opportunities are being offered predominately for the Deaf Community, hearing people are also encouraged to attend the Mass. There will be an interpreter available for the hearing at these liturgies. All are welcome!

## JANUARY Respect Life Award Mass

# 23

The Respect Life Award Mass will be offered by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr on Sunday, January 23 at 11:00am at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral Basilica for renewing efforts to advance the culture of life. All who contribute to Respect Life efforts in their parish are welcome to attend. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

## JANUARY Prayer March

# 23

Join Butler County Right to Life on Sunday, January 23 at 2:00pm in front of the Butler County Courthouse to pray for our nation, the unborn, and parents and many other intentions. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



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January is a time when parishes display the Cemetery of the Innocents in order to memorialize the millions of children lost to abortion. In order to also care for women and men who have experienced abortion, the Office for Respect Life Ministries would like to suggest that in tandem with these displays parishes also include Project Rachel information. Our office has printed a number of banners that are available for your use free of charge. We also have a number of printable resources for parishes on our Project Rachel Page. Contact us at [respectlife@catholicaoc.org](mailto:respectlife@catholicaoc.org) to reserve your banner in advance!



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.