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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



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

Pregnancy Care Centers in a Post-Roe Ohio

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

Today in Ohio, if an abortion-minded woman walks into a pregnancy care center, the first thing she will be told is there is time to breathe. There is no need to run to an abortion center right now. With abortion legal until about 20 weeks, she likely has two or three months to decide what she wants to do. She will be offered to schedule an appointment for a free ultrasound at a convenient time, after which they can discuss options. At that appointment, she will be told the developmental stage of her baby. She will be told what abortion at that stage is like. It will be explained to her what support is available to her should she decide to raise the baby, or how adoption works. They will listen to her story, and let her decide what to do now that she knows her options.

If Roe is overturned, however, and the Heartbeat Bill goes into effect in Ohio, everything will change. No longer will a woman in a crisis pregnancy be interested in taking time to breathe or scheduling an appointment for a free ultrasound. If abortion is illegal at heartbeat, she won't

want to validate that there is a heartbeat. If abortion is illegal at 6 weeks, she won't want confirmation that her pregnancy is too far along to consider abortion. By the time she finds out she is pregnant, she will likely be concerned it may already be too late to obtain a legal abortion, and may be desperate to obtain abortion medication as soon as possible. If a pregnancy care center wants to try to help her, they will need to reach out to her with all their available resources, right at that very moment. She may need someone well aware of social programs available to her. She may need someone to answer all her questions about adoption. She may need a medical practitioner to talk to her about what abortion is like, and about abortion pill reversal. She may just need someone willing to listen. But whatever she needs, she will need it right at that very moment.



There will be no time to schedule an appointment for another day.

This means pregnancy resource centers will need to increase hours and staff. They will need to increase their advertising budget so that they can be found in the first crisis

search when a woman is looking for help. They will need more support from their local parishes for funds, material resources and volunteers to keep up with the increased need. They will also need your active and constant prayers, to ensure the Holy Spirit can work on the hearts of all the women who enter their doors to choose life for their children. Please find the nearest pregnancy center to you, find out what they need, and engage your parish in supporting them to prepare for a time when their ministry is needed more than ever.



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

Religious Freedom Week 2022

By: Becky Schoenfeld



What comes to mind when you hear the words "Religious Freedom?"

For many Christians throughout the world, persecution is no stranger to us. It's been ongoing for centuries. One would think in the year 2022 that less religious persecution would be happening. However, it is just the opposite. Religious freedom in our country is under attack each and every day by the media, our government, and our culture. We must pray, fast, and act to preserve our right to religious freedom.

As Religious Freedom Week approaches, learn what you can do in both prayer and servitude to support the organizations in your community that also uphold this fundamental right. Now, more than ever, we need to support life-affirming organizations such as pregnancy centers, churches, and other facilities that proclaim the gospel of life, uphold the sanctity of marriage, and stand up for the dignity of each human person. To learn more about Religious Freedom Week, click [HERE!](#)

JUNE

Cross the Bridge for Life 2022

05

After a 2-year hiatus, join us in-person for the annual **CROSS THE BRIDGE FOR LIFE!** There will be foodtrucks, music, and a keynote speaker. It is sure to be a fun day for the whole family!

Father's Day

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Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father-figures in our lives! Thank you for all you do in upholding the sanctity of life!

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 & Pray for Life
- 02- Dobbs Parish Leader Kit
- 03- Respect Life Resources
- 04- Father's Day Action Guide
- 05- Upcoming Meetings



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes intercessions for life, bulletin quotes, information on **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK**, and more! Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 02 **DOBBS PARISH LEADER KIT** contains resources leading up to and after the Supreme Court decision is made. Make sure your parish is ready and informed! Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 03 Check out additional **RESOURCES** for the 2022-2023 year for your Respect Life Ministry at your parish! Posters, prayers and information on Walking With Moms in Need are available for download and distribution.
- 04 The **FATHER'S DAY ACTION GUIDE** contains Simple steps, sample intercessions, homily considerations, and an activity to help your parish honor fathers and highlight their importance in building a culture of life. Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 05 If you are a Parish Respect Life Coordinator, consider attending our upcoming meetings so you can stay well-informed on all pro-life events, issues, and legislation.

Upcoming meetings:

- June 16th**- Cincinnati Right to Life at 7pm (Contact Bob Wurzelbacher if interested)
- June 22nd**- Incarnation Catholic Church in Centerville from 6:30pm-8:00pm (Room 103 A in the Parish Center)
- June 25th**- St. Chris in Vandalia from 10am-11:30am (Emmaus Center)
- June 27th**- Zoom meeting at 1:30pm

Some Clarity on Roe and Dobbs

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

Are you still unclear on what is happening with the Supreme Court on the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case? Are you wondering what it means if Roe v. Wade is overturned? What are the laws right now about abortion in Ohio, and what will happen in our home state if Roe is overturned? What will happen with abortion law if Roe is not overturned? What about the rest of the Tri-state area of Kentucky and Indiana? Is there a possible in-between type of decision? Will we still need to support our pregnancy care centers if Roe is overturned? What about women who have had abortions?



For a simple summary on what is happening and the most likely outcomes of what will happen by the end of this summer, check out my article on Catholic Telegraph Online, **SOME CLARITY ON ROE AND DOBBS**.

Beacons of Light

By: Noelle Collis-Devito

Beacons Roundtable: Love in Action

Plan to join other parish leaders (priests, deacons, lay staff) for the next Beacons Roundtable Session as we consider the sixth principle, Love in Action, and the impact of living out the Gospel in our families of parishes. You'll also get updates on the launch of the Pastoral Planning Pathway digital platform and other key info to begin Phase 1 on July 1. This particular session will focus specifically around Respect Life issues and how to spread the Gospel of Life in your parishes. Each Beacons Roundtable session includes timely information, examples from archdiocesan parishes, and opportunities for you to share your experience, thoughts, and ideas with other participants.

This final Beacons Roundtable will be held from 1:30pm – 3:00pm on Tuesday, June 21st. If you are interested in participating, please **REGISTER HERE**.

JUNE

Beacons Roundtable

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Join us for the final Beacons Roundtable of the spring, as we consider the sixth principle, Love in Action, and the impact of living out the Gospel in our families of parishes. **REGISTER HERE**.

22-29

Religious Freedom Week

The week begins with the Feast of Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More, ends with the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Many **RESOURCES** are available to help the faithful pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad.

Formation On Addressing Racism

By: Andrew Musgrave

The sin of racism has affected our country for centuries, and still today people are being affected by the devastating effects of this evil. The U.S. bishops have addressed the issue of racism multiple times over the last 70 years, most recently through the publication, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism* (2018). Over the years since the release of OWOH, the Archdiocesan Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) has worked in many ways to spread the Holy Spirit-inspired wisdom of this letter to Catholics across the archdiocese.

Most recently, a small group from the ARTF worked with University of Dayton to develop an eight-part video series (along with a detailed discussion guide) to assist parishes and faith communities as they navigate the topics of racism, power, and privilege. Through God's grace and a lot of hard work, this workshop is complete and ready to use. *Breaking Open the Sin of Racism* is a four-part workshop that engages participants in learning and discussion on the sin of racism in our world and Church. The series begins with a macro global and historical examination of race and racism and progresses to a micro examination of the interpersonal impact. We're offering trainings for those who are interested in facilitating this program in their parish, school, or community, and we stand ready to support any and every group who feels called to utilize this program.

You can check out the program **HERE** for more information. Please contact Sara Seligmann at sseligmann@catholicaoc.org or at 513-546-3143 with any questions.

Being Pro-Life

Religious Freedom

Every week during the harvest season, Steve and Bridget would participate in their local farmer's market. One day, a question came up on their public Facebook page, and they responded that they believe in the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman. The city of East Lansing saw that post, and prohibited them from participating in the farmer's market.

Since the civil redefinition of marriage a few years ago, there has been a significant rise in laws designed to protect people from what is known as sexual preference discrimination. These laws, however, sometimes have the effect of coercing small businesses to participate in celebrations that go directly against their religious beliefs. Hear the stories of Steve and Bridget, and of Cathy DeCarlo, a nurse forced to participate in an abortion in our **VIDEO PODCAST** and learn more about how to get involved!



Dayton Right to Life

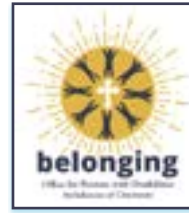
By: Margie Christie

This year the founding organization of **DAYTON RIGHT TO LIFE** and the Dayton Right to Life Society, is commemorating 50 years of protecting LIFE in the Miami Valley. It began around a kitchen table of concerned citizens in the late 1960s. These homemakers, doctors, lawyers, and business people saw what was happening with abortion laws across the country and decided to act. When two abortion bills were introduced in Ohio, they began sending letters to our legislators, and both bills failed in committee. On May 31, 1972 the Right to Life Society of Dayton was officially incorporated with Mrs. Dennie Stieritz as its first President. After the 1973 Roe v Wade decision, Dayton Right to Life continued its focus on the mother and the child. By 1978, the organization was offering parenting classes, a food pantry, and other resources for moms and their families.

Today, Dayton Right to Life's Stork's Nest Baby Pantry serves 35-40 families each week. They also maintain 2 mobile pantry locations in the community for those with transportation burdens. The Society organization still focuses on advocacy and community education, including community baby showers, end of life presentations, and advocating with local elected officials.

VBS- An Opportunity for Belonging

By: Noelle Collis-DeVito



During the summer months, many parishes host Vacation Bible School as a fun and interactive way for children to experience their faith. VBS usually consists of a variety of interactive activities, music, prayer, games and community building that bring faith to life. VBS engages students in multi-sensory learning which really lends itself to the possibility of providing opportunities for children with disabilities to meaningfully participate with some minor adaptations.

The first step in providing intentional accommodations for participants is to know the details of the individual needs of the students. Consider adapting your registration form to gather the necessary information during the registration process and come up with an action plan based on the individual needs of the participant. Be sure to communicate this information with your team so that everyone knows the specifics of their role. Provide a sensory-friendly space for students who are overwhelmed by noise, crowds, dancing, etc. Consider the physical abilities of participants while planning games, and make adjustments to the lesson plans for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Remember, when you meet the learning needs of one student, you unintentionally meet the needs of others as well!

For an adaptive Registration Form and a list of tips, click [HERE!](#)

JUNE National Right to Life Conference

24-25

During this two-day educational and training event, national experts on life issues gather in one place to equip the pro-life grassroots with the knowledge and skills they need to advance our cause. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

JULY Missionary Families of Christ Rosary for Life

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Every first Saturday of the month, 2:00 p.m. at All Saints Parish, 8939 Montgomery Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45236. Contact Leo DeVela at 513-791-1011



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Project Rachel

By: Project Rachel Team

With the constant talk of the possible *Roe v. Wade* overturn, many women in our communities that are post-abortive are going to feel the weight of guilt and shame again as we await the ruling of the Supreme Court. We need to continue being conscious of the verbiage we are using. Our church communities need to speak out on the healing that is necessary for the women and men who have experienced the loss of a child through abortion. We need to continue to share the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation with God. When we talk with those in our faith communities, we should speak with compassion and understanding when we discuss the possible outcome of the Supreme Court case.

By now, almost every Catholic has heard the news regarding Nancy Pelosi being banned from receiving communion in her diocese. This news will likely trigger post-abortive women in our very own congregations. They may think: "If the Church denies government officials Communion just for supporting abortion, what must they think of me for having an abortion?" When met with these concerns and questions, it is important that we communicate the difference between making a bad decision that one regrets, and preaching to the world that something that is wrong should be seen as good. Continue sharing the forgiveness, hope and healing the Church offers through Project Rachel. Continue being Christ to each person you encounter.

For printable parish resources, click [HERE!](#)

If you would like the Project Rachel Ministry to come and speak at your school or parish, please contact [BECKY SCHOENFELD](#).