

RESPECT LIFE OFFICE



PARISH RESPECT LIFE LEADERSHIP MANUAL





THE
Diocese of Rockville Centre
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LONG ISLAND, NY

RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

Dear Respect Life Leader:

Thank you so much for accepting the very important position of Respect Life Leader.

Leading your parish to a better understanding of the Life Issues (as outlined by the USCCB-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) is a role that has tremendous eternal rewards.

Human life must be protected and defended from the moment of conception until natural death. Each parish makes this happen through prayer, education, service and action.

This handbook will equip you to empower your committee with the tools necessary to build up the body of Christ regarding the Life Issues.

Unfortunately, protecting life comes with its challenges in our culture. Attempting to inform and change consciences demands reliance on the virtues of patience, courage, humility, fortitude, perseverance and prudence.

A successful Respect Life program requires, above all, cooperation with God's grace, spiritual renewal and much prayer.

May God richly reward you for entering into a very important leadership role in the Church. To be an advocate for life is to be an advocate for Christ. I am truly grateful for your commitment and remember that I am available to assist you in this ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mrs. Allison O'Brien
Director

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Respect Life Program

**USCCB Secretariat
For Respect Life Activities**
www.usccb/prolife/issues/

**National Committee
for Human Life
Amendment**
www.nchla.org

**NYS Catholic
Conference**
www.nyscatholic.org

Diocese of Rockville Centre RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

Bishop William Murphy

Mrs. Allison O'Brien, Director
S. Elizabeth Geraghty, CSJ, Project Rachel Coordinator
Diana Tellis, Ministry Coordinator

PARISH RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Implements the USCCB Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

Pastor/Moderator
Parish Respect Life Leader

OFFICERS

Sub Committees:

Education

Pastoral Services

Public Policy

Prayer & Workshop



THE DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE OFFICE – MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Respect Life Office is to enunciate and promote the principle that human life, at all stages from conception to natural death is a gift from God, worthy of respect and protection. This ministry encompasses prayer, education, advocacy, care and services.

The Program

- I. EDUCATION - Public Information and Education**
The Catholic Community
The General Public
- II. CARE & SERVICES - Pastoral Care**
Pregnancy Services
Post-Abortion Healing and Reconciliation
Care for Those Who Are Chronically Ill, Disabled, or Dying
Care for Prisoners, Those on Death Row, and Victims of Violent Crime
- III. ADVOCACY - Public Policy Program**
Laws Less Than Perfect
- IV. PRAYER - Prayer and Worship**
Providing opportunities to pray for protection of all life

- The Diocesan Respect Life Office of Rockville Centre is responsible for implementing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Pastoral Plan for Pro- Life Activities; the principal instrument for instilling a Respect Life attitude within the Catholic community.
The Pastoral Plan can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/pastoralplan.shtml>
- Each parish in the Diocese is asked to have a
Respect Life Leader - To lead the committee.
Respect Life Committee - The committee is an important element in parish life.
- It is the responsibility of the Coordinator and the Committee to fulfill the 4 point service roles of the pastoral plan for Respect Life activities as outlined by the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).



The Respect Life Program

A Program of the USCCB
Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities
Washington, D.D.

History: How it began

A. Background on the Abortion Debate in the United States:

Traditionally, abortion was a matter of health and welfare subject to the jurisdiction of individual states while the role of the federal government was indirect.

B. Enter the Federal Government:

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court intervened, declaring (in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*) existing state laws on abortion unconstitutional. The immediate effects of these decisions were:

- The child before birth was no longer protected by law
- Abortion was considered a matter between a woman and her physician, protected under a “right to privacy”
- States could, within narrow limits, enact laws restricting abortion, but they did not have to do so.

Since 1973 the debate centers on enactment of a constitution amendment to reverse the Court’s decisions and on incidental matters left unresolved by the Court, parental consent or notification when minors were involved, use of tax funds for abortion.

C. Involvement of the Church:

1. Development and support of programs external to the Church itself:
Right to Life Movement
2. Development of programs proper to Church structures as such.
Respect Life Program

Church teaching, referring to *Didache*, consistently taught that abortion is morally wrong. State has an obligation to protect rights, including right to life of unborn.

Church has an obligation to be concerned, whether the state fulfills that obligation or not.

D. Programs External to the Church, the Right to life Movement:

1967-1969 National Right to life Committee was born and tried to exist under the USCC Family Life Bureau. In 1973, NRTL became fully independent and manages its own affairs and remains separate from the Bishop’s Conference.

E. Programs Internal to the Church, the Respect Life Program:

The bishops recognized the need to educate Catholics about the Church’s teaching on abortion. The educational Respect Life Program was adopted by them in April 1972.

“We propose a study focusing on the sanctity of human life and the many threats to human life in the modern world, including war, violence, hunger and poverty. Throughout that month we will

urge that educational programs be conducted on the dignity of human life and the responsibility of society to protect all of its members, the unborn child, and also the aged, sick and disadvantaged.”

The program begins on the first Sunday in October and is dedicated to prayer and the study of respect for human life. Abortion was the primary theme of the program but it was also concerned with the broader attacks on human life. The goals are:

- To proclaim the sanctity and value of human life as a gift from God and the foundation of human rights.
- To oppose and ultimately do away with that which destroys or endangers human life; acts of violence, abortion, and euthanasia. It includes a concerted effort directed at public policy and legislative debates at all levels.
- To create advocacy for the ageing and mentally or physically handicapped, sick or genetically impaired and the dying.

F. Implementing the program:

Beginning in 1972, the Respect Life Program, containing educational materials, have been directed to the Parish level. The Director of Pro-Life Activities is appointed by the Bishop to assist parishes to implement the program at the local level. For over 30 years the program has expanded to include: Educational, Public Policy, Pastoral Care and Prayer.

G. National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCLHA):

In the great civil rights struggle to secure the right to life for all, Archbishop John Roach, Testifying on behalf of the Catholic Bishops: *“We are committed to full legal recognition of the right to life of the unborn child, and will not rest in our efforts until society respects the inherent worth and dignity of every member of the human race.”* November 5, 1981 Statement before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. The NCHLA is dedicated to pursuing this vision. The organization’s objectives include educating citizens, developing pro-life legislative networks, and offering programs in support of pro-life legislation. Among its various activities, NCHLA produces educational and program resources, communicates with leaders about legislative priorities, and presents legislative seminars throughout the year. In a special way, NCHLA assists dioceses, state Catholic conference, and Catholic laity groups. The Committee also works closely with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the USCCB.

H. Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities:

In 1975 it became clear to the USCCB that the abortion issue was going to be long range. This pastoral plan, unanimously approved by the bishops, was primarily concerned with abortion and euthanasia. It engages a 4 fold effect to promote respect for life.

1. **Education** – for public and private arenas
2. **Pastoral Care** – minister to women experiencing crisis pregnancies, reconciliation
3. **Public Policy** – with Respect Life committees to encourage Pro-Life legislation
4. **Pray & Worship** – to provide opportunities to pray for protection of all life

The Respect Life Program became the primary vehicle for education in the life issues and promoting the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities. In 1985, 300 bishops unanimously approved the reaffirmation of the pastoral plan to focus on the life issues.

I. Conclusion:

The Respect Life Program is a comprehensive and cohesive educational effort that allows for enormous creativity in implementation. The Church’s involvement in the Respect Life movement was and is an evolving experience. It represents one specific attempt to come to grips with the political issues with moral implications in a pluralistic society. Instrumental to the entire effort has been the involvement of committed and concerned people at the grassroots level who have given of themselves, their time and their talents. The establishment of a RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE in every parish continues to be an important priority.

Respect Life Activities

About Us

We 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.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, [Pastoral Plan for Respect Life Activities](#)

The Secretariat of Respect Life Activities, under the guidance and direction of the Committee on Respect Life Activities, works to teach respect for all human life from conception to natural death, and organize for its protection.

To serve this goal we:

- Develop educational material on Respect Life issues
- conduct educational campaigns in the Church – e.g.,
- [Respect Life Program](#) that begins on the first Sunday of each October
- [People of Life](#) Action Campaign [[subscribe to e-newsletter](#)] [[join](#)]
- conduct educational campaigns in the public square – radio, print, exhibit
- circulate fact sheets and other information on critical issues
- publish [Life Issues Forum](#), a biweekly column for Catholic newspapers
- publish *Life Insight* newsletter
- encourage and enable programs to meet the needs of pregnant women, children, persons with disabilities, those who are sick or dying, and all who have been involved in abortion
- provide dioceses with Respect Life liturgical suggestions each month
- coordinate/advise on public policy efforts concerning these issues
- assist dioceses to implement major Respect Life programs

The Committee

The current Committee serves from November 2015 to November 2018 and is chaired by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York.

Members

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Chairman
Archbishop of New York

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City, KS

Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez
Bishop of St. Augustine

Most Reverend Martin D. Holley
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix

Most Reverend David L. Ricken
Bishop of Green Bay

Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz
Bishop of El Paso

Consultants

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap
Archbishop of Boston

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill
Bishop of Victoria

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Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus

John F. Brehany, Ph.D., S.T.L.
Director of Institutional Relations, National
Catholic Bioethics Center

Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, S.V.
Superior General, Sisters of Life

John M. Haas, Ph.D., S.T.L.
President, National Catholic Bioethics
Center

Patrick E. Kelly
Vice President for Public Policy, Knights of
Columbus

Fr. J. Daniel Mindling

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo

Most Reverend William John Waltersheid
Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh

Academic Dean, Mount St. Mary's Seminary

Kathleen Raviele, MD
Obstetrician-Gynecologist, Consultant to the
President, Catholic Medical Association

Michael Scott
Director, District of Columbia Catholic
Conference

Staff - Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Tom Grenchik, Executive Director
Greg Schleppenbach, Associate Director
Deirdre McQuade, Assistant Director for Pro-Life Communications
Mary McClusky, Assistant Director for Project Rachel Ministry Development
Anne McGuire, Assistant Director for Education and Outreach
Kimberly Baker, Programs and Projects Coordinator
Teresa Mutchler, Executive Assistant
Thomas O'Donnell, Staff Assistant
Caitlin Thomas, Staff Assistant

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To update list go to www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities
<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/who-we-are.cfm>



EDUCATION

Pastoral Plan For
Respect Life Activities

Church Teaching on
Life Issues





The Diocesan Respect Life Office

PASTORAL PLAN

The Office of Respect Life Activities uses the 4-pronged program in defense of human life:

- 1. Educational**
- 2. Pastoral Care and Services**
- 3. Public Policy**
- 4. Spiritual Prayer & Worship**

1. EDUCATIONAL: Respect Life Media and Materials

- Educational and informational efforts to inform, clarify and deepen the understanding of respect life issues and concerns are critical.
- This collaborative effort involves cooperation and involvement from every parish ministry including schools and formation programs both public and private.
- It also includes the participation of adult and religious educational programs such as RCIA, women's and Men's ministries and PTA's.
- A variety of Respect Life media and educational information is available both in print and on the respect life office website at respectlife.drvc.org . This material covers respect life issues from the moment of conception until natural death.

2. PASTORAL CARE AND SERVICES: Pregnancy Care Centers/Project Rachel/ End of Life

- Pastoral care should be addressed to the particular needs of women and families with problems related to pregnancy and to those who have suffered abortion loss.
- Cooperation with agencies, which provide programs and services, is necessary.
- Project Rachel is an outreach to woman and families who have been affected by the trauma of abortion loss.
- Outreach is extended to woman and families facing crisis or unplanned pregnancies.
- Adoption resources are available through the Archdiocese of New York - Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau.
- Catholic End of Life Decision Making Guides should be made available to the community.

3. PUBLIC POLICY: March for Life/Public Policy Day

- A public policy effort directed toward legislative, judicial and administrative areas to insure the effective legal protection on behalf of the unborn, elderly, disabled and the disadvantaged.
- These actions can include letter writing, phone calls, letter to the editor, and op-ed pieces in the local papers
- Participation in the March for Life.
- All Pro-life legislation is supported and public officials are contacted.
- Communication with the New York State Catholic Conference is critical for up to date state pro-life legislation and also provides the platform to take action.
- Communication with the NCHLA-National Committee for a Human Life Amendment is also critical and provides a platform for ways to take action.

4. SPIRITUAL: Prayer Campaigns in Support of Life

- Prayer is the first priority to effect change in society and in the hearts of individuals, a source of strength and wisdom for all Respect Life efforts.
- The environment of shut-ins and nursing homes in prayer for all Respect Life activities are encouraged.
- You, your parish and your committee need spiritual strengthening and motivation.
- Time and again during His public ministry, Jesus took time to pray.
- As a parish leader and committee you help provide the climate in which your parish community can reaffirm its Christian commitment to human life.
- Generally, this will involve cooperation with the parish liturgy committee to promote prayer and worship on behalf of the respect life issues.
- Support for each opportunity provided by the Diocesan Respect Life Office is one way of fulfilling this role.
- Participate in the Annual Rosary

Deanery Coordinator

The Respect Life Deanery Coordinator directs activities of the deanery within the diocese. The members of the deanery (parish respect life leaders), through the deanery coordinator, will receive information and guidance from the Diocese of Rockville Centre, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and from the NY State Catholic Conference.

The deanery coordinator is a person appointed by and responsible to the diocesan Respect Life Office. The Diocesan Respect Life – Deanery Coordinator's objectives are to:

- Direct and coordinate the diocesan deanery information and educational program, providing appropriate resources as necessary
- Provide educational opportunities and time for sharing program information among members of deanery (parish Respect Life Leaders)
- Support local programs that counsel and assist women with problems related to pregnancy; promote establishment of new programs where needed
- Encourage and support a diocesan-wide post-abortion ministry
- Encourage and support local programs that provide care for the dying
- Promote and coordinate programs of prayer and worship that focus on the sanctity of all human life
- Sustain working relationships with local Respect Life groups and encourage the development of local Respect Life lobbying networks
- Maintain a local public information program that monitors print and broadcast media's treatment of Respect Life issues, and prepare appropriate responses
- Undertake, depending on financial resources, appropriate public advertising campaigns
- Develop responsible and effective communications with each elected representative: getting to know them personally through one-on-one visits, telephone calls, letters, and e-mail
- Keep communication reporting periodically to the diocesan Respect Life Office on the status of implementation of the pastoral plan

DEANERY MEETING GUIDE

- **LOCATION/DATE/TIME:** The place of meeting could be the deanery coordinator parish. Meeting frequency and time can change according to the need of each parish of the deanery. (Suggested bimonthly or monthly meetings)
- **TAKE ATTENDANCE**
- **OPEN MEETING:** It can vary, start with a prayer or if time permits, pray the Rosary
- **TREASURER’S REPORT:** elected person among your deanery members, that provide details on any money movement (eg:50% of Respect Life Sunday Collection)
- **OLD BUSINESS:** any information or event that is pending from previous meeting
- **NEW BUSINESS:** Ongoing events or facts in all parishes from members of the deanery
- **DEANERY ACTIVITIES:** As deanery coordinator you may already have a suggested list of various activities from the diocesan Respect Life Office (see USCCB -Pastoral Plan and parish respect life leader binder) or one prepared by your deanery members

MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES: Word of Life – USCCB – Intercessions

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml>

- January - Arrange a trip/bus to Washington, DC - March For Life
Prayer Vigil for Life – Roe vs. Wade Anniversary - special homilies
Mass of Reparation for violence against life (Gather as Diocese)
Send finalist participants for the Respect Life Contest
- February - Visit and/or Volunteer at a Maternity Residence in the Diocese and learn about Catholic Health Services pregnancy support and Gianna Center
- March - Attend or assist at the Youth Awards Ceremony
- April - Spiritual Adoption or Baby Shower – Donations are to assist Hospitals and Maternity Residences
- May - Mass for expectant Families or quarter blessing for expectant families (Blankets)
- June - Assist - Contact information update for Contest
- July - Spiritual Adoption Program – 9 months, then baby shower- to maternity residences
- August - Rosary hours to end abortion – Pray a Respect Life Rosary between or after Mass.
- September - Work on Oct. liturgies for Respect Life Sunday
Utilize the USCCB Parish Program packet
Participate at the Diocesan Annual Respect Life Contest
- October - Respect Life Month-Intercessions/Homily on 1st Sunday
Hold Holy Hour for Life- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Organized a Mass & Prayers for those who have lost an infant for any reason. (Spiritual Comfort)
- November -National Adoption month - Adopt a Baby (spiritually)
Thanksgiving Day to remember gift of LIFE (Announce at Mass)
Pray for elected Officials
Join the Catholic Advocacy Network - Register at NYS Catholic Conference
- December - Participate in the Maternity Advent Project “*Act of Kindness*”
Residences fundraising program
Feast of Immaculate Conception-Dec 8-National Night of prayer
Feast of the Holy Innocents-Dec 29-baby shower! In support of the Maternity Residences
Feast of the Holy Family-Sunday-Mass for expectant Family

OTHER IDEAS:

- Support the Post Abortion Healing Ministry-Project Rachel
- Masses for the unborn
- Writing or submitting Intercessions for unborn/life protection
- Masses for pregnant women/expectant parents/families-Elizabeth Ministry
- Masses for healing for post abortive
- Masses for ill/disabled, oppressed, suffering, abused



PUBLICITY

To ensure the success of any activity or program, the message must reach the intended audience. It's necessary to get the information out:

1. **Bulletin Articles:** posting articles to parish office for the bulletin
2. **Bulletin Inserts:** fliers and bulletin inserts are available on the Respect Life Office website
3. **Pulpit Announcements:** submit to liturgy committee two weeks before
4. **Other Announcements:**
 - a. E-mails-to Respect Life members
 - b. Letters/fliers to other Ministry Heads within the Parish
 - c. Letters/fliers to other parishes in the Vicariate
5. **Articles/Fliers:** distributed to:
 - a. School principal for newsletter to school parents
 - b. Religious Education Office: to religious ed. Parents
Fliers in teacher's mailboxes
Article for religious education newsletter
 - c. Inserts for the bulletin
 - d. Posters at different areas in the church/ Ministry Center
6. **Posters:**
 - a. Created and displayed on easels in various entrances
7. **Outside of the Parish:** should include dates and contact information
 - a. Fax announcements to other churches
 - b. Radio: WDDM-FM 89.3, WALK-FM, 97.5, WBAB-FM, 102.3, WBLI-FM, 106.1, WBZO-FM, 103.1, WLIR-FM, 107.1, WHLI-AM, 1100, and WKJY-FM, 98.3radio/ Internet
www.nplr.net put it on the calendar
 - c. The Long Island Catholic Magazine
 - d. Newsday
 - e. TV Channel 55
 - f. News 12 (Cablevision)
 - g. LongIsland.com online news and information
 - h. The Village Times Herald
 - i. WVVH Hamptons Television
 - j. WLNY TV-55
 - k. Telecare – Diocese TV station
 - l. Diocesan mailing that goes to all Pastors/Associates
8. **Parish Newsletter:** RL Leaders should submit articles
Diocesan Respect Life Office E-Newsletter (monthly)
9. **Mailings:** electronic mailing
10. **Front Lawn Sign:** To advertise events
11. **Respect Life Display area:** Bulletin Board/Table with easel



CARE & SERVICES

How to Organize

A

Parish

Respect Life

Committee





PASTORAL CARE:

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Luke 6:31

Work with Youth Ministry/Outreach ministry to shut ins/Religious Ed. Department

- Support a pregnant woman in crisis
- Support local pregnancy care centers and give to
Regina Maternity Services, Mother of Good Counsel Home
Momma's House, Inc. and Bethany House Maternity Residences
- Life Collections:
 - Holding Diaper Drive
 - Holding Infant Clothing Drive
 - Maternity Clothing Drive
 - Baby furniture drive-Crib Club, bassinets, changing table, mattresses
 - Baby Items drive-high chair, strollers, car seats
- Adopt a Baby-Baby Showers
- Visit local nursing homes
- Volunteer at Hospice centers
- Mother's Day and Father's Day projects
- Develop a list of parishioners who are chronically ill or disabled and who would benefit from help with:
 - Chores-light shoveling, lawn cutting or light planting, dusting
 - A day phone call- just to say Hi and that we care about you
 - Shopping-for prescriptions
 - Transportation to doctors/church
 - Writing letters-of encouragement
 - Just someone to sit and watch a movie with

PRAYER:

Parish: Work with Liturgy Committee/Prayer Groups
The bishops recommended that "Parishes Should include in the petitions at every Mass, a prayer that ours will become a nation that respects and protects all human life, 'born and unborn'."

Diocesan: Attend Diocesan Rosary Novena or Holy Hour for Life (look for a local service or create it at your own parish.)



SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKING WITH PASTORS

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Implementation of

The Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Life Activities

- In order to successfully make an impact on the Catholic community, the support of your pastor is of importance.
- Establish good communications between the pastor, the coordinator and the committee is essential.

1. Selecting Parish Respect Life Leader

- This individual should accept the Catholic position on all LIFE issues
- Be willing to keep the pastor advised of the Respect Life Activities
- Be liaison between the diocesan Respect Life Office and the parish

2. Participation in a People of Life Pledge Sunday

- Permission for Respect Life Sunday, first Sunday in October to recruit
- Include Life Issues in the Homily and Intercessions
- Include witness talk by Respect Life Coordinators after homily from pulpit
- Have people sign up to be included on a People of Life Pledge card.

3. Endorsing the Parish Respect Life Committee

- Make the Respect Life Committee a high priority with the pastor
- Personal endorsement by pastor and staff helps the committee's success

4. Ongoing education of the parish

- The main thrust of the parish Respect Life program must be to educate.
- Homilies are important, but ongoing education must be on the life issues.
- Pray before you act and always consult and include the pastor.
- Parish Respect Life Coordinator should meet with the pastor to brief him with the Respect Life program packet from the USCCB.



THE PARISH RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

PURPOSE:

- **COORDINATE:** The general purpose of the Parish Respect Life Committee is to coordinate parish Respect Life activities and to educate parishioners on Respect Life issues.
- **INCLUDE:** The Respect Life Committee should include representatives of various parish groups as well as those responsible for education and pastoral care.
- **GUIDANCE:** The Parish Committee relies on the diocesan Respect Life Director for information and guidance.
- **SUPPORT:** The Committee should play a vital role in parish life and enjoy the strong support of clergy and other key personnel.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Its objectives are parish wide:

- **Recruit persons:** Identify Respect Life people in parish to serve on the committee through People of life Roll, personal contact and announcements.
- **Implement** the Respect Life Program by promoting it to all groups within the parish, especially schools and religious education programs.
- **Develop or adopt**, where feasible, a parish based ministry for pregnant women and their children such as Elizabeth Ministry, at www.elizabethministry.com
- **Encourage and support** parishioners' involvement in Diocesan Respect Life events and services to help those who are chronically ill, disabled or dying and their families.
- **Advertise and support programs** of prayer in the parish; for mothers and their unborn children, those dying, persons with disabilities, for prisoners on death row and those they have harmed and all who are in need.
- **Educate & Foster awareness** for all parishioners about the life and the need to restore legal protection to the lives of unborn and those who are chronically ill disabled or dying.
- **Keep parishioners informed** of upcoming important legislation; organize letter-writing postcard campaigns or similar appropriate activities when important votes are expected.
- **Pray:**

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| For unborn | government officials |
| Those involved in abortion | conversion of non Respect Life people |
| Those hurt by abortion | those facing crisis pregnancies |

The best way to begin is with a small group of interested persons committed to making the program work. As parish interest grows, the program will broaden and intensify. Bear in mind that the Respect Life Program must be a continuing, long range effort.

Respect Life Committee and its Members:

Building your committee and its members is critical. Keeping them active is too!

Qualifications:

Members understand and accept the catholic position on all LIFE ISSUES.

Recruit Core members:

Get them involved before they commit to other committees and have interest cards and brochures available at a Respect Life designated place in the church.

Selection of core team-ask, there's no substitute for personal invitation.

Implementing the Respect Life Committee:

Asked folks if they'd like to be informed by e-mail on the Life issue– build a base.

Prayer partners-ask people to be Respect Life prayer partners, small task-doable.

Letter to volunteers-let them know you're looking for members.

Record Keeping-ask for a Secretary, good to keep minutes from the meetings

Budget & Finance-may/may not be necessary

Printed Resource material-to be displayed in the Respect Life space

Responsibilities of the Committee member:

- Coordinator reviews the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Respect Life Activities with committee
- Gather knowledge to inform committee: Abortion, Euthanasia, Disabilities, etc
- Educate selves and parish to restore respect for all human life.
- Promote advocacy for the elderly, handicapped, crisis pregnancy cases, and legal protection for the unborn.
- Facilitate special projects and events to foster a Respect for Life.

Maintaining The Respect Life Committee

Support & recognition of volunteers-important to encourage their efforts and labors

Training session and enrichment opportunities-for team members, builds motivation

Adult Learning Process-learn together and then spread the word.

A Respect Life Committee, if one is not already established, will grow according to the amount of effort that it made to increase its membership.

BE ACCESSIBLE, AVAILABLE and VISIBLE!!!!!!

Reach out to all ministers, parishioners, markets of parents and people,

The Respect Life Program must be a presence in every parish.

Think LONG RANGE and COMPREHENSIVE when creating and developing strategies.

Pray, invest in the life issue and your committee will grow in God's time.



PLANNING THE RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establish his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

I. PLANING YOUR RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM

- Assess Needs: to what extent are the respect life needs being met in the parish?
- Assess Resources: What finances are available? Do you need any?
- Develop a Specific Program: establish priorities, don't duplicate, schedule things to do and do them:
 - Speakers
 - Newsletter
 - Liturgical Program
 - Home visit program
 - Education
 - Legislative issues
- Evaluate Results: after one year, reassess strengths and weaknesses

II. SETTING GOALS:

- Set precise list of things to be achieved
- Without goals, you're responding to one crisis after another
- Planning helps us to see how one effort relates to another
- Goals Describe the results we want to accomplish, direct efforts
 - Prayer luncheon for elderly parishioners
 - A movie program on life issues for the school, Religious Ed, adult Ed.
 - Children's Respect Life Newsletter
 - Recruiting volunteers for a local abortion alternatives program
 - A food pantry
 - A support group for Families of prisoners
 - Formation of an advisory committee with handicapped parishioners

III. SELECTING ACTIVITIES:

- Establish priorities
- Limit Goals for the year... not too much
- Realistic goals build enthusiasm
- Select: spiritual, educational, prayerful, caring, advocacy activities



QUALITIES OF STRONG LEADERSHIP

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Be knowledgeable | 4. Know your leadership style |
| 2. Have confidence | 5. Be enthusiastic, spread enthusiasm |
| 3. Delegate responsibilities | 6. Be a servant but a leader |

NOTE TO PARISH LEADER:

- Each parish is unique in its makeup and needs.
- This handbook is designed to help each coordinator choose what will best serve the needs of the parish.
- This manual may be reproduced in whole or in part for PARISH use.

The Diocesan Respect Life Office is available to give assistance to parish leaders and parish committees working on life issues.

Thank you for your role in this important ministry.

As you make plans for parish activities, please feel free to contact:

Dioceses of Rockville Centre
RESPECT LIFE OFFICE
50 North Park Ave. 4th Floor
P.O. Box 9023
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-9023
Phone: (516) 678-5800 Ext 626 & 381
Fax: (516) 536-3473
www.drvc.org/respectlife

Mrs. Allison O'Brien, Director – aobrien@drvc.org
S. Elizabeth Geraghty, CSJ, egeraghty@drvc.org
Mrs. Diana Tellis, Coordinator – dtellis@drvc.org



RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

THE PARISH RESPECT LIFE LEADER

“In Him who is the source of my strength, I have strength for everything.” Phil 4:13

The Parish Respect Life Leader:

- **Qualifications:** Understands and accepts the Catholic position on all Life issues.
Recommended by the pastor: Male or Female; couples are ideal
assign co-couple who can assist/mentor.
Commissioned by the pastor.
Is recognized by the Diocese as the official Church Respect
Life Leader.
- **Term:** 2 years, and ideally defer to Respect Life Leaders
- **Expectations:** -*EDUCATE, MOTIVATE, ACTIVATE* committee to Respect Life action.
-Responsible to implement the Respect Life Program and the Bishops
Pastoral Plan for Respect Life Activities into parish life.
- **Goal:** To inform and reach every person in your parish about all Life Issues.
To reach out various ministries to raise awareness of the issues.
Take the Respect Life Ministry Training
- **Responsibilities:**
 1. **Working with the pastor:**
 - Pastor generally appoints parish Leader.
 - Responsible to the pastor for all Respect Life Activities
 - In cooperation with the pastor you need his support to be effective. Be sure your
pastor has a copy of the Pastoral Plan for Pro- Life Activities-brief him on it and other
documents of the Church.
 - Set up a time to talk with him about the best way to implement the
Bishop's plan for Respect Life activities within your parish.
 2. **Role within the Parish:**
 - Serves as chairperson and leader of the Respect Life Committee
 - Liaison with the Diocesan Respect Life Office.
The effectiveness of the Respect Life program depends on the capacity to
communicate and promote to every parish the Church's Respect Life information.
 - Receives mailings and disseminates information to the committee and filter it
down to the parish community in the most effective way possible.
 - Receives special alerts on current legislative activity.
 - Receives and publicizes special activities being sponsored by the Diocesan
Respect Life Office.
 - Respect Life visible space and keep current in the parish with the help of the
committee.



ORGANIZING A PARISH RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM

————— I'm Pro-life, What Can I do? —————

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

Identify the largest number of concerned pro-life people in your church and community

- People of Life Pledge-Dates-Respect Life Sunday/January 22,
Promote life in thought, word, deed and prayer
For Parishioners who are pro-life but have little time to volunteer
 1. What is it?
 2. Prior to Life Pledge Sunday
 3. On Life Pledge Sunday
 4. Processing the Life Pledge cards
 5. Annual Commitment
- Personal Contact-always the best way to recruit is to ask
- Recruit Members:
 - People of life Pledge Sunday-pledge cards, Respect Life Sunday Jan 22
 - Find Respect Life People through Parish Orientation meetings for new parishioners
 - Mission-on their ministry list
 - Ministry Fairs
 - Approach existing ministries-rosary groups, prayer groups
 - Youth Minister
 - Youth member
 - Religious Education Liaison
 - Liturgy Liaison
 - Knights of Columbus
 - Deacons
- Select Officers: vice chair, secretary for minutes and corresponding for e-mailing and hard copy mailings.
- Schedule Monthly Meetings: To review goals and update on life issues
- Delegate Tasks: assign point people to various Diocesan events
- Support Diocesan events
- Work closely with your pastor

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE
MINISTRY COLLABORATION

1. Baptismal Ministry:

New Parents, New Families

2. Parish Orientation Ministry:

New Parishioners

Be present as a Representative of Respect Life

Keep brochures of your Respect Life Ministry on table

Keep contact information sheet/sign-up sheet on table

Send an e-mail or contact card through the mail

Welcoming them to the next meeting

3. School:

Offer to speak to students at various grade levels through the religious classes-Respect Life

Guide them to utilize the USCCB Parish Program Packet

Encourage them to participate on the Respect Life Contest

Have them participate on the Advent Project

4. Religious Education Department:

Offer to speak to the confirmation classes

Offer to lend Life information to teachers

Respect Life month-show a video to kids

5. Youth Ministry:

Keep the Youth Minister on your committee

Help start a youth For Life group- Teens

Give Them a Youth 4 Life guide- from Respect Life Office

Give them action ideas:

Wash 4 Life

March 4 Life

Respect Life Contest

Maternity Advent Project

Diaper Drives

Pro-Life Movie Night

Rosary & Adoration 4 Life

E-mail lists

Run for Life

6. RCIA:

Ask to speak on the Dignity of Life

7. Seniors:

Help start a People of Acts-have youth help the seniors and disabled.

Offer to hold a prayer luncheon for elderly.

8. Prayer Groups:

Ask them to pray for the end of abortion, leave prayers for the end to abortion, euthanasia and death penalty in adoration chapels.



PUBLIC POLICY

Do not be afraid to engage the good fight of the faith (1 Tim 6:10)

“When we preach the liberating message of Jesus Christ we are offering the words of the life to the world. Our prophetic witness is an urgent and essential service not just to the Catholic community but to the whole human family.” Pope John Paul II 1998

In collaboration with the Diocese Office for Public Affairs, seek to influence state and federal legislation to uphold the sanctity of human life. Advocacy is accomplished through voter education and campaigns prior to elections, action alerts to parishes through public statements and letters to elected officials. Advocacy efforts are coordinated with: USCCB www.usccb.org , www.nyscatholic.org, www.nchla.org and www.endroe.org.

Work with NYSCC/NCHLA – Human Right to Life

- Appoint a News Watchdog: The New York Times, Newsday
- Appoint a letter Writing Captain-to elected officials and the news
Legislative action can be found at: www.nyscatholic.org and www.nrlc.org.
- Call or visit elected officials: Public Policy Day: Albany in March
- Voter Registration
- Appoint E-List Captain: to keep up to date on evolving legislative issues Respond to legislative alerts
- March for Life –The diocesan Respect Life Office coordinates buses for the March for Life a public demonstration held annually in Washington DC on January 22, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court Roe v Wade decision which legalized abortion on demand.
- **General Tips:**
 - Be polite
 - Be informed-legislative alerts, newsletters, websites
 - Be honest-if you don't know the answer, find out.
 - Don't be intimidated-You have a right to telephone, write, visit the official
 - Be firm and consistent-Know the public record
 - Do not threaten-destroys all communication, credibility and respect.
 - Multiply your efforts-the more people you urge to become involved the better
 - Be thankful for their time and their vote-essential for relationship
- **Letters:**
 - Be neat-write clearly or type
 - Get to the point-Brevity accentuates your point. Ask for a response
 - Form letters/postcards-carry less weight but better than nothing.
 - Make it as easy as possible for letter writers. Give them a sample to guide them.

- Avoid petitions-They have less meaning than one short sincere letter.
- Hold a letter writing campaign-on a Sunday when a large number of parishioners are already gathered.
- Get permission to have a letter writing campaign during other parish meetings.

- **Calls:**

- Secretaries and aides-take and give messages. Never argue with a secretary.
- Leave a message-Isn't always necessary to talk, leave a message.
- Be considerate-some officials receive many calls at home.

- **Visits:**

- Make an appointment-if not, you'll get a few distracted minutes
- Attend public meetings-where official is speaking
- Ask specific questions about life issues or- anti-life legislation
- Ask their position on the life issues.

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69 W Main Street Suite B, Bay Shore, NY 11706

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NEW YORK STATE Catholic Conference

The Official Voice of the Catholic Church in the Empire State

New York State Catholic Conference's Legislative Agenda

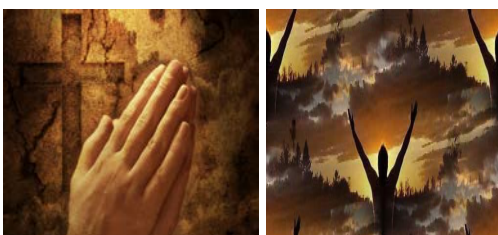


The New York State Catholic Conference was founded to translate Catholic teachings into action in the public policy arena. These teachings, which are centered on the innate dignity of every human person made in the image and likeness of God, form the basis of the Conference's legislative agenda.

This agenda and supporting documentation is intended to illuminate the rich teachings of our faith as they relate to public policy, and to help Catholic citizens and public officials to understand and put into context our positions on a wide range of issues.

Select any issue area to view all of our agenda items for that category.

- [Religious Liberty](#)
- [Respect Life](#)
- [Marriage and Family Life](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Human Services](#)
- [Criminal Justice](#)
- [Health Care](#)



Prayer and Worship

“Prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life. Our efforts; whether, educational, pastoral, or legislative; will be less than truly fruitful if we do not change hearts and if we do not ourselves overcome our own spiritual blindness.” -Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life. A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops

The Department encourages and provides resources for parishes to sponsor programs of communal and private prayer and fasting.

Spiritual Adoption

Prayer Program: Schools, religious education programs, and parishes participate in the spiritual adoption prayer program. Participants in the program pledge to pray for a woman facing a crisis pregnancy and her unborn baby, whose life is in danger of abortion. Participants pray for them daily for nine months, and on the baby’s birthday, a shower maybe held for a local crisis pregnancy center or mother’s home. Through monthly bulletin announcements describing the growth of a baby, participants also become educated on the humanity of the unborn.

Spiritual Adoption Program for Parishes, Schools and Parish Religious Education Programs (available at the Respect Life Office (516) 678-5800 Ext 626 & 381)

Word of Life Liturgy Guide for Parishes: This monthly liturgy guide, published by the USCC, is available via fax to parishes on request. A Spanish language version is available. The guide contains intercessions for life, bulletin briefs, and homily helps on occasion. Call the Department for Respect Life Activities to be added to the fax list. This guide is also available at www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy .



A PRO-LIFE PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

God Our Father, Giver of life,
we entrust the United States of America to
Your loving care.

You are the rock
on which this nation was founded.

You alone are the true source
of our cherished rights
to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
Reclaim this land for Your glory
and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts
of our nation's leaders.

Open their minds
to the great worth of human life
and the responsibilities that accompany
human freedom.

Remind Your people that true happiness
is rooted in seeking and doing Your will.

Through the intercession of
Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land,
grant us the courage to reject
the "culture of death."

Lead us into a new millennium of life.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen!

To Protect Life

*Loving God, I thank you for the gift of life you gave and
continue to give to me and to all of us. Merciful God, I
ask your pardon and forgiveness for my own failure and
the failure of all people to respect and foster all forms of
life in our universe.*

Gracious God, I pray that with your grace, I and all
people will reverence, protect, and promote all life and
that we will be especially sensitive to the life of the
unborn, the abused, neglected, disabled, and the elderly.
I pray, too, that all who make decisions about life in any
form will do so with wisdom, love, and courage.

Living God, I praise and glorify you as Father, Source
of all life, as Son, Savior of our lives, and as Spirit,
Sanctifier of our lives.

Amen-

Prayer for the Helpless Unborn

Heavenly Father, in Your love for us,
protect against the wickedness of the
devil, those helpless little ones to
whom You have given the gift of life.

Touch with pity the hearts of those
women pregnant in our world today
who are not thinking of motherhood.

Help them to see that the child they
carry is made in Your image --as well
as theirs --made for eternal life.

Dispel their fear and selfishness and
give them true womanly hearts to
love their babies and give them birth
and all the needed care that a mother
alone can give. We ask this through

Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and
ever, Amen.



O good
Saint Gerard
powerful intercessor
before God and wonder- worker of
our day, I call upon you and seek
your aid. You, who on earth always
fizz/filled God's designs, help me to
do the holy Will of God. Ask the
Master of life, from whom all
paternity proceeds, to render me
fruitful in offspring, that I may raise
up children to God in this life and
heirs to the Kingdom of his glory in
the world to come. Amen.

Prayer for a Heart Against Abortion

*Lord help us to know that You are the author of Life; that only you can give life
and only you can take it away.*

*Forgive us for any complacency within us that has contributed to the killing of
over 30 million of your children. Give us a heart burning with desire to apply our
talents to end abortion. Light a fire within us that all who love You, Lord, will
unite to honor you and Respect the Life You create.*

*Send us forward from this moment... bless us, lead us and protect us and let us
remember that Jesus told us to come to him "as little children," but how will we
know how to do this if we have no "little children " to teach us?*

We pray in the name of Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Blessing of Parents During Pregnancy

Gracious Father, your word spoken in love, created the human family
and your Son, conceived in love, restored it to your friendship. Hear
the prayers of N and N, who await the birth of their child Calm their
fears when they are anxious. Watch over and support these parents
and bring their child into this world safely and in good health, so that
as members of your family they may praise and glorify you through
your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady Concluding the Encyclical Letter,

The Gospel of Life, of Servant of God Pope John Paul II:

*O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.*

*Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.*

*Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.*



Amen

For Respect Life Month, Bishop Murphy asks us to say at home and in church this prayer to Our Lady with which the Servant of God Pope John Paul II ended his encyclical letter, The Gospel of Life. One way to pray it is silently as a meditation after Holy Communion at Sunday Masses and all other Masses you attend during Respect Life Month. For those anticipating in the 40 Days for Life Campaign, it is an appropriate prayer for use during these 40 days.

**Oración a Nuestra Señora concluyendo la Carta Encíclica,
"El Evangelio de la Vida," por el servidor de Dios Papa Juan Pablo II**

*Oh María,
aurora del mundo nuevo,
Madre de los vivientes,
a Ti confiamos la causa de la vida:
mira, Madre, el número inmenso
de niños a quienes se impide nacer,
de pobres a quienes se hace difícil vivir,
de hombres y mujeres víctimas
de violencia inhumana,
de ancianos y enfermos muertos
a causa de la indiferencia
o de una presunta piedad.
Haz que quienes creen en tu Hijo
sepan anunciar con firmeza y amor
a los hombres de nuestro tiempo
el Evangelio de la vida.
Alcánzales la gracia de acogerlo
como don siempre nuevo,
la alegría de celebrarlo con gratitud
durante toda su existencia
y la valentía de testimoniarlo
con solícita constancia, para construir,
junto con todos los hombres de buena
voluntad,
la civilización de la verdad y del amor,
para alabanza y gloria de Dios Creador
y amante de la vida.*

Amen



En el mes del Respeto a la Vida, el Señor Obispo William Murphy, nos ha pedido hagamos esta oración a Nuestra Señora en nuestros hogares y en la iglesia, con la cual el servidor de Dios Papa Juan Pablo II finalizo su Carta Encíclica, "El Evangelio de la Vida." Una de las formas de hacer esta oración es en silencio como meditación después de la Sagrada Comunión en la misa de domingo y en todas las otras misas que usted asista durante el mes del Respeto a la Vida. Para aquellos que participen en la campaña de los 40 Días por la Vida, esta oración es muy apropiada dúrante estos 40 días.

Lenten Pro-Life Prayer

Father of all mercy, we thank you for this season of grace and light. We know that sin has blinded us.

Draw us ever closer to you, in prayer and penance.
Give all your people a clearer understanding of the profound dignity of every human life, including the children in the womb.

As we prepare to celebrate the death and Resurrection of Christ, strengthen our joy in the fact that life has already conquered death.

As we prepare to renew the promises of our own baptism this Easter, grant that we may live more faithfully as the children of God and the People of Life. We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We Pray

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayers and supplication with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known to God." —Philippians 4:6

The Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities states that:

"... responsibility for the least among us transcends all social theories and finds its root in the teaching of Jesus Christ. Appreciation for this responsibility is deepened by prayer and fasting. In the Eucharist... we are continually called to reconciliation and new life.... The readings of the Church's liturgy give ample opportunity to proclaim respect for the dignity of human life throughout the liturgical year."

An Annual Respect Life Program

"The critical need in the Respect Life movement today is, I believe, the need for prayer; prayer that pounds the heavens for justice; prayer that pleads with God for mercy; prayer that washes our minds, cleanses our souls, purifies our hearts."

The Respect Life Program published each year by the National Council of Catholic Bishops for Respect Life Activities has suggestions for seasonal liturgies and prayers. As your parish chairman, you will be on their mailing list to receive your copy at the time of publication. Your pastor, also, will have a copy. The material in this chapter is offered to supplement those suggested activities.

Calendar of Feast Days and Special Observances

- Holy Days and Feast Days
- Presentation of Jesus - blessing of babies and little children
- Annunciation, Visitation, Immaculate Conception - blessing of mothers before childbirth
- Corpus Christi - blessing of the sick and those with handicaps
- Holy Innocents - Holy Innocents procession, Mass of Reparation
- Holy Family - Prayer of blessing for the family

Special Observances

- Lent - Holy Hour
- Mother's Day - blessing of mothers
- May or October -Living Rosary
- Father's Day - blessing of fathers
- Respect Life Sunday - Respect Life theme/Spiritual Adoption

Blessings

The Book of Blessings available in all Catholic Churches contains additional blessings for special days and events.

Blessing of Mothers for Mother's Day

Loving God,
As a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,
So You watch over Your Church.
Bless these women,
That they may be strengthened as Christian mothers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
May honor them always
With a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Then the priest blesses all present)
And may almighty God bless you all.
The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen

The Roman Ritual Book of Blessings, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1989.

Blessing Prayer for Father's Day

Blessed are You, Lord and Father of all life, who has given to us the gift of the father of our family.
Today, we honor him and we thank You for the numerous good things that are ours because of him.
His love for us has been a sign of Your divine affection and a sharing in Your holy love.
His continuous concern for our needs and welfare is a mirror of Your holy providence.
And so, as we honor him we praise You, Father of all peoples. Bless him this day with Your strength and holy power that he may continue to be a sign of You, our God.
May we who have the honor of bearing his family name do so with great pride,
May we, the members of his family, assist him in his holy duties as a parent with our respect, our obedience and our deep affection.

Bless him, Lord, with happiness and good health, with peace and with good fortune, so that he who has shared of his very life may live forever with You, his God and heavenly Father. This blessing and all graces, we pray, descend upon the father of our family; in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Family members may give a kiss or other sign of affection to the father. This blessing could be given by the eldest child or by the mother of the family.

Prayers for the Domestic Church, Edward Hays Used by permission

Blessing for Safety in Pregnancy

God, You formed man and woman in Your own image and likeness, and invited them to share with You in the creation of new life.

Bless this child; keep it safe and free from all harm.

Bless this mother; give her peace of mind and health of body, as she nourishes the new life within her.

(Bless this father; give him strength and understanding to support his wife [this mother] as their child grows within the womb.)

A Book of Prayers and Blessings, edited by Brian Magee, C.M., Servant Publications, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1992 Used by permission

Blessing for Safety in Childbirth

We ask You to bless and protect this mother
Who comes to You now with her worries and fears.

Give her strength and courage
As she puts all her trust in You.

Grant patience to her in the days of waiting.
Grant her a safe delivery,
And the grace of a holy Baptism for her baby.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Book of Prayers and Blessings

There are many conditions or situations which may call for a special blessing from God. "A Book of Prayers and Blessings", edited by Brian Magee, C.M., is an excellent collection of prayers and blessings for almost any occasion in life. Some examples are: blessings for an adopted child, for children, for a child with a disability, for parents who have suffered a miscarriage, and for the sick.

Prayers

Prayer for Beginning Respect Life Gatherings

Lord God Almighty, our Creator, as we gather here today in Your presence, we celebrate our existence, we rejoice to be alive. Teach us to understand more and more profoundly that every human life is sacred, whether it belongs to an unborn infant, or to a terminally ill patient; to a handicapped child, or to a disabled adult; to people who live next door, or to those who live far away.

Remind us, Heavenly Father, that whatever a person's age, race, color or creed, each individual has been made in Your image and likeness; and has been redeemed by Christ.

This makes them precious in Your sight. Help us to see other people with Your eyes, so that we may reverence, preserve and sustain Your gift of life in them and use our own lives more faithfully in Your service. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Cardinal G. Basil Hume, O.S.B., Archbishop of Westminster the Respect Life Prayer Book, Humane Vitae House, Chapel Brae, Braemar, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, 1988. Used by permission

Prayer to St. Gerard for Respect of Life

St. Gerard Majella, women the world over have adopted you as their patron in the joys and fears of childbearing. Today we invoke your intercession for the Respect Life movement. Pray that all we look upon human life as a gift from God, not as an unwanted burden to be destroyed. Assist the efforts of those on earth who are enlisted in the crusade of promoting the dignity and value of all human life, particularly the unborn. This we ask Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

League of St. Gerard C., 1980 the Redemptorists, Liguori, MO 63057. Used by permission

Respect Life Prayer

O God, giver of all life, help us to value each human life, created and loved by You. In Your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, The Prince of Peace.

"Respecting Life, an Activity Guide" by Jane Blank Katenkamp, C 1985. Used by permission

Prayer to the Creator of Life

O Father in heaven, You are the Creator of life. Protect all expectant mothers and the babies they carry in their wombs. We pray that those who suffer from the evils of abortion will be open to Your infinite mercy and love. We ask for the conversion of all who fail to respect the gift of human life. Heavenly Father, guide our actions to help restore in the hearts of all people the sanctity of human life. Amen.

Mary Mother of the Unborn, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles. Used by permission

Prayer for the Helpless Unborn

Heavenly Father, You created mankind in Your own image and You desire that not even the least among us should perish. In Your love for us, You entrusted Your only Son to the holy Virgin Mary. Now, in Your love, protect against the wickedness of the evil one, those little ones to whom You have given the gift of life.

The Odd Book of Prayers, The Riehle Foundation, 1988. Used by permission

Prayer for Unwed Mothers Considering Adoption

Mary, our Mother, you loved your Son and always sought what was best for Him. Through your intercession, give unwed mothers considering giving their children for adoption, the wisdom to make decisions based on the truth of what is really best for their offspring. Give them the courage to seek first of all the welfare of their children, even though they may experience pain in pursuing it. Help them to be unselfish in seeking always what is truly good for their children. We pray this with Mary in Jesus' name, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

John Sondag, Respect Life Prayer Book, the Leaflet Missal Co., 1989. Used by permission

Prayer of a Single Parent

My Lord and Holy Companion, I am alone in the awesome task of making a home. I ask Your holy help to show me how to take on the responsibilities of both mother and father. Direct my heart, so that I may dispense the qualities of both parents: gentle compassion on one hand, firm discipline on the other.

May I transmit true tenderness coupled with true strength.

The days are long and the nights lonely, yet with Your divine support, the impossible will unfold as possible, and our home will be more than a house.

My efforts to be two persons find my time directed to a great degree toward the needs of others; yet I, as well, am in need of comfort and love.

Let my prayer, my Lord and Secret One, renew my energy and remind me that I am not alone.

For You, my Lord, are with me!

The pathway of tomorrow is hidden from me; perhaps it is just as well

May the unknown future only cast me into deeper trust and love of You and fill my heart with love enough for two. Amen.

Prayers for the Domestic Church. Used by permission

Prayer for a Family

O Dear Jesus, I humbly implore You to grant Your special graces to our family May our home be a shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith. I beg You, dear Jesus, to protect and bless all of us, absent and present, living and dead.

O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations.

Blessed Saint Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life. Ask of Jesus that special grace which He granted to you, to watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and the dying, so that with Mary and with you, heaven may find our family unbroken in The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen.

The Gold Book of Prayers Used by permission

Prayer for Those in Ministry with Persons with Handicaps

God of all, we lift our hearts to You knowing there is always room for conversion and growth. We pledge ourselves to develop the caring concern necessary to minister with people who have disabilities so that all of us may grow socially, emotionally and spiritually. Both within and beyond our own congregations, we will do our part in integrating disabled persons into the mainstream of society. We, Your people, pray confidently knowing that Your power at work in us can do immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine. Amen.

Sr. Ann Vonder Muelen, O.S.F. Respecting Life

Prayer for Dying Persons

O Father of life,
Your gifts to me are so abundant;
Teach me to share my healthy time
With Your lonely, dying one.
A few moments to visit,
To touch the enfeebled arm,
To moisten the dry lips
And to whisper the Lord's promise
Of the life to come.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Committee for Respect Life Activities, N.C.C.B., Washington, D.C., 1991.

Scripture Quotes

On You I depend from birth; from my mother's womb You are my strength. —Psalm 71:6.

Truly You have formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb. I give You thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works. —Psalm 139:13-14.

My soul... You knew full well; nor was my frame unknown to You when I was made in secret.... Your eyes have seen my action; in Your book they are all written; my days were limited before one of them existed. —Psalm 139:15-16.

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child in her womb? Even should she forget I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name. —Isaiah 49:15-16.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but may have eternal life. —John 3:16.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I dedicated you. —Jeremiah 1:5.

For now the Lord has spoken who formed me as His servant from the womb. —Isaiah 49:5.

I do not know how you came into existence in my womb; it was not I who gave you the breath of life, nor was it I who set in order the elements of which each of you is composed. Therefore, since it is the Creator of the universe who shapes each man's beginning, as He brings out the origin of everything, He, in His mercy, will give you back both breath and life. —II Maccabees 7:22-23.

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you; I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live. —Deuteronomy 30:19-20.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God...? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy. —I Corinthians 3:16-17.

Behold, sons are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man whose quiver is filled with them. —Psalm 127:3-5.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table. Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears The Lord. —Psalm 128:3-4.

If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. —I John 1:9.

It is I who deal death and give life. Just as you know not how the breath of life fashions the human frame in the mother's womb, so you know not the work of God which He is accomplishing in the universe. Ecclesiastes 11:5.

Parish Prayer Services and Spiritual Programs

Rosary for Life

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, You gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of Your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of Your Body and Blood help us experience the salvation You won for us and the peace of the kingdom where You live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Spiritual Adoption of a Woman in Crisis and her Unborn Baby

This one activity fulfills several elements of the Pastoral Plan for Respect Life Activities: spiritual, educational and pastoral care.

This wonderful act of cooperation with God's plan encourages members of the parish, young and old, to spiritually adopt a woman facing a crisis pregnancy and her unborn baby whose life is in danger of abortion. Individuals or families may spiritually adopt them by signing a card and promising to pray for them daily for nine months. They are encouraged to name the mother and child to give them individuality.

Two or three weeks before the program begins, an announcement is printed in the parish bulletin, and flyers and posters are used to publicize it. A brief pulpit announcement is made one week before the event. On the weekend that the Spiritual Adoption begins, pledge cards and pencils are placed in the pews. The celebrant may explain the program and allow a few minutes for the pledge cards to be signed and collected. During the offertory procession, the pledge cards are carried up and placed near the altar. Each person leaving Mass is given a holy card with the Spiritual Adoption prayer by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. (See below.)

After initiating the program, monthly announcements briefly describing the development of the baby in its mother's womb are printed in the parish bulletin. At the end of nine months, a baby shower may be held for the local crisis pregnancy center or maternity home.

Parishes are encouraged to establish this activity once a year as a permanent program of the Respect Life Committee. Once it is done it's easy to repeat because prayer cards and registration cards can be printed once in quantity. The same bulletin inserts can be used for several years in a row.

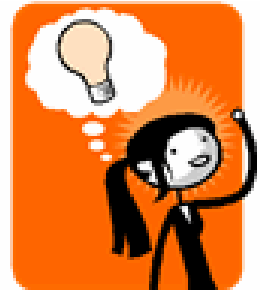
Spiritual Adoption Prayer

(To be printed on card stock as a bookmark)

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby which I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. Amen.

—Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

PROGRAM IDEAS



Education/Public Policy/ Pastoral Care/ Prayer / Publicity

EDUCATION *Give yourselves to disciplined instruction; open your ears to tested knowledge. Psalm 23:12*

Work with Religious Ed, RCIA, Schools, Youth Ministry, and existing ministries

- **Educate yourself** and your committee and then reach out to the parish/schools
 - Pre-view materials from the Diocesan Office to use at the parish
 - Read the newspapers-share information and responses to life issues
 - Educate on facts of abortion, euthanasia, death penalty and contraception
- **Religious Ed. Department:** give presentations to students, essay contests
- **Schools:** Give presentations for Religion classes in School, essay contests, art dept.
- **Education Venues:** raising awareness
 - Bulletin:** ask for a constant small space in bulletin-see the USCCB website
 - Use bulletin inserts as educational pieces for especial events
 - Bulletin Board:** ask for a space in the church for a Respect Life bulletin board
 - Pamphlet Rack:** ask for a Respect Life literature rack in the vestibules
- **Panel Discussions:** choose one topic, moderator and panelists
- **Speakers:** on various prolife topics for parish at large
- **Film Presentations:** With handouts and discussion opportunities
- **Posters and displays:** hung around the parish
- **Respect Life table:** at various parish events



People of Life Pledge

How to do a PEOPLE OF LIFE PLEDGE:

PEOPLE OF LIFE PLEDGE is a program that invites people to sign their names indicating willingness to receive information involving Respect Life Issues. It is great for those who don't want to commit.

ADVANCE PLANNING:

- Duplicate People of Life cards
- Consult with pastor as to the best way to distribute and collect the cards
- Arrange to have pens and cards available
- Arrange to have individuals to distribute and collect the cards
- Announce People of life Pledge Sunday in parish bulletin

PEOPLE OF LIFE SUNDAY:

- Educate through a Respect Life homily
- Ask each adult present who are concerned with Respect Life issues to take time to fill out the card

PROCESSING THE PEOPLE OF LIFE CARDS:

- Keep a copy of the list of People of Life names and addresses
- Contact each signer as soon as possible- by e-mail/call
- Thank them for their response and commitment to life

ANNUAL RECOMMITMENT TIME:

- People of life is recommended during October, Respect Life month
- January Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
- Mother's or Father's Day



Regina Maternity Services Yes... we are in particular need of people to help out with driving the girls and babies to appointments. Also we have a mentoring program where you can be of great help. For more information contact Maryellen Kwiecinski, at (516) 223-7888 or Kwiecinski.maryellen@catholiccharities.cc

Momma's House, Inc. Our volunteer coordinator is Joan Phillips and she can be reached at (516) 236-3922 but preferably mommasvolunteers@gmail.com



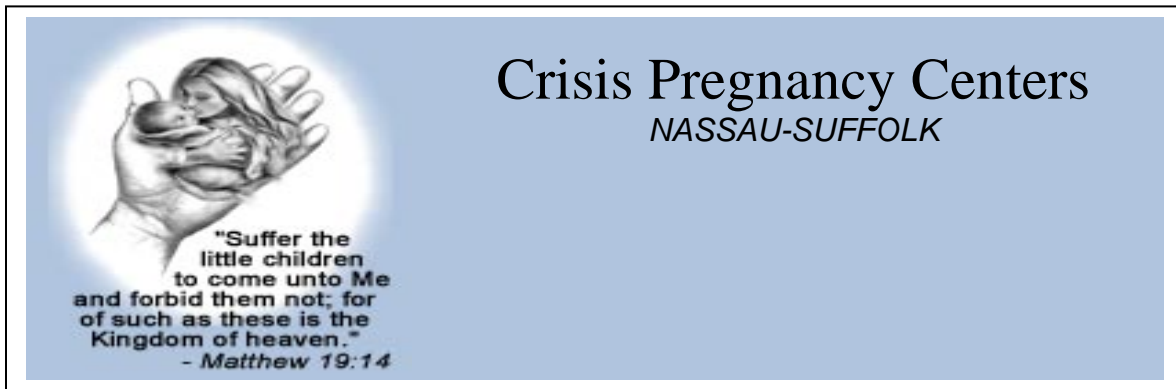
RESOURCES

LONG ISLAND LIFE AFFIRMING AGENCIES/ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION



Agencies Providing Assistance for
Domestic Violence





**Access to Perinatal Care Services in Nassau and Suffolk Counties
 Long Island Community-Based Centers for Prenatal Care**

CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES

www.chsli.org/pregnancy-support-services 1-855-301 4CHS

Mercy Medical Center
 1000 North Village Avenue
 Rockville Centre, NY 11570
1(516) 626-3729

Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
 1000 Montauk Highway
 West Islip, NY 11795
1 (631) 376-4444

St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center
 50 Route 25A
 Smithtown, NY 11787
1 (631) 870-3444

St. Charles Hospital
 200 Belle Terre Road
 Port Jefferson, NY 11777
1 (631) 474-6797

Abortion Pill Reversal

Urgent assistance for those who regret having just taken RU-486 (mifepristone)

1 (877) 558-0333

www.abortionpillreversal.com

BIRTHRIGHT OF PECONIC
www.birthrightlongisland.org/site/
Mary Terry, Director

Offices

- Feather Hill, Suite 10-2 Southold, NY 11971
ph 1 (631) 876 5138
- 99 West Montauk Highway, Hampton Bays, NY 11946
ph 1 (631) 728 8900

LIFE CENTER (AAA Pregnancy Options)
www.lifecenterli.org
Lorraine Gariboldi, Director
lgariboldi@optonline.net

Offices

- 1767 Deer Park Avenue, Deer Park, NY 11729
ph 1 (631) 2430066
- 507 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550
ph 1 (516) 408 6300
- 35 East Willow Street, Massapequa, NY 11758
ph 1 (516) 798 9100
- 524 East Main St, suite 200, Riverhead, NY 11901
Ph 1 (631) 591-9017

LONG ISLAND BIRTHRIGHT
Connie Lomonte, Director

Office

- 106 Prince Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778
ph 1 (631) 821-9727

NASSAU-SUFFOLK BIRTHRIGHT
Alice Antonette, Director
aantonette@verizon.net

Offices

- 533 Main Street, Islip, NY 11751
ph 1 (631) 277-3888

- 1134 –A Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793
ph 1 (516) 785 4070

SOUNDVIEW PREGNANCY SERVICES

www.soundviewpregnancy.com

Doreen Jansson, Director Office

- 1919 Middle Country Road, Suite 100
Centereach, NY, 11720
Ph1 (631) 676-7990
- 1975 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 304
East Meadow, NY 11554
Ph1 (516) 430-7990

To learn more about the Medicaid program for pregnant women or to apply online, please visit:

www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov

www.health.ny.gov/healthcare/medicaid

www.coverage4healthcare.org

Maternity Homes

- BETHANY HOUSE, Roosevelt
(516) 868-6866
- MOMMA'S HOUSE, Wantagh
(516) 781-8637
- MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL HOME, Roosevelt
(516) 223-1013
- REGINA MATERNITY SERVICES, Merrick
(516) 223-7888

RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

50 North Park Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570 Ph: (516) 678-5800 Exts. 626 & 381

www.drvc.org/respectlife



**DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
RESPECT LIFE OFFICE**

50 N. Park Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023
(516) 678-5800 Ext. 626
www.drvc.org/respectlife

Maternity Residences

Catholic Charities

Diocese of Rockville Centre

Regina Maternity Services www.catholiccharities.cc/ourservices/maternity.html

Kathleen Ryan, CSW

Program Administrator

29 Kirkwood Avenue

Merrick, NY 11566

(516) 223-7888 e-mail: ryan.kathleen@catholiccharities.cc

Mother of Good Counsel Home (Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer)

Sister Celina Ardila, OSR

Director

290 Babylon Turnpike

PO Box 329

Roosevelt, NY 11575

(516) 223-1013 Ardilacelina@yahoo.com

Momma's House, Inc. www.mommashouse.org

Patricia Shea e-mail: mommas86@aol.com

Director

Office:

1857 Wantagh Avenue

Wantagh, NY 11793

(516) 781-8637

Residence:

36 Jericho Turnpike

Jericho, NY 11753

(516) 938-5211

Residence:

18 Third Street

Glen Cove, NY 11542

(516) 609-0079

Transitional:

172 Melrose Avenue

E. Massapequa, NY 11758

Residence:

72 E. Marshall St.

Hempstead, NY 11550

Bethany House

www.bethanyhouseny.com

Sister Aimee Koonmen, OP Director

Residence:

102 Whitehouse Avenue

Roosevelt, NY 11575

(516) 868-6866

Residence:

118 Manhattan St.

Roosevelt, NY 11575

e-mail: bethanyhouse@aol.com

Residence:

2775 Jerusalem Ave.

Bellmore, NY 11710

Residence:

760 Prospect St.

Baldwin, NY 11510

Residence:

625 DeMott Ave.

Baldwin, NY 11510

Community Resource Directory
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Circulo De la Hispanidad, Inc. Crisis Intervention | 292 889-2849 |
| Hispanic Counseling | 538-2613 |
| N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence | |
| Administration Offices | 465-4700 |
| 24/7 DV and Sexual Assault Hotline | 542-0404 |
| N.C. District Attorney's Office - Crime Victim's Advocates | 571-4967 |
| New York State Spanish Domestic Violence Hotline | (800) 942-6908 |
| Police Department | |
| Main Number | 573-7000 |
| Emergencies | 911 |
| Family Court (to file family offense petitions) | 571-9055 |
| 1200 Old Country Road, Westbury, New York 11590 | |

Child Abuse

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Child Abuse/Maltreatment Hotline (Albany) | (800) 342-3720 |
| Mandated Reporters | (800) 635-1522 |
| N.C. Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect | 747-2966 |

Elder Abuse

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Adult Protective Services | 227-8472 |
| N.C. Dept of Senior Citizens (Senior HELP-LINE) | 227-8900 |
| N.Y.S. Office of the Aging Senior Citizen's HELP-LINE | (800) 342-9871 |

Other Resources

| | |
|---|----------|
| Department of Social Services General Information | 227-8519 |
| Spouse Abuse Group Education (SAGE) | 935-6858 |
| N.C. Crime Victims Assistance Program [Crime Victims' Board | 573-3330 |
| Compensation Application Assistance] | |
| N.C. Health Department [General Information] | 227-9700 |

Batterers programs are intended to educate batterers and provide an additional disposition to the court. Evidence has not shown that they cure batterers. It cannot be presumed that their victims will be safer either while the abuser is in the program or after they complete the program.

In case of a physical emergency, advise clients to call 911.

SUFFOLK COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Community resource directory

Domestic Violence

National Organizations

Not Sure Where to Start? Reach Out for Help...All Calls are Anonymous and Confidential.

For Assistance, Call 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week. Se Habla Español.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| National Domestic Violence Hotline | 1-800-799-9233 |
| TDD | 1-800-787-3224 |
| Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. | |

State Organizations

NY State Domestic Violence Hotline

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| English | 1- 800-942-6906 |
|---------|-----------------|

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Spanish | 1- 800-942-6908 |
|---------|-----------------|

Suffolk Organizations

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Police (Voice/TDD) | 911 |
|--------------------|-----|

| | |
|--|----------|
| Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence | 666-8833 |
|--|----------|

| | |
|---|----------|
| Victim's Information Bureau (Voice/TDD) | 360-3606 |
|---|----------|

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| The Retreat | 392-2200 |
|-------------|----------|

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Brighter Tomorrows | 395-1800 |
|--------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Child Protective Services | 1-800-342-3720 |
|---------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Women's Services | 853-8222 |
|------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Adult Protective Services | 854-3195 |
|---------------------------|----------|

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| After Hours | 854-9100 |
|-------------|----------|

In case of a physical emergency, advise clients to call 911.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WEBSITE

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND

www.fvpf.org

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawa/

New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

www.opdv.state.ny.us

National Domestic Violence Hotline

www.ndvh.org

Child & Family Services Haven House

www.childfamilybny.org

Women's Law Initiative

www.womenslaw.org

The Safe Center, LI (former National Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

www.thesafecenterli.org

National Network to End Domestic Violence

www.nnedv.org

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.ycadv.org

Battered Women's Justice Project

www.bwjp.org

New York State Bar Association

www.nysba.org



TRUSTED CONTACT RESOURCES TO USE FOR REFERENCE:

Diocese of Rockville Centre

Respect Life Office

50 North Park Ave.
Rockville Centre, NY 11570
(516) 678-5800 Ext. 626 & 381
(516) 536-3473 Fax
www.drvc.org/respectlife

NYS Catholic Conference

National Committee

465 State Street
Albany, NY 12203-1004
(518) 434-6195
(518) 434-9796 Fax
kgallagher@nyscatholic.org
info@nyscatholic.org

USCCB

Secretariat for Respect Life Activities
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194
(202) 541-3000
(202) 541-3070
(202) 541-3054 Fax
Tom Grenchik - Exec. Director
Susan Wills, Ass. Dir. of Education
Richard Doerflinger - Dep. Director
www.usccb.org

For Human Life Amendment (NCHLA)

1500 Massachusetts, NW
Suite 24
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 393-0703
(202) 347-1383
Michael Taylor, Exec. Director
www.nchla.org



Great Resources

LOCAL

RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
50 North Park Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570
www.drvc.org/respectlife

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

**THE NATIONAL GIANNA
CENTER – for Women’s
Health and Fertility**
[www.chsli.org/gianna-
center-long-island](http://www.chsli.org/gianna-center-long-island)

**New York Alliance
Against Assisted Suicide**
[www.noassistedsuicideny.
org](http://www.noassistedsuicideny.org)

**CATHOLIC HEALTH
CARE PREGNANCY
SUPPORT**
[www.chsli.org/pregnancy-
support-services](http://www.chsli.org/pregnancy-support-services)

Hope After Abortion
[www.hopeafterabortion.
com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com)

**NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE**
www.nyscatholic.org

***National Catholic
Bioethics Center***
www.ncbcenter.org

Catholic Charities
www.catholiccharities.cc

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
A HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT**
733 15th Street, NW Suite 926
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 392-0703
www.nchla.org

**Ethical and Religious
Directives for Catholic
Healthcare Services**
[www.usccb.org/issues-and-
action/human-life-and-dignity/health-
care/upload/Ethical-Religious-
Directives-Catholic-Health-Care-
Services-fifth-edition-2009.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/health-care/upload/Ethical-Religious-Directives-Catholic-Health-Care-Services-fifth-edition-2009.pdf)

The Holy See
[www.w2.vatican.va/conte
nt/vatican/en.html](http://www.w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)

***National Conference
of State Legislators***
www.ncsl.org

CRS
Catholic Relief Services
www.crs.org

**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS**
Coalition for Americans for Research Ethics
www.usccb.org/prolife

LINKS TO RESPECT LIFE WEBSITES:

[Archdiocese of NY](#)

[Gabriel Courage](#)

[Catholic Charities](#)

[Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau](#)

[Culture Project](#)

[Diocese of Brooklyn](#)

[Diocese of Rockville Centre](#)

[Faithful Citizenship](#)

[Family Research Council](#)

[Feminists for Life](#)

[Culture Project](#)

[Gianna Center - Catholic Women's Healthcare](#)

[Hope After Abortion](#)

[Human Life International](#)

[Lumina: Hope & Healing after Abortion](#)

[Napro-Technologies](#)

[National Catholic Bioethics Center](#)

[National Catholic Partnership on Disability](#)

[NYS Catholic Conference](#)

[Option Line](#)

[Pope2you](#)

[PREGNANT - NEED HELP?](#)

[Project Rachel](#)

[Seminary of the Immaculate](#)

[Stem for Life Foundation](#)

[U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops](#)

[The Vatican](#)