

October is annually observed as Respect Life Month in Catholic Churches across our nation. This provides a wonderful opportunity for catechists to teach children and youth the truth about the dignity of the human person. Human life is under constant attack in our culture today; from the moment of conception to natural death. Life is threatened because we no longer understand what it means to be human, and what our humanity calls forth from us in our responsibility to care for other persons. John Paul II in his encyclical the Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*, EV) tells us that “For the Christian, it is an absolute imperative to respect, love and promote the life of every brother and sister, in accordance with the requirements of God’s bountiful love in Jesus Christ.” n. 77

# RESPECT

Respect is the acknowledgement that all human persons are made in the image of God. It is important that children learn at an early age to recognize that they are a human person because they possess a God-given dignity. This can be done by emphasizing their Heavenly Father’s love for them. “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are... Beloved, we are God’s children now.” (1 John 3:16)

“In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ.” (EV 84) Respect obligates us to revere and honor not only others, but ourselves as well. Young children can learn to respect themselves by how they: treat their bodies; what they watch on T.V. or DVD; what games they play; what time they take to pray and thank God for His gifts to them; how they respect their parents.

# LOVE

Older children can be taught ways in which our dignity as human persons calls us to love others. Here love is not an emotion but a call to action. Our attitude should be to care for another as a person for whom God has made us responsible. This care for another “cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation, it is an indivisible good. We need to ‘show care’ for all life and for the life of everyone.” (EV 87) Children in grades 4-6 can be introduced to issues such as abortion and euthanasia as violations of our human dignity. They can be shown ways to care for the elderly, take part in prayer for an end to abortion, lend help to a neighbor in need or help at a food pantry in the community. These are just a few examples of caring for our neighbor.

# PROMOTE

Students in junior and senior high school need to be engaged in the life issues of our day. In order to build a culture of life, we must be actively pro-life and contribute “to the renewal of society through the promotion of the common good. It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop.” (EV 101) A catechesis on basic moral and life principles found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2258—2317 give students a foundation for promoting the culture of life in their daily living.

# Resources to Help You Observe Respect Life Month

\* Indicates resources available from the Respect Life Office

Contact Rachelle: 701-356-7910 or e-mail; [rachelle.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org](mailto:rachelle.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org)

## LITURGICAL AIDS:

**Respect Life Manual**, USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat. Contains liturgy guide, intercessory prayers for Respect Life Sunday and January 22; A Day of Prayer and Penance for Life. Resources can also be downloaded from the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/> (For two page printable inserts go to: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2011/2011-respect-life-program-pamphlets.cfm> , choose bulletin insert, English)

**A Holy Hour for Life**, USCCB Respect Life Manual, 2009-2010. To download go to: <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2009/liturgyguide.pdf> (see page 12 of Liturgy Guide)

**Enthronement of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe**, USCCB Respect Life Manual, 2010-2011. To download go to: <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2010/docs/liturgyguide.pdf> (see page 12 of Liturgy Guide)

**Litany for Life**, USCCB Respect Life Manual, 2010-2011. To download go to: <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2010/docs/liturgyguide.pdf> (see page 8 of Liturgy Guide)

**Rosary for Life**, USCCB Respect Life Manual, Joyful Mysteries: to download go to: <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/LiturgyGuide.pdf> (see page 12 of Liturgy Guide) or the Luminous Mysteries: <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/LiturgyGuide.pdf> (see page 8 of Liturgy Guide)

**Stations of the Cross for Life** - based on the stations of the cross celebrated by John Paul II on Good Friday, 1991. USCCB Respect Life Manual 2008-2009. To download go to: <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/08liturgyguide.pdf> (see page 9 of Liturgy Guide)

\* **Naming Ceremony**: For parents who have lost a child by miscarriage or stillbirth. To download go to: <http://www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/PDFs/NamingCeremony2009.pdf>

\* **Prayers for Eucharistic Adoration; National Night of Prayer, December 8**. To download go to: <http://www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/PDFs/nightofprayer.pdf>

\* **What Might Have Been; Scripture based prayer service to observe the Jan. 22 Day of Prayer and Penance**.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CLASSROOM AIDS :

**Spiritual Adoption of Unborn Children**; A program designed to encourage parishes to pray for babies in danger of abortion. Components include education about the development of the unborn child and collecting items for a "baby shower" to aid local pregnancy help centers. For details go to: [http://flrl.org/RL\\_SpiritualAdoption.htm](http://flrl.org/RL_SpiritualAdoption.htm)

## JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CLASSROOM AIDS:

\* **Beginning and End of Life Issues with Fr. Tad Pacholczyk**, National Catholic Bioethics Center. DVD. 1 hour.

\* **Handbook on Critical Life Issues**, National Catholic Bioethics Center.

\* **Life Issues, Medical Choices, Questions and Answers for Catholics**, Janet E. Smith and Christopher Kaczor.

\* **Making Sense Out of Bioethics**; A monthly column by Fr. Tad Pacholczyk on timely life issues. Go to: [www.fargodiocese.org/bioethics](http://www.fargodiocese.org/bioethics)

**The Unaborted Socrates: A Dramatic Debate on the Issues Surrounding Abortion**, Peter Kreeft.

[www.usccb.org/pro-life/youth](http://www.usccb.org/pro-life/youth) Resources and suggestions for starting pro-life efforts in local schools and parishes.

# Calendar of Respect Life Activities for 2011-2012

(for full description of events and registration forms go to: [www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/](http://www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/))

## **40 Days for Life ND • Sept. 28-Nov. 6**

The 40 Days for Life North Dakota fall campaign begins Wed., Sept. 28, 9 am, with a Fire Up Rally at the abortion facility, 512 1st Ave North in Fargo. The campaign, based on 40 days of prayer and fasting to end abortion, will run through Sun., Nov. 6. To sign up for your time of prayer or to learn more about the North Dakota effort go to: <http://www.40daysforlifend.com/> or e-mail: [phc@polarcomm.com](mailto:phc@polarcomm.com) or call: 701-284-6601 for more information.

## **Walk with Christ for Life • Oct. 2**

The annual diocesan Eucharistic procession "Walk with Christ for Life" will take place on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 2, beginning with Noon Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, 604 Broadway, Fargo. A prayerful Eucharistic procession to the state's only abortion facility will follow. The Knights of Columbus will serve a meal following closing Benediction at 2:30 p.m.

## **Youth Pilgrimage to the March for Life • Jan. 19-24, 2012**

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to attend the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. on Jan. 23, 2012. Fr. Kurt Gunwall will be the spiritual director for this 6-day pilgrimage for life. Cost is \$825. Registration deadline is OCT. 17! To download a registration form go to: <http://www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/> or for more information contact Rachelle: 701-356-7910 or e-mail: [rachelle.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org](mailto:rachelle.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org)

## **Chastity Education Workshops • Nov. 19 and Dec. 3**

The Respect Life Office will be hosting two workshops to introduce catechists to the Theology of the Body for Teens new Middle School edition. A workshop on Nov. 19 will be held in Fargo with registration deadline of Nov. 11, and Devils Lake will host a workshop on Dec. 3 with registration deadline of Nov. 25. Cost is \$30/person. Registration forms can be found at: <http://www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/> For more information contact Rachelle.

## **Lunch with Patrick Coffin • Feb. 2, 2012**

Join us for lunch with the host of the nationally top-rated talk show Catholic Answers LIVE, Patrick Coffin. Patrick will speak on the meaning of suffering. The event will take place at Sts. Anne and Joachim Church in Fargo. Cost is \$15/person. Registration forms will be available on the Respect Life webpage after Dec. 20.

Some liturgical days to observe the gift of human life in your parish:

### **January 22**

Each January 22 is to be observed as a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life. (For 2012, this will fall on January 23). This particular day of prayer is intended for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. When we begin use of the revised Roman Missal this Advent, priests will be able to choose the option of offering a Mass for human life found under the section of Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions. The Mass title "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" (no.48/1) is to be celebrated with white vestments. This Mass can also be celebrated at other times throughout the year, such as the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25 or the Feast of the Visitation on May 31.

### **December 8**

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is observed by a National Night of Prayer that takes place from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Dec. 9 across our nation. This is a time of prayer dedicated to the end of abortion. Parishes can offer Eucharistic Adoration during this time period in union with hundreds of other churches across our nation as we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. For a National Night of Prayer adoration guide go to: [www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/](http://www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/) or for more information contact Rachelle.

### **December 12**

Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with an Enthronement of Our Lady of Guadalupe image in your parish religious education center. A novena and liturgy guide for the Enthronement can be found at: [www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/](http://www.fargodiocese.org/respectlife/)

