**Spring Respect Life Sample Bulletin Inserts**

**Respect Life Corner**

1st Sunday of March

**40 Days for Life** - Help Save Babies!

Starting Feb 17 and ending on March 28th

**You** can protect mothers and children by joining this peaceful worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

40 Days for Life has inspired over 1,000,000 volunteers! With God’s help, thousands of babies have been saved, hundreds of abortion workers converted and over 100 abortion centers closed!

Learn more by visiting the website: [**www.40daysforlife.com**](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

**Respect Life Corner**

2th Sunday of March

St. Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father, is the Patron saint of fathers and the Patron saint of unborn children. Although there are no written words in the Bible attributed to Joseph, it’s his actions that speak of his fatherly model. He accepts the life in the womb by taking Mary as his wife. He travels by Mary’s side on the way to Bethlehem for the census. He is there supporting Mary at the child’s birth and names the child Jesus as commanded by the angel. He defends the baby Jesus from the murderous attack of Herod. As Jesus grows, he teaches him his trade and, more importantly, his faith.

 ***“Joseph of Nazareth, who saved Jesus from the cruelty of Herod, is shown to us in this moment as a great supporter of the cause of the defense of human life, from the first moment of conception to natural death. In this place, therefore, we wish to commend human life to Divine Providence and to St. Joseph, especially the life of children not yet born, in our homeland and throughout the world.”****– St. John Paul II Homily at the Shrine of St. Joseph. Poland, June 4, 1997*

**Action:** Pray to St. Joseph for his powerful intercession for the protection of life and for the end of abortion.

**Respect Life Corner**

3th Sunday of March

On March 25, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. This feast day helps us to recognize the gift of new life from its very beginning and calls us to reflect on how we are to care for, protect, and welcome new life—as the Blessed Mother did for the Christ child.

March 25th is also the anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical *Evangelium vitae,* also known as *The* *Gospel of Life*. This document reaffirmed the Church’s constant teaching on the value and holiness of every human life. It also addressed modern day threats to life, including abortion, artificial reproduction, contraception, capital punishment, euthanasia, sterilization, and suicide. Additional information is available at [respectlife.org/gospel-of-life](https://www.respectlife.org/gospel-of-life) (*Source USCCB, Word of Life: March 2021).*

***Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her*.”** *- Luke 1:35-38*

**Prayer:** May the Incarnation of Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary strengthen us in protecting God’s gift of life.

**Respect Life Corner**

4th Sunday of March

**Life Fact**: Just 22 days after conception, an unborn child’s heart beats with its own blood, which is often a different type than the mother’s.

***“From heaven the Lord looks down and observes the children of Adam,***

***From his dwelling place he surveys all who dwell on earth.***

***The One who fashioned together their hearts is the One who knows all their works.”*** *– Psalms 33: 13-15*

**Action:** Prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life. Meditate or ask God's intercession. Devote some time to pray a Holy Hour, Stations of the Cross, Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet.

**Respect Life Corner**

1st Sunday of April (Easter)

“Have no fear. The outcome of the battle for life is already decided, even though the struggle goes on against great odds and with much suffering… "Christ is now raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep ... so in Christ all will come to life again" (1 Cor. 15:20-22).

***“The liberating message of the Gospel of life has been put into your hands. And the mission of proclaiming it to the ends of the earth is now passing to your generation. Like the great apostle Paul, you too must feel the full urgency of the task: "Woe to me if I do not evangelize" (1 Cor. 9:16). Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life. The church needs your energies, your enthusiasm, your youthful ideals, in order to make the Gospel of life penetrate the fabric of society, transforming people's hearts and the structures of society in order to create a civilization of true justice and love.”***– **St. John Paul II** to Youth, 1993, Denver, Colorado.

**Pray:** May the glory of the Resurrection inspire lasting hope in all who work to protect the dignity of human life.

**Respect Life Corner**

2th Sunday of April (Divine Mercy Sunday)

This weekend we celebrate the Sunday of Divine Mercy. God never ceases offering us His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Visit **HopeAfterAbortion.org** or call The **Sisters of Life Hope and Healing Mission Hot-line 866-575-0075**.

***“I realize more and more how much every soul needs God’s mercy throughout life and particularly at the hour of death. This chaplet (of Divine Mercy) mitigates God’s anger, as He Himself told me.” – St. Faustina***

**Action:** Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, specifically with the intentions for God’s mercy after an abortion and to the end of abortion.

**Respect Life Corner**

3th Sunday of April

There’s a new push in Congress to force Americans to pay for abortion. The Hyde Amendment and other similar laws have protected taxpayers from funding elective abortion. Now, Congress wants to take away these laws, which have had broad public support for nearly 50 years. Without the Hyde Amendment, billions of dollars in healthcare funding could go to abortion.

***“Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!” – St. John Paul II***

**Action:** Stop your tax dollars from going to abortion! Be informed and take action today! Visit the USCCB sponsored site: **www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com**

**Respect Life Corner**

4th Sunday of April

**Life Fact**: **Life Fact**: 20 days after conception the foundation of the brain, spinal cord and entire nervous system is established. The eyes also begin to be formed.

***“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect*.”** - ***Pope Francis***

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**Respect Life Corner**

1st Sunday of May

A NY State Bill is advancing that will conduct a “study” of **pro-life** pregnancy centers and enable the Health Commissioner to **subpoena them.** **The pre-determined outcome of the “study” is to find the centers “limited” because they do not provide abortion or abortion referrals. Get** more info at<https://www.nyscatholic.org/pregnancy-centers-study/>

**Action:Protect pregnancy centers** and the valuable work they do in offering women real help in times of crisis **by contacting your NY legislators and urge them to oppose this bill** by phone or via <https://www.nyscatholic.org/action-center/>

**Pray:** Please pray for the protection of all pregnancy centers. May vulnerable women and their unborn children continue to find a refuge in the hearts of those who serve in crisis pregnancy centers.

**Respect Life Corner**

2th Sunday of May (Mother’s Day)

Mother’s Day highlights the beautiful vocation of motherhood and the gift of human life. It calls us to cherish the gift of life that we receive from our mothers and to pray for all women to whom God has entrusted life in a very special way. As we pray in thanksgiving for the gift of mothers, we remember mothers experiencing difficult pregnancies and pray they may find support and encouragement in choosing life for their children.

**Action**: For those suffering after abortion, Mother’s Day can be a painful reminder of the child they’ve lost. The Sisters of Life provide one-on-one accompaniment, retreats, & morning gatherings for women seeking hope and healing after abortion. Call 866.575.0075 or email hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

**Pray:** Pray for mothers facing unexpected pregnancies that they may find strength and courage in the example of our Blessed Mother.

**Respect Life Corner**

3th Sunday of May

***“Saying that there are too many children is like saying there are too many flowers.”* —St. Mother Teresa**

Fact: Since 1973, over 63 million babies have been aborted in the United States.

Action: What **YOU** can do to make a difference:

1) Pray for the unborn and the protection of all life

2) Seek the truth about the evils of abortion in order to defend life

3) Support national efforts like the March for Life and 40 Days for Life campaigns

4) Support local organizations like the Sisters of Life, Good Counsel and so many others.

5) Know and support pro-life politicians.

**Respect Life Corner**

4th Sunday of May

**Life Fact**: **Life Fact**: 20 days after conception the foundation of the brain, spinal cord and entire nervous system is established. The eyes also begin to be formed.

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**Respect Life Corner**

5th Sunday of May

The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides clear guidance on End of Life Issues: [2277] Whatever its motives and means, **direct euthanasia** consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. **It is morally unacceptable**.

***“True compassion leads to sharing another’s pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear.”*** *– St. John Paul II, The Gospel of Life*

**Action:** Watch ***Care & Prepare*** a new 30-minute video with essential information on end-of-life decision-making from a Catholic perspective. Find peace and receive practical tools to prepare for yourself and your loved ones. This is information that everyone needs to know! The video is free and available here: bitly.com/careandprepare