

Respect Life Sunday

The first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. The Archbishop of Indianapolis presents the Archbishop O'Meara Respect Life Award and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award to outstanding volunteer leaders in the pro-life movement at the conclusion of the Respect Life Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops envision that the entire year be focused on pro-life education, pastoral care, advocacy, prayer and worship that affirms the value of human life. The Office for Pro-Life Ministry distributes the Respect Life packets to all pastors and coordinators of parish pro-life groups, and thereby encourages year-round education and evangelization in the local parishes.

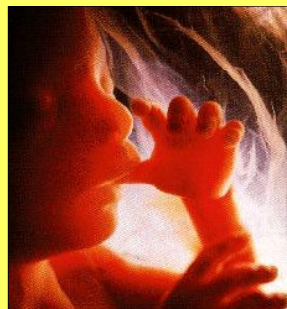
In collaboration with local ecumenical groups, the Pro-Life Office promotes the one-hour Central Indiana Life Chain prayer vigil along North Meridian Street in Indianapolis on Respect Life Sunday.

Sanctity of Life Dinner

Each year, the Office for Pro-Life Ministry sponsors a dinner that brings pro-life leaders and supporters together to be energized and inspired to continue to work for the cause of life. Longtime volunteers who support the mission of the Pro-Life Office by their dedicated service, receive the Sanctity of Life Award.

News Notes

Every other month, the Pro-Life Office publishes *News Notes*. The newsletter contains important information that should be shared in the parishes. Included in the newsletter are legislative updates, and information on national, state and local policies that affect the pro-life movement. Articles that promote pro-life education and evangelization also are included for the parish pro-life coordinators, pastors, pastoral assistants, and all those who engage in pro-life formation and evangelization.



Helpers of God's Precious Infants

The Helpers of God's Precious Infants apostolate is promoted and scheduled monthly by the Pro-Life Office. St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis, is the site for the third Saturday pro-life Mass. The 8:30 a.m. celebration of the Eucharist is followed by Eucharistic adoration. While some people remain in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, others maintain a prayerful presence outside a local abortion clinic. The spiritual program concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church.

The Pro-Life Office offers the Helpers ministry as the model for a prayerful presence at the abortion facilities in the archdiocese. A manual explaining the spirituality of the Helpers is available on the Pro-Life Office Web site at www.archindy.org/prolife.

Archdiocesan Youth of Life

Committed pro-life students from parochial, private and public high schools and colleges are invited to collaborate with the Office for Pro-Life Ministry. The youth are formed to become leaders in the struggle to Christianize and transform the secular culture into one that supports life in the new millennium. Members of the Archdiocesan Youth for Life attend the March for Life in Washington D.C., or in the local observance in Indianapolis, and engage in pro-life activities during the year that reach out to their peers in their schools and parish communities.

Donations

The Office for Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is grateful for the generous support that contributors have given to our pro-life efforts in the past. We ask for your continued support for our efforts to transform our culture into one that will once again support and respect human life.

Financial donations
may be mailed to the
Office for Pro-Life Ministry
Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center
1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Volunteers

The archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry is supported by many hardworking volunteers. All of the pro-life ministries depend on volunteers. Your help is needed. For more information and to volunteer, please call:

Sister Diane Carollo, S.G.L.
Director of Pro-Life Ministry
317-236-1521
800-382-9836, ext. 1521



The Office for Pro-Life Ministry



The Office for Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is committed to spreading the Gospel of Life in its fullness.

Through evangelization and education, the dignity of human life—from the moment of conception to natural death—is defended and promoted.

"God proclaims that he is absolute Lord of the life of man, who is formed in his image and likeness (cf. Gn 1:26-28). Human life is thus given an inviolable character, which reflects the inviolability of the Creator himself."

Evangelium Vitae, paragraph 53

Pro-Life, Pro-Family Pro-Woman

Catholics United for the Faith

Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) is a world-wide lay apostolate that supports, defends and advances the teaching efforts of the Church. The Abba, Father Chapter of CUF in Indianapolis, engages in evangelization and catechesis that is faithful to the Church. The apostolate promotes pro-life values and an authentic Catholic vision for the family.

The Abba, Father Chapter of CUF is committed to the mission and ministries of the Office for Pro-Life Ministry.

Patty Arthur, R.N., chairman of the local chapter in Indianapolis, may be contacted at 317-339-6503.
Visit online: <http://home.catholicweb.com/cufabba/>

Catholic Women's Conference

The all-day Catholic Women's Conference provides a day of spiritual renewal for women of all ages. Speakers address topics and themes that encourage Catholic women to live out their faith courageously in the new millennium. The Pro-Life Office recognizes that faithful Catholic women work to Christianize and transform the culture. A culture that is permeated by Christian ideals recognizes the inherent dignity and eternal destiny of the human person. The Office for Pro-Life Ministry co-sponsors the conference with the Marian Center of Indianapolis.

**Contact Kathy Denny for more information at
The Marian Center at 317-888-0873.**

Missionary Servants of the Gospel of Life

Laitly consecrated to the Blessed Mother, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, evangelize, catechize and perform works of mercy to bring the liberating message of the Gospel of Life to all people.

**Contact Patty Arthur for more information
at 317-339-6503**

Pro-Life Education, Evangelization and Outreach

Pro-Life Office

Abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, human cloning, end-of-life issues and capital punishment are some of the topics in pro-life communications to pastors, parish pro-life contacts, principals, directors of religious education, youth ministers, high school pro-life contacts and campus chaplains. Periodic mailings inform the faithful on current legislation that either threatens or supports the cause of life.

Ministries—events—programs— initiatives

Birthline ministry

Birthline is an outreach service offered by the Pro-Life Office. The ministry addresses the material needs of low-income mothers of infants and toddlers. A crisis hotline responds to the needs of women in crisis pregnancies.

Through a network of Birthline volunteers, *thousands* of low-income women and their babies receive layettes, equipment and/or maternity clothing at the Catholic Center on Mondays and Wednesdays. All items purchased or received through donors are distributed free to low-income families in need.

Trained Birthline telephone volunteers answer the hotline on Mondays through Fridays during office hours. Abortion-minded women receive life-giving options and practical help with referrals to other pro-life agencies. Hundreds of women are served annually through the crisis hotline, and human lives and souls are saved through this telephone ministry.

Post-abortion Outreach

Abortion claims the lives of approximately 1.5 million unborn children annually in the United States. Although abortion providers and those who support legalized abortion deny the humanity of the child, the reality remains that abortion traumatizes women and men, and there is always more than one victim for each abortion. The grief, loss, guilt, depression and shame that plague women and men who are post-abortive are addressed through confidential pastoral outreach by the Office for Pro-Life Ministry.

Project Rachel programs and Entering Caanan retreats

The archdiocesan post-abortion programs involve trained priests, professionals and volunteers. The confidential programs are designed to help women and men discover reconciliation, healing and peace.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats

Participants, both female and male, spend an entire weekend on a retreat that addresses the spiritual wounds of abortion which run deep in the human soul. The talks, exercises, ceremonies and interactions focus on God's unconditional love and forgiveness.

Memories of abandonment, pain, guilt and confusion are explored and discussed. The retreat is designed to lead post-abortive women and men to a future filled with hope and confidence in God's love for them.

The Pro-Life Office conducts two retreats annually, which are offered in the Indianapolis area at undisclosed locations to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the participants.

Entering Canaan retreats

These one-day retreats invite participants who have experienced abortion to begin a "sacramental journey into the true Promised Land of the Heart of Jesus and to discover there an inheritance of mercy, freedom and peace." The retreats are offered twice a year.

Rachel's Network

Network members are past participants of Rachel's Vineyard retreats. The support group meets monthly for ongoing spiritual formation. Through shared prayer, reflection and discussions, the members reach out to each other and ultimately to others suffering from the aftermath of abortion.

Rachel's Counselors

This group consists of devout Catholic therapists who are trained in post-abortion ministry. They counsel women and men from the archdiocesan post-abortion programs who seek out their services for ongoing healing. They serve as resources for any woman or man who may be suffering from the aftermath of abortion.

All post-abortion programs, events and communications are completely confidential.

For more information on post-abortion healing contact

Sister Diane, Project Rachel director at 317-236-1521

or 800-382-9836, ext. 1521, or

Bernadette Roy, retreat facilitator at 317-831-2892

Local Observance of Roe v. Wade

Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Rally and March for Life on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

The Office for Pro-Life Ministry schedules a local solemn observance to mark the infamous Supreme Court decision that has resulted in the deaths of more than 50 million unborn children.

The local observance in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis begins with Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Following the Mass, there is a rally and scheduled speaker, who encourages the faithful to work for the establishment of a society that respects human life from conception to natural death.