



*Office of Marriage and Family Life
Office of Human Life & Dignity*

Bulletin Announcements for June 2019

Included in this mailing, please find the bulletin announcements and fliers for the **month of June for the Offices of Marriage and Family Life & Human Life and Dignity**. Please consider adding any announcements to your bulletin that your parishioners may be interested.

If your parish has Marriage and Family Life or Human Life & Dignity events you want other parishes to know about, please submit them to Keri Carroll by e-mail. We will be in contact with you regarding your request. You may also contact Keri if there are any fliers and brochures listed below that you would like printed and mailed to you. Keri can be reached at (317)-236-1521 kcarroll@archindy.org.

Please visit www.archindy.org/humanlifeanddignity/BulletinsAndNewsletters.html for the PDF version of these announcements.

Thank you!

Word of Life Bulletin Series and Intercessions from USCCB

English: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life/upload/Word-of-Life-2019-06.pdf>

Spanish: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life/upload/Palabra-de-Vida-2019-06.pdf>



For Any or All Weekends in June

- **Pastoral Ministries**

- **Summer 2019 Energy Audit Program for Parishes and Schools:**

The Archindy Creation Care Committee is inviting parishes and schools to participate in an Energy Audit Program this summer. A small group (up to 10 parishes) will be selected for an in-depth Sustainability Pilot program at no cost to the parish or school. **More details can be found [here](#).** To register your parish, please contact Deacon Mike Braun at mbraun@archindy.org or 317-236-1531.

Additionally, the Creation Care Committee is announcing opportunities for parish and schools to save energy, save money, and to live Laudato Si'. All are invited to participate in the a workshop entitled "Using Energy Prudently in Sacred Sapces." (A modest fee may be charged to cover the cost of materials.) For those parishes/schools that are served by Indianapolis Power and Light, a free energy assessment can be arranged. For questions about the programs, contact Rosemary Spalding (rgspalding@spaldinglaw.net) or John Mundell (jmundell@mundellassociates.com, or (317) 630-9060 ext. 111.)

- **Catholic Distance University**

CDU is partnering with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to provide high quality online certificates and courses in adult faith formation. The online option from CDU allows the Archdiocese to provide solid formation and certification delivered in a convenient, flexible, and adult-friendly format. This partnership also permits members of the Indianapolis Archdiocese to experience CDU noncredit seminars and noncredit Catechism courses at a discounted tuition rate of \$75 per seminar or course. Members are also invited to obtain any of CDU's noncredit certificates. The required courses and seminars offer a systematic approach to grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith. Click below to learn more about the various noncredit certificates. As a subsidy partner you can take the required seminars and courses for a discounted tuition rate.

[Registration is now open for 2019 Summer and Fall Courses](#).

Classes are 8 weeks long unless otherwise noted. Registration.

Summer II - First day of class is July 1st

Fall I – First day of class – August 26th

Fall II – First day of clas – October 21st

- **Office of Marriage and Family Life Events**

Family Enrichment

- **[Natural Family Planning Awareness Week – July 21-27, 2019](#)**

Marriage Prep

- **[PreCana Conferene – Español – June 22, 2019 – St. Bartholomew, Columbus](#)**
- **[PreCana Conference – August 23-24, 2019 – St. Matthew, Indianapolis](#)**
- **[PreCana Conference – September 13—14, 2019, St. Matthew](#)**
- **[PreCana Conference – October 5, 2019 – St. Agnes, Nashville](#)**

Marriage Enrichment

- **[36th Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee – August 25, 2019](#)**
- **[Retrouvaille Retreat – August 9, 2019, Tipton, IN](#)**
- **[Celebration of Marriage Conference – Our Lady of the Greenwood- August 10, 2019](#)**
- **[World Marriage Encounter Dates – August 16-18, 2019- New Albany, IN](#)**

Healing Ministries

- **[Annual Mission Day – September 10, 2019, Indianapolis, IN](#)**
- **[Annual Being and Belonging Retreat – October 4-6, 2019, Indianapolis, IN](#)**

- **Office of Human Life and Dignity**

Birthline Ministry

- [Birthline Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Respect Life Ministry

- Sidewalk Advocate Volunteer Training: June 15, 2019-St. John the Apostle, Ellettsville
- [Religious Freedom Week: June 22-29, 2019](#)
- [Save the Date: October 6, 2019: Respect Life Sunday Mass/ Award Nominations](#)
- [Save the Date: January 21, 2020: Vigil for Life](#)
- [Save the Date: January 22, 2020: Indiana March for Life](#)

Project Rachel

- [Rachel Vineyard Healing Retreat: May 31-June 2](#)

Health Ministries

- [Resources](#)
- [Save the Date: September 21, 2019 – Mental Health Mass](#)

Substance Addictions Ministry - [Resources](#)

- [Save The Date: August 14, 2019 – SAM's Recovery Mass](#)

- **Events Around the Archdiocese**

- [Women's Care Center First Friday Mass](#)
- [Hope & Healing Survivors of Suicide Monthly Support Group – Indianapolis](#)
- [Respect Life Mass – Terre Haute](#)
- [Faithful Citizens Rosary Crusade](#)
- [Pray for an End to Abortion and Sins Against Life Adoration](#)

Marriage & Family Life – Gabriela Ross

www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily

July 21-27, 2019: National NFP Awareness Week: Cooperating with God's Design for Married Love -



“Celebrate and reverence God’s Vision of Human Sexuality”

The dates of July 21- 27, 2019 for Natural Family Planning Awareness Week highlights the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feasts of Ss. Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ Office of Marriage and Family Life joins with the U.S. bishops in highlighting the benefits of NFP. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving nature of marriage, NFP can enrich the bond between husband and wife. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis promotes NFP all year-long through class and teacher listings, and helps promote NFP-related activities planned throughout the Archdiocese. In addition, we collaborate with St. Vincent Hospital to promote NFP to nurses, doctors, and medical professionals. If you would like to learn more about what is offered across the archdiocese, please visit www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/ministries-nfp.html or visit the NFP section of the USCCB website at: <http://www.usccb.org/nfp/what-is-nfp/index.cfm>. For more information call 317-592-4007.

Website Resource Links

NFP Awareness Week

[Chastity](#)

[Children as a Gift](#)

[Conjugal Love](#)

[Marriage](#)

[Natural Family Planning](#)

[Responsible Parenthood](#)

[Rights and Duties of Parents](#)

August 9-11, 2019: Retrouvaille Retreat, Tipton, IN

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with your spouse? Do you argue, or have you stopped talking to each other? Do you wonder if your marriage might end?

A Retrouvaille retreat for marriages in crisis will be held at the St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center, (1440 West Division Road, Tipton, IN – Diocese of Lafayette) on August 9-11th.

To learn more about the program or to register for the August 9-11th weekend and follow-up post-weekend sessions in Indianapolis, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or www.retrouvaille.com. For confidential information e-mail RetrouIndy@gmail.com or call (317) 489-6811. [Flyer](#)

August 10, 2019: 2019 Celebrate Marriage Conference, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, IN



The Celebrate Marriage Conference is a day-long enrichment where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and smart phones—and focus only on each other. You can also learn about ways to be involved with or start a marriage ministry at your own church.

Throughout the day, breakouts will be offered on a variety of topics. Whether you are empty-nesters or newlyweds, you will learn how to keep your marriage vibrant and alive. The Keynote speaker for 2019 will be Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of Indianapolis. Break-out speakers include: Chris Countryman, Tim & Margie Heck, Michael & Amy Kalscheur, Eric & Kelly Moster, Marcy & Tom Renken, and Christina Turro-Shields.

Couples are invited to begin August 10th with their family at 7:30 am Mass in the chapel of Our Lady of the Greenwood (335 South Meridian Street, Greenwood IN 46143.)

\$40 per couple includes material, lunch, & complimentary childcare. Childcare space may be limited. For questions contact Marcy & Tom Renken (317) 489-1557 or Church Office (317) 888-2861. Register now at the link below.

[Registration](#)

August 16-18, 2019: Worldwide Marriage Encounter – New Albany, IN

Great Marriages make great Families! “We must reaffirm the right of children to grow up in a family with a father and a mother.” ~Pope Francis, April 11, 2014~

On **August 16-18** join others at Mount St. Francis Centre for Spirituality (101 St. Anthony Drive, New Albany, IN 47146) for a time of “Restore ~ Refresh ~ Renew” – Please give your spouse a gift that will last for years to come by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Make 2019 the year you reconnect intimately. **Future dates: November 1-3** (Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House.)

[Flyer](#)

August 25, 2019: 36th Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee



The Office of Marriage and Family Life invites all married couples of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis who will celebrate 50 years of marriage in 2019 to the 36th Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee. This joyful celebration will take place on **August 25, 2019** at 2:00 pm at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Monsignor William Stumpf, and will be followed by a reception across the street at the Catholic Center in Assembly Hall. The event is free of charge, but **registration is required**. For more information about the event or to register, please visit <http://www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/ministries-weddingcelebration.html>. **Registration deadline is August 19, 2019**. If you have questions, please contact Keri Carroll at kcarroll@archindy.org or (317) 236-1521.

25 de Agosto, 2019: Jubileo de bodas de oro del trigésimo sexto aniversario

La Oficina de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar invita a todas las parejas casadas de la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis que celebrarán 50 años de matrimonio en 2019 a el 36º Aniversario Anual de la Boda de Oro. Esta alegre celebración tendrá lugar el 25 de agosto de 2019 a las 2:00 p.m. en la catedral de S. Pedro y Pablo. La misa será celebrada por el Rev. Monseñor William Stumpf, y será seguida por una recepción al otro lado de la calle en el Centro Católico en el Salón de la Asamblea. El evento es gratuito, pero es necesario registrarse. Para obtener más información sobre el evento o para registrarse, visit www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/ministries-weddingcelebration.html. La fecha límite para inscribirse es el 19 de agosto de 2019. Si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con Keri Carroll en kcarroll@archindy.org o (317) 236-1521.

Save the Date: September 10, 2019: 2019 Annual Mission Day – Bruised & Wounded



Recognizing that there is still a stigma, in both the Christian and secular world, surrounding death by suicide, Fr. Rolheiser takes his spiritual understanding of the woundedness of those whose lives end in this pain, and “breathes out the compassion and peace of God” in his book, Bruised and Wounded.

Many, many people in the world have been touched by suicide. Fr. Rolheiser’s writings provide hope, consolation, and empathy to those left behind.

Join us on **September 10, 2019 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm** at The Atrium Banquet & Conference Center – Inside Carson Plus Shopping Center (3143 Thompspon Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227) to hear keynote speaker Fr. Ronald Rolheiser explain the struggles of understanding suicide.

[Registration](#)

[Printable Flyer](#)

October 4-6, 2019: “Being and Belonging...A Retreat for Separated and Divorced Catholics” – Fatima Retreat House

On October 4-6 the Being and Belong Retreat will be held at Fatima Retreat House (5353 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226.) Check-in on Friday will be from 6:00 – 6:45 pm, with the retreat program starting at 7:00 pm. The retreat will conclude on Sunday at 1:30 pm after celebrating the Holy Mass and enjoying lunch. This retreat, facilitated by Fr. Jim Farrell and a team of divorced men and women, is open to all faiths. The program will help deepen an understanding of the healing process, increase a sense of belonging, and help participants discover and affirm that God is with them in their struggles and hope. Cost is \$190.

For additional information please contact **The Office of Marriage and Family Life at 317-592-4007 or email gross@archindy.org**. To register, call Fatima at 317-545-7681.

[Printable Brochure](#)

Engaged Couples Announcement in Criterion

“*The Criterion* publishes a marriage supplement each February and July, and runs engagement announcements for couples who are planning to be married in a marriage that is recognized as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage.

In the case of those who were wed within the last six months in a recognized marriage as stated above but did not have an engagement announcement in *The Criterion*, we will be happy to run your marriage announcement.”

The Wedding announcement form is available online at www.archindy.org/criterion by selecting “Send Us Information” from the menu on the left side of the screen, then choosing “Wedding Announcements.” An engagement or wedding photo may be submitted by e-mail to cclark@archindy.org. Digital photos must be clear, high-resolution images with the couple close together. Photos can also be mailed to Cindy Clark, 1400 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. To receive the photo back, include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Due to print quality, Xerox copies of photos will not be accepted. There is no charge for engagement or marriage announcements.

June 22, 2019: Pre-Cana Conference – in Spanish – St. Bartholomew, Columbus



This Pre-Cana conference will be a 1 day workshop based on the [Joy-Filled Marriage Program](#) presented in Spanish by the Office of Marriage and Family Life retreat team. The event will prepare couples to live a Joy-filled marriage, and address the issues and challenges engaged couples face today. Heavily rooted in Pope St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, the program has two basic components- Life Skills and Catechetical. It will be held at **St. Bartholomew, (1306 27th Street, Columbus, IN 47201) on Saturday, June 22 from 9am to 4pm.** Click here [To Register](#) or visit www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/marriage-precana.html to see other Pre-Cana dates for the 2019 year.

22 de junio, 2019: Retiro Pre-Caná - en Español - San Bartolomé, Columbus



Este retiro Pre-Caná de un día utiliza el recurso “Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría” y será presentado en español por el equipo de retiro de la Oficina de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar. El retiro prepara a las parejas para vivir un matrimonio lleno de alegría y aborda los temas y retos que enfrentan las parejas comprometidas. Basado en la *Teología del Cuerpo* del Papa San Juan Pablo II, el programa tiene dos componentes básicos: Habilidades para la vida y Catequesis. Se llevará a cabo **en San Bartolomé, (1306 27th Street, Columbus, IN 47201) el sábado 22 de junio de 9 am a 4 pm.** Para inscribirse: www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/marriage-precana.html o ver otras fechas de retiros Pre-Caná para el año 2019.

August 23-24, 2019: Pre-Cana Conference – St. Matthew, Indianapolis



The Pre-Cana conference is a 1 or 1.5 day workshop (depending on location) that uses the *Joy-Filled Marriage Program*. This program prepares couples to live a Joy-filled marriage, and addresses the issues and challenges engaged couples face today. Heavily rooted in Pope St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, the program has two basic components- Life Skills and Catechetical. It will be held at **St. Matthew (4100 East 56th, Indianapolis IN 46220 in the Community Room).** First day takes place from **6:30 pm - 9:30 pm.** Second day goes from **9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm.** Click here [To Register](#) or visit www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/marriage-precana.html to see other Pre-Cana dates for the 2019 year.

September 13-14, 2019: Pre-Cana Conference – St. Matthew, Indianapolis

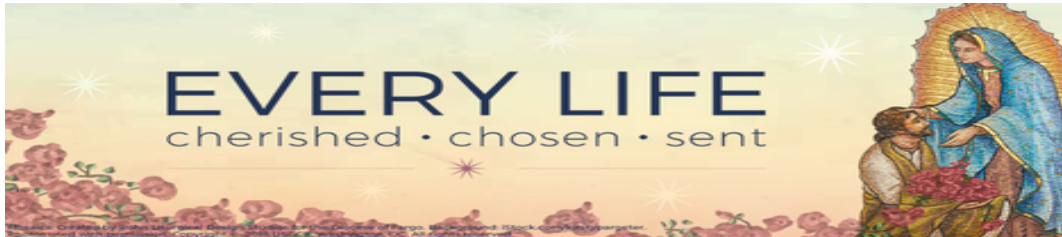


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October 5, 2019: Pre-Cana Conference – St. Agnes, Nashville



The Pre-Cana conference is a 1 or 1.5 day workshop (depending on location) that uses the *Joy-Filled Marriage Program*. This program prepares couples to live a Joy-filled marriage, and addresses the issues and challenges engaged couples face today. Heavily rooted in Pope St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, the program has two basic components- Life Skills and Catechetical. It will be held at **St. Agnes (1008 McLary Road, Nashville, IN 47448.)** First day takes place from **6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**. Second day goes from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**. Vigil Mass at **5:00 pm**. Click here [To Register](#) or visit www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/marriage-precana.html to see other Pre-Cana dates for the 2019 year.



Human Life & Dignity – Brie Anne Varick

To Learn more about the Ministries of Human Life & Dignity office visit the following webpages:

www.archindy.org/humanlifeanddignity

[Birthline Ministry webpage](#)

[Health Ministry webpage](#)

[Mental Health webpage](#)

[Substance Addiction Ministry \(SAM\) webpage](#)

[Hospice and Palliative Care webpage](#)

[Corrections Ministry webpage](#)

[Observance of Roe vs. Wade](#)

[Religious Freedom webpage](#)

[Project Rachel webpage](#)

Birthline–Volunteers Needed



Birthline is a ministry of the Office of Human Life & Dignity which provides baby layettes for needy families.

Birthline's current needs:

- New or gently used clothing (pants, shirts, pajamas, shoes, dresses and jackets) for **girls and boys sizes 24 months – 2-Toddler, receiving blankets and books for toddlers**. Donations are received **only on Monday or Wednesday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm** at the Catholic Center (1400 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, 46202 – at the door on the north side of the building – ring the doorbell.)
- **Volunteers** to help on Monday and Wednesday at the Catholic Center to prepare layettes and assist clients. Training is provided.
- **Joe-Handyman: Needed** on Wednesday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm to assist clients from reception area to Birthline and then help them take their layettes out to their cars, and to receive donations being brought to Birthline.

If you are available to help in this ministry please contact Jená Hartman, Birthline Coordinator, at (317) 236-1433 or jhartman@archindy.org.

Rachel Vineyard Healing Retreats

If you are suffering after abortion, you may feel very alone. You may have experienced abortion many years ago and never told anyone. You may be struggling with a more recent abortion. Regardless of the circumstances, healing is possible. If you would like to learn or to register for a retreat, please contact (317) 452-0054 or www.archindy.org/humanlifeanddignity/past-abortion.html. For more information regarding Rachel's Vineyard Retreats visit: www.rachelsvineyard.org. Inquiries, registration and participation are strictly confidential.

[Register Here](#) or visit www.archindy.org/humanlifeanddignity/ministries-health.html to register.

June 15, 2019: Sidewalk Advocate Volunteer Training- St. John the Apostle, Bloomington, IN

With roughly 2,000 abortions occurring every day in the U.S. and an average of 20 unborn children killed each week here in Bloomington, you may have wondered what you can help do to stop the violence. Come learn the peaceful, prayerful method of sidewalk advocacy and help women and men entering our local abortion facility to choose life! This method is compassionate and law-abiding and has been credited with saving thousands of lives across the U.S.

A FREE training session will be held on Saturday, June 15th from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm at St. John the Apostle Church, (4607 West State Road 46, Bloomington, IN 47404.) a light lunch and all materials will be provided. For more information see www.sidewalkadvocates.org.

Register by contacting Monica Siefker at (812) 330-1535 or monica.siefker@gmail.com

Printable Flyer

June 22-29, 2019: Religious Freedom Week – “Strength in Hope”



Religious Freedom Week 2019: “*Strength in Hope*” takes place from June 22 to 29. The Week begins with the Feast of Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More, ends with the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This year’s Religious Freedom Week is also notable in that it includes the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) and the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The theme for this year is Strength in Hope. It is taken from the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity:

*In the pilgrimage of this life, hidden with Christ in God and free from enslavement to wealth, they aspire to those riches which remain forever and generously dedicate themselves wholly to the advancement of the kingdom of God and to the reform and improvement of the temporal order in a Christian spirit. Among the trials of this life they find **strength in hope**, convinced that "the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come that will be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).*

-Apostolicam actuositatem, 4

Website

Religious Freedom Week Talking Points

Bulletin Insert

Pray-Reflect-Act Series

Religious Freedom Video

Social Media Downloads

Logos: [English](#) [Español](#)

Save the Date: August 14, 2019 – Substance Addiction Ministry Recovery Mass -



“Prayer for those Struggling with Addictions, their Families, and Community”

Addiction touches many people's lives, but it is something that few of us really discuss. Addiction should not be battled alone! It impacts the individual, family, and community-we all know someone who is affected by an addiction of some sort. Please join **Archbishop Thompson and Substance Addiction Ministries of Archdiocese of Indianapolis** on **August 14 at 7:00 pm** for a Substance Addiction Ministry Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral (1347 North Meridian St, Indianapolis 46202), where we will lift up in prayer those who are afflicted and affected by addictions. A reception and refreshments will be available immediately following Mass in the Cathedral Parlor. Please contact us at kcarroll@archindy.org with any questions.

Please RSVP at <https://2019samrecoverymass.eventbrite.com>

[Printable Flyer](#)

SAVE the DATE: September 21, 2019: Mental Health Mass

Join us on September 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm at St. Joseph, Shelbyville (125 East Broadway, Shelbyville, IN 46176) for a mass celebrated by Very Rev. Michael T. Keucher, VF for those who are affected by mental illness. A light reception will immediately follow.

[Printable Flyer](#)

SAVE the DATE: October 6, 2019: Respect Life Mass

*Award Nominations – **Nominations are due August 31st. ***

Each year, the Office of Human Life & Dignity honors an adult or married couple and a high school student at the **Annual Respect Life Sunday Mass on October 6, 2019** at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Please consider nominating an adult or married couple whom you believe should be recognized for their leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life in the parish community and the Archdiocese for the **Archbishop O'Meara Respect Life Award** or a high school student who demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life in the parish, community, school community and in the Archdiocese for the **Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award**. To obtain a nomination form or to submit a form online, visit www.archindy.org/humanlifeanddignity. Completed nomination forms should be submitted to the Office of Human Life & Dignity at 1400 N. Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202, or emailed to beichhorn@archindy.org no later than **August 31, 2019**.

[Printable Nomination Form](#)

2020

Save the Date: January 21, 2020: Vigil for Life

The Vigil for Life will be on **January 21, 2020 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm** at St. John the Evangelist at 126 West Gerogia Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. Join us for an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, praise and worship music, and prayer for the dignity of all human life. More detail to follow.

Save the Date: January 22, 2020 – Indiana March for Life



The Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana, and Right to Life of Indianapolis invite you to the **Indiana March for Life** on January 22, 2020. The event includes a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thompson and Bishop Doherty January 22nd followed by a March to the State Capitol. Make plans to attend. More details to come! Information is available by calling (317) 236-1521.

[Printable Flyer](#)

June Events Around the Archdiocese

June 7, 2019: Women's Care Center First Friday Mass

The Women's Care Center (4901 West 86th Street Indianapolis 46268) invites you to our First Friday Mass on **June 7th**, at 5:00 pm in our chapel. There will be light refreshments after Mass and the ability to take a tour and learn more about our mission. We are now serving over 30 women facing unplanned pregnancies many days, most of who benefit from multiple services, such as pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes, and goals counseling. We are so grateful to be able to serve the women who walk through our door. If you have questions please contact Jenny Hubbard, Director, at (317) 509-9596. We hope to see you there!

June 13, 2019: Hope and Healing Survivors of Suicide (SOS) Monthly Support Group

On second **Thursday, June 13th**, Hope and Healing, a support group for adults who have lost a loved one to suicide, struggle with thoughts suicide, or seek to understand the causes and prevention of suicide will meet at 7:00 pm. A children's support group, Spread Our Youthful Wings, for ages 9 years to 17 years old is held in the same location and same time as the Hope and Healing SOS Group. **For more information and location site**, please contact Judy Proctor at (317) 851-8344 or visit Hope & Healing SOS at www.hopeandhealingsos.com.

June 19, 2019: Respect Life Mass – Terre Haute

On **June 19th**, the 3rd Wednesday of the month, please consider joining the St. Joseph Respect Life Ministry in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet (St. Joseph University, 113, S Fifth St., Terre Haute) at 4:45 pm prior to the 5:15 pm Respect Life Mass. For more information, contact the parish office at (812) 232-7011.

June 20, 2019: Pray for an End to Abortion and Sins Against Life Adoration

Please join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held at **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, (1401 South Mickley Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46241) on **every third Thursday – June 20th** from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm to pray specifically for Gabriel Project mothers and babies, for an end to abortion, and sings against life, and for the closing of Clinic for Women abortion facility location at 3607 West 16th Street, and for a return to a “Culture of Life.” For more information contact Patty Arthur, St. Joseph's Pro-Life Ministry coordinator at (317) 244-9002 or patty.arthur@aol.com or visit website: <http://www.stjosephindy.org>.

[Printable Flyer](#)

June 22, 2019: Faithful Citizens Rosary Crusade –Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary

Following the 10:00 am Mass at Holy Rosary Parish on fourth Saturday, **Juen 22nd** join us for the recitation of the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet as we witness and pray for the protection of Life, Family, and Religious Freedom. For more information, contact Eric at faithful.citizens2016@gmail.com.

[2019 Flyer with schedule](#)

WORD OF LIFE: JUNE 2019

Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these materials at any time!

Featured this Month...



Religious Freedom Week: Strength in Hope

June 22–29, 2019

Religious Freedom Week 2019: Strength in Hope takes place June 22 – 29. The Week begins with the Feast of Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More, ends with the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This year's Religious Freedom Week is also

notable in that it includes the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) and the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

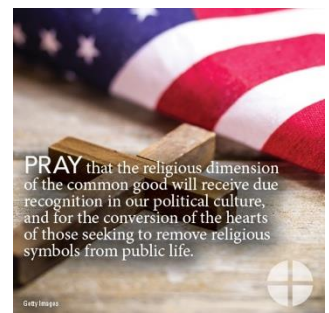
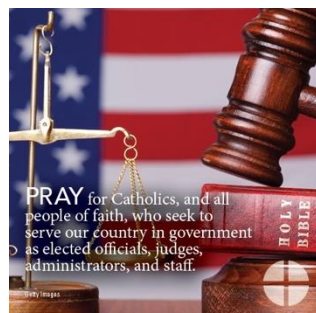
Many resources are available to help the faithful **pray, reflect, and take action** on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad.

These materials include the following:

1. [Bulletin Insert](#)
2. **Lectionary Notes**
 - [Sunday, June 23, 2019: Solemnity of Corpus Christi](#)
 - [Sunday, June 30, 2019: Sunday before Independence Day](#)
3. [Graphics](#)
4. [Promotional Video](#) (2-3 minutes)
5. [Pray-Reflect-Act Series](#)

A one-pager features a different topic each day of Religious Liberty Week. These materials help people learn about religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, pray about particular issues, and act on what they learn

All materials are available at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek. (Spanish-language versions are available for most resources on the same webpage.)



View, download, and order the 2018-2019 Respect Life Program materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife

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Intercessions for Life

June 2nd

For all children in the womb:
May they be seen as gifts from the Father,
and gifts for the world;
We pray to the Lord:

**The Ascension of the Lord (or in some
places: Seventh Sunday of Easter)**

June 9th

For newly confirmed Catholics:
May they be open to the Holy Spirit
and courageously stand for the protection of all human life;
We pray to the Lord:

Pentecost Sunday

June 16th

For work towards medical and scientific advancement:
May God's Spirit of truth guide these efforts,
that discoveries may never come at the expense of human
life;
We pray to the Lord:

**The Solemnity of the Most Holy
Trinity**

June 23rd

For all who are persecuted because of their faith:
May they be freed from persecution and violence,
and find safety, refuge, and peace;
We pray to the Lord:

**The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body
and Blood of Christ**

June 30th

For our nation and our civic leaders:
May they respect the right to live out our Faith
and support laws and policies that protect human life;
We pray to the Lord:

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bulletin Quotes

June 2nd

“By 18 weeks in your mother’s womb, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

[“Another Look at Abortion”](#)

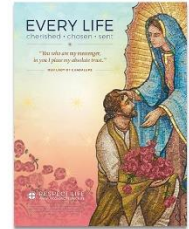


[Order](#) | [Download](#)

June 9th

“You who are my messenger, in you I place my absolute trust.”
- Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
2018-2019 Respect Life Program Poster



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

June 16th

“Each [IUI and IVF] procedure involved living human beings— individuals with unique DNA, who deserve to be treated with the dignity of human persons. ... They should no more be frozen or disposed of like laboratory waste than the rest of us. They bear—as all human beings do—the image and likeness of God, the Father of all.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
[“Life Matters: Reproductive Technology”](#)



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

June 23rd

“Religious freedom gives us the space to carry out the mission that Jesus has entrusted to the Church. Religious freedom means that Catholics, and all people of goodwill, are free to seek the truth and to live in accordance with that truth, and so to strengthen our common life as a nation.”

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
“Bulletin Insert: Religious Freedom Week 2019”



[Download Bulletin Insert](#)

June 30th

“The purpose of freedom is that we might be servants of one another. Life in the Spirit is always oriented toward love and service for others.”

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Religious Freedom Week 2019



[Lectionary Notes:](#)
[June 30, 2019](#)

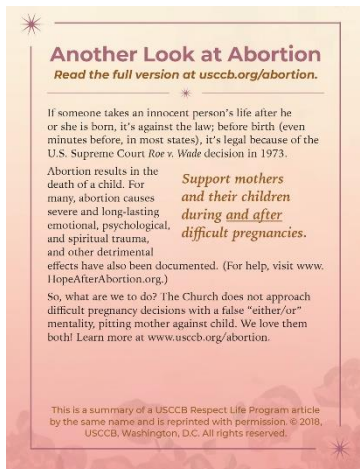
WORD OF LIFE - June 2019

Bulletin Art

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Sunday, June 2nd, 2019

- Image: [Color](#) | [Grayscale](#)
- Additional formats (Word, Publisher) of the bulletin box are also [available online](#).
- “Another Look at Abortion” (full article): [Order](#) | [Download](#)



Sunday, June 23rd, 2019

- Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Pray-Reflect-Act](#) for Sunday, June 23, 2019



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PALABRA DE VIDA: JUNIO DE 2019

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Este mes presentamos...



Semana de la libertad religiosa: Fortaleza en la esperanza

22 al 29 de junio de 2019

Semana de la libertad religiosa 2019: Fortaleza en la Esperanza tiene lugar del 22 al 29 de junio. La Semana comienza con la Fiesta de san Juan Fisher y santo Tomás Moro, finaliza con la Solemnidad de san Petro y san Pablo,

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Hay muchos recursos disponibles para ayudar a los fieles a **rezar, reflexionar y actuar** sobre la libertad religiosa, aquí en nuestro país y en el extranjero.

Estos materiales incluyen lo siguiente:

1. [Folleto para el boletín](#)
2. **Notas del leccionario**
 - [Domingo, 23 de junio de 2019: Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo](#)
 - [Domingo, 30 de junio de 2019: Domingo anterior al Día de la Independencia](#)
3. [Imágenes](#)
4. [Video promocional](#) (2-3 minutos, solo en inglés)
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PALABRA DE VIDA - junio de 2019

Intercesiones por la Vida

2 de junio

Por todos los niños en el seno materno:
para que se los considere dones del Padre,
y dones para el mundo;
roguemos al Señor:

**La Ascensión del Señor (o en algunos
lugares: Séptimo Domingo de Pascua)**

9 de junio

Por los católicos recién confirmados:
para que estén abiertos al Espíritu Santo
y defiendan con valor la protección de toda vida humana;
roguemos al Señor:

Domingo de Pentecostés

16 de junio

Por el trabajo para los avances médicos y científicos:
Que el Espíritu de Dios de la verdad guíe estas acciones,
que nunca se logren descubrimientos a costa de la vida
humana;
roguemos al Señor:

Solemnidad de la Santísima Trinidad

23 de junio

Por todos los que son perseguidos por su fe:
para que sean liberados de la persecución y la violencia,
y encuentren seguridad, refugio y paz;
roguemos al Señor:

**Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de
Cristo**

30 de junio

Por nuestra nación y nuestros dirigentes cívicos:
para que respeten el derecho a vivir nuestra Fe
y respalden leyes y políticas que protejan la vida humana;
roguemos al Señor:

13° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

PALABRA DE VIDA - junio de 2019

Citas para boletines

2 de junio

“A las 18 semanas en el vientre de tu madre, puedes nadar, dar volteretas, chuparte el pulgar e incluso cubrirte los oídos si escuchas música alta”.

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB

[“Otra mirada al aborto”](#)



[Pida](#) | [Baje](#)

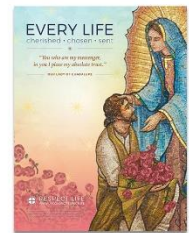
9 de junio

“Tú eres mi mensajero, en ti he puesto mi confianza”.

- Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a san Juan Diego

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB

Póster del Programa Respetemos la Vida 2018-2019



[Pida](#) | [Baje](#)

16 de junio

“En cada procedimiento [de *IUI* y *FIV*] intervinieron seres humanos vivos: individuos con un ADN único que merecen ser tratados con la dignidad de cualquier persona. ... Los embriones no merecen más que nosotros ser congelados o desechados como desperdicios químicos. Están hechos –como todos los seres humanos– a imagen y semejanza de Dios, Padre de todos”.

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[“La Vida Importa: Tecnología para la reproducción”](#)



[Pida](#) | [Baje](#)

23 de junio

"La libertad religiosa nos da el espacio para llevar adelante la misión que Jesús encomendó a la Iglesia. La libertad religiosa significa que los católicos, y todas las personas de buena voluntad, son libres para buscar la verdad y vivir conforme a esa verdad, y así fortalecer nuestra vida en común como nación".

Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos

“Folleto para el boletín: Semana de la libertad religiosa 2019”



[Descargue Folleto para el boletín](#)

30 de junio

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Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos

Semana de la libertad religiosa 2019



[Notas del leccionario: 30 de junio de 2019](#)

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PALABRA DE VIDA - junio de 2019

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Domingo, 2 de junio de 2019

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- “Otra mirada al aborto” (artículo completo): [Pida](#) | [Baje](#)



Domingo, 23 de junio de 2019

- Imagen: [inglés](#) | [español](#)
- [Rece, reflexione y actúe](#) para el domingo, 23 de junio de 2019



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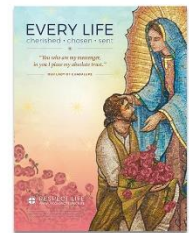
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Póster del Programa Respetemos la Vida 2018-2019



[Pida](#) | [Baje](#)

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[Pida](#) | [Baje](#)

23 de junio

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Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos

Semana de la libertad religiosa 2019



[Notas del leccionario: 30 de junio de 2019](#)

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Domingo, 23 de junio de 2019

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Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher

Pray that like Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, we might have the wisdom and the courage to be good servants of our country, though always servants of God first.

Reflect: Religious Freedom Week is a fitting time to reflect not only on religious liberty, but on what it means to be both American and Catholic. Perhaps somewhat ironically, two English saints point us in the right direction. We remember the martyrs Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, in part, because they were steadfast in the truth, and thus exemplify courage in the exercise of conscience. They also show us what patriotism means for Christians. They loved and served their country. Thomas More carried out his lay vocation as a civil servant, while John Fisher lived out the clerical vocation as a most faithful bishop. At the same time, when forced to choose between the king of England and Christ the King of the Universe, they adhered to Jesus and His Church. We need the fortitude and wisdom to animate the Church today, as we navigate these tumultuous times. Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More, pray for us!



(CNS composite photo/Public domain)

Act: Connect with the USCCB Office of Religious Liberty! Sign up for our newsletter at www.usccb.org/freedom, follow us on Twitter at @USCCBFreedom, and text “FREEDOM” to 84576 to receive news updates and action alerts.



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

Persecution of Christians and Religious Minorities in the Middle East

Pray that our Christian sisters and brothers in the Middle East, and all religious minorities, who are suffering from attacks by extremists and interminable conflicts may be freed from violent persecution.

Reflect: In January 2018, Pope Francis warned that Christians “face challenges today that demean human dignity: they flee from situations of conflict and poverty; are victims of the trafficking of human beings...; they suffer hardships and hunger, in a world ever richer in means and poorer in love, where inequalities continue to increase.” This is especially true in the Middle East, where wars have caused thousands, including Christians, to flee from Syria and Iraq into Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and beyond, where their presence taxes meager resources. Will they be able to return and if so, will they find the security needed to rebuild their lives and livelihoods? With the number of Christians declining there, will the Middle East lose the unique contributions that Christians have made over the centuries?



CNS/Paul Haring

Act: The Church in the United States stands in solidarity with Christians in the Middle East. Consider joining efforts to support Middle Eastern Christians with a donation to the Knights of Columbus, Aid to the Church in Need, Catholic Relief Services, and Catholic Near East Welfare Association.



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

Faithful Public Servants

Pray for Catholics, and all people of faith, who seek to serve our country in government as elected officials, judges, administrators, and staff.

Reflect: In recent years, Catholic nominees to the federal judiciary have faced questions about their faith. In one exchange, a nominee was told, “The dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s of concern.” Other nominees have endured questions about their membership in the Knights of Columbus, the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the country. These religious tests are unjust and unconstitutional. At a time when our country is highly polarized, our leaders in the Senate should be working to foster tolerance, not fueling divisions. Lay Catholics exercise their apostolate by building up the common good as civil servants. Let us pray and act for our sisters and brothers who, like St. Thomas More, seek to faithfully serve both God and country.



Getty Images

Act: It is time for discriminatory, anti-Catholic questions to stop. Contact your senators today and urge them to reject religious tests for nominees for public office!



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

Religious Persecution in Myanmar

Pray that the Rohingya—our Muslim brothers and sisters from the Rakhine region, whose rights and very identity are not recognized by the Myanmar government—may find the respect that recognizes the dignity of all human beings.

Reflect: Since 2017, over 700,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar as their villages were burned, women raped, and men killed in what a United Nations official has termed “genocide.” Many refugees are crowded into camps in Bangladesh, while others have boarded flimsy boats going to Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, where their fate is uncertain. They are being pressured to return but what guarantees are there that they will be treated with dignity and as equal members of society by a government that has declared them to be “stateless”? The Catholic Church in Myanmar has worked actively to mediate between the Buddhist majority and the Rohingya. Pope Francis visited Myanmar and Bangladesh in late 2017. At an interreligious and ecumenical meeting in Dhaka, he said, “We all are images of God, including the Rohingya,” and he went on to say, “your tragedy is very difficult, but it has a place in our hearts.”



CNS/Paul Haring

Act: Reach out to Muslim neighbors and members in your community to express solidarity with their efforts to build a culture that recognizes and respects the rights of all people. Support Catholic Relief Services and other Catholic organizations that seek to build bridges of understanding between different faith communities and to counter intolerance and extremism.



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

Adoption And Foster Care

Pray for children awaiting adoption, for parents seeking to adopt, for children receiving foster care, for foster parents providing care to children, and that Catholic and other faith-based organizations may have the freedom to serve all those seeking adoption and foster care services in accordance with their faith.

Reflect: The Epistle of St. James teaches that true religion is to care for the orphan and the widow. Today, the Church puts that teaching into practice through her child welfare service organizations. Catholic and other faith-based institutions play an absolutely vital role in serving the many children who find themselves in some of the most difficult circumstances. Recently, the

opioid crisis has put a strain on the foster care system. Yet, at a time when we need more care providers, particularly ones that are effective at recruiting prospective foster and adoptive parents, some state and local governments have shut people of faith out, because faith-based providers seek to serve in accordance with their convictions about the nature of the family and what is best for children. Several agencies have already had to end their child welfare services. If this trend continues, more children and families will be affected.



Getty Images

Act: The Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act (CWPIA) prevents faith-based child welfare service providers from being targeted by government discrimination. The Act would prohibit the federal government and any state that receives certain federal funding from discriminating against child welfare service providers on the basis that they decline to provide a child welfare service that conflicts with their sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions. Contact your U.S. senators and representatives today and ask them to co-sponsor and support the federal Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act!



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

Economic Disputes Lead to Religious Tensions in Nigeria

Pray that herders and farmers in Nigeria, whose conflict over access to land and resources has fueled religious tensions, may find the means to compromise and work out their differences in a non-violent manner.

Reflect: The most populous country in Africa, Nigeria has the “resource curse”—having abundant resources which different groups vie to control, leading to violent conflicts, over 2 million people internally displaced, and grinding poverty for the have-nots. Many small ethnic groups feel oppressed and fight for recognition. Violence can stem from economic, political, and social reasons but because the population is almost evenly divided between Christians (in the south) and Muslims (in the north), such violence is interpreted as religious. Boko Haram, an extremist group whose name means “Western education is forbidden,” has fomented Muslim-Christian discord but in fact has attacked and killed more Muslims than Christians. Current fighting between Fulani herders (Muslim) and farmers (Christian) has exacerbated religious tension. Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Jos called for transcending religious divides and promoting inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony.



Getty Images

Act: Support Aid to the Church in Need, Catholic Relief Services, USCCB's Solidarity Fund for Aid to the Church in Africa, and other organizations that are helping the internally displaced, providing livelihood training and healthcare, and offering peacebuilding between those of different faiths.



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

Religion, A Public Good

Pray that the religious dimension of the common good will receive due recognition in our political culture, and for the conversion of the hearts of those seeking to remove religious symbols from public life.

Reflect: This year, the Supreme Court is set to decide on a case involving a cross in Bladensburg, Maryland, that was erected to memorialize soldiers who died in World War I. The land on which the cross stands is now maintained by the government, and activist groups object that this arrangement amounts to a violation of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. Of course, nobody believes this is an instance of Congress establishing a state church. These efforts are part of a larger effort to ban religious symbols from public spaces. This is an affront to American pluralism, a pluralism in which the religious impulse of all people is respected and reflected in our public spaces. As Catholics, we seek to inspire a culture in which the human spirit can flourish. Public religious symbols are a part of that culture.



Getty Images

Act: Public display of religious symbols makes America beautiful. Learn about the monuments and religious displays in your area, and visit one if possible. Write a letter to the editor defending these treasures if they are attacked.



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

Incarcerated Persons

Pray that the dignity and right to religious freedom of incarcerated persons would be respected.

Reflect: Pope Francis has spoken of the throwaway culture, a culture in which people are treated like objects to be discarded when they are not “useful.” That culture can manifest itself in how our society treats people in the criminal justice system. In Arkansas, a Muslim man had to fight in court to grow a half-inch beard. Similarly, Jewish prisoners in some states have struggled to be permitted to receive kosher meals. Recently, a Muslim man in Alabama could not have his imam present with him when he was executed. Catholic teaching on religious liberty is rooted in the dignity of the human person. That dignity is not lost when a person commits a crime. And traditionally, Catholics have understood ministry to prisoners as a work of mercy. Indeed, Catholics hope that incarcerated persons find strength in their faith. For American culture to be one of life, not a throwaway culture, our criminal justice system needs to recognize the dignity of all people.



Getty Images

Act: Find out how you can support Catholic prison ministry. In many dioceses, Catholic Charities coordinates prison ministry. Contact your diocese to see what you can do to participate in this ministry of care for incarcerated persons.



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

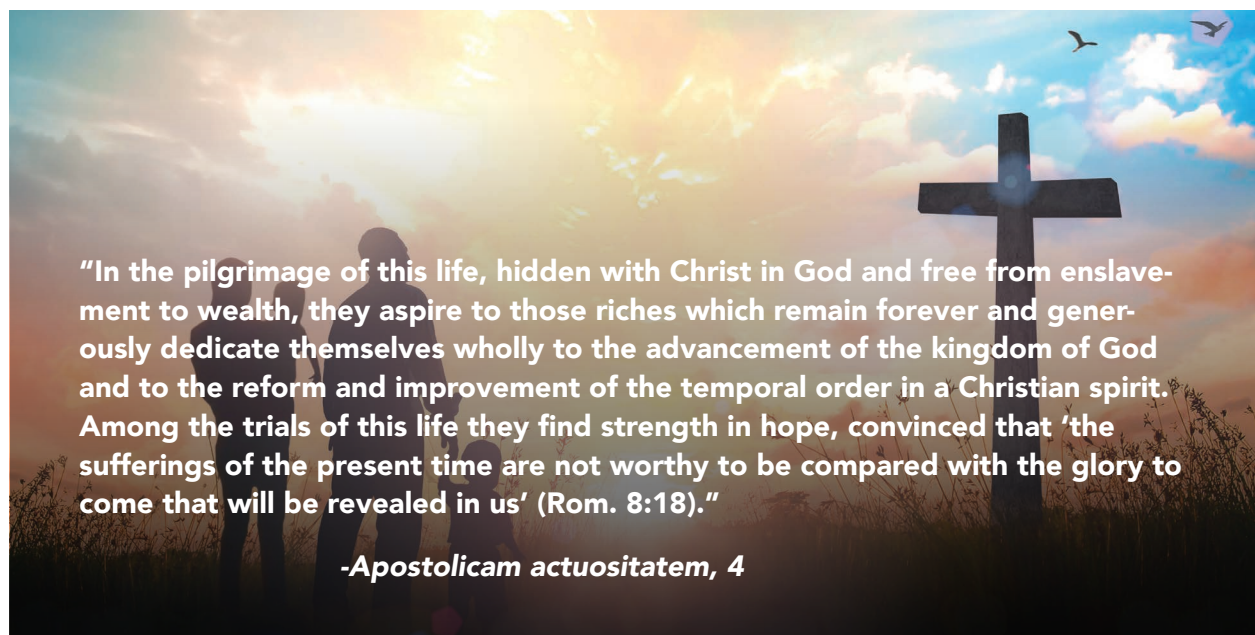


In the face of our country's challenges, and challenges within the Church herself, Catholics find strength in the hope of Jesus Christ. We want to share that hope with everyone.

Religious freedom gives us the space to carry out the mission that Jesus has entrusted to the Church. Religious freedom means that Catholics, and all people of goodwill, are free to seek the truth and to live in accordance with that truth, and so to strengthen our common life as a nation.

Beginning June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops celebrates Religious Freedom Week. In the midst of our current challenges, join us, as we seek the kingdom, and find Strength in Hope.

Learn more at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek!



www.usccb.org/freedom

Twitter: @USCCBFreedom

For text and action alerts, text "FREEDOM" to 84576





RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK



SEMANA DE
LA LIBERTAD
RELIGIOSA

2019 Religious Freedom Week Talking Points

- **Religious Freedom Week takes place from June 22 – 29 each year.** It begins with the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and ends with the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. This year, the week also includes the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) and the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- The theme for this year is **Strength in Hope.** It is taken from the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity:

They who have this faith live in the hope of the revelation of the sons of God and keep in mind the cross and resurrection of the Lord. In the pilgrimage of this life, hidden with Christ in God and free from enslavement to wealth, they aspire to those riches which remain forever and generously dedicate themselves wholly to the advancement of the kingdom of God and to the reform and improvement of the temporal order in a Christian spirit. Among the trials of this life they find strength in hope, convinced that “the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come that will be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). (*Apostolicam actuositatem*, 4).

Catholics face challenges both in our current political climate of polarization and within the Church. We want to encourage Catholics to persist in the struggle to participate in the advancement of the kingdom of God by finding hope in Jesus Christ.

- The USCCB provides “Pray – Reflect – Act” documents—one for each day on different religious liberty topics. These materials help people learn about religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, pray about particular issues, and act on what they learn, whether by finding ways for their parish to serve their community or perhaps even by calling their Members of Congress to promote legislation supporting religious liberty.
- This year's Pray-Reflect-Act gives a sense for the breadth of religious liberty issues of particular concern for the bishops at the present time. For international concerns, the Office of Religious Liberty has collaborated with the Office of International Justice and Peace to highlight three regions in the world where persecution of religious minorities is severe, the Middle East, Myanmar, and Nigeria. We need to be in solidarity with people throughout the world who suffer for their faith.

- Domestically, a major area of concern continues to be freedom for child welfare service providers. The opioid crisis is putting a strain on the foster care system. The number of children in need is going up. The number of families willing to take the children into their homes is going down. And in places like Illinois, Massachusetts, California, and D.C., service providers like Catholic Charities who have a track record of excellence in recruiting and assisting foster families have been shut down.
- The federal Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act (H.R. 897 / S. 274) would protect the religious liberty of child welfare providers, including adoption and foster care agencies. Similar legislation has been introduced and passed in several states. All are encouraged to check out the [USCCB Action Center](#) and their state Catholic conference websites for legislative updates on this and other important policy issues!
- Another area that has become of particular concern is the imposition of religious tests on Catholic nominees to the federal judiciary. In 2017, during U.S. Senate confirmation hearings, a nominee was asked intrusive questions about her Catholic faith in an exchange which included a senator saying, “The dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s of concern.” More recently, several nominees have been interrogated about their membership in the Knights of Columbus. These kinds of questions amount to a religious test, which is both unjust and unconstitutional. [We are urging Catholics to contact their senators to say that religious tests are unacceptable.](#)
- Religious Freedom Week succeeded the Fortnight for Freedom last year for a few reasons:
 1. A “Week” is simpler than a “Fortnight.” Many public awareness campaigns take place over the course of a week—such as Catholic Schools Week, National Migration Week, and National Marriage Week. A week provides a focused period of time to concentrate our attention on the issue of religious freedom.
 2. Although the Fortnight sought to raise awareness of several religious freedom issues, it was associated heavily in many people’s minds with the HHS contraceptive mandate. While the HHS mandate remains a live issue and is still being challenged in several courts, awareness needs to be raised concerning other important religious freedom issues as well.
 3. Over the last few years, the Fortnight has shifted to more of a prayer and education campaign. Religious freedom encompasses a number of areas—affecting the entire Church—and not just our Church, but all people of faith who seek to live out their faith in daily life, in the public square.
- Through prayer, education, and public action during Religious Freedom Week, we will promote the essential right of religious freedom for Catholics and for those of *all* faiths.

SAVE LIVES ON THE SIDEWALK

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

FREE TRAINING

With roughly 3,000 abortions occurring every day in the U.S. and an average of 20 unborn children killed each week here in Bloomington, you may have wondered what you can help do to stop the violence. Come learn the peaceful, prayerful method of sidewalk advocacy and help women and men entering our local abortion facility to choose life! This method is compassionate and law-abiding and has been credited with saving thousands of lives across the U.S.

A free training session will be held on **Saturday, June 15, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 4607 W. State Rd. 46 in Ellettsville.** A light lunch and all materials will be provided.

Register by contacting Monica Siefker at 812-330-1535 or monica.siefker@gmail.com.

Come and learn how to be a voice of love to those in need!



Sidewalk Advocates for Life is a peaceful, prayerful sidewalk advocacy program that trains people how to most effectively offer loving, life-affirming alternatives to women and men entering the abortion facility.

For more information, see
www.sidewalkadvocates.org





RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK



SEMANA DE
LA LIBERTAD
RELIGIOSA

"Pre-Caná" Conferencia católica prematrimonial en español

Presentada por la oficina de matrimonio y vida familiar
de la arquidiócesis de Indianapolis



Sábado 22 de junio 2019

Parroquia San Bartolomé
1306 27th Street
Columbus, IN

Inscripción: \$125 por pareja

www.archindy.org/precana

Información (bilingüe): (317) 592-4007

"Pre-Cana" Marriage Preparation Conference in Spanish

Presented by the Marriage & Family Life Office
of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis



Saturday, June 22, 2019

St. Bartholomew Parish
1306 27th Street
Columbus, IN

Registration: \$125 per couple

www.archindy.org/precana

Information (bilingual): (317) 592-4007



ARCHDIOCESE
OF INDIANAPOLIS
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Golden Wedding Jubilee

(Couples who were married anytime in 1969)

August 25, 2019, 2:00 pm

Registration Form (Please Print)

Online registration:

www.archindy.org/weddingcelebration

Last Name _____

Husband's First Name _____ Wife's First Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date Married _____

E-mail _____

Current Parish _____ Church and City where Married: _____

Please indicate how many of the following you have in your family:

_____ Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great-Great Grandchildren

How many guests will accompany you for the Mass and reception? (Limit 6) _____

Will you need wheelchair accessibility? _____ Will you be attending reception? _____

Fill out the below as applicable. If you have family members who are trained to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or a Lector in their parish, and will be attending with you and are interested in serving as a Liturgical Minister during the Golden Wedding Jubilee, please give their contact information.

1) Name _____ Relation: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Parish _____ Liturgical Ministry _____

2) Name _____ Relation: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Parish _____ Liturgical Ministry _____

For further information call (317) 236-1521, toll free 1(800) 382-9836 ext. 1521, or Fax (317) 236-1401 – Attention Office of Marriage and Family Life. **Please return this registration form by August 19, 2019 to:**

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Office of Marriage and Family Life
1400 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202



ARCHDIOCESE
OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Registro online:

www.archindy.org/weddingcelebratio

(Por favor complete la siguiente información)

Jubileo Bodas de Oro

Las parejas que se casaron en 1969

25 de agosto, 2019, 2:00 pm

Registración

Todos los matrimonios deben registrarse
para participar

Apellido _____

Nombre del Esposo _____ Nombre de la Esposa _____

Dirección de Correo _____

Número de teléfono _____ Fecha de su boda _____

Dirección de correo electrónico (email) _____

Parroquia que pertenece ahora _____ Iglesia y Ciudad donde fue la boda _____

Dirección de correo electrónico (email) _____

Favor de compartir cuantas personas tienen en su familia, de las siguientes opciones:

_____ Hijos _____ Nietos _____ Bisnietos _____ Tataranietos

¿Cuántos invitados los acompañará para la Misa y recepción? (Limite 6) _____

¿Usa silla de ruedas? _____ ¿Nos acompañará para la recepción? _____

Por favor llene la información siguiente si les corresponde. ¿Tiene miembros de su familia que han sido comisionados como lectores o como ministros extraordinarios de la sagrada comunión que los acompañaran a la Misa? Si están interesados en participar en la Misa para el Jubileo Bodas de oro, favor de compartir su información de contacto en las siguientes líneas.

1) Nombre _____ Teléfono _____

Correo electrónico _____

Parroquia _____ Ministerio Litúrgico _____

2) Nombre _____ Teléfono _____

Correo electrónico _____

Parroquia _____ Ministerio Litúrgico _____

Para más información, llame al (317) 592-4007, o gratis al 1(800) 382-9836 ext. 4007, o por Fax (317) 236-1401 – Atención a la Oficina de matrimonio y vida familiar. Registración acabará el 19 de agosto o cuando se llene el espacio disponible en la catedral. Favor de entregar esta registración al siguiente:

Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis
Oficina de matrimonio y vida familiar
1400 North Meridian Street
Indianápolis, IN 46202



36th Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee

August 25, 2019

2:00 pm

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Office of Marriage & Family Life

1400 North Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

317-236-1521



36^a celebración anual aniversario de bodas de oro

25 de agosto de 2019

2:00 pm

Catedral de s Pedro y Pablo

(1347 North Meridian Street)

Registro en linea:

www.archindy.org/weddingcelebrations



ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE INDIANÁPOLIS

La Iglesia Católica en el Centro y Sur de Indiana

Oficina de matrimonio y vida familiar

1400 North Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

317-592-4007

Mass for Those Affected by Mental Illness

September 21, 2019
5:00 PM

For all whose lives are affected by Mental Illness:
individuals, family, friends and health care providers

St. Joseph Catholic Church

125 E Broadway St, Shelbyville, IN 46176

Fr. Michael Keucher, Main Celebrant

Please join us for a light reception following Mass

*St. Dymphna,
Patron of those with
mental illness,
Pray For Us*



*We have individuals who are
willing to speak briefly to share
their experience and to invite
parishioners to this Mass,
please contact us if you are
interested!*

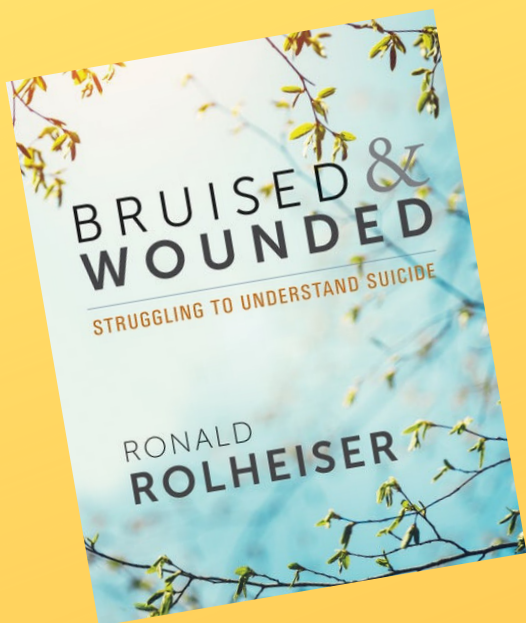
Questions?

Contact Keri Carroll at kcarroll@archindy.org or (317) 236-1521

Sponsored by the Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries & the Office of Catechesis
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

18th Annual Mission Day Conference

For consolation (grief) ministers



Theme for 2019:
Bruised & Wounded
Struggling to Understand Suicide
by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

at

The Atrium Banquet & Conference Center
Inside Carson Plus Shopping Center
3143 Thompson Road
Indianapolis IN 46227

Registration: www.archindy.org/consolation
Registration Fee: \$30 (includes Lunch & Materials)
Deadline: September 2, 2019

Many people who have been touched by suicide know there can be a stigma in both the Christian and secular world surrounding this deeply personal event. Join us on September 10th as Fr. Rolheiser leads us through the spiritual approach to understanding suicide that appeals to Catholics and and non-Catholics alike, and provides hope, consolation, and empathy to anyone who supports those who have experienced suicide.

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser is a Catholic priest with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas, and a New York Time's bestselling author.

Office of Marriage and Family Life
Ministry of Consolation - (317) 592-4007



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

NOMINATION FORM

*Building a Culture of Life
& Civilization of Love*



*Annual Respect Life Awards
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Respect Life Sunday
October 6, 2019*

Please return completed form to:

Office of Human Life & Dignity
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203
OR

beichhorn@archindy.org

**All nominations must be received
no later than**

September 5, 2019.

**You will receive confirmation that
this nomination has been
received.**

The Archbishop O'Meara Respect Life Award

honors an adult (or married couple) who demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life in the parish community and in the Archdiocese.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award

honors a high school student who demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life in the parish community, school community, and in the Archdiocese.

NOMINEE

Check one: ☐ The Archbishop O'Meara Respect Life Award
☐ Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award

PART I:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parish: _____

Occupation: _____

PART II:

NOMINATED BY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

(pastor, associate pastor, parish life coordinator, pastoral assistant, DRE, youth minister, parish pro-life coordinator/contact, other)

PART III – EXPLANATION OF NOMINATION

Please provide the following information regarding the nominee.

- 1) Describe how the nominee demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life in the parish community, school community, and in the Archdiocese.
- 2) Describe how the nominee demonstrates his/her witness to the intrinsic value of all human life through various activities.
- 3) You may include such things as family, parish, work, volunteer experience, and personal and spiritual gifts and characteristics, etc., as well as any other information you think is pertinent.

Note: While many respect life ministry initiatives address abortion, respect life also includes ministry to the terminally ill, handicapped, impoverished, neglected and marginalized.

**Please return this form to the Office of Human Life and Dignity
no later than September 5, 2019.**



EVERY THIRD THURSDAY
*Pray for an End
to Abortion and Sins
Against Life*

Dates of Adoration

January 17, 2019	July 18, 2019
February 21, 2019	August 15, 2019
March 21, 2019	September 19, 2019
April 18, 2019	October 17, 2019
May 16, 2019	November 21, 2019
June 20, 2019	December 19, 2019

**Before the Blessed Sacrament
St. Joseph Catholic Church
1401 S. Mickley Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46241
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
(excluding 5:45 Mass)**

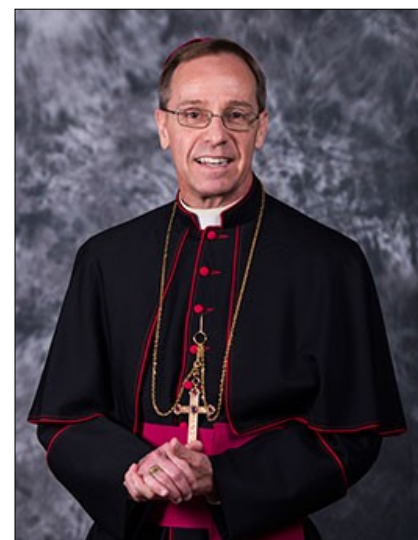
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held at St. Joseph's the third Thursday of the month to pray specifically for Gabriel Project mothers and babies, for an end to abortion and sins against life, for the closing of Clinic for Women abortion facility located at 3607 W. 16th St. and for a return to a "*Culture of Life*".

Prepared

August 10th 9 AM—5 PM

2019 Celebrate Marriage CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker
Archbishop Charles C. Thompson



Giving couples opportunities for Christ-centered marriage enrichment

Meet our speakers



Tim & Margie
Heck



Chris
Countryman



Christine
Turro-Shields



Michael & Amy
Kalscheur



Eric & Kelly
Moster



Tom & Marcy
Renken



Coffee, Doughnuts, & Praise!

Event Location:
Our Lady of the Greenwood
335 S Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143

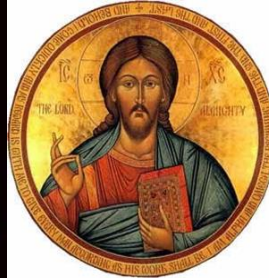
Register online: celebratemarriageministry.com

All-day marriage enrichment for couples • Break out sessions on a variety of topics • Lunch & childcare included
Questions? Contact Tom & Marcy Renken: OLGMarriageMinistry@gmail.com • (317)489-1557

\$40/ Couple

FAITHFUL CITIZENS ROSARY WALKS

The 4th Saturday of the month
following the 10 AM Mass



OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

520 Stevens St., Indianapolis

**Historic victories through prayer of the Most Holy Rosary inspire
Great confidence in the awesome power of the Rosary**

"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world."
-Pope Blessed Pius IX

Join us for monthly prayer of the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet in downtown Indianapolis
As we pray for the protection of Life, Family, Holy Matrimony and Religious Freedom

March 23, 2019

April 27, 2019

May 18, 2019 (3rd Sat.)

June 22, 2019

July 27, 2019

Aug. 24, 2019

Sept. 28, 2019

Oct. 26, 2019



**WE ARE CATHOLIC,
WE ARE AMERICAN,
WE ARE FAITHFUL CITIZENS.
VIVA CRISTO REY!**



For details contact Eric at: faithful.citizens2016@gmail.com
Or Eric at 317-408-0528

Faithful Citizens is sponsored by the Pro-Life Ministry of Our
Lady of The Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

SAVE THE DATE

Indiana March For Life

Wednesday January 22, 2020

Local Solemn Observance of Anniversary of Roe Vs. Wade Mass:

10:30 am St. John the Evangelist
126 W. Georgia Street Indianapolis, IN
with Archbishop Thompson and Bishop Doherty

Memorial Service for the Unborn:

10:30 am Downtown Indianapolis Location TBD

March to the Capitol Building &

Rally at the South Steps

to follow Mass and Memorial Service

More Details to follow!

Contact The Office of Human Life and Dignity with questions
317-236-1521 or kcarroll@archindy.org

EXCERPTS FROM

Married Love and the Gift of Life



This bulletin insert is excerpted from *Married Love and the Gift of Life*, a statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that was approved at its November 2006 General Meeting.

Men and women considering marriage yearn for certain things. They want to be accepted unconditionally by each other. They want their marriage to be filled with love and happiness. They want a family. In short, they want their marriage to be a source of joy and fulfillment their whole life long.

God's plan for marriage, from the time he first created human beings as male and female, has always included all this and more.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT MARRIED LOVE?

Marriage is more than a civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. It is an intimate partnership in which husbands and wives learn to give and receive love unselfishly, and then teach their children to do so as well. Christian marriage in particular is a "great mystery," a sign of the love between Christ and his Church (Eph 5:32).

Married love is powerfully embodied in the spouses' sexual relationship, when they most fully express what it means to become "one body" (Gn 2:24) or "one flesh" (Mk 10:8, Mt 19:6). The Church teaches that the sexual union of husband and wife is meant to express the full meaning of love, its power to bind a couple together and its openness to new life.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CONTRACEPTION?

A husband and wife express their committed love not only with words, but with the language of their bodies.

Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God's gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God's creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding power of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple's unity. The total giving of oneself, body and soul, to one's beloved is no time to say: "I give you everything I am—except. . . ." The Church's teaching is not only about observing a rule, but about preserving that total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity.

ARE COUPLES EXPECTED TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILY SIZE ENTIRELY TO CHANCE?

Certainly not. The Church teaches that a couple may generously decide to have a large family, or may for serious reasons choose not

to have more children for the time being or even for an indefinite period (*Humanae Vitae*, no. 10).

WHAT SHOULD A COUPLE DO IF THEY HAVE A GOOD REASON TO AVOID HAVING A CHILD?

A married couple can engage in marital intimacy during the naturally infertile times in a woman's cycle, or after child-bearing years, without violating the meaning of marital intercourse in any way.

This is the principle behind natural family planning (NFP). Natural methods of family planning involve fertility education that enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it.

WHAT IS NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING?

Natural family planning is a general name for the methods of family planning that are based on a woman's menstrual cycle. A man is fertile throughout his life, while a woman is fertile for only a few days each cycle during the child-bearing years. Some believe that NFP involves using a calendar to predict the fertile time. That is not what NFP is today. A woman experiences clear, observable signs indicating when she is fertile and when she is infertile. Learning to observe and understand these signs is at the heart of education in natural family planning.

When a couple decides to postpone pregnancy, NFP can be very effective. NFP can also be very helpful for couples who desire to have a child because it identifies the time of ovulation. It is used by many fertility specialists for this purpose. Thus a couple can have marital relations at a time when they know that conception is most likely to take place.

IS THERE REALLY A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USING CONTRACEPTION AND PRACTICING NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING?

On the surface, there may seem to be little difference. But the end result is not the only thing that matters, and the *way* we get to that result may make an enormous moral difference. Some ways respect God's gifts to us while others do not. Couples who have practiced natural family planning after using contraception have experienced a profound difference in the meaning of their sexual intimacy.

When couples use contraception, either physical or chemical, they suppress their fertility, asserting that they alone have ultimate control over this power to create a new human life. With NFP, spouses respect God's design for life and love. They may choose to refrain from sexual union during the woman's fertile time, doing nothing to destroy the love-giving or life-giving meaning that is present. This is the difference between choosing to falsify the full marital language of the body and choosing at certain times not to speak that language.

IS IT TRUE, AS SOME CLAIM, THAT SOME METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL CAN CAUSE AN ABORTION?

Some methods of birth control are aimed at preventing the union of sperm and egg and therefore act only as contraceptives. These would include barriers such as condoms and diaphragms.

By contrast, hormonal methods such as the Pill may work in several ways. They can suppress ovulation or alter cervical mucus to prevent fertilization, and thus act contraceptively. But they may at times have other effects, such as changes to the lining of the uterus. If the contraceptive action fails and fertilization takes place, these hormonal methods may make it impossible for a newly conceived life to implant and survive. That would be a very early abortion. Medical opinions differ on whether or how often this may occur. Currently there is no way to know precisely how these drugs work at any given time in an individual woman.

Concern about the risk of causing an early abortion is stronger in the case of pills taken after intercourse to prevent pregnancy (“emergency contraception” or “morning-after pills”). In some cases these pills are taken when sperm and egg have already joined to create a new life, in which case the drug could not have any effect except to cause an early abortion.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF CONTRACEPTION ON SOCIETY? ON MARRIED COUPLES?

Many would likely be surprised at how long all Christian churches agreed on this teaching against contraception. It was only in 1930 that some Protestant denominations began to reject this long-held position. Those opposed to this trend predicted an increase in premarital sex, adultery, acceptance of divorce, and abortion. Later, in 1968, Pope Paul VI warned that the use of contraception would allow one spouse to treat the other more like an object than a person, and that in time governments would be tempted to impose laws limiting family size. Pope John Paul II called attention to the close association between contraception and abortion, noting that “the negative values inherent in the ‘contraceptive mentality’ . . . are such that they in fact strengthen this temptation [to abortion] when an unwanted life is conceived” (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 13).

These predictions have come true. Today we see a pandemic of sexually transmitted diseases, an enormous rise in cohabitation, one in three children born outside of marriage, and abortion used by many when contraception fails. A failure to respect married love’s power to help create new life has eroded respect for life and for the sanctity of marriage.

CONCLUSION

By using contraception, couples may think that they are avoiding problems or easing tensions, that they are exerting control over their lives. But the gift of being able to help create another person, a new

human being with his or her own life, involves profound relationships. It affects our relationship with God, who created us complete with this powerful gift. It involves whether spouses will truly love and accept each other as they are, including their gift of fertility. Finally, it involves the way spouses will spontaneously accept their child as a gift from God and the fruit of their mutual love. Like all important relationships with other persons, it is not subject solely to our individual control. In the end, this gift is far richer and more rewarding than that.

The Church’s teaching on marital sexuality is an invitation for men and women—an invitation to let God be God, to receive the gift of God’s love and care, and to let this gift inform and transform us, so we may share that love with each other and with the world.

Where to Learn More

WEB SITE

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/index.shtml. (Offers information on Church teachings on conjugal love and responsible parenthood, methods of natural family planning [NFP], where to find local classes, and which NFP organizations offer home study programs.)

CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Pope John Paul II. Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*On the Value and Inviolability of Human Life*). Washington, DC: USCCB, 1995.

Pope Paul IV. Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (*On the Regulation of Birth*). Washington, DC: USCCB, 1968.

The statement *Married Love and the Gift of Life* was developed by the Committee for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and was approved by the full body of bishops at its November 2006 General Meeting. This bulletin insert, containing excerpts from the statement, has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

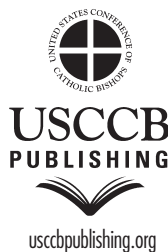
Msgr. David J. Malloy, STD
General Secretary, USCCB

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Amor Matrimonial y el Don de la Vida



Este anuncio del boletín contiene una selección de lo expuesto sobre *El Amor Matrimonial y el Don de la Vida*, que fue aprobado por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos en la Reunión General de noviembre de 2006.

¿QUÉ ENSEÑA LA IGLESIA ACERCA DEL AMOR MATRIMONIAL?

El matrimonio es más que un contrato civil; es una alianza de toda la vida entre un hombre y una mujer. Es una unión íntima en la que los esposos y las esposas aprenden a dar y recibir amor generosamente, y luego enseñan a sus hijos e hijas a hacer lo mismo. El matrimonio cristiano, en particular, es un “gran misterio”, un símbolo del amor entre Cristo y su Iglesia (Ef 5:32). La Iglesia enseña que la unión sexual del esposo y la esposa tiene el propósito de expresar el significado pleno del amor, su poder de unir a la pareja y su apertura a una vida nueva.

¿QUÉ TIENE QUE VER ESTO CON LA ANTICONCEPCIÓN?

El esposo y la esposa expresan el compromiso de su amor no solo mediante palabras, sino también mediante el lenguaje de sus cuerpos.

Por naturaleza, el amor del esposo y la esposa es tan completo, tan ordenado a una vida entera de comunión con Dios y del uno con el otro, que está abierto a la creación de un nuevo ser humano, al que amarán y cuidarán juntos. Parte del don de Dios al esposo y a la esposa es esta capacidad de cooperar con el poder creador de Dios en este amor y mediante este amor. Por lo tanto, el don mutuo de la fecundidad es parte integral del poder unitivo del acto sexual marital. Este poder de crear una vida nueva con Dios es la esencia de lo que los cónyuges comparten el uno con el otro.

Suprimir la fertilidad al utilizar anticonceptivos niega parte del significado inherente de la sexualidad matrimonial y perjudica la unión de la pareja. La enseñanza de la Iglesia no solo supone observar una regla, sino preservar también ese don mutuo y total de dos personas en su integridad.

¿SE ESPERA QUE LAS PAREJAS DEJEN EL TAMAÑO DE SU FAMILIA SUJETO TOTALMENTE AL AZAR?

Ciertamente no. La Iglesia enseña que una pareja puede decidir, generosamente, tener una familia numerosa o, por motivos serios, puede optar por no tener más hijos e hijas por el momento o incluso indefinidamente (*Humanae Vitae*, no. 10).

¿QUÉ DEBE HACER UNA PAREJA SI TIENE UNA RAZÓN VÁLIDA PARA EVITAR TENER HIJOS E HIJAS?

Una pareja casada puede tener intimidad marital durante el período naturalmente estéril del ciclo de la mujer o después de los años de procreación, sin violar el significado del acto sexual marital en forma alguna.

Este es el principio que gobierna la planificación familiar natural (PFN). Los métodos naturales de planificación familiar

constan de una educación sobre la fecundidad, que permite que las parejas cooperen con el cuerpo tal como Dios lo creó.

¿QUÉ ES LA PLANIFICACIÓN FAMILIAR NATURAL?

La planificación familiar natural es un término general para los métodos de planificación familiar que se basan en el ciclo menstrual de la mujer. El hombre es fecundo durante toda su vida, mientras que la mujer lo es solamente durante unos pocos días en cada ciclo menstrual durante sus años de procreación. La mujer tiene señales claras y observables que indican cuándo está fértil y cuándo está estéril. Aprender a observar y comprender esas señales es la esencia de la educación para la planificación familiar natural.

Cuando una pareja decide postergar un embarazo, la PFN puede ser muy eficaz. La PFN también es muy útil para las parejas que desean tener un hijo o hija, porque identifica el momento de la ovulación. De este modo, una pareja puede tener relaciones maritales en el momento en que es más probable que la concepción se lleve a cabo.

¿EXISTE REALMENTE ALGUNA DIFERENCIA ENTRE UTILIZAR ANTICONCEPTIVOS Y PRACTICAR LA PLANIFICACIÓN FAMILIAR NATURAL?

A simple vista, puede parecer que la diferencia es pequeña. Pero el resultado final no es lo único que importa, y la *manera* en que logramos ese resultado puede implicar una enorme diferencia moral. Algunos métodos respetan los dones que Dios nos ha dado y otros no. Las parejas que han practicado la planificación familiar natural después de utilizar anticonceptivos han experimentado una profunda diferencia en el significado de su intimidad sexual.

Cuando las parejas utilizan anticonceptivos, sean estos físicos o químicos, suprimen su fecundidad, afirmando que solamente ellos tienen el máximo control sobre este poder de crear una vida humana nueva. Con la PFN, los cónyuges respetan el designio de Dios de vida y amor. Pueden optar por abstenerse de la unión sexual durante el período fértil de la mujer, sin hacer nada que destruya el significado de brindar amor y vida, que está presente. Esa es la diferencia entre optar por falsificar el lenguaje marital pleno del cuerpo u optar, en ciertos momentos, por no hablar ese lenguaje.

¿ES CIERTO, COMO DICEN ALGUNOS, QUE ALGUNOS MÉTODOS DE CONTROL DE LA NATALIDAD PUEDEN CAUSAR UN ABORTO?

Algunos métodos de control de la natalidad tienen como fin impedir la unión del espermatozoide con el óvulo y, por lo tanto, actúan como anticonceptivos. Entre ellos se encuentran

aquellos que actúan como barreras, como los condones y los diafragmas.

En cambio, los métodos hormonales como la píldora pueden funcionar de diversas maneras. Pueden suprimir la ovulación o alterar las secreciones cervicales para impedir la fecundación y actuar, por lo tanto, como anticonceptivos. Pero muchas veces tienen otros efectos, como por ejemplo los cambios en las paredes del útero. Si la acción anticonceptiva falla y la fecundación tiene lugar, estos métodos hormonales pueden impedir que esa vida recién concebida se implante y sobreviva. Eso constituiría un aborto muy temprano. Las opiniones médicas difieren sobre si esto ocurre o con qué frecuencia. En la actualidad, no hay manera de saber con exactitud cómo funcionan estas drogas en un momento determinado en una mujer en particular.

La preocupación sobre el riesgo de causar un aborto es mayor en el caso de las píldoras que se toman después del acto sexual para impedir el embarazo (“anticoncepción de emergencia” o “píldoras del día siguiente”). En algunos casos, estas píldoras se toman cuando el espermatozoides y el óvulo ya se han unido para crear una vida nueva, en cuyo caso la droga no podría tener efecto alguno, excepto el de causar un aborto temprano.

¿CUÁL HA SIDO EL IMPACTO DE LOS ANTICONCEPTIVOS EN LA SOCIEDAD? ¿EN LAS PAREJAS CASADAS?

Es probable que muchos se sorprendan al enterarse del largo tiempo en el que todas las iglesias cristianas coincidieron en esta enseñanza contra la anticoncepción. Fue en 1930 que algunos credos protestantes comenzaron a rechazar esta posición sostenida durante tanto tiempo. Los que se opusieron a esa tendencia predijeron un aumento en las relaciones sexuales prematrimoniales, el adulterio, la aceptación del divorcio y el aborto. Más tarde, en 1968, el Papa Pablo VI advirtió que la utilización de los anticonceptivos daría lugar a que un cónyuge tratara al otro como objeto más que como persona y que, con el tiempo, los gobiernos se verían tentados a imponer leyes que limitaran el tamaño de la familia. El Papa Juan Pablo II destacó la estrecha conexión entre los anticonceptivos y el aborto, señalando que “los contravalores inherentes a la ‘mentalidad anticonceptiva’ [...] son tales que hacen precisamente más fuerte esta tentación [del aborto] ante la eventual concepción de una vida no deseada” (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 13).

Esas predicciones se han cumplido. Hoy en día, vemos una epidemia de enfermedades transmitidas sexualmente, un enorme incremento en la cohabitación, el nacimiento de uno de cada tres niños fuera del matrimonio y el aborto utilizado por muchos cuando los anticonceptivos fallan. No respetar ese poder del amor matrimonial para ayudar a crear nuevas vidas ha erosionado el respeto por la vida y por la santidad del matrimonio.

CONCLUSIÓN

Al usar anticonceptivos, las parejas podrían pensar que están evitando problemas o calmando tensiones, que están ejerciendo control sobre sus vidas. Pero el don de poder ayudar a crear otra persona, un ser humano nuevo con su propia vida, entrafía relaciones profundas. Afecta nuestra relación con Dios que nos creó completos con este don poderoso. Es una demostración del verdadero amor y de la aceptación mutua de los cónyuges, tal como son, incluyendo el don de la fecundidad. Finalmente, implica la manera en que los cónyuges aceptarán espontánea-

mente a su hijo o hija como un don de Dios y fruto de su amor mutuo. Como todas las relaciones importantes con otras personas, no está sujeto únicamente a nuestro control individual. Al final, este don es mucho más rico y más gratificante.

La doctrina de la Iglesia sobre la sexualidad marital es una invitación a los hombres y a las mujeres — una invitación a permitir que Dios sea Dios, a recibir el don del amor y el cuidado de Dios, y a permitir que este don nos informe y nos transforme, para que podamos compartir ese amor el uno con el otro y con el mundo.

DÓNDE OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Sitio Web

El sitio Web de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/, ofrece información sobre las enseñanzas de la Iglesia respecto al amor conyugal y la paternidad responsable, los métodos de planificación familiar natural (PFN), dónde encontrar clases en su localidad y cuáles organizaciones de PFN ofrecen programas de estudios en la casa.

Documentos de la Iglesia

Juan Pablo II. Encíclica *Evangelium vitae* (*El evangelio de la vida*). Washington, DC: Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, 1995.

Pablo VI. Encíclica *Humanae vitae* (*Sobre la regulación de la natalidad*), sitio Web del Vaticano: www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_pvi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_sp.html.

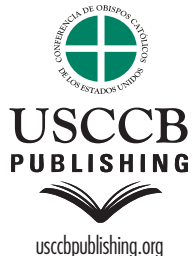
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Mons. David J. Malloy, STD
Secretario General, USCCB

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NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

At the first stage of life, centers for natural methods of regulating fertility should be promoted as a valuable help to responsible parenthood, in which all individuals, and in the first place the child, are recognized and respected in their own right and where every decision is guided by the ideal of the sincere gift of self. (*EV*, #88)

From the scientific point of view, these methods are becoming more and more accurate and make it possible in practice to make choices in harmony with moral values. An honest appraisal of their effectiveness should dispel certain prejudices which are still widely held, and should convince married couples, as well as health-care and social workers, of the importance of proper training in this area. (*EV*, #97)

The Church is grateful to those who, with personal sacrifice and often unacknowledged dedication, devote themselves to the study and spread of these methods, as well to the promotion of education in the moral values which they presuppose. (*EV*, #97)

It is therefore morally unacceptable to encourage, let alone impose, the use of methods such as contraception, sterilization, and abortion in order to regulate births. (*EV*, #90)

In fact, as experience bears witness, not every conjugal act is followed by a new life. God has wisely disposed natural laws and rhythms of fecundity which, of themselves, cause a separation in the succession of births. (*HV*, #11)

If, then, there are serious motives to space out births, which derive from the physical or psychological conditions of husband and wife, or from external conditions, the Church teaches that it is then licit to take into account the natural rhythms immanent in the generative functions, for the use of marriage in the infertile periods only, and in this way to regulate birth without offending the moral principles which have been recalled earlier. (*HV*, #16)

The Church is coherent with herself when she considers recourse to the infertile periods to be licit, while at the same time condemning, as being always illicit, the use of means directly contrary to fecundation, even if such use is inspired by reasons which may appear honest and serious. In reality, there are essential differences between the two cases; in the former, the married couple make legitimate use of a natural disposition; in the latter, they impede the development of natural processes. (*HV*, #16)

The choice of the natural rhythms involves accepting the cycle of the person that is the woman and thereby accepting dialogue, reciprocal respect, shared responsibility and self-control. To accept the cycle and to enter into dialogue means to recognize both spiritual

and corporal character of conjugal communion, and to live personal love with its requirement of fidelity. In this context the couple comes to experience how conjugal communion is enriched with those values of tenderness and affection which constitute the inner soul of human sexuality in its physical dimension also. In this way, sexuality is respected and promoted in its truly and fully human dimension, and is never "used" as an "object" that by breaking the personal unity of soul and body, strikes at God's creation itself at the level of the deepest interaction of nature and person. (FC, #32)

In the light of the experience of many couples and of the data provided by the different human sciences, theological reflection is able to perceive and is called to study further the difference, both anthropological and moral, between contraception and recourse to the rhythm of the cycle: it is a difference which is much wider and deeper than is usually thought, one which involves in the final analysis two irreconcilable concepts of the human person and of human sexuality. (FC, #32)

Periodic continence, that is, the methods of birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods, is in conformity with the objective criteria of morality. These methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them and favor the education of an authentic freedom. In contrast, "every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible" is intrinsically evil:

Thus the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality....The difference, both anthropological and moral, between contraception and recourse to the rhythm of the cycle...involves in the final analysis two irreconcilable concepts of the human person and of human sexuality. (CCC, #2370)

Taking advantage of the temporary natural sterility in the Ogino-Knaus method does not violate the natural order...since conjugal relations respond to the will of the Creator. (Pius XII, *Allocution to the Members of the Seventh Congress on Hematology*, September 12, 1958)

Free to choose the number of children they desire, the couple must be equally free to use natural methods for the responsible regulation of their fertility, for serious reasons and in conformity with the teaching of the church. These various methods deserve to be known and spread widely. Couples must be offered the means to freely exercise their responsible motherhood and fatherhood. The artificial methods of birth control as well as sterilization do not respect the human person of a woman and man because they eliminate or impede fertility, which is an integral part of the person. (PCF, *The Ethical and Pastoral Dimensions of Population Trends*, March 25, 1994, #76)


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*"Sin embargo, no os dejéis vencer por el desánimo y no abandonéis la esperanza
Si aún no lo habéis hecho, abríos con humildad y confianza al arrepentimiento: el Padre de
toda misericordia os espera para ofreceros su perdón y su paz en el sacramento de la
Reconciliación."*

~San Juan Pablo II, El Evangelio de la Vida

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Si aún no lo habéis hecho, abríos con humildad y confianza al arrepentimiento: el Padre de toda misericordia os espera para ofreceros su perdón y su paz en el sacramento de la Reconciliación ...

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