**Suggestions for Using the Respect Life Program**

**What is the Respect Life Program, and how do I use these materials?**

The annual Respect Life Program is a year-round, nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life.

Although sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Respect Life Program is essentially comprised of the efforts of leaders throughout the Church like you—parish priests, staff, and volunteers; teachers and school administrators; diocesan leaders; and so many others.

The U.S. bishops produce these materials to assist you in your efforts. Instead of acting as stand-alone resources, they are designed to be brought to life as tools in your hands. The action ideas provided below are just examples to get you started—build off or adapt them to fit your specific needs!

For free digital resources, visit [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife).

**Ideas to Get You Started…**

***Digital versions of all the resources referred to below are available online. Visit*** [***www.usccb.org/respectlife***](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife)***, and click the “Leaders’ Toolkits” button.***

**Clergy**

* Use the homily helps provided.
* Print the 2018-19 reflection in the bulletin, and invite parishioners to submit a few sentences on what the theme means to them. Print the submissions (with their permission) in the parish bulletin throughout the year.

**Parishes**

* Use the free, downloadable Respect Life images and the articles (or their ¼ page summaries) in the bulletin. Consider also sharing them through other parish communications: monitor display screens, e-newsletters, website, social media, etc.

**Catholic Education**

* Hang up the poster, and explain the theme. Provide sticky notes to students, and instruct them to write down specific ways to apply the theme to daily life. Post their ideas, then invite them to take a sticky note (not their own), do one of the actions, and write a one-paragraph reflection on the experience for extra credit.
* Use the articles to supplement class curriculums. For example, in a health or social studies class, students could read “Killing the Pain, Not the Patient: Palliative Care vs. Assisted Suicide” or “Another Look at Contraception.”

**Respect Life Ministry**

* Set up a display during Respect Life Month. Refer to “how-to” suggestions from previous years at [www.usccb.org/prolifetools](http://www.usccb.org/prolifetools), and adapt as needed.
* Encourage parishioners to take a reflection flyer, make a related resolution for the week, and then post the flyer somewhere in their home to remind them of their resolution.

**Youth Ministry**

* Invite youth to take part in the *9 Days for Life* prayer and action campaign January 14-22, 2019. Hold a kickoff event, and encourage students to download the free mobile app. Leaders’ resources, including a social media toolkit, are available at [www.9DaysforLife.com](http://www.9DaysforLife.com).

**Young Adult Ministry**

* Coordinate a service event based on the theme. Later, ask a few of the participants to reflect on their experience and speak about it at a regularly scheduled or specially-planned event.

**Faith Formation**

* Host an evening event series covering the theme and article topics. Focus especially on helping attendees understand the Church’s teaching on life issues within the broader context of the Catholic Faith.