


2018-2019


# Respect Life Program

## HOW-TO FOLDER


*Information to help you use the 2018-2019 Respect Life Program materials is printed directly onto every side of this folder. This information is also available online in both English and Spanish. Visit [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife).*

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My dear friend in Christ:

Thank you for being a messenger of God's love to our culture, which desperately needs to encounter Him. The bishops greatly appreciate your efforts to foster a culture that cherishes all human life.

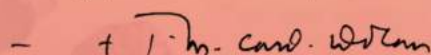
Each October (Respect Life Month), the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops kicks off a new cycle of the Respect Life Program—a year-round, nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with cultivating respect for life.

These materials are developed as tools to help you integrate the Gospel of Life into your respective work or ministry. The folder, its contents, and Spanish versions of the topical bulletin inserts are available to order in print. Along with other resources (many of which are available in both English and Spanish), they can also be downloaded online for free.

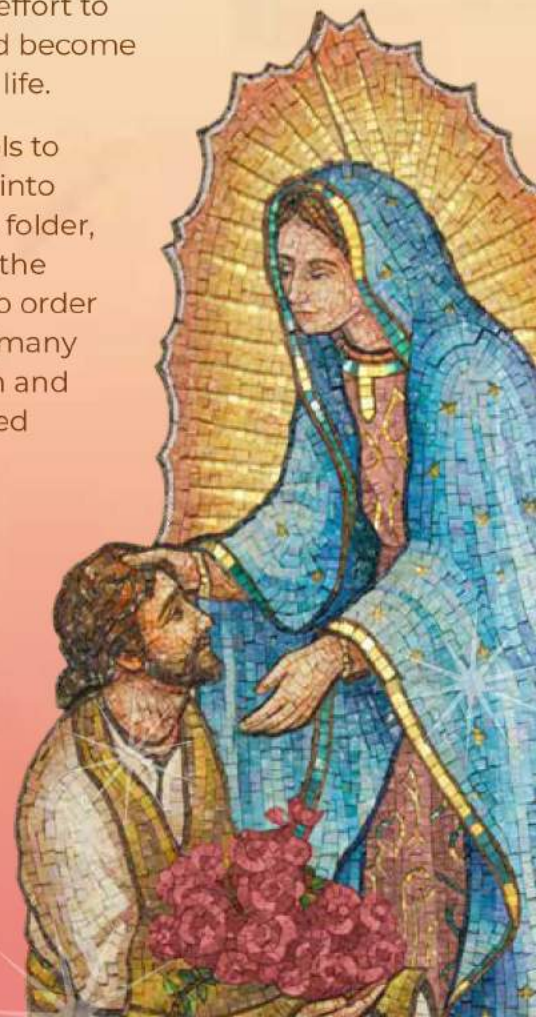
For more information, visit [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife).

Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Chairman, USCCB Committee  
on Pro-Life Activities



## Simple Steps: Respect Life Month

October 2018

*Here are five simple steps for celebrating Respect Life Month, either the weekend of Respect Life Sunday (October 7, 2018) or another weekend in October. Resources are available in English and Spanish at [www.usccb.org/pro-life-simple-steps](http://www.usccb.org/pro-life-simple-steps).*

- 1 DISPLAY** the poster where people will be most likely to see it.
- 2 USE** the bulletin announcement and bulletin cover or wrapper, and insert the reflection flyer into the bulletin.
- 3 PREACH** on the Respect Life theme “Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent.” Consider using the reflection flyer and sample homily helps as inspiration.
- 4 PRAY** for the protection of human life during the Prayer of the Faithful. Sample intercessions are provided.
- 5 INVITE** parishioners to reflect the rest of the week on the theme and what it means to them personally.



## Simple Steps: 9 Days for Life

January 14 – 22, 2019

*Here are five simple steps for promoting and participating in the U.S. bishops’ annual prayer and action campaign for life. Resources are available in English and Spanish at [www.usccb.org/pro-life-simple-steps](http://www.usccb.org/pro-life-simple-steps).*

- 1 USE** the 9 Days for Life bulletin announcements, graphics, and flyer in the bulletin the weekends of January 6 and January 13. The weekend of January 20, use the bulletin announcement for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (January 22).
- 2 ANNOUNCE** 9 Days for Life from the pulpit the weekend of January 13, and announce the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children the weekend of January 20. Sample pulpit announcements are available online.
- 3 PREACH** on respect for human life the weekend of January 20 and on January 22. Sample homily helps and suggested readings for January 22 are provided.
- 4 PRAY** for the protection of human life during the Prayer of the Faithful the weekend of January 20 and on January 22. Sample intercessions are provided.
- 5 VISIT** [usccb.org/9-days-for-life-toolkit](http://usccb.org/9-days-for-life-toolkit) for other ways to promote 9 Days for Life and engage participants in building a culture that cherishes every human life.

## Respect Life Month

### SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS

May we show by our words and actions  
that every human life  
is cherished and chosen;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

May we build a culture of life  
by embracing our mission  
as messengers of God's love;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

### HOMILY HELPS

Respect Life Sunday | October 7, 2018  
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Suggestions for unpacking the 2018-2019 Respect Life theme ("Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent") using the readings of the day.*

#### \* OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Briefly share the story of Our Lady Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, summarized in the 2018-2019 *Respect Life Reflection*.

#### \* CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP

Every person is made in God's image and likeness (*First Reading*), and is loved by Him and called to eternal union with Him. We are also created to be in communion with, and depend upon, one another. Jesus consecrates us and calls us his "brothers" (*Second Reading*).

#### \* LOVE ONE ANOTHER

We are all called to walk in God's ways (*Responsorial Psalm*) and treat each other according to the truth of His immense love for every person (*Gospel Acclamation*). Like St. Juan Diego, we are personally entrusted with specific ways to love God and one another. If we have aging parents, do we take the time to consistently show our love through visits, phone calls, and notes? If we know expectant mothers or parents with infants, do we provide support that helps them welcome their children (*Gospel Reading*) and continues to serve their needs, even months after the baby is born?

#### \* IT'S WHO WE ARE

We are cherished, chosen, and sent by God to love one another as He loves us. In doing so, we help build a culture that cherishes all human life. Building a culture of life is simply part of *who we are* as Christians, as followers of Christ.

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

### SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS

For the legal protection of unborn children  
and for loving support for mothers  
before and after birth;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

For all who suffer from  
participation in abortion:  
May they repent and turn  
to God's loving forgiveness;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

### HOMILY HELPS

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children | January 22, 2019

*Homily suggestions for unpacking the theme are based on the readings indicated below, selected from among the many choices available for this day. See no. 373 of the GIRM or an Ordo for more information on the liturgical observance of this day of prayer and penance.*

**First Reading:** 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3:14-21

**Gospel Acclamation:** See John 6:63c, 68c

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

#### \* YOU FORMED MY INMOST BEING

God creates us (*Responsorial Psalm*) and invites us to eternal, loving union with Himself. He sends us to share this message with others and to love one another as He loves us.

#### \* LOVE THEM BOTH

Decisions against human life are often influenced by feeling afraid, unsupported, pressured, or alone. Consider a college student whose boyfriend tells her to choose between him and their unborn child, or expectant parents who have just been told their baby may have a serious disability. We need to love both the unborn children and their parents, providing concrete support to help those in difficult pregnancy situations welcome their children (*Gospel Reading*)—before and after they are born.

#### \* BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

To best serve the needs of others, we must humble ourselves like children (*Gospel Reading*) so we can receive the Lord's guidance. When Christ dwells in our hearts, He can "accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us" (*Second Reading*, Eph 3:20).

# 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 printed on the inside of this folder.
- \* Print the 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: Assisted Suicide vs. Palliative Care” 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.