

WORD OF LIFE: OCTOBER 2017 RESPECT LIFE MONTH EDITION

The [Respect Life Program](#), sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, started in 1972 and begins anew each year with “Respect Life Sunday,” the first Sunday of October—the month set aside by the U.S. bishops as “[Respect Life Month](#).”

The new materials are suggested for use especially from October 2017 – September 2018, but you are welcome to use them at any time!

In the Spotlight...

- [Respect Life Sunday Homily Notes](#)
- [Respect Life Month Webpage](#)
- [Respect Life Month Bulletin Covers](#)
- Toolkits for [clergy](#) & [parishes](#)
- [Intercessions](#)
- [Themed Downloadable Images](#) (bulletin covers, email & web banners, social media images, etc.)



Website Updates...

The main Respect Life Program webpage (www.usccb.org/respectlife) now directs visitors to four main sections:

1. **[FAQ](#)**: A brief overview of the new Respect Life Program materials, answering questions like "What is it?", "Who are the resources for?", "How do I use the materials?"
2. **[Order](#)**: Product category page in the USCCB Store listing the new Respect Life resources for sale. Orders can also be made by calling toll-free 866-582-0943 or by using the order form in the back of the [2017-2018 catalog](#).
3. **[Digital Resources](#)**: E-files of the print resources, as well as additional, online-only resources.
4. **[Leaders' Toolkits](#)**: Webpages for each of the following groups were created, giving suggestions for how the Respect Life materials might help them in their work or ministry: Priests & Deacons, Parishes, Catholic Education, Respect Life Ministry, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Faith Formation, Catholic Press/Communications.

Intercessions for Life: Respect Life Sunday / Month

Intercessions: Q & A

Intercessions: Printout

For all people:
May God grant us courage to embrace
his precious gift of life,
even in the most difficult of circumstances;
We pray to the Lord:

For the times we are afraid to welcome life:
May the Lord fill our hearts with
confidence in His loving care
and provide for every need;
We pray to the Lord:

For all Catholics:
May the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
strengthen us in protecting his gift of life;
We pray to the Lord:

For the times we are pressured
to compromise respect for human life:
May the Lord strengthen
our courage and resolve;
We pray to the Lord:

May the Holy Spirit reveal to each of us
how we are called to use our gifts
in sharing the Gospel of life and joy;
We pray to the Lord:

For those facing difficult medical decisions:
May they receive the Lord's guidance and
peace as they listen for his voice;
We pray to the Lord:

For expectant mothers
whose hearts are troubled:
May they receive helpful, loving support
for themselves and their baby;
We pray to the Lord:

For the times we doubt the value of our lives:
May we rest in the awareness that we are
infinitely loved, and that God has a plan for our
lives;
We pray to the Lord:

For those condemned to die and for their
families:
May the hope of the Resurrection
strengthen them in their time of sorrow;
We pray to the Lord:

May God grant us the eyes to see
and the hearts to love
those who need us to walk with them
in times of suffering;
We pray to the Lord:

May God bless all those
for whom adoption is part of their life story;
We pray to the Lord:

For caregivers:
May Christ give them wisdom
and fill their hearts with peace and strength;
We pray to the Lord:

For women and men suffering after abortion:
May God grant them courage to seek
healing and peace through the Church's
post-abortion healing ministry;
We pray to the Lord:

For those longing for a child:
May God comfort them
with the assurance of his steadfast love;
We pray to the Lord:

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Intercessions for Life

October 1st

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Observed in U.S. as Respect Life Sunday)

For the times we are afraid to welcome life:
May the Lord fill our hearts with
confidence in His loving care
and provide for every need;
We pray to the Lord:

October 8th

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
(“[Share the Journey](#)” Week of Prayer and Action)

For all of us, who are called by name
to be disciples of Christ:
May he give us courage to open our hearts
to those who are most vulnerable
during this Respect Life Month and always;
We pray to the Lord:

October 15th

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

May God grant us the eyes to see
and the hearts to love
those who need us to walk with them
in times of suffering;
We pray to the Lord:

October 22nd

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For expectant mothers
whose hearts are troubled:
May they receive helpful, loving support
for themselves and their babies;
We pray to the Lord:

October 29th

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For the times we doubt the value of our lives:
May we rest in the awareness
that we are infinitely loved,
and that God has a plan for our lives:
We pray to the Lord:

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Bulletin Briefs

Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these quotes at any time.

October 1st

“Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. ‘Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age’ (Matthew 28:20).”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
2017-18 Respect Life Reflection Flyer, www.goo.gl/fZX2q6
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[Order / Download](#)

October 8th

“The knowledge and realization of how deeply we are loved by God elicits a response of love that simultaneously draws us closer to God and at the same time impels us to share his love.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“How to Build a Culture of Life,” www.goo.gl/yAt6Gk



[Order](#)

[Download](#)

October 15th

“We must listen to God, who speaks to us. Having a well-formed conscience doesn’t mean we have all the answers to the complex problems in the world, but it does mean that we are sensitive to the needs and struggles of other people.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Understanding Conscience,” www.goo.gl/fc6bMA



[Order](#)

[Download](#)

October 22nd

“If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn’t ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond... in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby? Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion,” www.goo.gl/Tb2khB
The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is trademarked by Heartbeat International, Inc. and is used with permission.



[Order](#)

[Download](#)

October 29th

“The Church affirms the inviolable dignity of every person, regardless of the duration or extent of the person’s incapacity or dependency.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing,” www.goo.gl/MyKAp7



[Order](#)

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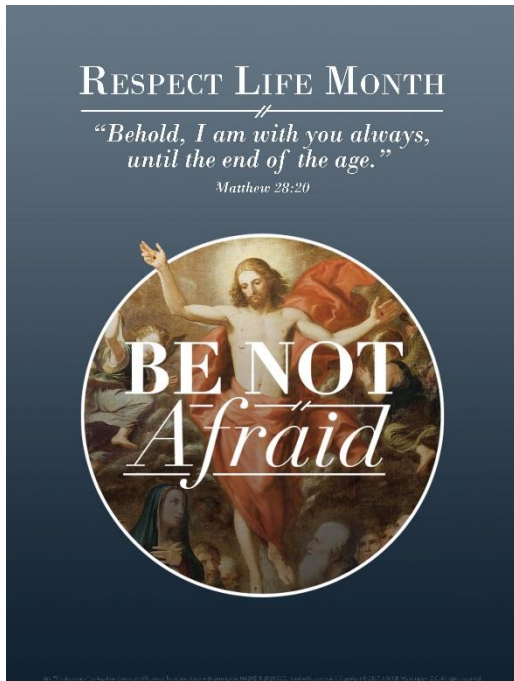
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Bulletin Art

Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these images at any time. However, please do not alter the images in any way, other than the size. Thank you!

October 2017

- Respect Life Sunday: [Bulletin Cover](#) / [Bulletin Wrapper](#)
- Respect Life Month: [Bulletin Cover](#) / [Bulletin Wrapper](#)



October 2017

[Download Image](#) / [Download Reflection Flyer](#)

