



SIMPLE SUPPLEMENTS

WHAT IS THIS?

The following references are provided to supplement each of the new 2016-2017 Respect Life Program articles. Suggestions are provided for using this section, but its use is not limited to the following.

Examples: Individuals can use this section to discover where to learn more about a given topic. Clergy can refer to this section for ideas on weaving the message of mercy as related to respect for human life into their homilies. Teachers can pull personal quotes, stories, information, and references from this section to incorporate into lesson plans that naturally relate to human dignity, and consequently the respect due to each person's life.

HOW DO I ORDER THE USCCB RESOURCES?

Use the order form in the back of the catalog available at www.usccb.org/respectlife, or call toll-free 866-582-0943.

CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Corporal: The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46) and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They “are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs.”¹ They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick
Visit the prisoners
Bury the dead
Give alms to the poor

Spiritual: The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to “help our neighbor in their spiritual needs.”²

Counseling the doubtful
Instructing the ignorant
Admonishing the sinner
Comforting the sorrowful
Forgiving injuries
Bearing wrongs patiently
Praying for the living and the dead

¹ USCCB, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C., 2006) 508.

² USCCB, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C., 2006) 557.



BRIDGES OF MERCY FOR POST-ABORTION HEALING

SCRIPTURE

Ps 103:10-17 | Jeremiah 31:15-17 | Matthew 5:7 | Mark 2:1-12 | Luke 7:36-50 | Luke 15:4-7 | John 4:4-29 | John 8:2-11 | John 14:27

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

211, 1464-65, 1468-1470, 1846-1848

FROM THE POPES

- Pope St. John Paul II. *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995). 99.
- Pope St. John Paul II. Homily, Mass for the Canonization of Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, April 30, 2000. (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2000). 6-7.
- Pope Francis. *Evangelii gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*) (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2013). 113.
- Pope Francis. *Misericordiae vultus* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015). 3 (second paragraph).

USCCB RESOURCES

- **www.HopeAfterAbortion.org**
Healing stories, letters, prayers, and local ministry contact information for the Church's Project Rachel Ministry for post-abortion healing.

- **Project Rachel: Peace Starts Here**

8-panel brochure. Item #1016.
Spanish Item #1017.

- **How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion**

6-panel brochure. Item #0120.
Spanish Item #0121.

- **Healing within Marriage from an Abortion**

8-panel brochure. Item #1441.
Spanish Item #1451.

- **The Hollow Men: Male Grief & Trauma Following Abortion**

8-panel brochure. Item #0846.

- **Trust in God's Mercy (prayer card)**

Prayer card. Item #9913. Spanish Item #9914.

SAINTS

- **St. Maria Faustina Kowalska:** "In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary."³
- **Pope St. John Paul II**, among many other encyclicals, wrote *Dives in Misericordia* (*Rich in Mercy*) and *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). He also canonized St. Faustina, stating in the homily of the Mass for her canonization that the Second Sunday of Easter, from then on, "will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'."⁴

³ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Divine Mercy Sunday" *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/divine-mercy-sunday.cfm> (accessed June 10, 2016).

⁴ Pope John Paul II, "Homily of the Holy Father: Mass in the St. Peter's Square for the Canonization of Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska", The Holy See, https://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/2000/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_20000430_faustina.html (Accessed June 10, 2016)



FORGIVENESS BECAME A REALITY FOR ME.

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE:

"After my abortion I was broken and desperate for help. I turned to Project Rachel. After the experience, I left feeling like a whole person again. Forgiveness became a reality for me, a feeling I never imagined was possible."⁵

"As the father of an aborted baby I felt not only loss but failure. Through Project Rachel I was able to regain a sense of self-worth and return to my faith."⁶

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many times the people who have participated in an abortion are not even aware of the countless ways it is affecting their lives.

A range of reactions following abortion can include guilt, anger, discomfort with children, low self-worth, depression, grief, increased alcohol use, inability to communicate, and feeling suicidal.

Many avoid people, places or things that trigger traumatic memories of their abortion experience.

Some experience flashbacks of the abortion and dreams of the unborn child, or intense distress on the anniversary dates of the abortion or the child's projected due date.

- "Women with a history of abortion have higher rates of anxiety (34% higher), depression (37%), alcohol use/misuse (110%) ... and suicidal behavior (155%), compared to those who have not had an abortion."⁷
- "Male responses to a partner's abortion include grief, guilt, depression, anxiety, feelings of repressed emotions, helplessness/voicelessness/powerlessness, post-traumatic stress, anger and relationship problems."⁸

INTERCESSIONS

For those suffering after abortion:
May they know God's limitless mercy
and seek help through the Church's
post-abortion healing ministry;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Comfort the sorrowful.
Counsel the doubtful.
Instruct the ignorant.
Bury the dead.
Forgive injuries.
Pray for the living and the dead.

⁵ Project Rachel Ministry, *Peace Starts Here* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010).

⁶ Project Rachel Ministry, *Peace Starts Here* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010).

⁷ PK Coleman, "Abortion and Mental Health: Quantitative Synthesis and Analysis of Research Published 1995-2009," *British Journal of Psychiatry*, Aug. 2011; 199:180-186. <http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/199/3/180.full-text.pdf+html>

⁸ C.T. Coyle, "Men and Abortion: A Review of Empirical Reports Concerning the Impact of Abortion on Men," *The Internet Journal of Mental Health*, 3, no. 2, (2007): <http://rupetacerea.ro/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/eMen-and-Abortion.pdf>.



SIMPLE SUPPLEMENTS

CARING FOR LOVED ONES AT LIFE'S END

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 33:20-22 | Isaiah 41:10 | Romans 8:18, 38-39 | Romans 12:15 | 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 | Galatians 6:2 | Philippians 1:20-21 | James 5:13-15

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1004-1014, 1499-1525, 2276-2283

FROM THE POPES

- Pope St. John Paul II. Apostolic Letter *Salvifici doloris* (*On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering*). (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1984). 28-30.
- Pope St. John Paul II. *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995). 46-47 and 65.
- Pope Francis. Address to Participants in the Plenary of the Pontifical Academy for Life. March 5, 2015. (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015).
- Pope Francis. *Amoris laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*). (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2016). 48.

USCCB RESOURCES

- **Maggie's Story: Living Like Dad**
8-panel brochure. Item #1543.
Spanish Item #1553.

- **Advance Medical Directives: Planning for Your Future**

8-panel brochure. Item #1446.
Spanish Item #1456.

- **Caring for Each Other, Even Unto Death**

8-panel brochure. Item #1042.
Spanish Item #1052.

- **To Live Each Day with Dignity**

www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay

- **To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide**

15 pp. Item #1172.

- **Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services**

Booklet. 40 pages. Item #0970.

- **John Paul II: Dying with Dignity**

4 pp. Item #0542.

RELATED SAINTS

- **Our Lady of Lourdes:** Patron saint of bodily ills. St. John Paul II celebrated the first *World Day of the Sick*, declaring that it would be celebrated each year on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one of the titles by which Our Lady is referred to is "Comfort of the afflicted."
- **St. Joseph, Husband of Mary:** Patron saint of a happy, holy death. Those who are dying have been entrusted to St. Joseph, "since pious tradition holds that he was assisted by Mary and Jesus in his last agony."⁹



REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE:

In “Maggie’s Story: Living Like Dad,” Maggie reflected upon accompanying her father in his final days as she faced her own terminal illness years later.

- “Watching anyone suffer, especially a loved one, is one of the hardest human experiences. ... Looking back, I’m convinced that walking through those moments with Dad made both of us different and better people. God loved us enough to allow those moments—even and especially moments of suffering—in order to teach us lessons which helped us to grow spiritually and emotionally. Dad left a legacy. He taught me how to live and die with faith and with dignity marked by patience and grace. He taught me that dignity can’t be diminished by pain or loss of personal control. Regardless of our circumstances and whether people acknowledge it, nothing and no one can take away our God-given dignity.”¹⁰
- “At first it was awkward trying to converse with a father I only knew as ‘Dad,’ the guy who loaned me

the car keys in high school and made sure I could balance my checkbook in college. But eventually, the conversation turned to life’s more significant topics. This was new, but refreshing, and it soon became a time that our family cherished. I learned more about my dad in those last five months than I had ever known. At one point he even remarked how great it was to have the time to just talk together.”¹¹

DID YOU KNOW?

- The worst suffering of seriously ill people “is often not physical pain, which can be alleviated with competent medical care, but feelings of isolation and hopelessness.”¹²
- “Hospice care focuses on alleviating pain and other symptoms, meeting basic needs, and providing comfort.”¹³

INTERCESSIONS

For those nearing the end of life:
May God strengthen their faith and
give them comfort and hope
through the gentle compassion of their caregivers;
We pray to the Lord:

For those diagnosed with a terminal illness:
May each hour of their lives be cherished
with care that honors God’s gift of life;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Visit the sick.
Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Counsel the doubtful.
Instruct the ignorant.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Forgive injuries.
Pray for the living and the dead.

⁹ Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, “Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy: Principles and Guidelines”, *The Holy See*, www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20020513_vers-direttorio_en.html (accessed June 10, 2016).

¹⁰ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *Maggie’s Story: Living Like Dad* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015).

¹¹ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *Maggie’s Story: Living Like Dad* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015).

¹² USCCB, *To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishop, 2011).

¹³ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *Caring for Loved Ones at Life’s End* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2016).



EVERY SUICIDE IS TRAGIC

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27 | Deuteronomy 30:19-20, 31:6 | Psalm 34:18-19; Psalm 143:11 | Jeremiah 29:11-12 | Isaiah 66:13 | Galatians 6:2 | Romans 12:15

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1004; 2276-2283; 2447-2448

FROM THE POPES

- Pope St. John Paul II. *Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life)*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995. 47, 64-67.
- Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. *Declaration on Euthanasia*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana. 1980.

USCCB RESOURCES

- **To Live Each Day with Dignity**
www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay
- **To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide**
Booklet. 15 pp. Item #1172.
- **Killing the Pain, Not the Patient: Palliative Care vs. Assisted Suicide**
Available online only. (Listed under “Select Educational Articles” on www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay)
- **Life Matters: Doctor-Assisted Death by Suicide**
8-panel brochure. Item #1243.
Spanish Item #1253.
- **Assisted Suicide Laws in Oregon and Washington: What Safeguards?**
Fact sheet. Available online only. (Listed under “Fact Sheets” on www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay)

USCCB VIDEO RESOURCES

View at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/assisted-suicide/to-live-each-day/assisted-suicide-videos.cfm>

- **Luke’s Story: Every Suicide is Tragic**
Luke Maxwell, 19, survived an attempt to take his own life, and reminds us that every life is worth living. You don’t discourage suicide by assisting suicide.
- **John’s Story: Beyond Independence**
Born without arms, John Foppe speaks to a way of life beyond independence, namely inter-dependence.
- **Maggie’s Story**
Maggie was diagnosed with brain cancer and strongly opposed assisted suicide. Although she passed away peacefully in 2015, her powerful story continues to inspire hope and courage.
- **Jeanette’s Story: 15 Years Later**
When Oregon resident, Jeanette Hall, had less than a year to live, she asked her cancer doctor for the pills to commit suicide. Dr. Kenneth Stevens got to know her better, and inspired her to consider treatment. Now, 15 years later, Jeanette says, “It’s great to be alive!”

SAINTS

- **St. Francis of Assisi:** Patron saint of peace
- **St. Jude Thaddeus:** Patron saint of impossible causes
- **St. John of God:** Patron saint of those who are sick

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE:

- “Barbara had been in remission from her lung cancer. When it recurred, her oncologist wanted her to be given a drug that (statistically) would increase the chance of her being alive in one year



TRUE COMPASSION
ALLEVIATES SUFFERING WHILE
MAINTAINING SOLIDARITY WITH
THOSE WHO SUFFER. IT DOES
NOT PUT LETHAL DRUGS IN THEIR
HANDS AND ABANDON THEM TO
THEIR SUICIDAL IMPULSES.



by 45%. The State of Oregon denied this treatment stating that her prognosis wasn't good enough to warrant expensive medication to treat her cancer. Yet, in the same letter denying coverage for her medication, the State offered full coverage (100%) for her assisted suicide."¹⁴

- Luke Maxwell, 19, survived an attempt to take his own life. He shares, "When someone is standing...on the edge, ready to jump, what's the natural human response? It's to pull them back. With assisted suicide, the message is 'go ahead, jump.' ...Every suicide is tragic—whether you're old or young, healthy or sick, your life is precious where you are and is worth living."¹⁵
- Born without arms, John Foppe speaks to a way of life beyond independence, namely interdependence:

"We live in a world [in which], all too often, our self-worth is bound up in what we can *do*. ... As a disabled person, I've been very tuned into this whole idea of independence: 'I don't need anybody's help'...And yeah, I get that on a certain level. But nobody's totally ever completely independent. None of us live on an island. We need each other.

...Everybody has *something* in their life. And some of those conditions make us feel broken or incomplete... But a life also yields a lot of joy, a lot of opportunity to give and to be generous and to love and to be loved. And you only do that by having the courage to step into life."¹⁶

DID YOU KNOW?

- "When a patient says *I want to die*, it may simply mean *I feel useless*. When a patient says *I don't want to be a burden*, it may really be a question, *Am I a burden?* When a patient says *I've lived a long life already*, she may really be saying *I'm tired. I'm afraid I can't keep going*. And finally, when a patient says *I might as well be dead*, he may really be saying *No one cares about me*. Many studies show that assisted suicide requests are almost always for such psychological or social reasons."¹⁷
- The root meaning of the word "compassion" "is to 'suffer with' another person. True compassion alleviates suffering while maintaining solidarity with those who suffer. It does not put lethal drugs in their hands and abandon them to their suicidal impulses."¹⁸

INTERCESSIONS

For those who struggle to find meaning in their lives:
May they find hope and reassurance in Christ
through the loving support of friends and family;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Visit the sick.
Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Counsel the doubtful.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Pray for the living and the dead.

¹⁴ William L. Toffler, MD, *Life Matters: Doctor-Assisted Death by Suicide*. (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2012).

¹⁵ Patients Rights Action Fund, "Luke's Story", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiK3B0Cofc0> (accessed June 10, 2016).

¹⁶ Patients Rights Action Fund, "John's Story: Beyond Independence", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY2VQgUzPs0> (accessed June 10, 2016).

¹⁷ William L. Toffler, MD, *Life Matters: Doctor-Assisted Death by Suicide*. (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2012).

¹⁸ USCCB, *To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishop, 2011).



SEVEN CONSIDERATIONS WHILE NAVIGATING INFERTILITY

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-8, 25:21 | Judges 13:2-24 | 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11, 18-21 | Psalm 34:19 | Psalm 61:2-5 | Isaiah 55:8-9 | Luke 1:5-25, 36-37 | Romans 12:12-13, 15

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2374-2379

COMPENDIUM OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

499-501

FROM THE POPES

- Pope St. John Paul II. Homily, Mass for the Families, February 13, 1982. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1982. No. 3 (third paragraph).
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. *Donum vitae (Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation)*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1987. II. Interventions upon Human Procreation, §B, No. 8.

- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Instruction *Dignitas personae (The Dignity of a Person)*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008. Nos. 12-23, 28-30.

USCCB RESOURCES

- **Supporting Friends Navigating Infertility**
Suggestions available online only. Access via hyperlink listed at www.usccb.org/respectlife.
- **Webpages:**
 - Infertility: <http://goo.gl/uyH587>¹⁹
 - Reproductive Technology: <http://goo.gl/ErZv4b>²⁰
 - Natural Family Planning: www.usccb.org/nfp
 - For Your Marriage: www.foryourmarriage.org
- **Begotten not Made: A Catholic View of Reproductive Technology**
Article, available online only. <http://goo.gl/9xCN53>²¹

¹⁹ "Infertility," www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/resources/infertility.cfm (accessed June 10, 2016).

²⁰ "Reproductive Technology," www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/reproductive-technology/index.cfm (accessed June 10, 2016).

²¹ John M. Haas, Ph.D., S.T.L., "Begotten Not Made: A Catholic View of Reproductive Technology", *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities*, 1998, <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/reproductive-technology/begotten-not-made-a-catholic-view-of-reproductive-technology.cfm> (accessed June 10, 2016).

- **Reproductive Technology (Evaluation & Treatment of Infertility): Guidelines for Catholic Couples**
Available online only. Listed on <http://goo.gl/uyH587> under “Resources for Catholic Couples.”
- **Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology**
Teaching document from the U.S. bishops. 20 pp. Item #1070.

SAINTS

- **Sts. Joachim and Anne:** “Tradition holds that these saints struggled with infertility and were childless for decades.”²²
- **St. Rita of Cascia:** Patron saint of infertility

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE

“We felt so hopeless at times. Words can’t even explain this experience of loss. Fortunately, our marriage only grew stronger, because we were there for each other and continued to rely on God.”²³

“As I became more educated on what IVF entails, I realized the wisdom and beauty of the Church’s teaching in upholding my dignity as a woman and in safeguarding my personal health.”²⁴

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are medical options for addressing infertility that follow Church teaching and have rates of pregnancy that are statistically significantly higher than *in vitro* fertilization (IVF).²⁵

INTERCESSIONS

For married couples experiencing difficulty conceiving a child:
May they find solace in the compassionate sensitivity of others;
We pray to the Lord:

For those longing for a child of their own:
May they find consolation in God’s tender care, and peace in the assurance of his loving plan;
We pray to the Lord:

For those whose hearts ache
for a child of their own:
May they experience the Lord’s presence
and be filled with his peace;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Comfort the sorrowful.
Instruct the ignorant.
Counsel the doubtful.
Pray for the living and the dead.



²² “Married Saints: St. Joachim & St. Anne,” <http://www.marriageuniqueforareason.org/2012/07/26/married-saints-st-joachim-st-anne/> (accessed June 10, 2016).

²³ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *Adoption Love Story* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2014).

²⁴ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-life Activities, *Life-giving Love in an Age of Technology* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2009).

²⁵ Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction, “Infertility”, *NaProTechnology.com*, <http://www.naprotechnology.com/infertility.htm> (Accessed April 15, 2016).



SERENE ATTENTIVENESS TO GOD'S CREATION

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26, 28 | Genesis 2:15 | Exodus 23:11-12 |
Leviticus 25:23

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

337-349, 356-358, 2042, 2175-2178, 2415-2418

FROM THE POPES

- Pope Paul VI. Apostolic Letter. *Octogesima Adveniens* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1971). 21.
- Pope St. John Paul II. "Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace: Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All of Creation." (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1990).
- Pope Benedict XVI. *Caritas in veritate* (*Charity in Truth*). (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2009). 51.
- Pope Benedict XVI, *Address to the German Bundestag*, Berlin (September 22, 2011). (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2011). 668.
- Pope Francis, *Laudato si'* (*On Care for our Common Home*). Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015.

USCCB RESOURCES

- **Webpage: Environmental Justice Program**
www.usccb.org/environment

• Pope Francis's New Encyclical

Blog post by Kim Daniels on *To Go Forth*.
<https://togoforth.org/2015/06/18/pope-francis-new-encyclical/>

• Caring for God's Creation: Resources for Liturgy, Preaching, and Taking Action

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/ecology-resource-all.pdf>

SAINTS

- **St. Francis of Assisi:** Patron of animals and ecology
- **St. Kateri Tekakwitha:** Patron of ecology and the environment
- **Blessed Pope Paul VI:** Wrote Apostolic Letter *Octogesima Adveniens*, in which he referred to ecological concern.

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE

"Drawing extensively from the teaching of his predecessors, the Pope teaches that care for the things of the earth is necessarily bound together with our care of one another, especially the poor. This interdependency extends from the deep respect due every human person to all living beings and to the earth where we make our home."²⁶

*Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

²⁶ Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, Statement on the Occasion of the Promulgation of *Laudato Si'*, 2015. <http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-094.cfm> (accessed June 21, 2016).

“In linking respect for human life and dignity with care for the natural world, Pope Francis follows in the footsteps of both Pope Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II, who noted that ‘respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.’”²⁷

Kim Daniels, former spokesperson for the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

DID YOU KNOW?

- “Instead of resolving the problems of the poor and thinking of how the world can be different, some can only propose a reduction in the birth rate. At times, developing countries face forms of international pressure which make economic assistance contingent on certain policies of ‘reproductive health.’”²⁸
- “Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”²⁹
- “It is troubling that, when some ecological movements defend the integrity of the environment, rightly demanding that certain limits be imposed on scientific research, they sometimes fail to apply those same principles to human life. There is a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when experimentation is carried out on living human embryos. We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development.”³⁰

INTERCESSIONS

May God grant us the grace
to respect and care for his creation,
especially those who are most vulnerable;
We pray to the Lord:

May our hearts be filled
with tenderness, compassion, and concern
for our fellow human beings,
and may we be moved to act upon

sincere love of neighbor;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Give alms to the poor
Instruct the ignorant
Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Shelter the homeless
Admonish the sinner
Forgive injuries
Pray for the living and the dead



²⁷ Kim Daniels, “Pope Francis’ New Encyclical”, 2015. <https://togoforth.org/2015/06/18/pope-francis-new-encyclical/> (accessed June 21, 2016).

²⁸ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015), no. 50.

²⁹ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015), no. 91.

³⁰ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015), no. 136.



ACCOMPANYING EXPECTANT MOTHERS CONSIDERING ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:22-2:10 | Esther 2:7 | Matthew 1:18-25 | Matthew 12:50 | Matthew 18:5 | Matthew 19:13-15 | John 14:18 | John 18:25-27 | Acts 7:20-21 | Romans 8:14-17 | Romans 8:23 | Ephesians 1:5 | James 1:27

FROM THE POPES

- Pope St. John Paul II. "Address to the Meeting of the Adoptive Families Organized by the Missionaries of Charity." September 5, 2000. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2000.

USCCB RESOURCES

- **Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan.** Pastoral Letter. (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2009), § "Gratitude."
- **Homily, Cardinal Séan P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.** "Opening Mass, National Prayer Vigil for Life." January 24, 2013. <http://goo.gl/dNurXv>
- **Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption** 8-panel brochure. Item #1646. Spanish Item #1656.
- **An Adoption Love Story** 8-panel brochure. Item #1445. Spanish Item #1455.

SAINTS

- **Mary, Mother of God**
- **St. Joseph, Husband of Mary:** Foster father of Jesus, patron saint of unborn children and fathers
- **St. Gerard Majella:** Patron of expectant mothers
- **St. William of Rochester:** Patron of adopted children
- **St. Clotilde:** Patron of parents and adopted children

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE

"I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would my biological child. There were also so many other variables to consider, one of which was the expense involved... We felt we had no control, but God reminded us again that He is always in control and that we could trust in Him. ... Andrew* is two years old now, and... we can't imagine loving a child whom we conceived more than we love Andrew. It is amazing how he fits our personalities so well. More and more every day we are so thankful to his birthmother for her selfless decision."³¹

"A woman who becomes pregnant unexpectedly may feel as though her world is ending. To women with an unplanned pregnancy, Maya* says, 'This is survivable. Have hope.'"³²

³¹ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *An Adoption Love Story*, (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2014).

³² USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2016).

DID YOU KNOW?

- “The term used more widely now [than ‘given up for adoption’] is ‘placed for adoption,’ which helps highlight the selfless generosity of birthparents in choosing an adoptive family for their child.”³³
- “Maya* ... emphasizes the need for continued support of the birth-mother and her family after the placement. Some birth-parents grieve after the placement. It doesn’t mean the decision was wrong, but simply that the experience was life-changing.” Some adoption agencies offer support services after the placement, and there are also support resources that are searchable online.³⁴

**Name changed for privacy.*

INTERCESSIONS

For expectant mothers
placing their children for adoption:
May they receive loving support
as they walk this journey;
We pray to the Lord:

For married couples considering adoption:
May the Holy Spirit guide their discernment,
grant them peace, and make possible his holy will;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Shelter the homeless
Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Comfort the sorrowful
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Pray for the living and the dead

³³ MaryPat St. Jean, “The Blessing of ‘Unanswered Prayers’: An Adoption Story”, <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/the-blessing-of-unanswered-prayers-an-adoption-story/> (accessed June 21, 2016).

³⁴ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2016).

