

## SAMPLE ACTIVITY

### Interactive Respect Life Bulletin Board

This activity utilizes the Respect Life poster to help create an interactive Respect Life bulletin board. The idea is to hang the poster in the center of a large bulletin board or other prominent area with space around it. Then, invite members of your parish, class, youth group, etc. to add their own items to the board or surrounding area that illustrate the gift of human life.

To illustrate the concept, you can pin some examples: a sonogram photo of a new family member; a birth announcement; a picture of aging grandparents; a flyer for an upcoming abortion-healing retreat; a note about volunteer opportunities at a local pregnancy center or nursing home; or a sticky note with a related prayer request. This is where you can get creative! Invite others to pin items that help illustrate the gift of human life, from beginning to end.

#### Materials

- ◆ Respect Life poster
- ◆ Large bulletin board (or a large wall or window)
- ◆ Push pins, masking tape, and/or a stapler
- ◆ Notecards or sticky notes
- ◆ Writing utensils (pens, pencils, markers)
- ◆ Scissors, *optional*
- ◆ Construction paper in various colors, *optional*



#### Directions

1. Place the poster in the center of a large bulletin board. (If you don't have a large bulletin board, you can also use a wall or window to achieve a similar result. Simply swap out push pins for masking tape.)
2. Include an explanation of the display beneath the poster so those who pass by can more fully enjoy it, or even participate.

#### *Sample Explanation*

October is Respect Life Month. This display celebrates the gift of every person's life at every stage and in every circumstance. From birth announcements and pictures of aging loved ones to prayer requests and service opportunities, all are invited to add their own items highlighting how precious every life is.

3. Decide how many items you need to get the bulletin board started. You can choose from some of the examples listed above. Or, write one of the intercessions for Respect Life Sunday/Month on a notecard and post it on the bulletin board.
4. Invite others to join in the activity by contributing their own content to the bulletin board. You will need to determine the best way to explain it and have participants bring items in. For example, if your whole parish is invited to participate, consider putting a note in the weekly bulletin and/or making an announcement before or after Mass. In a classroom or youth group setting, you can simply explain the activity and perhaps send a note home to parents. Families can also do this activity at home.

## Sample Announcements

### Last Weekend of September

Please join us in celebrating Respect Life Month during October. We will be hosting an interactive Respect Life bulletin board in the \_\_\_\_\_. All parishioners are invited to participate. You can add items to the bulletin board that show the precious gift of human life. Examples: an ultrasound photo of a new family member; a birth announcement; a picture of aging loved ones; a note about volunteer opportunities at a local pregnancy center or nursing home; or a sticky note with a prayer request. Be creative! Materials will be on hand in the \_\_\_\_\_ to help you get started.

If you would like to have your item returned, please pick it up from the display by October [date]. Contact \_\_\_\_\_ for more information: \_\_\_\_\_.

### First Weekend in October

This weekend, we celebrate Respect Life Sunday and kick off October as Respect Life Month. All parishioners are invited to contribute items to the Respect Life display located in the \_\_\_\_\_. For more information, stop by the display after Mass or see the bulletin. Contributions can be added throughout the month.

- In smaller group settings, ask participants to share why they chose their specific items and what connections they see between their contributions and how precious every human life is.

## Optional Embellishments

If you would like to be extra creative, use construction paper to decorate your bulletin board. Consider using coordinating or contrasting colors to cut out fun shapes to attach to the bulletin board. These embellishments can be added sparingly without needing to fill in the entire bulletin board to add simple pops of color and visual interest. You'll want to ensure there is still blank space to post other items.

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The following list includes additional activities that you could incorporate into your observance of Respect Life Month in your parish, school, or ministry.

- ◆ Scripture study on Psalm 139, the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), the Visitation and Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), or other Scripture passages that highlight the dignity of each person, the gift of human life, and the responsibility to protect human life.
- ◆ A prayer service, praying for those present, as well as those who take or disregard human life. (See the "Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing.") Consider providing opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of the prayer service.
- ◆ A pilgrimage to pray for the protection of human life at local sites (such as churches, chapels, and other Catholic destinations, or places where the dignity of human life is or may be violated, such as abortion facilities, prisons, and hospitals). For those unable to attend in person, consider whether it's possible to live-stream the event.
- ◆ Small group conversations on topics pertaining to respect for human life, such as abortion, capital punishment, or assisted suicide.
- ◆ A talk by a Catholic who specializes in a field relating to respect for human life, such as a doctor who could speak to a Catholic vision of hospice care or a social worker who is knowledgeable in local pregnancy care services.
- ◆ A viewing of a movie, documentary, or other age-appropriate film relating to respect for human.
- ◆ A service project (on-site or off-site) related to providing care or assistance that supports and welcomes the gift of human life (such as pregnancy care centers).