

# WORD OF LIFE: AUGUST 2023

*Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these materials at any time!*

## FEATURED THIS MONTH...

### Reflection on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2023 (Holy Day of Obligation)

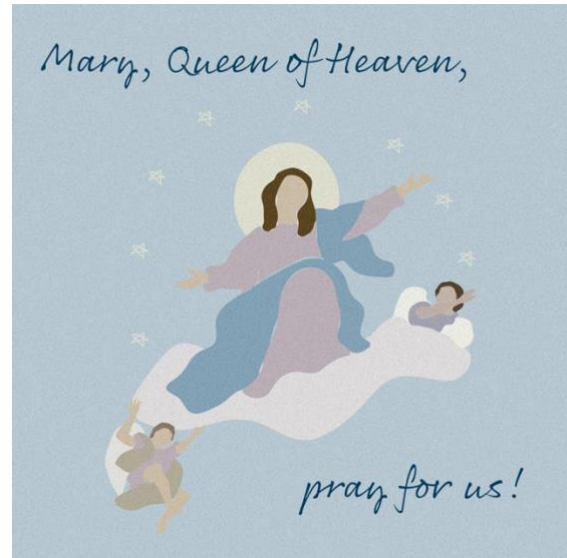
The Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates the Blessed Mother's entrance into heavenly glory. The *Catechism* explains that Mary "was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body" (CCC, 974).

Mary's Assumption into heaven reminds us that life on earth is a pilgrimage to our ultimate destination. We prepare in hope for our own passage into eternal life by the choices we make today. When we choose to love and follow God in our daily lives, we strengthen our relationship with Him, and this relationship is the true meaning of heaven: "To live in heaven is 'to be with Christ'" (CCC, 1025 citing St. Ambrose, *In Luc.*, 10, 121: PL 15 1834A.).

We can see how, throughout her life, the Blessed Mother continually chose to go deeper into her relationship with God. She modeled how to value and respect His precious gift of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural end. In the Annunciation, through her "yes," Mary witnessed to the undeniable humanity of unborn children as she conceived and carried the Christ child in her womb. After the Annunciation, having learned that her cousin Elizabeth was with child, she went in haste to her aid.

Our Blessed Mother shows us how the way we live today can prepare us, in hope, to also enter into heavenly glory at the end of our lives. Are we open to God's precious gift of new life? How do we support pregnant mothers and parents of young children? Do we prioritize showing our love to those who are ill or aging? Do we care for them in a way that respects God's gift of life?

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*



[Download](#)

#### Need a photo to go with this reflection?

*Many works of art are believed to be in the common domain and are available to download from museum websites.*

#### [The Assumption of the Virgin, Bergognone](#)

**Credit:** Bergognone, "The Assumption of the Virgin," Oil and Gold on Wood, ca. 1453-1523, Fletcher Fund, 1926, courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.

#### [The Assumption, Laurent de La Hyre](#)

**Credit:** De La Hyre, Laurent, "The Assumption," oil on canvas, ca. 1653, The Ciechanowiecki Collection, Gift of The Ahmanson Foundation, courtesy of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, second edition © 2000 LEV-USCCB. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

**View, download, and order Respect Life materials!** [www.respectlife.org](http://www.respectlife.org)

Copyright © 2023, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

## WORD OF LIFE – AUGUST 2023

### Intercessions for Life

#### August 6<sup>th</sup>

May the Lord generously provide  
for the needs of mothers  
as they dedicate themselves  
to caring for their children;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord**

#### August 13<sup>th</sup>

For those grieving after a miscarriage:  
May they be comforted by God's everlasting love  
and His presence amidst their sorrow;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

#### August 15<sup>th</sup>

For those who are gravely ill or dying:  
May our Blessed Mother ease their pain and fears,  
and by her glorious Assumption,  
console them with the hope of eternal life;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Solemnity of the Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary**

#### August 20<sup>th</sup>

For all Catholics:  
That we may steadfastly proclaim and uphold  
the dignity of all human life,  
in all stages and circumstances;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

#### August 27<sup>th</sup>

For those who are imprisoned,  
especially those facing the death penalty:  
May they be treated with the respect due  
to every human person;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**View, download, and order Respect Life materials! [www.respectlife.org](http://www.respectlife.org)**

Copyright © 2023, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

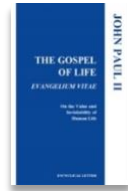
# WORD OF LIFE – AUGUST 2023

## Bulletin Quotes

### August 6th

“We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life” (EV 86).

Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



[Read Online](#)

### August 13<sup>th</sup> (Option 1)

“Although we may feel unsure how best to comfort those who mourn, we must stand with them in their time of suffering. Miscarriage touches the lives of many people, yet all too often this tragedy remains unaddressed. This lack of response not only often leads to unresolved grief, but also fails to clearly manifest our belief that each person, from conception onward, is precious and unique.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“[Solace and Strength in the Sorrow of Miscarriage](#)”



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

### August 13<sup>th</sup> (Option 2)

“Death is a decisive moment in the human person’s encounter with God the Savior. Helping the Christian to experience this moment with spiritual assistance is a supreme act of charity. It encompasses the patient with the solid support of human relationships to accompany them and open them to hope... While palliative care cannot entirely eradicate suffering from people’s lives, it provides an authentic expression of human and Christian care—allowing us to ‘remain’ at the side of a suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple *remained* at the foot of the Cross.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“[The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice](#)”

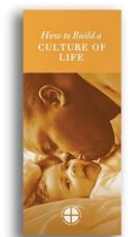


[Download](#)

### August 20<sup>th</sup>

“God’s love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather *whose* we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“[How to Build a Culture of Life](#)”



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

### August 27<sup>th</sup>

“No sin or crime is greater than God’s mercy. The sacrifice of the Cross reveals that Christ’s greatest desire is to forgive those with a repentant heart.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“[Death Penalty: Catholic Q&A](#)”



[Download](#)

View, download, and order Respect Life materials! [www.respectlife.org](http://www.respectlife.org)

Copyright © 2023, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

# WORD OF LIFE – AUGUST 2023

## Bulletin Art

*You are welcome to use these, provided they are not altered in any way, other than the size. Thank you!*

### Sunday, August 6, 2023



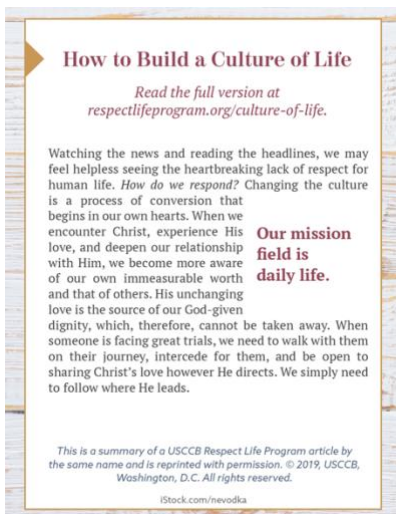
Download Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

### Sunday, August 13, 2023



Download Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

### Sunday, August 20, 2023



#### *How to Build a Culture of Life*

Download the “bulletin box” image to the left or the full bulletin insert: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

**View, download, and order Respect Life materials!** [www.respectlife.org](http://www.respectlife.org)

Copyright © 2023, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.