

## Respect Life Summer 2015 Recap

- **Opening Prayer: Every Life is Worth Living**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life.

Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain and suffering.

Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living.

Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all.

Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of Your mercy.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- **Our Petitions for Prayers and Gratitude → This is the best part of the meeting; it reminds us why we gather, not for an agenda but out of faith for our ministry**

- **Why We Gather**

- Purpose of Quarterly Meetings: For the Office of LJP and other parish ministries to share strategies for success in order to strengthen *each* parish's Respect Life Ministry
- We respect Sacred Listening
- We work from a place of consensus, not divisiveness

### FIRST 1000 DAYS: A CATHOLIC CULTURE OF LIFE INITIATIVE



Missed a 1000 Days bulletin reflection?  
Is your parish not carrying these?

**[Click here to find recent reflections](#)**

### LOS PRIMEROS 1000 DIAS: UNA CULTURA CATOLICA DE LA INICIATIVA DE VIDA



¿Se perdió las reflexiones del boletín de los Primeros 1000 Días? Encuentre las más reciente reflexiones en el sitio web.

**<http://www.archdpx.org/jprespect/1000-dias.html>**

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- **News, Issues and Events:**

### **Day of Prayer for Care of Creation** -- Pope Francis calls for prayer on Sept. 1st

Pope Francis is inviting all Catholics to participate in an annual **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, beginning Sept. 1, 2015. The day offers individuals and communities "a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation."

**A Prayer to Care for Our Common Home** is available for use.

**Two beautiful prayers** are also included at the end of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

### **Friday September 11: Portland 40 Days for Life Opening Mass** 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, 1623 NW 19th Avenue, Portland, OR 97296

With Archbishop Alexander Sample

Co-Sponsored by the Office of Life, Justice & Peace

The 40 Days for Life campaign is the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization. It is a focused respect-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer and fasting, and 40 days of peaceful vigils.

Why You Want to Attend: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5)

### **Wednesday September 23 - Saturday November 1: Portland 40 Days for Life Vigils.** 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Public right-of-way outside Lovejoy Surgicenter, 933 NW 25th Avenue, Portland

**OPENING PRAYER VIGIL:** 6:30pm.

Co-Sponsored by the Office of Life, Justice and Peace

Why You Want to Attend: The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred...We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

### **Saturday September 26 "Rediscover What's Written in Your Heart" with Fr. Mike Vuky.** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm at St. Pius X Catholic Church Community Center, 1280 NW Saltzman Rd, Portland.

Fr. Mike Vuky will speak about what is written in our hearts to help us promote life. Hear Fr. Mike discuss Natural Law, Catholic Morality and Formation of Conscience tools that guide sound orthodox doctrine which can be integrated and applied in our lives of faith against the secular culture of death.

Light refreshments will be served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT [TONY D'SILVA](#) OR 503-645-1529.

**LIFE CHAIN:** Last Sunday in October. A peaceful, prayerful, public witness of pro-life Americans standing in honor of 57 million lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED. [TONY D'SILVA](#) OR 503-645-1529

- How to maximize participation from all Catholic churches in our archdiocese
- How to encourage their congregations to come out and support this event

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**RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM: Theme:** Every Life is Worth Living → Respect Life Ministries that pre-ordered the packet from the Office received the packet at the meeting or will be mailed.

The theme is meant to remind us of this basic truth of our existence. It is especially timely in light of the renewed push for legalizing assisted suicide in many states, but is also applicable to the wide spectrum of life issues.

**Articles:** 7 full-color pamphlet articles (*ENGLISH AND SPANISH OR DOWNLOAD AS BULLETIN INSERTS!*)

- **10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting**  
This article provides simple, concrete tips on how to provide loving, life-affirming support for a friend who is unexpectedly pregnant. Geared towards young adults, but contains advice that is applicable in various situations.
- **A Perfect Gift**  
One parent shares a “secret” learned from the experience of having a child with Down syndrome—a secret that is fundamental to understanding ourselves and what it means to be human. This article gives an inside glimpse into the love-illuminated life of raising a child with special needs.
- **Maggie’s Story: Living like Dad**  
Years ago, Maggie accompanied her father in his final days and now lives with her own diagnosis of a terminal illness. In this article, she shares about these experiences and her opposition to assisted suicide in light of them. This story of hope and courage is a companion to a three-minute online video, “Maggie’s Story,” viewable at [www.goo.gl/4HM81b](http://www.goo.gl/4HM81b).
- **10 Surprising Tips for Love the Culture Won’t Tell You**  
Written for teens from the perspective of a young adult, this article provides a simple introduction to chastity and basic tips for practicing and growing in the virtue of it.
- **Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis**  
Introduces “perinatal hospice,” a model of care for children—and the families of such children—who are expected to pass away before or shortly after birth. Provides practical guidance for friends and family, the parish community, and clergy and pastoral care workers.
- **Love, Sex, and Sterilization**  
This article explores the Church’s beautiful teaching on love and sexuality, as it pertains to sterilization, with encouragement and an invitation to deeper relationships with God and with one’s spouse.
- **Love 101: Back to Basics**  
Written for young adults from the perspective of a young adult, this article looks at the reasons for and benefits of practicing chastity, focusing especially on chastity within a romantic context.

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**Prayer & Program Guide** (*FORMERLY CALLED THE LITURGY GUIDE*): Contains suggestions for “Every Life is Worth Living”-themed parish or classroom display; homily notes for Respect Life Sunday; intercessions for Respect Life Sunday and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (also the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*); Coffee and Conversation – discussion guide for articles; and 9 Days for Life summary, promotional flyer, and novena.

**Prayer Card:** This 2” x 3.5” (standard business card size) prayer card is based on the 2015-16 Respect Life Program theme, “Every Life is Worth Living.” It is perfect for joint prayer after Mass and distribution to parishioners to carry with them and pray daily during Respect Life Month and throughout the year. Full-color on the front, black text on the back. (*Available to order in either English or Spanish.*)

### Respect Life Program Kit Folder

Attractive, full-color 9” x 12” pocket folder; ideal for holding Respect Life Program articles and related materials.

### Online-only Materials

Additional NEW materials will be available online at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife). Check back for the latest materials, including bulletin inserts, homily notes, and images for bulletins and social media.

### Suggestions for Observing Respect Life Month

*Here are five simple steps for promoting Respect Life Sunday/Month:*

1. USE the bulletin/pulpit announcements, flyer, poster, and other materials available at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife) **with the permission of your pastor or other relevant authority (such as school principal, etc.)**
  - *Three or four weeks before Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015):* Ask your pastor if he would consider incorporating this year’s theme into the homily and intercessions on Respect Life Sunday and/or throughout Respect Life Month. Share the homily suggestions and suggested intercessions for Respect Life Sunday with him to let him know they’re available.
  - *Two weeks before Respect Life Sunday:* Ask your pastor beforehand to make an announcement from the pulpit directing people to an announcement in the parish bulletin requesting family photos for use in the Respect Life Month display. (See [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife) for suggested wording.)
  - *The week before Respect Life Sunday:* Set up display, hang poster in prominent location, and insert flyer into bulletins as bulletin insert.
2. ANNOUNCE: On Respect Life Sunday, make congregation aware of the meaning of Respect Life Sunday/Month, and draw their attention to the display and bulletin insert (flyer). Presider may use suggested homily notes and intercessions during Mass.

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3. **PRAY:** Encourage parishes, schools, ministries, and individuals to pray the prayer daily during Respect Life Month, beginning on Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015). Distribute the prayer physically and through e-newsletters, bulletins, and social media.
4. **INVITE:** Invite people to stop by the display, take a look at (and/or take home) materials provided (such as the articles), learn about the activities of the parish pro-life committee, sign up to learn more about upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer, and visit [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife) to learn about people's personal stories through some of the articles, as well as to download other online-only images for social media.
5. **CONTINUE:** After Respect Life Sunday/Month has concluded, continue to use the 2015-16 Respect Life Program materials throughout the rest of the year.

### Additional Suggestions for Use and Implementation of the 2015-16 Respect Life Program Materials THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- **Theme:** Incorporate the theme into projects, events, and programs throughout the year (not just "pro-life" venues, but in collaboration with related departments, committees, and ministries). Sponsor a children's and/or youth contest with categories such as art, video, essay, short story, or poetry. Feature the winner(s) in the parish bulletin, school newsletter, diocesan newspaper, or at a special event.
- **Poster:** Hang the poster up in a prominent area such as the parish vestibule, school entrance bulletin board, school classroom, or RCIA or Parish School of Religion classroom.
- **Flyer:** Post the flyer on the parish or classroom bulletin board. Use it as a bulletin insert. Read it aloud or give to participants to read quietly as an introductory reflection prior to presentations dealing with the dignity of the human person, the corporal works of mercy, etc. Share it in a newsletter.
- **Prayer Card:** Pray after Mass or before class. Pray before Respect Life committee meetings. Distribute to parishioners, students, or members of youth or young adult ministries, and encourage daily or weekly or use the same day each week. Encourage use of the prayer daily during Respect Life Month, beginning on Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015).
- **Articles:**
  - Highlight one of the articles each month through one or more of the following methods: parish bulletins (new format of bulletin inserts for each article available at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife)), high school classes, RCIA, Parish School of Religion, e-newsletters, social media, etc.
  - Use the "Coffee and Conversation" discussion guide in the classroom, parish small groups, RCIA, Parish School of Religion, as a springboard for a one-time event or 7-week special topics series, within youth, campus, or young adult ministries, etc. Follow up with an event or project based on the article discussed.

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For example, host a donation drive for the local pregnancy care center, visit a nursing home, set up a support network for families facing serious illnesses of loved ones, etc.

- **Prayer & Program Guide:**

- Parish/School Display Suggestions: Set up a display for Respect Life Sunday or Month using the suggestions provided or your own method and design. Although the title references parishes and schools, the idea is easily adaptable for other groups like campus ministries, college pro-life clubs, etc.
- Homily suggestions: Make your pastor aware of these homily suggestions for use during Respect Life Month or another appropriate occasion. Use them as a springboard for a special talk or presentation.
- Intentions: Make your pastor and/or parish staff aware of these suggested intentions for use on Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015) and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (January 22, also the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*). Incorporate these intentions into other appropriate occasions, such as confirmation and marriage preparation retreats, school Masses, etc. Highlight one intention each month in the parish bulletin, high school religion class, school newsletter, diocesan newspaper, etc.
- Coffee & Conversation: (See above under “Articles.”)
- *9 Days for Life* Summary: Share in advance with other people and groups that might be interested in collaborating on *9 Days for Life* events and programming in January. Interested parties might be youth and/or young adult ministers, high school and college campus ministers, high school and college pro-life groups, high school religion teachers, etc. The materials are also appropriate for use by generations older than youth and young adults. Be sure to check back in the coming months for updated materials accessible through [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com).
- *9 Days for Life* Flyer: Use in promotion of *9 Days for Life* and share with interested parties (see above).
- *9 Days for Life* Novena: Reproduce and distribute the novena to students, clubs, parish groups and committees, parishioners, and other interested individuals. Pray the first day of the novena as a community (parish, youth group, school, etc.), and then encourage participants to continue praying the novena throughout the following 8 days. (Please note the novena is available in either English or Spanish via email, text message, online, or through a mobile app.)

- **Folder:** Use the folder to package materials for retreats, conferences, and events—specifically “pro-life” or otherwise. Use them for students, as the holder of welcoming materials for new parishioners, or just for personal use.

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- **Closing Prayer: A Christian prayer in union with creation**

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
**PRAISE BE TO YOU!**

Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.  
**PRAISE BE TO YOU!**

Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
**PRAISE BE TO YOU!**

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
**PRAISE BE TO YOU!**  
Amen. - Pope Francis

**NOVEMBER MEETING: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 7:00PM**