Happy Thanksgiving!
For all of the gifts God has so graciously given; for all of the life He has lovingly formed; for all of the joy He has in my soul arisen, I praise HIM and thank HIM for ever more. AMEN

IMPORTANT DATES

All Saints Day  
[Holy Day of Obligation]  
Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Veterans Day  
Saturday, November 11, 2017

Thanksgiving Day  
Thursday, November 23, 2017

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
[Holy Day of Obligation]  
Friday, December 8, 2017

Lessons and Carols  
Madison Diocesan Choir  
Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 4:00 pm  
Holy Name Heights  
Madison

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord  
[Holy Day of Obligation]  
Monday, December 25, 2017

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Monday, January 1, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Office of Worship  
   - Praying the Mass with Abbot Rooney  
   - November Saints  
   - Praying for the Dead – Part V of the OCF

2. Office of Stewardship & Development:  
   - November Offertory Report

3. Office of Evangelization & Catechesis:  
   - Totus Tuus Registration Summer 2018  
   - Seat of Wisdom - Core Basic Schedule  
   - Seat of Wisdom - Liturgy /Theology Schedule

4. Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities:  
   - Beginning on Sunday, November 5th, the Apostolate TV Mass will air at 6:00 am on WISC-TV Chanel 3 (Charter 9). The Mass can also been seen at 7:00 am on TVW (Channel 3.2 for those without cable but with antennas and Charter 14) and Direct TV 14.

5. Office of the Vicar General:  
   - Pastoral Handbook Updates  
   - Intercessions for Life (English & Spanish)  
   - Ethics and Medics

~ In all things, give thanks ~

Dates the Chancery will be closed:  
~ November 23 & 24, 2017  
In Celebration of Thanksgiving  
~ December 22, 2017 – January 2, 2018  
In Celebration of the Nativity of the Lord
Join us in this series which will explore the Mass with Abbot Marcel Rooney, OSB, former Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order and an advisor to Popes. Abbot Rooney will discuss some history of the Mass and reflect upon how we can pray the Mass rather than simply pray at Mass. Join us for one session or for all for all four!

All sessions are free. A voluntary offering will be taken.

An Introduction to Praying the Mass
Saturday, September 23, 2017 (9-11 a.m.)

Praying the Introductory Rites & Liturgy of the Word (1)
Saturday, November 4, 2017 (9-11 a.m.)

Praying the Liturgies of the Word (2) & Eucharist (1)
Saturday, January 20, 2018 (9-11 a.m.) | Snow date: January 27

Praying the Liturgy of the Eucharist (2)
Saturday, February 10, 2018 (9-11 a.m.) | Snow date: February 17

Praying the Mass instead of Praying at Mass
Saturday, April 7, 2018 (9-11 a.m.)

In case of inclement weather, please call (608) 821-3081 or visit www.madisondioce.org/worship on the day of the workshop for possible cancelation information.

Name ___________________________ Parish & City/Town ___________________________

☐ I would like to attend all of the sessions.
☐ I can only attend the workshop(s) on the following day(s) ___________________________

Email and/or phone ___________________________ Any special needs? ___________________________

Please return to The Office of Worship ♦ 702 S. High Point Road, Suite 225 ♦ Madison, WI 53719
worship@straphael.org ♦ Tel. (608) 821-3080 ♦ Fax (608) 440-2811
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All Saints</td>
<td>All Souls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Martin de Porres</td>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>St. Margaret of Scotland</td>
<td>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</td>
<td>St. Leo the Great</td>
<td>St. Martin of Tours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>St. Frances Cabrini</td>
<td>St. Albert the Great</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth of Hungary</td>
<td>Venerable H. DeLille</td>
<td>Dedication of Basilicas of St. Peter &amp; St. Paul</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November is a month in which the Church remembers the dead. On the first day of the month we celebrate All Saints Day (a holy day of obligation this year) when we call to mind the countless saints, many of whom are known only to God. The next day we pray for All Souls who have gone to God. We pray for our deceased in the sure and certain hope that they will see God face to face.

St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639) is the patron saint of social justice and race relations. Pray for our country today, especially for racial equality and harmony.

St. Charles Borromeo (1538-84) was the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan. In spite of his lofty position, he was known for his humility and service to others. Are you humble? What could you do to become even more humble?

In November, the Church celebrates the dedication day of three of the four papal basilicas in Rome. The Lateran Basilica is the Cathedral of the Diocese of Rome, and therefore the Mother Church of Catholics throughout the world. The Basilica of St. Peter, within the border of the Vatican itself, is built over the remains of Saint Peter, our first pope. The Basilica of Saint Paul is often referred to as “outside the walls” (of the ancient city of Rome). The remains of St. Paul are thought to rest underneath the main altar. These two days are, above all, days to reflect on the universality of the faith and pray that God unites his Church in love.

St. Pope Leo the Great (†461) was the first pope to be called “The Great.” He was an excellent teacher, but he is probably best known for standing up to Attila the Hun in 452, and saving the city of Rome. Is there some evil in your life that you need to bar from the doors of your heart?

St. Martin of Tours (316-97) followed in his father’s footsteps and became a soldier. After having a vision of Christ, he was baptized and eventually became the Bishop of Tours. Today, pray for the well-being of soldiers.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) was the first naturalized American citizen to be declared a saint. A native of Italy, she came to America to minister to Italian immigrants in New York City & Chicago. During her lifetime she founded 67 institutions which provided health care, housing, and other ministries to serve the poor.

St. Albert the Great (1206-1280) was a famous Dominican teacher (one student was St. Thomas Aquinas!). Today, pray for teachers and for the men and women of the Dominican Order.

On these two days the Church honors three women who tirelessly worked to help those who were hungry, poor and sick. St. Margaret of Scotland (November 16, c. 1045-93) and St. Elizabeth of Hungary (November 17, 1207-31) were both of royal blood. Each was also a wife and mother. Both opened their lives and their homes to the poor and sick and used their riches to help others. Venerable Henriette DeLille (November 17, 1812-62) is the first African-American born in the United States who is being considered for sainthood. She was the child of an interracial couple in New Orleans and, since she was a woman of color, faced many obstacles from the community and even from the Church. She is known as the Servant to the Slaves and Witness to the Poor. In honor of these three women, reflect upon how you use your time, talent and treasure for others, especially those most often forgotten or ridiculed by society.

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary honors her parents’ fulfillment of the Jewish custom of presenting a child in the Temple. Pray for your children (and all children) today. Ask the Blessed Mother to pray for them, too.

St. Cecilia (3rd century virgin & martyr) was a strong woman who faced death rather than giving up her faith. She also is the patron saint of musicians. Pray for your parish music ministers today.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions were 19th-century Vietnamese martyrs. Among these martyrs are bishops, priests and laity from Europe and Vietnam. Today, pray for all who evangelize, even in areas that are hostile to Christianity.

St. Catherine of Alexandria was a 4th century martyr. She zealously spread the Good News, which eventually led to her martyrdom. Share your faith with someone today.

St. Andrew is the brother of St. Peter. When Christ called them, they immediately left all behind and followed the Lord. Pray for the grace to hear the Lord’s call and to follow it without hesitation.
November

Praying for the Dead

The Diocese of Madison Office of Worship
702 S. High Point Road, Suite 225 | Madison, Wisconsin 53719
(608) 821-3080 | worship@straphael.org | www.madisondiocese.org/worship

November is the month when the Church urges us to reflect on our own mortality. Beginning with All Saints and All Souls Days, we have several weeks to reflect upon the death of a Christian.

The *Order of Christian Funerals* [OCF] is the rite proper to the liturgical celebrations of the funeral rites. While these rites are well known to most Catholic clergy and lay leaders, there is a section of the OCF which sometimes is overlooked. Part V, simply titled “Additional Texts,” is a treasure trove of prayers and texts to be used in particular circumstances, including

♦ Additional prayers for the dead (these prayers may be used at the Vigil, as the Collect of the Funeral Mass, as a prayer concluding the General Intercessions, or at the graveside.
  ◇ 13 general prayers
  ◇ 10 prayers for clergy and religious
  ◇ 1 prayer for one who worked in the service of the Gospel
  ◇ 2 prayers for a baptized child
  ◇ 2 prayers for a young person
  ◇ 2 prayers for parents
  ◇ 3 prayers for married couples
  ◇ 1 prayer each for a husband and wife
  ◇ 1 prayer for a deceased non-Christian married to a Catholic
  ◇ 2 prayers for an elderly person
  ◇ 2 prayers for one who died after a long illness
  ◇ 1 prayer for one who died suddenly
  ◇ 1 prayer for one who died accidentally or violently
  ◇ 2 prayers for one who died by suicide
  ◇ 2 prayers for several persons

♦ Prayers for the Mourners
  ◇ 7 general prayers
  ◇ 5 for those mourning the death of a baptized child
  ◇ 2 prayers for those mourning the death of a child who died before baptism
  ◇ 1 prayer for those mourning for a still-born child

♦ Alternative texts for the placing of Christian Symbols

♦ Additional General Intercessions and Litanies (included some specifically to be used for the funeral of a deceased child)

♦ Additional texts for the Final Commendation and Farewell
  ◇ 5 alternative Invitations to Prayer
  ◇ 7 alternative Songs of Farewell
  ◇ 1 Prayer of Commendation for a baptized person
  ◇ 2 Prayers of Commendation for a baptized child

Parish Name: ______________________ City: _____________________________

Prepared By: _______________________________________________________

Daytime Phone: _____________ Email Address: _________________________

Diocesan Sponsored Program:  □ Offertory only  □ Time, Talent, and Treasure

□ Not currently participating in a program

**Month of November, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekends Included</th>
<th>Offertory Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This month in 2017: four weekends</td>
<td>Nov. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This month in 2016: four weekends</td>
<td>Nov. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Total Increase \ Decrease:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage**

□ Increase

□ Decrease

______________ %

Please email, fax, or mail this report to *Office of Stewardship & Development*.

If you would like to receive this form in an electronic version by e-mail, or have any other questions please contact:

**Office of Stewardship & Development**

Diocese of Madison
Office of Stewardship and Development
Phone - 608-821-3039
Fax - 608-709-7610
E-mail – stewardship@straphael.org
Welcome to Totus Tuus!

To reserve a week for Totus Tuus in the summer of 2018, please return this completed form and a check for the $750 deposit to the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. The total cost to bring a Totus Tuus team to your parish is $1,600.00. **Week assignments are determined by registrations submitted on a first come, first serve basis.** It is the intention of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis to employ 2 Totus Tuus teams which allows 12 parishes to host a Totus Tuus week.

Please choose three dates out of the dates provided and number 1-3 according to your preference. Note that **not all parishes receive their first choice** so please list alternative dates which must be a viable option.

Parishes are asked to remit the $850 balance of the program fee to the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis the week after Totus Tuus is hosted at your parish. If there are payment difficulties or questions, please contact Marie Lins at (608) 821-3135.

If circumstances arise where your parish is no longer able to host Totus Tuus, a refund excluding your deposit of $750 will be given prior to May 1, 2018. After May 1, no refunds will be given for any cancellations.

If you have any questions, please call Marie Lins, Totus Tuus Coordinator at (608) 821-3135 or email totustuus@madisondiocese.org Please send your completed registration form and deposit to:

**Diocese of Madison**
Office of Evangelization and Catechesis
Attn: Totus Tuus
702 S. High Point Rd., Ste. 225
702 S. High Point Rd.
Madison, WI 53719
Parish Information

Parish Name__________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _______________ Zip_____________

Parish Phone ___________________________

Contact Person Information

Contact Person ________________________________

Address ______________________________________

City __________________________ State _______________ Zip __________

Phone __________________________ Email _______________________

Please mark your first choice as #1, second as #2, and third as #3.
Please keep in consideration school dates, sports dates, Pastor’s vacation, youth conferences, etc.*

Week #1 June 10-15 _____          Week #4 July 8-13 _____
Week #2 June 17- 22 _____          Week #5 July 15-20 _____
Week #3 June 24- 29 _____          Week #6 July 22- 27 _____

_________________________________________            __________________________________
Signature of Pastor                        Signature of Parish Contact

___________________________            ___________________________
Name of Pastor (Print)                        Name of Parish Contact (Print)

*Please be aware that Confession (10:45am) followed by Mass (11:15am) are offered every day during the week. Tuesday night of the Evening Program is Adoration and Confession.
Core Basic Schedule of Classes  
2017-2018

Core Basic Curriculum at Holy Name Heights (Bishop O’Connor Center)  
702 South High Point Road, Madison, WI

- Saturday, October 21, 2017, 9am- 4pm  
  - *An Introduction to Sacred Scripture and Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- Saturday, November 11, 2017, 9am- 4pm  
  - *Introduction to Sacred Scripture: The Bible Timeline*

- Saturday, December 9, 2017, 9am- 4pm  
  - *Creed: What Catholics Believe*

- Saturday, January 20, 2018, 9am- 4pm  
  - *Sacraments: Celebration of the Christian Mystery*

- Saturday, February 17, 2018, 9am- 4pm  
  - *Life in Christ: Christian Morality*

- Saturday, March 17, 2018, 9am- 4pm  
  - *Christian Prayer*

- Saturday, April 14, 2018, 9am- 4pm  
  - *Evangelization (Basic & Intermediate/Advanced)*

- Saturday, May 12, 2018, 9am- 4pm  
  - *Catechesis (Basic & Intermediate/Advanced)*

Please register for Seat of Wisdom courses online at the Seat of Wisdom page at [www.madisondiocese.org/seatofwisdom](http://www.madisondiocese.org/seatofwisdom) or by calling the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis at 608-821-3160 or email oec@madisondiocese.org
The Liturgy and Theology of the Sacraments with Abbot Marcel Rooney, OSB
Advanced Curriculum at Holy Name Heights (Bishop O’Connor Center) 9am-12pm

- September 9, 2017
  - The Sacrament of Baptism (Part 1)

- October 7, 2017
  - The Sacrament of Baptism (Part 2)

- November 18, 2017
  - The Sacrament of Confirmation

- December 2, 2017
  - The Holy Eucharist (Part 1)

- January 6, 2018
  - The Holy Eucharist (Part 2)

- February 3, 2018
  - The Sacrament of Reconciliation

- March 3, 2018
  - The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

- April 28, 2018
  - The Sacrament of Holy Orders

- May 5, 2018
  - The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Please Register for Seat of Wisdom Courses online at www.madisondiocese.org/seatofwisdom
or by calling the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis at 608-821-3160
or email oec@madisondiocese.org
Beginning on Sunday, November 5, 2017, the Apostolate TV Mass will air at 6:00 am instead of 7:00 am on WISC-TV Chanel 3 (Charter 9). The Mass can also been seen at 7:00 am on TVW (Channel 3.2 for those without cable but with antennas and Charter 14) and Direct TV 14.
## Wisconsin Pastoral Handbook Changes

### NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| E-22 | Parishes  
SULLIVAN  
St. Mary help of Christians  
**Change** smaryhoc@gmail.com |
| E-27 | Priests  
CONNELL, Rev. William R. '75  
Main St. Apartments  
**Change** 511 Commerce, Apt. #418 |
Week of Awareness for Persecuted Christians  
**November 26-December 2, 2017**

Participate in a Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians on November 26, the Solemnity of Christ the King, and a Week of Awareness continuing through December 2.

Use #SolidarityInSuffering, and visit our website for these and other resources:

- Homily Notes
- Intercessions
- Logos for Local Use

**Pray for Life:** [Website / Subscribe](#)

*Monthly messages with pro-life prayer intentions, short reflections, suggested actions, and more!*

**Intercession:** May we help each other on our earthly pilgrimage to heaven.

**Reflection:** The annual observances of All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2) remind us that “death is not the end, but rather the door through which we must pass to gain eternal life.” ([more](#))

**Upcoming…**

**9 Days for Life: January 18-January 26, 2018**

*An annual period of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life.* [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)

*“One Night of Prayer, Penance, and Pilgrimage”* is a short guide suggesting ideas for introducing 9 Days for Life with a special event or as part of regular programming. Although developed for youth and young adult ministers, the suggestions are adaptable for other age groups.
WORD OF LIFE – NOVEMBER 2017

Intercessions for Life

November 1st

For all Christians:
May we look forward to
the resurrection of the dead
by preparing now, in hope,
for our passage from this life into eternal life;
We pray to the Lord:

Solemnity of All Saints

November 5th

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

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12th

For all Catholics:
May the real presence of Jesus
in the Eucharist strengthen us
in welcoming and protecting each human life;
We pray to the Lord:

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19th

For our parish community:
May the Holy Spirit reveal to each of us
how we are called to share
the Gospel of life with joy;
We pray to the Lord:

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 26th

For all our brothers and sisters
fleeing persecution and war
in the Middle East and around the world:
May they find safe haven and protection;
We pray to the Lord:

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

View, download, and order the 2017-2018 Respect Life Program materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife
Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.
WORD OF LIFE – NOVEMBER 2017

Bulletin Briefs

November 1st

“Those who die in God’s grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding.”

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

November 5th

“Heavenly Father…If it be your will, bless those who are pursuing adoption, …and send them a child to love.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Novena to St. Joseph: For Those on the Path of Adoption”
(Originally published in the 2016-17 Respect Life Resource Guide)

November 12th

“Christ came to liberate us from the cycle of violence by showing us how to love and be merciful. …As the culture of death threatens to electively select who does and who does not deserve life, we must uphold that all human life has invaluable dignity and worth.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

November 19th

“Building a culture of life isn't something we just do one month of the year, or with one event or initiative—it's essential to who we are. It happens through our daily actions, how we treat one another, and how we live our lives.”

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Chair
USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities
2017 Respect Life Month Statement, https://goo.gl/NSMjxT

November 26th

“By focusing on the most vulnerable members of society, we strengthen the entire fabric of society to protect the rights of all.”

Archbishop William E. Lori, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty
“Solidarity at the Service of All People in the Middle East,” https://goo.gl/nAUXNQ
WORD OF LIFE - NOVEMBER 2017

Bulletin Art

You are welcome to use these and other downloadable images from the online Respect Life image gallery on the condition that they are not altered in any way, other than the size. Thank you!

Sunday, November 5, 2017
Featuring “Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption”

- Bulletin Insert (Color): English / Spanish
- Bulletin Insert (Black-and-White): English / Spanish
- Download Image: English / Spanish

Sunday, November 26, 2017
Featuring Christians of the Middle East

- Prayer Card: English / Spanish
- Download Image: English / Spanish

View, download, and order the 2017-2018 Respect Life Program materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife

Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.
PALABRA DE VIDA: NOVIEMBRE DE 2017
¡Se recomiendan fechas, pero se pueden utilizar estos materiales en cualquier momento!
(Ten en cuenta que los sitios digitales son mencionados están en inglés a menos que se indique lo contrario, pero muchos de sus materiales también se proporcionan en español.)

Semana para tomar conciencia de los cristianos perseguido
26 de noviembre al 2 de diciembre de 2017
Participe en una Jornada de oración por los cristianos perseguidos el 26 de noviembre, Solemnidad de Cristo Rey, y una Semana PARA tomar conciencia que continuará hasta el 2 de diciembre.

Usa #SolidarityInSuffering, y visita nuestro sitio digital para estos recursos y otros:
- Tarjeta de oración
- Logos para uso local

Muy pronto…
9 días por la vida: 18 de enero-26 de enero de 2018
Un periodo de oración y acción anual enfocado en atesorar el don de la vida de cada persona. www.9daysforlife.com

“Noche de oración, penitencia y peregrinación” es una guía corta que sugiere ideas para presentar 9 días por la vida con un acto especial o como parte de la programación regular. Aunque fue creado para ministerios de jóvenes y adultos jóvenes, las sugerencias se adaptan para otras edades.

¡Mira, baja y solicita los materiales del Programa Respetemos la Vida 2017-2018! www.usccb.org/respectlife

Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. Todos los derechos reservados.
PALABRA DE VIDA: NOVIEMBRE DE 2017

Intercesiones por la Vida

1 de noviembre
Por todos los cristianos:
que anticipemos
la resurrección de los muertos
preparándonos ahora, en la esperanza,
para nuestro pasaje de esta vida a la vida eterna;
roguemos al Señor:

5 de noviembre
Por las parejas casadas que consideran adoptar:
para que el Espíritu Santo guíe su discernimiento,
les conceda paz, y cumplan su santa voluntad;
roguemos al Señor:

12 de noviembre
Por todos los católicos:
que la presencia de Jesús
en la Eucaristía nos fortalezca
para acoger y proteger cada vida humana;
roguemos al Señor:

19 de noviembre
Por nuestra comunidad parroquial:
que el Espíritu Santo revele a cada uno de nosotros
cómo estamos llamados a compartir
el Evangelio de la vida con alegría;
roguemos al Señor:

26 de noviembre
Por todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas
que huyen de la persecución y la guerra
en Medio Oriente y en todo el mundo:
que encuentren un refugio seguro y protección;
roguemos al Señor:

¡Mira, baja y solicita los materiales del Programa Respetemos la Vida 2017-2018!  www.usccb.org/respectlife

Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. Todos los derechos reservados.
## Citas para boletines

### 1 de noviembre

“Los que mueren en la gracia y amistad de Dios viven para siempre con Cristo. El cielo no es una idea abstracta, sino una relación verdadera y duradera con Dios que está más allá de toda descripción y entendimiento terrenal”.

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB

### 5 de noviembre

“Padre celestial...Si es tu voluntad, bendice a los que están buscando adoptar, ...y envíales un niño a quien amar”.

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB
"Novena a San José: para los que se encuentran en el camino de la adopción,"
(Originalmente publicada en la Guía de Recursos Respetemos la Vida 2016-17)

### 12 de noviembre

“Cristo vino para liberarnos del ciclo de violencia mostrándonos cómo amar y ser misericordioso. …Mientras la cultura de la muerte pueda decidir quién merece la vida y quién no, debemos sostener que toda vida humana tiene dignidad y valía invaluables”.

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB
“Pena de muerte: Preguntas y respuestas católicas”. [www.goo.gl/k1NEdP](http://www.goo.gl/k1NEdP)

### 19 de noviembre

“Construir una cultura de la vida no es algo que solo hacemos un mes del año, o con una actividad o iniciativa: es esencial a quienes somos. Sucede por medio de nuestras acciones diarias, cómo nos tratamos unos a otros, y cómo vivimos nuestra vida”.

Cardenal Timothy M. Dolan, Presidente
Comité para las Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB
2017 Declaración del Mes Respetemos la Vida, [www.goo.gl/ZnF183](http://www.goo.gl/ZnF183)

### 26 de noviembre

“Al enfocarnos en los miembros más vulnerables de la sociedad, fortalecemos toda la trama de la sociedad para proteger los derechos de todos”.

Arzobispo William E. Lori, Presidente
Comité Ad-Hoc de Libertad Religiosa
“Solidaridad al servicio de todas las personas en el Medio Oriente”,
(solo en inglés: [www.goo.gl/nAUXNQ](http://www.goo.gl/nAUXNQ))
PALABRA DE VIDA: NOVIEMBRE DE 2017

Arte para boletín

_Usted puede usar estas y otras imágenes para bajar de la galería de imágenes en Internet Respetemos la Vida con la condición de que no se modifiquen de ningún modo, excepto en el tamaño._ ¡Gracias!

---

Domingo, 5 de noviembre de 2017

_Presenta “Acompañamiento de madres gestantes que están considerando dar en adopción”_

- Folleto para el boletín (color): español / inglés
- Folleto para el boletín (blanco y negro): español / inglés
- Bajar imagen: español / inglés

---

Domingo, 26 de noviembre de 2017

_Presenta Cristianos del Medio Oriente_

- Tarjeta de oración: español / inglés
- Bajar imagen: español / inglés

---

¡Mira, baja y solicita los materiales del Programa Respetemos la Vida 2017-2018! [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife)

Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. Todos los derechos reservados.
My Name Was Charlie Gard

Rev. Gerald D. Coleman, PSS

My name was Charles Gard, but everyone called me Charlie. I was eleven months old when my parents decided to end a contentious legal fight and allow me to die. I was born in West London on August 4, 2016. My dad, Chris, is a postman and my mom’s name is Connie. They are still young, only in their thirties. At birth, I seemed to be developing normally, but by October, it was apparent that I was not gaining weight. I was then admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit at London’s Great Ormond Street Hospital, one of the world’s leading children’s hospitals, and treated for encephalomyopathic mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome, a rare genetic condition which prevents cells from producing sufficient energy to maintain normal bodily functions. Experts on my form of MDDS, called RRM2B, unanimously agreed that there was no cure or treatment. At the time of my death on July 27, 2017, it was thought that only sixteen children globally have this condition.

Who Decides My Case?

Because I could not breathe on my own, I suffered catastrophic and irreversible brain damage and was placed on life support. My muscles were weak, I was deaf, and I suffered from persistent epileptic seizures beginning on December 15, 2016, despite being on four types of anti-seizure medications. Doctors also observed that my skull had not grown in three months, an indicator of deficient brain development. I was not able to respond to my parents, and I did not know if I was awake or asleep. But I did experience some significant pain, and my doctors believed that “being ventilated, being suctioned . . . are all capable of causing pain.” These symptoms led them to describe me as nonresponsive.

Justice in the United States is considerably affected by the American esteem for personal autonomy and respect for personal rights: “Our health system . . . so powerfully protects the rights of the individual that we could not imagine justice . . . that did not privilege informed consent.” Americans would insist that my rights would be properly interpreted only by my parents. This understanding of justice differs from that in the health care system of the United Kingdom, where it is presumed that the courts, relying on the evidence presented by doctors, are able to make a more objective judgment on a child’s best interests than parents are. It is impossible to appreciate the legal and moral complexity of my case without understanding this distinction.

Parental Rights

The sharp difference of opinion between my parents and the doctors and courts regarding my best interests raised grave concerns over my parents’ right to be the primary decision makers on my behalf. My case pitted the United Kingdom’s state-financed medical system against my parents’ right to protect me. It was surprising to me that while the UK High Court of Justice wrote glowingly about my dad and mom, it in fact distanced them from any major role in deciding my fate. The court paid tribute to my parents for “their dedication” and “tireless pursuit” of a cure for me but stated that my parents did not feel “that there [was] any role for a Judge or a court” and that only they “can and should speak” for me. The court acknowledged that my parents felt that they had “been stripped of their rights as parents.” Great Ormond Street Hospital agreed that my parents felt that only they had a right to speak for me and that the hospital should not have the right to ask the courts for an independent judgment. Clearly, there was a fundamental and unbridgeable disagreement over parental rights.

While not disparaging physicians’ expert opinions, I believe that parents are the best advocates for their children’s rights. In this regard, the laws in the United Kingdom...
place too great an emphasis on the courts. I understand that Catholic teaching holds that the patient is the primary decision maker in health care decisions, and since I was not able to speak for myself, this role fell to my dad and mom. But my parents were not given the final word, and I think this was misguided and demonstrates a weakness in UK law. In the United States, the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services clearly state that “those who are in a position to know best the patient’s wishes—usually family members and loved ones—should participate in the treatment decisions for [a] person” such as myself.\(^{10}\)

In Troxel v. Granville, the US Supreme Court unequivocally stated that parents have a “fundamental right” regarding decisions about their children. Justice Sandra Day O’Connor wrote, “The interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court.”\(^{11}\) In the absence of clear evidence that a parental decision (medical or otherwise) is harming a child, I think that the law ought not to interfere. After all, “it is the parents who suffer the biggest impact of their child’s disease, and the ones who will be hurt the most by their child’s death. In this way, parents are perhaps the greatest stakeholders in scenarios involving very young, very sick children.”\(^{12}\)

The Hospital, My Parents, and Dr. Hirano

The hospital and my doctors were not being cruel. Their intent was not to kill me but to place me on palliative care and permit me to die peacefully. The hospital’s statement is a testament to this fact: Charlie is “a beautiful, tiny baby afflicted by one of the cruellest of diseases” which left me “with no muscle function at all now and deprived of his senses, unable to breathe and, so far as can be discerned, after many months of encephalomyopathy, without any awareness.”\(^{13}\)

My parents did not want to give up on me, but not out of selfishness. They anchored hope in a therapy offered by an American physician, Dr. Michio Hirano of Columbia University, whose neurology department is one the world’s leading institutions in mitochondrial-disease research.\(^{14}\) Dr. Hirano wanted my parents to take me to New York–Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center for an experimental treatment called nucleoside therapy. He called this treatment pioneering, as it had yet to be tested on mouse models. Moreover, it was unlicensed and would have needed FDA approval for a “compassionate use exception.” At the time of my diagnosis, my parents wanted to take me to the United States for this treatment, as I was still relatively healthy even though my muscles were weak. The hospital would not permit this, because my doctors believed the treatment was futile and the trip was dangerous.

I think that the doctors should have explained why they believed that keeping me on a ventilator was futile. I suppose they meant that because of the effects of MDDS, life support no longer benefited me beyond maintaining my physiological existence. My parents argued to keep me on the ventilator, because it was doing exactly what it was supposed to. It is this level of difficulty that makes the question of medical futility so problematic.

My dad and mom raised more than $1.5 million from over eighty thousand donors for the trip to New York, staking their hope on the experimental therapy: “He’s our son. We feel it should be our right to decide to give him a chance at life.”\(^{15}\) My dad and mom would not accept that intervention was futile until every possible treatment option had been exhausted. Dr. Hirano believed that there was about a 10 percent chance that the treatment would give me some muscle strength and brain function and perhaps enable me “to smile and grab objects.”\(^{16}\) Because I did not respond to anything but pain (I was on a low dose of oral morphine) and my gradual deterioration was noted by my caretakers, it appeared that the treatment would not bring me any sustained benefit even if it were successful.

Before they knew about the experimental treatment, my parents went to court to prevent the hospital from withdrawing my ventilator, but on June 8, 2017, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom rejected their appeal.\(^{17}\) Once again, I think it is important to remember the difference between the English and American systems of law. In the United Kingdom, once any party to a family–physician dispute asks for judicial direction, the court is to make an independent objective judgment on the child’s best interests. A UK court cannot simply defer to the wishes of the parents, and British judges have with rare exception sided with health care professionals.\(^{18}\) In contrast, when disputes of this nature have occurred in the United States, courts have invariably ruled in favor of life-sustaining medical treatment requested by the family. It is misleading to conclude that the UK courts immorally usurped the rights of my parents, as they were correctly following European legal procedure and precedent.

My case was assigned to Mr. Justice Peter Francis of the Family Division of the High Court. Regarding Dr. Hirano’s proposed treatment, Justice Francis wrote, “No one in the world has ever treated this form of MDDS with nucleoside therapy. . . . There is no evidence that nucleoside therapy can cross the blood/brain barrier which it must do to treat RRM2B.”\(^{19}\) Importantly, Dr. Hirano acknowledged that the proposed therapy had never been tested in animal studies for the mutation afflicting me, and agreed the damage to my brain was “likely irreversible.”\(^{20}\) After studying my MRI and personally examining me for five hours, Dr. Hirano said that my condition was clearly irreversible and he could no longer offer his therapy. But my parents believed that the treatment might have proved effective if it had been used earlier in my illness.\(^{21}\) The hospital criticized Dr. Hirano for not reading my medical records or the previous judgments of my doctors before making his initial diagnosis. He also admitted to the court that he “retains a financial interest in some of the . . . compounds he proposed prescribing” for me. This certainly raises a moral question about a conflict of interest.\(^{22}\)
The Legal Quagmire

It was in the middle of this legal quagmire that Justice Francis asked, “Why should the parents not be the ones to decide?” He explained that in the United Kingdom, “overriding control is by law vested in the court exercising its independent and objective judgment in the child’s best interests.” Citing Mr. Justice James Holman, he wrote that my parents’ wishes are “understandable in human terms . . . [but] wholly irrelevant” to objectively deciding my best interests. While there is a strong presumption in favor of prolonging life, “in the end there will be cases in which the answer must be that it is not in the interests of the child to subject it to treatment which will cause increased suffering and produce no commensurate benefit.”

The UK courts affirmed my doctors’ determination that the continuation of artificial ventilation was no longer in my best interests. The courts also ruled that it was not in my best interests to undergo experimental nucleoside therapy in America, as this had no realistic prospect of benefit and might add to my distress. Justice Francis told the court that he came to his conclusion “with the heaviest of hearts but with complete conviction for [my] best interests.” He also paid tribute to my parents for their “absolute dedication to their wonderful boy from the day that he was born.” On July 17, the European Court of Human Rights endorsed the judgments of the UK courts. In a subsequent news release, the Council of Europe said that “the domestic courts concluded that it would be lawful for the hospital to withdraw life-sustaining treatment because it was likely that Charlie would suffer significant harm if his present suffering was prolonged without any realistic prospect of improvement, and the experimental therapy would be of no effective benefit.”

International Sympathy and Controversy

The court judgments stirred international sympathy and controversy. Pope Francis said that human life must be defended, especially “when it is wounded by illness.” I think that the Pope did not want me to be a victim of what he frequently refers to as the throw-away culture. A Vatican spokesman told Vatican Radio that the Pope had been following my case “with affection and sadness,” wanting especially to “accompany” my dad and mom through this very difficult time. Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, added that while we must do what is the best for my health, “we must also accept the limits of medicine.” The Vatican Secretary of State expressed his willingness to help me get to the United States if any nationality problem arose. The president of the Vatican’s Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital in Rome expressed a willingness to take me if my health condition permitted a transfer. In the United States, President Trump offered me help and called me “little #CharlieGard.” I was deeply touched by these sentiments of support.

I was bothered by some of the moral analyses of my case. One writer believed that allowing me to die amounted to judicial murder and euthanasia. Many commentators misinterpreted important moral teachings of the Catholic Church. A central question in medical ethics is whether or not a treatment, in my case a ventilator, offers hope of benefit proportionate to a patient’s suffering. A medical intervention is ordinary or extraordinary relative to a patient. Did keeping me on a ventilator promise any real benefit, or had its use become burdensome because it did not promise any proportionate good and was only prolonging my suffering and dying? I loved my parents and understood why they hoped that the experimental therapy proposed by Dr. Hirano would benefit me. Dr. Hirano himself concluded that even if successful, the benefits would be virtually negligeable. This assertion made me think that its experimental nature made it extraordinary and disproportionate. The Catholic tradition holds that a treatment is optional if it amounts to great or enormous effort (summus labor).

The continued use of a ventilator would keep me alive for a while, but my brain would continue to deteriorate, my pain would continue, and my dying would be prolonged. Human life must always be respected, but it is also necessary to accept death. My parents’ love made me know that I am valued. By permitting my doctors to remove my ventilator, their aim was not to murder or euthanize me but rather to admit that further treatment no longer benefited me. It was not morally required to pursue every possible intervention. While human life is always worthy of respect, not every treatment is worth pursuing, if it no longer serves its purpose, is excessively burdensome, or promises too little benefit relative to the burdens it entails.

I was baptized on July 24, and a spokesperson for my dad and mom said they “trust that soon I ‘will be in the hands of his loving God.’” I was moved to a hospice on July 27. My parents accepted this transfer and were with me when I died. This was an overwhelming gift to me, even though I am sure they suffer at my loss. My parents established a charity to help other children with my condition. This makes all the attention and affection I received more than worthwhile. Just before the decision was made to end the court battle, Pope Francis again said that he hoped my parents “may find God’s consolation and love.” My hope is that everyone has.

Notes


30. USCCB, Ethical and Religious Directives, dir. 56–57.

