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To the Clergy, Religious, and Laity of the Archdiocese of New Orleans:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Each October Catholics throughout the United States come together to celebrate Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called each and every day to work for a Culture of Life that respects the dignity of all human life and in a particular way those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life in the womb to natural death. During the month of October, we are asked in a special way to pray and reflect more deeply and take action to support the dignity of every human life.

This year's Respect Life Month theme is inspired by the 25th Anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*. The theme 'Live the Gospel of Life,' is a call to action for us to heed St. John Paul II's call to defend the right to life for children in their mothers' wombs, those who are sick and close to death, persons with disabilities, the marginalized, and all those treated unjustly because of race. This call is as relevant today as it was when written over two decades ago.

Let us pray that during this Respect Life Month we will be strengthened in our efforts to cherish and protect the gift of every human life from conception to natural death.

Thank you for joining me in your promotion of life and wishing you God's blessings, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Please publish this message in your bulletins sometime during October.