“The first and most fundamental of all human rights is — the right to life.” St. Pope John Paul II
Building A Culture Of Life

In God’s Image

“We are pro-life — pro the mystery of life, pro the wonder of life, pro the joy of life. And we are impelled to share this message with everyone. We need to bring the Gospel of Life to the heart of every man and woman and to make it penetrate every part of society. This involves above all proclaiming the core of this gospel, which is the proclamation of a living God, who is close to us, who calls us to profound communion with Himself and who awakens in us the certain hope of eternal life. It is the presentation of human life, as a life of relationship, a gift of God, the fruit and sign of His love, it is the proclamation that Jesus has a unique relationship with every person, which enables us to see in every human face, the face of Christ.”

His Eminence, Cardinal John J. O’Connor

A Culture of Life in Your Parish

Whether it is the first week in your role as Respect Life Coordinator for your parish, or you have been coordinator for many years, or even if you are simply interested in pro-life issues and want to help get your parish involved — the Respect Life office is here to help you!

We can assist with:

- Planning in Your Parish
- Meeting Organization
- Activity Ideas
- Event Development
- Presentations on Life Topics
- Networking Opportunities
- Resources and Contacts

RESPECT LIFE Office of Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Michelle Black, Respect Life Director
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Respect Life Program

“We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God, that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.”

USCCB Pro-Life Committee

Sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the annual Respect Life Program is a year-round nationwide effort by leaders like yourselves to help Catholics value, understand, and become engaged in creating a culture that cherishes and protects every human life.

This Year’s Theme

To create a culture of life at the local parish level, the USCCB helps Respect Life ministries, as well as individual Catholics, to live and share Christ’s Gospel of Life. Each year the bishops introduce a Respect Life theme and provide resources and materials to highlight and integrate that theme throughout the year. In addition, they design an action guide “to compliment existing parish life” that focuses on the liturgical celebrations and annual calendar occasions to demonstrate how the Church’s teachings on the sacredness of human life are part of daily life. This year’s theme — “Live the Gospel of Life” — to imitate Christ and follow in His footsteps

4 Pillars of Respect Life Work

For Respect Life work to be effective, the USCCB gives us a framework to carry out all of our activities. The plan recognizes that prayer underscores all we do as the foundation of Christian life. In each area of Respect Life focus, we put into action their Pastoral Plan under the Four Pillars:

Public Information & Education
Pastoral Care
Public Policy
Prayer & Worship

Respect Life Monthly Focus

Each month your parish can focus your Respect Life prayers, meetings, activities and Mass celebrations on a specific topic that incorporates the timing of Church celebrations and societal milestones. A perfect example of this is January’s focus on the unborn because of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. October starts a new year in the Respect Life program as it marks 40 Days for Life and all Respect Life issues.

January—The Unborn
February—Human Trafficking
March—Persons with Disabilities
April—Fertility/Infertility Issues
May—Healing After Abortion
June—End of Life Issues
July—Conscience Protection
August—Mercy Behind Bars/Capital Punishment
September—Stem Cell and Human Cloning
October—RESPECT LIFE MONTH
November—Adoption Awareness
December—Peace on Earth/End to Violence
Respect Life Resources

“Although we must cherish, protect, and defend life year-round, the Catholic Church in the United States sets aside each October as Respect Life Month. Jesus asks us to be as leaven in the world, to bring His light to the darkness. Our daily activities take each of us to places only we can go, to people only we will meet. May we allow Christ to renew and strengthen us, that He may work through us in each moment of every day.”

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

USCCB Resource Materials

www.respectlife.org

The 2020-2021 Respect Life program theme is “Live the Gospel of Life”. We are “to imitate Christ and follow in His footsteps”. Materials associated with the theme each year to assist you in implementing a Parish Respect Life Ministry can be found on their website. The resources are designed to be “brought to life as tools in your hands throughout the year”. They may be downloaded, printed, and reproduced for use in your parish, school, or other ministries to help build a culture of life. They can also be adapted for either in-person or virtual use. Some materials can be ordered in large quantities for you to distribute to your parish community. Items include:

- Respect Life Month Action Guide and Resource Materials
- Respect Life Leader Tool Kits to work with other ministries
- Resource Summary with listing of all new materials and brief ideas for implementation
- Reflection on Theme that can be used as basis for homilies, shared in bulletins, or as basis for parish pro-life meetings, high school religion classes, other groups
- Summary of The Gospel of Life highlighting key Church teachings from the papal encyclical
- Serving Moms in Need: Living the Gospel of Life summary of new USCCB initiative
- Action Guides designed to compliment existing parish life with steps, timeline, sample activities
- Church Teachings Study Guides
- Bulletin Inserts and Info Updates
- Posters of Respect Life Theme Images
- Articles on Issues
  - Prayers For Life
  - Intercessory Prayers
  - Logos and Graphics
  - Fact Sheets to Hand Out

Local Resources

Choose the Child — Footprints for Life K-12 program covers RL topics age-appropriately with discussions, activities, and spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
Natasia Kissinger • ntkissinger@gmail.com • 504-339-5384 • ChoosetheChild.com

PULSE Immersion — LA Right To Life youth initiative to train junior high, high school, and college students to be pro-life agents of change. 866.463.5433 • ProLifePulseLa.com

Pro-Life Advocacy Organizations —
Louisiana Right To Life • prolifelouisiana.org
National Right To Life • nrlc.org
Live Action Network • liveaction.org/news
Congressional Actions Alerts • humanlifeaction.org
How to Contact Your Legislators • humanlifeaction.org
Respect Life focus topics are observed with liturgical celebrations, events and activities, advocacy, education and Patron Saints feast days. The calendar below does not include every date or activity but seeks to provide a framework for planning efforts throughout the year.

January —
1  Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
1  USCCB Day of Prayer for Peace, World Day of Peace
6  The Epiphany of Our Lord
22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn
22 Memorial Service for the Unborn in the Holy Innocents Prayer Garden
Nine Days for Life Novena
Louisiana Life March in Baton Rouge
March for Life in Washington D.C.

February —
2  Feast of the Presentation of our Lord
8  International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking
8  Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita Patron Saint of Human Trafficking
14 World Marriage Day
National Marriage Week
Novena to End Human Trafficking

March —
5  World Day of Prayer
7  God's Special Children Mass
10 Novena to St. Joseph
19  Feast of St. Joseph
21  World Down Syndrome Day
25  Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord
Special Olympics Race
Converging Roads Healthcare Conference

April —
24-30 Infertility Awareness Week
30  Feast of St. Gianna patroness of mothers, physicians, and the unborn
Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat

May —
13 or 16  The Ascension of our Lord
Mother’s Day

June —
15  World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
21-7/4 Fortnight for Freedom
Father’s Day
July —
4 Independence Day
19-26 Natural Family Planning Week
26 Feasts of Saints Anne and Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, intercessors for all married couples, expectant mothers, and married couples who are having difficulty conceiving

August —
15 Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
19 World Humanitarian Day

September —
10 World Suicide Prevention Day
11 Patriot Day
21 International Day of Peace
40 Days for Life

October —
Respect Life Month
1st Sunday Respect Life Sunday
1st Sunday Louisiana Life Chains
5 World Day of Prayer
7 Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
8 Stem Cell Awareness Day
10 World Day to Abolish the Death Penalty
40 Days for Life
Respect Life Week in Schools
Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat
Right To Life Calendars

November —
1 All Saints Day
2 All Souls Day
11 Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day
National Adoption Awareness Month

December —
3 World Day for Persons with Disabilities
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn
25 The Nativity of our Lord
29 Feast of the Holy Innocents
Feast of The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Recognize that some activities occur during different times of year so check the quarterly newsletters and email updates for current events. Please see each Respect Life Focus topic page for activities and events that occur weekly and monthly.
The Unborn

“Now the word of the Lord came to me saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I consecrated you; a prophet to the nations I appointed you.”

Jeremiah 1:5

God loves each human life from the instant of his or her conception and entrusts this gift to the protection of a mother and father. Abortion ends the life of a child and offends God. It also deeply wounds the women and men involved.

RESOURCES

Catholic Charities Pregnancy Services — (formerly “ACCESS” Pregnancy Centers) offers free and confidential pregnancy support services and resources at three locations in Metairie, Kenner, and Gretna. Its Diaper Bank distributes over 100,000 diapers annually, and gives out baby items/clothes. Can provide speakers and materials. Support with baby bottle fundraisers, diaper drives, baby showers, and praying for clients. accesspregnancy.com • contactus@accesspregnancy.com • Michelle Black, director • mblack@ccano.org • 504-885-1141 • 4200 S. I-10 Service Rd. W. Ste 124, Metairie

Women’s New Life Clinic — provides an array of professional and medical services including pregnancy support, abortion pill reversal and women’s healthcare. Your parish can support with baby bottle program, and by participating in and helping to promote their annual 5K run and gala. New Orleans 4612 S. Claiborne Ave. • 504-831-3117 clients • 504-496-0212 admin • womensnewlife.com

Daughters of Charity Health Centers — Several locations across archdiocese. dchcnol.org

Louisiana and New Orleans Right To Life — “Lights the way” for pro-life issues in the state. Can provide speakers, educational materials/displays, info on policy issues; hosts programs/events such as Pulse Immersion program, LA Life Marches, other activities; and a resource website adifficultchoice.com

Alex Seghers, director of education • Sarah Zagorski, NORTL director • info@prolifelouisiana.org • 866-463-5433 or 504-835-6529 • 200 Robert E. Lee Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124 • prolifelouisiana.org

Louisiana Black Advocates for Life — an initiative to increase meaningful participation of the Black community in prolife advocacy and decrease the rate of abortion among Black women. Kathy Allen, Ph.D., state director • kathy@lablackadvocates.com

40 Days For Life — inter-denominational campaign saving lives through prayer, vigil and outreach. Held Sept-Oct at Women’s Health Center (abortion clinic) 2501 General Pershing St. N.O. Be a witness for the voiceless. prolifelouisiana/40daysonlifenola • Sarah Zagorski • sarah@prolifelouisiana.org

9 Days for Life Novena — Join Catholics across America in January to pray a novena for protection of human life. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Also join live-streamed prayer events. www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life

Archdiocesan Sidewalk Counseling & Prayer Ministry — 20 decade Rosary March on sidewalk at Planned Parenthood second Saturdays each month 9:00-10:30am. For safety, a detail policeman is there. Pam Richard • (504) 460-9360 • richj504@bellsouth.net

Sidewalk Ministries — Join prayer groups at Planned Parenthood, WH Center, and Deanz Clinic. Learn how to be a prayerful presence in this video: youtube.com/watch?v=75BmhrHBVml&feature=youtu.be
“Every human being, man, woman, boy and girl, is made in God’s image. God is the love and freedom that is given in interpersonal relationships, and every human being is a free person destined to live for the good of others in equality and fraternity.” Pope Francis

Human trafficking violates the sanctity, dignity, and fundamental rights of the human person. This is modern-day slavery. Every year millions of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers in their own countries and abroad, with 25% of these victims being children age 17 or younger, representing 10 million girls and boys worldwide.

RESOURCES

**National Human Trafficking Hotline** — Get Help - Totally Confidential - 24/7 Help - 1-888-373-7888 or *Text "HELP" to 233733 • www.humantraffickinghotline.org/chat for live chat • help@humantraffickinghotline.org for non-immediate needs • submit a tip online through anonymous reporting form at www.humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking


**Signs of Trafficking** — polarisproject.org/recognize-signs

**Homeland Security Blue Campaign: End Human Trafficking** — National public awareness campaign to educate the public, law enforcement, and industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and how to respond. dhs.gov/blue-campaign

**Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force** — 85-member organizations in a coalition committed to preventing trafficking through education, outreach, collaboration and research. www.nolatrafficking.org • submit form at nolatrafficking.org/contact-us

**Baptist Friendship House** — Perform corporal works of mercy by collecting items in your parish for victims of human trafficking. 504-949-4469

**Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking** — Non-profit to help alleviate human trafficking through community education, government agency training, and victim rescue. www.lacaht.org

**Polaris Project: Roadmap to Freedom** — “North Star” used by slaves to navigate a way to freedom, Polaris works with victims and survivors to improve how trafficking is identified. polarisproject.org

**Vatican Anti-Trafficking Program** — Two Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences hold events to make social impact within and outside the Church to #EndSlavery forever. www.endslavery.va

**USCCB Anti-Trafficking Program** — National leader in advocacy for an end to modern day slavery; education, training and technical assistance on the issue; and support for survivors through community based services. usccb.org/topics/anti-trafficking-program

**Archdiocesan Committee and Respect Life Office** — Find links to resources and watch survivor video at nolacatholic.org/human-trafficking • nolacatholic.org/archdiocesan-human-trafficking-committee • nolacatholic.org/human-trafficking-1
Persons with Disabilities

“The same Jesus who heard the cry for recognition from the disabled of Judea and Samaria two thousand years ago calls us, his followers, to embrace our responsibility to our own disabled brothers and sisters in the United States.” United States Catholic Bishops

We are called to promote, advocate for and facilitate the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in Church and in society. “It is not enough merely to affirm the rights of person with disabilities. We must actively work to realize these rights in the fabric of society. Persons with disabilities have a claim to our respect because they are persons, because they contribute to our society by their activity within it, and because they share in the one redemption of Christ.” (U.S. Bishops)

RESOURCES

God’s Special Children — Commission on People with Disabilities — Witness, support and sharing knowledge and resources to provide a more meaningful, fruitful, and lifelong encounter with Christ for individuals with disabilities and their families. Published a survey tool and a checklist for reviewing your parish’s accessibility, link at nolacatholic.org/commission-on-persons-with-disabilities
• 504-861-6294 • planningandministries@arch-no.org • 7887 Walmsley Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125

God’s Special Children Mass — Mass for children with disabilities, families, friends on 1st Sundays of each month at 2:00pm at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 444 Metairie Rd., Metairie (504) 834-0340

Inclusive Mass Blessed Francis Seelos Catholic Church — American Sign Language & Inclusive Mass with Deaf Ministers serving in all ministries every Sunday 9:30am 3037 Dauphine Street, New Orleans

Padua Community Services — Offers compassionate, comprehensive, and specialized care for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through Padua House Residential Program and Padua Community House. Disability services include residential sites for clients and in-home care and adult day health care services. Residential program located at 200 Beta St., Belle Chasse; community homes located in Harvey, Gretna, Metairie and Slidell. Rev. Kyle Dave, Padua Chaplain, is available for spiritual support and counsel for Catholic and non-Catholic families and caregivers. Contact him at Our Lady of Perpetual Help • 504-394-0314 • Churchoffice@olphbc.org • 8968 Highwat 23, Belle Chasse, 70037 • ccano.org/padua/ • Program director Ronna Garner • rpgarner@ccano.org • 504-392-0502

National Catholic Partnership of Disability — Works to renovate and sustain ministry to-and-with all people with disabilities and their family through trainings and workshops, developing resources and participating in international ecclesial conferences. ncpd.org • 202-529-2933 • mcpd@ncpd.org


Parenting children with special needs during COVID-19 — Parenting a child with special needs or chronic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic requires drawing on your strengths and returning to the basics. The Mayo Clinic has written some ideas to help children with special needs and their families navigate these uncertain times. mayoclinic.org/special-needs-parenting-covid-19/art-20487665

Teen Time Hangouts — Partnership with Autism Society of Cincinnati to give teens with autism ages 13-18 opportunities to interact with peers, play games, practice social skills, build friendships, and have fun every Friday 5:30-7:00pm. zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qc-mhrz8rE9BHteuD1s5zFCuikeiC_9pA
Fertility/Infertility Issues

“‘I want to have children with you.’ So much meaning is packed into these words when a man or woman says them to a spouse. Especially in light of faith, they mean: I entrust myself to you and to you alone, including my ability to join you in cooperating with God to create a child.” (USCCB)

The Church has compassion for couples suffering from infertility and wants to be of real help. With all of the advances in reproductive medicine there are many solutions for these couples in distress. While some solutions offer real hope for restoring a couple’s natural ability to have children, others pose serious moral problems by failing to respect the couple’s marital relationship. USCCB

RESOURCES

Respect Life Office — Learn about navigating infertility, Natural Family Planning and Church teachings at nolacatholic.org/reproductive-technology


Sarah’s Laughter — Christian ministry offering help to couples and people of all faiths or no faith who are struggling with infertility or the death of a baby through facilitated support groups for adoption, loss, those pregnant after infertility and loss, moms of miracles, secondary infertility, those running out of options and a group just for men. Sarahs-laughter.com • N.O./Metairie group meets online on 3rd Wednesday each month 6:30pm contact Allison Waldron Allison@sarahs-laughter.com • Men’s group meets 2nd Tuesday each month 7pm contact for location Brian McCollister mens@sarahs-laughter.com or Philip Dunbar Philip@sarahs-laughter.com • 29252 Red Willow Dr. Denham Springs, 70726

Natural Family Planning — Fertility awareness is the scientific natural and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples either achieve or avoid pregnancies. nolacatholic.org/nfp

Women’s New Life — Teaches family planning and fertility awareness to achieve or avoid pregnancy and to monitor fertility through the Creighton Model FertilityCare System, Family of the Americas Ovulation Method and Fertility Education and Medical Management, training medical management providers and women in all stages of reproductive life. womansnewlife.com/womens-health/family-planning-fertility-awareness-methods/

Prayer for those struggling with infertility —

Mother of Christ, you were graced by God with the privilege of bearing our Divine Savior. You experienced the joys and challenges of being a parent. Your life was blessed with seeing Jesus grow from infancy and childhood, into his adult years of teaching a ministry. With St. Joseph you created a home for your family to love and share together. Please intercede before the God of all life, that those struggling with infertility may conceive a baby and raise healthy children, with whom they can share the Lord’s good gifts. May their children honor them and You by lives of virtue and caring for others. May their home be holy and their family be blessed with health, happiness and abiding love. And for those for whom conceiving a child is not possible may their love for each other be fruitful. Help them not to become bitter when they encounter others who devalue life. May those who cannot give birth to a child see other ways in which they can give life to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (sources Nine Day Prayer to St. Gerard and Catholic prayers).
Healing After Abortion

“A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.” Jeremiah 31:15

Our society has done women a huge disservice by pretending that abortion erases the experience of pregnancy. Many women, and men, have developed serious psychiatric conditions afterwards, while others struggle with abortion-related issues such as depression, anxiety, drug and alcohol abuse, failed relationships, infertility, and pregnancy difficulties both physical and emotional. All are in need of healing and to know God’s mercy and love. This is when and where the Church needs to be ready for them. (USCCB)

RESOURCES

Holy Innocents Prayer Garden — Dedicated for parents who have lost an unborn child through abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Collaborative effort with N.O. Catholic Cemeteries, Respect Life, LA & N. O. Right to Life. Located next to All God’s Babies tomb designated for the burial of babies lost. Name plaques to memorialize unborn children can be purchased 504-596-3050 • nolacatholiccemeteries.org/holy-innocents-plaques • St. Patrick Cemetery No. 1, 5000 Canal St., New Orleans

Compassionate Burial for Indigent Babies — Corporal work of mercy by burying our dead. Help with burial costs for babies who were aborted, abandoned, or whose families are unable to cover expenses. www.cbibinc.com/home.html or www.gofundme.com/f/cbibbabies

CCANO Pregnancy Services / Project Rachel — Free individual professional counseling by a licensed social worker for women and/or men seeking healing after abortion, 504-885-1141

Rachel’ Vineyard Retreat — Catholic Church pro-life ministry but open to women and men of all faiths who are suffering after an abortion. Provides retreats, pastoral counseling, support groups and referrals. usccb.org/topics/project-rachel-ministry • rachelsvineyard.org • in Spanish Esperanazapos-aborto.org • local retreats 504-885-1141 • Pam Richard 504-460-9360 • richj504@bellsouth.net

Women’s New Life — Counselors provide individualized treatment approach to meet the needs of each person, addressing physical health and emotional issues. 4612 S. Claiborne Ave. N.O • 504-831-3117 clients • info@womansnewlife.com • espanol isaenz@womensnewlife.com • womensnewlife.com

SpeakHope - Louisiana Abortion Recovery — Individual counseling and support groups for women and men. Cynthia Collins speakhope@me.com • speakhope.net • 550 Gause Blvd., Suite 2, Slidell, 70448

Kelli Churchill — Provides faith-based individual counseling but open to women, men and families of all faiths. Kelli Churchill kelli.churchill@yahoo.com • 5001 Highway 190, Suite B-1, Covington, 70433

Abortion Changes You — Confidential space for those touched by abortion wanting to tell their story and begin the healing process. abortionchangesyou.com

Louisiana Abortion Recovery — Provides healing and resources for women. Submit form lahope.net

Louisiana Right To Life — Resources at prolifelouisiana.org/outreach/abortion-recovery-awareness

USCCB Pro-Life Committee — Resources at usccb.org/prolife/abortion-healing
End of Life Issues

“For everything there is a season, and time for every matter under Heaven;
A time to be born and a time to die . . .” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

The Catholic Church teaches human life is sacred and a gift of a loving God, and we respect the life of every human being because each is made in the image and likeness of God. As Christians we believe we are redeemed by Christ and called to share eternal life with Him. We must defend life from the time of conception to natural death, and oppose unequivocally intentional termination of any life. Our Church views life as a sacred trust, a gift over which we are given stewardship and not absolute dominion.

U.S. Bishops’ Committee for Pro-Life Activities and Catholic Bishops of Louisiana

RESOURCES

Angel’s Place — Provides ongoing loving and caring support services to children with life threatening illnesses and their families. Trained Respite Care volunteers watch over Angel’s Place children at the hospital or provide household aid free of charge to provide parents and families much needed relief and time to take a break or take care of siblings during a trying time. angelsplacenola.org • Mark Firmin, executive director • 504-455-2620 • mfirmin@angelsplacenola.org • 4323 Division St. Ste 206, Metairie

Respect Life Office — Resources on Catholic guidance for end of life decision making, assisted suicide, euthanasia, extraordinary vs. ordinary care, and Church teaching. nolacatholic.org/end-of-life-issues

USCCB — Many resources, links, videos, and statements on end-of-life issues. usccb.org/prolife/end-life • usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/assisted-suicide-euthanasia

Catholic End of Life — Website designed to offer Catholics moral clarity and guidance on the Church’s teachings about end-of-life decision making. Provides links to trustworthy resources, guidance and support from Catholic sources across the country. catholicendoflife.org

LA Right To Life — Information and resources on euthanasia, assisted suicide, patient’s rights, and laws prolifelouisiana.org/learn/center-for-medical-ethics/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-and-patient-rights/

National Right To Life — Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics — Fights to protect the vulnerable from direct killing and denial of lifesaving medical treatment. nrlc.org/medethics

Patients Rights Council — Offers understanding and practical support to those facing critical situations for themselves or a loved one. Addresses issues of euthanasia, assisted suicide, advance directives, disability rights, pain control, and attempts to legalize in the U.S. patientsrightscouncil.org • 800-958-5678 • 740-282-3810 • P.O. Box 760 Steubenville, OH 43952

Not Dead Yet — National grassroots disability rights group that opposes legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia as deadly forms of discrimination. notdeadyet.org • 708-429-0539

Prayer For Those Close to Death —
Lord Jesus Christ, As You stood by the bed of good Saint Joseph and gently led him home to heaven, so shepherd every soul about to die to a paradise of perfect peace. Let the tears we shed upon their passing stand witness to our love for them and the depth of our thanksgiving for the gift of their lives and the grace of a good death. For You are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Source: www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/PrayerForLife.htm
“O God our creator... through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.” USCCB

“Conscience is not merely a feeling, as if we are acting in good conscience whenever we do what feels good. Rather, conscience is a means by which one grasps the truth. In political matters, our consciences guide us to the truth about how we are to act with respect to family, neighbors, community, and nation. The right to follow one’s conscience is more than a right to be left alone. It is the right to pursue the truth and to act in accord with that truth. When we follow the dictates of our consciences, we submit to the law of our loving Creator. When we obey our consciences, we conform our lives to the truth that makes us truly free.” Andrew Matthew Weldon, staff asst. for USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

**RESOURCES**

**USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty** — Seeks to strengthen and sustain religious freedom by assisting U.S. bishops, individually and collectively, to teach about religious freedom to the faithful and the broader public, and to promote and defend religious freedom in law and policy. usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty

**USCCB on Conscience Protection** — Find fact sheets, videos, testimonies, articles, prayer resources and more at usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/conscience-protection

**First Freedom** — USCCB’s monthly religious liberty e-newsletter. Stay up-to-date with the latest news, resources and information on the bishops’ efforts to promote religious freedom. Sign up at usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/first-freedom-news-monthly-newsletter

**USCCB Action Center** — Follow USCCB’s news on proposed policies and legislation. Sign up for alerts. Let your voice be heard—Take Action—and email your representatives. votervoice.net/USCCB/home

**Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities** — Resource on the current federal laws and regulations that have been enacted to protect rights of conscientious objection. These laws cover several issues including controverted areas of reproductive health, religious beliefs and moral convictions, and non-discrimination laws protecting those who object to participation in abortion for any reason. usccb.org/resources/Federal-Conscience-Laws-Fact-Sheet.pdf

**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe** — Ask your pastor to preach on religious liberty on the Solemnity of Christ the King — “a feast born out of resistance to totalitarian incursions against religious liberty” — as urged by USCCB Religious Liberty Committee. usccb.org/christtheking

**Religious Freedom Week** — Participate in the annual week-long program as the USCCB brings people together to pray, reflect and take action on religious liberty in the U.S. and abroad. usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week

**Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty** — (portion of prayer source USCCB website)

O God Our Creator, We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
“The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, ...”

St. Pope John Paul II

“The death penalty diminishes all of us. Its use ought to be abandoned not only for what it does to those who are executed, but what it does to us as a society. We cannot teach respect for life by taking life.”

(USCCB)

**RESOURCES**

**Catholic Charities (CCANO) Cornerstone Builders** — A re-entry program for formerly incarcerated men and women based on rehabilitation through community service to equip them with skills and assets necessary to be responsible productive citizens. This is a transformative experience that benefits not only the individual but also the families and victims of crimes, and society. ccano.org/cornerstone • Ronnie Moore • rmoore@ccano.org • 504-451-8351

— **Cornerstone Re-Entry 72** — Program in conjunction with the La. Dept. of Safety and Corrections to provide emergency housing, immediate employment and wraparound support services to persons within the first 72 hours of release from local correctional facilities through connecting former inmates to community resources thus greatly reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

— **Cornerstone Builders Bus Project** — Free monthly bus service for families to visit their loved ones in all 13 state correctional facilities to promote healthy relationships, encourage a network of family support, provide an incentive for good behavior by inmates and inspire better cooperation between inmates and prison officials. Trips are paid for by “NOLA to Angola” a group of cyclists who raise funds.

— **Cornerstone Kids Mentoring Program** — Year-long committed mentorship to children ages 5-18 who have an incarcerated parent. Mentors develop positive relationships that promote trust, confidence and enthusiasm through one-on-one activities and group meetings.

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Prison Apostolate** — Resource center and facilitator for ministries involved in prison chaplaincy and education by working with clergy and lay volunteers to offer services to those in prison. nolacatholic.org/prisons-apostolate • 504-267-9727 • jmessenheimer@ccano.org

**Women Determined** — Grassroots organization to help formerly incarcerated women regain total (physical, emotional, and financial) independence by providing housing an support to help provide stability while working and saving to transition to an independent life. Your parish can support by collecting items for “start-up bundles”. womendetermined.org • Rhonda Oliver founder & director • rhonda@womendetermined.org • 504-320-8352 • P.O. Box 58171 New Orleans, 70158

**Respect Life Office** — Resources materials including Catholic Q&As, Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty, and Archbishop Aymond’s video statement. nolacatholic.org/capital-punishment

**USCCB Death Penalty** — View USCCB news releases, legislative documents and educational materials usccb.org/committees/domestic-justice-and-human-development/death-penalty-capital-punishment

**Catholic Mobilizing Network** — National organization that mobilizes Catholics and people of good will to value life over death and end the use of the death penalty through education, advocacy, and prayer, based on the Gospel value that every human is created in the image and likeness of God.
“It now seems undeniable that once we cross the fundamental moral line that prevents us from treating any fellow human being as a mere object of research, there is no stopping point. The only moral stance that affirms the human dignity of all of us is to reject the first step down this path. We therefore urge Catholics and all people of good will to join us in reaffirming, precisely in this context of embryonic stem cell research, that “the killing of innocent human creatures, even if carried out to help others, constitutes an absolutely unacceptable act” (USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities) (Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life [Evangelium Vitae])

“The issue of stem cell research does not force us to choose between science and ethics, much less between science and religion. It presents a choice as to how our society will pursue scientific and medical progress. Will we ignore ethical norms and use some of the most vulnerable human beings as objects, undermining the respect for human life that is at the foundation of the healing arts?” (USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities)

RESOURCES

**Respect Life Office** — Resources on adult stem cell research and applications, Q&A on research and cloning, Louisiana laws related to embryo use, stem cell research and cloning, and links to organizations nolacatholic.org/human-cloning-stem-cell-research

**USCCB Pro-Life** — Resource brochures and information on bioethics issues and the dignity of a person usccb.org/prolife/bioethics-materials and numerous documents related to moral guidance on vaccines usccb.org/prolife/vaccines-and-biomedical-research and materials on adult stem cells usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/stem-cell-research/adult-stem-cells

**LA Right To Life** — Find resources, videos, educational information and policy updates about all issues related to embryonic research including ethical stem cell research, human cloning, in-vitro fertilization and gestational surrogacy. https://prolifelouisiana.org/learn/protecting-embryos/

**Charlotte Lozier Institute** — Stem Cell Research Facts — Valuable resource for individuals, families, and organizations seeking more education and research related to life-threatening or life-changing diseases and conditions by providing concise information and scientific facts. stemcellresearchfacts.org

**Family Research Council** — Nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to articulating and advancing a family-centered philosophy of public life by providing policy research and analysis for the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and information to news media, academic community, business leaders and the general public about family issues that affect the nation from a biblical worldview. Information on Biotechnology at frc.org/stem-cells-and-biotechnology and for a Report “Stem Cells, Cloning, and Human Embryos: Understanding the Ethics and Opportunity of Scientific Research” at https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF13E47.pdf

**Prayer for the Embryonic Stage of Life** —
Lord God, you alone have the power to instill the spark of life, yet, you have made humankind stewards of creation. Help us to be faithful to this sacred trust so that we may protect and promote the dignity of every human life from the very moment of conception, particularly the tiniest humans in the embryonic stage of human development who are so often forgotten by society and used by modern science. May the these tiny humans be given the full respect due all human life. May those entrusted to care for them protect them fully from all experimentation and harm. And may these tiniest of us be afforded the opportunity to grow to the fullness in this life for which they are created. We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Adoption is a loving option. “Adoption is heroic. Adoption is a loving, hopeful option for your baby. Adoption is not “giving away” or "giving up" your baby, it is you making the best parenting decision for your child.” Louisiana Department of Health

**RESOURCES**

**Catholic Charities Adoption Services** — A full service, non-profit child placing agency that offers domestic and international adoption by providing services to birth parents and families considering adoption. Believing every child deserves a safe and loving home, the agency is staffed by certified open-adoption practitioners experienced in maternity and adoption services. adoptnola.com • 504-885-1141 • For placing a child for adoption Cindy Falgoust maternity case manager • cfalgoust@ccano.org • For adopting a child or for an adoption that has already taken place contact Dana Cousins, LCSW-BACS program director • dcousins@ccano.org

**Louisiana Department of Health** — Educating those who are contemplating adoption that adoption is not abandonment it is love. Learn more about adoption in the state including stories of birth moms, your rights as a birth mother, adoption and birth fathers, resources for parenting and links to adoption services in Louisiana AdoptionOption.LA.gov • 225-342-9500

**Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans** — Licensed adoption agency working with birth parents and adoptive parents through all aspects of adoption, offering openness in adoption, assistance with accessing medical care, free counseling and follow-up support. Also provides assistance for those seeking adoption records or reunion services. voasela.org/adoption • Lori Arceneaux program director • larceneaux@voasela.org • 504-812-0159

**Catholic Charities Therapeutic Family Services** — Children with moderate to severe emotional, behavioral, or developmental problems, or medically fragile children are matched with families who provide temporary foster care, with the goal being to reunite these children with their families or permanent foster family. TFS trains and supports prospective foster parents. Children are referred through the Department of Children and Family Services. ccano.org/tfs • Shacidy Hadley-Bush • shadley@ccano.org • 504-310-6939

**Catholic Charities Foster Grandparents** — Part of Senior Corps, this program helps low-income seniors age 55 and over to stay active through volunteer service with children and youth in their communities by providing their life experience, wisdom, love and attention to encourage, tutor, and mentor children and troubled teens in a variety of settings such as schools, Head Start and day care centers, shelters, and rehabilitation facilities. ccano.org/foster-grandparents • Brian Broussard • bpbrousard@ccano.org • 504-310-6882

**Respect Life Office** — View presentation on “Celebrate Adoption” nolacatholic.org/video-resources

**I Lived on Parker Avenue** — View this compelling documentary about adoption and love as it tells the story of local boy David Scotton on his journey to meet his birth parents. ilivedonparkerave.com

**Pray** — Pray for the precious souls awaiting adoption from our foster care system in Louisiana adoptuskids.org/states/la/browse.aspx
“We ask the risen Jesus, who turns death into life, to change hatred into love, vengeance into forgiveness, war into peace. Yes, Christ is our peace, and through him we implore peace for all the world.” Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi message

The knowledge and realization of how deeply we are loved by God elicits a response of love that simultaneously draws us closer to God and, at the same time, impels us to share his love with others. This is how we build a culture of life. Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts. When we encounter Christ, experience His love, and deepen our relationship with Him, we become more aware of our own immeasurable worth, and that of others. We must be open to sharing Christ’s love however He directs. We simply need to follow where He leads.” (USCCB Respect Life)

RESOURCES

Catholic Charities Project SAVE — Stopping Abuse through Victims Empowerment — Assists survivors of domestic violence residing in Orleans Parish to obtain free emergency legal representation with legal orders to keep survivors safe and to protect their legal rights. Legal services can include temporary restraining and protection orders, temporary child support, custody, use of property and referrals. ccano.org/domestic-violence-services • Allyson Tuttle • atuttle@ccano.org • 504-310-6872

Catholic Charities Isaiah 43 Mentoring Program — Provides services to families, church parishes, and communities strengthening their capacities for peacebuilding. Through mentoring activities, and ministry development, youth are empowered to be peacemakers, to be active in promoting peace in their neighborhoods, and to live by the values of love, peace, and forgiveness. ccano.org/isaiah-43 • Kristina Gibson • kgibson@ccano.org • 504-310-8772

Rehumanize International — Non-profit human rights organization dedicated to creating a culture of peace and life, and in so doing, seek to bring an end to all aggressive violence against humans through education, discourse, and action. Mission is to ensure that each and every human being’s life is respected, valued, and protected. rehumanizeintl.org • info@rehumanizeintl.org • 740-863-9565

Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Racial Harmony — Assists all parishes, schools, offices and individual Catholics in faithfully learning and implementing ways to promote racial harmony so as to build a more loving, accepting, and respectful community. nolacatholic.org/racial-harmony

USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace — Assists bishops, collectively and individually, in advancing the social mission of the Church on international justice and peace through policy development, advocacy, education, outreach, and acts of ecclesial solidarity. Get the latest updates and policy issues at usccb.org/committees/international-justice-and-peace/war-peace

Catholic Relief Services — Led by the commitment of the Bishops of the United States, CRS upholds the sacredness and dignity of human life, fosters justice and charity and embodies Catholic social teaching by assisting the poor and vulnerable overseas. In an effort to promote human development, CRS responds to emergencies, fights disease and poverty, and nurtures peaceful just societies. crs.org • 888-277-7575 • 877-435-7277 after hours • 228 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore Maryland 21201-3433 • local contact Kevin Fitzpatrick • kfitzpatrick@ccano.org • 504-596-5692

Archdiocese of New Orleans Mass for Justice and Peace — Annual Mass held in January