



September 15, 2020

Dear Father,

What a journey we have been on with you over this past year! Thank you so much for your support of the Catholic Life Conference all along the way. Without you we would not be where we are today!

As you already know, we could not host the Catholic Life Conference in March. When our reschedule date in October was still a “no-go” for people coming to us, we took a deep breath and voted to not lose all we had worked for. We decided to bring the conference *to each person*...an At-Home Conference!

The big news is the conference is now FREE. While having it at the Mass Mutual Center was exciting, it did cost money. Now that expense has disappeared and we are free for all—and thanks to technology, for anyone, anywhere. We have also expanded to a full week, October 11-18. This month we announced the conference in the parishes and on social media. And we put up our website which not only invites registration, it makes good on refunds and also allows refunds to be “spent” on lovely Catholic items.

All of our speakers have stayed with us—actually a source of encouragement to us. We are touched that they care about our Catholic life here in the Diocese of Springfield and that we aren’t simply viewed as income for them. Two of our speakers are participating for free at this point—that’s how committed they are. We had well over 1400 registrants when we cancelled. We were so proud, so excited, at such a number. That number alone kept us in the game this fall.

Thank you again, Father, for your support. The encouragement we have received from the priests has meant so much to us—both last winter and spring, and now, as we move into this new experience of coming together in spirit, via our phones, computers, and TV’s. Since going digital, we have caught the interest of several Catholic organizations that are donating extras to fill out our program. The result is a do-able, easy to access, take-in at your leisure, program that is sure to invigorate and deepen our faith. We are now able to offer Spanish translation for all of our talks. We have Conference To-Go Bags, chock full of Catholic Life, to bring the conference more fully into the home. We have an interactive children’s program, Family Pilgrimage, which comes with its own Conference To-Go Bag. We even have a complimentary opportunity to enjoy the spectacular film of the stage production, *Jesus*, produced by Sight & Sound Theater in Branson, Missouri.

A few details, so you’re in the know: all participants need to register and receive a password at **[catholiclifeconference.org](http://catholiclifeconference.org)** to access the conference. We are happy to fulfill all requests for refunds. Priests and Deacons do not need to register—to save you time we are giving you the password here: **catholiclife**

We’d also like to call your attention to the Q&A, which is live with each speaker on Saturday, October 17. Another opportunity which may be of interest to you is that the St. Paul Center is offering us a promo code for a 15% discount on their Video Bible Studies—all amazing and worth considering for your parish.

As we put the final pieces in place we ask you to pray for us and for the intention of this conference—to bring *hope* and *encouragement* and *confidence* to the Catholics of Western Mass; to bring active Catholic *Life* into our homes and parishes; and to help us know more fully, WHY we are Catholic!

God bless you!

April Helenek  
President, Catholic Life Conference