



October 2010 Update



Greetings and thank you ahead of time for the time and effort, the love and passion, so many of you will share during this upcoming Respect Life month. There are many ways Respect for Life will be highlighted this month, such as including special prayer intentions during mass; setting up displays; posting flyers; sponsoring fundraisers; adding extra hours of Eucharistic Adoration; participating in educational, prayer, and advocacy opportunities; and addressing life issues at PSR, youth groups, RCIA and over a family meal... just to name a few. Formal and informal, large and small, whether highly planned and broadly promoted or simply spontaneous, all these acts, done with faith and love, and united with the acts of others, help build a culture of life, first in our own hearts and beyond.

Encouraging all of us in our efforts, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, the Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities at the USCCB included the following remarks in a statement released on September 27:

With each passing year, the need for personal and public witness grounded in God's boundless love for each and every human being grows more urgent..... Becoming a voice for the child in the womb, and for the embryonic human being at risk of becoming a mere object of research, and for the neglected sick and elderly is one of many ways we can teach our fellow citizens that "The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure." While critics want to portray the Church's witness as a narrow and negative ideology, it is just the opposite: A positive vision of the dignity of each and every human being without exception, each loved equally by God and so equally deserving of our love and our nation's respect. ([Click here](#) for his full statement and [here](#) for the flyer, "The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure.")

As an important planning note for a profound opportunity, Cardinal DiNardo also advised that "Recently Pope Benedict made an unprecedented request... asking that Catholic bishops throughout the world, and all parishes and religious communities, observe a "Vigil for All Nascent Human Life" on the evening of Saturday, November 27, 2010." In our own Diocese Bishop Braxton has asked that we pray in solidarity with the Holy Father and the universal Church. A possible Vespers service is provided [here](#). As other worship aids become available you will quickly be updated.

On behalf of those directly involved in Respect Life ministry, I would like to extend sincere appreciation for the many ways and varied settings where people throughout the Diocese help people live up to their inherent dignity. Please join us this month, even if you normally are involved in ministry other than Respect Life, and take advantage of the added opportunities. In all settings, may all of us be alert and intentional about confidently and consistently working to protect, heal, and celebrate life, from conception to natural death, and in all ages, stages, and circumstances in between.

Finally, as we work together, "because of the witness of our love for one another, may people be drawn to the love of the Father." Of course it is here, in relationship with the Giver of Life, in whose image we are created, that each person may most live up to the fullness of dignity. It is here too that those who carry buried wounds associated with assaults against life may find hope and healing on the path of ongoing conversion, a path common to us all.

May God bless you, and those you love and serve,

Laurie Edwards, Respect Life Coordinator