




Catholic Diocese of Belleville Respect Life Ministry

2620 Lebanon Avenue Bldg #2
Belleville, IL 62221
e-mail: ledwards@diobelle.org
www.respectlife.catholicweb.com



Phone: 618-235-9601, x. 1332

Fax: 618-257-2969

 **Project Rachel:** 1-888-456-HOPE

September 2011

Dear Friends of Respect Life,

A couple of weeks ago the annual USCCB Respect Life Parish Program was sent to all the parishes, followed by an email with links to almost all of the contents. Hopefully the packets are making their way to the Respect Life committee. There is time sensitive information included, especially for preparation for October, Respect Life month, beginning with ordering the inserts from USCCB for Respect Life Sunday. The content links will be once again included at the conclusion here for your convenience.

I would like to invite/*encourage* you to send to me any Respect Life activities you have planned during October that others might be able to join and I will prepare a list for the next mailing... (For example, do you have a group scheduling a trip to the abortion facility in Granite City for 40 Days for Life? Or do you have a Holy Hour for Life planned?) (Also, you might visit [Respect Life on facebook](#) to add a status/comment/update – *I am still learning the right terms* ☺ - when you have an event!)

In *brief* (because I hope you will take the time to explore the contents of the packet!) there are the following additional items in the four program areas of Respect Life that I would like to highlight:

Advocacy

Please be attentive to any updates and alerts on a couple of immediate issues:

- The HHS rule mandating contraception and abortifacient drugs
- Need for conscience protection for Catholic Agencies in Illinois in light of the Civil Unions legislation

Direct Support (Please consider bulletin announcements for the following opportunities to assist in providing direct support to women in a crisis pregnancy!)

- Mosaic Pregnancy Care Center's Walk for Life: <http://www.supportmosaic.org/walkforlife>
- Fontebella (a maternity shelter serving the entire region): Jason Smallheer will be competing in a triathlon on September 11, 2011 in Ohio for Fontebella Maternity Shelter. Please sponsor Jason as he Swims 2.4 miles, Bikes 112 miles, and Runs 26.2 miles for "Marathons for Moms" by visiting www.marathonsformoms.com and going to the page for Fontebella, in O'Fallon Illinois, to pledge an amount. Follow Jason the day of the race at <http://rev3tri.com/cedar-point/cedar-point-news/>
- Fontebella: September 19th BINGO at the Catholic Knights and Ladies Hall in Swansea. Only 75 pre-purchase tickets available @ \$20 each. Contact Joanne @ 618-977-3768 or Charmaine @ 618-567-6028.

Prayer/Pastoral Care

New prayer intentions (as well as informational/inspiration bulletin nuggets) from USCCB's *Word of Life* are updated monthly and are available in English and Spanish at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources-for-the-eucharist/word-of-life/>

There are now five sessions of the Project Rachel webinar series available for replay. They may be found by following the Project Rachel link at www.respectlife.catholicweb.com. The next scheduled session is September 19, at 4:00 and may be accessed from the same page!

Education (A great way to make education an integral part of your program is to incorporate the brochures in the packet as bulletin inserts throughout the year, covering a good range of Life issues. In the Packet letter there is a suggested schedule, beginning with the one on the death penalty in September, as preparation for Sister Helen Prejean's visit to the Diocese.)

National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities webinars <http://www.ncpd.org/webinars#02> (Registrations now open and free to members (individuals, parishes, agencies) of the Diocese, because we are an affiliate member.)

- Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry for People with Disabilities (September 13)
- Threats to the Lives of People with Disability, Part II: Physician Assisted Suicide (September 20)
- How Can We Help? Parish Support for Veterans and Their Families (October 18)

NFP Presentation with Matt and Emily Joost: <http://instantteleseminar.com/?eventid=21453609>

The following is listed again for your convenience. Please share this information broadly to others, especially the Upcoming Events!

[USCCB 2011 Respect Life Parish Program link](#) (View here the articles in this year's packet, available in English and Spanish as two-sided bulletin inserts will be available)

*** [2011 Respect Life Packet Letter](#) *** (includes ideas for use of the articles in the packet and more)

[Parish Respect Life Coordinator Form](#)

[2011 "Ways to Incorporate RL in the Parish"](#) (Correction: there is **not** a workshop scheduled for September 11)

Upcoming events

[Granite City Respect Life Mass and Rosary Walk 2011](#) (October 1)

[Life Chain](#) (October 2) (Check for nearest location. For more information, and how to start a Life Chain in your town, call Linda Benken, 618-632-8606)

[Sr Helen Prejean Flyer](#) (October 13)

[Diocese of Belleville Respect Life Mass](#) (October 22)

[STL Respect Life Convention with Immaculee Ilibagiza](#) (October 23) (if you would like a file for the included 11x17 poster let me know)

Additional items

[Project Rachel Bulletin Announcements](#), [Project Rachel contact and prayer cards](#)

[State Legislator Contact Sheet](#), [Federal Legislators Side One](#), [Federal Legislators Side Two](#)

[Guttmacher May 2011 US Abortion Fact Sheet](#), [RL Resource Listing](#)

Finally, and most importantly – because none of the above will go anywhere without you – **Thank you** for your ongoing commitment and service as a Witness to Life, in all its ages and stages and circumstances! It is a big job, but our God is far bigger still, and tells us, “ ... I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

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

Laurie Edwards