

Family & ProLife News Briefs

October 2022

Participate in Some Way During This *Respect Life Month*

Called to Serve Moms in Need

The U.S. Catholic Bishops are providing free 2022 Respect Life Month resources to assist in helping us understand, value, and become engaged with building a **culture that cherishes every human life**. Various materials are available to order in print or to download online at www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month. One example is the Reflection, excerpts of which follow:

After Mary's visitation to Elizabeth, she, pregnant with Jesus, spends the next three months at Elizabeth's side. The witness of our Blessed Mother invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities. A woman with an unexpected pregnancy may have any number of fears and challenges: facing judgment from her friends and family, losing her job or housing, or being abandoned by the father of her child.

Following Mary's example, we can ask ourselves how to better know these mothers, listen to them, seek understanding, and help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children. Like the Blessed Mother, we must find ways to lovingly support mothers in welcoming and caring for God's gift of life. It is a summons to help vulnerable women who may be isolated and alone. By doing so, we too can bear Christ within us & help others experience His presence. Inspired by the Blessed Mother's example and guided by the Holy Spirit, may we offer Christ's presence & love to mothers in their time of need through our faithful service and support.

Pregnancy Resources for Women

"Every day we wake up to news of more and more violence – against houses of worship, against pregnancy resource centers and against children. It is both horrifying and heart-wrenching." [Ed's note: there have been over 100 such instances in the past year.]

"Many years ago, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, 'Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love is abortion.'"

These words were written in the Fall 2022 newsletter of Life Choices Resource Center (Metuchen, NJ) and reflect the caring and support that can be found at over 3,000 such centers nationwide that provide support and assistance to women in crisis pregnancy. One thing each of us can do is help the work of our local centers by our support and volunteer assistance.

This free monthly newsletter is used by dozens of churches as a bulletin insert, and since 2013 has had over 30,000 readers. To receive each month's issue in your inbox, email Frank Tinari, Ph.D. at tinarifr@shu.edu

New Jersey Bishop Invites Catholics to Take the Next Step

Parishioners from the Diocese of Paterson and beyond are invited to join Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney, DD, for its first **Respect Life Convocation**. In light of the recent Supreme Court decision that affords renewed protection for life in the womb, this event will highlight and promote the Church's advocacy for life and for women in need, and **practically equip lay people** to contribute to the culture of life.

The morning will include options to attend two breakout sessions presented by experienced activists on topics such as Walking with Moms in Need, Reaching out with Compassion to Those Touched by Abortion, Answering Tough Life Questions, and Building a Parish Culture of Life.

The Convocation is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2022, from 9 am to 1 pm at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, NJ. To register visit <https://insidethewalls.org/pro-life-convocation-registration-page>

Saint Therese once said that "what wounds the heart of God most are not our fault and sins, but our lack of trust in his love and mercy." For anyone who has been involved in a **mercy killing or an abortion**, seek God's abundant mercy and forgiveness.

Lila Rose Drops Mic on 'Dr. Phil'

Lila Rose, the founder and president of the national pro-life group Live Action, recently spoke in defense of the unborn in cases of rape and fetal anomalies to a national audience on Dr. Phil's talk show. In response to the talk-show host's statement that the scientific community is divided on the question of whether life begins at conception, she countered with a powerful one-liner. **Rose asked: "In an abortion, if it's not a human life why do you have to kill it?"**

Dr. Phil commented that "there is no consensus among the scientific community." Rose stated: "There is, Dr. Phil. Ninety- six percent of



scientists say that life begins at fertilization." A study conducted by a University of Chicago doctoral student showed that a majority of biologists believe life begins at conception. Of the 5,577 biologists who responded to a survey he sent out, 96% supported this fact. [Francesca Pollio Fenton, EWTN News CNA, 9/15/22]

College Students Outraged

Controversy followed a change in student health services at Oberlin College (Ohio) that leaves students without ready access to contraceptives. Not a Catholic college, Oberlin, like many colleges and universities, outsources student health to an outside provider. On Aug. 1, to run the student health center, it contracted with a subsidiary of Bon Secours Mercy Health, a Catholic health care network that follows the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs) issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For example, Catholic hospitals “may not promote or condone contraceptive practices”; similarly, elective sterilization procedures, such as tubal ligations or vasectomies, are prohibited.

Following the Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*’s legalization of abortion, Catholic health networks are facing increasing pressure to make contraceptives and like medical procedures more readily available. According to a 2020 study by Community Catalyst, four of the 10 largest American health systems are Catholic. In 52 regions Medicare and Medicaid services have identified that the only local hospital (“sole community hospital”) is a Catholic hospital. The guidelines issued by the USCCB offer the framework for Catholic health care: “to see healing and compassion as a continuation of Christ’s mission; ... and to see death, transformed by the Resurrection, as an opportunity for a final act of communion with Christ.”

Our faithful imitation of Christ calls us to run to serve the sick, to alleviate suffering, to offer the compassionate love & mercy of the Lord to all in need. Catholic physicians, nurses and health care professionals can transform a patient’s experience of health care by clearly explaining the Church’s teaching. Rather than accept the false narrative that Catholics “deny care,” faithful Catholics can help animate the larger sense and spirit of the hospitals, clinics and medical groups where they are employed. To live out our faith, we cannot stay within the four walls of our churches. We must serve the sick, the suffering and the dying. And we must serve them as Catholics. [Editorial: The indispensable duty of Catholic hospitals, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 9/13/22]

Can You Give One Hour a Week?

The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life (Sept. 28 to Nov. 6) is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility in your community. It is a peaceful and educational presence. Those who are called to stand witness during this 24-hour-a-day presence send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion.

40 Days for Life has a proven track record of saving lives and closing abortion facilities in over 1,000 cities

in 64 countries. Since 2007, 120 abortion centers have closed with the help of nearly 1 million volunteers and over 20,000 church groups. To find a local vigil near you, visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/> and click on Locations. Your local county or state Respect Life group may also have detailed information.

Movies, TV and a Book

If you want a break from your usual video fare, something with a bit more enduring substance, check out some of these:

■ *A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing*. Part 1. Saul Alinsky’s Rules for Radicals spawned upheaval against religion & traditional culture of American society. EWTN TV, 10/16/22. Part 2. Radical progressive views warp society’s traditional attitudes on gender, human sexuality, marriage and family. EWTN TV, 10/23/22.

■ *Mother Teresa: No Greater Love*. Archives were hunted down all over the world to help create this eye-opening film. In over 960 theaters Oct. 3-4.

■ *Lifemark*. The movie celebrates the life-giving choice of adoption through the true story of Louisiana native David Scotton. Adopted as an infant, he grows up in a loving home. At age 18 & about to graduate high school, he unexpectedly receives a message from his birth mother, asking to meet him. For theater tickets, visit LifemarkMovie.com.



■ *The Seven Big Myths About Marriage* (Ignatius Press). How true marital happiness is based on authentic love, always seeking the good of the other.

Unmasking Truth About Chemical Abortions

Many in government & the elites continue to expand access to abortion. Agencies now allow telemedicine chemical abortions without a clinic in-person visit. The U.S. studies on which these recommendations are based are seriously flawed. More careful European studies show significant death and complication rates, even with patient physical exam, ultrasound, screening, and treatment for STDs and in-person follow-up. States should ban telemedicine abortions without an in-person visit, including a pelvic exam and ultrasound. [Kathleen Raviele, M.D., Unmasking the Truth About Chemical Abortions, *Life & Learnings XXXI*, 2022.]

Some Stories You May Have Missed

The major cable and TV networks often ignore reports that don’t agree with their agenda. Here are just a few:

- Court: Catholic Hospitals Don’t Have to Perform Abortions, ‘Transitions’ *Nat. Catholic Register* 9/11/22
- The UN World Health Org. (WHO) Thinks You Might Be Neither Male Nor Female, *C-Fam Letter* 8/22
- Pro-Life Movement Finds Allies in Secular Organizations, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 8/28/22