



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
STEUBENVILLE
*Shepherding 13 Counties
in Southeastern Ohio*

2026 Message for Respect Life Month

The theme for this year's Respect Life Month (October) is "Mary, Mother of Life, Pray for us!" I join my brother Bishops throughout the United States in proposing the Blessed Virgin Mary as the model disciple who cherished the gift of life. She welcomed Jesus, the Author of Life, into her womb. She gave birth to Him and nurtured Him throughout His childhood. She supported Him as He fulfilled His mission to preach the Gospel, to forgive sinners, and to heal the sick. She listened to Him and loved Him, even to the end as she stood below His cross. She loved His disciples and was given to be their Mother – our Mother – by Christ Himself on the Cross. Mary continues to pray for us and to witness to the value of life. She teaches us to cherish, protect, and nurture the gift of life at all stages and in all circumstances.

Mary entreats us to love Her Son in the unborn child, in the elderly neighbor, in the disabled fellow parishioner, and in those rejected by others. We are called to affirm the sanctity of human life in the womb and throughout all of the other stages of life. We are called to support mothers in need and to affirm the sacredness of life in the face of assisted suicide, capital punishment, and other actions that diminish human life and dignity. Let us ask our heavenly Mother to intercede for us as we strive to build a culture of life that accepts and cherishes every single person made in the Image of God.

Bishop Edward M. Lohse
Apostolic Administrator
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