



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Committee on
Pro-Life Activities

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Dear friends in Christ,

Every October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, with the first Sunday of October designated as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to welcome, care for, and protect God's gift of human life, with special concern for those who are most vulnerable. Respect Life Sunday and Respect Life Month offer opportunities to highlight this precious gift through prayer, reflection, advocacy, and service.

This year's theme, "Mary, Mother of Life," reflects on Our Lady's distinguished role as mother of all the living. The life of the Blessed Mother teaches us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance. We ask her intercession in helping us to recognize the gift of human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices. The 2026 poster and accompanying *Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life* features the beautiful image, *Virgin of the Lillies*, by William-Adolphe Bouguereau.

A printed poster and litany fold-out with this year's theme are available to order online from the Respect Life Store (store.respectlife.org), where many other Respect Life materials are also available for purchase or at no cost.

In addition, there are many new digital resources that can be downloaded for free in English and Spanish at respectlife.org. These include a bulletin reflection, graphics for bulletins and newsletters, a novena, homily helps, sample announcements, and a step-by-step action guide.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also has many other materials to help you build a culture of life in your parish throughout the year, such as other parish action guides (respectlife.org/action-guides) and Walking with Moms in Need (walkingwithmoms.com).

Offering my deep gratitude to all who have committed themselves to the cause of life, I pray that together we may faithfully contribute to a culture of life through selfless and sacrificial Christ-like love.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities