



LIFE

*Our Sign
of Hope*

RESPECT LIFE



LIFE

*Our Sign
of Hope*

RESPECT LIFE

A PRAYER FOR HOPE

Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, you have given us the gift of new life. Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own.

Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world.

Reveal to us the places where your precious gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying.

Guided by your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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To order, visit store.respectlife.org.



The Stahl Family



Brainstorming

When you think of
“Respect Life
Ministry,”
what comes to
mind?

- Your name
- Your parish & city

**“The death and resurrection of
Jesus is the heart of our faith and
the basis of our hope.”**

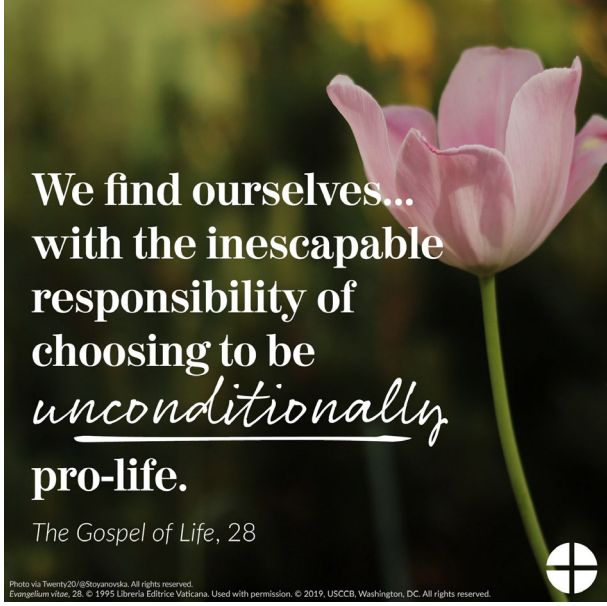
Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20



In every child
which is born and
in every person who
lives or dies we see the
image of God's glory.

The Gospel of Life, 84

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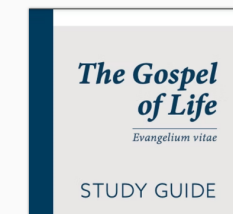


We find ourselves...
with the inescapable
responsibility of
choosing to be
unconditionally
pro-life.

The Gospel of Life, 28

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The Gospel of Life **STUDY GUIDE & COMPENDIUM**



The Gospel of Life: Study Guide

This study guide was developed for use either with the "*The Gospel of Life: Compendium*" or with the full encyclical text. The study guide provides scriptural reflections, prayers, and discussion questions to help readers reflect more deeply on *The Gospel of Life*. While specifically designed to help facilitate small or large group studies, individuals can also use this tool on their own to increase their understanding of the text and make real-life connections.

"Every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect."

Patris corde, 5



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Pastoral Plan for Pro- Life Activities (PPPLA)

- Affirms value and inviolability of human life
- Appeals to respect, protect, love, and serve every human life

Spectrum of Respect Life Issues

Abortion, abortion healing	End of life issues
Assisted suicide and euthanasia	IVF/Reproductive technology
Capital Punishment	Mental health
Care for the chronically disabled	Natural family planning
Care for prisoners and those on death row	Pregnancy care and walking with parents in need
Catholic care for the sick and dying	Promotion and defense of marriage
Catholic care for victims of violent crime and domestic violence	Pornography
Catholics in political life - faithful citizenship	Racism
Conscience protection	Religious Liberty
Contraception and sterilization	Vaccines and biomedical research

Respect Life

Where do we begin? ...

I CAME SO THAT
THEY MIGHT HAVE

LIFE



Respect Life

Where do we begin? ...

"We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, **no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem**"

-- Living the Gospel of Life, no. 20, USCCB



Where do we begin? ...

"Some behaviors are always wrong ... Abortion, the direct taking of innocent human life prior to birth, is always morally wrong, as is the deliberate destruction of human embryos for any reason. Assisted suicide and euthanasia are not acts of mercy but acts that are never morally acceptable. Direct attacks on innocent civilians during war and terrorist acts targeting noncombatants must always be condemned.

-- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB



The Bishops' Plan: Four Pillars ...

Public
Information
and Education

Pastoral Care

Public Policy
Efforts

Prayer and
Worship

Parish Respect Life Committee

GOALS:

1. Coordinate parish participation in the USCCB respect life program
2. Implement intentions of the pastor and the diocese

Specifically,

Foster awareness (**Education**)

Stay informed (**Public Policy**)

Sponsor prayer (**Prayer**)

Support maternity services, post-abortion counseling (**Pastoral Care**)

Parish Respect Life Committee

STRUCTURE:

Include:

Adults and youth

Persons with disabilities, minority cultures, and those responsible for education and pastoral care

Chaired by Parish Respect Life Coordinator (PRLC)

Appointed by the pastor

Recruit volunteers

Gets direction from diocesan LiFE Office

Cooperates and supports other parish ministries

Prioritizes their own faith journey, prayer, formation, and service

Diocese of Rockford
Life and Family Evangelization Office

Respect Life Calendar of Observances

Updated September 2025

The days marked by respect life ministry include, but are not limited to:

Monthly

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Day(s)</u>	<u>Observance</u>	<u>Directed by</u>
One regular parish Mass each month	At the parish's regularly scheduled Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass	Mass intention for the "Sanctity and Protection of Human Life and Families in the Diocese of Rockford"	LiFE Office, Diocese of Rockford

2025

Respect Life Calendar of Observances

Formation

SEPTEMBER: FAITH IN ACTION

SEX ED



The Diocese of Rockford cautions parents to **consider what our Illinois public schools teach our children about sex education.** In 2021, Illinois public schools adopted the National Sexual Education Standards for schools that teach sex ed. These standards require children from kindergarten through 12th grade to receive instruction about gender identity, expression, and orientation. The standards can cause **irreparable harm to children, are contrary to Church teaching on God's gift of sexuality, undermine parents' rights, and indoctrinate children to a particular social agenda.** Learn more and find **opt-out sample letters** at www.rockforddiocese.org/life/current-life-issues/parental-rights. Opt-out letters must be resubmitted each year. For age-appropriate, parent-led Catholic sex ed materials, check out **Love Ed** at loveed.com.

The Church celebrates the feast of **St. Peter Claver**, Patron of Black Missions, on September 9. The U.S. bishops have asked the faithful to observe the feast as a **Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities.** Claver left his native Spain and served the poor in Colombia in 1610. He ministered to the Black men and women enslaved there, advocated the abolition of slavery, and pressured slaveowners to treat their workers humanely. He did this for 33 years. St. Peter Claver's example is a guiding light for us today. In the U.S., we face racism and other attacks on human life through abortion, assisted suicide, and death row, which disproportionately impact people of color. Join us in praying for peace and charity among all people, especially those in our community: tinyurl.com/mtz6sp7u.

PEACE



CHARITY



Charity means loving God for who He is and loving others the way we love ourselves. **St. John Paul II** once said, "Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent." Charity doesn't always mean taking care of the poor, but it's one of many ways in which we offer charity to those around us. The feast of **St. Vincent de Paul**, Patron of Charitable Societies, is celebrated on September 27. Father Vincent always helped the impoverished. The **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, named in his honor, continues this legacy of charity. The Rockford Council of the Society offers financial assistance, resources, and hope to those in need. Learn more about local efforts at svdprockfordcouncil.org.

Nota Parroquial Provida - Agosto 2025

SANTA MÓNICA

El **27 de Agosto** celebramos la **festividad de Santa Mónica**, patrona de las madres y las viudas. Sus oraciones y súplicas a Dios propiciaron la conversión de su hijo, San Agustín de Hippo (Obispo y doctor de la Iglesia), una joya imperecedera de la Iglesia que contribuyó a profundizar nuestra comprensión de la fe cristiana. Su madre, Santa Mónica, es un ejemplo perfecto de una vida de oración sincera e inquebrantable, intercediendo especialmente por su hijo cuando vivió una vida alejada de Cristo. Los esposos están llamados a orar juntos, el uno por el otro y por sus hijos. Santa Mónica nos muestra los frutos de apoyar a un hijo física y espiritualmente en cualquier situación que esté atravesando. ¡Apoyemos a nuestros hijos en oración!



De la Oficina de
Evangelización
y la Familia
de Ro

rockforddiocese.org/life | Textee LIFEDIGNITY a 84576 para recibir nuestro F

Parish LiFE Note - September 2025

SEX ED

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Diocese of Rockford's
Life and Family
Evangelization (LiFE)
Office

rockforddiocese.org/life | Text LIFEDIGNITY to 84576 to receive our Flocknotes.

SEPTEMBER 2025



Parish LiFE Note

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD'S
Life and Family Evangelization (LiFE) Office



rockforddiocese.org/life | Text LIFEDIGNITY to 84576 to receive our Flocknotes.

Prayer



LET US PRAY FOR FAMILIES!

*Because a solid society is built upon strong, healthy families, one parish per month in the Diocese of Rockford will pray a Mass intention that all families flourish in our universal call to holiness! Attend one of the Masses listed below to pray **“for the Sanctity and Protection of Human Life and Families in the Diocese of Rockford.”** More parish Masses will be announced.*

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CRYSTAL LAKE, ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026, AT 7:30 AM

HOLY ANGELS, AURORA, ON SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026, AT 11:00 AM

ST. MARY, POLO, ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026, AT 10:15 AM

ST. PATRICK, AMBOY, ON SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026, AT 10:30 AM

ST. JOSEPH, AURORA, ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026, AT 4:00 PM

ST. PATRICK, ROCHELLE, ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026, AT 9:00 AM



DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD LIFE & FAMILY EVANGELIZATION OFFICE



Accompaniment



Walking with
Moms in Need



Sidewalk Advocates

FOR LIFE

On Location. Saving Lives.
Ending Abortion.

BEGIN TO HOPE AGAIN

PROJECT RACHEL

A POST-ABORTION HEALING MINISTRY

(815) 387-3379 | PROJECTRACHELROCKFORD@GMAIL.COM

ALL INQUIRIES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

Ministry of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Advocacy





Life & Family
Evangelization Office

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Opposing Assisted Suicide

Four Pillars Exercise

Public
Information
and Education

Pastoral Care

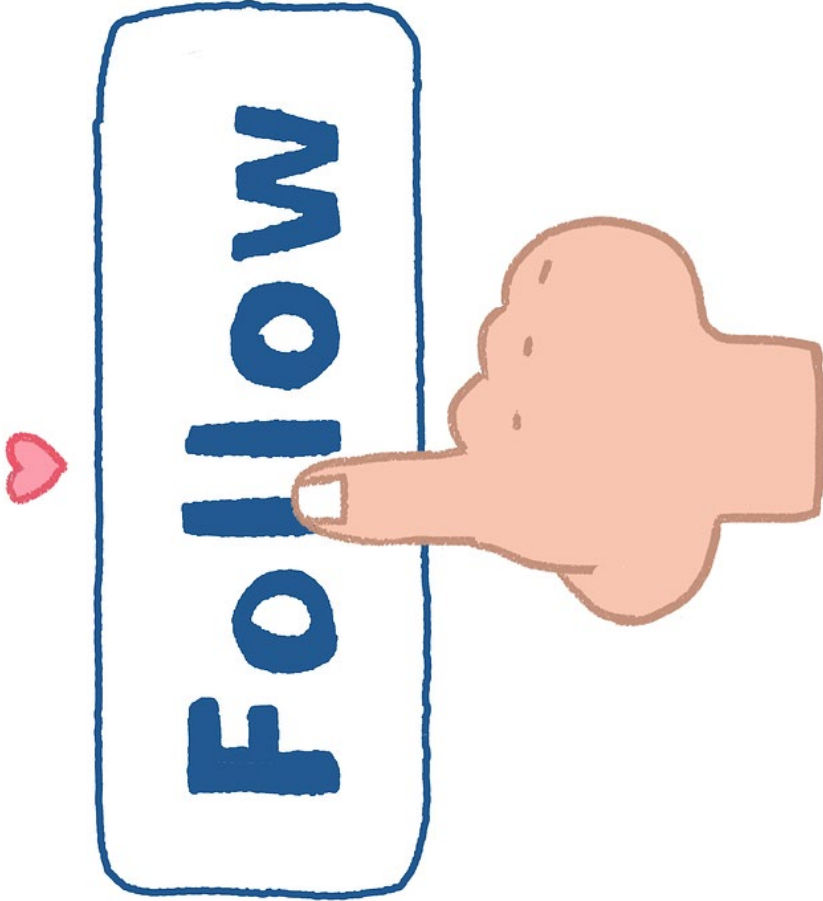
Public Policy
Efforts

Prayer and
Worship

For your assigned Respect Life issue:

1. Identify an event, program, or initiative that would address your assigned pillar of Respect Life ministry.
2. Write a one or two sentence description of this event/program/initiative.
3. Identify the “why.” Why does your parish need this event/program/initiative? Why should folks attend or participate?
4. List some logistics: target audience, how to promote, approximate costs, who will fund it, what supplies you will need, what sort of help will you need, etc.
5. Identify objections you may have to answer. Costs too much! No one will come!

FIRST THINGS FIRST: PRAYER!



Text LIFEDIGNITY to 84576 to receive our Flocknote emails



@rockford_life



@RockfordLiFE



Life & Family
Evangelization Office



Life.rockforddiocese.org