



## Catholic Diocese of Belleville Respect Life Ministry

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Dear Friends of Respect Life,

First of all thank you to all who participated this past month as we recalled the anniversary of Roe vs Wade. Whether you spent the time in prayer during private devotions, attended an observance with your parish, stood with your community on town hall steps, or marched with the *hundreds of thousands* in Washington, DC, our prayers and visible witness through advocacy and service were, and continue to be, needed to turn our culture toward an authentic respect and appreciation for the gift of life. If you would like to have some idea of the experience of the March, here are three sites ([great numbers](#), [joy](#), [advocacy](#)) you might visit, plus click on Facebook on the Respect Life [website](#) and scroll to some links there.

As you are already aware from *legislative alerts* last week, that season has begun! Please be attentive to the alerts and pass them along. Please visit the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment ([NCHLA](#)) Center for more details and a quick and easy way to contact your legislators. Three current alerts are Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, H.R. 361, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, H.R. 3, and Protect Life Act, H.R. 358. Additionally, if you haven't contacted Governor Quinn about signing the legislation to end the death penalty in Illinois, please prayerfully consider calling him, 217-782-0244 or 312-814-2121.

Lent and Divine Mercy Sunday are perhaps the most appropriate times in the liturgical year to promote post-abortion ministry emphasizing God's great eagerness to forgive and heal us. There are different times that a homily could emphasize this very specifically, including when the Gospel story of the Samaritan woman at the well -- where Jesus shows attention to one soul with an eagerness to bring her forgiveness and peace, and restore her to holiness -- is proclaimed on March 27. I have ordered, and will bring to deanery meetings, Project Rachel brochures to give you to have available.

\*\*\* Please be sure that you correct the Project Rachel number anywhere you may have it posted -- and promote the new number: 1-888-456-HOPE. \*\*\*

If your parish is planning any Respect Life educational (for example a film or speaker), advocacy or prayer events such as a trip to Granite City, a special period of Adoration or perhaps Stations of the Cross for Life (beginning page 9, [see here](#)), please let the Respect Life Office know and it will be included on a calendar of opportunities and made available on the website!

Thank you again for all you do as Witnesses for Life,

Laurie Edwards