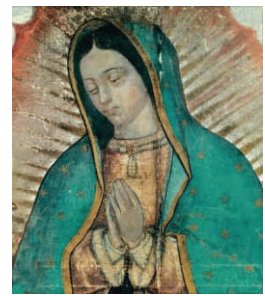




Catholic Diocese of Belleville

December 2010

*Greetings from the
Respect Life Office!*



Dear Friends,

I hope that the beginning of this Advent Season has already touched your hearts with expectation and renewed hope!! Moving ahead through the season and on farther into the new year let us keep that hope firm as we work and watch to see what the Lord will do as we remain faithful in our efforts to "Witness to Life"!!

Now is a good time to refer to the USCCB Respect Life Program Liturgy Guide ([click here](#)). It includes resources for the celebration of the Feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, including a reflection, prayer, ritual for "Enthronement of Our Lady of Guadalupe" and a Novena (from Saturday, December 4—Sunday, December 12).

Also in the Liturgy Guide you will find remarks for "Preaching for Life" using readings taken from the Mass for Peace and Justice (no.14, Lectionary for Mass, no. 887ff) for **January 22, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade**. As you know, in all dioceses of the United States of America this date is to be observed as a "particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.

This year, since the January 22 is on Saturday, you may want to consider planning a morning **Mass for Peace and Justice**, (above) with perhaps an activity following. Perhaps you could consider having a fellowship time with stationary available encouraging letters to be written to legislators; maybe some would like to write anonymous words of care and concern to those wounded by abortion (if you send them to me I can upload them onto the website); maybe they would like to compose prayers of commitment to help protect, heal and celebrate human life at all ages and stages... maybe children could draw congratulations cards to send to your local hospital with a prayer celebrating new life.

Also in the USCCB program there is a flyer (or for bulletin insert [click here](#)) titled, "**The Promise of Pro-Life Youth.**" You might consider including this alongside information for the March for Life. While that event is for all generations, the youthful energy and life on display is an awesome witness! (See [here](#) for a view of the Mass and Youth Rally!)

Speaking of the **March for Life in Washington, DC**. At least once in December and then the first of January are important times to include information in your bulletin letting people know of the March for Life Bus trip sponsored by the diocese and the Belleville Area Right to Life. We also include attending either the Illinois Mass or the Mass and Youth Rally in the morning before the March. See the included attachments with details and registration forms. Here are sample bulletin announcements:

MARCH FOR LIFE in WASHINGTON, D.C.: Monday, January 24, 2011

Registration has begun for the 2011 March for Life in Washington, DC. Detailed information and Registration forms are available at www.RespectLife.catholicweb.com.

MARCH FOR LIFE in WASHINGTON, D.C.: Monday, January 24, 2011

Join the pilgrimage to Washington DC where hundreds of thousands from throughout the nation will gather to pray and publicly witness so that hearts and minds may be opened to the Gospel of Life and laws may be changed to reverence all human life. A bus will be traveling to DC from all Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, departing Sunday, 1/23, and returning Tuesday, 1/25. For more information and to register please contact Doug Lugge at 618-476-9505 or jdlugge@wisperhome.com. Registration forms and info are also on the Respect Life website at www.RespectLife.catholicweb.com.

Finally, and very importantly, **thank you** to all who helped to make available prayer opportunities to join Pope Benedict XVI, and the Universal Church, for the "Vigil for All Nascent Human Life." (To read the homily given by the Holy Father [click here](#).) Thank you also to those who were able to join from where ever you were in the prayer for the unborn, and for the conscience of humanity, as we remembered the unique dignity inherent from conception for the youngest members of the human family.

Our ongoing prayer is for the protection and the softening of hearts toward the vulnerable so that from the beginning the humanity of the person is embraced and then affirmed throughout life. Thank you for helping to turn hearts and minds away from viewing nascent human life as an object of use that can be manipulated or discarded, and instead seeing life as a **gift to be embraced and celebrated!**

May God Bless you and those you love and serve!

Laura Edwards