



November 2010



## Greetings from the Respect Life Office!

First of all, **thank you** to all who participated in the various opportunities around the diocese during this past month to Witness to Life. Whether through advocacy and prayer for the unborn, education about the dignity of the human person, or providing care and support for the frail, marginalized or frightened, the work flows from our baptism, is for the good of all, and is to the glory of God, the creator of life! October is past, but the work continues... we move forward faithful to the call of gospel, living charity in truth, in season and out.

**Looking ahead there is a couple of important reminders and some bulletin announcements ideas:**

Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate a **“Vigil for All Nascent Human Life”** on Saturday, November 27, 2010 and is asking that Catholic bishops throughout the world, and all parishes and religious communities, pray in solidarity with him. In consideration of the potential challenges due to the Thanksgiving weekend in our own country, Bishop Braxton encourages us to pray for Nascent Human Life on either Saturday or Sunday, alert also to options of joining together with neighboring parishes. A Vespers service, which may also be prayed as a family, is provided [here](#). Additional worship aids/program templates by the USCCB can be found [here](#). The varied USCCB options all include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, are available in English and Spanish, and are available in varied formats for ease of adapting locally.

**March for Life in Washington, DC.** If you haven't considered making this pilgrimage before – or haven't promoted it in your parish – I encourage you to make this the year to give it careful and prayerful consideration. We also include attending either the Illinois Mass or the Mass and Youth Rally in the morning before the March. (See [here](#) for a view of the Mass and Youth Rally!) See the included attachments with details and registration forms. Please include the following bulletin announcements as space permits during the next couple of months:

### **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](http://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](mailto:jdlugge@wisperhome.com). Registration forms and info are also on the Respect Life website at [www.RespectLife.catholicweb.com](http://www.RespectLife.catholicweb.com).

**November is National Adoption Month** and a good time to consider including the following Bulletin Announcement:

Because you never know when you may be the one to offer encouragement to someone who needs to know about the **loving option of adoption**, become familiar with the adoption services available through Catholic Social Services. They have produced a short video available for viewing on their website at [www.cssil.org](http://www.cssil.org), under Programs.

**Communication with teens** about life issues they face ... a bulletin announcement to share:

“Communication is the number one way to keeping your teenager happy and healthy. Talking to your teen will open doors for both of you and strengthen your relationship. Learn to talk to your teen about the life issues they are facing

Finally, something to consider with the short reflection included this month, “Justice is Not Enough”:

If your parish has different ministries for Respect Life and Social Concerns, perhaps they could plan an opportunity to meet together to be informed about the priorities and work of one another. It is likely that there will be areas where there is overlap and they may assist one another. Additionally, perhaps an ongoing conversation for both could begin with the question about ways that their work also extends the invitation to those they serve to experience an encounter with God not only through their service, but also in a way that invites them into relationship with Him, or perhaps deepens one already begun.

May God Bless you and those you love and serve!

*Laura Edwards*