

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY NEWS

October is Respect Life Month

Fr. Kyle Gase, *Pastor, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Bellevue, Ohio*



Fr. Kyle Gase

As Catholics we are always called to be faithful defenders of the sanctity of human life, but in a particular way each year in October we are invited to redouble our efforts as we celebrate *Respect Life Month*. In order to begin our reflection I would like you to ask yourself: what comes to mind when you think *respect life*?

Naturally for many of us abortion will be the first thing to come to mind, and rightfully so. Ever since the terrible Roe v. Wade decision of 1973 the value of innocent unborn human life has been cheapened. However, I would like for us to perhaps view abortion as the beginning of the slippery slope that leads to the cheapening of human life in all its various phases.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 2258 affirms "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being." What could be *more* innocent than an unborn baby in his or her mother's womb?

I could elaborate more about the other attacks on human life, such as suicide, euthanasia, or intentional homicide; however, I'd like to speak on an area which tends to be ignored in "respect life" circles and that is respect for health. **The Catechism offers the following in paragraphs 2288-2291:**

Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good. Concern for the health of its citizens requires that society help in the attainment of living-conditions that allow them to grow and reach maturity: food and clothing, housing, health care, basic education, employment, and social assistance. If morality requires respect for the life of the body, it does not make it an absolute value. It rejects a neo-pagan notion that tends to promote the cult of the body, to sacrifice everything for its sake, to idolize physical perfection and success at sports. By its selective preference of the strong over the weak, such a conception can lead to the perversion of human relationships. The virtue of temperance disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine. Those incur grave guilt who, by drunkenness or a love of speed, endanger their own and others' safety on the road, at sea, or in the air. The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense. Clandestine production of and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices. They constitute direct co-operation in evil, since they encourage people to practices gravely contrary to the moral law.

Of course, I'm preaching to myself as well. Reflecting on the above I know there are ways I can improve care for my physical health, thus respecting the life God gave me. Let's each strive to protect each and every human life: born, unborn, and our very own!

Fr. Gase

OUR MISSION

St. John Neumann Deanery Respect Life Ministry Mission Statement

TO: Live the gospel of life in all its aspects and fullness

TO: Intercede for the protection of life and the restoration of the culture of life

TO: Fulfill the demands of educating and informing our parishes and those in our sphere of influence about respect for life in all issues

TO: Engage our parishes in the spiritual and temporal battles against life and God's commandments and holy word

PRAYER

Dearest St. Joseph,

At the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to

Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child.

We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life — especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.



Amen.

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CONNECTIONS

Respect Life Ministry Team

To learn more or to join the Deanery Respect Life Ministry Team, please contact your parish representative:

Deacon Mike and Diane Wasiniak, St. Alphonsus/St. Joseph, Monroeville
419-512-1713 | nurse21853@aol.com

Dave Fisher, Immaculate Conception, Bellevue | 419-217-9071
fisherofmendf@gmail.com

Mary Fortino, Our Lady of Lourdes, New London | 419-929-0268

Char Forrest, St. Anthony of Padua, Milan
419-503-2747

Kathleen Persensky, St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer, Norwalk | 419-668-6343
persenskyk@gmail.com

Sandra Pecora, St. Mary, Wakeman
216-789-4236 | sandiep5@frontier.com

Karen Ott, Co-Chair, St. Paul the Apostle, Norwalk | 419-668-1240
karenannott@gmail.com

Bev Reichert, Co-Chair, and **Deacon Jim Reichert**, St. Paul the Apostle, Norwalk
419-706-0464 | bevreichert@gmail.com

RESOURCES



COMUNITA CENACOLO AMERICA

This Catholic community has become a source of hope and salvation not only for many who've been dependent on drugs and distractions but also for those who crave to encounter a true answer to the suffering they have experienced.

Check it out: Hopereborn.org

OUR FAITH

“All **LIFE** has inestimable value, even the **weakest** and most **vulnerable**, the **sick**, the **old**, the **unborn** and the **poor** are masterpieces of God’s creation.” **Pope Francis**

EVENTS



Celebrating the Holy Rosary in October

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates the month of October to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known Catholic devotions. This year our parishes have participated in Rosary Rallies and Rosary Coast to Coast. Special Rosary events are still happening in our deanery. Check your parish bulletin and other deanery bulletins (all are online!) for programs. **All are welcome!**

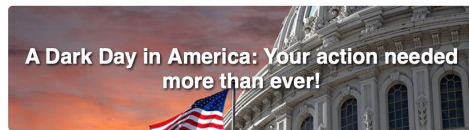
RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: USCCB ACTION CENTER

The **USCCB Action Center** provides information and action alerts about legislation that impacts our Catholic faith. You can also use it to express your views to legislators. An excellent example of what you can find on this site is the **Women’s Health Protection Act**, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday, Sept. 24. We hope you will take a moment to read the information on the “screenshot” below to learn more about this important bill, which will now go to the Senate for a vote. **For online access, go to usccb.org/take-action. This will take you to a page entitled **Take Action**. On that page, click on the **USCCB Action Center** hyperlink in the first sentence to see this and other alerts.** (You can click each headline for in-depth information.)



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

ACTION CENTER



Last Friday was a very dark day as the House of Representatives voted to pass **the most radical abortion bill ever**. The so-called Women’s Health Protection Act, H.R. 3755, would:

- Allow **abortion on demand nationwide** throughout EVERY STAGE of pregnancy
- BAN pro-life laws **in every state and local government**
- Force Americans to support abortions with their tax dollars
- Likely eliminate conscience protections for doctors—among other extreme actions

Of those present, all but one House Democrat voted for the bill and all House Republicans voted against. The single House Democrat to vote against the bill was Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas. You can see how your representative voted [here](#).

In his [statement](#) responding to this vote, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called this bill “the most extreme pro-abortion bill our nation has ever seen.”

Please contact your Representative today either to thank him/her for voting against H.R. 3755 or to express strong, but respectful, disagreement with their vote for the bill while urging him/her to reconsider support for this radical bill.

In addition, we believe it is likely that the Senate will also vote on this bill in the very near future. So, please also contact your two Senators to strongly urge their opposition to the Senate version of this bill (S. 1975) when it comes up for a vote.

As always, we are grateful for any action you can take on this matter and for all you do to proclaim the Gospel of Life. Please also join us in praying that our nation and its leaders will fully embrace this Gospel.

“As a nation built on the recognition that every human being is endowed by its Creator with the inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we must reject this bill and embrace public policy that respects and facilitates these rights and needs of both the mother and child.” *Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities* (See his full statement on usccb.org/take-action)