

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY NEWS

Living in Challenging Times

By Peter Range, Director-Office for Life & Justice, Catholic Diocese of Toledo



Peter Range

The days we are living in are challenging times. The nation of Afghanistan which was liberated 20 years ago, enabling girls to go to school, is now back in the hands of the Taliban, which has historically banned music, kidnapped young girls, and executed dissidents in door-to-door raids. At home, our southern border is in crisis and Chicago Public Schools will not even allow teachers to tell parents if their children are struggling with gender dysphoria. Clearly our nation is facing external and internal decay. What should be our response?

First, Dr. Peter Kreeft once wrote that if we knew the power of prayer we would never leave our knees. And while prayer may seem like a simple answer, it is actually not easy. To pray, unceasing, believing that God will hear and answer our prayers is actually rather difficult. But, think of St. Monica. What if she had stopped praying? For years Augustine went from bad to worse. Yet Monica continued to pray. If St. Monica would have stopped praying we would have never had a St. Augustine.

Second, we must address what Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix, Arizona has called “the mortal wound” of our nation. The mortal wound, according to Olmsted, is the sin of abortion. Any nation which murders its young, which robs the unborn of the first fundamental right, the right to life, will struggle to make a moral argument for the human person to have any other right. How can we, for example, make the argument that a person has a right to healthcare, if some don’t have the right to live or the right to education, if some cannot even see the light of day outside of their mothers’ wombs? The right to life is foundational and until we address that no other right will stand.

Third, to that end, I would like to invite you to participate in our seventh year of our 40 Days for Life Campaign by visiting www.40daysforlife.com/toledo. Our Opening Prayer Vigil is Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m., at 1160 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo and our Mass for Life with Bishop Thomas will be held Saturday, Oct. 9, at 9 a.m., at 4555 N. Haven Ave., Toledo. But more than our events, we need individuals to pray, every day, at the last remaining abortion facility in Toledo. It may be a far drive, but if you knew you could stop the death of a young child would any distance stop you?

Thank you for joining the Office for Life and Justice in prayer and action to abolish abortion, restore our broken culture and perhaps begin to stem the tide of the moral decay facing our nation. Why can’t the return of our nation to God begin with the Church right here in north-west Ohio and the Diocese of Toledo? **It is up to you and me. Let us begin.**

Our Mission: LIFE

- TO: **L**ive the gospel of life in all its aspects and fullness
- TO: **I**ntercede for the protection of life and the restoration of the culture of life
- TO: **F**ulfill the demands of educating and informing our parishes and those in our sphere of influence about respect for life in all issues
- TO: **E**ngage our parishes in the spiritual and temporal battles against life and God’s commandments and holy word

Who We Are

Our Respect Life Ministry Team members represent our deanery parishes. To learn more or to join the 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

Local Email Network

To receive regular emails from the Respect Life Ministry Team about issues and calls-to-action, please contact one of our co-chairs, Bev Reichert, bevreichert@gmail.com, or Karen Ott, karenannott@gmail.com

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.
2 Timothy 1:7

CONNECTIONS

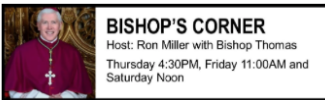


The USCCB provides an excellent on-line resource, the USCCB Action Center, where you can view and sign up for alerts, and easily contact your elected representatives to express your concerns and opinions. Check out this great resource at usccb.org/take-action.

Annunciation Radio

88.1 FM Sandusky / Port Clinton
89.5 FM Mansfield / Lexington
90.9 FM Willard
annunciationradio.com

Founded in 2006, Annunciation Radio strives to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ, in union with the Magisterium of the Church. Visit the website to learn more about its many programs, including Bishop's Corner.



PRAYER

FOR AFGHANISTAN

Dear Father in heaven,
Your precious Son suffered and died to redeem all mankind. In Jesus' All Powerful Name, we ask for the protection and relief of all those in Afghanistan who are suffering the effects of evil, neglect, and tyranny. We pray for the men, women, and children who are bearing the tremendous weight of persecution, hunger, isolation, and the threat of death.

We ask that you intervene on their behalf and mitigate their suffering. We pray for your mercy to swiftly reach them and an end to the evil domination that is oppressing them.

Send your angelic hosts to this nation to bring freedom and peace to all. May we, your people, pray, sacrifice, and be vigilant in our concern for those who are suffering untold miseries.

We pray for the protection of religious freedom for all peoples. We ask this in Jesus' Name and for the intercession of Mary and all the Saints. Amen

EVENTS

America Needs Fatima Rosary Rallies

Facing the coronavirus crisis, social upheaval, and the sins of abortion, homosexuality, Satanism, and the growing rate of drug addiction and suicide among young people, our nation desperately needs a supernatural solution. That solution was given by the Blessed Mother at Fatima in 1917 when she told people to pray the rosary for world peace.



In answer to our Lady's request, America Needs Fatima is planning 20,000 public rosaries on **Saturday, Oct. 16, at noon**. Local rallies will take place at

- St. Joseph Catholic Church, Monroeville, in front of the sign on Rt. 20.
- St. Paul the Apostle, Norwalk, at the Huron County Courthouse.
- St. Mary-Wakeman, Rt. 20 East in front of Mary's Shrine.



Rosary Coast to Coast

St. Anthony-Milan and St. Mary-Norwalk will participate in this event, which features simultaneous Rosaries across the nation on **Sunday, Oct. 10 at 4 p.m.**

Please join us in front of St. Anthony's Church in Milan.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



CatholicVote.org

CatholicVote's mission is to inspire every Catholic in America to live out the truths of our faith in public life.

Take a few minutes and visit CatholicVote.org to learn about the numerous resources available to you.

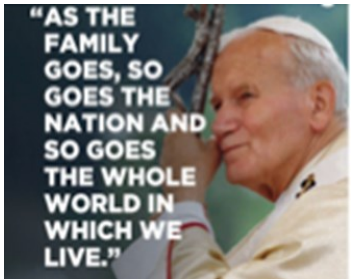
The LOOP, for example, allows you to sign up for daily emails that recap the big issues of the day from a Catholic perspective.



On Sept. 23, Catholic Vote will launch EDIFY, a comprehensive digital learning platform designed to deliver answers to tough questions such as "What is a Catholic supposed to think about Critical Race Theory ... Immigration ... Gun Control ... Transgender rights?" — all grounded in teachings of the Catholic Church. EDIFY will do this with brief — 5 minutes or less — and engaging videos featuring experts from across the country. Visit CatholicVote.org to learn more.

CatholicVote Civic Action is inspired and organized by faithful Catholic laity. For this reason, we do not claim to speak for any individual bishop or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We represent the voices of millions of Catholics across America who seek to renew our country and our culture, in full communion with and 100% faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

OUR FAITH



The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae)

John Paul II wrote an encyclical entitled "Evangelium Vitae—The Gospel of Life," released on March 25, 1995. It was addressed to the Church as follows:

"To the bishops, priests and deacons, men and women religious, lay faithful and all people of good will on the value and inviolability of human life."

"The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as 'good news' to the people of every age and culture."

Each person living on this earth has an undeniable worth as a human being. John Paul II recognized that there were threats to human life which needed to be addressed. This encyclical is *"the fruit of the cooperation of the episcopate of every country of the world, therefore meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life."*

More of the richness of this encyclical will be shared in future newsletters.