

## 2015-16 Respect Life Program Information

**Theme:** Every Life is Worth Living

The theme for the 2015-16 Respect Life Program is “Every Life is Worth Living.” It is meant to remind us of this basic truth of our existence. It is especially timely in light of the renewed push for legalizing assisted suicide in many states, but is also applicable to the wide spectrum of life issues.

### Printed Materials

**Poster:** This full-color, 22” x 17” (landscape orientation) poster depicts the joyful truth that every life is worth living. It illustrates the universality of this truth through the inclusion of three photos depicting people of different ages and with different kinds of vulnerability. (*English and Spanish are printed on the reverse sides.*)

**Flyer:** This flyer explores the 2015-16 Respect Life Program theme, “Every Life is Worth Living,” with an approachable and positive tone. (*English and Spanish are printed on reverse sides.*)

**Articles:** 7 full-color pamphlet articles (*available to order in English and Spanish or download as bulletin inserts – new format!*)

- **10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting**  
This article provides simple, concrete tips on how to provide loving, life-affirming support for a friend who is unexpectedly pregnant. Geared towards young adults, but contains advice that is applicable in various situations.
- **A Perfect Gift**  
One parent shares a “secret” learned from the experience of having a child with Down syndrome—a secret that is fundamental to understanding ourselves and what it means to be human. This article gives an inside glimpse into the love-illuminated life of raising a child with special needs.
- **Maggie’s Story: Living like Dad**  
Years ago, Maggie accompanied her father in his final days and now lives with her own diagnosis of a terminal illness. In this article, she shares about these experiences and her opposition to assisted suicide in light of them. This story of hope and courage is a companion to a three-minute online video, “Maggie’s Story,” viewable at [www.goo.gl/4HM8Ib](http://www.goo.gl/4HM8Ib).
- **10 Surprising Tips for Love the Culture Won’t Tell You**  
Written for teens from the perspective of a young adult, this article provides a simple introduction to chastity and basic tips for practicing and growing in the virtue of it.
- **Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis**  
Introduces “perinatal hospice,” a model of care for children—and the families of such children—who are expected to pass away before or shortly after birth. Provides practical

guidance for friends and family, the parish community, and clergy and pastoral care workers.

- **Love, Sex, and Sterilization**

This article explores the Church's beautiful teaching on love and sexuality, as it pertains to sterilization, with encouragement and an invitation to deeper relationships with God and with one's spouse.

- **Love 101: Back to Basics**

Written for young adults from the perspective of a young adult, this article looks at the reasons for and benefits of practicing chastity, focusing especially on chastity within a romantic context.

**Prayer & Program Guide** (*formerly called the Liturgy Guide*): Contains suggestions for "Every Life is Worth Living"-themed parish or classroom display; homily notes for Respect Life Sunday; intercessions for Respect Life Sunday and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (also the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*); Coffee and Conversation – discussion guide for articles; and 9 Days for Life summary, promotional flyer, and novena.

**Prayer Card:** This 2" x 3.5" (standard business card size) prayer card is based on the 2015-16 Respect Life Program theme, "Every Life is Worth Living." It is perfect for joint prayer after Mass and distribution to parishioners to carry with them and pray daily during Respect Life Month and throughout the year. Full-color on the front, black text on the back. (*Available to order in either English or Spanish.*)

**Respect Life Program Kit Folder**

Attractive, full-color 9" x 12" pocket folder; ideal for holding Respect Life Program articles and related materials.

### Online-only Materials

Additional NEW materials will be available online at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife). Check back for the latest materials, including bulletin inserts, homily notes, and images for bulletins and social media.

### Suggestions for Observing Respect Life Month

*Here are five simple steps for promoting Respect Life Sunday/Month:*

1. USE the bulletin/pulpit announcements, flyer, poster, and other materials available at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife) **with the permission of your pastor or other relevant authority (such as school principal, etc.)**
  - *Three or four weeks before Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015):* Ask your pastor if he would consider incorporating this year's theme into the homily and intercessions on Respect Life Sunday and/or throughout Respect Life Month.

Share the homily suggestions and suggested intercessions for Respect Life Sunday with him to let him know they're available.

- *Two weeks before Respect Life Sunday:* Ask your pastor beforehand to make an announcement from the pulpit directing people to an announcement in the parish bulletin requesting family photos for use in the Respect Life Month display. (See [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife) for suggested wording.)
  - *The week before Respect Life Sunday:* Set up display, hang poster in prominent location, and insert flyer into bulletins as bulletin insert.
2. **ANNOUNCE:** On Respect Life Sunday, make congregation aware of the meaning of Respect Life Sunday/Month, and draw their attention to the display and bulletin insert (flyer). Presider may use suggested homily notes and intercessions during Mass.
  3. **PRAY:** Encourage parishes, schools, ministries, and individuals to pray the prayer daily during Respect Life Month, beginning on Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015). Distribute the prayer physically and through e-newsletters, bulletins, and social media.
  4. **INVITE:** Invite people to stop by the display, take a look at (and/or take home) materials provided (such as the articles), learn about the activities of the parish pro-life committee, sign up to learn more about upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer, and visit [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife) to learn about people's personal stories through some of the articles, as well as to download other online-only images for social media.
  5. **CONTINUE:** After Respect Life Sunday/Month has concluded, continue to use the 2015-16 Respect Life Program materials throughout the rest of the year.

### **Additional Suggestions for Use and Implementation of the 2015-16 Respect Life Program Materials throughout the Year**

- **Theme:** Incorporate the theme into projects, events, and programs throughout the year (not just "pro-life" venues, but in collaboration with related departments, committees, and ministries). Sponsor a children's and/or youth contest with categories such as art, video, essay, short story, or poetry. Feature the winner(s) in the parish bulletin, school newsletter, diocesan newspaper, or at a special event.
- **Poster:** Hang the poster up in a prominent area such as the parish vestibule, school entrance bulletin board, school classroom, or RCIA or Parish School of Religion classroom.

- **Flyer:** Post the flyer on the parish or classroom bulletin board. Use it as a bulletin insert. Read it aloud or give to participants to read quietly as an introductory reflection prior to presentations dealing with the dignity of the human person, the corporal works of mercy, etc. Share it in a newsletter.
  
- **Prayer Card:** Pray after Mass or before class. Pray before Respect Life committee meetings. Distribute to parishioners, students, or members of youth or young adult ministries, and encourage daily or weekly or use the same day each week. Encourage use of the prayer daily during Respect Life Month, beginning on Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015).
  
- **Articles:**
  - Highlight one of the articles each month through one or more of the following methods: parish bulletins (new format of bulletin inserts for each article available at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife)), high school classes, RCIA, Parish School of Religion, e-newsletters, social media, etc.
  
  - Use the “Coffee and Conversation” discussion guide in the classroom, parish small groups, RCIA, Parish School of Religion, as a springboard for a one-time event or 7-week special topics series, within youth, campus, or young adult ministries, etc. Follow up with an event or project based on the article discussed. For example, host a donation drive for the local pregnancy care center, visit a nursing home, set up a support network for families facing serious illnesses of loved ones, etc.
  
- **Prayer & Program Guide:**
  - Parish/School Display Suggestions: Set up a display for Respect Life Sunday or Month using the suggestions provided or your own method and design. Although the title references parishes and schools, the idea is easily adaptable for other groups like campus ministries, college pro-life clubs, etc.
  
  - Homily suggestions: Make your pastor aware of these homily suggestions for use during Respect Life Month or another appropriate occasion. Use them as a springboard for a special talk or presentation.
  
  - Intentions: Make your pastor and/or parish staff aware of these suggested intentions for use on Respect Life Sunday (October 4, 2015) and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (January 22, also the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*). Incorporate these intentions into other appropriate occasions, such as confirmation and marriage preparation retreats, school Masses, etc. Highlight one intention each month in the parish bulletin, high school religion class, school newsletter, diocesan newspaper, etc.

- Coffee & Conversation: (See above under “Articles.”)
- *9 Days for Life* Summary: Share in advance with other people and groups that might be interested in collaborating on *9 Days for Life* events and programming in January. Interested parties might be youth and/or young adult ministers, high school and college campus ministers, high school and college pro-life groups, high school religion teachers, etc. The materials are also appropriate for use by generations older than youth and young adults. Be sure to check back in the coming months for updated materials accessible through [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com).
- *9 Days for Life* Flyer: Use in promotion of *9 Days for Life* and share with interested parties (see above).
- *9 Days for Life* Novena: Reproduce and distribute the novena to students, clubs, parish groups and committees, parishioners, and other interested individuals. Pray the first day of the novena as a community (parish, youth group, school, etc.), and then encourage participants to continue praying the novena throughout the following 8 days. (Please note the novena is available in either English or Spanish via email, text message, online, or through a mobile app.)
- **Folder:** Use the folder to package materials for retreats, conferences, and events—specifically “pro-life” or otherwise. Use them for students, as the holder of welcoming materials for new parishioners, or just for personal use.