



DIOCESE OF CAMDEN
**Life & Justice
Ministries**

Respect Life Ministry Ideas and Resources

Prayer for Life by Pope John Paul II

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the [Gospel of life](#) with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

(Find more great respect life prayers by Googling “Diocese of Buffalo respect life prayer”)



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"Each one of us is called to recognize in the fragile human being the face of the Lord, who in his human flesh experienced indifference and loneliness to which we often condemn the poorest, be it in developing countries, be it in well-off societies. Every unborn child, condemned unjustly to being aborted, has the face of the Lord, who before being born, and then when he was just born, experienced the rejection of the world. And every elderly person, even if he/she is sick or at the end of his/her days, bears in him/herself the face of Christ. They cannot be discarded!" – Pope Francis, 9/20/13

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The Ampersand (blog): <http://camdenlifejustice.wordpress.com>

Facebook: [facebook.com/camdenlifejustice](https://www.facebook.com/camdenlifejustice)

Twitter: @lifejusticemin

Diocese/Parish Respect Life Partnerships: What Could Be?

- **Presentation, workshop, or roundtable discussion** on a particular life issue with adults or students
- **L&J Speakers Bureau** connecting you with expert presenters on a wide range of topics
- **Meet with your respect life committee** or regional multi-parish groups to plan and vision
- Provide **resources** for prayer, discussion, advocacy, etc. on the L & J **blog**
- **Publicize your offerings** on the blog's calendar of events and through our e-mail list
- Anything else that inspires you!

Ideas for Parish Pro-Life Activities

Here are some ways to jump start a pro-life group in your parish, provided by the Mater Ecclesiae Pro-Life Apostolate and supplemented by Diocese of Camden Life & Justice Ministries. Feel free to call Tracye McArdle at 856.770.8588 or email her at mc9oak@comcast.net for more information or for free resource materials.

Items marked with *** are free or low-cost activities, requiring little manpower.

Sponsor/encourage participation in programs of PRAYER

- + *** Annual **40 Days for Life** Prayer Vigil Campaign: Locations at www.40daysforlife.com
- + *** **Eucharistic Adoration** on Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: December 8
- + *** **Visiting Pregnant Madonna** statuette. (Contact Tracye for purchase of icon.) A small statue is made available to parishioners who are pregnant, or hoping to become pregnant, for a month. The icon serves as a focal point to gather and pray as a family.
- + *** **Second annual diocesan respect life Mass** in January near anniversary of Roe v. Wade; date TBD

Sponsor GUEST SPEAKERS and/or pro-life films

(Mater Ecclesiae and Diocese Life & Justice Ministries have contacts for speakers.)

- + **Physicians/nurses** who address ethical issues related to infertility and end-of-life care
- + **Priests for Life** or **Feminists for Life** speakers on abortion
- + *** **Films** are available to borrow from Mater Ecclesiae (could offer to parents while children are in faith formation classes.)
 - Diocese of Camden Life & Justice Ministries recommends the film *Bella*, and could provide a discussion guide for the film upon request

Keep parishioners informed of upcoming important LEGISLATION

- + Google **USCCB Action Center** and sign up to receive legislative alerts
- + Visit the NJ Catholic Conference at www.njcathconf.com to stay updated on state-based legislative initiatives
- + Organize **letter-writing or phone-calling campaigns** when important votes are expected

Monthly Pro-Life NEWSLETTER or Page in your Parish Bulletin

- + Feel free to use any material from Mater Ecclesiae monthly newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter, email Tracye at mc9oak@comcast.net. Also, join the diocesan Life & Justice distribution list by emailing michael.laskey@camdendiocese.org.

Conduct/promote FUNDRAISING for local pregnancy resource centers

- + **Baby Bottle project** between Mother's Day and Father's Day
- + **Banquet attendance** for Good Counsel Homes, shelters that welcome pregnant, homeless women. Email joann_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org for information on the banquet.
- + **Walk-a-Thons** for Good Counsel Homes, Options for Women, Choices of the Heart
- + *** **Baby Blanket Raffle.** To fund parish pro-life work or a pregnancy resource center – Mater Ecclesiae has a limited number of handmade needlepoint baby blankets and raffle tickets available for interested coordinators.

Assist local women experiencing CRISIS PREGNANCIES and/or in need post-abortion healing

- + Help with food, transport, baby items, referral to services, prayer, moral support (can work with your existing parish food pantry)
- + **Rachel's Vineyard** retreats offered in diocese for post-abortion healing. Contact michael.laskey@camdendiocese.org for information.

Encourage parishioner participation in pro-life EVENTS

- + Annual **March for Life** to DC in January; bus list published in Catholic Star Herald in advance of day
- + Annual **Life Chain** gatherings throughout diocese on Respect Life Sunday

Special focus on YOUTH

- + Sponsor pro-life **Poster Contest** for students; Knights of Columbus could be judges and give out prizes.
- + *** Encourage youth participation in Life Chain and other events above
- + *** **Pro-Life pins for Confirmandi** with letter to each student encouraging them to get involved in pro-life work. Free pins available from NJ Right to Life
- + *** **Pro-Life Youth Presentation:** Mater Ecclesiae will provide sessions, "Responding with Confidence, Standing for Life," for faith formation classes and youth groups around the diocese. Two levels of programs: Ages 7-13 and high school/young adult groups.
→ Diocese of Camden Life & Justice Ministries is happy to meet with groups scheduled to go to the March for Life to help prepare them for the experience
- + *** Visit www.truthbooth.org for a striking video depicting the development of a child in the womb. Great educational tool.