

# CREATED, LOVED, REDEEMED BY GOD. PRICELESS.

*An Invitation to Respect All Human Life*

## Respect Life Program

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Respect Life

Respetemos la Vida

Respect Life Sunday

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Respect Life Program

Programa Respetemos la Vida

Created, loved, redeemed by God. Priceless.

Creados, amados, redimidos por Dios. Valiosísimos.

Almost all higher animals start their lives from a single cell, the fertilized ovum (zygote). ... The time of fertilization represents the starting point in the life history, or ontogeny, of the individual.

Carlson, Bruce M., *Patten's Foundations of Embryology*, 6th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996

"[T]he common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the **right to life**, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination. ... The human being is entitled to such rights, **in every phase of development** – from conception until natural death; and in every condition, whether healthy or sick, whole or handicapped, rich or poor."

Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation  
*Christifideles Laici*, no. 38 (1988)

Sometimes a single issue will be so important that it overrides a whole range of lesser issues. Human slavery is one such historic issue. It simply cannot be condoned no matter how much political support it might enjoy. The same could also be said for the classification, discrimination and even elimination of people for ethnic reasons. The Holocaust is wrong and cannot be justified on any grounds. So also is the taking of the life of an unborn child. The arbitrary destruction of such life cannot be justified on the grounds that one should be free to choose to kill.

Bishop Donald Wuerl, St. Thomas More Society Loebig  
Lecture, May 25, 2004

It's a good time [during the Respect Life Program] to reflect on God's great gift of life, the many public issues that flow from it, and the priorities we need to have in defending it. Next month, in the November elections, each of us will face the task, in the voting booth, of building a culture of life – or its opposite. Each of us will make that choice as an individual, but we'll bear the consequences as a community. So we need to choose well.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. and Bishop José Gomez, Statement issued October 9, 2002

God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived human infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (Gn 1: 26) in each one.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the 12th General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, February 27, 2006

**[The] boundless and incomprehensible love of God for the human being reveals the degree to which the human person deserves to be loved in himself, independently of any other consideration – intelligence, beauty, health, youth, integrity, and so forth. In short, human life is always a good, for it “is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory” (*The Gospel of Life*, n. 34).**

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the 12th General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, February 27, 2006

As you get into the second trimester, if we remove the pregnancy using forceps, and if a heart-beat is the measure of being alive, that happens all the time.

Dr. Dennis Christensen, Madison Abortion Clinic, *The New York Times*, May 15, 1998, A14



I was trained by a professional marketing director in how to sell abortions over the telephone. He took every one of our receptionists, nurses, and anyone else who would deal with people over the phone through an extensive training period. The object was, when the girl called, to hook the sale so that she wouldn't get an abortion somewhere else, or adopt out her baby, or change her mind. We were doing it for the money.

Nina Whitten, chief secretary at a Dallas abortion clinic; See <http://www.clinicquotes.com/page6.html>

Although life is a continuous process, fertilization is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new, genetically distinct human organism is thereby formed. ... The combination of 23 chromosomes present in each pronucleus results in 46 chromosomes in the zygote. Thus the diploid number is restored and the embryonic genome is formed. The embryo now exists as a genetic unity.

O'Rahilly, Ronan and Müller, Fabiola, *Human Embryology & Teratology*, 2nd edition. New York: Wiley-Liss, 1996

Thus, a human life is precious when someone thinks it is, be it a parent or be it a civil court, and when that life is deemed not to be human or otherwise to be without value, then it is expendable. This kind of gross inconsistency is not questioned in our society but is taken for granted with serenity, sad to say.

Bishop Robert C. Morlino, National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, April 7, 2006



It is not only the deaths of more than forty-five million of our children that we mourn today. We do not just grieve for the loss of all the talents, all the abilities and all the unique gifts these children would have brought to society. We cannot but also wonder about everything that we have lost as a people by the destruction of our children.”

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Homily for Pro-Life Mass, January 23, 2006

The elderly and the sick, the weak and the forgotten, they deserve better than physician-assisted suicide. They deserve better. They deserve the truth that God who created them in God’s own image and likeness has endowed them with infinite value and lasting dignity. We need to develop an environment in nursing homes that allows our seniors to experience this truth daily.

Msgr. Michael Shugrue, vicar general, Diocese of Raleigh, Homily for Respect Life Sunday

There have been more U.S. abortions in the last 33 years than there are people living today in both New York City and Los Angeles! In the last 12 months alone, nearly as many children were aborted as there are residents of the City of Philadelphia. In the last 12 months alone, nearly a half-million more unborn babies were aborted than there are people living in the city of Detroit. In just the last 12 months, nearly twice as many babies were aborted in our country as there are residents of San Francisco. The unholy magnitude of it all is staggering!

Cardinal William H. Keeler, Homily for Pro-Life Vigil Mass, January 22, 2006

Meanwhile, sonograms and embryology have made people aware of how well developed fetuses are while still legally vulnerable to abortion. We even do surgery on fetuses now, which makes aborting them seem that much more perverse.

William Saletan – Pro-choice columnist, “Life After *Roe*,” March 5, 2006

**BELIEVING THAT *ROE* WAS WRONGLY DECIDED IS A PERFECTLY RESPECTABLE POSITION. MANY, PERHAPS MOST, CONSERVATIVES HOLD THIS VIEW. SO DO SOME LIBERAL SUPPORTERS OF ABORTION RIGHTS.**

E.J. Dionne Jr., “Dodging Debate On Alito,” *The Washington Post*, Dec. 6, 2005, A-29

**The Church’s position, supported by reason and science, is clear: the human embryo is a subject identical to the human being which will be born at the term of its development. Consequently whatever violates the integrity and the dignity of the embryo is ethically inadmissible. Similarly, any form of scientific research which treats the embryo as a laboratory specimen is unworthy of man.**

Pope John Paul II, Address to the Diplomatic Corps, January 10, 2005

[We need to see] that behind each human face, behind each person, there is a singularity, a unique wealth in which believers recognize an intention of God, a plan of love. Life is the gift of God’s love to all. ...

Monsignor Jean Laffitte, vice president, Pontifical Academy for Life, Interview on March 26, 2006

*Creating and destroying early human lives, harming and coercing women, falsifying results, cynically promising "miracle cures" to vulnerable patients – all have been defended as the price we must pay for progress. The question is: Why should we call that progress?*

Richard Doerflinger, Life Issues Forum, March 23, 2006

Even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a "vegetative state" retain their human dignity in all its fullness. The loving gaze of God the Father continues to fall upon them, acknowledging them as his sons and daughters, especially in need of help.

John Paul II, Address to the Participants in the International Congress on Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State, March 20, 2004

***In the Christian view, our treatment of children becomes a measure of our fidelity to the Lord himself.***

Pope John Paul II, Message to the World Summit on Children,

September 29, 1990



*The sick person in a vegetative state, awaiting recovery or a natural end, still has the right to basic health care (nutrition, hydration, cleanliness, warmth, etc.) and to the prevention of complications related to his confinement in bed.*

Pope John Paul II, Address to the Participants in the International Congress on Life-Sustaining Treatments and the Vegetative State, March 20, 2004

[T]he administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act. Its use, furthermore, should be considered, in principle, ordinary and proportionate, and as such morally obligatory, insofar as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality, which in the present case consists in providing nourishment to the patient and alleviation of suffering.

Pope John Paul II, Address to the Participants in the International Congress on Life-Sustaining Treatments and the Vegetative State, March 20, 2004

**Those having an abortion had elevated rates of subsequent mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviors and substance use disorders.**

Professor David Fergusson, New Zealand researcher and pro-choice atheist, Interview on April 24, 2006