



**Office of Human Life & Dignity**

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**Respect Life School Program**

The Office of Human Life and Dignity in Diocese of St Augustine invites you to participate in our Respect Life School Program.

**Purpose of Program:**

**To have each student recognize that all human life is a precious gift from God. This program encourages each student to use their God-given talent to create a greeting card with a message of Hope. The recipient of the card is experiencing a challenge at their stage in life that can be overwhelming. The gift of this one-of-a-kind greeting card will ensure the light of Christ is always within each of us.**

**Mission:**

To have students create a greeting card to spread the message that all human life is a precious gift from God. The cards will give hope to everyone who receives them. We are all made in the image of God. In this activity you will create a greeting card. In aligning with the Jubilee theme of Hope, this year's theme is Bringing Hope and Love. Many people experience challenges in their stages of life.

**Directions:**

Think about the stage of human life, from the time we are each knit together in our mother's womb, to growing old and preparing for eternity with Christ. Choose from the recipients below and consider all the changes, experiences, and challenges each of them goes through. Create your unique greeting card and try to make connections with individuals showing them the love of Christ, no matter what their situation is by offering them hope.

Be creative and use pictures from magazines, color or draw pictures to help show the theme of hope to the group below you are focusing on. Cards should be 8 ½ x 11 folded like a card. *\*Cards must only be signed as follows: From, First Name Only, A Catholic School Student \** You may use regular sheets of paper, construction paper or card stock. Please designate which group your class or individual student chooses to send the greeting cards to.

- Pregnant women
- Father's expecting a child
- Parents whose child is in the NICU
- Premie Baby in the NICU
- Homeless person
- Persons in Nursing Homes
- People who are ill and homebound
- Caregivers

**Suggestions: Questions: Who to Create a greeting Card for**

The Office of Human Life and Dignity will deliver your beautiful greeting cards to:

- pregnant women in need of support
- first-time father's experiencing fear of the unknown
- parents whose preemie baby is hospitalized in the NICU
- a homeless person or homeless family at a shelter or soup kitchen
- a lonely person in a Nursing Home that has no visitors or family
- people who are sick and either in the hospital or are homebound
- those who are caregivers of the sick and/or the elderly

#### **Timeline:**

- Week of: \* your choice \* \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Education Teachers will review expectation with students of project – emphasize the importance of sanctity of life at all stages. Complete project in classroom. Optional: Send home parents' letter and all the instructions if you wish for families to participate.
- Week of: \* your choice\* \_\_\_\_\_ Collect all Greeting Cards (3 weeks after distribution)

#### **Collection of Greeting Cards:**

- Teachers, please separate all greeting cards into groups, feel free to use a paperclip and label each grouped category chosen if your students chose multiple areas. i.e. Parents in NICU, or to the Homeless. After organizing by labeling each category please place all Greeting cards in one large envelope and deliver to the front office for pick up by the Office of Human Life and Dignity- we will distribute to all the recipients
- Mark a large envelope Respect Life School Program
- Optional: Identify on envelope which local agency you may wish our office to deliver these cards to i.e. A local nursing home your class or school may have a connection with
- Call or email Human Life and Dignity office for pick up [hld@dosafll.com](mailto:hld@dosafll.com) 904-262-3200 ext.109

#### **Special Thanks:**

- All Principals, Staff, Faculty, parents and students who helped to make this project a success. Our mission is to bring the beautiful message that all human life is precious. It is so important that at a young age we learn to acknowledge that we all have God given gifts to be shared with others. These greeting cards will be one of a kind, they will bring hope and joy to someone who needs it most. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:31-46

Blessings,

*Maureen Shilkunas*

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Director, Office of Human Life and Dignity

"Life is God's gift to you, what you do with your life, is your gift to God" 🍷

