



Parish Respect Life Coordinator Manual



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Photo by Jean Fiore

*Our Lady of La Leche
Pray for us*

*Produced by the Office of Human Life & Dignity
Last Update: June 2024*

~ Introduction ~

1. Welcome Respect Life Coordinator!

Thank you for your “yes” to serve your parish community as the Respect Life Coordinator!

Whether you are beginning the Respect Life ministry in your parish, replacing a coordinator or have been a coordinator for years, this manual will provide some guidance and great ideas for events in your parish.

Each parish is unique in its makeup and needs. This manual is designed to help you choose what will best serve the needs of your parish and offers a variety of activities you could use. You are not expected to host all the suggested activities; these are simply ideas for you to build up the culture of life in your parish.

Please keep in mind that you should request approval from your pastor for any programs or events that you coordinate.

This manual is divided into four major areas as called for by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in their Pastoral Plan for Pro Life Activities:

- I. Prayer*
- II. Education*
- III. Advocacy*
- IV. Direct Action*

Each section of this manual is designed to give you a brief understanding of the area and some suggested activities to implement in your parish. You are not limited to these activities.

Feel free to reproduce this manual in whole or part for use in your parish or for your Respect Life Committee members.

A schematic of the Office of Human Life ministry and focus areas can be found in the **Appendix A** or on the diocesan website at <https://life.dosafl.com/>. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us at:

Diocese of St. Augustine
Office of Human Life & Dignity
11625 Old St. Augustine Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32258
(904) 262-3200 ext. 159 – Maureen Shilkunas, Director

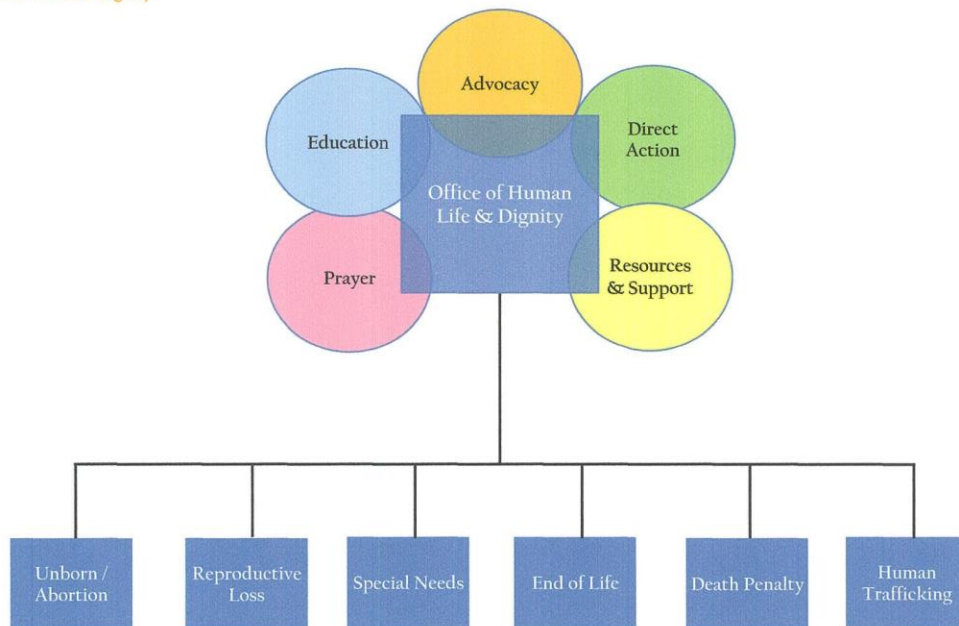
~ Appendix A ~

Office of Human Life & Dignity Schematic

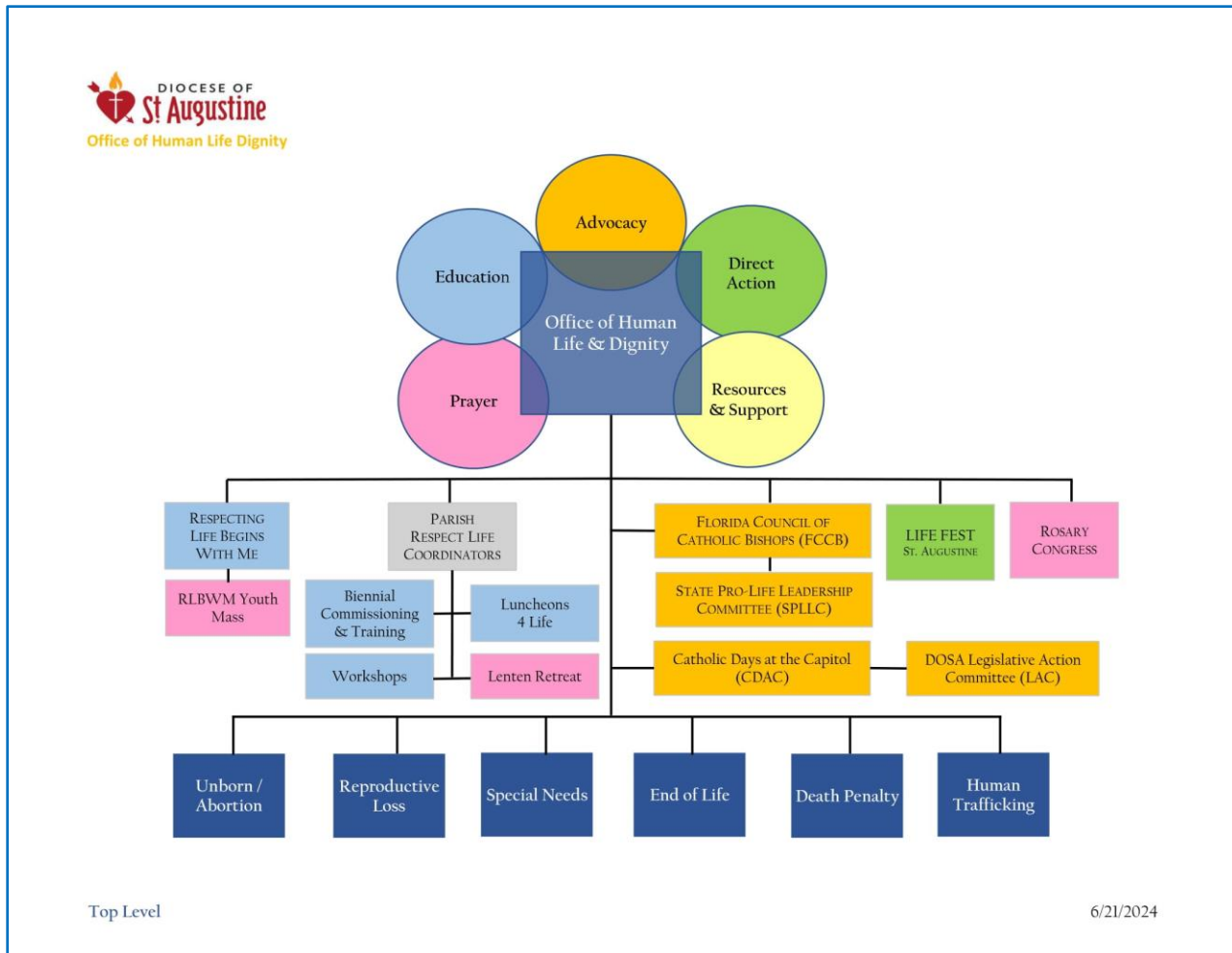
An overview of the Office of Human Life & Dignity is represented below displaying:

HOW – through Prayer, Education, Advocacy, Direct Action, and Resources & Support

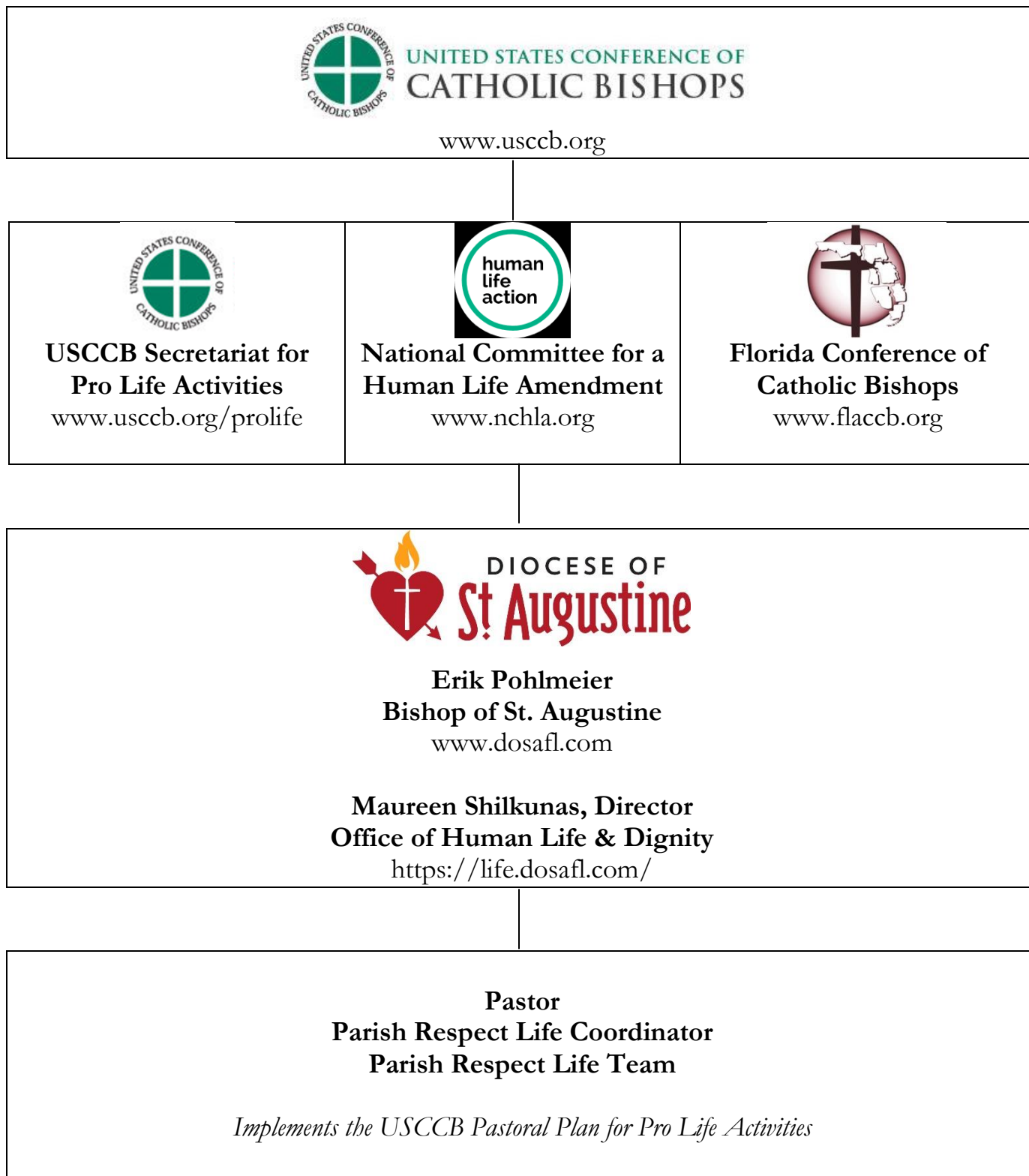
WHAT – focus areas of the Unborn/Abortion, Reproductive Loss (miscarriage and healing after abortion), Special Needs, End of Life, Death Penalty, and Human Trafficking.



Below is the top level of the office overview, expanded:



2. Organization Chart



3. Letter From the Bishop



DIocese OF ST. AUGUSTINE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
THE MOST REVEREND ERIK T. POHLMEIER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your commitment to the protection of human life. The challenges of our day are great because life itself is not valued as it should be. Beginning with the most vulnerable in the womb and continuing through every stage in life, human beings in our society are at risk. The Author of all life marks us with dignity as daughters and son of God. Your efforts are crucial in helping restore the understanding of human dignity in the image of our Creator.

It can be easy to focus on the negative side of the struggle. We consider abortion to be the preeminent issue and it is so hard to imagine why everyone cannot see the value of the child in the womb. Many people shift the attention and the language away from this reality and the child becomes an issue. But, I encourage you to hold on to the beauty of what we fight for. Each child not only deserves life, but is a unique reflection of the beauty of God. Each child, from that first moment, is crafted by the loving God. Each child adds something unique to the created world around us. Even before the child becomes visible to the eye, the beauty of God has expanded. A soul exists that will extend into eternity.

We work to promote the life of the prisoner, the victim of trafficking, the dying, the disabled, the immigrant, of all the vulnerable. In each case our world often loses sight of their dignity. They lose the vision of a God who sees beyond human weakness. We must re-focus our society.

We fight for the life in the womb for the good of the child, of those parents and our whole society. We lift up all who are bowed down. We pray for the eyes to see as God sees. When we take on God's perspective the value of every vulnerable life is clear, but so is the dignity of people who oppose us. Only with eyes to see as God sees can we truly love our neighbor and desire their good even when they oppose us. God makes us for himself and for each other. Our efforts should keep in mind that God deeply loves the little children, and from his perspective that includes the unborn, the born, those who fight for life and those who work against it.

I pray for you and the success of your efforts. May we help bring about the Kingdom of God through a world that values each human life.

In Christ,

Most Rev. Bishop Erik Pohlmeier
Bishop of Diocese of St. Augustine

Catholic Center • 11625 Old St. Augustine Road • Jacksonville, FL 32258-2060
(904) 262-3200 • bishopsoffice@dosafl.com • www.dosafl.com

4. Deanery Structure for Respect Life Coordinators

Respect Life Coordinators are requested not only to work in their parish but also to work within their deanery structure as well. This affords opportunities to highlight a specific focus for their committee – **Unborn/Abortion, Reproductive Loss/Healing After Abortion, Special Needs, End of Life, Death Penalty, and Human Trafficking** – throughout the deanery. A parish's focus is a decision to be made by looking at the make-up of the parish or at the request of the Pastor and/or Coordinator.

All parish coordinators must have a focus on the Unborn/Abortion. Each parish coordinator is asked to select one additional focus – Reproductive Loss/Support After Abortion, Special Needs, End of Life, Death Penalty or Human Trafficking. (*Note: Healing After Abortion focus must be in cooperation with the Pastor.*) This broadens the scope of efforts without taking away existing or ongoing efforts for the Unborn. Parishes will continue their work for the Unborn due to the urgency of the lives of the Unborn at risk through abortion.

The goal of working within the deanery is to allow coverage of the entire scope of life issues, and to educate and attract others who wish to work on the expanded issues as individual parishes each adopt one additional specific focus.

Deaneries & Parishes in the Diocese of St. Augustine

GAINESVILLE DEANERY

Epiphany
Holy Faith (Williston)
Holy Family
Queen of Peace
St. Augustine
St. Edward
St. Francis Xavier
St. John the Evangelist (Chiefland)
St. John the Evangelist (Interlachen)
St. Madeleine
St. Patrick (Gainesville)
St. William
San Juan Mission

ST. AUGUSTINE DEANERY

Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine
Corpus Christi
Our Lady of Good Counsel
St. Ambrose
St. Anastasia
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. John the Baptist (Crescent City)
St. Mary (Bunnell)
St. Monica
San Sebastian
Santa Maria del Mar

NORTH JACKSONVILLE DEANERY

Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
Crucifixion
Holy Rosary
Most Holy Redeemer
Our Lady of Consolation
Sacred Heart (Jacksonville)
St. Francis of Assisi Mission
St. Mary, Mother of Mercy
St. Matthew
St. Michael
St. Patrick (Jacksonville)
St. Paul (Riverside)
St. Pius V

ST. JOHNS RIVER DEANERY

Mary, Queen of Heaven
Sacred Heart (Fleming Island)
St. Catherine
St. Joseph
St. Luke
St. Mark the Evangelist Mission
San Juan del Rio

SOUTH JACKSONVILLE DEANERY

Assumption
Blessed Trinity
Christ the King
Holy Family (Jacksonville)
Holy Spirit
Our Lady Star of the Sea
Prince of Peace
Resurrection
St. Ephrem Syriac
St. John the Baptist (Atlantic Beach)
St. John Paul II Mission
St. Paul (Jacksonville Beach)
San Jose

~ Respect Life Coordinator Job Description ~

Qualifications and Responsibilities

- Understand and accept the Catholic position of all life issues.
- Appointed by the Pastor and blessed by the Bishop for a period of two (2) years.
- Work within the Diocesan Respect Life Deanery to promote prayer, education, advocacy, and action.
- Responsible to the Pastor for all activities on behalf of the parish.
- Establish a parish committee and hold periodic meetings as determined in agreement with the Pastor and the Respect Life Team.

Specific Duties

- Set goals for activities in the parish to include prayer, education, advocacy, and action.
- Review with the pastor any programs that will be carried out in the name of the parish or the Diocese of St. Augustine.
- Implement programs requested by the Office of Human Life & Dignity.
- Participate in the annual Respect Life Coordinator Workshop and Deanery meeting.
- Participate in the annual Florida Respect Life Conference.
- Serve as liaison between the Pastor, the Respect Life Team, the Respect Life Deanery chair, and the Office of Human Life & Dignity.
- Sign up with the FCCB to receive legislative alerts and be aware of legislative issues.
- Review and study the USCCB's Pastoral Plan for Pro Life Activities.
- Serve as the chairperson of the Parish Respect Life Team.
- Serve as the parish contact with the Diocesan Office of Human Life & Dignity.
- Sign Up for Pastoral Briefings- Not to be shared publicly, this resource and knowledge is to help keep you in loop as an internal leader in the church.

Guidelines

- Receive resources from the Office of Human Life & Dignity and share with the parish community.
- Keep LIFE issues visible in the parish through bulletins and other communications.
- Primary efforts include praying, informing, educating, motivating, and serving the parish community, extending to the deanery for particular focus area education.
- The Respect Life Coordinator is a volunteer, and activities are funded in agreement with the Pastor.
- The Respect Life Coordinator represents the Catholic Church, the Bishop and your Pastor, and this representation must be reflected in your leadership; influence by outside groups, organizations or legislation should be confirmed with the Diocesan Office of Human Life & Dignity before being acted upon or shared.

~ How To Begin ~

If you are beginning the Respect Life Ministry in your parish, or if there has not been much activity in some time, the following activities can help you get started: Maureen Shilkunas is here to guide and support you and your pastor. Always seek pastors' guidance first. We all work together to ensure that your parish is supported in its unique design.

1. Meet with your Pastor.

Before planning the program for your parish, meet with your pastor, and find out if he has Respect Life priorities or goals. Turn those priorities or goals into Respect Life Team objectives.

2. Know Your Parish.

Get to know your parish and how best to work with your pastor and parish leaders, as well as the most effective people who tend to get things done.

Every parish has a certain makeup. Is it an older parish? Younger parish? Does the parish have a school, etc.?

Use the Parish Mission Statement & Parish

Education Survey to determine what topics or focuses are important to the parish. The survey offers opportunities to recruit volunteers to join the team. See **Appendix B** in this manual for the Parish Mission Statement & Parish Education Survey.

3. Assessing the Respect Life Program of the Parish.

At the beginning of each of the following sections in this manual there is an assessment to help you determine how well your parish is currently carrying out the Pastoral Plan. Other parish committees or organizations may already be involved in parts of the program. You can offer to assist and enrich their efforts.

- What are the strongest organizations?
- Who are the key people?
- How is the liturgy planned?
- Who is responsible for writing the intercessory prayers?
- What is the deadline for submitting notices for the bulletins? How are they approved?
- How are notices, flyers and posters put on the parish bulletin board or website?
- If your parish has a newsletter, how are articles submitted?
- How does your parish communicate via social media and how can you submit requests to use this?

~ Appendix B ~

Parish Mission Statement and Parish Education Survey



Mission Statement & Parish Education Survey

Mission Statement: To broaden the scope and definition of the pastoral, educational, and advocacy initiatives within the diocesan ministry of respect life. Every life is made in the image and likeness of God with intrinsic value, despite state of development or social condition. We promote the dignity of all life from conception to natural death.

The expanded scope of populations include: the Unborn/Abortion, Healing After Abortion, Special Needs, End of Life, Death Penalty/Prison Ministry, Human Trafficking and Same Sex Attraction.

The purpose of this form is to address these topics in society through our parish's respect life ministry for the purpose of education and volunteerism.

1. Check for more education on:

Unborn (abortion) _____
Healing After Abortion _____
Special Needs _____
End of Life _____
Death Penalty/Prison Ministry _____
Human Trafficking _____

2. Check where you'd like to volunteer:

Help with Special Life Projects _____
Being on a Respect Life Team _____
Fundraising _____
Pro-life Legislation _____
Education on pro-life topics _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for completing this form and returning it to your Respect Life Coordinator below!

RL Coordinator Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

4. *Become An Effective Leader.*

Your task as the Respect Life Coordinator is to guide the Respect Life Team in your parish and work in conjunction with your pastor, the other parish Respect Life Coordinators in your deanery and the HLD office.

You need to:

- 1) Set goals. Make them realistic, and with thought that this a volunteer ministry.
- 2) Find individual team strengths.
- 3) Work through your objectives.

Be Knowledgeable. Read. Be informed. Be up on current materials and newsletters. Get FLCAN Legislative updates and the FCCB www.flaccb.org

Have Confidence. Have faith in yourself. You are called by God to be a voice and witness.

Delegate Responsibility. Utilize all the talent on your Team. Set monthly meetings and create a calendar and include others to carry the load. It does not all fall on you.

Caution...

The leader who does it all will soon become overloaded and experience burnout. Involve more people and thereby spread the enthusiasm, as well as the responsibility. By sharing the work, you help develop leadership in your team members.

Know Your Leadership Style. Know your leadership style, strengths, and weaknesses. Utilize each member's gifts and talents to be more effective. You may decide to recruit a co-coordinator to balance your leadership style.

Be Enthusiastic. Let your zeal for Life be shown!

Be A Servant. You have been called to be a missionary for Life. Rejoice!

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- Matthew 20:26-28


5. Communicating with Respect Life Team Members

Email is the best way to communicate with team members about upcoming events, meetings, and parish activities, as well as notifying them of urgent Legislative Action Alerts from the Florida Council of Catholic Bishops (FCCB) or United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

It is a good idea to use a distinct email address for parish pro-life activities rather than your own personal email address. This parish email address can then be passed from one coordinator to the next, creating a history and saving lots of work. If you are replacing someone, ask if there is an email already established you can use.

Remember, most group members do not want to be bombarded with emails! Be mindful of the urgency or importance of your email based on the needs of the parish.

Also, do not forget those who do not have email – they will need to be made aware of alerts and group activities by another method. Find a way to communicate with everyone on your list.



“Key to the success of this pastoral plan is the work of informed and committed lay people throughout the nation. In addition, efforts of the laity, especially at the parish level, deserve and require the encouragement and support of priests, deacons, and religious.

- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

~ Prayer ~

Since the Respect Life Ministry is constantly in spiritual battle, we must be exceptionally rooted in prayer.

“Prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life. Our efforts – whether education, pastoral or legislative – will be less than fully fruitful if we do not change hearts and if we do not ourselves overcome our own spiritual blindness. Only with prayer – prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and our souls – will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life.”

- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

Assessing the Parish Respect Life Program

- Every parish is requested to have a ***Holy Hour for Life or Rosary for Life weekly or monthly*** to pray for all the victims of abortion, those at the end of life, and those facing execution; does your parish have this?
- Do the ***General Intercessions at Mass regularly include petitions to foster respect for all life***, especially the unborn, the dying, special needs, human trafficking, and those on death row?
- Do you have a pro-life liturgy on Respect Life Sunday? Do you have a special Mass emphasizing penance on January 22, the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the U.S.?
- Are healing after abortion ministries such as Rachel’s Vineyard and Support After Abortion incorporated into parish activities? Are the Respect Life liturgies sensitive to the healing after abortion difficulties many experiences? Are resources published for healing after abortion?
- Is there an organized prayer chain to assure continuous prayers to bring about a culture of life where the most vulnerable are cared for and protected?
- Are there other programs such as spiritual adoption, special blessings, prayer breakfasts or retreats to encourage respect for life?

Prayer and Worship Projects

- National Night of Prayer for Life
- Respect Life Prayers of the Faithful
- Holy Hour for Life
- Rosary for Life
- Procession for Life
- Mass Intentions for Life
- Liturgical Prayers for Life
- Novena to the Holy Innocents
- Annual Eucharistic Rosary Congress – 1 week - continuous Rosary recited every hour on the hour 24/7 in front of Blessed Sacrament – encourage your parish to partake

“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise-up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God... Let us therefore discover anew the humility and the courage to pray and fast so that the power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit; the walls which conceal from the sight of so many... the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life.”

*- Pope St. John Paul II
Evangelium Vitae, no. 100*

National Night of Prayer for Life

Goal: To unite our prayers with Catholics throughout the country December 8-9 to help bring the world to Christ and to bring about an end to abortion.

Activities: Communicate the event to the parish through bulletin announcements, on the parish website, etc. The hours are to coincide with Our Lady of Guadalupe’s appearance to St. Juan Diego.

Resources: Visit www.nationalnightofprayerforlife.org for information and details on how to host this night of prayer for your parish.

Respect Life Prayers of the Faithful

Goal: Include Respect Life issues in the Prayers of the Faithful during every Sunday Mass.

Activities: Ask your pastor or director of liturgy to include respect life prayers in the prayers of the faithful.

Resources: Visit <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/word-life>, and search for “Word of Life.” Each month’s issue of Word of Life contains prayers and intercessions for life to be used in the liturgy.



Holy Hour for Life

Goal: Hold a weekly or monthly Holy Hour for Life at the parish.

Activities: Schedule and advertise the Holy Hour to your parish and invite all to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for respect life issues.

Resources: For more information visit <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/adoration/holy-hour-for-life>

Rosary for Life

Goal: Promote praying the Rosary for Life.

Activities: Invite parishioners to pray the rosary to increase the culture of life. If there is already a group who pray the rosary regularly, ask to include intentions for respect life issues. If there is not, ask your pastor to begin a group that prays the rosary for respect life issues before a daily or Sunday Mass once a week, once a month, etc.



Resources: *In the Palm of His Hand* is a respect life prayer booklet that includes the mysteries of the rosary with respect life intentions. This booklet can be downloaded at www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/in-the-palm-revised.pdf. A quick link to these intentions can also be found online at www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/Rosary.aspx.

Procession for Life

Goal: Demonstrate to the parish how precious life is, reminding all that since the legalization of abortion on January 22, 1973, more than 63 million children have been aborted.

Activities: Schedule a procession during a Sunday Mass closest to January 22, Sanctity of Life Sunday, where parishioners process in holding a rose representing each year abortion has been legalized since 1973. For the last year, have a pregnant mother or a mother with a newborn process.

Resources: Visit www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life, *9 Days for Life* is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Mass Intentions for Life

Goal: To storm heaven with the most efficacious and perfect of all prayers – the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – with the specific intentions of respect life issues.

Activities: Request special intentions at Masses on the following dates:

- January 22 – Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
- February 11 – World Day of Prayer for the Sick
- March 25 – Annunciation of the Lord
- May (second Sunday) – Mother’s Day
- May 31 – Feast of the Visitation
- June (third Sunday) – Father’s Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- July 25 – Grandparents Day
- August 14 – Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- September 15 – Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
- October (first Sunday) – Respect Life Sunday
- October 11 – Feast of Our Lady of La Leche
- November – National Adoption Month
- December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- December 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December (first Sunday after Christmas) – Feast of the Holy Family
- December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents

Resources: Visit <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/word-life>, and search for “Word of Life.” Each month’s issue of Word of Life contains prayers and intercessions for life to be used in the liturgy.

Liturgical Prayers for Life

Goal: Incorporate Church approved prayers for life in your parish liturgy.

Activities: Meet with your pastor or liturgy director and recommend prayers that best fit your parish to include in the liturgy.

Resources: Visit <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/word-life>, and search for “Word of Life.” Each month’s issue of Word of Life contains prayers and intercessions for life to be used in the liturgy.

Novena to the Holy Innocents December 19-27

Goal: Incorporate the Novena to the Holy Innocents into the parish's prayer life.

Activities: The Feast of the Holy Innocents is celebrated on December 28, so communicate to the parish praying of this novena beginning December 19 to conclude the day before the feast day and include the novena prayer.

Resources: A copy of the novena can be found at flaccb.org/documents/2015/8/HolyInnocentsNovena.pdf.

Annual Eucharistic Rosary Congress

Goal: Promote the event and its purpose and invite the parish to participate.

Activities: The annual diocesan Eucharistic Rosary Congress takes place in late September/early October. It is the continual praying of the Rosary in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for seven days and nights for specific intentions.

Communicate the event to the parish through bulletin announcements, on the parish website, etc., to encourage participation whether it is held at your parish or another parish in your deanery.

Resources: Contact the Office of Human Life & Dignity for details on the dates of the annual Eucharistic Rosary Congress, visit <https://life.dosafl.com/rosary-congress/>, or for more information on diocesan rosary congresses in general visit www.rosarycongressusa.org.



*"This kind of demon can only be cast out by
prayer and fasting."*

- Mark 9:29

~ Education ~

1. Public Information and Education

The USCCB calls for a “twofold educational effort” to teach accurate Respect Life education to both the Catholic community and the general public. (Reference www.usccb.org/prolife/pastoral-plan-pro-life-activities)

The Catholic Community

Just as Jesus formed his disciples and commissioned them to go out and spread the good news, when parish educators are formed correctly on respect life issues, they will be able to spread the Gospel of Life to the rest of the parish community.


Encourage the involvement of your Catholic Community members, such as:

- Priests, deacons and religious
- Lay persons and volunteers
- Parish schoolteachers
- Director of religious education
- Youth ministers
- Parents
- Council of Catholic Women
- Knights of Columbus
- Other ministers in your parish

The General Public

A program directed toward the public will raise awareness of the threats to human life. Taking the message to the public square by participating in events such as Life Chain or the March for Life “... gives the issues visibility and prompts those who are uncommitted to reach a firm conviction.”

Standing and praying for Life on the sidewalk with appropriate signage is excellent community messaging.



“The primary purpose of an educational effort directed to the general public is the development of pro-life attitudes and the rejection of abortion and euthanasia.”

- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

Assessing the Parish Respect Life Program

- Are respect life themes included in homilies several times throughout the year, including Respect Life Sunday (first Sunday of October) and Sanctity of Life Sunday (generally third weekend of January.)?
- Do you have regular respect life bulletin inserts or information on the parish website?
- Do you have a Respect Life library, pamphlet rack or bulletin board?
- Does your parish, school and CCD program have an educational program to promote the virtue of chastity and respect for human life? Do they use videos, pamphlets, and speakers? Do they participate in the program “Respecting Life Begins With Me?”
- Do you have adult educational programs on respect life topics to invite speakers, discuss documents or issues publicized at your parish or within the deanery?

2. How Should I Keep Myself Informed?

Read and Share!

Read Church documents, Respect Life news and Respect Life books. Examples include:

- USCCBs Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities
- *Humanae Vitae* and *Evangelium Vitae*
- People of Life <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/people-life>
- LifeNews <https://www.lifenews.com>
- Life Site <https://www.lifesitenews.com>
- Office of Human Life & Dignity monthly newsletter
- *Catholic and Capital Punishment*
- *Theology of the Body for Beginners* by Christopher West
- *Unplanned* by Abby Johnson

Listen to Talks and Attend Presentations on Respect Life Topics!

Attend monthly Luncheons 4 Life events hosted by the Office of Human Life & Dignity. Great talks can be found on www.AugustineInstitute.org. Some examples include *Contraception Why Not?* by Janet Smith and *The Theology of the Body Series* by Christopher West.

3. Youth Education Projects

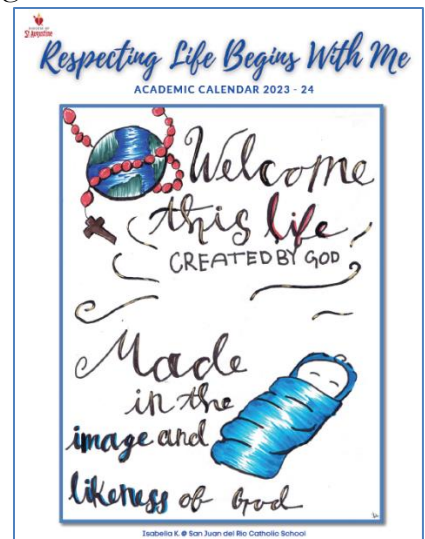
Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM) Developmental Education Program

Goal: The RLBWM program creates an opportunity for teachers, parents, and children to discuss the theme(s) and the need to respect human life in all forms: the unborn, the disabled, the sick, the elderly and those with special needs, as well as to become more educated in Respect Life issues.

Activities: The RLBWM program is for Catholic school, religious education and homeschooled students who submit artwork, essays, or PowerPoint presentations relevant to the theme of the year. Coordinators need to work with their schools and religious education programs to find creative ways to display entries from their parish, for example after Sunday Mass during coffee and donuts gatherings, in the vestibule, or in the bulletin. This allows the entire church community to see the value of human life through the eyes of its children.

The RLBWM program incorporates a kick-off Mass for Life, Spiritual Adoption and Collections for the poor and needy. Winning entries may even be published in the annual Respect Life calendar!

New direction and opportunities will be coming to involve all ages in projects in the love for life..... stay tuned!



Resources: Look for your Respect Life program packet at the beginning of the school year!

Bulletin Inserts & Website Announcements

Goal: Raise respect life awareness by inserting it in the parish bulletin or on the parish website.

Activities: Try to get a designated spot in the bulletin or on the website. Submit weekly briefs with an interesting quote or prayer. Include information about your next respect life event or meeting, local healing after abortion resources, local pregnancy center contact information or times to pray outside the local abortion clinic.

Resources: Feel free to reuse past bulletin inserts. Suggested bulletin inserts can be found at USCCB Pro-life website: <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/word-life>

Book/Pamphlet Rack

Goal: Make available pro-life books or pamphlets on the racks often found in the vestibules of churches or in parish offices.

Activities: Keep the parish's rack up to date with a selection of pro-life materials and the Pregnancy Resource Directory, published by the Office of Human Life & Dignity.

Resources: Educational materials can be purchased from websites such as www.usccb.org/prolife. Many USCCB brochures and flyers are available to download for free for parish and school use. These materials are updated annually and can be trusted to clearly reflect the Church's position on life issues.

See **Appendix C** in this manual for a listing of recommended Resources for your parish.

Donating to a Library

Goal: Your Respect Life Committee can take action to fill the need to have all types of pro-life books and DVDs in the school, the church, at institutional and public libraries. Often students need these resources to write papers and give speeches.

Activities: While libraries will accept any book or DVD donations, not all donated items are put on the shelf. Policies for book selection are not the same in all locales, so before you purchase any items, ask the librarian if your donation will be accepted for use. It is best to purchase hardbound books or periodicals that promote respect for life. DVDs that feature pro-life lessons or talks could also be very beneficial. **Resources:** Hardbound Library Packs are available from Life Cycle Books at www.lifecyclebooks.com, or contact the Office of Human Life & Dignity for more suggestions.

~ Appendix C ~

Resources

RESOURCE NAME	WEBSITE
<u>Abortion/Unborn</u>	
Setting the Record Straight: Abortion in Florida	https://www.flaccb.org/culture-of-life
The Privacy Clause	https://www.flaccb.org/culture-of-life
How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion	https://store.respectlife.org/
A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers	https://store.respectlife.org/
Abortion Pill Reversal*	https://abortionpillreversal.com/
Answers to Your Questions about...Depo-Provera	https://all.org/
Answers to Your Questions about...Seasonal	https://all.org/
Answers to Your Questions about...Surgical Abortion	https://all.org/
Answers to Your Questions about...The Pill	https://all.org/
Answers...about...The RU-486 Medical Abortion	https://all.org/
Let Them Live	https://letthemlive.org/
Pregnancy Resource Center Directory*	https://life.dosafl.com/pregnancy-services/
Spiritual Adoption	https://hearts4life.org/
Walking With Moms In Need*	https://life.dosafl.com/walking-with-moms-in-need/
<u>Death Penalty</u>	
Catholic Church Teaching on the Death Penalty	https://flacathconf.org/declaration-on-life-and-death
Florida's Death Penalty: A Catholic Response*	https://www.flaccb.org/culture-of-life
Standing Up for the Dignity of all Human Life*	https://www.dosafl.com/bishop-felipe-j-estevez/pastoral-letters/
<u>End of Life</u>	
A Catholic Guide to Palliative Care & Hospice	https://www.ncbcenter.org/store
Assisted Suicide: A Catholic Response*	https://www.flaccb.org/culture-of-life
Catholic Declaration of Life and Death-Adv. Directive*	https://flacathconf.org/declaration-on-life-and-death
Deadly Deception	https://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/
End of Life Planning: A Catholic Introduction	https://www.flaccb.org/culture-of-life
Health Care Advance Directives	https://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/
POLST	https://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/
The Food & Fluids Debate	https://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/
Understanding Brain Death	https://all.org/
Understanding Catholic Declaration of Life and Death*	https://flacathconf.org/declaration-on-life-and-death
Voluntarily Stopping Eating & Drinking	https://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/
<u>Human Trafficking</u>	
Be Alert Be Strong Be Free	https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign
DHS Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts	https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign
Human Trafficking 101	https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign
Human Trafficking is Happening Now	https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign
Invisible Chains Bookmark	https://flacathconf.org/human-trafficking
On Human Trafficking	https://www.usccb.org/resources/human-trafficking
One Voice. One Mission. Stop Human Trafficking	https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign
STOP Human Trafficking	https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign
What Can You Do?	https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign

Resources (continued)

Reproductive Loss

Mass for the Precious Ones

<https://life.dosafl.com/campaign-for-the-precious-ones/>

Rachel's Vineyard

<https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/>

Red Bird Ministry

<https://life.dosafl.com/red-bird-ministries/>

Support After Abortion

<https://supportafterabortion.com/>

Same Sex Attraction

Courage & Encourage

<https://courageofjacksonville.org/>

Spiritual

Spiritual Warfare Prayers

<https://www.valentinepublishinghouse.com/>

St. Gerard (Expectant Mother/Motherhood)

<https://www.autom.com/>

St. Joseph, Defender of Life

<https://store.respectlife.org/>

St. Joseph Protector of Life, Marriage & Families

<https://www.hli.org/>

St. Michael (Conversion of Abortionist)

<https://www.hli.org/>

Stop Drop and Pray

<https://www.stopdropandpray.net/>

Notes:

1.- Recommended Resources (*)

2.- The Office of Human Life & Dignity will provide copies of materials created by our office; for other materials please order directly from the websites provided.

Life Fair

Goal: Raise awareness, inform & get involved in Respect Life topics.

Activities: Host a Life Fair weekend, and after each Sunday Mass, invite parishioners to learn more about Respect Life issues. Set up tables with displays on different Respect Life topics and have Respect Life ministry members at each display to inform parishioners about these issues. Possible display topics include:

- Abortion
- Support After Abortion
- Death Penalty
- Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS)
- Euthanasia
- Special Needs
- Human Trafficking
- Local Pregnancy Centers
- Praying/Sidewalk Advocacy outside local abortion clinics/Adopt A Day

Offer coffee, donuts and a brief announcement explaining the purpose of the fair. Consider inviting a speaker for a 20-minute talk or allow a Respect Life committee member to give a brief presentation. Be creative!

Resources: *Evangelium Vitae*, *Humanae Vitae*, Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, and an assortment of brochures on every topic are available from the Office of Human Life & Dignity.



Spiritual Adoption

Goal: A Spiritual Adoption Program has three goals:

- Encourage parishes, schools, and the community to pray for babies in danger of abortion.
- Offer education on the development of pre-born children.
- Provide mothers in need and Pregnancy Care Centers with assistance at a “baby shower” of donated baby gifts.

Activities: A Spiritual Adoption program can be used by parishes, schools, or religious education programs; anyone who is concerned about abortion and willing to pray for babies in danger of abortion. Those involved are encouraged to “spiritually adopt” by naming an unborn baby, following that baby along the path to being born, and pledging to pray for nine months. Monthly developmental information can be provided through pictures (i.e., *Little One* posters). Naming a spiritually adopted baby helps to personalize the child as you continually pray for him/her.

Resources: The Baby Olivia project provides a medically accurate, animated glimpse of human life from the moment of fertilization. The story details her growth as she progresses from one developmental stage to the next, in preparation for her continued life outside of the womb. <https://babyolivia.liveaction.org/>

Information and prayer cards can be found at www.spiritualadoption.org or www.catholicprayercards.org *Watch Me Grow* brochures and *Little One* posters can be found at www.littleonepublishing.com







See **Appendix D** for Spiritual Adoption cards that can be copied for your use.

Other Ideas – Spiritual and Educational







- Start a Respect Life Group and read books like *unplanned*, Respect Life encyclicals, or other church-approved pro-life books.
- Include Respect Life materials in the new parishioner packet.
- Have a Respect Life Mass, Holy Hour, or organize a Rosary for Life.
- Promote the RLBWM (Respecting Life Begins With Me) program.
- Host a Respect Life movie night and show *October Baby*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, etc.
- Organize a panel of medical doctors to speak about Respect Life issues, i.e., euthanasia.
- Host a Respect Life speaker or watch a recorded talk on various issues topics such as abortion, healing after abortion, human trafficking, euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, end of life issues or the importance of pregnancy resource centers.
- Raise awareness of diocesan events.

~ Appendix D ~

Spiritual Adoption Cards - English

<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL ADOPTION</p> <p>I, _____ (your name)</p> <p>promise to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion by praying this prayer every day for nine months for the life of this child!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Baby's Name: _____</p> <p>Spiritual Adoption Date: _____</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL ADOPTION</p> <p>I, _____ (your name)</p> <p>promise to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion by praying this prayer every day for nine months for the life of this child!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Baby's Name: _____</p> <p>Spiritual Adoption Date: _____</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL ADOPTION</p> <p>I, _____ (your name)</p> <p>promise to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion by praying this prayer every day for nine months for the life of this child!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Baby's Name: _____</p> <p>Spiritual Adoption Date: _____</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL ADOPTION</p> <p>I, _____ (your name)</p> <p>promise to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion by praying this prayer every day for nine months for the life of this child!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Baby's Name: _____</p> <p>Spiritual Adoption Date: _____</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL ADOPTION</p> <p>I, _____ (your name)</p> <p>promise to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion by praying this prayer every day for nine months for the life of this child!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Baby's Name: _____</p> <p>Spiritual Adoption Date: _____</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL ADOPTION</p> <p>I, _____ (your name)</p> <p>promise to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion by praying this prayer every day for nine months for the life of this child!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Baby's Name: _____</p> <p>Spiritual Adoption Date: _____</p> 

Spiritual Adoption Cards – Spanish

<p style="text-align: center;">ADOPCION ESPIRITUAL</p> <p>Yo, _____ (su nombre)</p> <p>prometo adoptar espiritualmente un bebe que no nacido y está en peligro de ser abortado, rezando diariamente por nueve meses por la vida este pequeño.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Jesus, Maria y Jose, Los amo mucho. Les ruego perdonen la vida de este bebe por nacer, que espiritualmente he adoptado y que está en peligro de ser abortado”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Oración del Arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Nombre del bebe: _____</p> <p>Fecha de la adopción espiritual: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ADOPCION ESPIRITUAL</p> <p>Yo, _____ (su nombre)</p> <p>prometo adoptar espiritualmente un bebe que no nacido y está en peligro de ser abortado, rezando diariamente por nueve meses por la vida este pequeño.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Jesus, Maria y Jose, Los amo mucho. Les ruego perdonen la vida de este bebe por nacer, que espiritualmente he adoptado y que está en peligro de ser abortado”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Oración del Arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Nombre del bebe: _____</p> <p>Fecha de la adopción espiritual: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ADOPCION ESPIRITUAL</p> <p>Yo, _____ (su nombre)</p> <p>prometo adoptar espiritualmente un bebe que no nacido y está en peligro de ser abortado, rezando diariamente por nueve meses por la vida este pequeño.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Jesus, Maria y Jose, Los amo mucho. Les ruego perdonen la vida de este bebe por nacer, que espiritualmente he adoptado y que está en peligro de ser abortado”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Oración del Arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Nombre del bebe: _____</p> <p>Fecha de la adopción espiritual: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ADOPCION ESPIRITUAL</p> <p>Yo, _____ (su nombre)</p> <p>prometo adoptar espiritualmente un bebe que no nacido y está en peligro de ser abortado, rezando diariamente por nueve meses por la vida este pequeño.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Jesus, Maria y Jose, Los amo mucho. Les ruego perdonen la vida de este bebe por nacer, que espiritualmente he adoptado y que está en peligro de ser abortado”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Oración del Arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Nombre del bebe: _____</p> <p>Fecha de la adopción espiritual: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ADOPCION ESPIRITUAL</p> <p>Yo, _____ (su nombre)</p> <p>prometo adoptar espiritualmente un bebe que no nacido y está en peligro de ser abortado, rezando diariamente por nueve meses por la vida este pequeño.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Jesus, Maria y Jose, Los amo mucho. Les ruego perdonen la vida de este bebe por nacer, que espiritualmente he adoptado y que está en peligro de ser abortado”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Oración del Arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Nombre del bebe: _____</p> <p>Fecha de la adopción espiritual: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ADOPCION ESPIRITUAL</p> <p>Yo, _____ (su nombre)</p> <p>prometo adoptar espiritualmente un bebe que no nacido y está en peligro de ser abortado, rezando diariamente por nueve meses por la vida este pequeño.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Jesus, Maria y Jose, Los amo mucho. Les ruego perdonen la vida de este bebe por nacer, que espiritualmente he adoptado y que está en peligro de ser abortado”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Oración del Arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen</p> <p>Nombre del bebe: _____</p> <p>Fecha de la adopción espiritual: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>

~ Advocacy ~

Public Policy Program

Public policy, especially in our democratic society, is very important and is often forgotten. The Bishops remind us that “protecting and promoting the inviolable rights of persons is the most solemn responsibility of civil authority.” By speaking to our legislators and informing them of our views, especially pertaining to protecting and enhancing the sanctity of human life, we can make a difference!

By publicly making these views known, it brings respect life issues out of the dark; it raises awareness and causes people to move out of their apathetic comfort zone and choose life or death.

*“I call heaven and earth to witness
against you this day, that I have set
before your life and death, blessing and
curse; therefore, choose life, that you
and your descendants may live.”*

- Deuteronomy 30:19

Assessing the Parish Respect Life Program

- Do you promote to your parish letter-writing and calls to public officials in support of respect life issues?
- Does the parish promote or participate in community pro-life activities such as Life Chain, Catholic Days at the Capitol or the annual Marches for Life in Washington, DC or Tallahassee, FL?
- Has your committee signed up for legislative alerts with FLCAN, a Catholic Advocacy Network?
- Does your parish publicly commemorate January 22?
- Does your parish have a Facebook or Twitter account to post Respect Life news?
- Would you or a member of your Parish Respect Life Team consider joining the diocesan Legislative Action Committee?

Effectiveness in Lobbying

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. Every believer is called to faithful citizenship, to become an informed, active, and responsible participant in the political process.

The Multiplier Effect

Legislators recognize that voters often do not take the time to express their opinions. Therefore, they give added weight to the opinions of those who take the time to contact them.

- **1 Telephone Call** = another **10** people hold the same or similar views
 - **1 Original Letter** = another **20** people hold the same or similar views
 - **1 Visit to the Home Office** = another **50** people hold the same or similar views
 - **1 Visit to the State Capitol** = another **100** people hold the same or similar views

As a parish respect life coordinator, your leadership at your parish is very influential. For the Catholic Church to have a consistent voice, you are asked to only share legislative action alerts and updates from the following sources:

- Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.flaccb.org
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org
- National Committee for a Human Life Amendment at www.humanlifeaction.org

How to Connect with Your Legislators

From the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops website at www.flaccb.org, click on “Get Involved” and under “About FLCAN”, you can join the Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (FLCAN), “Take Action” and “Look Up Elected Officials.”

You need to respond and pass along to your respect life committee Legislative Action Alerts received from FCCB, USCCB, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, and the Diocesan Director of the Office of Human Life & Dignity.

Public Policy Actions

- National March for Life
- Catholic Days at the Capitol
- March for Life Tallahassee
- Life Chain Sunday
- Letter Writing Campaign to State Legislators
- Parish Adopt A Day
- Choose Life License Plates



National March for Life

Goal: Publicly raise awareness about the injustice of legalized abortion and to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Activities: Gather with hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers across the nation in Washington, DC to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22.

March from the National Mall to the steps of the Supreme Court in protest of the legalization of abortion.

Resources: Visit www.marchforlife.org for information on the annual March for Life. Locally the Catholic high schools and university campus ministries plan youth pilgrimages for this event.

Catholic Days at the Capitol

Goal: Join fellow Catholics from around the state in Tallahassee for a two-day meeting to present positions to elected officials.

Activities:

- Day One participants attend a legislative briefing to review issues prior to meetings with elected officials.
- On Day Two participants attend a luncheon with the Bishops of Florida and legislators.
- Participants are also invited to attend the annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit. This Mass, which is attended by state officials, lawmakers, judges, and members of the Catholic Lawyers Guild, is to pray for those working in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Resources: Visit <https://flaccb.org/cdac> for information and the schedule of events.





March for Life Tallahassee

Goal: Publicly raise awareness about the injustice of legalized abortion.

Activities: Organization is in progress. First March for Life Tallahassee in 2024.

Resources: Contact Office of Human Life & Dignity for more details about the March for Life Tallahassee.

Life Chain Sunday

Goal: The first Sunday in October is Life Chain Sunday. It is a time to stand united in peaceful, prayerful public witness against legalized abortion. Encourage parishioners to join a Life Chain near you.

Activities: Find and communicate the list of active Life Chains across the diocese, and how you and your parish can get involved. If there is not a Life Chain in your area, visit www.lifechain.org for instructions on how to begin one.

Resources: Visit www.lifechain.org for information, to find a life chain in your area, to start a life chain or to purchase signs.



How to Write Your Legislators

Representatives and senators are very responsive to voters in their districts. A personal letter or an email to your legislator is an easy and effective way to express your views as a constituent.

- Letters should be typed. If hand-written, they should be legible; otherwise send an email.
- Identify yourself clearly. State the name of the legislation about which you are addressing. Provide the bill number if known.
- State your reason for writing. Personal experience is your best supporting evidence. Explain how the issue would affect you, your family, your business, your profession, etc., or the effect it could have on your state or community.
- Ask your legislator to state their position on the issue in their reply.
- Be courteous.
- Consider the factor of timing. Try to write your position on a bill while it is in committee. Your senators and representatives are usually more responsive to your appeal at that time rather than when it has already been approved by a committee.
- Follow up; thank your legislator if you are pleased with the vote on an issue. However, if the vote was contrary to your position, let your legislator know you disagree.

Letter Writing Campaign to State Legislators

Goal: Inform state legislators of opinions on relevant legislative issues.

Activities: Communicate to parishioners the need to write letters to legislators concerning relevant issues and include a copy of the bullet point issues to be addressed. Legislation can be confusing, so be clear and concise in the wording of your informative opinion.

Resources: See the *How to Write Your Legislators* box on this page.

Parish Adopt A Day Program

Goal: Have members of the parish be prayerfully and lovingly witness to abortion-vulnerable men and women and refer those in need to a local pregnancy resource center for free services.

Activities:

Invite parishioners to join you and the community to Adopt A Day for prayer in front of an abortion facility. Contact the Office of Human Life & Dignity for the local facilities and hours and to sign up. If anyone feels called to do sidewalk counseling, seek training from Sidewalk Advocates for Life.



Resources: For more information visit <https://life.dosafl.com/adopt-a-day-program-for-parishes>, or www.sidewalkadvocates.org for sidewalk counseling training.



Choose Life License Plates


Goal: Promote the Choose Life license plate to 1) make your public advocacy known; and 2) to assist Choose Life, Inc., who uses the funds from the sale of the specialty plates to donate to life-affirming pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and non-profit adoption agencies in the state of Florida.

Activities: Communicate to parishioners the option for a Choose Life license plate, and where the funds go that are generated from the sale of these plates.

Resources: For instructions on how to obtain this license plate, visit <https://flchoose-life.org/>.

~ Direct Action ~

Action includes a wide variety of activities for the parish, including spiritual assistance and essential material help. Before carrying out any activities, request approval from your pastor. Look at your deanery and your parish's focus to assist you to work within your deanery.



"Providing pastoral care to those in need is a primary way that the Church expresses its love for all God's children."

- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

Assessing the Parish Respect Life Program

- Do you seek out distressed pregnant women and direct them to resources for help with counseling, support, medical needs, or baby items?
- Does the parish office know about the Respect Life Team's efforts and who to call?
- Do parishioners know where to refer to those in need?
- Do you have Pregnancy Center Directories and WWMIN cards available in your church?
- Do you make occasional pulpit announcements and provide bulletin announcements with information on pregnancy and healing after abortion help?
- Does the parish support the local pregnancy resource center or maternity home with financial aid, volunteer recruitment, and clothing and equipment donations?
- Are healing after abortion and reconciliation programs, such as Rachel's Vineyard and Support After Abortion, publicized?
- Are the needs of the disabled, the dying and the elderly being addressed? End of Life workshops at your parish can be scheduled.

The activities in this section are divided into nine areas:

1. Pregnancy Services
2. Healing After Abortion and Reconciliation
3. Care for Those Who are Chronically Ill, Disabled, End of Life, Serving Our Sick S.O.S
4. Care for Prisoners and Those on Death Row
5. Care for the Homeless, the Poor, and Mothers In Need through WWMIN
6. Care for Women Who Are Pregnant and on Bedrest
7. Care for Those Following a Miscarriage
8. Campaign for the Precious Ones and Precious Ones Baby Mausoleum
9. Red Bird Ministry for Child Loss

"Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh, is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church."

- Pope St. John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, no. 3

1. *Pregnancy Services*

Baby Bottle Drive

Goal: To raise money for a local Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) or Maternity Home.

Activities:

- Set a start and end date for the program, i.e., Mother's Day & Father's Day.
- Announce the program in the bulletin and/or as a pulpit announcement at Mass the weekend before and the weekend of the program.
- Pass out baby bottles provided by the PRC to parishioners. Encourage them to empty their spare change at the end of each day into the baby bottle.
- Collect the bottles in a basket or area in the vestibule at the end of the program.

Resources: Contact a local PRC or maternity home for the bottles and their desired timeline. An updated list of centers and homes is in our Pregnancy Resource Center Directory produced by the Office of Human Life & Dignity, or it can be found on the diocesan website at <https://life.dosafl.com/pregnancy-services/>

Volunteering at a local Pregnancy Resource Center or Maternity Home

Goal: Get parishioners involved in volunteering at a local Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) or Maternity Home.



Activities:

- Connect parishioners with a local PRC or maternity home.
- Reach out to students to volunteer as this opportunity may earn them community service hours.

Resources: Contact a local PRC or maternity home to see if they need volunteers. An updated list of centers and homes is in our Pregnancy Resource Center Directory produced by the Office of Human Life & Dignity, or it can be found on the diocesan website at <https://life.dosafl.com/pregnancy-services/>


Baby Shower or Collections for Mothers in Need (WWMIN)

Goal: Collect baby clothes, layette items, baby furniture and equipment, diapers, wipes, and gift cards to distribute to agencies who directly assist mothers facing an unplanned pregnancy (Pregnancy Resource Centers, Maternity Homes, Catholic Charities, etc.).

Activities:

- Create a vehicle to give parishioners the baby needs' requests (i.e., pink, or blue baby booties made of construction paper and hung on a tree, a bassinet filled with plastic Easter eggs that contain the request inside, etc.)
- Place a bulletin announcement describing the goal of the drive, the recipient (PRC, etc.), and the program dates.
- Set up the display in the vestibule (i.e., tree, bassinet, etc.) with the dates the program is running.
- Designate an area for gift drop-off in the vestibule and a committee member to collect items after weekend Masses.
- Deliver the items to the selected agency.
- Place a "thank you" in the parish bulletin.
- Create a box to place names and contacts for mothers in need to keep confidential!

Resources: Contact a local PRC or maternity home for a list of their needs. An updated list of centers and homes is in our Pregnancy Resource Center Directory produced by the Office of Human Life & Dignity, or it can be found on the diocesan website at <https://life.dosafl.com/pregnancy-services/>



"Even when pregnancies do not involve challenges, encouragement and support should be given to couples who have conceived a child. In a culture that often gives negative messages regarding parenthood, it is important that our parishes celebrate the gift of a new life."

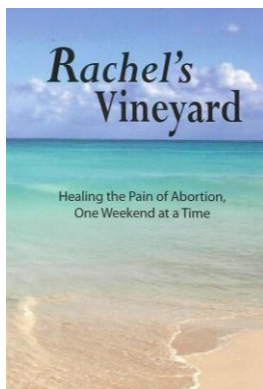
- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

2. Healing After Abortion and Reconciliation

Goal: Raise awareness of and connect people to healing after abortion and reconciliation programs in our diocese.

Activities: Promote and make available resources to Rachel's Vineyard Retreats and Support After Abortion.

Resources: Information can be found online for Rachel's Vineyard Retreats (*English and Spanish*) www.rachelsvineyard.org and for Support After Abortion at www.supportafterabortion.org



Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Rachel's Vineyard is a weekend retreat program based on meditations from the Bible. It is open to women and men of any or no faith background suffering from the aftermath of abortion. Retreats are run by a trained team consisting of clergy, a professional counselor, and lay team members. These confidential, compassionate retreats are offered throughout the United States and in many foreign countries. For more information visit www.rachelsvineyard.org or call (904) 221-3232.

Support After Abortion

Provides healing to individuals through one-on-one, small group and online resources, as well as training to organizations on how to implement healing programs for individuals. If an abortion experience has impacted your life or the life of someone you know, visit www.supportafterabortion.org or call 1-844-289-HOPE (4673).



3. Care for Those Who are Chronically Ill, Disabled, End of Life, Serving Our Sick S.O.S

Holiday Cards

Goal: Show care during the holiday season.

Activities: Invite parishioners to make a card for patients at a local nursing home, assisted living facility or homes for the disabled. Use pre-made or printed out cards for children to color. Involve the school, home school groups, religious education programs and the youth ministry for their students to participate.

Resources: Information and prayer cards can be found at www.catholicprayercards.org

Visitations

Goal: Build up the spirits of the chronically ill, disabled or dying.

Activities: Organize a group of volunteers to visit a local nursing home, assisted living facility or home for the disabled. Include the parish's music ministry to participate by singing and playing music.

Resources: Contact a local nursing home, assisted living facility or home for the disabled to schedule visitations from your parish volunteers. This is an opportunity for students to earn community service hours.

“Euthanasia and assisted suicide can appear a reasonable and even compassionate solution to the suffering of individuals and families struggling with illness or the dying process. Yet those are not real solutions – they do not solve human problems, but only take the lives of those most in need of unconditional love.”

- Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

4. Care for Prisoners and Those on Death Row

Coordinate with the Prison Ministry at your Parish or in your Deanery

Goal: Show care for prisoners and those on death row.

Activities: Encourage parishioners through bulletin announcements or on the parish website to become informed and get involved in prison ministry. Write letters to inmates or collect toiletries to donate. Pray for prisoners, families of prisoners and those on death row.

Resources: Information on the Prison Ministry for the Diocese of St. Augustine can be found at <https://prisonministry.dosafl.com/> and for the Catholic Mobilizing Network at <https://catholicsmobilizing.org/>

Attend Local Execution, Holy Hours Prayer Vigils

Goal: Pray for prisoners facing execution.

Activities: As the Florida Governor signs death warrants the Floridians Against Death Penalty (FADP) organizes prayer vigils to pray for the prisoner facing execution. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops also hosts vigils at the Cathedral rotating among the seven dioceses in the state. Other annual activities include attending Cities for Life and Catholic Days at the Capitol.

Resources: Information, news, and resources from the FCCB can be found at www.flaccb.org/death-penalty. The State of Florida's death row for men is in Raiford, FL which is in our diocese. For statistics on the death penalty visit www.deathpenaltyinfo.org.

5. Care for the Homeless, the Poor and Mothers In Need through WWMIN

Goal: Raise awareness and assist the homeless and poor in our community by providing basic needs.

Activities: Promote opportunities and:

- Organize volunteers to help at a local food pantry or homeless shelter.
- Collect blankets for the homeless in the winter.
- Contact local organizations for their needs and support those collections.
- Encourage schools to collect items in conjunction with Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM) program, exhibiting the Corporal Works of Mercy; this collection goes to support local mothers in need, the homeless, the elderly and the hungry.
- Organize Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter baskets for families in need.
- Organize activities for mothers in need, using the program Walking With Moms In Need (WWMIN).
- Collect hygiene products for local clinics or food banks.
- Organize a campaign to write holiday cards.

Resources: Information for various organizations can be found for Catholic Charities at www.ccbdosa.org, St. Francis House at www.stfrancisshelter.org, Wildflower Clinic at www.wildflowerhealthcare.org, Walking with Moms in Need is a process through which Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need. www.walkingwithmoms.com
Contact your parish for the St. Vincent de Paul Society or for area food banks.

6. Care for Women Who Are Pregnant and on Bedrest

Goal: Provide care and assistance to pregnant women who must be on bedrest.

Activities:

- Arrange with the parish office that the Respect Life Team has resources for those needing bedrest during a pregnancy. A simple question from the office may be "Can the Respect Life team contact you?"
- Offer to visit, make a meal, shop, or see if you can assist in simple things.

Resources: Information for various organizations can be found for Catholic Charities at www.ccbdosa.org

7. Care for Those Following A Miscarriage

Goal: Provide comfort to those following a miscarriage.

Activities:

- Arrange with the parish office for the Respect Life Team to have resources for those that have suffered a miscarriage.
- Make a phone call to check on them.
- Offer to make a meal.

Resources: Information to provide you with the support and resources you need during this challenging time <https://mycatholicdoctor.com/catholic-miscarriage-and-infant-loss-support/>

8. Red Bird Ministries for Child Loss

Goal: Help parents understand grief, how to navigate through it, and how to take practical measures to begin the healing process.

Activities:

- Information Sessions – For clergy, cemetery staff, counselors, therapists, advocates, parish grief ministers, companion couples, volunteers, and anyone who would have contact with grieving families who are interested in learning more about Red Bird Ministry (RBM.)
- Training Sessions – For facilitators and companion couples who will implement RBM at a parish.
- Loving Through Loss Grieving Couples Workshop – One day workshop for couples who have experienced the loss of a child.
- Grief Group Study – 10-week program for individuals or couples who have experienced the loss of a child.

Resources: For more information visit the Red Bird Ministries website at www.redbirdlove or Office of Human Life & Dignity <https://life.dosafl.com/red-bird-ministries/>.



9. Precious Ones and Precious Ones Baby Mausoleum

Goal: Honor the humanity of the unborn child lost through miscarriage, early infant death, and abortion. Through prayer, education, and access to burial these lives will be remembered with dignity and respect.

The Precious Ones Mausoleum is located at San Lorenzo Cemetery in St. Augustine, FL. This mausoleum has been specially created to provide families with a resting place for their precious one who have died while still in the womb, a still born or an early infancy death. The diocese wishes to memorialize these precious lives with dignity and respect free of charge to the family. Our church is present, to support families both in life and at the time of death and grieving.

Activities:

- Participate in the annual Mass for Precious One's, which is held in two places in the diocese, usually during the month to remember Holy Souls in November. The two locations are Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St Augustine, FL. The second location is at The Santa Fe Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in High Springs.
- Make a phone call to check on the grieving parent, family, or friend.
- Offer to make a meal.
- Offer a Precious One's Mass card to a grieving parent, family, friend who loss a child due to miscarriage, or early infant death. Call our office for purchase.

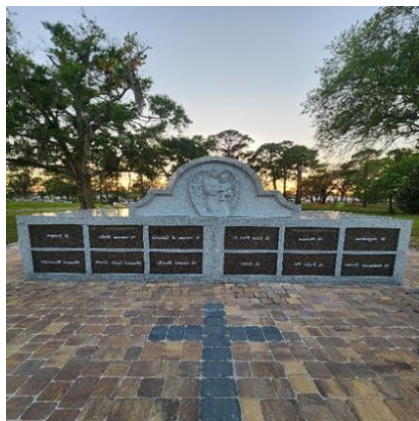


Photo by Maureen Shilkunas

Office of Human Life & Dignity

Director, Maureen Shilkunas

(904) 262-3200, ext. 159

mshilkunas@dosafl.com

Administrative Assistant, Jean Fiore

904) 262-3200, ext. 109

hld@dosafl.com