

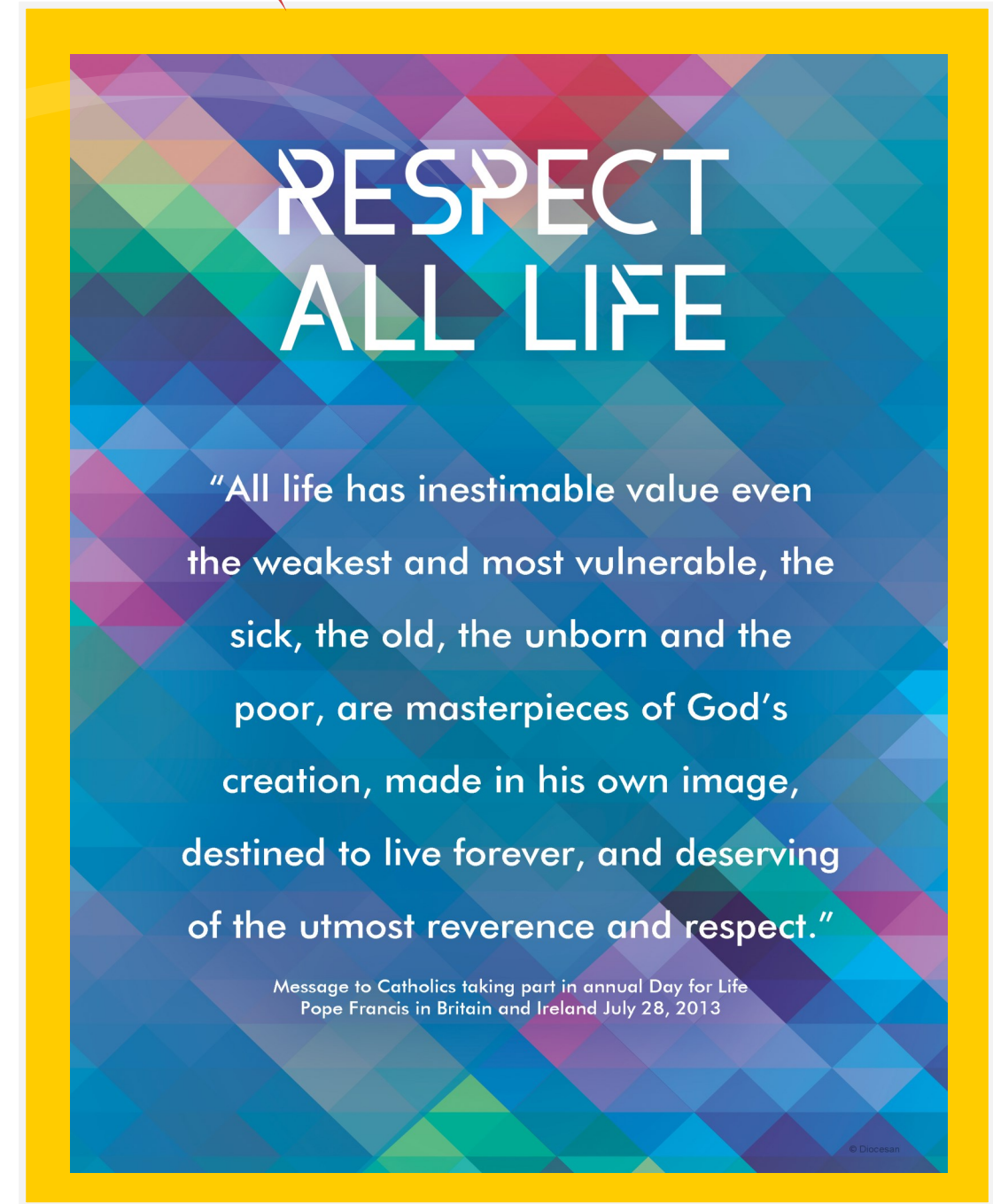
RESOURCES

The following are webpages with information to expand upon these ideas and how to get more involved

- **Creation Care is Pro-Life**— “Consistent with traditional Catholic teaching, Catholic Climate Covenant recognizes care for creation and a concern for climate change as a pro-life issue.”
<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/teachings/creation-care-prolife>
- **TrentonMonitor.com**— “Respect Life Month focuses on 'Masterpiece of God's Creation” <https://trentonmonitor.com/Content/News/Diocese/Article/Respect-Life-Month-focuses-on-Masterpiece-of-Gods-Creation-/4/36/8424>
- **Catholic Creation Care**— A variety of Catholic organizations and programs for parishes & families
<https://www.catholiccreationcare.com/>
- **Cleveland Catholic Diocese**— “All of Creation is a gift from God and should be respected as such” <https://www.ccdocle.org/service-areas/diocesan-social-action-office/social-teaching/care-for-gods-creation>
- **Catholic Conference of Ohio**— “Call to Care for God's Creation”
<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/departments/social-concerns/care-for-creation>
- **Diocese of Columbus Creation Care**
 - * A beautiful collection of reflections and resources regarding Laudato Si and Care for Our Common Home. Activities for families, schools and PSR for Laudato Si Week in May.
<https://columbuscatholic.org/care-for-creation>
 - * A PDF document including parish and family activities around Energy Conservation and Efficiency, Purchasing and Recycling, Transportation, Water Conservation, Buying and Sharing Food, Creating Sustainable Landscapes, and Assisting Climate Vulnerable Populations.
<https://oppeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CreationCareGuide.pdf>
- **Archdiocese of Cincinnati**— Catholic Social Teaching and local resources including related issues such as Racism, Immigration, and Faithful Citizenship. <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation>
- **Catholic News Service**— “Creation is sacred gift deserving respect, care, pope says on Earth Day”
<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2020/04/creation-is-sacred-gift-deserving-respect-care-pope-says-on-earth-day/>

RESPECT LIFE

All of creation cries out to the Lord



Connecting the Care of God's Creation with Our Respect for All Life



Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties? If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away.

Pope Francis—Laudato Si

Dear friends of St Patrick and St Malachi,

As we find ourselves transitioning from the *Season of Creation* into *Respect Life Month*, many individuals are able to clearly recognize the connection between these areas of Catholic Social Teaching.

However, others may find themselves struggling with the Church's connection between the protection of all human life – especially the unborn and most vulnerable – and that of caring for God's creation. A lack of integration is evident within parish life as positions are strongly expressed from different directions. One group may firmly hold that, "if we don't care for creation, then what's the point of defending human life?" Another may argue, "what's the point of creation care if we keep murdering the innocent?" While the defense of all human life is paramount, an "either-or" approach can soon lead us to compartmentalization, as if these issues are unrelated.

This specific point was raised by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudato Si'*: *Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties? If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away*.^{No. 97}

With this in mind, let us prayerfully consider some of these connections during *Respect Life Month 2021* as we specifically focus on the dignity of the unborn, the incarcerated, those with special developmental needs, and our elderly. Each of these themes will be addressed during the month of October through homilies and accompanying bulletin inserts.

It is my sincere hope that our reflections this month will prove helpful as we consider some core teachings, explore resources, and receive the personal experiences of some fellow parishioners who have kindly shared their stories.

As we promote a *Culture of Life*, may we be united in prayer and bound through works of justice as we protect what God has entrusted to us as stewards and as co-workers in His vineyard.

Joyfully yours in our Lord who gives us life and love,

Fr. Michael Gurnick

Church Statements & Catechism

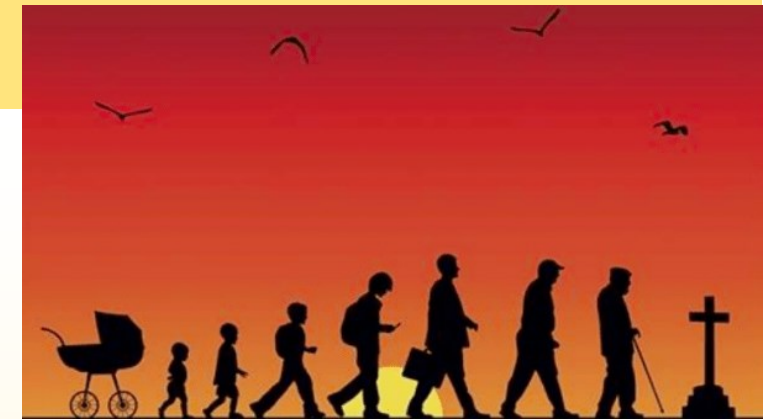


Photo Credit: Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota

Care for Creation Leads to the Respect of all Human Life

*"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."*⁵⁶

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2258

7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Options for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation

"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

Pope Francis' Day for Life Greeting