



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

WE CHOOSE LIFE

RESPECT LIFE MONTH OCTOBER 2024



Dear Friends,

Autumn is a time of year I find my eyes drawn to the glory of God's creation. It could be the beauty of the moon at night, the leaves on the trees turning orange and red, or the shortening of daylight, so much of nature that is changing points to our eternal God and Creator of life. In this month of October, we turn to God with gratitude for the gift of human life, the crowning of God's creation.

Yet we cannot take the beauty of creation and human life for granted. We are living at an important time when it is vital for our future to advocate for the protection of human life at all of life's stages. We must lift our voices and affirm that human life is a gift and that all human life should be protected from conception until natural death. As Pope Benedict XVI once wrote: "Each of us is a result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary." With patience and perseverance, we must help others, especially our young people, understand the value of each human life.

In addition to our work in assisting expectant mothers and their children, new initiatives are needed to respond to those who advocate for the introduction of "assisted suicide" in our state. I am following the Church's response in the United Kingdom as legislators there prepare to debate legalizing assisted suicide. Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster warned of a "slippery slope" and that a legalized "right to die" then will become a "duty to die." Information about how we can object to physician assisted suicide will be shared in the coming weeks; please support efforts to say "no" to such practices.

Please commit yourself to regular prayer asking God for an increase in respect and protection of human life. Read our newsletter and share it with other people. The more we are informed about the threats to human life, the better we can advocate for the protection each person needs and deserves. As you learn more about our efforts to promote the Gospel of Life, may the Holy Spirit refresh our hearts and help us continue this important work.

Thank you and God bless you.
Bishop Michael McGovern



St. Anne Cradle of Hope opened in Carbondale, IL in April, 2023, as a center to support moms and families with young children. Over 250 families have registered to come shop monthly for their children's needs. Staffed completely with volunteers, Cradle of Hope provides items like diapers, clothing, and food to families regardless of faith tradition.

Sandy Schwarz, a frequent volunteer, remarks "one of my greatest joys and rewards of volunteering at Cradle of Hope is seeing the beautiful babies and knowing how much we are helping families. We are not only helping families by providing baby/children items, but by supporting them and making them feel comfortable and important."

St. Anne Cradle of Hope is growing by leaps and bounds! Please consider a material donation, a monetary donation, or volunteering! Bi-lingual volunteers are especially needed!
 Contact
mccourtney95@onemain.com



Southern Illinois is blessed to have many resources for moms and families - here are a few:

- Belleville - Pregnancy Care Center*
- Fairview Heights - Mosaic*
- Maryville - A Beacon of Light*
- Carbondale - Clarity and Aid for Women*
- Centralia - Pregnancy Care Clinic*
- Fairfield - Compassion Pregnancy Center*
- Highland - Relevant Pregnancy Options Center*
- Godfrey - Thrive Metro East*
- Effingham - Family Life Center*
- Flora - Guadalupe Project*
- Harrisburg - Our Mother Mary Center*
- Marion - Clarity*
- Metropolis - Hope Unlimited Family Care Center*
- Mt. Carmel - Hope Pregnancy Resource Center*
- Mt. Vernon - Grace Haven PRC*
- Red Bud - Life Network*
- Salem - Pregnancy Care Clinic*
- Sparta - Crisis Pregnancy Center*
- Waterloo - Life Network*

To donate to St. Anne Cradle of Hope, scan this QR Code or send a check to:

Life, Marriage, and Family
 c/o Molly King
 222 South Third Street
 Belleville, IL 62220

mking@diobelle.org

