

## Prayer Corner

GOD, OUR REFUGE, OUR EVER-PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE, YOUR PROMISES HOLD TRUE. THIS WE KNOW. THIS WE PRAY:

For the widow. The refugee. The orphan. Those who are too weak, too tired, too broken to cry out to you.

When mountains shake, when leaders fail, When all seems absolutely, irretrievably, impossibly lost, You enter.

We thank you for your presence. We pray for your deliverance. Your eyes are on the righteous. Your ears are attentive to their cry. You are close to the brokenhearted. You save those crushed in spirit. You rescue your servants.

And still, lest we forget all those who, suffering today, will still be in this moment a week, a month, a year from now.

Remind us to pray For the widow. The refugee. The orphan. That your promises still hold true. You are still our help in trouble, ever present, our refuge, Our God.

Amen.

From the online book: [WALK WITH ME: A 21-DAY PRAYER JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD](#)



Womankind Maternal and Prenatal Care Center

### New Volunteer Information Sessions

Thursday, November 6th 10-11 a.m. and 5-6 p.m.

To register for either session, or for more information, please contact Dianna or JoAnn at 216-662-5700.

### Volunteer Lab Couriers Needed

Womankind is in need of volunteers to pick up and deliver lab work to St. Vincent Charity Medical Center on Tuesday mornings. Must have valid driver's license and use your own car.

## PLEASE CONTACT US TO POST YOUR VOLUNTEER NEEDS .

## Contact Us

For Life is a quarterly publication and educational service of the Office for Human Life of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Office for Human Life  
7911 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44102

(216) 334-2965  
pmgerovac@clevelandcatholiccharities.org  
[www.ccdoacle.org/office-human-life](http://www.ccdoacle.org/office-human-life)

## Like us on Facebook

- ✓ More audio/visual links on life issues
- ✓ Posts on diocesan, local, national, and international items of interest
- ✓ Action alerts

This is the fastest way to get breaking news and share it with others.



“Project Rachel, the Catholic Church’s ministry to those who have been involved in abortion, is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition

to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, and referrals to mental health professionals. Support groups and retreats may be offered in addition to individualized care.”

216-334-2966

**If you would like to receive more periodic E-mails to keep you up to date...**

**Please send your e-mail address to:**  
[jmuscatello@clevelandcatholiccharities.org](mailto:jmuscatello@clevelandcatholiccharities.org)

# For Life



Third Quarter | 2014

Please copy and distribute freely

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Office for Human Life-Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland



## Soccer Legend Ronaldo is Alive Thanks to a Conscientious Objector Physician

Mother of Talented Portuguese Soccer Player Says She Would Have Aborted Him But for Refusal of Her Doctor

“At the time I was already 30 and had Three children, and it seemed to me I couldn’t face a new birth...so I turned to a doctor who, however, refused to operate on

ROME, July 22, 2014 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)) - Seventy individual prizes, among which are two Gold Balls and a FIFA World Player, a jumble of trophies won with the jerseys of Sporting Lisbona, Manchester United and Real Madrid.

No small merit for these achievements is owed to an unknown Portuguese doctor. Small and fragile is the vulnerable body that grows day by day in the womb of a woman, but great is the noble gesture of one who carries out his work with professionalism and faith and thus succeeds in saving a human life from abortion.

Back in 1984, the life that this man saved was that of Cristiano Ronaldo, one of the most prolific soccer players in terms of achievement in recent years. It was the mother herself of the star player of Real Madrid and the Portuguese national side who revealed the behind-the-scene-action in her autobiography *Mother Courage*. In one of the most touching passages of the book, the woman, who is called Dolores Aveiro, recounts when she discovered she was pregnant with the child who would later become the famous Cristiano Ronaldo.

“At the time I was already 30 and had three children, and it seemed to me I couldn’t face a new birth and enlarge the family so I turned to a doctor who, however, refused to operate on me,” she explains.

It was anything but a rosy picture in her home, having to feed her children Hugo, Elma and Catia Liliana, which every day became a more arduous challenge with a husband, Joser Dinis, who was unemployed (he died in 2005 an alcoholic, and with savings reduced to a minimum).

However, that doctor’s reluctance and his attempt to dissuade her from aborting did not stop the woman’s determination, who tried to end her pregnancy with a “home-made” medicine” suggested to her by a friend. “She told me to drink dark hot beer and the child would die.”

However, the beer did not succeed in stopping the vital energy of the beating heart in Dolores’ womb. A few hours after having taken the potentially murderous drink, tranquility continued to reign in the lower part of her abdomen, a sign of the ineffectiveness of the “home-made medicine.” Little by little the woman – already accustomed to nursing, diapers and night crying – decided to have her fourth child. “If it’s God’s will that this child be born, so be it,” was her profound thought.

A rather delicate behind-the-scenes story, which his mother decided to publish after being authorized by her son Cristiano, who today even has the strength to joke about it: “See, mother, you wanted to abort me and now it is I who hold the purse strings at home,” and to think that the temptation to end the pregnancy stemmed in fact from economic difficulties. If that doctor had not been faithful to his oath and, therefore, firm in his opposition to abortion, today the soccer world would have one star less in its firmament. And to look at the firmament, we know, we must look up. This is why conscientious objection is always a gesture that looks on high.

## Life Issues and Social Justice

Reproductive technologies effect another corruption, which Benedict XVI notes in *Caritas in veritate*, in that they breed *indifference* to the question of what is or is not human.

But there are necessary *social* repercussions to this indifference. Benedict XVI asks, "How can we be surprised by the indifference shown towards situations of human degradation, when such indifference extends even to our attitude towards what is and is not human?" (n.75). Given the context of the encyclical, the degradation he is thinking of appears to be the poverty suffered by so many people in the world. His point is that when the notion of what is human is blurred by the use of reproductive technologies, the confusion also manifests itself in our attitude toward the poor. The result of this indifference is that "while the poor of the world continue knocking on the doors of the rich, the world of affluence runs the risk of no longer hearing those knocks, on account of a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is human" (n. 75)

Taken from The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly Publication  
Volume 12 Autumn 2012 Number 3



Pope Francis: "People have yet to learn that war is madness, indifference, a sin"

By Carol Glatz  
[Catholic News Service](#)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- When will people ever learn that war is madness and conflicts are only resolved by forgiveness, Pope Francis asked.

The pope said it is believed that more than 8 million soldiers and 7 million civilians died during World War I -- a four-year-long conflict that began 100 years ago.

"Greed, intolerance, a lust for power, these are the reasons that incite decisions to go to war," he said.

Also, "behind the scenes, there are special interests, geopolitical plots, lust for money," he said, as well as the powerful arms industry.

Continued...

But the most shocking aspect of so much bloodshed is the continued legacy of indifference, the pope said. Being indifferent began with Cain murdering his brother Abel and then rebuking God for asking where his now dead brother was, replying, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Above the tombs of so many dead, Pope Francis said, "hovers the sneering motto of war" -- Cain's complaint of "What do I care?"

"All these people, here in eternal rest, they had plans, had dreams, but their lives were broken. Why? Because humanity said, 'What do I care?'"

And like Cain, their hearts have become so corrupt, "they've lost the ability to cry," much less do what Jesus asks -- to help the sick, the wounded and the hungry, the pope said.

The pope asked people to pray that their heart be transformed from one that has stopped caring to one that can weep "for all those who have fallen in useless massacres, for all the victims of the insanity of war of every era. Tears. Brothers and sisters, humanity needs to cry, this is the moment to cry."

[Catholic News Service](#)

**"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**



Dear Child with Autism....



*You brighten each and every day. You may not know this but I look forward to school because of you. I know school is hard. Every day I see the worry on your face.*

*Daily changes throw you off-course. You worry. About yourself. You cry because you have no friends. No one invites you to their birthday party. You worry about the weather. In a drought, will the animals suffer? You obsess.*

*You have talents and wisdom far beyond your years. I don't think you realize this. That is my job. You have enthusiasm for science, word play in poetry, and mythical creatures. I can't teach creativity and passion. You got it. Others may brush you off. There he goes again. I smile. You were given a window into this world that not a lot of us have. You have the power to get so wrapped up in what interests you the rest of the world disappears.*

*Throughout the day students see how special you are to me. I model how to treat you with respect and dignity. I model how to talk to and appreciate you. Your classmates observe and follow my lead. The classroom wouldn't be the same without you. There would be a void. Too quiet. Too blah. We need you in our patchwork. I see your classmates look out for you. I see protectiveness grow. We are a unit and team. We have your back.*

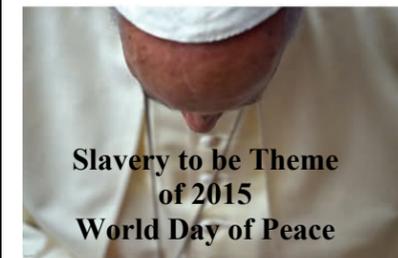
*You have your days when the tears come fast. When you blink rapidly and try to stand strong. These are the days when you have missed the social cues. Social cues. Little things we take for granted that are land mines for you. I assure you. I remind you of powerful affirmations you can repeat. Take deep breaths. I listen and help you to navigate the confusion. I try to provide the best Cliff Notes I can so that in the future, an encounter with your peer may come easier.*

*Thank you for your honesty. Your bluntness. Thank you for coloring outside the metaphorical lines. Thank you for being in my class. My heart has grown so fond of you. You push me to be a better and more patient teacher. You push me to develop new and innovative ways to meet your needs. You make me laugh. There are times when you say things and I shouldn't laugh. But I can't hold it in. You make me laugh so hard that it echoes off the walls of our classroom and fills the hearts of all my students. My mission every day is to make you smile. You approach life with a furrowed brow and seriousness. I make little silly sounds and shoot funny faces just for you to see. I send you a wink. If I am lucky, for a brief moment, I see the glimmer in your eye. Maybe we have connected.*

*I am your teacher, and I will fight for you every day. I just see you. Thank you for being you.*

*Love,*

*Your Teacher*



**Slavery to be Theme  
of 2015  
World Day of Peace**

(2014-08-22 Vatican Radio)

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace has announced the theme selected by Pope Francis for the upcoming World Day of Peace. The theme, "Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters" will be the title of the Message for the 48th World Day of Peace, celebrated on 1 January 2015.

**A note from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace provides details about why the theme is relevant today:**

Many people think that slavery is a thing of the past. In fact, this social plague remains all too real in today's world.

Being children of God gives all human beings equal dignity as brothers and sisters.

Slavery deals a murderous blow to this fundamental fraternity, and so to peace as well. Peace can only exist when each human being recognizes every other person as a brother or sister with the same dignity.

Too many abominable forms of slavery persist in today's world: human trafficking, trade in migrants and prostitutes, exploitation, slave labour, and the enslavement of women and children.

Shamefully, individuals and groups around the world profit from this slavery. They take advantage of the world's many conflicts, of the economic crisis and of corruption in order to carry out their evil.

**Slavery is a terrible open wound on the contemporary social body, a fatal running sore on the flesh of Christ!**

To counter slavery effectively, the inviolable dignity of every person must be recognized above all. Moreover, this acceptance of dignity must be anchored solidly in fraternity. Fraternity requires us to reject any inequality which would allow one person to enslave another. It demands instead that we act everywhere with proximity and generosity, thus leading to liberation and inclusion for everyone.

Our purpose is to build a civilization based on the equal dignity of every person without discrimination. To achieve this will also require the commitment of the media, of education and of culture to a renewed society pledged to freedom, justice and therefore peace.

## From the Director

This year during Respect Life Month, we have two new very special feast days to celebrate. Pope Francis has decreed that October 11th is the feast day for St. John XXIII and October 22nd for St. John Paul II. The Holy Father stated in his decree, "Taking into consideration the countless requests from every part of the world," he took "as his own, the unanimous wishes of the people of God."

It seems that many people around the world requested official feast days for these two recently canonized saints. So now, these two champions for life can be special advocates for us as we go about our prayer and activities during Respect Life Month.

Two very important documents for the Church, for the world, and for a "Culture of Life" were written by these holy men. John XXIII wrote *Pacem in Teris* (Peace on Earth) as his last encyclical before his death. John Paul II wrote *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life.)

In *Pacem in Teris*, St. John wrote that conflicts "should not be resolved by recourse to arms, but rather by negotiation". He further emphasizes the importance of respect of human rights as an essential consequence of the Christian understanding of human life. John XXIII said, "...That every [one] has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life..." John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, the introduction states that "every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and hidden action of grace, come to recognize in the natural law, written in the heart, the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end, and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree."

How wonderful that we the Church in United States, as we celebrate Respect Life Month, are graced with these feast days to add to our prayer and reflection. The feast days of these two Shepherds who truly knew and taught about the value of each and every life, offer the opportunity to focus our attention during the liturgies of the day. The feasts can also inspire us to gather knowledge from the encyclicals. We may also pray for their intercession on all our acts of mercy and evangelization to spread this beautiful message of the Culture of Life to our Church and world.

When the road gets hard, and we know celebrating life is not always welcomed in a world that sees death as an answer to conflict, we can thank Pope Francis for helping us focus on the beautiful teaching and inspiration Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II. By naming October 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> their Feast Days, we are honored and blessed to include them in our personal and public journeys toward building respect for every human life.

*Peggy Gerovac*



*This article was written by Peggy Gerovac, Director of the Office for Human Life, Diocese of Cleveland, it will also appear in the Catholic Universe Bulletin Respect Life Section on Sept. 26., 2014.*



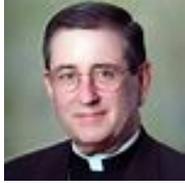


# Respect Life Events

Respect Life Month  
2014

## RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY ❖ OCTOBER 5, 2014

The first Sunday in October is "RESPECT LIFE" Sunday



### LET US PRAY...

Written by The Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, Bishop Diocese of Cleveland, on behalf 40 Days for Life Campaign

Almighty God, as people of faith we are always reminded of Your great love for us and for every individual You created.

Yet our hearts are heavy as we mourn the unborn who have not had the opportunity to live full lives.

We mourn the loss of our sisters and brothers who were denied the gift of life through abortion.

We also mourn the loss of their gifts to the world, which would have enriched the lives of so many.

During these 40 Day of the Prayer Campaign for Life our prayer is for a conversion of heart for all who contribute to the act of abortion. We pray that they may grow to appreciate God's life in the womb and His love for all who share in His life. We also pray for the conversion of our own hearts so that we may be worthy instruments for God's love for others by what we say and do. May God bless all who are dedicated to protecting all human life from conception to natural death.

May their efforts be strengthened by this time of prayer and fasting.



### 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

September 24—November 2 2014

40 Days for Life is a national program of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigils. Learn more about this program or sign up for a vigil time at:

**[www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland](http://www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland)  
or call 216.245.9744**

### Kick-off Rally at St. Columbkille Church September 23, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Sign up for one hour or commit to praying  
Weekly [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

#### Family Planning

Location: 54 S. State Street, Painesville

Location Contact: Renee 440.520.3493

Schedule Online: [www.40daysforlife.com/painesville](http://www.40daysforlife.com/painesville)

#### Preterm

Location: 12000 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland

Location Contact: Peggy 216.382.9170

Schedule Online: [www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland](http://www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland)

#### Planned Parenthood

Location: 25350 Rockside Road

Location Contact: John 216-641-6587

Schedule Online: [www.40daysforlife.com/bedfordheights](http://www.40daysforlife.com/bedfordheights)

**Please help spread the word about this important community outreach. For more information and to volunteer to help, please contact:**

**John Noall @ 216.245.9744  
or via email at: [clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com).**

# ***Respect Life Events 2014***

**September 27, 2014**  
**Cleveland Pregnancy Center**  
**Walk for Life**  
**9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Nike Park, 11828 W. Pleasant Valley Road, Parma  
Register at: [cpcevent.org](http://cpcevent.org) or call 216-631-0964

**October 3, 2014**  
**LifeWorks Ohio**

...The Choose Life! Banquet & Fundraiser  
Speaker: Sam Rutigliano  
Windows, 200 Sycamore Street, Cleveland

**OCTOBER 4, 2014**  
**37TH ANNUAL WALK OF HOPE**  
**FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**OLA/ST. JOSEPH CENTER IN TREMONT**  
**2346 West 14th Street, Cleveland**

Registration Begins at 8:30 a.m.  
Enjoy a 2 mile walk through Tremont  
Special Walk around Lincoln Park at 11:00 a.m.  
No Registration Fee/No Minimum Donation  
For Information contact 216.334-2963 or  
[mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org](mailto:mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org)

**October 4, 2014**  
**Rosary for Life**

St. Andrew's Abbey, 2900 Martin Luther King Dr., Cleveland  
8:30 a.m. confession followed by  
9:15 Mass for the Unborn  
After Mass everyone will reassemble on the sidewalk in  
front of Preterm abortion facility at 12000 Shaker Blvd.  
Note, all other Saturdays in Saturdays, Prayer Services will  
begin at 9:30 a.m. in front of Preterm

**October 5, 2014**  
**St. Ladislav Parish**  
**2345 Bassett Road**  
**Westlake, Ohio**  
**Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction**  
12:00 Noon — 3:30 p.m.  
Closing Benediction 3:30 — 4:00 p.m.

Please direct any questions to Bob Bernath @  
440-250-0514 or [rbernath4173@wowway.com](mailto:rbernath4173@wowway.com)

**Life Chain Events**  
**Sunday, October 5, 2014**



**Lake County's 21st**  
**Annual Life Chain**  
**1:30 to 2:30**

At the intersection of Route 20 (Mentor Ave.)  
and Route 306 (Reynolds Rd.)  
Mentor, Ohio

**Immaculate Conception**  
**Pro-Life Commission**  
(Contact Jean @440-942-7906)



**1:00 to 2:00**  
**Cleveland/East— Scared Heart**  
**of Jesus**

Please gather at Scared Heart of Jesus  
Parish 1545 S. Green Rd.,  
South Euclid  
At 12:45 p.m. for a peaceful and prayerful  
public witness at the intersection of Mayfield  
Rd. and S. Green Rd. Signs will be provided.



**2:00 to 3:00**  
One hour peaceful prayer on the Square  
Corner of Pearl (Rt. 42) and Royalton (Rt.  
82) Roads.  
Contact [www.lifechain.net](http://www.lifechain.net)  
for more information



**2:00 to 3:30**  
**Suburban West/Right to Life**

20800 Center Ridge Road  
(across from Westgate Mall)  
Questions: Call 440.331.2602

# ***Respect Life Events 2014***

**October 7, 2014**

**Catholic Students for Peace & Justice  
Annual Respect Life Mass at the Cathedral  
of Saint John followed by a Public Witness  
on Public Square  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**October 10, — October 11, 2014**

St. Mary's Church, 250 Kraft Street, Berea  
Respect Life Mass & All-Night Adoration  
Beginning @ 7:00 p.m, concluding @ 8:00a.m.  
with a Closing Benediction

All are encouraged to come and pray at any time  
throughout the night!

**October 12, 2014**

**Holy Rosary Church  
12021 Mayfield Road, Cleveland**

An Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance  
& Intercession including Eucharistic Adoration, intercessory  
prayer and the rosary, personal testimonies, Sacrament of  
Reconciliation and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
Celebrant Most Reverend Roger Gries  
For more information, please contact Tammy Moore,  
Family Ministry @ 216.421-2995 ext 18  
Or via e-mail: [tmoore@holy-rosary.org](mailto:tmoore@holy-rosary.org)

**October 11, 2014**

**5TH Annual Race for Maggie's Place  
At the Cleveland Zoo**

Events include 9 & 5K races, and a 1 Mile Fun  
Walk/Run for Families. Free same day Zoo  
admission.

Register online: [www.race4maggiesplace.com](http://www.race4maggiesplace.com) or call  
440.886.2620.

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.  
8:00 a.m. 9 & 5K Run  
9:00 a.m. 1 M Fun Run/Walk for Families

**October 18, 2014**

**Womankind 19th Annual Hearts and  
Hands Luncheon  
Author/Speaker Maria Isabella  
The Country Club  
2825 Lander Rd., Pepper Pike**

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon at Noon

Contact 216.662.5700 for more information  
[www.womankindcleveland.com](http://www.womankindcleveland.com)

**October 23, 2014**

**St. Joseph Parish  
32929 Lake Road, Avon Lake**

Be Not Afraid-Evening of Hope  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

Speakers include:

- Patrick J. Perotti, Esq.
- Ed Wacker, Lorain Right to Life
- James Matheson, OBGYN
- Stephanie Koebel, Dir. of Birthright of Lorain

**OCTOBER 17—18, 2014**

**Healing Retreat**

**Loyola Retreat House**

700 Killinger Road, Clinton, Ohio

Private weekend of healing facilitated by  
Bethesda House of Mercy.

For more information contact 1-800.482.4100 or  
email: [BethesdaHouse@aol.com](mailto:BethesdaHouse@aol.com)

**OHIO FAIR TRADE EXPO**

**October 25, 2014**

John Carroll University  
University Heights, Ohio

Marketplace — Food — Speakers

Free Admission 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Learn More & Register At:  
[ohiofairtrade.com](http://ohiofairtrade.com)