



Office of the Archbishop
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Dear Brother,

In a press conference on his flight from Singapore to Rome, Pope Francis spoke about multiple life issues. He said, "The church does not permit abortion... It's an assassination, and we must have things clear on this." At the same time, he emphasized the sin of throwing away a human being through deportation saying, "To send migrants away, to not allow them to develop, to not allow them to have life, is a bad thing. It is evil."

As you may know, October is Respect Life Month, when the Church celebrates in a particular way the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. This year's Respect Life Month theme is "I came so that they might have life." We must come together to recognize all of the issues that have reaffirmed a culture coarse to human life, such as legislation that increases access to abortion and the deportation of migrants, as well as the gun violence ravaging our cities, capital punishment, assisted suicide, and more.

Respect Life Sunday, which falls on October 6, is a wonderful opportunity to share with your congregation the message of the Lord's special love for those who are most vulnerable as it is expressed in the teachings of the Church. I ask that you focus the message of your homily on how we as faithful Catholics can respond to these issues and affirm the sanctity of all human life. Materials designed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops can be found online in English and Spanish at respectlife.org. Please contact the Respect Life Ministries at 312.534.5355 or rpingoy@archchicago.org for additional information, materials, or assistance.

If your parish does not already have a Parish Respect Life Coordinator, this time of preparation for Respect Life Month is an opportune moment to identify a volunteer to serve in this capacity. Please choose a parishioner who is dedicated to the Gospel of Life and with whom you will be comfortable working in this important ministry. Then, please share that person's contact information with the Respect Life Ministries so that they can be well-connected to materials that can help your parish.

Thank you for all that you do in your pastoral ministry to share the Good News of the Gospel of Life. With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago