Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979 Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

September 20, 2012

Dear Father,

Each October, the Church draws special attention to the sanctity of all human life by observing *Respect Life Month*. Sunday, October 7 has been designated *Respect Life Sunday*, and its theme, "Faith opens our eyes to human life in all its grandeur and beauty," is one that will allow for a variety of ways in which you can emphasize the Church's teaching in homilies and Prayers of the Faithful. Materials developed by the USCCB that expand on this theme have been distributed by mail to all Parish Respect Life Coordinators (PRLC's). If your parish does not have a designated PRLC, the kit was mailed to you. It is also available online at http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/. The kit includes homily notes, intercessions, a bulletin insert (which I would be grateful if you would use the weekend of October 6–7), as well as many other resources.

Blessed John Paul II noted in *Evangelium Vitae*, "The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus' message.... It is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as 'good news' to the people of every age and culture." Because of the centrality of the "Gospel of Life" to our faith, I would be grateful if *Respect Life Month* was observed in every parish throughout October, with a special emphasis on at least one of the four Sundays of the month (preferably October 7). The numerous threats to human life and dignity demand our focused attention, and I am grateful to each of you for your willingness to share the teaching of the Church with your parishioners.

As well, October presents an opportune time to identify a volunteer to serve as your Parish Respect Life Coordinator, if you have not yet named one or if your Coordinator is not active. A dedicated and well-informed parishioner serving as Parish Coordinator can be a great help to you in educating and inspiring your parish community to become more involved in prolife issues.

Many parishes are already participating in the *40 Days for Life* campaign to end abortion, which will take place this year from September 26 to November 4. This is the sixth year that the Archdiocese has participated in this international prayer and fasting effort. More information can be found at www.40daysforlife.com/chicago.

Thank you for your daily generosity of spirit and for your dedication to Christ's people and ours. You are in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Fran Cardel Jugar

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. Archbishop of Chicago

Enclosures