U.S. Catholic Bishops Call To Prayer
For Life, Marriage And Religious Liberty

In this Year of Faith, the Catholic Bishops of the United States have called for a nationwide effort to advance a movement for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty through prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Catholics across the nation are being encouraged to pray, fast, and act for increased protections of religious liberty and to rebuild a culture favorable to life and marriage.
For details, please visit www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty.

The diocese is participating in the recently launched USCCB “Project Life and Liberty” nationwide postcard campaign. Postcards will be distributed to parishes throughout the diocese. Below is text of the postcard. Please participate in this nationwide effort. For more information, visit www.nchla.org.

Project Life and Liberty Message to Congress:

Dear Senator/Representative:

The new Congress should come together to respect life and religious freedom. Please support and strengthen laws that (1) prevent federal funding and promotion of abortion, and (2) protect rights of conscience in health care. Government must not force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs on respect for life when they provide health care or sponsor or purchase health coverage. As your constituent, I would appreciate a written response telling me how you will vote on these matters.

Respect Life Program

The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes a program packet each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups and other organizations. For online Respect Life Program packets, clip art, free bulletin inserts and more information for your parish, go to www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/index.cfm.

Faith Opens Our Eyes To Human Life
In all Its Grandeur and Beauty.
40 Days for Life
The Greater Columbus community will be uniting with hundreds from all 50 states in the 40 Days for Life campaign. Faithful believers are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America. This peaceful prayer vigil will take place at an abortion facility in Columbus between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) facilitates the implementation of the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities by calling for inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the church and the community. Visit www.ncpd.org for resources.

Catholic Advocacy Workshop set for March 16
A Catholic Advocacy Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon, at St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. Mass begins at 8:30 a.m. Meet and dialogue with Catholic advocates from around the diocese; hear about state, federal, and international issues in the areas of health care, programs that protect the poor and vulnerable, immigration, education, and religious liberty; learn how to effectively lobby public officials; and schedule legislative advocacy appointments. Your voice is needed. The workshop is sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Voice of the Poor. Registration is free and open to all. To RSVP call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@colsdioc.org

Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross
The many facets of faith and justice will be the focus of the annual Walking Stations of the Cross. The walk begins with an opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus, at 8 a.m., Friday, March 29, 2013. Participants will stop at locations in downtown Columbus to reflect on Jesus Christ’s suffering and crucifixion linked to a current area of social concern. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (614) 241-2565.

Diocesan Respect Life Conference is May 11
The diocesan Respect Life Conference will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Rd., Columbus. Featured speaker is Deacon James Keating, Ph.D. of Creighton University. Dr. Keating will speak on the implementation of the Year of Faith. For more information, see the diocesan Respect Life Conference website at www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org.

Death Penalty in Ohio
The State of Ohio has scheduled executions through 2015. The Ohio Supreme Court’s Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio’s Death Penalty continues to meet. Please pray for victims of violence, victims’ families, death row inmates, and their families as well. Continue to urge the governor and members of the Ohio General Assembly to stop the use of the death penalty in our state. For more information on the Church’s teaching on the death penalty, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio’s death penalty webpage at www.ohiocathconf.org/I/DP/deathpenalty.htm.

Office for Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Columbus
(614) 241-2540 socmailbox@colsdioc.org
www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org

Prayers of the Faithful
For our parish and our country, that we will become ever more aware of the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death, the beauty of God’s plan for marriage, and the significance of full and authentic religious liberty. Let us pray to the Lord.

For parents and grandparents who have lost a child through abortion, that God will console them in their grief and lead them to forgiveness and healing in Confession and through the Church’s Project Rachel Ministry. Let us pray to the Lord.

That this Year of Faith will awaken in the hearts of all Catholics a renewed sense of awe and gratitude for the gift of human life, and a renewed determination to protect all lives from conception to natural death. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all those suffering from troubled or broken marriages, especially children, that they will be assured of God the Father’s unfailing care for them. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those in the twilight of their lives, that their families and caregivers will cherish them and care for them with tender compassion, rejecting the path to assisted suicide. Let us pray to the Lord.