



Diocese of Joliet
Respect Life Office

Life in focus

VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 3 | Fall 2011

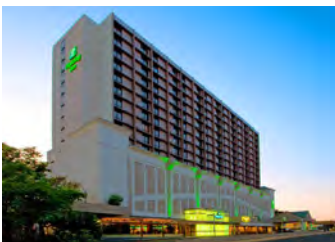
March for Life 2012



We begin our pilgrimage on the evening of Friday, January 20, 2012, when we depart from the St. Charles Pastoral Center In Romeoville by motor coach for our whirlwind trip to Washington, DC for the March for Life!



Saturday morning we stop for Brunch at a Cozy Restaurant and then we're on our own for sightseeing on the mall until we all meet up for dinner at about 6 PM. We'll tour the monuments together after dinner and then check into our hotel.



Sunday we're up bright and early for a big breakfast at the hotel and then we leave for Arlington National Cemetery where we will see the changing of the guard and lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldiers.



On Sunday afternoon we arrive at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, our nation's beautiful basilica with numerous shrines in honor of our Blessed Mother under many of her titles. A sightseeing destination in itself!



After the Vigil Mass we head back to the hotel for pizza and a good night's rest.

After breakfast at the hotel on Monday morning, we leave to join tens of thousands of youth from across the country at the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center (or DC Armory). Confession and Rosary are also part of the morning.



Following the youth mass, we join hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers of all ages on the National Mall for the March for Life to the Supreme Court.



On our way out of Washington we'll stop for a celebration dinner at Buca di Peppo, and then begin our journey back home, with joyful hearts and great memories to share with friends and family.

Register Today!

Full Time Students—\$325
(High School Freshmen—College Seniors)

Adult—\$425

**Registration & \$100 deposit
due November 1st
(credit card payments accepted)**

[Registration Forms](#)



From the Director

Have you noticed how “Respect” is one of those universal principles, or truths of natural law, that everyone acknowledges? Even people who profess to be “relativists”—that is, who claim that there are no universal truths which apply to all people—get offended when someone treats them disrespectfully. They implicitly acknowledge that there is some basic level of civility and courtesy that is due to them. Indeed, even street lingo—such as, you “disrespected” me, or you “dissed” me—points to the fact that there are right and wrong ways to treat people.

Now, as we all know, the problem with secular views of respect (and street views, for that matter) is that they are seen as something conditional: respect is given only to those who “deserve” or “earn” it. When this perspective prevails, those with power are able to decide who is worthy or not worthy of respect, and then “all hell breaks loose,” as the old phrase puts it.

Whether it’s the unborn or the elderly, those in prison or those without proper documentation, those who’ve harmed us or who may at some point harm us, the base human tendency is to start withdrawing full respect for persons who are “compromised” or “problematic.” As Catholics—as disciples of Christ committed to promoting the fullness of life for all people—we need to protect and defend the intrinsic value and worth of all persons, even as we help call each other to ongoing conversion of heart.

In a variety of ways, “Respect and the Fullness of Life” have marked this academic year for the Respect Life Office:

The August Prayer Breakfast and Conference proved to be a smashing success. With over 200 people in attendance, a special appearance by Bishop Conlon, a powerful keynote address and lively breakout sessions, all those who attended left nourished and energized for the work of building up the Kingdom!

Respect and the Fullness of Life

Parish Pro-Life Coordinators have scheduled cluster meetings around the diocese this fall. Building off the momentum of our August conference, we hope that the meetings will bear much fruit as coordinators brainstorm, swap ideas, share best practices, and exchange mutual support and encouragement.

Fr. Bob Sum, OSB, a great “friend of life,” has entered into the fullness of eternal life since our last newsletter. Fr. Bob attended the March for Life trip to Washington, DC with students from Benet Academy, and two years ago I had the privilege of meeting him on the trip. He struck me as the kind of man who took the “long view” on working with teenagers: that is, he had the patience and sense of humor which enabled him not to get discouraged by the little things, and he had the wisdom to stay focused on the big things. I’m sure that he touched many lives, and hope that he continues to serve as a friend of life from his new, eternal dwelling place.

In Christ,

David Spesia

IN LOVING MEMORY REV. ROBERT SUM



JUNE 3, 1961—AUGUST 16, 2011

Life Matters: Contraception

From the 2011-2012 Respect Life Program

FOR DECADES AMERICANS HAVE BEEN TOLD—BY THE MEDIA, PLANNED PARENTHOOD, SEX EDUCATORS, AND ACTIVISTS WHO PROMOTE ABORTION AND “REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS”—THAT CONTRACEPTIVES ARE *THE* SAFE AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT UNPLANNED PREGNANCY. We’re told that contraception ensures a woman’s “freedom” from pregnancy and child-rearing so she can pursue her own goals in life.

Given the prevalence and power of these messages, it is not surprising that a majority of sexually active women in the U.S. have tried using some form of contraception at some point in their life. But many begin to doubt the rosy claims when they unexpectedly become pregnant, or are infected with a sexually transmitted disease (STD), or experience serious side effects from hormonal contraceptives themselves.

The experience of those using contraceptives differs greatly from the advertising claims of the multi-billion-dollar contraceptive industry. Here are a few of the hard facts:

- 1 in 3 girls will become pregnant within two years of initiating sexual activity, even while using contraceptives
- almost half (48.4 percent) of low-income cohabiting teens using the pill, and 72 percent of those using condoms as their primary method of birth control, will become pregnant within 12 months.
- 65 percent of women who reported unplanned pregnancies in a major French survey were using contraception
- a 63 percent increase in the use of contraception between 1997 and 2007 was accompanied by a 108 percent increase in the abortion rate in Spain.



Numerous studies show that increasing the availability of contraception in a large population does not reduce rates of unplanned pregnancies and abortions, and may increase them. Top executives of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the largest U.S. abortion provider, have discussed and reported on this for decades. Yet manufacturers and suppliers continue to earn billions, foster false hopes, and subject girls and women to health risks and unexpected “crisis” pregnancies.

How is it possible that increased use of contraceptives could lead to more unplanned pregnancies and abortions? People tend to take more risks when they are led to believe they can avoid the negative consequences of risky behavior through technology. Widespread contraceptive availability has actually led to more people becoming sexually active, at earlier ages, and with more sexual partners—hence more pregnancies. ends with the birth of a unique and priceless little person, who can bring joy and laughter to his biological or adoptive family.

Humanae Vitae

This landmark encyclical provides a detailed teaching of God’s vision of conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

- Experts in contraception now concede that pills are “an outdated method” and perfect use is impossible “for most humans”
- 54 percent of U.S. women seeing abortions were using contraception in the month they became pregnant
- an analysis of 23 studies on emergency contraception (EC) found no evidence whatsoever that increasing access to EC reduces rates of unplanned pregnancy or abortion

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Contraceptives may not reduce pregnancy rates, but they certainly do increase the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Casual sex, encouraged by widely available contraception, has resulted in about 60 million Americans being infected with one or more sexually transmitted diseases, many of them incurable and emotionally devastating. The estimated cost of treating these illnesses is now \$19 billion a year in the U.S. alone; but that figure is trifling compared to the emotional pain people experience when they learn when they learn they have an incurable STD—the anger, betrayal, anxiety, depression, humiliation, and fear of its effect on future relationships.

Of course, Planned Parenthood and secular sex educators recommend using condoms for protection against STDs. Yet condoms offer almost no protection against the epidemic of *incurable* viral STDs such as genital herpes and human papilloma virus (HPV), strains of which cause genital warts and virtually all cases of cervical cancer. And numerous studies have found that typical condom use offers inadequate or little protection against even bacterial STDs, such as Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

Hormonal contraceptives themselves have inherent health risks. Synthetic hormones powerful enough to disrupt a woman's reproductive system may affect every major system of her body. Depending on the type and strength of the hormonal contraceptive, over five percent of women experience some of the following symptoms: headaches, weight gain, acne, mood swings, depression, anxiety, breast pain, dizziness, severe pain during menses, a range of bleeding problems, and a lack of desire for sex. In the case of Depo-Provera there can also be a 5-6 percent loss of bone mineral density after five years' use, which is only partially reversed in the years after discontinuation.

Among the less common side effects of hormonal contraceptives are the following: blood clots in the veins, lungs, heart, and brain, potentially causing heart attack and strokes; breast cancer; potentially life-threatening ectopic pregnancy (in which the embryo most often implants in the narrow tube between the ovary and womb); liver tumors; and ovarian cysts.



The link between hormonal contraceptives and breast cancer has been known for over thirty years. The World Health Organization has classified synthetic estrogen and progestin in contraceptives as carcinogenic to humans. According to a major meta-analysis, women who use oral contraceptives before age 20 have a 1.95 elevated risk of developing breast cancer.

Until 2002, the most common treatment for symptoms of menopause was hormone replacement therapy (HRT), using hormones similar to those in combined oral contraceptives, but in lower doses. As use of HRT increased (61 million prescriptions at its height), breast cancer rates rose over 40 percent from the early 1980s through 2001. In 2002, however, the Women's Health Initiative trails in the use of HRT were abruptly halted due to finding of increased risk of breast cancer, heart disease, blood clots and stroke. When the findings were published, many American women stopped using such HRT (down to 21 million prescriptions). The National Cancer Institute reports that breast cancer rates in women over age 50 then dropped 8.6 percent between 2001-2004.

Reproductive health advocates downplay risks and side effects of hormonal contraceptives, weighing them on the same scale as the distressing and dangerous side effects one would be willing to tolerate in combating end-stage cancer or other life-threatening disorders. In modern healthcare systems, pregnancy is very rarely life-threatening; such risk, when it exists, is usually from a pre-existing condition of the mother.

Contraceptive advocates seem to consider pregnancy itself a fate worse than death; yet hormonal contraceptives have led to many deaths among otherwise healthy young women.

Advocates who downplay the risks to women from using hormonal contraceptives are thinking of statistics, not loved ones. How many parents are mourning the deaths of their teenaged daughters, like the parents of Alycia B. (14), Adriana N. (17), Zakiya K. (18) and Michelle C. (18), just a few of those who died from massive blood clots while using Ortho Evra, the very popular contraceptive patch? "Instead of coming home [during college breaks] and being part of life here again," Michelle's mother told CBS News, "she came home and I had to bury her. It's just horrible."

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About 130 deaths have been linked to the contraceptive patch. Over 2,400 women have claimed the patch caused them to have blood clots that resulted in *heart attack, stroke or pulmonary embolism*. In 2002, even before it went on the market, a former vice president of Johnson & Johnson, Ortho Evra's manufacturer, warned of the patch's dangerously high levels of estrogen. Another vice president quit in 2005 because his warnings concerning the doubled risk of blood clots, stroke, and heart attacks due to the high levels of estrogen fell on deaf ears. The company has not spent over \$68 million to settle hundreds of lawsuits.

Merck, manufacturer of the widely-promoted NuvaRing, now faces 730 lawsuits in the U.S. for blood clot related injuries and deaths associated with its use. About 40 deaths linked to NuvaRing use have been identified in the FDA adverse event database. Among these are young women like Rob B's wife Jackie, a mother of two, Frank M's wife Rosana, a "young, healthy and fit ... runner and a vibrant mother of two," and Heath H's wife Christina, also a young mother.

Advocates continue to insist that these potent hormones have only a "contraceptive" mode of action. Yet nearly all of their drug labels list these four modes of action: (1) they may disrupt ovulation, preventing or postponing the release of an ovum; (2) they may thicken cervical mucus to inhibit the movement of sperm, potentially preventing fertilization; (3) they may slow transport of the newly conceived human embryo through the fallopian tube into the womb (causing the embryo's death, and possibly the mother's as well if an ectopic pregnancy is not detected in time); and (4) they may alter the lining of the womb, inhibiting implantation of the embryo who will then starve to

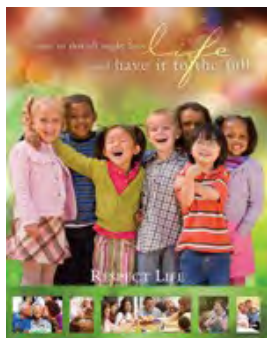
death. Modes 3 and 4 cause early abortions, as can Ella, the latest emergency "contraceptive." Ella's composition is similar to that of the abortion drug RU-486.

When advocates say that hormonal contraception is "safe," they are speaking in relative terms only, because there are health risks associated with pregnancy. But this viewpoint assumes that women have only two choices in life—to contracept or become pregnant—and ignores choices that are healthier, safer, and more effective than contraceptive use: the choice of abstinence for single people and Natural Family Planning for married couples. The majority of teens have never had sexual relations. Chastity before and during marriage promotes self-respect, as well as self-control and other virtues needed for a fulfilling life-long marriage.

The beauty and goodness of sex between husband and wife is a gift from God and has two purposes: to express and strengthen the loving union between husband and wife and to allow them to cooperate with God in the creation of children. Nothing should separate the connection between the two purposes. If spouses believe that they have a serious reason to avoid pregnancy, they are free to observe the wife's natural signs of fertility and avoid sexual intercourse during the fertile time of her menstrual cycle, as explained in the modern science-based methods of Natural Family Planning.

God's design for marriage protects women and men from great heartache, encourages a stable and loving environment for children, and makes great sense from a public health perspective. A companion pamphlet in this year's Respect Life Program "Life Matters: Love and Marriage," presents the benefits of living in accord with God's plan for love and marriage in more depth.

**To learn more about the Church's teaching on contraception
and the other topics mentioned below, please visit
[The USCCB 2011-2012 Respect Life Program](#)**



2011-2012 Respect Life Program



End of Life



Reproductive Technology



Death Penalty



Disabilities



Embryo Research



Love & Marriage



Abortion

Joliet Diocesan Respect Life Office EVENTS

- October 16th—Bishops' Mass for Persons with Disabilities at Holy Family Catholic Church in Shorewood
- November 6th—Tree of Light Infant Memorial Mass, 2PM, St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville
- January 15, 2012—Mass for Life, 2PM, with Bishop Conlon. Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet.

For more information on these and other events please visit <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/life/>

If you or someone you know is suffering with emotional and/or spiritual pain following an abortion, please contact one of the following organizations:

Rachel's Vineyard
1-866-99-4-GIVE

A Time to Heal
1-866-846-3277

If you or someone you know is considering an abortion, please contact one of the following organizations:

Birthright of Joliet (815) 725-3411

Birthright of Kankakee (815) 937-5881

Project Gabriel (888) 446-7341

Waterleaf Women's Center (630) 701-6270

Woman's Choice Services (630) 261-9221

Websites:

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
<http://www.usccb.org/prolife>

National Catholic Bioethics Center
<http://www.ncbcenter.org>

Joliet Diocesan Respect Life Office
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/life>

If you are in need of a consultation regarding a bio-medical issue:

National Catholic Bioethics Center
24-Hour Hotline: (215) 877-2660
<http://www.ncbcenter.org>



SS. Peter & Paul
Cemetery
Naperville
Council 1369
1995



Holy Ghost-Wood Dale Council 10325
Holy Ghost Church
October 3, 1999

Do you know of other Memorials to the Unborn in the Diocese of Joliet?

Please send the Respect Life Office the following information:

- Location
- Date of Dedication
- Sponsoring Group(s)
- Picture



Joliet
(Illinois)
Chapter
Resurrection
Cemetery,
Romeoville



Joliet Chapter
Assumption Cemetery, Winfield

“That They May Have Life”

Prayer Breakfast & Conference—August 20th at St. Mary Immaculate, Plainfield



Fr. Denis Wilde, from Priests for Life, is joined by Fr. Peter Jarosz, Fr. Jeremiah Lynch, Fr. John Sullivan and Fr. Mark Rosenbaum in celebrating Mass Saturday morning. Deacon Dan Rittenhouse also assisted.



A delicious breakfast, catered by Larry's Diner in Plainfield, was enjoyed by all. The menu included eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, French toast and fruit. Thank you, Gus, for a job well done!



A note of gratitude to our fabulous speakers: Coleen Kelly Mast (chastity); Fr. Gregor Gorsic, (end of life); and Loretta Fleming (legislation) as well as Fr. Denis Wilde from Priests for Life who also was our keynote speaker .

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHO HELPED MAKE THE PRAYER BREAKFAST POSSIBLE WITH THEIR FINANCIAL DONATIONS

CK6 Consulting, Yorkville
 Freight Exchange, Inc., Sycamore
 Jordan Earl, Cathedral of St. Raymond
 The Voyager Group, Ltd., Joliet
 Cemenos Pizza, Joliet
 Chris and Krista Earl
 Kevin and Sue Rouse

Spesia & Ayers, Attys., Joliet
 John & Mary Pat Earl
 Pine View Angus, Colesburg, IA
 Garrett Earl, Cathedral of St. Raymond
 Frank & Sara Turk
 Brummel Farms, Plano
 Mike & Libby Runge Family

Saint Spotlight

By Richard W. Pugliese, D.D.S.

**Blessed Jakob Gapp
(1897-1943)
Marianist and Martyr**



Jacob Gapp was born in western Austria in 1897, the seventh child of a working family. He was a young man who developed a deep concern for the poor and disadvantaged early in his life.

Following his World War I service in the Austrian army, Jakob followed his calling to be a priest, and entered the Marianists, the Society of Mary religious order, in 1920. Post World War I Austria had experienced severe unemployment and a marked increase in the numbers of poor and needy citizens. The young priest Jakob Gapp continued his efforts on behalf of the poor and instilled in his students and parishioners a deep sense of justice and love for the disadvantaged. He enlisted them in his efforts to collect money and food for the poor, and worked tirelessly to find jobs for the economically displaced.

The most important part of Fr. Gapp's priestly life came as he clearly discerned the evils of Hitler and the Nazis as they rose to power in the 1930's. He saw the threats to the poor, the Jews, the handicapped and other marginalized groups in the National Socialist party, and consistently spoke out against their life threatening doctrines. He consistently reminded his parishioners that "God is your God, not Adolf Hitler", and he endeavored to guide and form the social consciences of his confessing penitents. He repeatedly emphasized that "to act was more important than to theorize."

Fr. Gapp's religious superiors feared for his life because of his constant preaching against the Nazis. He was transferred often in Austria, and eventually located to Valencia, Spain for his safety. There he was contacted by some apparent Jewish men, over the border in France, who supposedly expressed interest in becoming Christians. As he entered France to meet these men, he was seized by Vichy French collaborators in the plot to capture him, and handed over to Nazi interrogators. Through several repeated questioning sessions, he maintained his strong, outspoken opposition to their anti-life doctrine and practices. He was transferred to a prison in Berlin, tried without representation or a defense, and convicted of "high treason." He became a martyr on August 13, 1943, being beheaded for his rigorous opposition to the Nazis.

Fr. Gapp was beatified on November 24, 1997 by Pope John Paul II. His life was recognized as an example for all priests and laity—to speak up for those without means, status or standing in our society. His defense of life in the 1930's and 40's, is a role model for all of us to imitate as we strive to defend the defenseless in our own

40 Days for Life



Aurora:

www.40daysforlife.com/aurora-il

Downers Grove:

www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove

Voter Registration

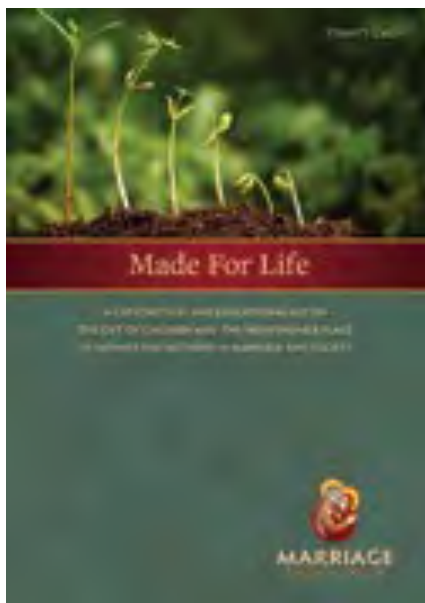


Legislators representing Districts in the Diocese of Joliet



society, from the preborn to the elderly, the handicapped and the disadvantaged.

May we always remember Fr. Jakob Gapp's entreaty to his students: "that it is more important to act than to just theorize" in matters of social justice and defense of the marginalized. As Father Gapp repeatedly stood up and acted, so must we always have the courage and spiritual strength to oppose the culture of death in our own society.



“Made for Life”

JUST IN!

A Catechetical and Educational Aid on the Gift of Children and the Indispensable Place of Fathers and Mothers in Marriage and Society

Made for Life is part of an educational initiative entitled *Marriage: Unique for a Reason*, produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to promote and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman. This DVD is accompanied by a Viewer's Guide and Resource Guide for Priests, Deacons, Catechists and Teachers. View the DVD, read and/or print the materials or purchase the set at the [Bishops' website](#).

The *Made for Life* DVD and accompanying materials are available for loan from the Respect Life Office. Please call us at 815-834-4075.

The couple, while giving themselves to one another, give not just themselves but also the reality of children, who are a living reflection of their love, a permanent sign of conjugal unity and a living and inseparable synthesis of their being a father and a mother.”

Blessed Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, no. 14

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 Jan Salihar, RN, CCM

Diocese of Joliet Respect Life Office

101 W. Airport Rd.
 Romeoville, IL 60446

~ ~ ~

*David Spesia
 Director*

*Mary Scholp
 JoAnne Mehon
 Administrative Assistants*

~ ~ ~

Phone: (815) 834-4065
 Fax: (815) 838-8129
prolife@dioceseofjoliet.org

Action Committee

Deacon William Hetzel, BCC
 Jeremy Hylka
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***Help support the Diocese of Joliet
Respect Life Office***



*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you."
Jeremiah 1:5*

Please accept my donation as a:

- \$100 *Supporter of Life*
- \$250 *Patron Saint of Life*
- \$500 *Guardian Angel of Life*
- Please accept my donation of \$ _____

I would like my donation to go to the following:

- Respect Life Office General Fund
- March for Life
- Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

- Please add me to the Respect Life Office mailing list
- I would like to volunteer to help the Respect Life Office

Please make your check payable to: Diocese of Joliet Respect Life Office

Please mail your donation to:
Diocese of Joliet
Respect Life Office
101 W. Airport Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446