



## Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of  
THE BISHOP

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September 24/25, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we enter the month of October, Respect Life Month, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites us to reflect in a special way on the respect for and dignity of all life. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Guardian Angels, the Church celebrates Respect Life Sunday and we have the opportunity as Catholics, faithful sons and daughters of our God and Church, to better understand the Church's moral teachings and pro-life stance.

The theme chosen for our reflection during Respect Life month, and throughout the year, comes from the Gospel of Saint John: "I came so that all might have life, and have it to the full" (10:10). In a secular society that in many ways promotes a selfish outlook to happiness in life, the Gospel challenges us to have a generous and selfless attitude to life.

Life is a gift from God. By our continued efforts, prayers and example, we make a difference in promoting respect for life. We look to the day when there will be an end to the legalization of abortion and there will be a greater respect for the gift of life for all people, including the elderly, the disabled and the imprisoned. We must never hesitate to stand for life and to encourage our legislators to do the same.

I encourage you to pray and reflect upon the consistent moral and pro-life teachings of the Church. I invite you to join in the many prayerful witnesses to life that will take place in our Diocese during the month of October: among them, The Birthline/Lifeline Walkathon at Emmanuel Church on October 1; the Life Chains throughout the Diocese on Respect Life Sunday; as well as the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil. More information on these events and their times can be obtained from our Respect Life Office by calling (561) 775-9565, as well as on our Diocesan Website, [www.diocesepb.org](http://www.diocesepb.org). Together, may we do all we can to promote and defend the lives of those most vulnerable in our society, from conception to natural death.

I extend my sincere thanks to all those who labor so tirelessly in the Respect Life Ministries in your parishes for your commitment to and defense of life. May God always bless you with His strength and peace.

With every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach

**NOTE TO PASTORS:** Please publish this letter in the parish bulletin or have it read at all the Masses during the weekend of September 24/25.