



## Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of  
THE BISHOP

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October 2/3, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord:

Respect Life Sunday, the weekend of October 2/3, marks the beginning of the annual Respect Life Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The theme for this year's program is *The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure*. This Sunday offers us the opportunity to renew our commitment to promote a culture of life in our homes and in our society, realizing that the gift of life comes from God who is love.

Because we are made in the image of God, our vocation is to love. Respecting the gift of life calls for decisions which involve sacrifice, the core of love. This is often experienced in such difficult but clear ones as not choosing an abortion, giving life-sustaining care to an elderly person and respecting the human dignity of a criminal who also has a right to life. Respect Life Sunday is about respect for all life at every stage. However, we cannot underestimate the reality that the care and respect society gives to all vulnerable persons is closely associated with the care and respect it shows to the unborn. I invite all of you to contact our Respect Life Office (561-775-9565) and to visit our Diocesan website ([www.diocesepb.org](http://www.diocesepb.org)) for more information on the many ways that we can be involved in promoting a culture of life.

October is also *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month* in the parishes of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Domestic violence and the culture of life are closely associated. We need to be aware of the tragedy that occurs through domestic violence and be vigilant in our attempts to overcome this evil.

We likewise commemorate October as *National Council of Catholic Women Month*. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the outstanding Councils of Catholic Women within the Diocese of Palm Beach. We are blessed by their mission and outreach and I encourage more women to join their membership.

As we begin our Respect Life Program during this month of October especially dedicated to our Blessed Mother, may we, like Mary, realize that all things are possible with God and fervently join our prayers to our efforts to end abortion and protect the gift of life from the moment of conception until natural death. The measure of love is to love without measure.

With every prayerful wish for you and your families, 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 Masses during the weekend of October 2/3.**