OVERVIEW

Our Diocesan Plan for Pro-Life Activities calls upon all the resources of the Diocese – its people, services and institutions to pursue this effort in four major areas:

Dear Friends in Christ,

The passage of the euthanasia law in 2015 sadly reminds us of the growing prevalence of a throw-away society in California. More of the vulnerable are being excluded. Their human dignity diminished or denied. In the face of these daunting disappointments, we should remain steadfast in carrying out the good God’s grace enables us to do.

The call of Christ to respect and protect every human life is central to the Church’s Mission of Mercy. God’s mercy begins with the life and dignity divinely bestowed on each human person. We continue this merciful work by caring for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

With the renewed hope in the coming of the Kingdom of God, I encourage every parish to form a respect life committee and identify a respect life contact (other than the pastor) to coordinate pro-life activities in the parish. The many parochial ministries should work together to cultivate in the parish an “oasis of mercy” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, n.12) and promote in California a culture of life.

To this end, I offer you this Four-Part Plan for Pro-Life Activities as a way to better focus and coordinate our pro-life activities throughout the diocese. Please prayerfully review the plan and ask the Lord Jesus how you, your parish, and the Diocese can be His missionary disciples, joyfully announcing the gospel of life.

Respectfully,

Most Rev. Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento

DIOCESAN RESOURCES

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Building a Culture of Life
In the Diocese of Sacramento

A Four-Part Plan for Pro-life Activities
Education and formation activities inform Catholics about pro-life issues in the light of our faith to lead to deeper conversion and action.

Annual Conference: A diocesan-wide conference held each August.

Regional Meetings: Regional pro-life leadership meetings held each March.

Consultations: Consultation on all pro-life matters, including parish team-building, bio-ethics, pastoral outreach, political activism and more.

Youth Events: Like the annual Choose Life educational workshop for middle and high school students.

Workshops: Pro-life speaker workshops at parishes and schools that raise awareness of the sacredness of all human life.

Resources: Pro-life pamphlets, bulletin inserts, videos and web resources.

Newsletters: From both the Diocese and parishes to provide regular pro-life updates.

Pastoral Care encompasses a broad range of services to those in need, including both spiritual assistance and essential material help.

The Gabriel Project: A parish-based ministry providing pregnant and new mothers in need with direct assistance.

Pregnancy Resource Centers: These agencies provide counseling, medical assistance and aid to help women in unplanned pregnancies choose life.

Maternity Homes: These homes, including the Mother Teresa Maternity Home run by Catholic Charities of Sacramento, provide shelter and services for pregnant and new mothers.

Project Rachel: Post-abortion healing retreats, counseling and reconciliation from specially trained counselors and priests.

Community Support: The Diocese, parishes and schools raise funds for all of the above services. (In 2015, the Diocese of Sacramento gave over $150,000 to support these pro-life community partners.)

Prayer and Worship is the corner stone and success of all pro-life activities.

Respect Life Sunday: The first Sunday in October is specially designated for respect life prayers and preaching.

Masses of Reparation: Masses to be offered for the protection of pre-natal life on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

40 Days for Life: 40 continuous days, twice each year, of prayer and peaceful witness in front of abortion centers in several cities throughout the diocese.

Year-round Prayers: All parishes are asked to pray at every Mass that our nation will respect and protect all human life, from conception to natural death.

Public Policy Advocacy upholds that as Americans, and as Catholics, we are committed to a system of law that protects the most basic of all human rights: the right to life.

Catholic Advocacy Day: Each spring parishioners from our Diocese join at the capital city of Sacramento with Catholics from around the State to promote human life and dignity.

Catholic Legislative Network: An email network hosted by the California Bishops informs and engages Catholics to be a voice for life and dignity in the legislative process.

Faithful Citizenship: Catholics are asked to remain politically involved year-round. This can mean writing to legislators or newspapers, making legislative visits or speaking persuasively with friends and family.

Catholics from throughout the Diocese gather at the State Capitol.

Catholics promoting health coverage for all.