



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818

MARRIAGE, FAMILY
AND RESPECT LIFE

MEMO

To: All

From: Miriam Sammartino and Jacob Florez, Marriage, Family and Respect Life

Date: August 29, 2025

Re: **Updates for Respect Life Activities**

The Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life is pleased to share updates and announce upcoming Respect Life events across the Diocese:



We are pleased to welcome **Jacob Florez** as the new **Assistant Director of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life** within the Office of Catholic Charities and Social Concerns. Jacob will coordinate diocesan Respect Life events and provide support to parishes, ministries, and related organizations.

He can be reached at 916-733-0133 and jflorez@scd.org.

The **Respect Life Gathering** originally scheduled for **September 6, 2025**, has been **canceled**. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to offering other opportunities to gather throughout the year.

The Diocese of Sacramento continues its commitment to building a Culture of Life, through the diocesan plan for implementation of the USCCB's *Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities*. The Diocesan Plan consists of Four Annual Activities which ensure a comprehensive approach:

1. **Formation & Education:** We are called to pray, educate the public on issues related to life, and connect vulnerable women with compassionate, life-affirming services. We are also called to offer a powerful public witness to the dignity of human life.
 - a. **Preaching and Teaching during October 2025, Respect Life Month**

Priests and Deacons are encouraged to dedicate one Sunday during the month of October to preaching on the Gospel of Life and promoting alternatives to Abortion. Parishes will be provided materials for Respect Life month.
 - b. **Respect Life Gatherings**

Spring and Fall 2026 (Dates TBA)

2. **Prayer & Worship:** Together in prayer, we seek God's mercy for the loss of innocent life.

a. **40 Days for Life**

Fall: September 24 – November 3, 2025 & Lent 2026 (Dates TBA)

Clink [link](#) for more information.

b. **Day of Reparation for the Sin of Abortion on the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade** – The Faithful are invited to offer prayers, penance, and works of mercy in reparation for the sin of abortion.

January 22, 2026 – Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

c. **Diocesan Mass of Reparation for the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade**

January 22, 2026 – Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

d. **March for Life – San Francisco**

January 24, 2026. Clink [link](#) for more information.

3. **Pastoral Care:** Parishes and deaneries are encouraged to promote the Gabriel Project and other works of mercy that support and accompany mothers-in-need. Consider hosting local Respect Life activities and supporting local charities that serve women and children.

Marisela Franco oversees the Gabriel Project, please reach out to her for further information. P: 916-733-0156 E: mfranco@scd.org

4. **Legislative Advocacy:** Visit with elected officials on pro-life issues identified by the Diocese and educating and inviting parishioners to be formed and faithful citizens.

April and May 2026

Further information about events will be communicated as they approach.

Respectfully,

Miriam Sammartino

Miriam Sammartino,
Director
Office of Catholic Charities &
Social Concerns

Jacob Florez

Jacob Florez,
Associate Director
Marriage, Family & Respect Life