



## OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

Most Reverend Thanh Thai Nguyen, D.D.  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange  
13280 Chapman Avenue • Garden Grove, CA  
Office: (714) 282-3102

August 10, 2018

Dear Reverend Pastors and Administrators,

Greetings and thank you for your ministry in service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! As you are well aware, October is [Respect Life Month](#) in the Diocese of Orange as throughout the U.S. I am appreciative of all the good activities happening in parishes throughout the Diocese to uphold the life and dignity of the human person and the common good. I write to commend to you some opportunities to highlight this work in a special way during October.

Parishes are invited to host a ministry fair and other activities in which the beauty of our Catholic teaching on life from conception to natural death can be shared with greater numbers of parishioners. In addition, special resources for students, parents, teachers, schools, and youth ministry will be available at [respectlifeweek.com](http://respectlifeweek.com).

Please consider preaching on the protection of life, from conception to natural death, and the dignity of the human person, before or during the month. Specifically, consider mentioning the following particular issues of focus:

- Abortion (Beginning of Life)
- Assisted Suicide (End of Life)
- Foster Care
- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking
- Migration Ministry
- Care for Creation
- Death Penalty

Further information on each issue can be found at [www.rcbo.org/lifejusticepeace](http://www.rcbo.org/lifejusticepeace).

The Office of Life, Justice, and Peace will also be coordinating a ***Foster Care Campaign*** beginning in October and continuing throughout the year. Please see the attached materials on the campaign. Our parishes can make the difference in Orange County to end the crisis around foster youth.

In the Diocese of Orange, it has also become a tradition to begin our ***Pennies from Heaven Campaign*** on the first Sunday of October. The purpose of Pennies from Heaven is to raise funds for pro-life clinics, centers and shelters including Obria Clinics, Life Center of Santa Ana, Life Center of La Habra, Mary's Shelter, Casa Teresa, the Precious Life Shelter, the Vietnamese

Hotline and Horizon Pregnancy Clinic. Our collection has experienced an extraordinary increase over the years from **\$150,717** in 2009 to **\$263,219** last year.

If possible, please conduct a Pennies from Heaven collection on the weekend of Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> or, if more convenient, on another proximate Sunday. Another way to participate is to distribute Pennies From Heaven **collection boxes** to every family asking them to return them on Respect Life Sunday, filled with cash, coins, or checks. Further details regarding the collection boxes, bulletin announcements or other information for a successful campaign can be found on the attached PFH Guide.

I would also ask you to consider sending a representative to the August 25<sup>th</sup> ***Life, Justice & Peace meeting: Every Life: Cherishes. Chosen. Sent.*** (theme of this year's Respect Life Month) In this meeting your parish representatives will be given materials with practical suggestions for advancing this work at the parish. If you would like to rsvp, please contact Esther Ramirez at [eramirez@rcbo.org](mailto:eramirez@rcbo.org) | (714) 282-3105.

Finally, please bring a parish delegation to the ***Mass in Solidarity with Immigrant Sisters and Brothers***, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1pm. I recently joined a delegation of bishops and religious to the Adelanto Detention Center and can attest first hand to the incredible heartbreak and pastoral needs of migrants. Let's join together to pray and continue to advocate for these friends and all those whose life and dignity are threatened.

I am very grateful to Greg Walgenbach, Cenia Martinez (serving as Outreach Coordinator), Esther Ramirez (serving as Program Coordinator), and many others who work diligently to make these campaigns successful. If you have any questions, including questions regarding Pennies from Heaven, you may call Esther Ramirez at (714) 282-3105.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Be assured of my prayers.

Respectfully,



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Most Reverend Thanh Thai Nguyen  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Orange in California*