



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' theme for Respect Life this year is "***Live the Gospel of Life***," in honor of the 25th anniversary of the monumental encyclical by St. John Paul II. The Catholic Church continues to lead the world on the issue of the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death, regardless of age or condition. It is our responsibility to do what we can to help others and to promote a greater respect for all human life.

Each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first weekend in October, Parishes across the Diocese of Venice conduct a special second collection to enhance this life-affirming work. These funds facilitate the Church's witness as a faith community in southwest Florida.

Please continue to pray for a greater respect for human life at all stages. Although this is a challenging year, please be as generous as you can in supporting this annual collection.

May God bless you with a deep appreciation for the gift of life and the courage to defend the sanctity of life. Let us remain united in prayer and action.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

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