



Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Respect Life & Human Rights Office Programs

The Respect Life Office, under the guidance of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, and the Human Rights Office, under the guidance of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, are each charged with the following activities for their respective areas:

- Supporting our parish pro-life and social justice ministries, respectively, as a source for information and resources on Church teaching. This includes collaboration of ministry activities across parishes in order to increase the effectiveness of the shared mission of the Church.
- Sponsoring and facilitating annual diocesan-level activities and events
- Providing our parish priests and other pastoral leaders with assistance in developing parish ministries, with timely ministry-specific information and relevant liturgical materials, and with the opportunity to serve in a pastoral leadership role within our broader diocesan pro-life and social justice programs.

To fulfill these responsibilities, the following diocesan programs and parish toolkits have been developed:



40 Days for Life

Kansas City Coalition for Life (KCCFL) and 40 Days for Life coordinate regularly-scheduled sidewalk counseling activities and prayer vigils at local abortion facilities. The Respect Life Office provides spiritual, volunteer and financial support to assist with Christ-centered sidewalk counseling training and baby showers for mothers and fathers who choose life for their unborn children.



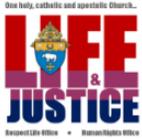
Compassio

ComPassio, taken from the Latin "com" (with) + "passio" (suffer), is the diocesan program for end-of-life issues. This program consists of a series of presentations on the meaning of suffering, moral medical decision-making, euthanasia and organ donation, and material and spiritual preparation for death. Also part of the program is a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare document, approved by the bishop in MO and the Missouri Catholic Conference.



Cures Without Cloning

Cures Without Cloning is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization founded by leaders from local pro-life advocacy and healthcare organizations and the Respect Life Offices of our two local dioceses in MO and KS. The goal of the program is to provide a forum for scientists, physicians, researchers and health care professionals to express their views on the values that should direct ethical stem cell research and to express their support for non-embryonic (adult) stem cell research.



Life & Justice Campaign

The *Life & Justice Campaign*, co-sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life and Human Rights offices, supports local organizations dedicated to defending the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the person. The program includes financial grants made possible through donations and an annual parish second collection, as well as volunteer opportunities for our faithful.



March for Life Pilgrimage

The diocesan March for Life Pilgrimage is a four-day four-bus trip to Washington DC to participate in the Vigil for Life Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the March for Life. The trip, made by approximately 200 pilgrims each year, includes educational, spiritual and social pro-life activities, sight-seeing, meetings with legislators and participation in pro-life Masses and rallies.



MAX

MAX is the diocesan Jail and Prison Ministry. The program provides volunteers with the opportunity to regularly visit and to pray with individuals who are incarcerated and to organize parish prayer vigils and letter-writing campaigns. Through the *MAX* program, the diocese is also able to provide Bibles and rosaries to men and women who are incarcerated and to partner with local organizations that support the families of the incarcerated.



Project Rachel

Project Rachel is the diocesan program to support and to provide healing to women and men who are suffering the emotional, psychological and spiritual pain of a past abortion. The program provides group healing sessions and weekend retreats, along with assistance in identifying pastoral, sacramental, and professional clinical resources when appropriate.



VIA

VIA is the diocesan program of education and support for local organizations that provide pastoral care and public policy advocacy on behalf of immigrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking. Also included is information on creating parish ministries that are multi-cultural.



Spiritual Adoption

Spiritual Adoption is an age-appropriate, family-friendly program in which participants spiritually adopt and pray for an unborn child for nine months, learn about fetal development and celebrate the birth with either a "baby shower" or a "birthday party" in which baby items are donated to a local pregnancy resource center.



Truth Illuminated

Truth Illuminated is a flexible teen program of pro-life and social justice education, pastoral care and prayer and worship based on Scripture, the teachings of the Magisterium and on Church Tradition. Activities and presentations can be facilitated within parishes or high schools as a stand-alone program, as a supplement to existing Youth Ministry programs or as a complement to existing teen pro-life and social justice programs and activities.

To learn more about any of these programs or to find out about other areas in which the Respect Life Office and Human Rights Office are actively engaged with local Catholic organizations and with dozens of local community partners, please visit www.respectlifekcsi.org and www.humanrightskcsi.org.