



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Church remains at the forefront in speaking out on the issue of the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death, regardless of age or condition. This year, we are focusing on St. Joseph, defender of life. His unhesitating adherence to God's will as he faithfully and lovingly protected the Christ Child and the Blessed Mother bears witness to our own call as Christians. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between.

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. During the weekend of October 2 and 3, 2021, Parishes across the Diocese of Venice in Florida will conduct a special collection to enhance this life-affirming work of the Diocesan Respect Life Office. These funds help facilitate our witness as a faith community in southwest Florida.

Please continue to pray for a greater appreciation of the sacredness of all human life. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this annual collection so that the Diocesan Respect Life Outreach can be expanded.

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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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