

Office of Diocesan Pastoral Outreach

Human Life and Dignity

Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise

The Office of Diocesan Pastoral Outreach: “Human Life and Dignity Ministries” was created to broaden the scope and definition of the pastoral, educational, and advocacy initiatives within the Diocese of Boise. Every life is made in the image and likeness of our God with intrinsic value, despite the stage of development or social condition.

For the Universal Church and within the Diocese of Boise, there is no distinction between defending human life and promoting the dignity of the human person.

Pope Benedict XVI writes in *Caritas in Veritate* that:

“The Church forcefully maintains this link between life ethics and social ethics, fully aware that ‘a society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized.’”(15)

As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The Diocese of Boise strongly supports all those members of its parishes that seek to advocate or involve themselves in ministries dedicated to promoting the Church’s teaching on Human Life and Dignity in ways that are in line with the Catholic Christian values outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life from conception to natural death is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace. Therefore, all ministries dedicated to promoting human life and dignity are supported and encouraged by the Diocese. These include efforts which seek to protect the most vulnerable in our society, those who cannot speak for themselves: the unborn, the elderly, the mentally or physically challenged, the terminally ill. Special emphasis must be given to those issues which represent the most urgent challenges to human life and dignity: abortion/adoption/post-abortion healing, euthanasia/assisted suicide, and the death penalty. These involve inherent moral evils which must be resisted by every means possible

To achieve this goal, the Office of Diocesan Pastoral Outreach will support parish-based ministries and affiliated church agencies within the scope of its resources in ongoing education, prayer, policy, and advocacy efforts to mobilize the Idaho Catholic community on issues of:

- **Abortion/Adoption/Post Abortion Healing,**
- **Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide,**
- **Death Penalty**

The focus on these issues does not in any way exclude the other range of issues that come under the focus of “Human Life and Dignity” as defined by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. Our office will also collaborate with the Diocesan Office on Marriage and Family Life on issues of Chastity, Contraception/Natural Family Planning, Theology of the Body and Marriage Preparation. In this way, the Catholic community celebrates the gift of human life and witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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