

Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

1/18/21

Dear Catholic School Families.

For the second consecutive year, due to COVID-19, the Diocese of Saginaw and our schools are unable to conduct typical events associated with the annual March for Life. Although we are not officially sending members of our community to Washington D.C. or holding a march locally, we remain committed to providing our community, and in particular our young people, with a meaningful way to engage with the important moral issues associated with respect for life. A committed group of youth and campus ministers, directors of faith formation, and diocesan staff have been working diligently over the past few months to develop a program that will allow members of our diocese to engage in the "9 Days for Life" program. (More information on the 9 Days for Life, including related resources, can be found here.)

To support and invite further engagement in our community, Catholic schools and religious education programs, a <u>family activity booklet</u>, videos, discussion questions, and Bible passages have been created to support a deeper understanding of topics surrounding the dignity and sanctity of all human life. We have worked to include activities and information to support our youngest learners through high school age students. The resources have been shared with the schools. The 9 Days for Life calendar does not align with school calendars. Therefore, schools are welcome to use the resources during the 9 Days for Life or at a time that is most appropriate based on the age of the students and their respective curriculum.

As parents are the primary educators of their children and given the sensitive nature of some of the topics addressed in the videos, we feel it is appropriate to provide you with an opportunity to review the materials. Furthermore, we hope that by sharing this information with you, it can help to facilitate additional dialogue at home to help reinforce the understanding and importance of these topics. Topics addressed in the videos and related documents include but is not limited to abortion, defining pro-life, racism, respecting the environment, suicide, suffering, war and peace.

We are blessed to have a group of talented and dedicated individuals that have committed considerable time and effort to this process. We are grateful for their support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We hope that you find these resources helpful in the ongoing formation of your child and family.

Respectfully,

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