

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Respect Life Curriculum
Office of Life, Peace and Justice

Teacher Resources Day Two	
Title/Theme	Threats to Human Life Abortion and the Pro-Life Generation
Grade/Subject	6 th – 9 th , 11 th – 12 th Social Studies; 10 th Religion
Length of Unit/Timeframe	One day with optional follow-up service-learning activities
Overview	Day 2 of a 5 day Respect Life Curriculum for Respect Life Week Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2013
Day 2: Social Studies	Teachers and students are invited to explore threats to human life in the context of social studies classes. See below and student handout for recommendations.
Essential Questions:	
<p>Why do women choose abortion? What does justice demand that we do for each person in a crisis pregnancy situation? The mother? The father? The baby?</p>	
<p><u>Catholic Identity Elements:</u></p> <p>Pope Francis: “Human life must always be defended from its beginning in the womb and must be recognised as a gift of God that guarantees the future of humanity,” Vatican Radio cited Francis as saying in a message to mark Brazil’s National Family week. “Parents must convey to their children the knowledge that human life must always be defended, right from its onset in the maternal womb,” the pope stated.</p> <p>In a letter dated August 6, 2013 from Pope Francis to Brazilian families marking National Families Week, the Holy Father says: “In a particular way, faced with the culture of waste, that relativizes the value of human life, parents are called to pass on to their children the understanding that this must always be defended, already in the mother’s womb, recognizing in it a gift from God and an assurance of mankind’s future, but also in the care shown to the elderly, particularly to grandparents, who are the living memory of a people and the transmitters of life’s wisdom.”</p> <p>Catechism of the Catholic Church 2271 “Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law”: 2258 "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."</p> <p>Evangelium Vitae (EV), The Gospel of Life. John Paul II began his encyclical with these words, "The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message... to be preached with dauntless fidelity to the</p>	

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people of every age and culture" (EV 1).

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY

As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life 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.

Resources

Teacher background

On the Fundamental Right to Life

Pope Benedict XVI:

- God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (Gn 1:26) in each one.¹
- [L]ife is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others; to guarantee the right to life for all and in an equal manner for all is the duty upon which the future of humanity depends.²

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

- [T]he failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the 'rightness' of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the "temple of the Holy Spirit" – the living house of God – then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. *All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house's foundation.* These directly and immediately violate the human person's most fundamental right – the right to life. Neglect of these issues is the equivalent of building our house on sand. Such attacks cannot help but lull the social conscience in ways ultimately destructive of other human rights.³

On Abortion

Pope Benedict XVI:

- Children truly are the family's greatest treasure and most precious good. Consequently, everyone must be helped to become aware of the intrinsic evil of the crime of abortion. In attacking human life in its very first stages, it is also an aggression against society itself. Politicians and legislators, therefore, as servants of the common good, are duty bound to

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defend the fundamental right to life, the fruit of God's love.⁴

- As far as *the right to life* is concerned, we must denounce its widespread violation in our society.... Abortion and embryonic experimentation constitute a direct denial of that attitude of acceptance of others which is indispensable for establishing lasting relationships of peace.⁵
- [E]ven in the most difficult circumstances human freedom is capable of extraordinary acts of sacrifice and solidarity to welcome the life of a new human being.⁶

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

- Among important issues involving the dignity of human life with which the Church is concerned, abortion necessarily plays a central role. Abortion, the direct killing of an innocent human being, is *always* gravely immoral (*The Gospel of Life*, no. 57); its victims are the most vulnerable and defenseless members of the human family. It is imperative that those who are called to serve the least among us give urgent attention and priority to this issue of justice.⁷
- While at times human law may not fully articulate the moral imperative – full protection for the right to life – our legal system can and must be continually reformed so that it will increasingly fulfill its proper task of protecting the weak and preserving the right to life of every human being, born and unborn.⁸

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Language Arts: *Horton Hears a Who* Dr. Seuss

Scripture

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground. "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

Psalms 139:14-15

I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew; my bones were not hidden from you, When I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth.

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you...

Isaiah 49:15-16

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name; your walls are ever before me.

Quick Write Overview for teachers

http://nrhs.nred.org/www/nred_nrhs/site/hosting/Literacy%20Website/Literacy%20Strategy%20Templates/Quick_Write_description.pdf

Facebook mock-ups <http://techtoolsforschools.blogspot.com/2010/01/facebook-project-template.html>

Facebook template <http://www.teachonezone.com/teaching-with-technology/facebook-templatefor-education/>

Links

On-line version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm>

Benedict XVI *No one owns their own life. Everyone is called to safeguard and respect life from the time of conception to natural death."*

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<http://www.romereports.com/palio/benedict-xvi-respect-life-from-conception-to-natural-death-english-1590.html#.Ua53hGQINpw>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death.* <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/>

<https://educationforjustice.org/free-files/HumanDignity09.pdf>

Horton Hears a Who movie

review <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/archive//ldn/2008/apr/08042110>

Pro-life Curriculum Pre-k to 12th Knights for Life <http://www.cpforlife.org/curriculum.htm>

Materials to start a Pro-life Club at school <http://generationsforlife.org/clubs/curriculum/>

Principals and Choices Professional Curriculum (awesome for high school)

<http://www.principlesandchoices.com/learn-more-about-principles-choices1/>

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/>

Evangelical web-site <http://pastorsprolife.org/>

I am Whole Life from the moment of our beginning <http://www.iamwholelife.com/>
(Look under “Projects”. The **Until Abortion Ends** would be awesome follow up activity)