

September 21, 2022

Dear Parish Catechetical Leaders and Directors of Faith Formation,

This year is unlike any other in California. The Governor has issued a call to make California a “sanctuary” for women seeking abortions, both in and out of the State. At the same time, our State Legislators have placed Proposition 1 on the November ballot, promising to make abortion a fundamental right in California for all time, while also removing our current common-sense limits on late-term abortions.

At this pivotal moment, all 12 bishops of the dioceses of California have called for the Catholic community to engage in prayer, fasting, and conscience formation related to the defeat of Prop 1. In addition, they have committed to a vision for our State that honors women with life-affirming support and practical resources so that all families can thrive, and no woman feels trapped into the devastating decision to end her baby’s life by having an abortion. Under the leadership of our bishops, we can create a future that empowers women, welcomes all children, and supports every family in our state.

To carry out this vision, the California Catholic Conference (CCC) has been working with diocesan leaders to coordinate the dissemination of a broad range of spiritual, pastoral, advocacy, and service resources and initiatives. Many parishes have named Parish Captains to coordinate these efforts, and priests and deacons have been encouraged to begin preaching on these themes as well. With Respect Life Sunday coming up on October 2, **now is the time to engage all of our catechists in this multifaceted effort.**

The bishops have commissioned the development of age-appropriate catechetical materials for all of our Catholic children in K-12 faith formation, in both English and Spanish. These materials are partly based on the readings for Respect Life Sunday, so it will be best for catechists to use them with students either the week before or the week after Sunday, October 2. You likely are receiving those materials along with this letter, but you may also find them among the Parish Toolkit resources at the bottom of the CCC Prop 1 page:

<https://www.Catholic.org/prop1>

There are three main responsibilities the bishops are asking PCLs/DFFs to carry out:

1. Distribute the corresponding catechetical resources to all of your catechists, asking them to use them on a set day in the next two weeks, and ensure that they have the required materials available for their sessions—see the list of materials and handouts in each session guide.
2. Coordinate with the parish pastoral staff to identify Respect Life activities that will be done during the month of October, and determine how the children and families in faith formation will be asked to take part. Then let the catechists know, so that they can include those activities in their session plans.
3. Schedule a session for parish adults and the parents of children in faith formation. The English and Spanish PowerPoints and talking points for that session are still in review, but will be posted online and sent out by email by Friday, September 23.

It is my prayer that these resources will be received and implemented with enthusiasm, and that the Holy Spirit will empower our people to raise their prophetic voice in defense of the powerless and voiceless in our midst.

May the Lord continue to bless your ministry,



Kathleen Buckley Domingo,
Executive Director