



# Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Social Action Office

## Action Alert and Upcoming Events!

Support Protect Life Act: Please Call Today

Promoting a Circle of Protection: Oct. 19 and 20

Defending Life Against the Sentence of Death: Oct. 29

Choose Life: The Heart of It All: Nov. 5

## Support the Protect Life Act House Floor Vote Imminent: Please Call Today!

The health care reform bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), was signed into law in 2010. On January 20, 2011, Reps. Joseph Pitts (R-PA) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) introduced the Protect Life Act (H.R. 358) to bring PPACA into line with policies on abortion and conscience rights existing in other federal health programs. A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate (S. 877).

In the House, Committee consideration of H.R. 358 is completed. **House floor action is scheduled for Thursday -- today!** Please urge your Representative to support H.R. 358 on the floor and to oppose any hostile weakening amendments.

In a letter to the House of Representatives, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged Members to support the Protect Life Act, which will do the following:

- Ensure that all PPACA funds are covered by the policy of the longstanding Hyde Amendment (no funds for abortion except in cases of life endangerment or rape/incest).
- Prevent federal funds from subsidizing health plans that cover abortions beyond the Hyde exceptions, so that PPACA will follow the policy of other federal health insurance programs.
- Uphold rights of conscience related to abortion, ensuring that governmental entities receiving federal funds under PPACA will not discriminate against health care providers who decline involvement in abortion.
- Close a loophole in PPACA's non-preemption clause, so that state laws restricting abortion or protecting conscience rights will not be preempted, and states will not be able to override PPACA's provisions ensuring that health plans without elective abortion are available in each state. See: [nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/HR358\\_USCCB.pdf](http://nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/HR358_USCCB.pdf).

**ACTION:** Contact your Representative by phone, e-mail, or FAX letter:

- Send an e-mail through NCHLA's Grassroots Action Center. Click [HERE](#). (You will also be able to send a message to your two U.S. Senators.)
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Representative's local office.

- Additional contact info can be found on Representatives' web sites at: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

**MESSAGE FOR HOUSE:** "During floor consideration, please vote for the Protect Life Act, H.R. 358, and oppose any hostile weakening amendments. This bill will amend the health care reform law to preserve longstanding federal policies on abortion and conscience rights."

**WHEN:** Please act today!

Thanks!

## PROMOTING A CIRCLE OF PROTECTION: A CATHOLIC MESSAGE FOR THE SUPER COMMITTEE



The U.S. Catholic bishops have gathered a group of national Evangelical, Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, African-American, and Latino Christian leaders into a "Circle of Protection" around programs that meet the essential needs of hungry and poor people at home and abroad. While political leaders take on the necessary task of reducing our nation's future deficits, Christian leaders are urging them not to do so at the expense of life-saving programs for the most vulnerable.

**Kathy Saile, Director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Domestic Social Development Office** will offer an enlightening look into the work of the bishops' conference on advocating for a Circle of Protection and help us to join the chorus of prophetic work!

### REPEAT EVENTS IN TWO LOCATIONS:

#### **CINCINNATI**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

**ST. MARY CHURCH, HYDE PARK  
(2853 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati)**

**Father Robisch Hall**

**RSVP: (513) 421-3131, ext. 2660;**

**[csa@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:csa@catholiccincinnati.org)**



#### **DAYTON**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20**

**7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**  
**ARCHBISHOP PILARCZYK CENTER**  
**(1436 Needmore Road, Dayton)**  
**RSVP: (937) 224-3026;**  
**[csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org)**

*NOTE: These events will also involve a gathering of Archdiocesan Parish Promoters for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services programs. Participants will also receive useful updates on how to tackle poverty at home and abroad through these effective, Catholic efforts!*



**DEFENDING LIFE AGAINST THE  
SENTENCE OF DEATH:  
A Conference for  
Catholic Respect Life Month**

**OCTOBER 29**  
**9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**  
**Good Shepherd Church**  
**(8815 East Kemper Rd., Cincinnati, OH)**

The Archdiocesan Offices of Catholic Social Action, Family and Respect Life, and African-American Catholic Ministries, along with the Advocates for Justice Death Penalty Task Force and Ohioans to Stop Executions, are organizing a conference on the death penalty from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at Good Shepherd Church. Speakers will include local and national leaders, including those from the national Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty, endorsed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Joseph Binzer will lead with morning prayer with keynotes and panel presentations to follow.

Cost: \$10.00. Students and those interested in obtaining a scholarship can register for free by contacting the Catholic Social Action Office directly at (513) 421-3131, ext, 2660.

For a brochure of the program, [click here](#).

To register and learn more, [click here](#).

To learn more about Church teaching on capital punishment, [click here](#).

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Invocation by Most Rev. Joseph Binzer (Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati)

### **PRESENTATIONS BY:**

- Rev. Neil Kookoothe (Pastor of the Church of St. Clarence in Olmsted, Ohio, Diocese of Cleveland).
- Joseph D'Ambrosio (A parishioner at St. Clarence Church, who spent 22 years on Ohio's death row and was released in 2009 after a judge ruled evidence was withheld that would have proven D'Ambrosio was not responsible for the crime).
- Vicki Schieber (Education Coordinator for Catholic Mobilization Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty and Board Chair for Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights).

### **PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH:**

- Timothy Young (Director of Ohio's Office of the Public Defender since 2008).
- Judge A.J. Wagner (Montgomery County Common Pleas judge)
- Judy and Chuck Hogan (mother and stepfather of Ohio death row inmate, Shawn Hawkins, who recently received clemency from Gov. John Kasich).
- Fr. Len Wenke (Director of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Pastoral Services Department and spiritual advisor to executed inmate, Michael Beuke).
- Mary Anne Boyd (Archdiocese of Cincinnati Respect Life Coordinator)
- Sr. Ruth Kettman, CSJ (Coordinator for St. Monica-St. George Parish Committee to Abolish the Death Penalty).
- Sr. Ruth Kuhn, SC (Coordinator for Region VI for Responsible Investment).

## CHOOSE LIFE: THE HEART OF IT ALL



Most Reverend Bishop Martin D. Holley will be the keynote speaker on Saturday, November 5, 2011 for an Anti-Abortion Conference. The theme is "CHOOSE LIFE: THE HEART OF IT ALL". The program begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. It will be held at Purcell Marion High School. Most Reverend Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr will lead morning prayer with workshops to follow. The event is co-sponsored by the Archdiocesan Offices of African-American Catholic Ministries, Family and Respect Life, and Catholic Social Action.

Cost per person is \$20.00. To register click here:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/african-american-catholic-ministries>.

Bishop Holley is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on African American Affairs, and a member of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities. In 2008 Bishop Holley wrote an article *REFLECTION ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY AND THE CULTURE OF LIFE* - Bishop Holley addressed the number of African American children lost to abortion every day, that the abortion challenge is interwoven deeply with many other concerns, that there should be an invitation of hope and healing to those who have already experienced abortion, " ...and as individuals and church we need to proclaim and witness with our lives to God's love, the sacredness of human life, and the meaning of human sexuality and marriage.

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