



Chancellor and Executive Secretary of the Curia

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

Message from Kathryn Yanik, Director of Life Issues

The Office of Life Issues serves our parish communities through education, pastoral supports, and advocacy efforts. In a post-Roe world, our ministries are adapting to how to best serve the Maryland and D.C. communities. As our mission expands to promote the dignity of life from conception until natural death, and at every stage in between, please consider sharing the following resources and opportunities with your parishes:

Maryland March for Life: Please join us on Monday, February 27th, 2023 for the 44th annual MD March for Life. It is more crucial than ever that we come together to support Bringing Maryland Back to Life. Participants will gather at St. Mary's Parish in Annapolis at 5:00 p.m. and proceed to Lawyer's Mall. Please visit mdmarchforlife.com for more information and to register. Attached below is also a poster for posting in your parishes or distributing to your communities.



[MD March for Life Flyer with QR code.pdf](#)

Pro-Life Grant Program: Parishes can apply for up to \$2,000 in funding for any programs or resources that support families in need. Past grantees have received support for nutrition programs, youth education, diaper banks, and life issues presentations. Applications will be

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sent out to parishes in April 2023. Please contact the Office of Life Issues for more information.

Beginning and End of Life Resources: The [Affirming Life Guide](#) is a resource for pastors and parish ministers to help them provide support to parents who have received an adverse or difficult prenatal diagnosis. The [End of Life Guide](#) is intended for families who have experienced the loss of a loved one to help guide them through the grieving and funeral process. Both resources are bilingual and printed copies are available upon request.

Catholic Civil Dialogue Initiative: This program facilitates structured conversation on Catholic Social Teaching for youth and young adults. It can also be used for parish social ministry teams and adult faith formation. The Office of Life Issues will provide training and resources for adult facilitators, as well as program support.

Please contact the Director of Life Issues, Kathryn Yanik, at yanikk@adw.org with any questions. Our team looks forward to supporting our parishes as we work to promote the dignity of life in the next stages of pro-life ministry.

The Way Retreats

As we continue the important work of ministering to survivors of all forms of abuse across our diocese, we recognize that their healing is the responsibility of the entire Church. I write today to share with you that The Secretariat for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns (PMSC) has scheduled two *The Way* retreats for survivors of abuse, at no cost to attendees. The women's retreats are February 23-26, 2023 and April 28-30, 2023.

For additional information and details about this day, please visit <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/>. We request that you promote this opportunity in your parishes and personally invite any survivors who could benefit. While this retreat is not primarily therapeutic in nature or an opportunity for professional counseling, it is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan, including prayer, for their lives and for healing.

Thank you for your support of this vital opportunity for survivors of abuse. If you have any questions or are a survivor and are interested in learning more, please contact Deborah McDonald at mcdonald@adw.org or 301-853-4466. To protect the privacy of survivors, PMSC will not be publicizing the location of the retreat. There will be a brief registration questionnaire, and PMSC staff will personally contact survivors to discuss further details of the day.

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To aid in your promotion of this retreat, I ask that you include in your Mass announcements and your bulletin the following:

Suggested Bulletin Announcement

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring a retreat for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer women's retreats on February 23-26, 2023 and April 28-30, 2023. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information go to <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/>. To register email mcdonald@adw.org or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

Suggested Pulpit Announcement

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring a retreat for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer women's retreats on February 23-26, 2023 and April 28-30, 2023. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information and register please, see the bulletin or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan websites, adw.org and adw.org/es, are updated regularly with current information for you to share with your community. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to Covid-19. Daily news and information about our parishes, schools, and ministries are also available at cathstan.org and elpreg.org for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office, please know that you can email me at FarrellT@adw.org or call my office line at 301-853-4507 or my cell at 202-531-4550.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,

Terence J. Farrell

Chancellor and Executive Secretary of the Curia

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