

Respecting Life Begins with Me (RLBWM)

~ Program Objectives ~

Objective

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM) is a developmental education program designed to teach children to “respect life,” a central concept in our Catholic faith, with the understanding that respecting life begins in their relationship with God and expands to a relationship within the family, the school, the church, and finally to the outside community.

The awareness begins with a conversation about how we are unique creations of God and how loved we are by Him. As part of that awareness the lesson extends to other populations including the unborn, those with special needs, the elderly, sick and terminally ill, those subjected to human trafficking, the imprisoned and those on death row.

This program progresses from **Awareness**, to **Prayer**, to **Influencing their Sphere**, and finally to **Influencing their Community**.

When

The RLBWM program should be implemented in October, Respect Life Month, and can include the following:

- **Respect Life Mass** – Kick off the program with a Respect Life Mass where children can process in with roses, a symbol of life for Our Lady, and a banner with the year’s Respect Life theme.
- **Service Project** – Based on the Corporal Works of Mercy
- **Spiritual Adoption** – The school can spiritually adopt a baby, which entails naming a baby, following its development and growth via a chart, and praying for the baby.
- **Spiritual Bouquet** – Children can write prayers of petitions for mothers and the unborn, creating a spiritual bouquet for moms with unplanned pregnancies.

Program

Rubrics are included for each grade’s assignment. The assignments are done using the rubric and based on the year’s Respect Life theme.

It is recommended that items be collected for delivery at the end of October. A list of items for collection is included in this packet.

Program Rubrics:

Grades K, 1, 2:	Fingerprint Family Artwork
Grades 3, 4, 5:	Prayer Card (index card size)
Grades 6, 7:	8 ½ x 11 Poster Artwork
Grade 8:	Essay -OR- Letter to the Editor

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~ Grades K, 1 and 2 Rubric – Fingerprint Family Artwork ~

- Subject: **AWARENESS** – We are uniquely and individually made by God
- Theme: ***“All Human Life: Sacred, Chosen, and Eternal”***
- Grade: 50% demonstrates knowledge of concept, 40% effort, 10% neatness
- Size: 8½ x 11” Fingerprint Family page provided
- Due Date: 10/30/2023
- Objective: We are all uniquely and individually made in the image and likeness of God.
God knew us and formed us before we were born.
Jesus told us to love one another.

No two fingerprints are alike. Each of us are individually and uniquely made by God for His purpose and plan. Each of us has a place in His wonderful masterpiece of life.

In this exercise your students will complete a take-home project with their family. Each family member will place their fingerprint on the attached page, participating in this project as a reminder that God has joined us together, knitting the family nucleus as part of his wonderful Divine Providence. Ask them to decorate the fingerprint picture as favorite characters or however they want; encourage them to be creative.

For an in-class exercise during Respect Life Month, you could share, discuss, and give examples of Acts of Kindness. Each time you recognize an act of kindness displayed by a student, you could recognize that in a special way, for example, a classroom wreath with written acts of kindness displayed as flowers or leaves. The objectives listed above can be used to initiate kind behaviors.

This is a take-home project and upon return, all Fingerprint Family artwork should be graded and displayed.

We wish your students much luck and a lot of fun with this project!

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~ Grades K, 1 and 2 Parent Instructions – Fingerprint Family Artwork ~ THEME “All Human Life: Sacred, Chosen, and Eternal”

Parents:

You are encouraged to help create a Fingerprint Family artwork project with your child at home for the Respecting Life Begins with Me (RLBWM) program during October, Respect Life Month. The purpose of this family activity is to teach your child the uniqueness of every human life in God’s creation as shown by their unique fingerprints. This project helps them see no two fingerprints are alike.

It is also important how we work together as families, how we help each other and show our love for one another.

Directions:

- 1) Use different colored paint, colored pencils, or crayons to decorate.
- 2) Each family member places their fingerprint in the fingerprint section (page provided).
- 3) Add brothers, sisters and any family member present to the family artwork and label their fingerprint.
- 4) Decorate the fingerprint page.
- 5) When finished with the artwork, assist your child in answering the prompt “Our Family Shows Love By.” How does your family show love? How do you spend time together or help each other? When do you pray together?

We hope you enjoy this project and have fun in the process. It may encourage spending a little fun time together.

The winner from the class will be recognized.

My Name Is _____

OUR FINGERPRINT FAMILY

Our Family Shows Love By:

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~ Grades 3, 4 and 5 Rubric – Prayer Card ~

- Subject: **PRAYER** – Respect and Love Each Other.
- Theme: ***“All Human Life: Sacred, Chosen, and Eternal”***
- Grade: 50% demonstrates knowledge of concept, 40% effort, 10% neatness
- Size: Index Card either 3 x 5” or 5 x 7”
- Due Date: 10/30/2023
- Objective: Jesus tells us to Love One Another.
We should imitate Christ and follow in His footsteps.
We are all made in the image and likeness of God.
We should all be treated with respect.

Students are instructed to create a prayer card. The focus of the assignment is to bring about **Awareness** to the children that even though they might have difficulties in relationships with their siblings, friends, or fellow students, they need to respect and **Pray** for one another.

Encourage the students to focus on their relationships with their families and with friends. Explain to them that it may be difficult when someone makes them sad, mad, hurt, or angry, especially someone close to them, but they need to love that person and forgive them. They should never scream, yell, or use physical force to express their feelings of hurt or anger. That is never a solution. Instead, they need to talk it out with the person and use **Prayer** as a tool to help heal the situation. Jesus calls for us to forgive, even the playground bully. Asking Him to help intervene in the situation is always the best route to go.

This project includes an original prayer written by the student for someone they might be having difficulties with someone they need to treat with kindness, or someone for whom they want to pray. Their prayer should begin with this prompt:

My prayer for life is...

- or -

All life is chosen by God sacred and made for eternity...

Then on the blank side of the index card, they need to depict this prayer with a colored drawing using either colored pencils or crayons.

Encourage their creativity and good luck!

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~ Grades 6 and 7 Rubric – Poster ~

- Subject: **INFLUENCE YOUR SCHOOL** – Respect for All Those in Society
- Theme: ***“All Human Life: Sacred, Chosen, and Eternal”***
- Grade: 50% demonstrates knowledge of concept, 40% effort, 10% neatness
- Size: 8 ½ x 11” Paper
- Due Date: 10/30/2023
- Objective: We are made in the image and likeness of God and have human dignity.
God formed you and knew you before you were born.

How can we be more welcoming to a mother with an unplanned pregnancy? How can we show love and respect for her and for her preborn child? How would you help her? How would you follow Jesus and protect the unborn, the elderly, those with special needs, the imprisoned, or those that have been human trafficked?

Are you ready for a challenge? There are many attacks on human life today, in your school and sometimes in your community. Have you ever seen someone mistreat someone else, or witnessed someone being bullied or someone being denied friendship? Would you step in to help, ask for it to stop, or would you remain silent? Standing up for someone else is scary but also very brave. It is a way to imitate and follow in Jesus’ footsteps.

Our faith teaches us to treat all people with respect and dignity, no matter their race, religion, social status, education, or stage of development. We know about and have seen acts of violence in our country and world.

You have an opportunity to show kindness, bravery, and a commitment to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. Create a beautiful poster showing respect for all those in society who are mistreated, neglected, or in danger. Your poster will focus on human life: the unborn, those with special needs, the sick, poor, or homeless, the elderly, those of different races, or any other respect life concerns.

How can you show the need for God’s love through your poster? Do we see all people as equal and worthy of protection? Can you **Influence Your School** through your poster to respond with kindness and love to what is happening in your school or in our culture today? You can use your artwork to influence someone and bring about awareness of the way life should be treated.

This project is about human life which God asks us to hold sacred, respect and protect. Although important, projects depicting animals, or the environment will be disqualified.

You may use markers, colored pencils, or crayons. Get creative and good luck!

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~ Grade 8 Rubric – Essay ~

- Subject: **INFLUENCE YOUR SCHOOL** – Respect for All Those in Society
- Theme: ***“All Human Life: Sacred, Chosen, and Eternal”***
- Grade: 50% content, 40% factual, 10% bibliography
- Size: 8 ½ x 11” Paper, 300 word minimum
- Due Date: 10/30/2023
- Objective: We are made in the image and likeness of God and have human dignity.
Today it is important to LIVE the Gospel of Life.

How would you defend all human life as valuable and worth living because each person is God’s creation? How would you defend the lives of the unborn, those with special needs, the elderly, the terminally ill, those who are human trafficked, or those who have been sentenced to death? How would you defend preborn babies that are inconvenient—either coming at the wrong time or those that are conceived in rape? Are they not human life created by God?

Are you brave enough to stand up for life? Have you ever witnessed injustice? Have you ever seen someone mistreat someone else or witnessed someone being denied food, water, or shelter? How would you respect the unborn if you witnessed an expecting mother trying to drink or eat something that would harm her baby? Would you speak up and risk offending her to save the baby’s life? Would you have the courage to defend life, standing up for life even if it meant losing a friend over it? How would you defend the right to life? If you saw a lonely child at the lunch table, do you have the courage to make a difference in an ignored student’s life? Will you invite them to join you for lunch not just once, but make it a habit?

You are the writer here who will create an informative and factual essay showing respect for all those in society who are mistreated, neglected, or in danger of losing their life. Your essay will focus on human life: the unborn, those with special needs, the elderly, the sick, the imprisoned, or other respect life concerns. Think of how babies should be treated and how special they are. Does this baby have the right to be born and is it considered life before it is born? Think about an elderly person confined to a nursing home or a sick person in a hospital where no one visits or calls. How sad to not see your family or friends, feeling lonely every day. How about those with special needs? Are they treated with dignity and kindness? Does anyone think of the imprisoned and does anyone visit or pray for them? Do we treat everyone with the dignity and respect they deserve? Think of examples of how people are treated or mistreated and what you would change. Remember God does not make mistakes – all life is precious to Him.

You can use your words to **Influence Your School** and bring about awareness of the way human life should be treated. Please do not focus on animals or the environment. This project is about human life which God asks us to hold sacred, respect, and protect.

Please type your name, school, and grade on the top of your paper. Be sure to include your resources in your bibliography. Get creative and good Luck!

Respecting Life Begins with Me (RLBWM)

~ Grade 8 Alternative Rubric – Letter to the Editor ~

Subject: **INFLUENCE YOUR COMMUNITY** – Be a Witness for the Value and Dignity of Life

Theme: ***“All Human Life: Sacred, Chosen, and Eternal”***

Grade: 50% content, 40% factual, 10% bibliography

Size: 8 ½ x 11” Paper

Due Date: 10/30/2023

Objective: **The Letter to the Editor** invites you to defend all human life especially those that are susceptible to abortion because they are inconvenient, handicapped, or possibly the product of rape. Are these children not fully human and therefore not deserving of our love and protection? Because they may be rejected by man but are still a chosen and loved creation of God, can you defend them?

How are you called to protect human life?

You are a witness to acts of kindness, bravery, and acts of violence. You have a voice and an opportunity to shape the culture in which you will be living your life. Your voice should be heard especially when defending life. Because God is the master designer and creator, he has all the necessary ingredients for a wonderful masterpiece but if one of those ingredients (aka a person), is removed from the masterpiece, everything can turn out differently from God’s intention.

In our culture there are many challenges to our faith and our firmly held beliefs in the sacredness of human life that comes from God. Human life should be protected and respected in all developmental stages and social conditions. To stand up for and support life means you are pro-life!

With this in mind, what does it mean to be American, Catholic, and Pro-Life? What laws exist in America today that are not pro-life regarding the unborn, the elderly, and the sick? What does the Catholic Church teach about this? Does this conflict with your beliefs as an American and a Catholic Christian? How can you protect life? Will your letter influence someone and change their heart about human life?

Research our Founding Fathers speeches about the right to life. What did Abraham Lincoln say about equality and life? Find out what people like Margaret Sanger said about certain lives and how they do not matter. Get your facts and start to express your viewpoint on being American, Catholic, and Pro-Life. You can **Influence Your Community!**

Create a separate bibliography to show your sources. Be factual. Be persuasive. Be life-changing!

Good Luck.