

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.

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

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Walking With Moms in Need Collection List ~

Collect items for social service organizations to further bring home how one can make a difference in another's life. It is helpful to arrange a visit to one of the sites where items are donated or to have a representative address the students.

- Grades K-1: Canned pasta, spaghetti, sauce, canned pork and beans, canned tuna/meat
Benefit/Recipient – Hungry/Catholic Charities or local Food Bank
- Grade 2: Diapers and wipes
Benefit/Recipient – Single Moms/Pregnancy Centers & Maternity Homes
- Grade 3: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss (Dollar Store)
Benefit/Recipient – Homeless/Homeless Shelters and Healthcare Centers in Duval & St. Johns
- Grades 4-5: Disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant, antibiotic ointment, band-aids, insect repellent (Dollar Store)
Benefit/Recipient – Homeless/Homeless Shelters and Healthcare Centers in Duval & St. Johns
- Grade 6: Gift cards of any amount to Publix, Walmart, Winn Dixie, Target, etc.
Benefit/Recipient – Moms in Need/Pregnancy Centers & Maternity Homes
- Grade 7: Socks, underwear, t-shirts (men and women, any size) (Dollar Store)
Benefit/Recipient – Homeless/Homeless Shelters and Healthcare Centers in Duval & St. Johns
- Grade 8: Peanut butter, jelly, boxed cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars
Benefit/Recipient – Hungry/Catholic Charities or local Food Bank

Contact the Office of Human Life & Dignity at 904-262-3200 or the designated agencies to pick up the donated items or arrange for delivery of the items yourself.

***Thank you for your generosity and for helping others in our community!
These items go a long way to help those in need.***

“I will never tire of repeating this: what the poor need the most is not pity but love. They need to feel respect for their human dignity, which is neither less nor different from the dignity of any other human being.”

- Saint Mother Teresa

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

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

- Subject: **AWARENESS** – We are uniquely and individually made by God
- Grade: 50% demonstrates knowledge of concept, 40% effort, 10% neatness
- Size: 8½ x 11” Fingerprint Family page provided
- Due Date: 10/30/2021
- 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!

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Grades K, 1 and 2 Parent Instructions – Fingerprint Family Artwork ~

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.

A winner from the class will be recognized.

My Name Is _____

OUR FINGERPRINT FAMILY

Our Family Shows Love By:

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

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

- Subject: **PRAYER** – Respect and Love Each Other
- Grade: 50% demonstrates knowledge of concept, 40% effort, 10% neatness
- Size: Index Card either 3 x 5” or 5 x 7”
- Due Date: 10/30/2021
- 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 in 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 they want to pray for. Their prayer should begin with this prompt:

My prayer for life is...

- or -

I follow in Jesus' footsteps by...

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!

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Grades 6 and 7 Rubric – Poster ~

Subject: **INFLUENCE YOUR SCHOOL** – Respect for All Those in Society

Grade: 50% demonstrates knowledge of concept, 40% effort, 10% neatness

Size: 8 ½ x 11" Paper

Due Date: 10/30/2021

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.

Think of how you can follow St. Joseph, who was called to protect and defend Jesus and Mary. How would you follow him 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 have the ability to use your artwork to influence someone and bring about awareness to 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!

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Grade 8 Rubric – Essay ~

Subject: **INFLUENCE YOUR SCHOOL** – Respect for All Those in Society

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

Size: 8 ½ x 11" Paper, 300 word minimum

Due Date: 10/30/2021

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 imitate St. Joseph and 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?

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 making 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 have the ability to use your words to **Influence Your School** and bring about awareness to 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

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

Size: 8 ½ x 11” Paper

Due Date: 10/30/2021

Objective: St. Joseph was called to protect Jesus and Mary.

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 you will be living your life in. 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 which was not God's intention.

In our culture today 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 American 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.

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Letter from the Director ~

To: Catholic Elementary School Principals, DREs, Homeschool Associations

From: May Oliver, Director
Office of Human Life & Dignity
Diocese of St. Augustine

Date: August 2021

Re: Respecting Life Begins With Me Program – **October 1-31, 2021**

Thank you to all who participated in last year's contest. It is a joy to share the calendar of winning entries with people throughout the diocese.

The purpose of the "Respecting Life Begins with Me" program is to bring a developmental approach to the conversation between youth, family, and teachers about respect for all human life at all stages and conditions. Awareness for the respect for life begins within the relationships of family and friends in early childhood. Expecting respect for ourselves and each other fosters the understanding and awareness of others: the unborn, the sick and elderly, those with special needs, prisoners on death row and the terminally ill.

The developmental goals are:

LEVEL 1 (K-1-2) Awareness

LEVEL 2 (3-4-5) Prayer

LEVEL 3 (6-7-8) Influencing Your School & Community

This program is to be completed during October, Respect Life Month. This way, the entries will be available for use during January's Respect Life activities and Catholic Schools week.

1. Please submit all winning entries, whether artwork or essays, from Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, and include a release form for each.
2. You may submit *both* a Level 3 winner for the poster contest and a Level 3 winner for the essay contest.
3. Choose one Overall Winner from among your Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 winners to represent your program.

Once again, this year we would like to draw attention to the importance of participants generating original artwork and writing, so please carefully review the participation guidelines.

Sincerely in Christ,

May Oliver

May Oliver
Director, Office of Human Life & Dignity

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Theme ~

The Respect Life Theme from the USCCB for 2021-22 is:

St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Level	Grades	Participation Options
Level 1	K-1-2	Fingerprint Family Worksheet
Level 2	3-4-5	3 x 5 Prayer Cards
Level 3	6-7-8	8 ½ x 11 Poster, Essay or Letter to an Editor

~ Suggestions ~

100% Participation Prize

You are encouraged to think of creative ways to get 100% participation. We encourage you to offer this contest as a graded Religion Assignment. If your program achieves 100% participation check “yes” on line #4 of the submission form.

Find Creative Opportunities to Display all Entries:

1. Catholic Schools Week – We encourage you to use this program and display all entries during Catholic Schools Week.
2. Presentation of Certificates - Please make the presentation of the certificates into a special occasion if possible. You could recognize the children after a school Mass or a Sunday Mass, or on the last night of religious education. Invite the parents to your awards ceremony. This supports our goal of family conversation about life issues. The Office of Human Life & Dignity tries to visit a few schools to present awards in person.

If you have any questions, you may contact us at moliver@dosaf1.com or (904) 262-3200 ext. 159.

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Contest Rules ~

Please read each item carefully. Failure to submit all indicated items will result in exclusion from the contest.

1. **Forms** – The submission form and ALL items below are due by November 12, 2021:

- Submission Form** - filled out completely
- Original artwork** of all winning entries
- Original essay or letter** of winning entry
- Release of Original Work form** – This is required for **ALL** winning entry students filled out by their parent/guardian. If we receive a winning entry without this form, we cannot award the recipient.
- 100% Participation Prize Selection Form** (if applicable) - A prize is given to programs that involve all classes in the contest. You must receive entries from all the classes in your school or program in order to win a prize.

Note: If you do not meet the 100% participation requirements, check “no” for item #4 on the Submission Form. If “yes” be sure to indicate your choice of prize from the prize selection sheet.

2. **Original Work** – All entries must be original works:

- a. Text Quotes – Must be properly cited indicating the author, source, date it was written and date the quote was retrieved. (APA or MLA citation formats preferred)
- b. Professional Photos – Of family/non-family members need a written release in order to be used
- c. We Are Not Able to Accept - Entries with pictures, images, or graphic design elements not originally generated by the student (for example, images from Google)

IMPORTANT Note: Any entries that are not strictly original works will, unfortunately, be excluded from the contest due to copyright concerns.

3. **Theme** – Only entries that focus on **human life** will be chosen

4. **Winning Entries**

- a. Winners are chosen by the School, Religious Education Program, or Home School Association.
- b. Winners can be determined by Principal/DRE/Association Coordinator or by a panel of “judges” (i.e., RL Team, KOC, etc.).
- c. One winning entry is chosen for each level.
- d. One separate winning essay entry may be chosen for Level 3.
- e. From Level 1, 2 & Level 3 winners, **ONLY ONE** can be chosen as the Overall Winner.
- f. Include all winner’s work in the mailing. Indicate the winning entries on line 3 of submission form and overall poster winner on line 4 of submission form.

5. Each participating program will be listed in the Respect Life Calendar. Due to limited space, we regretfully are unable to include all artwork received in the calendar. Two copies of the calendar are mailed to the contact listed on the submission form: one for the overall winner and one for the program/school.

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

6. A certificate signed by the Bishop and a precious feet pin are awarded to the **Overall Winners**. The **Level Winners** will receive a certificate signed by the Director of the Office of Human Life & Dignity. These are mailed to the contact listed on the submission form.

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Submission Form ~

Complete this Submission Form, include all winning entries and Release Forms, and mail to:

Diocese of St. Augustine
Office of Human Life & Dignity
11625 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32258

For questions, contact May Oliver at moliver@dosafll.com or (904) 262-3200 x 159.

ALL INFORMATION MUST BE PROVIDED

1. **Type of Program** – Select one and indicate school or program name:
(Note: a separate form must be submitted for each school or program)

School _____
 Religious Education Program _____
 Home School Association _____

2. **Address** – School/Program address where winning certificates will be mailed:

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

3. **Winning Entries** – Certificates will be provided. *Send **ALL** artwork and release forms for the Overall Winner(s) and Level winners.

Level 1 Grades K-1-2 Name _____

Level 2 Grades 3-4-5 Name _____

Level 3 Grades 6-7-8:

Poster Contest Winner Name _____

Essay or Letter Contest Winner Name _____

4. **100% Program Participation:** Yes No

If Yes, indicate prize (options on page 7) _____

5. **Overall Winner** - Select one entry from Level 1, 2 or 3.

Name _____

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

LEVEL ___ WINNER: _____
or

OVERALL WINNER: _____
(Please check one above)

~ Release of Original Work ~

By submitting this entry, I hereby certify that the entry submitted is an original work created by the student on whose behalf I am signing. I understand that the entry submitted becomes the property of the Office of Human Life & Dignity (HLD) with all rights to reproduce, exhibit, and otherwise use such entries for the purposes of HLD. I release HLD from any claims and demands arising out of the use of the entry.

Note: Please feel free to reproduce artwork before submitting. Artwork will not be returned.

Name of Student (Please Print)

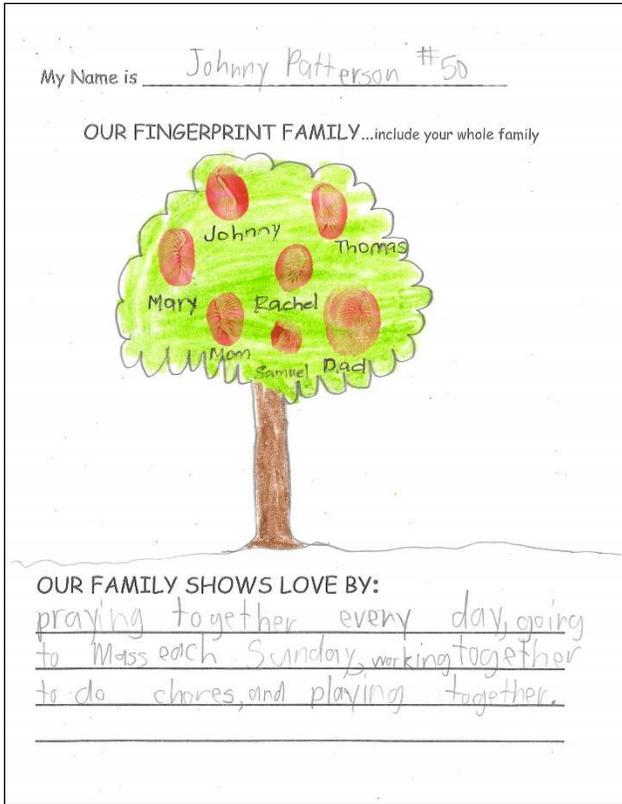
Name of Parent/Guardian (Please Print)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

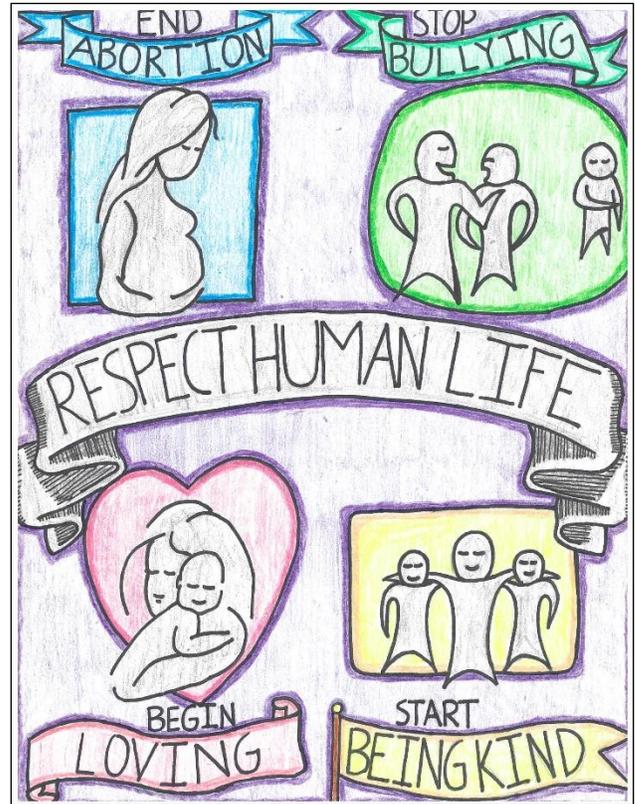
Date

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ Overall Winner Samples – RLBWM 2020 ~



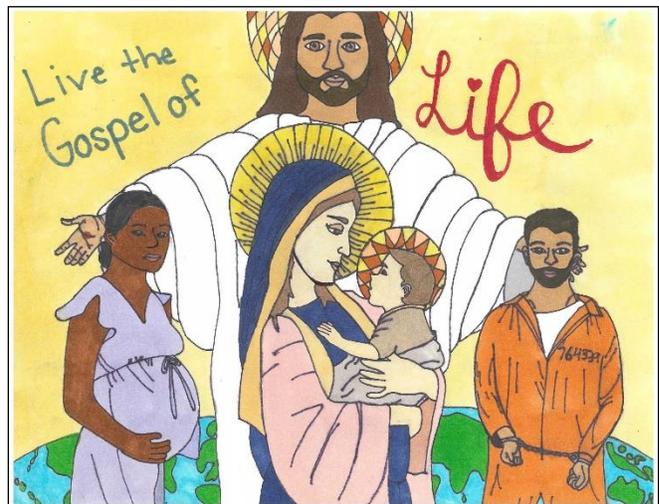
Johnny Patterson
St. Joseph Catholic School



Diego Ybanez
San Juan del Rio Catholic School



Emma Anderson
St. Francis of Assisi PREP

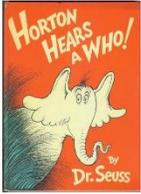


Madeleine Swan
Holy Family Catholic School

Respecting Life Begins With Me (RLBWM)

~ 100% Participation | Prize Selection Options ~

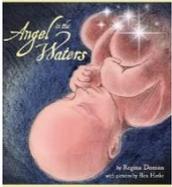
School/program is eligible if an entry from every class of your program is received. This does not mean 100% of the students in each class have to participate. **Indicate prize selection on Submission Form.**



Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss

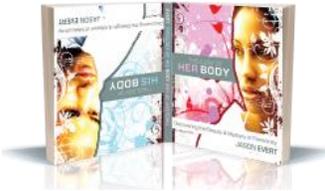
Horton realizes the inherent dignity in all life, regardless of whether it fits into commonly held conceptions.

"A person's a person no matter how small."



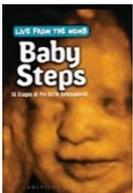
Angel in the Waters by Regina Doman

In its mother's womb, a tiny baby grows, explores the waters, and talks with the angel who is there. Book has illustrations and wise words tell the story of that baby and the angel in the waters. . . a story that delights all children, because the journey from conception to birth is their story, too.



Theology of Her/His Body by Jason Evert

Two books in one that will feed your teens with liberating answers to their most pressing questions about love and sexuality. Teens are encouraged to not only learn the truth about their own body, but also to discover the beauty of the opposite sex, for it is in seeing the complementarity of the two sexes that one discovers the real meaning of his or her own body and the invitation to love as God loves.



Live from the Womb: Baby Steps DVD

16 Stages of Pre-Birth Development. Amazing 4-D Ultrasound imagery features preborn babies, 7 weeks to 22 weeks old, as they roll, yawn, spin, smile, blink, stretch and sneeze.