SAMPLE ACTIVITY
Interactive Respect Life Bulletin Board

This activity utilizes the Respect Life Program poster to help unpack the theme, “Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life.” The idea is to hang the Respect Life Program poster in the center of a large bulletin board or other prominent area with space around it. Then, invite members of your parish, class, youth group, or other ministry group to add their own items illustrating and unpacking the Respect Life theme to the board or to the surrounding area.

To illustrate the concept you can pin some examples: a sonogram photo of a new family member; a birth announcement; a prayer card from the funeral of a loved one; a picture of aging grandparents; a flyer for an upcoming abortion-healing retreat; a note about volunteer opportunities at a local pregnancy center; or a sticky note with a prayer request related to cherishing life. This is where you can get creative! Invite others to pin items that help them see Christ’s presence in all the seasons of our life, from the beginning of life to its end.

Materials
- 2019-2020 Respect Life Program poster
- Large bulletin board (or a large wall or window)
- Push pins, tape, and/or a stapler
- Notecards or sticky notes
- Writing utensils (pens, pencils, markers)
- Scissors, optional
- Construction paper in various colors, optional

Directions
1. Place the poster in the center of a large bulletin board in your parish or school. (If you don’t have a large bulletin board, you can also use a wall or window to achieve a similar result. Simply swap out push pins for tape.)
2. Beneath the poster, post an explanation of the display so those who pass by can draw inspiration or participate.

Sample Explanation
October is Respect Life Month. This year’s theme is “Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life.” This Respect Life Bulletin Board is meant to unpack this theme and help us see Christ’s presence in every stage of life—from birth announcements to funeral cards and prayer requests to service opportunities. The central poster serves as an example and inspiration for our parish’s unique display. All parishioners are invited to participate by adding their own items that highlight the precious gift of life in its many seasons.

3. Select a number of items to post to get the bulletin board started. Choose from some of the examples listed above. Consider writing one of the provided intercessions for Respect Life Sunday/Month on a notecard and pinning it to the bulletin board.

4. Invite others to join in the activity by contributing their own content to the bulletin board. You will need to determine the best way to explain it and have participants bring items in. For example, if your whole parish is invited to participate, consider putting a note in the weekly bulletin or making an announcement before or after Mass. In a classroom or youth group setting, you can simply explain the activity and perhaps send a note home to parents. Families can also do this activity at home.
Sample Announcements

September 28–29

Please join us in celebrating Respect Life Month during October. We will be hosting a Respect Life Bulletin Board in the ________. All parishioners are invited to participate by bringing in items that reflect this year’s theme, “Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life.” You can add items to the bulletin board that help you to see Christ’s presence in all the seasons of life. Examples of items you may consider pinning to the display could include: an ultrasound photo of a new family member; a birth announcement; a prayer card from the funeral of a loved one; a note about volunteer opportunities at a local pregnancy center; or a sticky note with a prayer request. Be creative! Materials will be on hand in the ________ to help you get started.

If you would like to have your item returned, please pick it up from the display by October 30. Contact __________ for more information: ____________________.

October 5–6

This weekend, we celebrate Respect Life Sunday and kick off October as Respect Life Month. All parishioners are invited to help us celebrate by posting items to our Respect Life bulletin board located in the ________. For more information, stop by the display after Mass or see the bulletin. We will continue to expand the display throughout the month. We welcome you in helping us celebrate the gift of life through your participation.

5. In a smaller group setting, once the bulletin board is complete, ask those who pinned items to the board to explain why they chose that specific item and what connection they see to Respect Life topics and themes.

Optional Embellishments

1. If you would like to be extra creative, you can divide your bulletin board in four quadrants—each quadrant representing one of the four seasons.

2. Before hanging the poster, use brown construction paper to make a tree trunk and branches. Cut out orange, yellow, and red leaves for fall; snowflakes for winter; flower blossoms for spring; and green leaves for summer.

3. Attach these cutouts in the designated quadrant to create a four-seasons tree. These can be added sparingly without needing to fill in the entire bulletin board. You’ll want to ensure there is still blank space to post other items. These embellishments will just help illustrate the “seasons” of life highlighted by the theme.

4. Hang the poster in the center of the bulletin board. Now you’re ready to start adding your unique items!