

2025

Catholic Ministries Appeal
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Renewed by the Eucharist
Sent on Mission*



Happy Autumn!



“It is so important that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today.”

-- Pope Leo XIV

October is Respect Life month. As faithful Catholics we are aware that respecting life is a constant pursuit. May we always consider more deeply that every human life is valuable and reflect on how we can build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.

With your support, we can achieve this challenge of keeping the sanctity of life at the forefront of our community and society. Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal provides Respect Life initiatives through prayer services, education, witness and action.

Does Your Estate Plan Include A Pro-Life Medical Directive? By Mark Henry

When you get your estate plan done, it is an opportune time to make sure that decisions involving serious medical treatment issues will be made consistent with your Catholic values.

This is important as it enables you to clarify to your family and friends

what your wishes are when it comes to critical end of life medical decisions.

Unfortunately, many Catholics overlook getting an **Advance Medical Declaration** that is consistent with Catholic teachings on end of life matters. In fact, many people sign Living Will forms which may lead to health care treatment that is contrary to Catholic pro-life teachings.

Without written medical treatment instructions, a person's surviving family is left guessing what a relative's wishes are concerning end of life medical decisions. Should they insist that the hospital continue to provide life-sustaining care to their aged and sick parent, or should they yield to pressure to consent to their loved one being euthanized by discontinuance of ordinary life-sustaining care?

Often, Catholics who seek guidance on end of life matters are told that it is permissible to stop providing normal life-sustaining care to a loved one who has become hospitalized. This is unfortunate since it "paves the way" for a faithful Catholic's family to give their consent to something that is wholly inconsistent with Catholic moral teachings; the euthanizing of their loved one.

Euthanasia is not a permissible choice for Catholics. However, this does not mean that Catholics need to fight death heroically by employing every available medical procedure to oppose death. ***In the Declaration on Euthanasia, the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith states "When death is clearly imminent and inevitable, one can in conscience refuse forms of treatment that would only secure a precarious and burdensome prolongation of life, so long as the normal care to the sick person in similar cases is not interrupted."*** See, Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, Declaration on Euthanasia (1980).

It is important to understand the real meaning of the term "normal care" when you are considering your end of life medical planning. Many Catholic medical ethicists believe that unless a patient is near death and can no longer assimilate food and fluids, providing the patient with nutrition and hydration should be considered "normal care".

Why do Catholics need to be knowledgeable about such a detailed medical issue when they are doing their estate planning? It is because many Catholics end up including a Living Will document in their estate plans. The Living Will is a commonly used, yet misunderstood estate planning document, which usually gives the hospital permission to cease providing normal ordinary life-sustaining medical care to a patient.

There are "code" words that Catholics should be on the look out for when reviewing a Living Will or other Medical Treatment document before deciding whether to sign the document. These code words include terms like *comfort care*, *quality of life*, *heroic measures*, and *artificial means*. You may want to exercise caution before signing a

Living Will form that contains these problematic terms. This is because such a document may put you at risk of not receiving life-sustaining care which, according to Catholic teachings, may be considered normal care and morally obligatory.

Instead, when getting your estate plan done you may want to consider getting a Pro-Life Health Care Declaration that directs your health care providers to provide you end-of-life health care which respects your pro-life Catholic values.

Seek the advice of an independent advisor, legal, medical or financial, before implementing any planning strategies or ideas. If you would like more information, ideas, or help with this process, please call Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or email her at bkilarjian@drvc.org or get ideas on what type of legacy you can leave at www.drvc.org/planned-giving



Back to School: Supporting Long Island Families in Need

As fall returns and the new school year is underway, for children this season often brings the excitement of new teachers, classmates, and opportunities to grow in knowledge and faith. But for many families, “back to school” also means stress, worry, and financial strain.

While Long Island is known for its beaches, thriving communities, and excellent schools, thousands of children here live at or below the poverty level. For these families, the cost of school supplies, new shoes, backpacks, and even daily lunches can feel overwhelming. Instead of being filled with joy and anticipation, the school year can begin with anxiety and uncertainty.

The Hidden Struggle on Long Island

Behind the bustling neighborhoods and busy schedules, too many parents face difficult choices between paying rent or buying notebooks, putting food on the table or replacing worn-out sneakers. These struggles often remain unseen, yet they impact children right here in our parishes and schools.

No child should have to start the school year without the essentials that

help them learn and thrive. Beyond pencils and paper, these items symbolize dignity, belonging, and hope.

How We Can Help

This is where faith in action comes alive. Parish Social Ministries and Catholic ministries across Long Island work tirelessly to provide families with the support they need, whether it's backpacks filled with supplies, healthy meals, or emergency assistance. These programs, sustained by the generosity of parishioners, remind families that they are not alone.

When you give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you help ensure that children in need can walk into their classrooms with confidence, ready to learn and grow. Your generosity provides more than material items; it plants seeds of hope, stability, and faith for families struggling to make ends meet.

A Call to Compassion

As we send our own children and grandchildren back to school, let's remember those who are silently carrying heavier burdens. Together, we can make this school year brighter for every child on Long Island, ensuring they have the resources and support they need to succeed.

In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: *"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."* Every donation, every act of kindness, makes a difference.

Happening in the Diocese



Holy Trinity High School

98 Cherry Lane Hicksville, NY

Open House

Saturday, October 18 . 10 am - 1 pm



(516) 433-2900 ext. 151

holytrinityhs.org

St. John the Baptist
Diocesan High School



**RISE TO THE
CHALLENGE**



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 25th
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

GET A GLIMPSE OF LIFE AT SJB! 🐾 TOURS AVAILABLE!

**REGISTRATION IS
REQUIRED!**

Scan the QR Code to register!



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