**Parochial Self-Assessment:**

**Implementation of Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities**

**­**

In 1995, Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical, entitled *Evangelum Vitae*, called upon all the resources of the Church—its people, services, and institutions—to pursue pro-life efforts with renewed energy and commitment in four major areas: Prayer and Worship, Public Information and Education, Pastoral Care, and Public Policy Advocacy.

This self-assessment is meant to evaluate the success of and dedication to fulfilling the Holy Father’s call to action.

**How do we PRAY?** (In what ways does our parish encourage our faithful to do so—in defense against the Culture of Death?)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How do we EDUCATE?** (What efforts do we undertake to deepen respect for human life and heighten public opposition to life issues—BOTH in the Catholic community we serve, AND for the general public?)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How do we ACT?** (What pastoral care efforts do we initiate and what pro-life action groups/agencies do we support and participate in to support life?)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How do we ADVOCATE?** (How do we fulfill our responsibility of cooperation and collaboration with advocacy efforts by citizens at all levels to achieve both the long- and short-term goals of a comprehensive pro-life public policy program?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Ideas for Pro-Life Activism in Parish Communities**

**Prayer and Worship**

* Do the General Intercessions at Mass regularly include petitions to foster respect for all life, especially the unborn?
* Do we have a pro-life liturgy on Respect Life Sunday (the first Sunday in October)?
* Do we have pro-life liturgies on other Sundays throughout the year with appropriate themes to foster a greater respect for life?
* Do we have special prayer services including Eucharistic Adoration to intercede for those affected by abortion and assisted suicide?
* Do we participate in 40 Days for Life or any prayer for life events in our area? Do we organize rosaries for life in our parish?
* Do we have other programs such as spiritual adoption or other ideas?
* Does our parish incorporate life themes in our parish missions and liturgical calendar (e.g., mercy? theme for post-abortion healing)?

**Public Information and Education**

* Are there pro-life homilies several times throughout the year, including Respect Life Sunday and the Sunday before January 22, the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States?
* Do we invite speakers on life issues to share their testimony at the end of Mass or at another appropriate time (e.g., a post-abortion testimony, couple with adverse prenatal diagnosis)?
* Do we have regular or frequent pro-life bulletin announcements?
* Do we have information about pro-life activities in the parish vestibules?
* Does our parish school have an educational program that promotes pro-life awareness and chastity?

Does our school participate in the Diocesan Respect Life Week in January?

* Do we have adult educational programs on pro-life topics?
* Does our catechism and RCIA formation cover pro-life issues? Are our DREs and Catechists formed in

pro-life issues?

* Are these programs publicized in the community?

**Pastoral Care**

* Do we have a method of seeking out distressed pregnant women and learning of their needs?
* Does my parish have a Diocesan Crisis-Pregnancy/Post-Abortion resource poster at the doors of the Church and other visible places within the parish?
* Do my priests have post-abortion healing resource palm cards in the confessional for penitents?
* Can pregnant women get help with counseling, support, medical help, clothing or housing?
* Does the parish support the local crisis pregnancy center and maternity home with financial aid, volunteer recruitment, clothing, and equipment collections?
* Are the services of the local crisis pregnancy centers and maternity home publicized?
* Do we know about post-abortion ministries in our Diocese? Do we advertise and refer people to it?
* Are the needs of the disabled, dying, and elderly addressed/met?

**Public Policy Advocacy**

* Do we promote letter-writing and petitions to public officials in support of or opposed to pro-life issues?
* Does the parish participate in pro-life activities such as the pro-life prayer vigils and the OneLife LA Walk for Life or any other local walk/march?
* Do we have a program to promote and assist in voter registration?
* Do we publicly commemorate January 22?
* Do we monitor the media and respond to attacks on the sanctity of life through letters to the editor or phone calls to radio and TV stations?