

To: Catholic Elementary School Principals, DREs, Home School Associations

From: Lorraine Allaire, Director of Family Life/Respect Life

Date: November 7, 2011

Re: Respect Life Contest – January 1-31, 2012

Thank you to all who participated in last year's contest. It's a joy to share the booklet of winning entries with people throughout the diocese. A few of the winning entries are featured in the 2012 contest materials.

The purpose of the annual Respect Life Contest is to create an opportunity for teachers and children to discuss the theme(s) and the need to respect human life in all forms: the unborn, the disabled, the sick, the elderly and those with special needs. This year's themes are listed below along with instructions for participation. Lesson guides/suggestions are included.

**Theme 1:** I came so that all might have life and have it to the full!

**OR**

**Theme 2 – Optional essay topic:** Why is conscience protection important?

**Level 1** - Poster 8 ½" by 11" - Grade K-1-2

**Level 2** - Poster 8 ½" by 11" or poem - Grade 3-4-5

**Level 3** – Poster 8 ½" x 11", essay (200 word minimum),  
PowerPoint, video, small group collage (poster board) - Grade 6-7-8

1. A submission form is required **by February 20, 2012** by mail or use the form as a guide to submit your information via email. The overall winning entry must be included with the submission form. If a collage is chosen, take a digital photo of the collage and submit as an email attachment.
2. Only entries that focus on human life should be chosen. **Schools that wish to incorporate this contest into Catholic Schools Week should modify dates so that a winner is chosen during the last week in January.**
3. The overall winner from each participating program will be included in the 2012 Respect Life Contest Booklet. Two copies of the Booklet are mailed to the contact name on the submission form: one for the winner and one for the program/school.
4. A certificate signed by the Bishop and a precious feet pin are provided for each level winner. These are mailed to the contact name on the submission form. Please make the presentation of these certificates into a special occasion if possible. Recognizing the children after Sunday Mass could allow the parents to be included.

Sample of a winner's packet.



5. **Find creative opportunities to display all entries:** the parish center during Sunday coffee hour, a vestibule display, insert a winning essay in the bulletin. This allows the whole church community to see the value of human life as presented through the eyes of their children.
6. **100% Participation Prize** - A prize is given to programs that involve all classes in the contest. This does not mean that 100% of the students in each class must participate, but that **you must receive entries from all the classes in your school or program.** Programs are encouraged to think of creative ways to get 100% participation (like dress down day, extended recess, etc.). If your program meets this criterion, include the optional prize selection form when you send in your submission form.

The following contest posters can be printed for classroom use. If I can be of assistance in any way, please contact me at 904-308-7474.

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### **Respect Life Contest 2012 Submission Form**

Complete this form and mail along with the overall winning entry to:

Director, Diocesan Center for Family Life

2577 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204

or email complete information to: [ccalovich@dosaf1.com](mailto:ccalovich@dosaf1.com)

*(Include completed optional prize selection form if you qualify.)*

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Select one and list school or program name:

School \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Education Program \_\_\_\_\_

Home School Association \_\_\_\_\_

Winning entries (certificates will be provided):

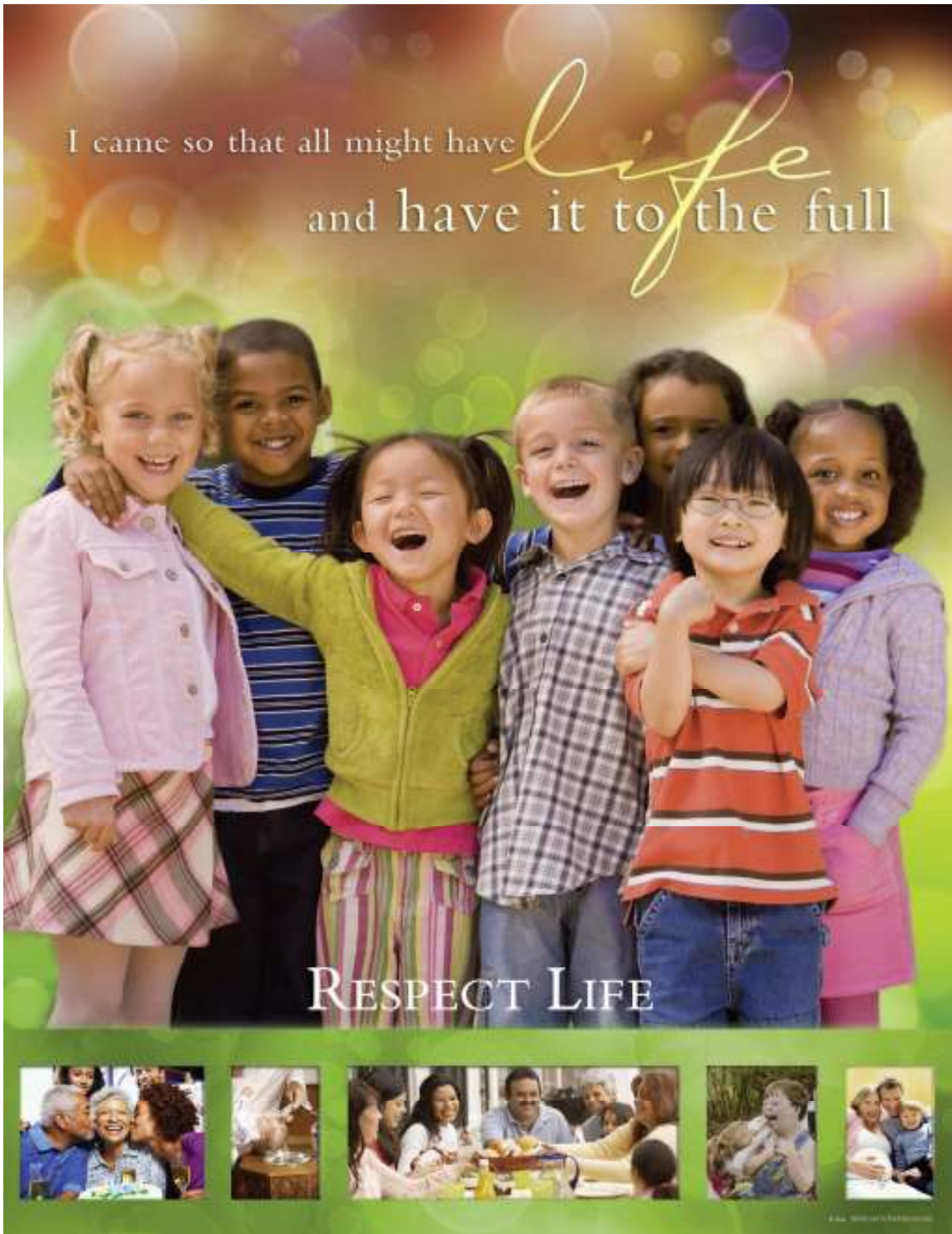
Level 1 Grades K – 2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Level 2 Grades 3 – 5 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Level 3 Grades 6 – 8 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Overall Winner (best of level 1, 2 & 3) – Submit ONLY this entry.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



**2012 RESPECT LIFE CONTEST THEME**

*I came that all might have life and  
have it to the full!*

**Sample Essay – 2011 Contest**  
Olivia Wingert, JPII Catholic Home School Group

**The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure!**

I'm going to tell you a true story that happened not too long ago.  
My cousins Dorothy and Isaac were blessed with a baby  
and a surprise they didn't yet know.

We got a call one day.

It was Dorothy from London who said she was pregnant with three!  
O glory be!

They wasted no time and hurried back to the states.

They were set up with their doctors and began the wait.

Once every three weeks she had an ultrasound.

Baby C was much smaller than Baby A and Baby B.

Many times the doctors urged Dorothy and Isaac to reduce Baby C.

But Dorothy stood strong. They wanted a family of three.

And it was to be!

The babies were twelve weeks early,  
they were all born premature.

Baby C had an umbilical cord the size of a hair,  
and for that the outcome was still unsure.

The doctors don't know what happened or how the baby lived.

Lily was 2 pounds, Phinneas was 3 pounds and Thaddeus was 1 pound.  
Lil and Phin were in the NICU for 50 days, but Thad was there for 70 days.

Thank the Lord they are all home now safe and sound.

Dorothy and Isaac stood up strong, they never let their spirits down.



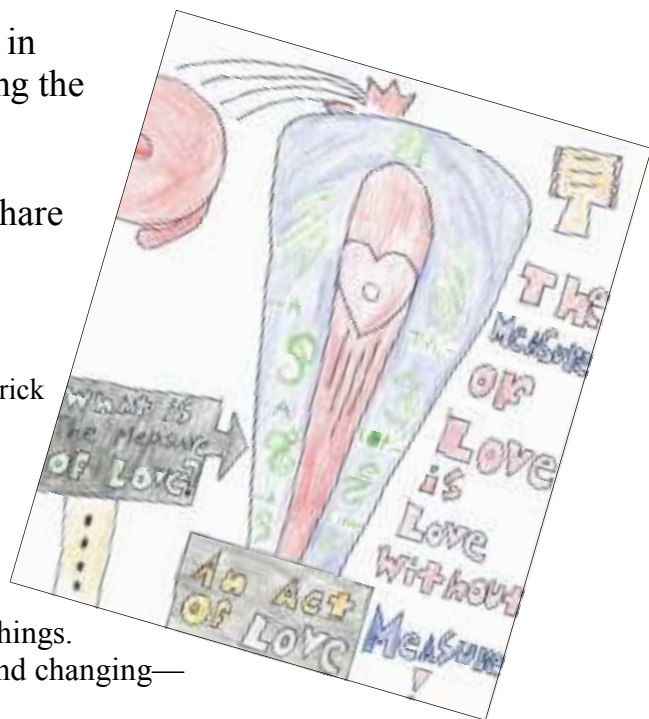
## Optional Section SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

This section is for teachers who would like supplemental ways to bring the life issues into their classrooms.

These materials are not required for those participating in the Respect Life Contest and can be used anytime during the year to supplement textbook material.

If you have material or suggestions you would like to share concerning life issues, please send your comments to [respectlife@dcfl.org](mailto:respectlife@dcfl.org) or fax to 904-308-4087.

Ben Porter - St. Patrick  
Interparish School



### Respect Life Lesson Guides Grades Kindergarten, 1 & 2

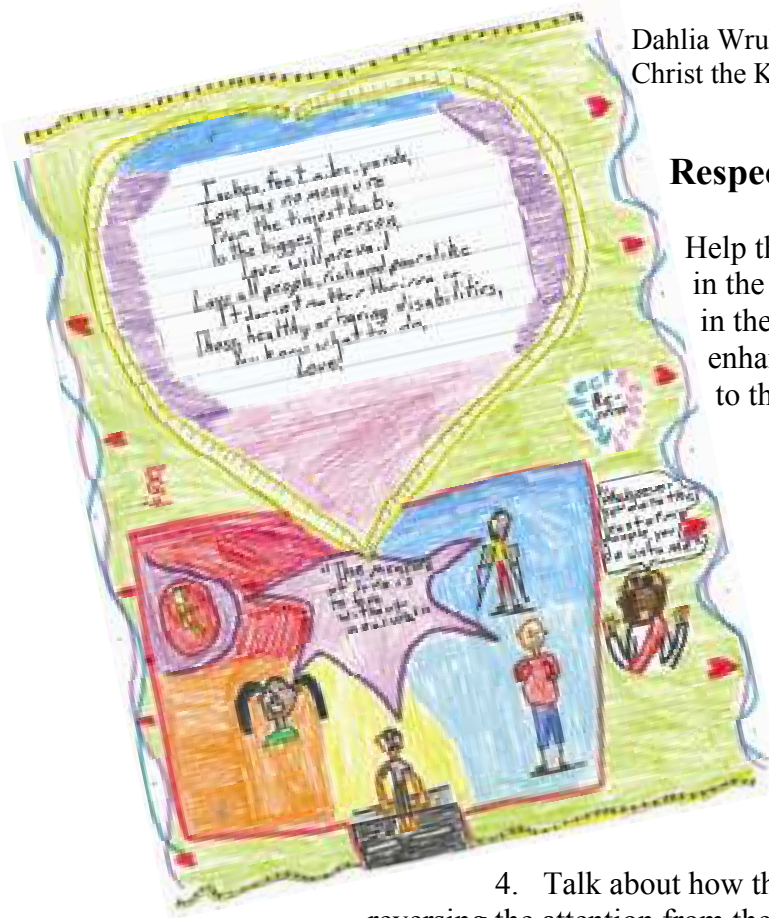
Give the children an opportunity to explore the world of living things. Make them aware that all living things are constantly growing and changing—especially people.

Explain that God planned the cycle of change for all living things. As people live and grow each one continuously fulfills God's plan.

1. Point out familiar things in your environment that are growing and changing. What can a person do that a tree, plant or flower cannot?
2. If a child is expecting a new family member, let them share how their family is getting ready.
3. Discuss other stages and situations in life—teenagers, grandparents, people with disabilities, family members in nursing homes, disabled family members.
4. Talk about “ME” and what changes have taken place (growth, appearances, etc.)
5. Have children compose a prayer about the gift of life and share it.
6. Have children share mementos of when each was a baby. Have them mention times that were especially enjoyable or important in their families or in our community (birthdays, parish activities, sibling's events). Let them know that the family is God's plan. Discuss how all children start very small and grow inside the mother. Once each is born they continue their growth in a family. Share that God gives each one a purpose in life.
7. Relate that children are born and mature into people who think and act for the benefit of helping others.

## Information on Life

All human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death. God calls us to love one another. We give and receive respect as a sign of that love. Expecting respect for ourselves and each other fosters an understanding of the need to respect life in all forms: the unborn, the sick and elderly, those with special needs and anyone who may seem different from us.



Dahlia Wrubluski  
Christ the King Catholic School

## Respect Life Lesson Guide - Grades 3, 4, 5

Help the children become aware that each child is unique in the sight of God and this uniqueness is best developed in the family. A child's abilities and talents will be enhanced in life if those who care for them are sensitive to the gifts that each child possesses.

1. Explain that each child has a special family that they have been placed in on this earth. Ask them to name their family members. Ask them something particular about each person.
2. Ask the children what makes them feel good about being in their families. Ask them why they feel this way.
3. Ask children to tell about special experiences (birthday parties, picnics, visits with extended family or friends).
4. Talk about how they have grown and matured in life. Discuss reversing the attention from themselves to helping others. Instead of visiting a relative to play, do they go over to help with a new baby or to visit a sick person?
5. Ask the class to write down some important thoughts about themselves and family members or to compose prayers about how they are thankful for the gift of life.
6. Stress that caring and loving others is a reflection of God's love. Ask if they can see this reflection in how they behave and how others behave toward them.
7. Ask the children to share mementos of themselves and their families when they were babies. They can share pictures or a story from a family event.

## Information on Life

From the moment of conception, God has made you unique. At a specific time, he placed you in a family and He has a plan that only you can fulfill. As you grow and mature, your gift of self, developed with the help of your parents will allow you to mature into the image of God himself. You will reflect God to others by helping those within your family and respecting yourself as His unique and sacred creation.

## Respect Life Lesson Guide - Grades 6, 7, 8

Give students an opportunity to explore their feelings about the world around them and the family in which they live. Share that God is the source of life and we are dependent on Him. Help students understand that life is lived fully only when we realize that we are stewards of life and its gifts and that each of us is accountable to God.

1. Point out the most valuable gifts (life, breathing, faith, seeing, etc.) and have the students add to your list. Ask where the gifts come from.
2. Discuss how respect for the uniqueness of each individual life is experienced in the family and in the community, i.e. twins are unique.
3. Discuss the extended family. Discuss similarities and differences in families such as physical characteristics. How does sharing similarities (same color eyes, hair, etc. as a relative) contribute to a mutual love of those within the family? How does respect for differences help us recognize the uniqueness of God's creation? Students can create a "family tree" of similarities and differences.
4. Discuss that people are more than their physical or mental capabilities. Talk about the disabled, the elderly, the homeless, the mentally ill, etc. Allow time for group discussion. Show how these persons must be respected and viewed as part of God's plan for His creation.
5. Have students tell about civic activities in the parish community or school. Include service projects for Confirmation. How do these add to respect for life? How do they respond to what we are called by God to do?
6. Have panels of students discuss Catholic teachings on life topics (physician assisted suicide, unborn, embryonic stem cell research, in vitro fertilization, euthanasia, abortifacient nature of the birth control pill).

### Information on Life

We, the people of God, are stewards of life and are accountable for what we have been given. To fully experience this gift of life we must share what we have been given and respect all life. We do this when we understand that life is sacred and a gift from God our Creator.

Victoria Carbajal  
St. Mary Mother of Mercy  
Religious Education



## Optional Prize Selection Form

Program name \_\_\_\_\_

Schools and programs are eligible if every class participates in the contest (100% participation by students is not required). **Check prize selection below if school/program is eligible and include with 2012 Submission Form.**



- Horton Hears a Who** by Dr. Seuss  
Horton realizes the inherent dignity in all life, regardless of whether or not it fits into commonly held conceptions.

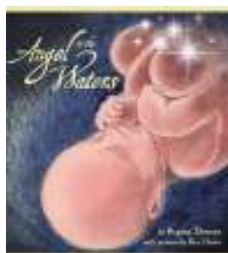
"A person's a person no matter how small."



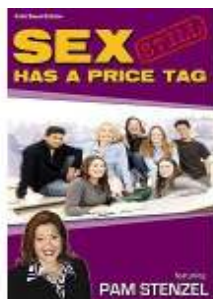
- Squire & Scroll** by Jennie Bishop and Preston McDaniels  
This adventure follows a young squire who travels a long, dangerous road beside his brave knight. Children will gain valuable insight as they learn what it means to face the dangers of temptation, and what it takes to guard one's heart from all that is impure.



- Princess and the Kiss** by Jennie Bishop and Preston McDaniels  
A king and queen present their daughter with a gift from God - her first kiss - to keep or to give away. The wise girl waits for the man who is worthy of her precious gift. Book portrays the ageless message that "love... comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."



- 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.



- Sex Still Has A Price Tag DVD** by Pam Stenzel  
A hard hitting look at the consequences of sexual activity outside of a monogamous, lifetime relationship.

For students 13+ years old.