



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Diocese to observe Respect Life Masses and events this month**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Jan. 7, 2014) – January marks the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Roe v. Wade, when abortion became legal across our nation. Since then, more than 55 million unborn babies have lost their lives, and their parents and family members have been forever changed. The Diocese of Green Bay will stand up for the dignity of human life in January through the annual diocesan Respect Life Masses, March for Life in Washington, D.C., and several other events.

As disciples of Christ, we are called to embrace the Gospel of Life, recognizing the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death. We encourage you to pray and fast, as well as participate in local marches for life and other pro-life events during the month of January.

#### **Respect Life Masses**

Bishop David L. Ricken will celebrate two Respect Life Masses: Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at St. Pius X, Appleton, and Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Green Bay. All are welcome to participate in the liturgy, which will focus on giving thanks to God for the gift of human life.

#### **Project Rachel Seminar**

A Project Rachel Seminar will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Benedict Parish, Suamico. Project Rachel is the national post-abortion reconciliation and healing ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States and abroad. Join Project Rachel founder Vicki Thorn for a free seminar about why women have abortions, the emotional effects on women, men and children, and much more.

For more information about the seminar and how to register, please visit the following website:

<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102600265125-2349/Project+Rachel+seminar+January+2014.pdf>

To find out more information about the Project Rachel ministry, click here: <http://hopeafterabortion.com/>.

#### **March for Life in Washington, D.C.**

From Jan. 17-23, approximately 100 pilgrims from the Diocese of Green Bay will travel to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

They will gather with thousands of other pro-life advocates as they march from the National Mall to the Supreme Court. Each year on the morning of the national March for Life, youth gather from across the county to participate in the Youth Rally and Mass for Life. Diocese of Green Bay pilgrims, along with Bishop Ricken and other priests, will join in these special events.

“This pilgrimage focuses on Christ – our everything – who gives us the courage to stand up for the unborn, the elderly, the poor, and the forgotten,” says Maria DeMeuse, Diocese of Green Bay Director of Youth Ministry. “The March for Life gives high schoolers the opportunity to defend life – our most precious gift!”

This pilgrimage is being organized by the Office of Youth Ministry.

### **March for Life in Green Bay**

Join Bishop Ricken, as well as other speakers, for a local March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 9:30 a.m. at the Brown County Courthouse, Green Bay. Walk in solidarity with others across the nation to raise awareness for the dignity of human life. Please visit the following website for more details: <http://www.thepoweroflife.org/>.

### **Pray with the bishops to end abortion**

In prayerful recognition, "Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage" will take place Jan. 18-26. Please visit the following website to see how you can join the 9 Days for Life: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm>

### **Pro-life film showing**

"Crescendo" – a short film by the producers of "Bella," Eduardo Verastegui, Jason Jones and Leo Severino, and executive producer Pattie Mallette, the mother of Justin Bieber – will be shown on Sunday, Jan. 19, from 1-2 p.m. at St. Bernard Parish, Appleton. Based on a true story, the film "Crescendo" is set in the 18th century Holy Roman Empire where a series of events turn an ordinary day into an extraordinary experience for a woman whose life will never be the same. The film is intended to raise awareness and support for crisis pregnancy centers across the nation. Please visit the following website for more details: [http://www.gbdioc.org/images/stories/Living-Justice/Dignity-Human-Life/Crescendo-Flyer\\_January-2014.pdf](http://www.gbdioc.org/images/stories/Living-Justice/Dignity-Human-Life/Crescendo-Flyer_January-2014.pdf)

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**Who we are:** The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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