



DIocese of Raleigh

Office of the Bishop

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October 5, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme chosen for this year's observance of Respect Life Month, *Each of Us Is a Masterpiece of God's Creation*, recalls the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: "Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn, and the poor are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." How important it is, then, for each of us to reaffirm our belief in the sacredness of human life and the purpose Our Lord has for each person, formed in the tender intimacy of His love.

Part of reaffirming that belief is to do what we can to serve as advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves. Please consider joining me at the fifth annual *Love My Life Youth Rally* and Mass for all of the faithful prior to the Raleigh March for Life on **January 17, 2015**. I also invite you to join the faithful from throughout our State on **January 22, 2015** at the North Carolina Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., followed by the national March for Life.

Through our prayer, advocacy, and works of compassion and mercy toward those who are the most vulnerable, may our observance of this Respect Life Month strengthen our witness to the dignity of all human life. Let our witness be an invitation to all people to discover anew that dignity and to embrace a Culture of Life.

May Our Lord Jesus bless you and your families and may Mary our Mother watch over you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh