



## REVERENCE FOR LIFE

- ✓ We oppose abortion and, until it becomes illegal, we oppose public funding and support restrictions on its practice
- ✓ We support patient-focused, quality end-of-life care, responsible patient autonomy and oppose legalizing assisted suicide.
- ✓ We support policies and services that assist pregnant women to make life-affirming choices.
- ✓ We support stem cell research that does not destroy or clone human embryos.
- ✓ We advocate for life in prison rather than the use of the death penalty.

## HUMAN LIFE – A FOUNDATIONAL RIGHT

*“All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor...deserv[e] the utmost reverence and respect.”*

*Pope Francis*

*“...It is necessary to raise awareness and form the lay faithful, especially those engaged in the field of politics, so that they may...act consistently by talking and collaborating with those who, in sincerity and intellectual honesty, share – if not the faith – at least the similar vision of humankind and society and its ethical consequences.”*

*Pope Francis*

Because we believe we are created in the image of God, we hold life to be sacred from conception to natural death. We believe that we are stewards of this gift of life from a loving God.

We support compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life care. We advocate for adequate pain control and availability of hospice care. We oppose assisted suicide or euthanasia as unwise and flawed public policy which ruptures the physician-patient relationship, puts vulnerable patients, particularly the elderly at risk of abuse, breaks our bonds of care for each other and validates suicide as a response to personal mental health challenges.

We support programs which offer medical, economic and emotional support for pregnant women and children, so there is no incentive to abort a child. We advocate for parental notification for minor abortions, full informed consent and restrictions, regulations and record keeping on abortion practice. Taxpayer funding for abortion should be removed since it coerces us to pay for a morally wrong personal action. We support adoption as an alternative to abortion.

We support non-embryonic stem cell research as the only ethical and efficacious source of treatment for many chronic diseases and spinal cord injuries. We oppose the production of cloned embryos—both for research and for reproduction—as it represents the commodification of human life.

We support life imprisonment without parole for those convicted of capital crimes rather than the death penalty. We have the means to protect ourselves without resorting to state violence.

For more information, visit [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org) or contact Sandra Palacios, [spalacios@catholic.org](mailto:spalacios@catholic.org), 916.313.4020