

Pregnancy Assistance:

Alpha Women's Center 386-586-0210
 First Coast Women's Services 904-549-6100
 Pregnancy Resource Center Directory
 (Contact Office of HLD) 904-262-3200

Healing After Abortion:

Rachel's Vineyard 904-221-3232
 Support After Abortion 833-403-4325

Red Bird Ministry:

Patricia Healy 845-337-0204

Special Needs:

Office of HLD 904-262-3200 ext. 159
 May Oliver moliver@dosafll.com

End of Life:

Office of HLD 904-262-3200 ext. 159
 May Oliver moliver@dosafll.com

Prison Ministry:

John Bangert, SMDM 386-439-2791
socialjustice@smdmcc.org
 John Chick, Director 904-293-3807
jchick@dosafll.com

Human Trafficking:

Ruby Peters, Human Trafficking Educator
 CCB/Dosa 904-631-7082
rubygeerspeters@gmail.com
 HOTLINE 888-373-7888

Courage & Encourage:

Fr. Ed Murphy, Director 904-874-8319
fr.ed@holylaithchurch.org

Office of Human Life & Dignity Catholic Center
 11625 Old St. Augustine Rd
 Jacksonville, FL 32258
 (904) 262-3200 ext. 159
<https://life.dosafll.com>

Blessed Hermann of Reichenau was an 11th century monk who was a composer, music theorist, mathematician, astronomer, and historian. He wrote the comprehensive history of the first millennium starting with Jesus Christ. Most notably, he wrote the *Salve Regina* (Hail, Holy Queen).

Blessed Hermann was born with a cleft palate, cerebral palsy, and spinal muscular atrophy. Because of his disabilities, he could barely move and had to be carried everywhere.



God gave you life with great human frailty and through God's grace your limitations became brilliant blessings. May you intercede to bring abortion to an end as well as intercede for all those whose lives are threatened because of their frailty no matter their stage of life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Blessed Hermann
Patron of the Office of Human Life & Dignity
Feast Day: September 25th



"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If one suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share the joy. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it."

- 1 Corinthians 12:12,14,26-27

SANTA MARIA DEL MAR CATHOLIC CHURCH
RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
915 N. Central Avenue
Flagler Beach, FL 32136-3395
386.439.2791
respectlife@smdmcc.org

The **Respect Life Ministry at Santa Maria del March Catholic Church** was created to broaden the scope and definition of the pastoral, educational and advocacy initiatives within the Diocesan Ministry of Respect Life. Every life is made in the image and likeness of God with intrinsic value, despite the stage of development or social condition. This ministry promotes the dignity of all life from conception to natural death. The expanded scope of populations and focuses includes: the unborn/abortion, healing after abortion, special needs, end of life issues, the death penalty, human trafficking, and same-sex attraction support groups.

Unborn/Abortion

Due to the urgency of the threat against unborn life through abortion, efforts in all parishes pay special attention to the unborn focus. Educational programs such as spiritual adoption, ministry fairs, guest speakers, the cross project, life chains, developmental posters, baby bottle campaign, and baby showers all serve to raise awareness. The Pro-Life educational program and contest "Respecting Life Begins With Me" is available in every parish. Parishes are urged to join prayer vigils at abortion facilities and participate in events such as Adopt A Day and the Florida March for Life in Tallahassee.

Healing After Abortion

Since 1973 over 64 million abortions have occurred in our country. The aftermath of abortion can bring about excruciating emotional and spiritual pain that many suffer in silence. The Diocese offers the availability of several programs:

- **Support After Abortion** – Provides one-on-one, small group and online resources.

Healing After Abortion (continued)

- **Rachel's Vineyard** – Retreat weekends bring healing through licensed counselors, clergy and volunteers who have suffered the same loss.

Red Bird Ministry

This grief support ministry guides families in finding healing and restoration after the loss of a child including: miscarriage, stillbirth, and after birth as an infant, child, adolescent, and adult child.

Special Needs

Pre-natal diagnosis of special needs creates a very vulnerable population. Unfortunately, medical counsel given in these instances often are to refer for abortion. Family support and education can be found through assistance and involvement with programs for special needs such as Camp I Am Special, Morning Star School, L'Arche and ARC as well as Be Not Afraid Peer Ministry Pastoral Care.

End of Life

The questions surrounding medical care, how to, and who should, care for lives incapacitated through accident or illness are increasingly a concern for individuals and families. How to create or comply with someone's wishes is the focus of a diocesan educational workshop called "A Question of Compassion" available to all parishes.

Death Penalty/Prison Ministry

Following a consistent ethic of life principal, the Church has changed her stance on the death penalty. Due to available incarceration, the need for the death penalty no longer exists to protect society. The diocese has an active prison ministry and is involved daily in cell front ministry to death

Death Penalty/Prison Ministry (continued)

row inmates. Following the international movement to end the death penalty the diocese hosts three sites for Cities for Life on November 30th every year. Collections of toiletries throughout the diocese help to provide more humane treatment. The extension of Project Rachel for post-abortion healing is also offered to inmates.

In addition, Bishop-Emeritus Felipe Estévez published "*A Pastoral Letter on Capital Punishment in Florida*" in April 2020.

Human Trafficking

Exploitation of another human being for sexual, domestic, or work in agricultural settings is present day human slavery. This office offers workshops on human trafficking to educate, and networks with other agencies to advocate for victims.

Same-Sex Attraction

Courage and Encourage offers monthly support groups for individuals experiencing same-sex attraction and for their families.

General Information

Unplanned pregnancy and post-abortion healing assistance is advertised in the parish bulletin. The Office of Human Life & Dignity Speakers Bureau is available for all topics.

Meetings and Holy Hour for Life:

**First Fridays after 9am Mass in the Learning Center followed by Holy Hour in the Adoration Chapel from 11am-12noon.
(September through May)**

