



CARDINAL'S OFFICE
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November 21, 2011

Dear Monsignor/Father/Deacon,

Allow me this moment to express my gratitude for all that you have done in recent years to promote the Holy Hour for Life that is observed in the Archdiocese of Boston the evening before the national March For Life, as takes place in Washington, D.C. each January.

We will once again have the opportunity to stand in support of life at the Holy Hour on Sunday, January 22, 2012. This time of prayer has become a tradition in the Archdiocese as thousands of the faithful come together in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands who march in Washington. As you share the Church's teaching on the inherent dignity and rights of the human person, you help form the faithful in the knowledge of what the Holy Father has called "the moral principles underpinning the democratic process".

The upcoming Holy Hour will be particularly important for us as there will likely be a referendum on physician assisted suicide in Massachusetts next year. In light of this formidable challenge, I ask that every parish in the Archdiocese participate in the 2012 Holy Hour for Life.

The Pro Life Office and the Boston Deacons for Life are available to assist you with the planning and will provide educational materials, prayer booklets and advertising tools free of charge. Homily suggestions will be available on the Holy Hour for Life webpage at: www.bostoncatholic.org/HolyHourForLife.aspx. This year, as part of the implementation of the new Roman Missal, there is a special Mass, "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, which may be offered in conjunction with the Holy Hour. A Mass "For the Preservation of Peace and Justice" (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions) may also be celebrated with violet vestments.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could please contact the Holy Hour planning group at: DeaconsForLife@rcab.org or by telephone at 508-651-1900 to confirm your parish's participation, so that an Archdiocesan-wide listing can be made available those wishing to attend. More than ever, we need to be joined in prayer with persons at the margins of life who are threatened by public policy and a culture that values individual autonomy more than the dignity of life and the common good.

With the assurance of my prayers for your and all whom you serve, I am,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston