

December 31, 2020

Dear friends,

Ordinarily during these weeks approaching the annual *Holy Hour for Life*, the deacons assigned to the Pro Life Office would be busy on the phones and email to their brother deacons confirming dates and times in local parish settings. Like so many other aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheduling of Holy Hours for Life for January 2021 is unsettled. Some parishes are planning to go ahead as usual. Some will make greater use of live-streaming from a closed event to the wider parish community. Some have delayed making final a decision until closer to the January 22 *Roe v Wade* anniversary date and current public health conditions are known. The recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and positivity rates are reminders of the urgency in maintaining strict social distancing and other safety precautions.

If, after consultation with your pastor, you decide to hold a *Holy Hour for Life*, we would ask each deacon planning to preside at a parish *Holy Hour for Life* in January to forward the date, time, location, presider and any other information either by email at DeaconsForLife@rcab.org or by calling the Pro Life Office at 508-651-1900. If you are not able to hold a *Holy Hour for Life*—perhaps you could arrange to observe a personal *Holy Hour for Life* and livestream it and/or invite others to join you in the spirit of prayer at the hour you make your *Holy Hour for Life*.

The [Holy Hour For Life website](#) will maintain an up-to-date listing of any scheduled Holy Hours, along with any additional information about pre-registrations, livestreaming options, etc. The website will also have links available for livestreaming Holy Hours for Life at St. Mary's in Dedham (Deacon Kelley McCormick, Presider) and St. Mary's in Holliston (Deacon John Barry, Presider) that can be shared with your parish.

We continue to encourage you to ensure some prayerful mention of the *Roe v Wade* anniversary and the need for the Church to continue witnessing to the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death in your homilies, bulletins and websites. The USCCB Pro Life Secretariat has prepared timely Prayers of the Faithful, bulletin inserts and other materials in English and Spanish. They can be downloaded at [Word of Life: January 2021 | USCCB](#)

May the Lord continue to bless you and all those to whom you minister.

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed New Year.

Sincerely,

Marianne Luthin, Director
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