

RESPECT AND CARE FOR LIFE MONTH
Circular 2003-22

February was declared “Respect and Care for Life” Month by Proclamation 214 of President Corazon C. Aquino in 1987. Since then, every year, Diocesan and Parish Family and Life Ministries as well as Pro-life and Pro-Family Groups organize events all month long.

This year, the theme of our Pro-life Month is “Defend the Right to Life”. The theme was chosen in the face of the many bills in Congress that pose a threat to the family and human life and the prevailing social conditions of moral degradation.

The Episcopal Commission on Family and Life in collaboration with family life associations and Marian movements has launched ARMADA – the Army of Mary Against Divorce and Abortion to stop three anti-life and anti-family bills now in the final steps of deliberation in the House of Representatives. These are:

- House Bill 6123, the Integrated Population and Development Act
- House Bill 6416, the Anti-Discriminatory Act o Gay Rights Act
- House Bill 4110, the Reproductive Health Care Act, approved by the Committee on Health and now with the Committee on Appropriations.

An overwhelming majority of the members of the Congressional Health Committee voted to approve HB 4110 in spite of the avalanche of position papers from the churches and the cause-oriented groups.

Our best and only recourse now is PRAYER. Let us mobilize our faithful in prayers. Let individual parishes have a MASS for life with candle light ceremony for the unborn babies, hold prayer vigils on topics of abortions, contraception, and euthanasia, etc..., say the Rosary for life and other activities that will promote the culture of life in our Diocese. Let us join hands in prayer and penance to remind everyone of the call to holiness and the need to uphold the institution of the family and the sacredness of life.

Given in the Chancery of Novaliches this 10th day of December, 2003

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested,

Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara
Chancellor