



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
**Office of Human Life,
Family and Bioethics**



+MJ+

January 5, 2023

Dear Respect Life Leaders and March for Life Bus Captains:

As you know, the upcoming **March for Life will take place on Friday January 20, 2023**. For the first time since 2020, the Diocese of Rockville Centre is promoting travel to Washington, D.C. as well as local activities to mark this day. **Despite the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, there is still much to be done legislatively and in educating individuals so that abortion becomes *unthinkable*—even if still legally sanctioned in some places (like New York).**

LOCAL MARCH FOR LIFE ACTIVITIES

For those not traveling to Washington, D.C., please consider organizing a Holy Hour/Adoration, a Rosary, special Mass, or parish commitment to pray at a local Planned Parenthood—as encouraged in the last two years when we focused primarily on local events. As we become aware of them, we will post these events on a dedicated website, www.drvcmarchforlife.com to let others know about your event and illustrate continued efforts to build a culture of life on Long Island. Please inform Donna Crean of activities you are hosting dcrean@drvc.org.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre will also host a live-streamed Holy Hour from Notre Dame Parish in New Hyde Park from 9:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2023 as part of the National Prayer Vigil for Life. We will have a graphic available to promote this in bulletins and social media (see the Diocesan bulletin board).

FOR BUS CAPTAINS

Although there are fewer busses traveling to Washington, D.C. this year, we appreciate your perseverance in continuing to bring a presence by Rockville Centre to the March for Life.

If you requested rally signs, lawn signs and/or magnets they can be picked up Friday, January 13, 2023 at Christ the King Parish between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (Christ the King is located at 2 Indian Head Road in Commack).

Attached you will find:

I. March for Life Map

This map includes the itinerary of the March as well as important locations. Of note, Bishop Barres will greet marchers at 9th St. and Madison Ave. from about 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. before the March and Rally begin. He will meet with marchers for a prayer service and final blessing at St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

II. Risk Management documents

As per Risk Management, the bus company you engage to provide transportation to and from the March for Life must sign the attached hold harmless agreement (“**Additional Conditions Attachment**”). *The hold harmless agreement cannot be changed, altered, amended or substituted in anyway by anyone.*

In addition, the bus company must provide a **Certificate of Insurance that meets the insurance requirements in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of the Additional Conditions Attachment.** (Namely this refers to minimal liability coverage—these are the Diocesan standard types and amounts of insurance and they are non-negotiable. The bus company must evidence \$10 million of Automobile Liability limits/coverage.)

Please note that the **Certificate holder** is *not* the same thing as being named as an additional insured. The certificate holder is either the parish or the school who is contracting for the transportation company. It is a **separate part on the actual certificate of insurance and it should contain the complete name and address of the parish or school.** Directly above the section for certificate holders is a section called “Description of Operations.” In that box it should read: **“The [name of the parish or school], the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and the Bishop thereof are named as additional insureds on ALL Liability coverages except Workers Compensation as per written agreement.”**

Each entity should always **retain a copy of both the Additional Conditions Attachment and the Certificate of Insurance** in the event there is a claim. We request copies of both be forwarded to our Office. Please email to dcrean@drvc.org or respectlife@drvc.org.

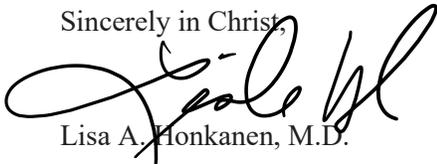
III. Minors Policy

If minors will be traveling on your bus, please note the following:

1. Complete the **Permission/Release/Emergency Contact Form** for each minor on your bus. You may modify [Name of Entity] with your group/parish name.
2. In addition, as per the Office for the Protection of Children/Young People, it is the responsibility of bus captains to ensure that all bus captains (and helpers), parents attending the March with their children, and parent-appointed chaperones have completed the **Safe Environment requirements** which includes participation in Virtus class, background screening, and signed codes of conduct. *The Office for the Protection of Children/Young People is ready and willing to assist in this process – please contact us for further information.*

Please let us know of activities you are hosting so we can post them on the www.DRVCMarchforlife.com website. Do not hesitate to contact us with questions or issues that arise in these final weeks of preparation. Thank you again for all you are doing to promote and protect life!

Sincerely in Christ,



Lisa A. Honkanen, M.D.