



Archdiocese of Miami

Pastoral Bulletin

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Office of Archbishop Thomas Wenski

Vote No on Amendment 4

An extremely grave amendment has been placed on the November 2024 ballot that seeks to erase pro-life protections by inserting language into the Florida Constitution banning regulation of abortion. This amendment to the Florida constitution would allow abortion up until birth, including when the baby is capable of feeling pain, and would eliminate laws requiring parental consent and safety protocols for women. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is working hard to oppose this dangerous and deceptive amendment and urges all Floridians to vote 'No' on Amendment 4.

It is imperative that we mobilize our people to vote NO on this amendment. Polling indicates that we could easily lose, if we don't get our people to vote against the amendment and to convince other people of good will to vote against the amendment.

I share this below with you. More information and materials will be forthcoming.

Archbishop's message: [https://www.miamiarch.org/atimos/articles_images/2024/05/Bishops_letter_to_pastors_DRAFT_\(1\)_1715108630.pdf](https://www.miamiarch.org/atimos/articles_images/2024/05/Bishops_letter_to_pastors_DRAFT_(1)_1715108630.pdf)

Pastors, please consider printing the statement from the bishops of Florida in your parish bulletins. [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Amendment 4 Toolkit: www.miamiarch.org/Amendment4

Fr. Alfred Cioffi, chaplain for the Florida State Catholic Medical Association, is available to preach on Amendment 4 voting at weekend parish masses between now and the vote in November. Pastors should contact him directly for the arrangements.

Office of Archbishop Thomas Wenski, continued

Requiescat in pace:

† **Father Jorge Luis Bello**, known as “Father Wichy,” died Sept. 2, 2024 at age 74. He served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Miami for more than 20 years. His funeral Mass took place Sept. 10, 2024 at St. Kevin Church in Miami and was buried at Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery in Doral.

Announcements:

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

Pastors: As is apparent to us all, our nation is seeing increasing displays of hyper-partisanship and division. As pastors, we offer neither support for nor opposition to any party or candidate. Rather, we seek to offer hope and encouragement by equipping Catholics to engage as faithful citizens, to set aside malice, and to put on “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16). The USCCB webpage, [CivilizeIt.org](https://www.civilizeit.org), includes tools and resources to help Catholics practice civil dialogue in their families, parishes and communities. In addition, the materials accompanying Faithful Citizenship approved during the 2023 Fall Plenary Assembly have been completed. The following documents are available in English and Spanish at faithfulcitizenship.org and ciudadanosfieles.org:

- New introductory note to Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship
- Bulletin insert on “The Role of the Church in American Political Life”
- Bulletin insert on “The Dignity of the Human Person”
- Bulletin insert on “The Common Good”
- Bulletin insert on “Solidarity”
- Bulletin insert on “Subsidiarity”

Please consider sharing these materials with the faithful in preparation for the election season.

Office of the Chancellor for Administration

Dear Monsignor/Father:

It is again time for counting and reporting the weekly Mass census for the weekends in October. The 2024 October Mass Attendance Census includes the 4 weekends of October beginning with Saturday-Sunday, October 5 and 6, and ending Saturday-Sunday, October 26– 27. Please expect the new template by email from Jean-Paul Guis, from the Finance Office, addressed to all bookkeepers during the week of Monday, September 16-20.

Also, remember to count the number of penitents during these four weekends.

The deadline to return the count electronically is Monday, November 11, 2024. Thank you for your cooperation in this project. Thank you, in advance, for timely reporting – by electronic upload – of the data. If your staff responsible for uploading data is not familiar with the process, the staff may contact Mayra Rossell in the Chancellors' Office at 305-762-1220 or mrossell@theadom.org to assist them in uploading the parish data.

Office of Vocations

A message from Fr. Milton Martinez:

Dear Pastors: As I begin in this ministry, I am available to visit your parish to assist in the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Together we can continue to create a culture of vocations in the Archdiocese of Miami. Please feel to contact the vocations office at 305-762-1136, or by emailing me at mmartinez@theadom.org.

Correction: The next **Vocations Awareness Weekend** will take place November 8-10, 2024. If you know a young man between the ages of 17 to 35 whom you think would be a good candidate for the priesthood, please invite him to join us at St. John Vianney College Seminary for a weekend of discernment. More information can be found [here](#) including the [online Registration Form](#) or contact the Vocations Office at 305-762-1137.

Office of Safe Environment

Safe Environment policy update

All those seeking employment or volunteer opportunities can complete Virtus training online which must be completed prior to employment/volunteer/vendor positions begin.

Online training can be accessed 24/7. Both, fingerprinting and the initial Virtus training session, must be completed (and for fingerprinting the results must be received prior to serving as an employee, vendor, or volunteer). New hires may take the online training during their first day as part of their orientation. Any other scenario requires the training to be completed prior to working or volunteering.

You can verify participants' status through your location's Virtus User Reports (accessible by your Local Coordinator) or by having the participant turn in their Training Report.

Virtus Training Online

You may register for the initial Virtus training session at www.virtus.org.

Registration Instructions:

For English: Click [here](#)

Para Español: Oprima [aquí](#)

Once the initial training is complete, your account will be automatically activated. Continuing training is in the form of online monthly bulletins. For more information contact Jan Rayburn at jrayburn@theadom.org

Virtus Emails

To help ensure VIRTUS Online messages are delivered properly to your Inbox (not spam or junk folders), please add system@pub.virtus.org to your Address Book and/or Safe List. If you follow these directions (adding system@pub.virtus.org to your Address Book and/or Safe List), but reminders default to your **spam** folder, or you do not receive your reminders at all, we recommend that you check directly with your email provider to see if they are blocking or otherwise affecting delivery of email communications from VIRTUS Online (system@pub.virtus.org) to your email account.

Office of Safe Environment, continued

The Safe Environment Office is sharing a new addition to the Virtus training requirements for employees and educators in Archdiocesan parishes, schools, and entities.

Healthy Boundaries for Adults: Development and Implementation

This module addresses the proper development of healthy boundaries, and the implementation of them within the ministry environment. The module seeks to equip caring adults with the information needed to move past simply understanding boundaries and helps to put them into practice. Best practices of appropriate and inappropriate behavior will be discussed including such practices between adults, as well as between adults and children.

Participants should log into their accounts on www.virtus.org and click on the **Home** tab followed by the **Current Training** box to complete the training.

New employees need to be assigned the module at time of hire by the local coordinator at their site or by requesting it from J. Rayburn via email at jrayburn@theadom.org.

Office of Detention Ministry

Pastors, please consider announcing the following in your parish bulletin.

Volunteers Needed: The Office of Detention Ministry of the Archdiocese of Miami is looking for priests and lay volunteers for one of 30 correctional facilities in Miami-Dade. For more information, please email Deacon Edgardo Farias at efarias@theadom.org or visit <https://detentionministry.org/>

Catholic Hospice

The Volunteer Services Department offers an array of volunteer opportunities for individuals like you looking to join an organization committed to providing care to vulnerable populations. By volunteering with us, you can choose to join our many special programs: Companion Care, Acts of Kindness Project, Camp Erin, We Honor Veterans, Pet Peace of Mind and more! For more information, email volunteerservices@cathoilchospice.org

Office of Respect Life

Entering Canaan

This post abortion healing program of the Archdiocese of Miami offers a Day of Prayer and Healing retreat, which is a one-day retreat that provides a safe and confidential place filled with love, compassion, and prayer. The men and women who attend can begin their post-abortion healing journey. The goal of the day is for each person to leave with the hope that healing is possible. There is no cost to attend.

- Day of Prayer and Healing for Women in **English**: Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Day of Prayer and Healing for Women in **Spanish**: Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Day of Prayer and Healing for **Men in Spanish**: Saturday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For confidentiality reasons, the location of the retreat will be provided upon registration. Contact projectrachel@theadom.org or call 954-981-2984.

St. Gianna and Pietro Molla Miscarriage Ministry wants to invite you to honor your child/children lost through miscarriage. Memorializing a loved one can be a very powerful part of the healing process. Many parents and relatives find it helpful to name their babies. If you have not done so, visit us on our Heaven's Littlest Saints wall. https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Memorial_Miscarriage_Ministry

Pregnancy Help Center: Volunteers Needed

The Respect Life Pregnancy Help Centers of the Archdiocese of Miami are looking for volunteers at our three locations. We have two in Broward County and one in Miami-Dade County. There are plenty of ways to serve if you feel called to do so: office duties, such as answering phone calls, scheduling appointments, counseling clients, organizing baby clothes, and other donations are among some of the ways you can help. Apply at: www.respectlifemiami.org/volunteer.

Office of Worship & Spiritual Life

The Pontifical Choir will sing for major liturgical celebrations in the life of the archdiocese celebrated by the Archbishop of Miami in his Cathedral-Church and elsewhere. These include Chrism Mass, ordinations of deacons, priests, and bishops, the Rite of Election, the Rite of Reception, the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, and the Archbishop's Thanks-for-Giving Mass.

The liturgical obligations of the choir are such that they will not interfere with a chorister's participation in their parish's music program. Most liturgies are on Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons at the Cathedral of Saint Mary in Miami.

Membership in the choir is open to organists, choir directors, cantors, and other singers from throughout the three-county area of the archdiocese. The ability to read music, though recommended, is not required. Only a simple placement audition and the ability to commit to the rehearsal schedule is necessary. Regular rehearsals, beginning in September, will be on Saturday mornings, approximately twice monthly at the cathedral.

For further information or to schedule a placement audition, email Max Tenney, Archdiocesan Director of Sacred Music at mtenney@theadom.org.

To view or download the flier for The Pontifical Choir visit: www.thecathedralofstmary.org/ministries/adom-pontifical-choir/

Office of Marriage and Family Life

Natural Family Planning "Creighton Model" Introductory Session

Please join us for an introductory session of Natural Family Planning "Creighton Model" to prepare for your new marriage or for marriage enrichment and learn a medically safe, morally acceptable, and highly effective method of both postponing and achieving pregnancy.

Spanish Session: Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. (online/free)

Register at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/759kzh5>

English Session: Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. (online/free)

Register at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/a2cchqh>

Office of Marriage and Family Life, continued

Transformed in Love is an official Archdiocesan program created by many different experts to help you prepare for your wedding day and to begin your marriage by building a strong foundation together.

Please note that couples must attend both sessions to receive their certificate. Remember to **inform your Priest** in advance that you are attending the “Transformed in Love Group Marriage Preparation Program.”

- **Friday, Oct. 11, Saturday, Oct. 12 & Sunday, Oct. 13 in English.** Location: St. Augustine Church, 1400 Miller Road, Coral Gables. Register at: <http://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/dsq2gjj>
- **Saturday, Oct. 19 & Sunday, Oct. 20 in English.** Location: Church of the Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. Register at <http://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/x3dm497>

Fully Engaged Training for Mentor Couples

Fully Engaged Pre-Marital & Convalidation Inventories are offering New Facilitator Webinar Trainings via ZOOM (ONLINE).

- Thursday, Oct. 3 & 10, 2024 - 7-9 p.m. in **English**
- Sábado, 14 de septiembre 2024 - 10a.m. - 4p.m. in **Spanish / En Español**

Please register at least 10 days prior to the class. To register go to <https://getfullyengaged.com/new-mentor-training/> or email Jill at jill.svihel@gw.stcdio.org or call (320) 258-7611.

Catholic Charities

Pastors, please consider announcing the following in your parish bulletins:

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program is looking for adults to become foster parents to refugee minors. The requirements to be a foster parent include:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Be able to provide adequate bedroom space and a separate bed for each foster child
- Have reliable transportation
- Be willing to participate in a 30-hour free training
- Be prepared for adults in your household to undergo complete background checks
- Be able to meet basic resources to support the household.

Catholic Charities provides 24-hour case management, monthly stipend to help with the care of the refugee minor or youth, continuing education and more. For more information, call 305-883-3383 or visit www.ccadm.org

Catholic Charities provides adult day care

Catholic Charities has been providing adult day care services for over 35 years at its Wilton Manors Adult Day Center, located at 1503 N.E. 26 St., Wilton Manors. Trained professionals care for adults requiring supervision during the day, including those with Alzheimer's or other dementia disorders. Nutritious meals, socialization, music therapy, exercise, and games are among the services provided in a safe and secure environment. Free adult day care services also are available to eligible individuals. For information, call 954-630-9501.

Office of Communications

Follow the Archdiocese of Miami on Social Media:

Please Include in your Parish Bulletin:

 Facebook: [@ArchdioceseofMiami](https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofMiami) |  : [@CatholicMiami](https://twitter.com/CatholicMiami) |  : Instagram: [@CatholicMiami](https://www.instagram.com/CatholicMiami)

Office of Communications, continued

Pastors, please add the following announcements in your parish bulletins:

Sunday Mass for shut-ins: online, on TV and on YouTube

The greatest gift that you could give a sick or homebound person is to remind them that hearing God's word in livestreamed and recorded Masses is only a few clicks away. To watch the Mass in English or Spanish, visit miamiarch.org | Offices & Ministries | Communications | Television Mass; or watch the Spanish Masses on our YouTube channel, CatholicMiami. Mass recordings become available at 6 p.m. every Saturday through midnight Sunday, and a direct link is posted on the News Center on the home page of the archdiocesan website. Masses also are broadcast in Spanish on Univision 23 on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. Those who are homebound and would like a visit from an extraordinary minister of Communion may contact their parish office directly.

Beware of scammers

The Archdiocese of Miami has heard reports of scammers impersonating Archbishop Thomas Wenski and some of our priests on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms, as well as via texts and phone calls. Please be aware that no archdiocesan priest or bishop will ever contact you directly asking for money, gift cards or anything else.

If you, your friends, family, or parish staff receive a direct message from anyone impersonating Archbishop Wenski or one of our priests, please do not respond. Report the fake account immediately to the social media platform and let the archdiocesan Communications Office know by emailing mrivas@theadom.org.

Impersonator scams also should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission by calling 1-877-382-4357; or Florida's Consumer Protection Division, 1-866-966-7226. Find out more about the types of scams making the rounds at myfloridalegal.com.

Office of Communications, continued

Events

Camp Erin Bereavement Camp

Camp Erin, in partnership with the Eluna Network, is a free bereavement camp for children and teens ages 6 to 17 years old, who are grieving the death of a significant person in their lives. The camp combines emotional support and grief education with fun traditional camp activities.

The next free full overnight weekend youth camp will be Oct. 25 to 27 at Camp Owaissa Bauer in Homestead. Transportation will be provided at two designated pickup locations. If you know of any families that would benefit from this camp, please have the parent or guardian complete the application on the website www.camperinsouthflorida.org (Spanish and Creole versions are also available) and then submit the application and consent form before Sept. 20 to CampErin@catholichospice.org. For more information, please contact 954-944-2709.