



***Life is always a good. Initiating Processes for a Pastoral Care of Human Life:***  
**the new Pastoral Framework of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**

*Tomorrow, 25 March 2025, marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Encyclical Letter *Evangelium vitae*. On this occasion, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life is publishing a Pastoral Framework on how to initiate ecclesial processes to promote a Pastoral Care of Human Life, with the aim of defending, safeguarding, and promoting it in different geographical areas and cultural contexts, in a time marked by extremely serious violations of human dignity.*

**24 March 2025** - ““Life is always a good” (*Evangelium vitae*, 31) and as such it should be presented, safeguarded, and enhanced in every situation”. With these words, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, introduces the publication of the Pastoral Framework, titled *Life is Always a Good. Initiating Processes for a Pastoral Care of Human Life*, released today on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Encyclical Letter *Evangelium vitae*.

In the Presentation to the Pastoral Framework, Cardinal Kevin Farrell writes: **«In a time marked by extremely serious violations of human dignity, with many countries afflicted by wars and all sorts of violence – especially against women, children before and after birth, adolescents, people with disabilities, the elderly, the poor and migrants – we must forge a genuine Pastoral Care of Human Life to put into practice what is also reiterated in the recent Declaration *Dignitas infinita* of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith:** “an infinite dignity, inalienably grounded in his or her very being, which prevails in and beyond every circumstance, state, or situation the person may ever encounter.” (No. 1). Therefore, every person’s life should always be respected, safeguarded, and defended. This principle, which is recognizable even by reason alone, is to be implemented in every country, village, and household».

**The Pastoral Framework is the result of an ongoing dialogue with the bishops.** His Excellency Monsignor Dario Gervasi, Adjunct Secretary of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, says: “The primary recipients of this Pastoral Framework are the bishops who, during their frequent *ad limina* visits to the Holy See, have always emphasized the urgency of a renewed commitment to safeguard and promote the life and dignity of every human being.” In a [webinar](#) organized by the Dicastery in 2024 with the heads of the Family and Life Commissions of the Conferences of Bishops across the

world, a shared process to develop a Pastoral Care of Human Life was initiated, in light of the recent guidance provided by the document *Dignitas infinita*.

**To support this process, the Pastoral Framework offers a proposal that also suggests how to apply the *synodal method of discernment in the Spirit* concerning the many issues related to human life, as well as the ways to defend, safeguard, and promote it across different geographical areas and cultural contexts.** Monsignor Gervasi continued: “In a common dialogue, the aim is to support each diocese’ journey so that they can invest the necessary resources for a more effective formation of the laity and raise awareness among younger generations about the value of human life.”

**The volume, published today in three languages, is available for free on the Dicastery's website at [www.laityfamilylife.va](http://www.laityfamilylife.va).** It presents an updated method to promote a Pastoral Care of Human Life in a widespread manner across dioceses worldwide. To this end, the Dicastery encourages every bishop, priest, religious man and woman, and lay person to read this Pastoral Framework, and strive to develop an *organic and structured* Pastoral Care of Human Life, which can provide workers, educators, teachers, parents, young people, and children the right formation to respect the value of every human life.

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The volume is available for free use and download in three languages ([Italian](#), [English](#), and [Portuguese](#)) at [www.laityfamilylife.va](http://www.laityfamilylife.va). French and Spanish version soon will be available at the same website address.

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