

positive hospice experience. Consider including a tribute to the more than one million babies killed each year. This would be an excellent opportunity to call those in attendance to a renewed commitment to the value of life and lordship of Jesus Christ.

During the week of January 20-26:

Schedule and organize specific events to assist your local pregnancy help center. Recruit professionals from your church and community to help with maintenance and repair work. Here are other ways individuals can assist:

- ♥ Host a clothes-sorting event which will help the center organize closets for maternity and baby clothes.
- ♥ Hold a baby shower for your pregnancy help center which allows congregation members to bring maternity and baby items for your local center. Many times, individuals have boxes of clothes or baby furniture, but don't have time to bring them to the center. Your center can usually provide playpens or cribs to use as collection bins at your church.

RESOURCES

www.family.org

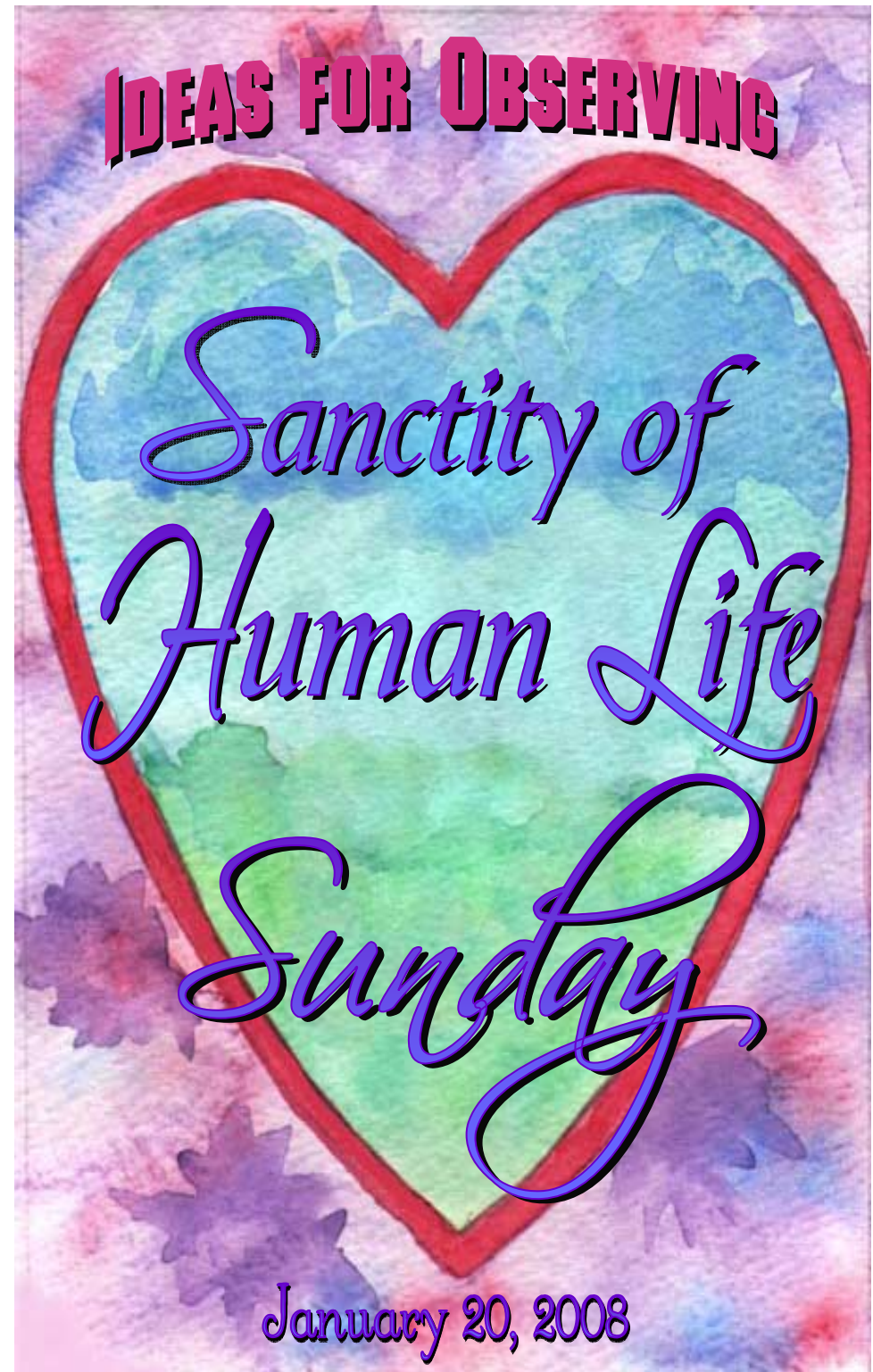
www.beavoice.net

<http://www.heartlink.org/beavoice/resources.cfm>

Includes the following:

- ☞ Sanctity of Life Handbook (pdf format)
- ☞ "The Gift of Life" (drama presentation)
- ☞ Sermon Outlines

<http://resources.family.org/category/social+issues/sanctity+of+human+life.do>





The Church of God International Women's Ministries Department recognizes the third Sunday in January as the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. We believe life is sacred and plan this special recognition the Sunday before the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Take this opportunity to remind your church and your community that life is valuable and should be protected. Below are some ideas and resources to assist in planning activities related to honoring life.

Before January 20:

Contact your pastor and ask for his/her direction and involvement in the service on January 20, 2008.

Begin promotion a month in advance.

Send a letter to members of the congregation or include an article in your church newsletter explaining your sanctity of human life observance.

This could include information about current life-related issues and the church's desire to reach individuals with God's mercy, love and forgiveness. It can also include highlights about your local hospice, pregnancy help center or other life-supporting groups that work in your community.



Schedule special prayer sessions to pray specifically for our nation and the life issues being debated within our governmental groups. Pray for those who are affected by the million or more babies who die as a result of abortion each year, as well as how we can protect the aged, dying and disabled from euthanasia.

Pray for revival in our land through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Organize times to pray during normally scheduled small-group

ministries such as your women's and men's groups, Sunday school hours, children's worship and youth group activities.

Submit an open letter to your local newspaper to announce to the community your appreciation of local churches that

commemorate sanctity of human life. Also, offer thanks for the local pregnancy help centers that assist women facing unexpected pregnancies and for hospice programs that help terminal patients truly die with dignity.



January 20:

Provide a white ribbon for those attending your service. Explain that the ribbons represent your belief in the sacredness of human life. (Some may not wish to participate. Be careful to show compassion for those who may be hurting. Encourage but do not demand participation.)

Plan a special worship service surrounding a sermon on the sanctity of human life. (A sermon outline and video clips are available at www.beavoice.net.) During the service, use a variety of means to celebrate all human life and address the love, mercy and forgiveness Jesus Christ offers to all who are hurting and suffering.

Perform skits that portray how precious life is even under difficult circumstances. Have a Scripture reading of verses that support the life ethic of individuals as image-bearers of the living God.

Feature a testimony by a person caring for a beloved disabled family member and/or someone who was involved in a

