Students Given a Voice as They “Respect Life”

Prayer + Education + Advocacy + Action. These words sum up the mission of Catholic Schools for Peace & Justice, which is a network of students and educators from over 20 Catholic high schools in the Cleveland Diocese who are rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and supported by the Diocesan Social Action Office.

They are busy planning their October Respect Life Day, which has been held annually since 2004. Augie, Director of Campus Ministry at St. Ignatius, who helped found CSPJ in 2002, said the event brings anywhere from 200 to 500 students together. It starts with Mass at the Cathedral with Bishop Richard G. Lennon. Afterwards, the students march through the streets, accompanied by a band’s drumline and end at the Free Stamp (in years past it was Public Square) where student emcees lead a rally. There, students come forward to speak on a range of different topics, from abortion and the death penalty to human trafficking and immigration. These students speak from the heart and share stories about how these topics affect their lives. Last year, Tatu, a sophomore at Cleveland Central Catholic, spoke about her experiences growing up in the Congo amidst civil war. She relayed her story in English, all the while thinking about it in her native African tongue. Her teacher praised her bravery & courage in sharing such a personal story. Tim, a senior at St. Ignatius, was an emcee last year – he recalls being struck by how the gathering gave the teenagers one “unified voice” in speaking on these important worldwide social justice issues. He enjoys his involvement in CSPJ because it gives such a voice to teens. Jackie, a Beaumont senior, loves CSPJ because of the sense of community it provides. She is adopted, which gives her a unique perspective on life issues.

Besides the Respect Life Day, CSPJ hosts a Summit each year on a range of topics to educate their students. Last year’s Summit was on Modern Day Slavery and it was this event that made Christian, a first year member at Cleveland Central Catholic, join CSPJ. This year’s focus will be on Fair Trade & Immigration. Every year a group of students travels to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life. Many of the schools hold food & clothing drives – Beaumont holds a “jeans” drive - in order to serve those in need. Michelle, campus minister at Lake Catholic, told how her school celebrates “the willingness to serve” by hosting a 9/11 prayer service to honor all local first responders. They also hold a monthly meal that feeds the residents at Project Hope homeless shelter in Lake County.

Jill, campus minister at VASJ, believes that CSPJ and its mission gives students a much wider viewpoint; she admires the students and their willingness to get involved and the courage they show in speaking out. She herself has become more informed as a result.

This year’s Mass & the Rally is being held on Wednesday, October 7th from 10am-1:30pm, starting with Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist and continuing with the peaceful Rally at the Free Stamp.
merciful by acting with respect? Do we keep ourselves from gossiping about any shortcomings?

- Friends and family who are offended by our passion, who are displeased with our time spent on activities related to our ministry, or who even challenge our very strongly held beliefs because they have not yet been able to open their hearts to every human life are in need of our mercy too. Again, prayer for their hearts to be open to God’s love and mercy. Prayer is more important and more merciful than a heated discussion.

In order to practice this way of mercy that the Holy Father calls us to, there are things that we can do in our personal spiritual lives:

- Pray to be more merciful. Take time in God’s embrace to hear where it is most important for you to show mercy.
- Study the corporal works of mercy and the spiritual works of mercy.
- Study and pray with Luke 6:36-42 to inspire a merciful disposition.

I invite everyone to engage in this Year of Mercy. Make it a primary focus for your good works and prayer in support of human life. Visit our website for links to more information.

Peggy Gerovac

I believe our ministries dedicated to upholding life give us ample opportunity to engage in the works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. Because we work with people, there is always a need for mercy, as there is in any interpersonal relationship. When humans are involved, sin and mistakes happen. In most offenses to human dignity, there is a perpetrator or perpetrators and conscious and unconscious contributors. Here’s where the need for mercy is easily found.

Pope Francis calls us to actively engage in mercy. I believe each one of us could be more merciful if we really try. Here are some areas that come to mind:

- When someone who we minister with falls short of our expectations - can we show mercy?
- With the perpetrators of the offenses to life, they too are born in God’s image and we are called to help them live in the love of God - are we kind, do we pray for them that their hearts can open to God’s mercy?
- With parish staff & volunteers that do not have the same priorities as ourselves and may not communicate such in a helpful or kind manner - do we show mercy by acting with respect? Do we keep ourselves from gossiping about any shortcomings?

FROM THE DIRECTOR

On December 8th, the Church begins an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, for the coming Holy Year. This is a very important focus for us who minister in support of life. Yes, I said for US. You may think that our work with pregnant moms, hospice, immigrants, post abortive women and so much more gives us a pass because we are already “doing that mercy stuff.”

Pope Francis has called US in his letter regarding the Year of Mercy:

I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one. The Jubilee Indulgence is thus full, the fruit of the very event which is to be celebrated and experienced with faith, hope and charity.

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Peggy Gerovac
For Life

Cardinal O’Malley Presents 2015 People of Life Awards

July 28, 2015
WASHINGTON—A nurse, a chastity educator, and the retired director of the bishops’ national grassroots organization received the 2015 People of Life Award for lifetime commitment to the pro-life movement during the annual Diocesan Pro-Life Leadership Conference in Kansas City, Kansas. Cardinal Sean O’Malley, OFM Cap., of Boston, chair of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), presented the awards to Nancy Valko, Molly Kelly, and Michael Taylor.

Nancy Valko was recognized for her professional and volunteer advocacy, especially on disability and end-of-life issues. A registered nurse since 1969, she worked for 45 years in critical care, oncology, hospice, home health and other specialties. She is currently a spokesperson for the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses and serves as a legal nurse consultant with the Valko Group. Valko has become a significant voice in the fight against assisted suicide.

Molly Kelly was honored for her decades as a pro-life speaker and chastity educator. Widowed as the mother of eight children, Molly began speaking in local schools on prenatal development and life affirming options for pregnant girls. While raising her family, she opened their home to five unwed mothers in need of support. Called to address the issue of chastity at first locally, and then in every state as well as Canada, Great Britain, and Australia, she engaged over 50,000 high school youth each year with the message of “saved sex.”

Michael Taylor was honored for 46 years of pro-life leadership, including 26 at the bishops’ pro-life grassroots mobilization organization, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA). After Roe v. Wade in 1973, he helped to form NCHLA and to shape the bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, which guides Catholic efforts in pro-life education, pastoral care, prayer, and public policy. Today NCHLA’s online action center is the hub of Catholic grassroots email activity on federal laws and policies, and their website, www.EndRoe.org, is a comprehensive resource for students studying abortion law in the US. The People of Life Award recognizes Catholics who have answered the call outlined by Pope John Paul II in The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae, 1995), dedicating themselves to pro-life activities and promoting respect for the dignity of the human person. It is bestowed in honor of their significant contributions to the culture of life.

Valko, Kelly, and Taylor join 25 other People of Life Award recipients since the Pro-Life Secretariat inaugurated it in 2007. More information on previous recipients and on the People of Life campaign is available at: www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/people-of-life/people-of-life-award.cfm

Thinking about Laudato Si

Quotes
Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise. [12]

“Creation” has a broader meaning than “nature”. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood, and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all. [76]

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God. [119]

What they all need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. [217]

Questions
• In your estimation, what is the main point or purpose of this encyclical?
• What other points do you find especially relevant or intriguing?
• Are you struggling with any parts of the encyclical? Which ones, and why?
• To whom is Pope Francis writing this encyclical?
• What is the connection between the Gospel of Creation with the Gospel of Life?
    (ie. “There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology.” [118])
• What is an “Ecological Conversion” and why does Pope Francis insist on it? [216-221]
Words to Ponder from the Holy Father

In a letter addressed to the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, the Pope focused on a series of points which he said “require attention to enable the celebration” of the upcoming Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Here is an excerpt from his letter:

One of the serious problems of our time is clearly the changed relationship with respect to life. A widespread and insensitive mentality has led to the loss of the proper personal and social sensitivity to welcome new life. The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails. Many others, on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe they have no other option. I think in particular of all the women who have resorted to abortion. I am well aware of the pressure that has led them to this decision. I know that it is an existential and moral ordeal. I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision. What has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it can enable one not to lose hope. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father. For this reason too, I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it. May priests fulfill this great task by expressing words of genuine welcome combined with a reflection that explains the gravity of the sin committed, besides indicating a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father who renews all with his presence.
RESPECT LIFE PARTY – St Clement Church
Tuesday, September 29th at 7pm
14505 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio
All are invited to attend this birthday celebration, which is to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus. The evening begins in the church with the Rosary prayed for the cause of life followed by a party in the church hall with food and fellowship. Entertainment will be provided by the St. Joseph Academy Acapella Chorale. Questions, call 216.226.6663.

“RESPECT LIFE” MASS & ALL-NIGHT ADORATION
Pray with us at any time during the night!
Friday, October 2: 7pm Mass
St. Mary’s Church, 250 Kraft Street, Berea
Hourly devotions, led by volunteers all night.
Light refreshments in vestibule all night.
Closing Benediction: 8am, Saturday October 3
Questions: Call Vicky @ 440-823-5141

Rosary for Life throughout October
Rocky River Planned Parenthood
20800 Center Ridge Rd.
Saturdays at 10:00am and Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Mass & Rosary for Life
Saturday, October 3rd @ St. Andrew’s Abbey
2900 Martin Luther King Dr.
8:30am Confession
9:15am Mass for the Unborn
After Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosaries in front of Preterm at 12000 Shaker Blvd.
All other Saturdays we will assemble in front of Preterm at 9:30am

38th Annual Walk of Hope
Saturday, October 3rd, 8:30am-12pm
OLA/St. Joseph Center in Tremont
2346 West 14th Street, Cleveland, Ohio
Catholic Charities Disability Services and Ministries celebrates their Annual Walk of Hope to benefit persons with disabilities. There will be great food, prizes and guest appearances by local celebrities!

Lake County’s 22nd Annual Silent Life Chain
“Because everyone deserves a lifetime”
Sunday, October 4th, 1:30-2:30 @ the intersection of Mentor Ave (Rt. 20) and Reynolds Rd. (Rt. 306)
Park on the outer edges of Points East Shopping Center
Look for volunteers in neon green shirts for signs.

East Side Week of Prayer & Fasting to End Abortion
Mass will be offered at a different parish each day.
Monday, October 5 @ 7pm
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wickliffe
Tuesday, October 6
Immaculate Conception, Willoughby
8:30am Rosary/ 9am Mass
Wednesday, October 7th @ 8am
Ss. Robert & William, Euclid
Thursday, October 8th @ 7pm
St. Justin Martyr, Eastlake
Friday, October 9th @ 8am
St. John Vianney, Mentor

Ohio Fair Trade Teach-In & Expo
Saturday, October 10th, 9:30am-3:30pm FREE
John Carroll University – Dolan Center
The Ohio Fair Trade Teach-In & Expo returns to John Carroll. This will be a day of seminars, break out sessions and shopping. This is a must attend event for anyone in Ohio interested in justice for the Global South.

The Lifelong Learning Academy of Walsh University
Barret Business & Community Center
Bioethics and End of Life Issues
Wednesday, October 14th, 7-8:30pm
Father Tad Pacholczyk, Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center
An Introduction to Catholic Ethics since Vatican II
Thursday, October 15th, 7-8:30pm
Beginning of Life Issues with Dr. Andrew Kim

Eucharistic Adoration for Life—St. Ladislas Church
Sunday, October 18th; noon-3pm
2345 Bassett Road, Westlake
Eucharistic Adoration from 12:00pm to 2:30pm
Closing Benediction from 2:30pm to 3:00pm

Bethesda House of Mercy—Post-Abortion Healing Retreat
October 23-25 at Loyola Retreat House in Canton
I Have Called You By Name is a weekend healing retreat. Designed to meet the spiritual needs of women suffering after abortion, this private healing day offers new hope for the wounded heart. For confidential retreat applications, call Bethesda House of Mercy at 1.800.482.4100 or email BethesdaHouse@aol.com.
HELP SAVE LIVES
SEPTEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 1

Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and babies

From September 23 – November 1, our community will join with hundreds of other cities participating in 40 Days for Life, a life-saving campaign made up of three components:

- **PRAYER & FASTING**
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
- **PEACEFUL VIGIL**

40 Days for Life is a peaceful pro-life effort made up of more than 625,000 volunteers in 559 cities across 24 nations.

With God’s help, 40 Days for Life has seen proven results: **10,331** babies spared from abortion, **118** abortion worker conversions, and **60** closed abortion centers.

Get involved, and you can help save lives!

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**Cleveland/Painesville 40 Days for Life**

**Vigil Locations:**
- Preterm-Shaker Blvd-Cleveland
- Planned Parenthood-Rockside Rd-Bedford HTs
- Family Planning-So State St-Painesville

**Vigil Hours:** 7am – 7pm at three sites

**Local Contact:** John Noall @ 216-245-9744
or clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com

**Learn More & Get Involved at:**
40daysforlife.com/cleveland
Contact you Ohio Representative & Senator

Urge support for legislation that will prohibit public funding to organizations that perform or promote elective abortions (HB 294), as well as legislation that places additional penal-

Excerpt from a letter by Cardinal O’Malley, Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, August 2015

“It has long been troubling to many Americans that the nation’s largest abortion network [Planned Parenthood], performing over a third of all abortions, receives over half a billion taxpayer dollars a year. This concern has rightly grown in recent years.

The most recent revelations about Planned Parenthood’s willingness to traffic in fetal tissue from abortions, and to alter abortion methods not for any reason related to women’s health but to obtain more “intact” organs, is the latest demonstration of a callousness toward women and their unborn children that is shocking to many Americans.

The Catholic Church comes to this issue from a perspective rooted in experience. Catholic charitable agencies and pregnancy help centers have helped countless pregnant women find life-affirming alternatives to abortion.

Ohio Situation

The Ohio Catholic Bishops have consistently opposed taxpayer funding of abortions. In 2013 Ohio enacted legislation that re-prioritized state dollars away from Planned Parenthood. While federal and state law prohibits direct funding of any abortion services, public funding for other services provided by Planned Parenthood remains. In 2014, it was reported that $1.3 M in state funds were awarded to Planned Parenthood for such services.

For Information on contacting your elected officials, link to the Catholic Conference of Ohio’s web page.

9 E Long St. Columbus Ohio 43215 / 614-224-7147 / www.ohiocathconf.org
Stop Federal Funding of Planned Parenthood

The release of undercover videos showing a willingness by Planned Parenthood officials to traffic in fetal organs and tissue has quite properly stirred strong reactions in Congress and the general public. A bill “To prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America” was introduced in both House and Senate (S. 1881, H.R. 3301). Consideration of the Senate bill was blocked but can be brought up again. Please contact your Senators and Representative today!

Recommended Action:

- Send e-mails through NCHLA’s Human Life Action Center.

  Note: Messages to Senators will thank those who voted for S. 1881 and ask Senators who voted against S. 1881 to reconsider their position. Messages to your Representative will ask support for H.R. 3301. Based on your ZIP code, the Action Center e-mail system will automatically select the correct messages for your Senators and Representatives. As always, you can add your own comments.

- Contact your Representative and Senators by phone. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members’ local offices. Additional contact info can be found on Members’ web sites at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

- Follow us on Twitter @nchla and retweet our posts. Repost this alert to Facebook or other social media platforms.

Basic Message: “Please support efforts to deny federal funds to Planned Parenthood. Americans should not be forced to subsidize the nation's largest abortion network. S. 1881/H.R. 3301 would reallocate federal funds from abortion providers to mainstream health facilities so there is no reduction in funding for women's health.”

When: All Members of Congress need to hear from their constituents. Please act today. Thanks!

Background

On August 3, 2015, a Cloture Motion to limit debate and allow a vote on the bill to defund Planned Parenthood (S. 1881) failed to receive the 60 needed votes in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) supports S. 1881. However, in a procedural move, he voted against the Cloture Motion so he can ask for the vote to be reconsidered at a later time.

S. 1881 and H.R. 3301 specify that “no Federal funds may be made available to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, or to any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, or clinics.” The bills also provide that “overall Federal funding available in support of women’s health” shall not be reduced.

July 16, 2015

Ten years ago, the Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty. Speaking as pastors and teachers, we issued a statement at that time, A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death, in which we considered the reality of capital punishment in the United States. We urged a prudential examination of the use of the death penalty, with the aim of helping to build “a culture of life in which our nation will no longer try to teach that killing is wrong by killing those who kill. This cycle of violence diminishes all of us.”

Since that time, significant gains have been made. Several states, including New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, Illinois, Connecticut, Maryland and most recently Nebraska, have ended the use of the death penalty, and other states have enacted moratoria. Death sentences are at their lowest level since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976. However, there is still a great deal of work to be done, and we must recommit ourselves to end this practice in our country.

We join our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in anticipation of the forthcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy, and renew our efforts in calling for the end of the use of the death penalty:

“Today the death penalty is inadmissible, no matter how serious the crime committed. It is an offense against the inviolability of life and the dignity of the human person, one which contradicts God’s plan for man and society and his merciful justice, and impedes the penalty from fulfilling any just objective. It does not render justice to the victims, but rather fosters vengeance.”

- Pope Francis, March 20, 2015

Our faith tradition offers a unique perspective on crime and punishment, one grounded in mercy and healing, not punishment for its own sake. No matter how heinous the crime, if society can protect itself without ending a human life, it should do so. Today, we have this capability.

We are all sinners, but through the Father’s loving mercy and Jesus’ redeeming sacrifice upon the Cross, we have been offered the gift of life everlasting. The Lord never ceases his loving pursuit of us in our sin and brokenness, offering us the choice of life over death. The use of the death penalty cuts short any prospect for transforming the condemned person’s soul in this life. Catholic opposition to the death penalty, then, is rooted in mercy. It is also eminently pro-life, as it affords every opportunity for conversion, even of the hardened sinner. As followers of Jesus, we have the “inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life” (Evangelium Vitae, #20).

Our Catholic faith affirms our solidarity with and support for victims of crime and their families. We commit ourselves to walk with them and assure them of the Church’s compassion and care, ministering to their spiritual, physical and emotional needs in the midst of deep pain and loss. We also acknowledge the inherent human dignity of those who have committed grave harm, affirming that, even as they repay a debt to society, they too should receive compassion and mercy. As we seek to tend to the eternal needs of those who commit serious crimes we must build up a culture of life in matters of justice and punishment.

The Church’s opposition to the death penalty should not be seen as indifference to the sinfulness of crime and attacks on human life, but as an affirmation of the sacredness of all life even for those who have committed the most heinous of crimes. As Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, whose own father was murdered, recently said: “Our refusal to resort to the death penalty is not because we fail to appreciate the horror of the crime committed, but because we refuse to imitate violent criminals.”

Through our recommitment to work to end the use of the death penalty, we also renew the call for all people of good will to:

1. Pray for victims of crime, those facing execution, and those working in the criminal justice system;
2. Reach out to the families of those affected by violent crime by bringing Christ’s love and compassion;
3. Learn about the Church’s teaching on capital punishment and educate others in this vital area of concern;
4. Advocate for better public policies to protect society and end the use of the death penalty.

The Scriptures remind us: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Lk 5:7). As Christians, we are called to oppose the culture of death by witnessing to something greater and more perfect: a gospel of life, hope, and mercy. To help build a culture of life, capital punishment should be abolished.

Faithfully In Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami
Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

Seán Cardinal O’Malley
Archbishop of Boston
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities
Serving Women Where They Are

In the early 1970s, local men were testifying in Columbus about abortion laws and the need to keep women & children safe. Back home in Cleveland, these men’s wives wanted to do something about it too – to help women who felt abortion was their only choice. So in 1971, Bernice Wilson opened Birthright of Cleveland. Since then, Birthright has been walking alongside women in crisis pregnancies – to give them hope and resources for a healthy pregnancy and birth. It believes that, “It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born.” In their three offices, they offer confidential pregnancy tests, resources to help the women through their pregnancies, and most importantly, the gift of compassionate listening. From supplying diapers & layettes to connecting them with GED classes and legal help, Birthright meets the woman where she’s at. Toni & Marjory have been a part of Birthright since the mid-2000s. Marjory, a retired maternity nurse, has a need to be around pregnant women and likes the one-on-one interaction that Birthright offers their clients. She serves as VP of the Board and is a volunteer trainer. Toni, who is the Director of Birthright of Cleveland, sees the importance of giving a pregnant woman hope. Both women acknowledge that is it the Lord that allows their ministry to continue. Marjory remembers Bernice was fond of saying “the Holy Spirit is still working when they walk out the door.” Each office is run by volunteers who answer the phones, being the first contact of those who call. When asked how many women they serve in a year, the answer was “numbers aren’t important – if we only help one woman, it is enough.” Volunteers attend six weeks of informational classes followed by shadowing of a current volunteer and attend an annual in-service, which was held on September 12. The day included talks on Infant Mortality, the Women in Transition program at Tri-C and Changes in Maternity Care. They never know who will visit - one day, a woman came to the Parma office, accompanied by her daughter. She was asking about a certain volunteer who had helped her through her pregnancy 20 years ago; she wanted to introduce her daughter, who she named after this volunteer. Birthright’s impact on women has been felt for generations and will continue with the Holy Spirit and your help.

There are many ways to get involved at Birthright. First, they need volunteers to staff their Lakewood and Parma offices. Also, they always need diapers, wipes & toiletries. They accept clean, gently worn or new maternity clothing, as well as infant & toddler clothing (preemie to 2T). Items may be dropped off at any location, but they ask that you please call ahead to schedule a drop-off time. Monetary donations are applied directly to the services they offer. Being run completely by volunteers, hours may vary at the offices, but they are open most days of the week. All donations are tax deductible.

Give them a call: Lakewood 216.228.5998 I Cleveland 216.486.2800 I Parma 216.661.6400

2015 USCCB Respect Life Program
“Every Life is Worth Living”

On the USSCB’s website, under their Respect Life section, you can find valuable resources to share during the month of October, including downloadable articles & prayer resources for parish life, as well as this poster. The articles are entitled: Love 101: Back to Basics, 10 Surprising Tips for Love the Culture Won’t Tell You, 10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting, A Perfect Gift, Love, Sex, and Sterilization, Maggie’s Story: Living like Dad, Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis.
Euthanasia Under Review: Catholic Church Speaks Out in Australia
By Father John Flynn  Rome, August 16, 2015  Excerpt – read the entire article at (ZENIT.org)

The Australian state of Victoria is currently conducting an inquiry into end of life issues and the archdiocese of the state’s capital, Melbourne, handed in its submission on the issue earlier this month.

It will investigate current practices within the medical community and also review existing legislation, as well as considering what legislative changes may be needed.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne took a strong stand against euthanasia in its submission, which defined euthanasia as being “an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering.”

The Catholic Church, the submission explained, believes in holistic care, in which health care does not only focus on the body but also includes emotional and spiritual support.

**Care and comfort**
This is especially the case in palliative care where the medical focus shifts from care to comfort. In such a context end of life carers must not impose either burdensome treatment or deliberately withdraw treatment to hasten death.

Catholics, the submission continued, also recognize that humans live and die in the context of a community. Thus, best practice care will attempt to surround a patient with a supportive community at the end of life. It also means that the death of a person does not only affect the individual but also family, friends, health care providers and the wider community.

Responding to the argument that euthanasia allows “death with dignity” the submission argued that no death is undignified. Moreover, a person’s dignity is not dependent on health, mental state, or pain threshold, but on the condition of being human.

“The submission maintained, as it is an “admission of a society’s inability to provide proper care to those at the end of life.”

The submission listed a number of reasons for rejecting euthanasia:
- It legalizes unjust discrimination by establishing a class of people whom it is legally permissible to kill.
- The doctor-patient relationship is changed with the erosion of the “do no harm” principle.
- Remote and rural citizens need better care, not euthanasia. Requests for euthanasia are disproportionate to the availability of symptom control and in regions where there is a lack of palliative care patients will be influenced by what is available, rather than what they would prefer.
- Euthanasia attacks the vulnerable. Loneliness, depression, and fear of being a burden are consistently listed higher than pain as reasons for seeking euthanasia.
- Safeguards do not work. Despite safety provisions and limits in the 2002 law governing euthanasia in Belgium in just over a decade euthanasia is now allowed for children, and patients with autism, anorexia, bi-polar disorder and people who are “tired of life.”
- Heavy reliance on mental health infrastructure. Mental illness and requests for euthanasia are often linked and with mental health services already overloaded the increased burden from legalized euthanasia will create pressure to relax safeguards.
- Without other Australian state or territory having legalized euthanasia any change in Victorian law runs the risk of turning the state into a destination for death tourism.

The submission called for an improvement in palliative care for patients. The recommendations included providing services and funding for those people who wish to die at home. As well, funding is needed to provide palliative care for rural areas. Increased support for families and carers of patients is also needed.

A number of other issues were raised in the submission, such as the identification of overly-burdensome treatments and advance care planning to prepare for when people will have lost part or all of their decision-making capacity.
Fairness & Forgiveness
◊ A Forum on the Death Penalty ◊
Oct. 3, 2015, 9am-1pm, St. Ignatius Parish
10205 Lorain Ave. Cleveland 44111

Diane Zbasnik, dzbasnik@ccdocle.org, 330 535 2787
Sr. Kathleen Ryan, skryan@ccdocle.org, 216 939 3843
Sponsored by the Diocesan Social Action Office, Diocese of Cleveland

Choose Life! Dinner & Fundraiser!
Benefits the Choose Life! Program
Friday, October 16th @ 6:15pm
Windows on the River Banquet Center
2000 Sycamore St., Cleveland

Speaker: John Morales, Pro-Life filmmaker
Dinner, live music, basket raffle & auction items, sideboards & your reservation includes a chance to win the Vacation of Your Dreams!
Cost: $60 per person; Call 216-661-6616 or go to: www.lifeworksohio.org ($65 per person after 9/25)

Project Rachel, the Catholic Church’s ministry to those who have been involved in abortion, is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, and referrals to mental health professionals. Support groups and retreats may be offered in addition to individualized care.”

Please call 216-334-2966!
If you would like to include this in your bulletin, you can find the file at our website under Pastoral Care, Project Rachel.

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