Prayer for an Open Heart
Adapted from Pope John Paul II, Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, come with me, stay with me, enter my heart, teach me your way and help me to follow. Help me make good choices so I may please you in all things.

Be my counselor and guide. You, who love justice, don’t let my words or actions bring harm to others. May my lack of knowledge never lead me away from you; may my accomplishments never cause me to trust myself above you; may my wants and needs never cause me to fail.

Hold me close to your heart, so that in you I may never be far from the truth. May justice, guided by love, lead me in all things so that I may do nothing against your will.

Come, Holy Spirit. Enter deep into the hearts of your people. May each of us be filled with your presence for the good of all, so that God’s call to be people of goodness, truth, compassion and love may come to know Christ, the True Light who has come into the world to offer every human being the sure hope of eternal life.

Francis Calls Human Trafficking a "Crime Against Humanity"

Vatican City, April 10, 2014 (Zenit.org)

“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ,” he said. “It is a crime against humanity. The very fact of our being here to combine our efforts means that we want our strategies and areas of expertise to be accompanied and reinforced by the mercy of the Gospel, by closeness to the men and women who are victims of this crime.”

Pope Francis contrasted the two groups primarily present. He first pointed out the law enforcement authorities “primarily responsible for combating this tragic reality by a vigorous application of the law.” Next, he honed in on the second group, which includes humanitarian and social workers, whose task, he said, “is to provide victims with welcome, human warmth and the possibility of building a new life.”

Cardinal O’Malley Welcomes Supreme Court Decision Affirming Freedom of Speech for Pro-Life Americans

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 pro life advocates from public sidewalks near abortion facilities. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, Chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued the following statement: “Today the Supreme Court found unconstitutional a Massachusetts law imposing criminal penalties on pro-life Americans who peacefully pray for and offer alternatives to pregnant women approaching abortion clinics. This discriminatory law barred these citizens from gathering on nearby public sidewalks, while exempting ‘clinic escorts’ trained to expedite women into the facility. Clearly this was an attack on pro-life Americans’ freedom of speech, and we welcome the Court’s decision to overturn the law.

“This now overturned legislation reflects an ominous trend in our society. Abortion supporters, having long denied that unborn children have a right to life, would deny that their fellow Americans who seek to protect the unborn have the same rights as other Americans — the right to freedom of speech and freedom of association; the right to participate in the public square and serve the vulnerable in accord with our moral convictions. Increasingly we see this trend evidenced at various levels of government. We are encouraged and pleased to know that with regard to this particular issue, our highest court has affirmed the American tradition of basic constitutional rights for all.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops had joined with other religious groups in a “friend of the court” brief urging this result. The brief can be found online: www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/amicus-briefs/upload/cls-amicus-brief-filed.pdf
From the Director

As Catholics we are all called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our faith is not something that is just personal but something that we should strive to share. We share it in our families, with our friends and in our society. Many times we use words to speak of our faith, but as it has been often times been said “sometimes our actions speak louder than words.” This is where the application of Catholic teaching is lived out in our lives. I’m not sure that we always know how powerful this teaching can affect others. The very choices we make in full view of others may be little pearls of wisdom others, consciously or unconsciously, store for later use.

I want to share two stories of how my Dad taught me huge moral lessons. These were lessons I am certain he was not aware he was giving. I believe he was just doing what he thought was right. His inquisitive daughter (that’s me) saved them for her own development as an adult. These two lessons were seemingly similar since they are both in relation to pornography. Yes, they have been about what’s wrong with pornography and so much more! I’m not even sure which one came first but here they are.

One day we were driving in downtown Milwaukee and we drove past my Dad’s new place of employment. My Dad was in the printing business and he had recently gotten a new job. I was very excited and asked if we could go inside. My Dad said not today. I was very disappointed. I was very disappointed. So I did what kids do, I asked why. My Dad told me that he would take me another day, but he didn’t want to take me into the print shop today. Some of the printing presses were printing pornography. I was very intrigued. My Dad told me that he would take me another day, but he didn’t want to take me into the print shop today. Some of the printing presses were printing pornography. What did I care what they were printing, I just wanted to see the machines and where my Dad worked. That’s me.

How we tell the stories of what we do, why we do it and how we do it, can really provide inspiration to another person. They may better understand how some lives are non-valued or devalued. It may also help them to make good decisions about contributing to a culture of life and not supporting a culture of death.

Peggy Gerovac

In Memoriam…

Bernice Wilson, who was the founding director of Birthright, a prolife organization that helps pregnant women in need, died march 19, 2014. She was 91.

Mrs. Wilson was active in several Catholic ministries including the Cleveland Christ Child Society. She also was a founding member of The Friends of Regina Health Center and served as its first president.

She also started Parish School of Religion for special needs children at her parish, St. Angela Merici.

In 2000, Mrs. Wilson brought together a medical board of advisors and founded Birthcare Inc., a prenatal clinic that provides free care to women in need.

May she rest in peace, Good & Faithful Servant.

Environmental Justice

Traditionally, environmentalism promoted conserving endangered wildlife’s species and pristine habitats, with less emphasis given to safeguarding the environment where people live, work, and play. Environmental justice ties together concern for the natural environment with care for people, the marginalized, and future generations. It directly links environmental concerns with social justice issues.

http://conservation.catholic.org/background.htm

Ohio Public Transit Association Includes Trafficking in 2014 Conference

Collaborative Presents at Ohio Public Transit Conference

The Collaborative presented a program at the May 2014 Ohio Public Transit Conference focusing on the reality of human trafficking in Ohio and the role that the transit authorities across the state can play in addressing this issue.

The Collaborative work with the transportation industry to raise awareness of human trafficking began with a grant from the Billie Howland Steffee Family Fund of the Cleveland Foundation. The Collaborative partnered with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) in 2013, the year that the GCRTA signed a pledge with Transportation Leaders against Human Trafficking.

The GCRTA has placed human trafficking posters in its buses and stations to raise awareness and provide hotline numbers. It is also training its employees on the issue. The Collaborative and the GCRTA sponsored two events, one at the Windemere rapid station and the other at Tower City, to educate the public on the crime and the local social services that exist. In May, the Toledo Area Transit Authority announced a new initiative to address human trafficking.

Though transportation is not a required element of the crime, traffickers often move their victims to avoid detection, disorient their victims, and increase profits. As with all profession, it is important for those working in transportation to understand the crime, be able to identify its red flags, know how to respond appropriately, and have effective partnerships with law enforcement to rely on when the crime is suspected.

www.collaborativeinitiative.org

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Fran Edward’s involvement in her church and her faith that compelled Fran to begin her volunteer work at Birthright of Lorain County. Birthright is an organization that was founded by Louise Summerhill in Canada in 1968, and its purpose is to “Save one baby at a time from abortion.” She helped to bring Birthright to Lorain County in June of 1973 after the Roe vs. Wade decision legalized abortion in the United States.

Fran has been volunteering at Birthright since its founding and served as the director from 1993 to 2005. In addition, Fran gives communion to and leads the Rosary for Catholic residents of Center Ridge nursing home.

Fran not only lives out the gospel of life through her care for the unborn and the elderly, but also through her love for her family. Fran has fifteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren including the two on the way.

Mary and Tom Wood of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Wooster, for founding and guiding the Gabriel Project locally, where women have been served since 1989. Fran and her husband Tom founded Birthcare, Inc., a prenatal clinic that provides free care to women in need.

Fran Edward was willing and open to discussing each situation and not covering them up, I learned far more.

Keep in mind, this is not a lesson in child rearing. These stories were meant to inspire us to have the conversations with families, friends, business acquaintances about why we make the decisions we do. Why do you pick up that bread at the store every Thursday and take it to the home for pregnant women? Why do you “do the books” for that non-profit organization that work’s to restore human dignity for people living as slaves in the human trafficking situation? Or why do you go to the nursing home and visit with those people who often can’t even hold a conversation with you? Which fundraiser are you going to attend?

The second situation was a discussion we had about a local printing business that had just receiving a large contract to print a major national magazine. My Dad said that he used to work with the owner and knew him very well. I’m guessing this was another discussion in the car and the trigger was a semi-truck with this printing business’s logo on it. I was intrigued. My Dad went on to say that he considered starting his own business at the same time this former co-worker began his business. Either my Dad or I commented on how rich we would be if he had done that. Again I had lots of questions. Why didn’t you do it, Dad? He told me that at the time this printing business built their reputations by printing pornography. After they proved the quality of this work, they had the opportunity to

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Artificial Reproductive Technology: 
Being Less and Less Dependent on Parents to Exist

By Denise Hunnell, MD

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 10, 2014 (Zenit.org) - Both the 1932 novel Brave New World by Aldous Huxley and the 1997 science fiction movie “Gattaca” are classified as dystopias because they depict societies riddled with misery, tragedy, and a dehumanizing culture. Both attribute this decline in civilization to manipulations of human genetics and perversions of human reproduction. In Brave New World the traditional family structure has completely disintegrated and children are manufactured in “hatcheries” through in vitro fertilization (IVF) and gestation. In “Gattaca,” human beings are “enhanced” through genetic alterations, and those who do not have their DNA modified are seen as second-class citizens.

It is curious that genetically modified humans can be clearly seen as dangerous and undesirable in fiction but are celebrated as great achievements in current biomedical sciences. In the name of progress we are steadily marching forward to separate human procreation from human relationships and make it a laboratory procedure.

The floodgates of artificial reproductive technology were opened in Great Britain on July 25, 1978, with the birth of Louise Brown, the first “test tube” baby. In the ensuing years the use of IVF has fueled the growth of the multi-billion dollar fertility industry. The growing demand for ova to produce children for infertile couples has led to the widespread exploitation of young women as egg donors. Similar exploitation of poor women in countries like India has occurred as couples seek both egg donors to help conceive a child and a surrogate mother to gestate the child. Both women and children are dehumanized as human reproduction is commercialized.

The development of pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) pushed artificial reproductive technology to a new level of genetic manipulation. It is no longer sufficient to conceive a child, but that child must now be “defect free.” Embryos are conceived through IVF, but before they are implanted in the uterus, their DNA is screened for chromosomal abnormalities. Embryos found to have undesirable genetics are discarded as medical waste with no regard for their humanity. These nascent human beings may be destroyed because they have chromosomal patterns linked to diseases like Down syndrome or Trisomy 18, or they may have the gene linked to familial cancers, or they may just be the wrong sex. Sex-selection abortions and sex-selection of embryos for implantation have led to serious gender imbalances in countries like China and India where sons are highly preferred over daughters.

Community Pregnancy Center News

Our hats are off to the over 200 local elementary students who spent time each of the past 9 months praying for babies in danger of abortion (and their parents) and learning the amazing facts of how God's plan for an unborn baby's development unfolds! These students celebrated this month with baby showers to celebrate the births of the babies for whom they'd been praying ~ they also put feet to their faith and brought baby gifts to the showers to help the families at CPC! Our LIFE learners this year were: Immaculate Heart of Mary School ~ 6th grade; North Akron Catholic School ~ 6th, 7th, and 8th grade; St. Anthony Catholic School ~ 5th grade; St. Mary's Catholic School ~ 5th grade; St. Paul's Catholic School ~ 6th grade; Ss. Philip and James Catholic school and PSR ~ middle school and also Blessed Trinity Parish who's congregation followed the program in conjunction with their students!

Interested in bringing this program to your child's school? Or want to learn more about volunteering contact CPC at 330-825-1900 or 1058 Wooster Rd. W, Barberton, Ohio 44203

Help Wanted: Material Goods Sorter:

CPC is looking for volunteers to help sort and inspect material goods that are donated to our center! If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering their time and efforts to come to the center once or twice a month for a few hours please contact Renee Furrer, Director of Client Services or visit our website at www.communitypregnancycenter.org for more information about the volunteer roles.
For why should my freedom be determined by someone else’s conscience? (1 Cor10:29)

The success of this Fortnight is vital to establishing and maintaining a new movement for religious freedom, in response to the growing range of religious freedom issues in so many areas of law, such as immigration, adoption, and disaster relief, both here and abroad.

Thanks to all who participated, especially Bishop Lennon for presiding over the Opening and Closing Fortnight Masses.

“I am vehemently against the death penalty. Now stay with me – this is not a post about my opinion regarding that. . . . I abused and betrayed women in the worst possible way. I convinced them to kill their children. I was an accomplice to murder. Thousands of times – women I knew, women I didn’t, my friends, even my family. I lied to people. I lied to women when they came to me for accurate information.

. . So when someone says things like, ‘murderers don’t deserve to breathe the same air as I do,’ it hurts a little. Because that was me. But I am still here, breathing that same air, and trying to spend my life righting my wrongs. . . .

I know some will say, ‘but you repented, that is the difference.’ But what if I hadn’t – not yet. What if I was still inside the abortion industry? What if I was still an accomplice to murder? What if it took me longer to realize the truth? Do I deserve to die? Are we saying repentance is about our timing?” Peace and Life Connections, May 25, 2012

Maggie’s Place is a community that provides houses of hospitality for expectant women who wish to achieve their goals in a dignified atmosphere.

Urgent Needs at Maggie’s Place as of July 5, 2014
• Toilet Paper
• Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
• Underwear size 7-10 (briefs)
• Nail Polish Remover
• Postage Stamps
• Cribs (not dropside)
• Baby Powder

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING!
Please visit: maggiesplace.org
The 4th Quarter of “For Life” will Publish a special insert announcing 2014 Respect Life Events

Does your parish or group have something planned to commemorate this October’s Respect Life month?

If so, submit your information by September 3, 2014 to:
Jennell Muscatello@: jmuscatello@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

or send via mail to:
Peggy Gerovac
Office for Human Life
7911 Detroit Ave.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH RALLY AND MASS FOR LIFE PARTICIPANTS

Verizon Center and DC Armory Sites
This event is hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington

The Annual Youth Rally and Mass for Life will be January 22, 2015. All tickets must be ordered from the Office for Human Life. Orders will be due in mid-September 2014. Please watch our website/e-mail/Facebook for details. If you are not on our email distribution list or a friend on Facebook you may request to be added.

Please contact Jennell Muscatello
jmuscatello@clevelandcatholiccharities.org or 216.334.2961
Respect Life Program 2014
Each of us is a masterpiece of God’s creation.

The Respect Life Program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes a program packet each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups and other organizations.

Our theme this year is, “Each of us is a masterpiece of God’s creation,” which was developed based off of a quote from Pope Francis’ Day for Life greeting: “Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor are master pieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

PAMPHLETS:
This year’s pamphlets include (in English and Spanish):

- Adoption
- Miscarriage
- Post-Abortion Healing within Marriage
- Poverty and Abortion
- Advanced Directives
- The Increased Commoditization of Children

ALSO INCLUDED: BULLETIN INSERTS, LITURGY GUIDE, 3 MINI POSTERS, FLYER, CATALOG, CLIP ART

To Order 2014 Respect Life Program Packets please call 1-866-582-0943 or check the website at: http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program