Cleveland Mass for Life 2018
Monday, January 22 @ 10:00am

Streaming LIVE on Diocesan website & AM1260
+ The Most Rev. Martin J. Amos, DD, MS in Ed (Retired), Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Davenport (Formerly Auxiliary Bishop Diocese of Cleveland) presiding

A special Mass to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision will be observed at the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist in Cleveland. This is the Diocesan observance of the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

• All are encouraged to attend; Schools and parish groups are welcome. Those going to DC can participate this year!

• Rosary for Life will be prayed after Mass.

• Visit www.2018mass4lifecle.eventbrite.com or call 216.334.2965 for more information and to register groups.

• Share updates at #Mass4LifeCLE

Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses.

C.S. Lewis

2018 THEME
01.19.2018

Love Saves Lives

National March for Life

The 2018 March for Life theme is “Love Saves Lives.” Choosing life is not always easy, but it is the loving, empowering, and self-sacrificial option. Love is universally attractive because it is directed towards others. Love is what we all strive for because deep-down we are all drawn to give of ourselves in this way. Love saves lives in countless ways.

The March for Life begins with a Rally at noon on the Mall in Washington on Friday, January 19, 2018.

Please check www.marchforlife.org for additional information.
You might wonder why you have not heard of this court case. Well, I can tell you it was not a media friendly story, only the LA Times and the Washington Times published the story.

The good works of the individuals that investigated and reported these evil acts must have been done by people who live in faith and hope, or they would not have taken on such a monumental task.

When the going gets tough, lean on your faith and hope, even if holiday cheer has subsided for another year.

Peggy Gerovac

---

**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

As we begin a new year and continue the Christmas season, the words faith and hope stand out for me. These words, often used on greeting cards, are necessary personal attributes to be disciples of the Messiah. We have faith in the Gospel and Jesus’ words that tell us there is more to come than we can envision. Hope is the outlook we have when our faith reminds us that whatever is happening in this world, we have Jesus’ word that salvation for eternity is still to come.

When these two words guide us, we are able to do the work we are called to do. We are able to stand for life when it seems futile, when we are angered or disappointed and even when respect for human life seems less and less. We can do this because our faith and our hope sustain us.

Much of this work goes on with no one knowing, such as this from a LA Times article from December 10, 2017.

*Two bioscience companies have reached a $7.785-million settlement with the Orange County district attorney’s office over allegations that they illegally sold fetal tissue to companies around the world, prosecutors said Friday.*

According to the settlement signed Monday, DV Biologics LLC and sister company DaVinci Biosciences LLC, both based in Yorba Linda, must cease all operations in California within 60 to 120 days. The agreement also requires the companies to admit liability for violations of state and federal laws prohibiting the sale or purchase of fetal tissue for research purposes, prosecutors said.

This is the result of the video tapes, which many of you have seen filmed and distributed by the Center for Medical Progress, showing DV Biologics and Planned Parenthood talking about these illegal sales.

We have heard these films called fake, illegal and more. Nevertheless, a court has said they are truth and then required the defendants to pay fines, restitution, admit guilt and no longer do business in the state of California.

---

**NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE**

**JANUARY 18-19, 2018**

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will be held from Thursday afternoon, January 18, through Friday morning, January 19, 2018. The Opening Mass begins Thursday, January 18 at 5:30 p.m. The National Rosary for Life begins at 8:00 p.m. Night Prayer (Byzantine Rite) begins at 9:30 p.m. Holy Hours begin at 11:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, January 19. The Closing Mass begins Friday at 7:30 a.m.

**General Seating for the Opening Mass**

Additional seating is provided in the Lower Level Memorial Hall during the Opening Mass. Television monitors and communion distribution will allow those seated in this area to fully participate in Mass.

**Seating for Persons with Disabilities**

In collaboration with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD), advanced reserved seating for persons with disabilities can be made through the NCPD website.

**Concelebration and Deacon and Seminarian Participation**

Bishops and priests are welcome to concelebrate the Opening Mass on January 18 and the Closing Mass on January 19. Deacons and seminarians are also welcome to participate in the Masses. Important information and instructions for all participating clergy and seminarians can be found on this Basilica web page.
Monday, January 22: Day for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

For more information about this day of prayer, go to:


The over 56 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.” However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”: “In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.”

As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms. Another way to take part is through participating in special events to observe the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Call your local diocese or parish to find out what events might be taking place in your area.

A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, no. 100

The Face of God

Every encounter with a human person is an encounter with the Infinite God. We are icons of Jesus Christ, unique and unrepeatable reflections of His glory. An icon is not simply a picture or a painting; it is a presence. You, in all your "you-ness" - your smile, face shape color, your mannerisms and preferences, your desires, hopes and dreams - reveal a particular feature of the Face of God. He has made each of us in His Image and willed us for our own sake, not for what we can do or achieve. Our worth lies in this, in the Truth that we are uniquely loveable, loved and made to love. Our dignity lies in the fact that each of us is called to communion with God. In our encounter with the living Lord we come to see and know ourselves, all of ourselves - that which is beautiful and true, and that which is marred - and see in it all: I am loved.

Mother Agnes Mary, Sisters of Life
Living in the United States, I think many of us take for granted the ready accessibility of food resources. Supermarkets across the nation offer a variety of food that is not necessarily produced in this country. For example, the United States imports 80-90% of its seafood. A simple trip to your local supermarket when you are craving tuna or shrimp is likely just a couple of minutes away. But do you ever think about the process or individuals who were involved in getting that food to your kitchen table?

When I first heard about ethical consumerism and product labeling, it was the summer before my first year of college. A friend was talking to me about the importance of fair trade labeling for coffee. She explained how fair trade certification kept companies accountable for just payment to their employees throughout the supply chain. This seemed like a beneficial endeavor to me, and I’ve kept it in mind since. Ethical consumerism came up again at my local parish in Colorado where only fair trade coffee is served. I was shocked to learn that engaging in ethical consumerism is a shared concern for both hippy-college students in Boulder and suburban daily Mass-goers in the suburbs of Denver.

Catholic social teaching tells us to respect and support human dignity because we were created in the image and likeness of God. Yet our patterns of consumption can inhibit people living from a dignified life.

Human trafficking has become a global phenomenon that puts women, men, and children at risk. For example, in the seafood industry, tens of thousands of people are exploited due to the isolated nature of work on boats and lack of regulations. These vulnerable conditions can lead to forced labor, sexual servitude, and debt bondage.

All hope is not lost. We can use our power as consumers to help prevent and reduce these atrocities by becoming ethical consumers. The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAHT) began a campaign last Lent called “Labeling for Lent: An Effort to Prevent Human Trafficking”. This campaign began as an effort to raise awareness about the reality of human trafficking in the seafood industry. A survey was conducted asking consumers if they would like seafood companies to include labeling on their packaged products to eradicate human trafficking and forced labor in their supply chains. More than 2,000 participants supported such a step.

Personally, I’ve struggled with being an ethical consumer because of my budget. I grew up in an immigrant household where the priority was to feed five people, not to buy products of ethical companies.

Real barriers can present themselves when trying to be a conscious consumer. But think about it this way: exploited workers don’t have an option. Individuals are stripped of their freedom and dignity thousands of miles away, and yet, we as American consumers have the capacity to stop this injustice. I’m not asking you to radically change your entire shopping routine because frankly that’s unreasonable. I am simply asking you to keep in mind our Catholic social teaching on the dignity of every human and be mindful of the products you purchase and companies you consequently support.

In the words of our Holy Father for the 2015 World Day of Peace, “Together with the social responsibility of business, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act.” But this call is not limited to those of the Catholic faith – anyone can be an ethical consumer.

For more information on how to become an ethical consumer and an advocate against human trafficking, please visit:

Labeling for Lent
Supply Chain Transparency

Deisy Muñoz Viesca is a policy intern for Migration and Refugee Services at USCCB. She is pursuing a degree in Political Science and Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado – Boulder.
The key arguments against legalizing assisted suicide can be summarized as follows (notdeadyet.org):

**Deadly mix:** Assisted suicide is a deadly mix with our profit-driven healthcare system. At $300, assisted suicide will be the cheapest treatment. Assisted suicide saves insurance companies money.

**Abuse:** Abuse of people with disabilities, and elder abuse, are rising. An heir or abusive caregiver may steer someone towards assisted suicide, witness the request, pick up the lethal dose, and even give the drug — no witnesses are required at the death, so who would know?

**Mistakes:** Diagnoses of terminal illness are too often wrong, leading people to give up on treatment and lose good years of their lives.

**Careless:** No psychological evaluation is required. People with a history of depression and suicide attempts have received the lethal drugs.

**Pressure:** Financial and emotional pressures can also make people choose death.

**Unnecessary:** Everyone already has the right to refuse treatment and get full palliative care, including, if dying in pain, pain-relieving palliative sedation.

**No true safeguards:** The safeguards are hollow, with no enforcement or investigation authority.

**Our quality of life underrated:** Society often underrates people with disabilities’ quality of life. Will doctors & nurses fully explore our concerns and fight for our full lives? Will we get suicide prevention or suicide assistance?

‘Where will I go?’
*Our Sunday Visitor, October 15, 2017*

Pro-life advocates often imagine that employees at abortion facilities are heartless. Yet, according to Pamela Whitehead, project manager and prayer team coordinator for And Then There Were None (ATTWN), a ministry to help abortion workers leave the industry, such employees believe they are helping people.

“It’s very easy to forget sometimes that these are normal people,” Whitehead said. “They are moms and dads. They are friends. They have families. They are all worthy of redemption and forgiveness.”

Former Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson founded ATTWN to assist former abortion clinic workers through the emotional, spiritual, legal and financial transition when going from a pro-abortion stance to pro-life. More than 355 abortion workers and eight abortion doctors have left the industry and sought healing through the ministry’s counseling, peer support and retreats.

Whitehead said abortion facility employees are hired to work at the front desk with no medical qualifications. With the possibility of making more money than they’ve ever made — and thinking it’s more than they can make anywhere else — these employees often are asked to work in the procedure room.

“By then, they think, ‘Where will I go? Who will hire me after working here?’” Whitehead said. “Our message is one of hope and conversion. It’s thinking about a group of people who are, quite honestly, demonized by so many. No one is beyond the power of conversion, because no one is beyond the power of Christ.”

Update on Birthright in Parma

Birthright has moved their Parma Office to Parma Heights. They did this to be better able to serve the women who come to them with their babies in strollers. The new location is ADA compliant so that women don’t need to negotiate steps in order to access services.

The new address is:

5851 Pearl Rd. Suite 202
Parma Heights, Ohio, 44130
216- 661-6400 and 216-661-6401
24 hour Helpline: 1-800-550-4900
www.birthrightofcleveland.com
Who:
You and thousands of other Catholics across the country!

What:
During 9 Days for Life, join thousands of Catholics nationwide in 9 days of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life:

1) Pray for the respect and protection of each person and his or her life using short prayer guides with different intentions, reflections, and more each day!

2) Gather together in prayer, action, and fellowship with others.

3) Share your experience online!

When:
Sign up now & participate Saturday, January 21 – Sunday, January 29. (If you’re getting started after January 21, it’s okay!)

How:
Visit www.9daysforlife.com to download a free mobile app or novena, sign up for daily emails or text messages, or discover many other ways you can participate!
Unite with hundreds of other cities around the world for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history: the 40 Days for Life campaign. Recognizing that “with God all things are possible,” people of faith are praying that this effort will help bring an end to the tragedy of abortion.

40 Days for Life is made up of three components:

**PRAYER & FASTING:**
believers throughout our city are invited to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**
help take a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of our city through media efforts, advocacy, and public visibility

**PEACEFUL VIGIL:**
stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness at the vigil sites listed below...

- Preterm – Cleveland
  12000 Shaker Blvd.
  Peggy 216-382-9170
  www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland

- Planned Parenthood
  25350 Rockside Road
  John 216-641-6587
  www.40daysforlife.com/bedford

- Family Planning – Painesville
  54 South State Street
  Carol 440-823-1204
  www.40daysforlife.com/painesville

Learn how you can speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves by visiting:

www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland

John, Campaign Director 216-245-9744
The National Catholic Bioethics Center

New study explores effects of abortion: A study recently published in the Journal of American Physician and Surgeons sheds new light on the psychological effects of abortion. 987 women with an “abortion history” and who had sought post-abortion counseling participated in the study. The most telling result came from the question, “What are the most significant positives, if any, that have come from your decision to abort?” 31.6 percent of study participants responded “None,” and 22 percent did not respond to the question at all. The study also demonstrated that many of the participants felt pressured to have an abortion, and that they thought it was their only choice. The authors concluded by stating, “Even in an ideal environment wherein women receive adequate counseling, are offered support to continue their pregnancies, and do not present with established risk factors, it is still possible to be blindsided by an abortion and suffer ill effects due to [its] inherent complexity.”

Please contact us to post your volunteer needs and upcoming events.
All of our ads can be found on our website for parish use!

Contact Us

For Life is a quarterly publication and educational service of the Office for Human Life of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Office for Human Life
7911 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102

(216) 334-2965
pmgerovac@ccdocle.org
www.ccdocle.org/office-human-life

Like us on Facebook

- More audio/visual links on life issues
- Posts on diocesan, local, national, and international items of interest
- Action alerts

This is the fastest way to get breaking news and share it with others.

Every person’s life—including her own and her child’s—is precious and beautiful, no matter the circumstances.

If you would like to receive more periodic emails & the digital version of ‘For Life’...
Please send your e-mail address to:
pmgerovac@ccdocle.org