



02 WELCOME
Ultrasound Images
Coordinator's Corner

03 40 Days for Life
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Being Pro-Life

04 Belonging
St. Josephine Bakhita
Project Rachel
Contact Us

RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



Working together to spread the Gospel of Life across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Vivian Koob Receives the Respect Life Award

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

On Sunday, January 24, the annual Respect Life Award was presented by Archbishop Schnurr to a person whom I consider to be a great friend to the Respect Life Office, Vivian Koob. If you are unfamiliar with this award, it is given each year to an individual who embodies the call to "proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self, and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence" (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities). Vivian certainly lives out that call, and has been living out that call, day after day for many years. If you aren't familiar with Vivian, I'd like to highlight just some of what she has done over the years.

In 1985, Vivian and her husband Steve wanted to have an impact against the abortion facility in their neighborhood, and started a sidewalk ministry outside the clinic. That led to founding a pregnancy care center, the Elizabeth New Life Center, in 1989. Since that time ENLC has grown to 8 Women's Centers across the Archdiocese

and is one of the largest Pregnancy Resource Centers in the country. These centers offer many services for women and men facing unplanned pregnancies to help them choose life for their babies, learn parenting skills, obtain needed baby supplies and equipment and much more. Last year ENLC's Women's Centers served over 5,000 clients, and more than 85% of pregnant women who were assessed as at-risk for abortion, chose life in 2019. That alone is an accomplishment, but Vivian didn't stop there.

ENLC also operates a full medical prenatal care practice that provided over 2,000 prenatal visits in 2019, a youth services department that serves 8,500 students a year in talks on sexual abstinence, and a marriage works department that provides mentoring and marriage therapy. She also helps train other pregnancy care center directors across the US, and even in other countries.

She and her husband live out their passion for Respect Life across the spectrum in their home life as well, serving as foster parents, adopting special needs children and advocating for their needs in schools and community organizations and caring for chronically ill family members.



Vivian has also served as the Respect Life Coordinator in her region for over 35 years. Vivian is a visionary with an extraordinary amount of energy, tenacity, creativity, and perseverance who has demonstrated a lifetime of commitment to upholding the dignity of human life in her personal life, her professional life, and as a parishioner. I am honored to know her, and am glad she is a part of the important work we all do to transform this culture into one that supports life from conception to natural death.



Welcome

Thank you for your openness to God's call to foster respect for human life at all its stages, from conception to natural death. We live in a time when so many in our culture promote values contrary to human life itself. These include life issues such as abortion and euthanasia, and issues of human dignity such as advocacy

for those with disabilities or victims of violent crime. It is a monumental task, but one worth pursuing. What is needed is people of love and humility, devoted to God, immersed in the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, and open to the direction of the Holy Spirit in helping others bring a greater respect for all human life to the lives of all.

May God bless you in this work. Know that I am truly grateful to work with you in this. Together, let us build a culture of life here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati!

Bill Wunglbacher

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

Ultrasound Images

By: Kara Ross

The Beauty of the Smallest Among Us

Lee Carter has worked in the Pro-life Movement for over 25 years. Trained as a nurse, Lee decided to offer her time and services as an ultrasound technician at Pregnancy Centers beginning in Florida then continuing her work in Ohio with multiple pregnancy centers. Lee calls her work in the Dayton area a frontline battle as the centers she works with are minutes away from the Women's Med Center of Ohio, the surgical abortion clinic in Dayton. Many women who are abortion-minded come to a pregnancy center to receive a free pregnancy test and ultrasound before they make a costly appointment across the street.

In our Church, we have a beautiful tradition of sacred art. For centuries, art has conveyed deep truths to the community of believers, even when most of those who followed Christ could not read. Art was a means all could understand and could use to grow closer to God. Pregnancy Care Centers continue this tradition by using the image of the ultrasound, the image of the tiny, precious life within her mother's womb, to move hearts more than any



FEBRUARY Now and at the Hour...

03 & 04

It's never too soon to begin thinking about our own funeral, end-of-life care, and who will be making those decisions. Join us to learn about how to get started on planning a Catholic funeral and what the Church teaches on key end-of-life issues. [CLICK HERE](#) to register for this virtual event from 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

07-14

National Marriage Week

The upcoming observances of National Marriage Week and World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 14, 2021) are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love by supporting and promoting marriage and the family. [CLICK HERE](#) for resources to celebrate marriage!

Coordinator's Corner

This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org.

- 01- Word of Life & Pray for Life
- 02- The Annunciation Action Guide
- 03- From Archbishop Naumann
- 04- Roe v. Wade the Movie



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's Word of Life includes information about National Marriage Week from February 7-14. (PDF: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)) You can also find the [Pray for Life](#) page that includes monthly prayers for moms in need written in both English and Spanish.
- 02 Hit the ground running with this [Parish Action Guide](#) highlighting the sanctity of human life through the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. (The Spanish translation will be posted as soon as it's available.) You can also join the staff of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities on Tuesday, February 9 at 1:00 PM (EST) as they walk through the parish action guide and online materials for observing the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. [REGISTER HERE](#) and invite your friends!
- 03 Last Thursday, President Joe Biden signed an [executive order](#) repealing the "Mexico City Policy" thereby allowing U.S. taxpayer funds to be sent to organizations that both promote and provide abortions in developing countries. The order also announced his intention to rescind the current regulation governing the Title X family planning program. Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann responded to this action with statements on the [Mexico City Policy](#) and [Title X](#).
- 04 [Roe v. Wade](#) the film will be premiering soon and there are many opportunities to host both virtually and in theaters. This movie portrays the case from a pro-life perspective and reveals the manipulation that took place during the movement to legalize abortion. To host a showing of this film, [CLICK HERE](#) to be taken to the official movie page.

Ultrasound Images (cont'd)

Continued from Page 2

words ever could. In her interview for Being ProLife, Lee shares the story of a young woman who was sure that an abortion was the right choice for her situation. She did not think she was far along at all. But seeing her baby on the ultrasound screen, and realizing that she was hearing three distinct heartbeats, made the difference. She chose to deliver three beautiful babies and was able to feel confident in her motherhood because of the material aid and parenting classes that the pregnancy center offered. Because of the image of the ultrasound, 77 % of abortion-minded women change their mind.

Lee shares how the ultrasound makes it all real to a mother. Seeing the baby move in real time thanks to 4D imaging, seeing a 10 week old child suck her thumb while in her mother's womb, helps the mother see a person, not a blob of cells. A baby who deserves the right to be nurtured and loved in the womb of her mother and in the arms of loving parents following their birth, whether the mother chooses to keep her child or place her for adoption. As Lee attests, the ultrasound is the most powerful tool that pregnancy centers have when helping a woman choose life.

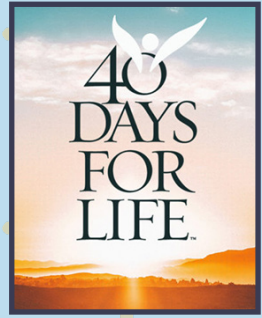
To hear Lee's full story [CLICK HERE](#).

40 Days for Life

By: Noelle Collis-DeVito

Beginning on February 17, people across the world will gather outside of abortion facilities to lift their voices in prayer for the women and men who enter, the workers who provide abortion services, and the innocent lives lost. Those who commit to these 40 days of prayer and fasting, do so peacefully in the spirit of hope that someday we will see a world where the killing of unborn children is unthinkable.

As the Spring Campaign for 40 Days for Life approaches, I encourage you to get involved. If you have never prayed outside of an abortion clinic, attend one of the upcoming vigils as we raise our voices to God to proclaim the Gospel of Life. If you have previously attended a vigil, consider signing up for a shift or two outside of the clinic to cover those inside with prayer.



To learn more about 40 Days for Life in both the Dayton and Cincinnati regions, check out our Being Pro-Life Podcast specifically devoted to the topic. Listen to stories from area leaders, Shawn Carney, and Abby Johnson, and access the webpages for the [Dayton](#) and [Cincinnati](#) chapters. Click the name of the chapter above for a downloadable flyer.

FEBRUARY 40 Days Kick-Off Rally

14

On Sunday, February 14 in both [DAYTON](#) and [CINCINNATI](#), 40 Days for Life will host a Kick-Off Rally to begin the prayer campaign for an end to abortion. Both events will take place at 2:00pm and each will feature a speaker, music, and prayer. Dress warmly and join us for one of these rallies. Click the location above for a flyer.

17

40 Days for Life Vigil Begins

Through the months of February and March, people across the world will gather outside of abortion facilities to lift their voices in prayer for the women and men who enter, the workers who provide abortion services, and the innocent lives lost. Consider joining the movement of prayer and fasting in both [DAYTON](#) and [CINCINNATI](#).

The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

By: Kara Ross

Our Lady of Guadalupe stands as one of the strongest intercessors for the ProLife movement. In the image of Our Lady, Mary appears as a pregnant Aztec princess using symbols that Juan Diego and his people would recognize. When Juan Diego saw Our Lady and when others saw her image on his tilma, they could see that not only was she pregnant, she was carrying God within her womb. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is an intimate image of the Incarnation of Jesus. The people of the Americas saw that God was not some distant, wrathful being who desired sacrifice and who was to be feared. Rather, He is a kind and loving God. He is a God of mercy who would go so far as to humble Himself and become Man so He could save us from our sins.



Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to be an image of Mary that connects deeply to the conversion of the Americas. In our culture of death, she is an image of hope and life that helps people to recognize the dignity of all humans. If we are not dignified, if we are not precious to God, why would He ever choose to become human. The Incarnation of Christ in Mary's womb reminds us of the dignity of every unborn child, every mother or father facing a crisis pregnancy, every family mourning the loss of an unborn child, every person facing the end of life. All of us have an inherent dignity that must be respected and Mary intercedes for us everyday. We must cling fast to this image of hope and remain true to the belief that God will restore a kingdom of life as we continue our work.

We are proud to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe in our Being ProLife Logo. Tune in to the episode [FOUND HERE](#) to hear more about how Our Lady is a prolife advocate! To read another reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe's role in the ProLife movement [CLICK HERE](#).

Being Pro-Life Life in Art



This month's issue is about art and beauty, and there is a lot of that in the Pro-life movement. First of all, there is the beauty of the image of an unborn child through an ultrasound machine. While it is difficult to get reliable statistics on how many women in crisis pregnancies change their minds about abortion after viewing their child on an ultrasound machine, any pregnancy center will tell you it can be very helpful. Want to help ensure your kids are raised as pro-life Catholic kids? Catholic art in your home can help. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, given to St. Juan Diego in 1531, is full of imagery that can only be explained as miraculous. Finally, the beauty and importance of chastity is integrally connected to the success of the pro-life movement. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our Being Pro-Life Webpage with a list of this month's podcasts featuring nationally known chastity speaker Jason Evert.

St. Josephine Bakhita

By: Kara Ross

St. Josephine Bakhita faced incredible challenges in her life. Born in Sudan in the late 1800s, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of seven and sold into slavery. Over the course of her life, she was owned by many people and treated as someone less than human. Over and over, the actions of others told her that she was not a child of God. However, when given to a man in Italy and instructed to care for his young daughter, Josephine was exposed to the Catholic Church. Josephine was instructed to take the young girl to lessons taught by the Canossian Sisters. As these lessons continued, Josephine found herself more and more drawn to the faith. She was baptised in 1890. With her newfound confidence in her worth as a child of God, Josephine sued for her freedom and was allowed to enter religious life with the same sisters who introduced her to the faith.



St. Josephine is a patron saint for victims of human trafficking. We join our prayers to her's that those who are trafficked can find help and healing from their trauma. To hear podcasts on labor and sex trafficking, see our [Being ProLife Page!](#)

belonging



Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities works to establish a culture of inclusion and meaningful participation for persons with disabilities and their families in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. If you have any questions or need any assistance, you can contact our office at opd@catholicaoc.org.

In our work to bring the Gospel to all of God's people, Deaf Catholics are frequently overlooked. Well-intentioned assumptions are made that we are meeting the needs of the Deaf Community if we provide transcripts, books, workbooks, or written lesson plans; however, these options are often not the best solution. American Sign Language (ASL) is a recognized language with its own grammar, syntax, and sentence structure. It is very different from the spoken English language, and many times there is a huge gap in translation. For Deaf persons, following along with Closed Caption during a video or reading a text would be similar to providing people who have learned Spanish as a second language with Spanish subtitles and text books. It is not an impossible option, but it is more difficult than learning in one's own language. Closed Captioning is still a wonderful tool for people who have hearing loss or auditory processing issues, it is just not the best solution for the Deaf Community.

Continued Below

FEB Day of Reflection (Project Rachel)

20

The Project Rachel Day of Reflection is designed for ANY PERSON affected by an abortion experience. All are welcome: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, etc. This event is free of charge and will take place in the Cincinnati Area. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

MAR Feast of the Annunciation

25

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of our Savior. It is also a perfect opportunity to highlight the sanctity of human life. Check Coordinator's Corner for information about the Annunciation Action Guide.



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The good news is that there are a number of fantastic resources that are being developed for Deaf Catholics. [Hands of Grace: The Catholic Sacraments in American Sign Language](#) is an innovative program created by Ascension Press that features video presentations by Father Sean Loomis teaching in ASL, as well as a workbook that is specifically designed with a visual emphasis to provide a better, dynamic learning experience for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The National Catholic Office of the Deaf has also created the [YouCat in ASL](#) and we have a number of [ASL Sacraments & Prayer](#) videos uploaded to the Office for Persons with Disabilities resource pages. Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any other questions about how to better minister to Deaf Catholics. We will be offering some workshops on this topic in the near future.



Do you have something that you would like to share in our upcoming issue?
Contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org or (937)281-4128.