

LIFELINES

| For the Reverence of All Human Life |

Virginia March for Life - Ride the Bus!

Wednesday, April 2nd

- MEET after the 7 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, April 2nd on N. Augusta Street.
- 11 a.m. - Rally at the Bell Tower 101 N. 9th Street, Richmond
- 12 Noon - March for Life
- Cost - \$10/person \$35/family
- Be back in Staunton by 4 p.m.
- To sign up, contact Marie Thomas:
- mariebthomas1961@gmail.com

Next Culture of Life ministry meeting:

Fri, April 11th, 1 p.m. in the Conference Room

Come find out how you can help with the various Culture of Life ministries within our parish. All are welcome!



Fathers and the Pain of Loss

Recognition of a father's right to mourn is sign of hope

“That a man might actually feel a profound emotional connection to his unborn child as it lives — or dies — inside someone else’s body is not a truth we’re especially comfortable with,” writes pro-abortion journalist, Kat Rosenfeld, of the Free Press in a February 8, 2025 article entitled, “The Men Who Lost Their Babies.” In the article, Rosenfeld recounts her interviews with roughly a dozen and a half men who shared with her their feelings about the loss of unborn babies they had fathered. Three of these men had lost children to abortion. All of the men recounted to Rosenfeld that they felt overwhelmed by grief, a terrible anguish

Mary's House

Practical and confidential assistance to all mothers. Call or Text (540) 457-1953

Entering Canaan

Entering Canaan
Post-Abortive Healing
for

- Women and men who have experienced the pain and destruction of abortion in their lives are invited to join in this sacramentally-based healing program.
- Anyone who has a heart for men and women hurt by abortion and for the unborn and interested in volunteering.

We welcome you and it is free of charge. For more information or confidential reservations please contact:

Miriam 949-274-6075
Mark 240-643-1248

COME and EXPERIENCE THE MERCY of GOD and the Fellowship of many others who have suffered the hidden pain and destruction of abortion.

that they believed they had no permission to express. Their silence stemmed from cultural pressure that it would be “selfish” to talk about their own grief over the loss or about any fatherly connection to their child. When one man shared about his part in an abortion nearly thirty years ago and said, “I’m not at peace with it. I don’t think I’ll ever get there. I don’t think I want to get there...That I not only took part in it, but I was willing....You realize that you’ve murdered part of yourself,” Rosenfeld recounts, “I thought...‘You’re not supposed to say that.’” Yet she goes on to say much more in support of the view that, after decades of not being allowed to speak their mind about their unborn children, fathers should be allowed to have a voice. She interviews Tony Perry, author of a 2016 essay-length memoir, *A Father's Choice*, reflecting on his grief and regret over his participation in an abortion in his late 20’s. Perry, an American living in the UK, has advocated for policies that would “invite men to recognize their responsibilities as fathers” and “make it easier for mothers and fathers to choose life.” He mentions to Rosenfeld that in the UK the government now allows people to make an official record of pregnancies lost before 24 weeks, as a result of miscarriage or an abortion for medical reasons, and either parent can register for the certificate. “It’s like recording that there was someone there,” Perry tells Rosenfeld. As a result of all these interviews with men, Rosenfeld, even as a journalist who supports abortion, admits, “I have been persuaded that when a pregnancy ends — by accident or by choice — there must be a way to include men in the conversation.”

Acceptance of the reality of loss for the father of an unborn child, and recognition of a man’s right to talk about the reality of that loss, is a sign of hope for the culture of life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that conjugal love is ordered to give life, and that “spouses share in the creative power and Fatherhood of God.” (CCC 2367) For decades the teaching of the “culture of death” has said that fatherhood is both unnecessary and separated from the procreative act. Articles like Rosenfeld’s “The Men Who Lost Their Babies” are a welcome sign that this teaching is beginning to be questioned.

The St. Francis Culture of Life ministry recognizes the pain of pregnancy loss for mothers as well as fathers through both the St. Gerard’s outreach (miscarriage) and the sacramentally-based healing support group *Entering Canaan* (abortion).