

# LIFELINES

| For the Reverence of All Human Life |

## 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign Begins

Sept 24-Nov 2, 2025

- A peaceful witness of prayer outside Planned Parenthood in Charlottesville.
- Sign up for a time slot at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/charlottesville>
- *Your prayers are effective! We know of one couple who chose life in August because of a prayerful witness on the sidewalk: "A mom and dad with baby in tow came to Planned Parenthood for an abortion. [One of our counselors] spoke with them until the Clinic worker made them drive into the parking lot. They... only stayed in the clinic for a short time...then came back out and were looking to us for help. As they drove out, they stopped and said... they were not going to [abort, but] would contact the local Pregnancy center for help. They were grateful for our intervention. They have our information and they were very happy as they left." - Anonymous*
- For more information, email Benji Hall at [Cville40DaysforLife@gmail.com](mailto:Cville40DaysforLife@gmail.com)



## Disability and Hope in the Church

Those who have family members with disabilities know first-hand that there are many threats lurking in our current society. Three prominent threats to guard against are: 1) the new eugenics movement and a general obsession with perfection; 2) the messages against healthy sexual development for young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD); and 3) the current mental health crisis in our country, which has a disproportionate impact on the disabled.

Any cursory look at statistics regarding these issues can be a discouraging endeavor, but the good news is that there is hope to be found within the Catholic Church. The wealth of Catholic

**Next Culture of Life  
ministry meeting:  
Friday, Nov 14th, 1 p.m.  
in the Office  
Conference Room**

**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.**

teaching on the profound dignity of every human person and its emphasis on integral human development provides a clear and encouraging road map to protect families and individuals from these threats, as well as to promote reverence for life in society. Based upon these teachings, Catholic endeavors are actively engaging the culture with a message of hope and wholeness.

In the Diocese of Richmond, the Embracing Grace ministry, headed up by Paula Stryker, seeks to serve parents who receive an adverse prenatal diagnosis with the love and support of others who have gone through similar experiences. With regard to sexual development, the Notre Dame McGrath Institute has published a free course for parents, teachers and ministers called The Body and Beyond: Human Sexuality for Young People with IDD from a Catholic Perspective.

Loneliness is a major factor in anyone's mental health. Combined with the vulnerability of a person with disabilities, loneliness can be exacerbated and cause unbearable suffering. The Church's path to healing is found in the Body of Christ. Our parishes can and ought to be places where those with disabilities are welcomed by people, finding both a sense of purpose and an encounter with the divine, a universal human need. The Word on Fire Institute has an online community dedicated to those with IDD. Their new publication coming out later this month, edited by Mark Bradford, is entitled, Indispensable: A Catholic Guide to Welcoming Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In our own commonwealth, Bishop Michael Burbidge has done ground breaking work in the Diocese of Arlington through an independent non-profit, Porto Charities, which promotes inclusion in parishes and Catholic schools, along with meaningful employment, for young people with IDD.

Alongside of these model efforts to guard against the current threats to the disabled stand these wise words from Pope Benedict XVI: *"In reality, institutions are not enough, because integral human development is primarily a vocation, and therefore it involves a free assumption of responsibility in solidarity on the part of everyone."*

*- Caritas in Veritate*

By growing in our own reverence for the image of God in all people, and refusing to judge others' capacity for relationship with the divine, we as a parish can nurture and nourish all in our community. Interested in learning more? Please do us the honor of getting involved with the St. Francis Culture of Life Ministry.