

# Lifelines

St. Francis of Assisi  
Respect Life Committee

The Respect Life Committee at St. Francis is an Apostolate that is totally committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

February 2009

## Reasons to Pray

Pray without ceasing 1 Thess 5:17

Have you ever wanted to throw a brick at your radio or television set? If you're like me, you might find yourself talking (loudly?) back to the machine, as if those on the other side were listening! In a recent discussion about politicians, a wise woman in the parish said, "pray...every time you want to throw a brick at the TV or radio – add a different lawmaker to your prayer time every week – especially the Catholic ones." Amen!

Of course, talking, loudly or quietly, to God is not a futile endeavor. He is listening, and desires for us to pray for His holy will to be done and for His grace to rain down on earth.

Last month in Lifelines we talked about the 40 Days for Life campaign, the prayer movement sweeping the nation, with its 40-day, 24-hour prayer vigils outside local abortion clinics. God has done many exciting things during these 40-day prayer vigils, including bringing over a dozen clinic workers out of the abortion

industry. One thing we did not mention was the effect that the 40 Days for Life campaign has had in our own area. Before the Charlottesville 40 Days for Life campaign began last spring, Planned Parenthood had hired a doctor to perform abortions four days per week. Amazingly, after the 40 Days for Life, we learned that the doctor's hours were cut to one day per week!

In the Gospel of Mark, the disciples bring to Jesus a boy who is possessed by an evil spirit. The father begs Jesus to help him, saying "if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." Jesus replies, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." The father then immediately replies, "I believe! Help my unbelief!" Afterward, when Jesus had cast out the demon and restored the boy to his father, the disciples ask him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

"And he said to them, 'This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.'" Mark 9:2

Jesus tells us that prayer and fasting are powerful weapons in spiritual warfare. The St. Francis Respect Life Committee has put together a calendar of prayer intentions, in which parishioners commit to pray and fast one day per week for one of the intentions given. We are looking for more people to join us in this work.

The Lord calls us to bring our anxieties about the Culture of Death before Him, to lay them at the foot of His cross in prayer. When we bring our desire for the Culture of Life to prevail before the Lord, our prayers strengthen our faith. In effect, we say along with that father, "Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!"

*If you are interested in joining others in praying and fasting for any of these intentions, please call Karen Adams at 213-3923.*

*Why not begin by committing to one day per month?*

*Please join us!*

## Prayer Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Intention:	Intention:	Intention:	Intention:	Intention:	Intention:
Growth of the Culture of Life and an end to Euthanasia and the Death Penalty.	Growth of the Culture of Life, an end to Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning.	Growth of the Culture of Life and an end to Contraception.	Growth of the Culture of Life and an end to War and Genocide.	Growth of the Culture of Life and an End to Abortion.	Growth of the Culture of Life and Strengthening of Marriage and the Family

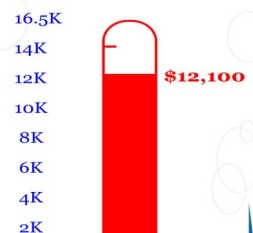
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## St. Gerard's Column

In future columns we will be putting the names of expectant mothers. Please contact us if you or someone you know is expecting. We want to encourage & support all our moms in prayer!

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Respect Life Garden Fundraiser**



Make donations to:  
St. Francis of Assisi  
c/o Respect Life Garden



St. Gerard was known for his charity, obedience, selfless service, extraordinary wisdom and great piety. He was a humble servant of God who is now invoked as the patron saint of expectant mothers.

"As God was grateful to Mary for bearing His child, He is also grateful to you for bearing His child."

## Announcing St. Gerard's Ministry

***A ministry supporting and encouraging expectant moms***

The Respect Life Committee of St. Francis is beginning a St. Gerard's ministry for expectant mothers in our parish. Saint Gerard Majella is invoked as a patron of expectant mothers as a result of a miracle effected through his prayers for a woman in labor.

We would like to hear if you or someone you know is expecting a child by birth or by adoption. When we know of an expectant mom, we'll add her to our St. Gerard's prayer list which will be posted in the chapel

and in the bulletin. For a mom who wishes for her name to remain confidential we will assign a saint's name to her and continue to pray for her by that pseudonym.

As a token of the spiritual support we offer, a St. Gerard Ministry member will deliver a care package to each mother.

When the new addition arrives, St. Gerard Ministry members will happily provide meals to the new mom.

We want each mom to know how deeply she is appreciated for her

sacrificial love. In the words of a wise priest, "As God was grateful to Mary for bearing His Son, He is also grateful to you for bearing His child."

Please contact us so that we can lift these ladies up to our Heavenly Father and place them under Our Lady's mantle.

St. Gerard Majella, pray for us!

To place a mother on the prayer list or to join the ministry, you may contact:

Monica Wirth at [johnmonica@gmail.com](mailto:johnmonica@gmail.com) or 886-6644.

## Washington Hears from Staunton

### "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) Receives an Outcry

Joining thousands of parishes across the country, St. Francis sent postcards urging elected officials in Congress not to pass the Freedom of Choice Act. FOCA is the most radical, deadly and overreaching abortion legislation ever proposed. Among other things, it seeks to overturn all state abortion laws including those which provide for basic safety and cleanliness standards and parental notification for minors seeking abortion.

St. Francis alone sent nearly **1,400** postcards to our US Congressman and two US Senators. These, combined with all the postcards from across the country, will ensure our voices are heard. But the battle isn't over. It is likely we will need to make phone calls or write letters in the future. Please watch out for additional updates so we can continue to keep the pressure on.

Pray for the defeat of FOCA!

## Reflections from the March for Life

