

Lifelines

Knights Ultrasound Drive close to goal!

The Knights of Columbus began a nationwide initiative in 2009, to match funds donated by local Knights councils to provide ultrasound machines for their towns pregnancy help centers.

The Councils in Waynesboro, Harrisonburg and Staunton decided to combine forces and each raise \$12,850.00 to buy three ultrasound machines for their pregnancy help centers.

We just received word that Harrisonburg and Waynesboro have reached their goal! St. Francis has currently reached \$10,445.00. **We are just \$2,405.00 shy of our goal.** What is remarkable is that we at St. Francis were not able to begin our ultrasound fundraising until after the “Living our Mission” campaign. The Knights are actively seeking contributions and **ANY amount is greatly appreciated.**

Why is this initiative important?

We recently interviewed **Wanda Crosby, RN and V.P. of Medical Services at ComfortCare Women’s Health (CCWH)** regarding the importance of an Ultrasound machine when assisting women who are pregnant.

How will the new ultrasound machine compare with the old, and why is it necessary to replace it?

“The current ultrasound machine is over 10 years old, which is the maximum life expectancy for an ultrasound machine. We have gotten a word from the manufacturer that parts are not available for repair of the machine. The new machine is an updated version of the current one we use. So we do not anticipate a big learning curve for the nurses who do the scans.”

Have you seen a positive reaction in abortion minded women who have had an ultrasound?

“My favorite ultrasound story is of a young woman who had 2 children, was in an abusive relationship,

and found herself pregnant. She thought abortion was her only option and came into the ultrasound room thinking that. She did not want to look at the screen. As I was silently scanning her, she turned to look at the screen just as her 9 week old fetus waved at her. She sat up on the bed, tears streaming down her face, asking for a picture. I gave her the picture and she sat stroking it saying “ I didn’t know it was a real baby!”

She decided to carry and parent and allowed us to get her in touch with a battered women’s shelter, so in essence we saved not only the life of her unborn but the life of her and her other two children. So yes, ultrasound does make a difference in the lives of women who are seeking abortion.”

How has having an ultrasound machine changed the way women think about their unborn child?

“Once they see that it is really a baby and has a heartbeat, their hearts are changed. Some of the women we see at ComfortCare believe the lies that the world tells them, that their baby is not really a human being. But when we can show them the reality of what their baby looks like and allow them to see that beating heart, they can’t deny life exists in their womb.”

“It is people like you that make my job possible, so I want to thank you for each and every dollar you give to make an eternal difference. You never know what plans God has for the lives that are saved due to an ultrasound at ComfortCare Women’s Health.”

If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to: K ofC Ultrasound Drive. You can mail it to the church or drop it in the collection basket. Thank you! so much!

Last Call for the March for Life Bus

The 42nd annual March for Life in Washington, DC is **Thursday, January 22nd**! The St Francis Respect Life Ministry has reserved one bus that will leave from Staunton after 7:00 A.M. mass (around 8:00 am) and return immediately after the March.

The cost is **\$10.00 per person**. You may pick up a registration form in the vestibule as well as in the parish office. Don't delay, sign up today! We need your voice to speak up for the unborn.

DID YOU KNOW? Twenty-one percent of all pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion? Jones RK and Jerman J, *Abortion incidence and service availability in the United States, 2011*, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2014, 46(1):3-14

March for Life Youth Pilgrimage

Youth participants, ages 11-17, are invited to join groups from all over the country for this two day event. Participant cost (\$40/student) includes transportation to and from Washington, DC, lodging at a nearby hotel reserved especially for the pilgrimage, admission to Evening of Prayer event, morning rally and mass, followed by lunch at Chic-fil-A. Contact Carol Long or Cindy Watson in the parish office @ 540-886-2262.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians-6:9

Want to get involved with the Respect Life Ministry, please contact Elaine Taetzsch, Chair, at 540-448-7163 or via email at ettaetzsch@gmail.com

Love is in the Air—Youth for Life Benefit

The St Francis Youth for Life will be hosting a Valentines Day concert in Assisi Hall at 6:00, following the 5 P.M. vigil mass.

This fund-raising event is for the Knights of Columbus' ultrasound drive which will benefit ComfortCare Women's Health.

The dinner will include musical entertainment, a delicious Italian dinner and locally handcrafted chocolates. Please join us on Feb 14th for a wonderful evening of food and song! A free-will donation will be accepted.

St. Gerard's Ministry

St Gerard's Ministry is currently praying for 5 expecting families and 2 families that are infertile.

We have had 8 women on the infertile prayer list be blessed with new life.

Since April 2009, have delivered meals to 41 families. We have prayed for the intentions of 98 families.

If you are pregnant and getting ready to deliver, please contact St Gerard's ministry for help with meals and prayer.

Also, if you need assistance with baby items, Mary's House may be able to help. Contact the Parish office for more information.