

Respect Life to Host Foster Care Speakers, Present 'Journey Bags' Sunday, May 19th



"Though my father and mother may forsake me, the LORD will receive me." Ps. 27:10

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction...." James 1:27

Children often come into foster care with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Journey Bags are backpacks filled with personal and comfort items for them to use when they are abruptly taken out of their homes. The goal of Journey Bags is to bless these children and let them know that they are loved, prayed for, and remembered!

One foster mom, Heather, recalls her experience receiving a sibling group late one night:

"Last night at midnight three precious little beauties showed up on my doorstep. They each had with them a blanket, a stuffed animal, and a book bag...their Journey Bags. I kept waiting for more, anything more, but nothing came. The investigator told me this was all they had. Our 5 year old had come with shoes which were so bad they had to be thrown away, one of our two year olds had no shoes, the other had two left shoes. When I asked about getting anything out of the home the investigator said it just wasn't going to be possible. The kids had nothing. Their worldly possessions consisted of Journey Bags. As I stared at those bags I began to cry. What if no one took the time to fill those bags and deliver them? What would our children have then? Absolutely nothing. Nothing to claim as their own, nothing to protect or cherish. Thank you for all you do. Thank you for my kiddos' Journey Bags."

On Friday, May 17th the Klub and Youth for Life

will be filling 30 Journey Bags for local foster children ages 8-12. These bags will be presented as a gift of St. Francis Parish by Respect Life at a special program devoted to Foster Care on **Sunday, May 19th, at 10 a.m.**, in Assisi Hall. **All are welcome** to hear the following invited guests:

Nenita Fisher-Cromer, parishioner and Child Protective Services Supervisor with Shenandoah Valley Social Services will speak on the purpose and state of foster care in the local community.

Colleen Price will give a personal testimony on growing up in foster care and how it saved her from a life of abuse (and helped her to find God).

Charisa Knight from "The Forgotten Initiative" will share what TFI does and how people can get involved in helping foster children, even if they are not able to provide foster care themselves. She coordinates the Journey Bag project for numerous area churches on behalf of the Department of Social Services.

WHAT CAN GOD ACCOMPLISH IN 40 DAYS?

The most recent 40 Days for Life Campaign coincided with the Holy Lenten Season. Each Friday, vigil participants from St. Francis and St. John's joined together in prayerful witness outside the Planned Parenthood in Charlottesville. God has provided many victories and miraculous conversions in response to this 5 1/2-year, now worldwide, campaign.

Lent 2013	Since 2008
261 Cities, 11 Countries	2,480 Cities, 19 Countries
83,000 people 78 Babies Saved	575,000 people 7,536 Babies
7 Workers Quit, 7 Clinics Closed	83 Workers Quit 36 Clinics closed

"No child should be deprived of the right to be born." ~ Pope Francis

St. F. Youth for Life - Off to Strong Start



In October 2012 the St. Francis Youth for Life had their first meeting. The group was inspired to form after 19 St. Francis young people attended the first Camp Joshua-VA last August. An auxiliary of Respect Life, the Youth for Life group has been going strong since then. YFL meets every first Sunday of the month and members participate in various pro-life activities. Some of the activities of YFL this year have been: attending the Diocesan Youth Event for the March for Life, praying regularly outside of two abortion clinics in Charlottesville, addressing 3000 postcards for the Diocesan HHS postcard Campaign, providing volunteer office help at Comfort Care Women's Health, supporting Comfort Care by running in the Stride for Life 5K, filling Journey Bags for local foster children, and eating lots of pizza! YFL's next project is to raise money to provide scholarships for youth from other local parishes to attend Camp Joshua this summer. If you are aged 13-21 and want to get involved, please contact Jane Adams at jane@mcmains.net.



**Mother's Day isn't easy
for those who have
lost a child or a friend
to abortion.**

**But if you give God
the broken pieces,
He can make
all things new.**

It's the unchoice.
Millions of abortions were
unwanted, coerced
or deceptively presented.

Learn more online:
TheUnChoice.com
For healing: 1-877-HOPE-4-ME

LOCALLY:

*Post-abortion support group for men
and women. Find healing in a confi-
dential, Christian setting. Meetings
twice a month Fridays 7:30 p.m.*

*For more info, contact Pam at
pamelangs@yahoo.com or call:*

434-825-6013

Are you called to pray for and serve new, expectant or bereaved moms in the parish? We need you! Please join **St. Gerard Ministry**. Call Monica Wirth for more info: 886-6644.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, May 19 10:00 a.m.
Respect Life will host three speakers on the topic of Foster Care in Assisi Hall. Come hear about help for children in our community and how St. Francis is getting involved!

Sunday, June 2 10:00 a.m.
Respect Life quarterly meeting. All are invited. We need you! Please come learn about our summer activities and how to get involved for the coming year. Election of Officers - *nominees welcome*.

Fri-Sun, July 19-21, 2013
Camp Joshua VA - A dynamic pro-life camp for all high school students. Scholarships for St. Francis parishioners provided by Respect Life. Contact Maggie Willson for more information: 248-1277.

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