

Lifelines

What does “Pro-Life” Mean?

A glimpse into the pro-life movement

Did you know that being “Pro-Life” is so much more than opposing abortion! A pro-life attitude involves a deep respect for every aspect of God’s miraculous gift of life.

You will find “pro-lifers” working to empower an unwed mother to get an education. You’ll see them working to protect vulnerable children or care for the aged and infirm. They minister to the indigent, the disabled, and the aged.

The “pro-life” attitude is a necessary outgrowth of our Catholic faith. And, yes, we work to end abortion and to protect any who are in danger of losing that most basic of God’s abundant gifts, life.

“Pro-lifers” take great joy in sharing the praise to God that every creature shares, living life in abundance! Yet, much of America imagines the pro-life movement as a bunch of angry, screaming, sign wielding demonstrators protesting loudly in front of peaceful health care centers.

At best, this is a tragic and false caricature. At worst, it is a deliberate misrepresentation of the pro-life movement by those who hold life in little esteem.

As a matter of fact, those prayer vigils outside of abortion facilities are peaceful and often silent. Pro-life people are living a witness to the

sanctity of life and we grieve for all those people touched by the abortions being committed inside those clinics.

Abortion is the proverbial elephant in the living room of modern culture. Secular society really doesn’t want to face the reality of its support for an industry that has destroyed some fifty-six million lives (in the U.S. alone) in the last forty years. That’s a figure equal to the entire worldwide death toll of World War Two.

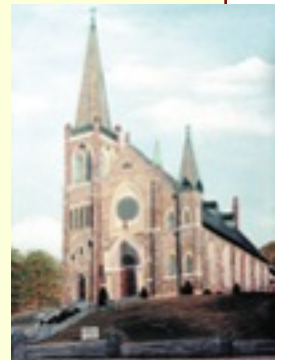
Still, abortion is really the major symptom of what Saint John Paul II called a “Culture of Death”. When a society loses its regard for the weakest and least visible, it loses its regard for anyone and everyone who might be considered “inconvenient”.

Hence, given time, the aged, the infirm, the developmentally disabled, those of the “wrong” gender, the “wrong” ethnicity, the “wrong” religion... pretty much anyone... is at risk.

That’s why it’s important to affirm life from conception to natural death. That’s why your parish Respect Life Committee casts a broad life affirming net.

Mission Statement

The Respect Life Ministry at St. Francis is an apostolate that is totally committed to defending the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death; our pro-life activities are aimed at promoting a Culture of Life in our community, state, and nation for the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.



**Join us THIS SUNDAY
May 25 at 10am**

**in Assisi Hall
for our Quarterly Meeting**

**Deacon Dave Russell will
be our featured speaker**

What does the Respect Life Ministry do?

- Our mission is varied. We
- Support mothers in choosing life with physical, spiritual, and emotional assistance through Mary's House.
 - Contribute support to "Comfort Care" pregnancy support centers in Staunton, Waynesboro, and Lexington.
 - Support children who are removed from homes by children's welfare officers.
- Support a vibrant "Youth for Life" program.
 - Take an active part in efforts to legally and peacefully end abortion (40 Days for Life, The National March for Life).
 - Have a number of long-range studies and plans in adult education, post abortive healing, and increased community

We Need You!

We need your help as a member of the Respect Life Committee. Your contribution might be the one to save a life! Your efforts might make a profound difference in a life already being lived!

We need your financial support. Please, pray about the matter. Can you spare something from the abundance of God's gifts to help someone else live? Literally, your gift might be the difference between life and death for a person we don't yet know.

We need your prayers. Pray for God's mercy on our nation for supporting a culture of death. Pray for our nations leaders and those who contemplate, perform, or support abortions that they might have the grace of conversion. Pray for all pro-life advocates that we might persevere in our labors.

For more information contact Anne Fitzgerald, Chair of the Respect Life Ministry, at 540-255-5398 or at taetzsch@yahoo.com

MARY'S HOUSE

Mary's House is a place offering hope and help to pregnant women. Services include:

- Free pregnancy tests
- Peer counseling
- Natural family planning information and instruction
- Mother mentor program
- Options information
- Practical assistance, including maternity and baby clothing and other essentials
- Spiritual direction

The mission of Mary's House is to help pregnant women with short- or long-term needs by offering Christian love and practical solutions. Mary's House volunteers meet the mom with unconditional love, understanding, and compassion and assist her in finding the resources she needs so that she may choose life for her baby.

Mary's House seeks to help a mother with physical, material, spiritual, and emotional support through a long-term friendship and a witness to the infinite and healing love of God.

Phone 540-213-HOPE or (toll-free) 877-213-2132 or e-mail maryshouse@stfrancisparish.org.