

Time for Action on Behalf of Life

Hundreds of Thousands to Rally in D.C.

To help change American cultural attitudes regarding life and to show solidarity among Americans of every stripe, hundreds of thousands are expected to participate in this year's **March for Life, the largest pro-life event in the world**. This 45th rally and march are planned for Friday, **January 19th** on the National Mall at 12 noon.

The 2018 March for Life theme is "Love Saves Lives." Choosing life is not always easy, but it is the loving, empowering, and self-sacrificial option. Love is universally attractive because it is directed towards others. Love is what we all strive for because deep-down we are all drawn to give of ourselves in this way.

This year's rally will include NFL/MLB star **Tim Tebow's** mother Pam Tebow, former NFL player Matt Birk and his wife Adrianna, U.S. Representatives Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and Chris Smith (R-NJ), and **Sisters of Life's** Sr. Bethany Madonna. Additionally, best-selling Christian music artist Plumb is set to perform. Also, due to the large number of high school and college students who come each year, a **Youth Rally** will be held on Thursday, January 18th from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the DC Renaissance Hotel.

Many participants are still employed full-time, but choose to take a day off to attend the march. Buses leave for the event from nearly every state in the nation. Check with your local diocese to find a bus leaving from your area.

For those who cannot attend the event, there are many local opportunities. For example, on March 12th, there will be a Maryland March for Life in Annapolis; on January 22nd, a March for Life on the Mountain, in Loretto, PA; and a Rally for Life in Trenton, NJ, on January 22nd. [MarchforLife.org]

Help Yourself & Others

- If you know others who are considering aborting their developing baby, give them helpful brochures often found in church vestibules, or email the editor. A good one for you is "How to Communicate with a Friend Considering Abortion" by Stephanie Gray, www.lifecyclebooks.com.

- Visit the website of **Priests for Life** (priestsforlife.org) to subscribe to their newsletter. Consider inviting one of their pro-life speakers to your parish.

- For NJ residents, support the **20/20** legislative project to prevent abortions after 20 weeks pregnancy. Put their magnetic logo on your car bumper. For more information, visit www.babiesinthewombfeelpain.com.

Rally for Life, Trenton, NJ, January 22nd

New Jersey Right to Life Invites you to join the Rally for Life, Monday, January 22nd, on the 45th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion for all nine months of pregnancy. Only six other nations permit this gruesome practice including China and North Korea.

The Rally will be held outside at the State House Annex, 145 West State Street, Trenton, NJ, at 11:00 a.m. Buses will leave from the Diocese of Metuchen and other NJ locations. Email NJRTL if you plan to attend at feedback@njrtl.org or call 732-562-0562 for more info.

Prayer Vigil Outside Abortion Facilities

One small way of taking action is to volunteer an hour or two each week with your local "prayer warriors" who hold vigils outside of local abortion facilities. The typical activities consist of holding signs, saying the rosary or other prayers, handing out brochures, or even talking to young women entering the facility. More information may be obtained at your County or Diocesan Respect Life office.

One woman's way of being involved: The following message is handed out by pro-life activist Mary Wagner to women going to abortion clinics. It speaks important words of hope to women in crisis: "You were made to love and be loved. Your goodness is greater than the difficulties of your situation. Circumstances in life change. A new life, however tiny, brings the promise of unrepeatable joy. There is still hope!"

"I Was an Unplanned Pregnancy"

Already a single mom, upon realizing she was pregnant, Catherine chose to work full-time through the pregnancy and at 36 weeks, walked into the doctor's office for the first time. "I'm going to have a baby that you're going to deliver, and the baby needs a home." After the birth, a woman Linda was there to care for the baby until the newborn found her forever home.

Linda met Tom and Karol during the transfer of custody. With one day's notice, they adopted this little girl, picked up diapers & formula at 7-11 and headed to a friend's home to learn about feeding & changing a baby. **That baby was me.**

Though Karol was pro-choice, over the years, and after adopting a second child, she realized that women in crisis pregnancies need support. She went back to school for her masters in counseling and became a **crisis pregnancy counselor**. My mom helped start and grow The Gabriel Project through the Archdiocese of Seattle which gives one-on-one help to women in crisis (continued on page 2)

Unplanned Pregnancy (continued from page 1)

pregnancies through spiritual, emotional, and material support. I am so **grateful for the gift of life** from Catherine, for the gift of love from Linda, and for the gift of an amazing mom in Karol, who chose to walk the walk even before she talked the talk. [Shelley Sprouffske, www.marchforlife.org]

Pro-Life Examination of Conscience

- Am I fully convinced that every abortion, at every stage of pregnancy, is the destruction of human life, which has the same value as my life, my parents' lives, my children's lives?

- Do I subscribe to at least one pro-life publication so that I can be well informed on the issues?

- Do I escape from taking action by thinking that prayer alone is enough?

- Do I try to grow in compassion for women tempted to have abortions or who have had them in the past?

- Do I help women find alternatives to abortion?

- Do I speak up in defense of all human life?

- Do I make full use of opportunities I have such as wearing pins or using bumper decals?

- Do I pray for the babies, the mothers, the abortionists, the legislators, the media, the clergy, and all pro-lifers?

[excerpted from Fr. Pavone brochure, priestsforlife.org]

Legislative and Court Wins & Losses

The Supreme Court will decide on challenges to California's law to force pro-life pregnancy centers to promote state-sponsored abortions. Its ruling will determine the outcome of this "**Bully Bill**" case and the future of free speech and religious rights in America. [*National Catholic Register*, 12/10/17]

Groups such as the American Center for Law & Justice (ACLU) won a case against the IRS that has apologized for **illegal targeting** of conservative & religious organizations.

An unconstitutional "free-speech buffer zone" regulation over pro-life advocates to stand outside abortion clinics was successfully defeated in the courts.

David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress have published **undercover videos** proving that Planned Parenthood was peddling baby body parts on a massive scale. Abortion supporters filed multiple lawsuits designed to silence him. He was subjected to false criminal charges by pro-abortion officials in Houston, charges that later had to be dropped completely. Groups like the Life Legal Defense Foundation have defended David in multiple court hearings.

The federal administration issued new rules in October providing religiously-affiliated institutions such as Catholic hospitals, charities and universities exemption from a

contraceptive mandate in health insurance. California and Pennsylvania challenged the rule and a federal judge in Pennsylvania has temporarily blocked implementation of the new rules. [*Wall Street Journal*, 12/16/17]

The Department of Justice (DOJ) confirmed that **Planned Parenthood is under federal investigation** for its grisly harvesting and trafficking of aborted baby body parts. Groups like the Susan B. Anthony List demanded that Congress investigate Planned Parenthood and refer any criminal activity to the DOJ. Criminal referrals were then made to the DOJ and the FBI in late 2016, and the U.S. Attorney General is now acting on those referrals.

"We who reject abortion do not reject those who have had abortions. Counseling, forgiveness, and healing can be found after abortion. **Rachel's Vineyard**, the world's largest abortion-healing ministry, holds hundreds of retreats worldwide annually & provides follow-up services." [www.AbortionForgiveness.com]

Pregnancy Help Centers by the Numbers

1. 60% of pregnancy centers in the U.S. (1,661 total) serve women with **free limited obstetric ultrasounds**, delivering 248,832 ultrasounds in 2016, a number that is continuing to rise as more centers add ultrasound services. Donors cover all costs involved.

2. **Free STD testing.** For 2017, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports the highest-ever number of cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. At the latest count, 577 pregnancy centers are offering free STD testing, including 400 of which offering on-site STD treatment. Those numbers are rising every year. By contrast, Planned Parenthood charges for testing and receives government funds to do so.

3. On pace to answer 350,000 women facing unexpected pregnancies in 2017 alone, Heartbeat's 24-7 hotline, Option Line, eclipsed 30,000 calls in a single month five times in 2017. **1-800-712-HELP** has answered over 2.9 million calls since it was established in 2003. With a network of over 2,000 linked pregnancy centers in the U.S. and Canada, Option Line serves as a **direct connection between women seeking help and local pregnancy centers.**

4. A movement that relies primarily on the generosity and partnership of compassionate men and women dedicated to offering women an alternative to abortion, the pregnancy help community enlists **81,630 volunteers each year.** That figure, up 15 percent since 2011, includes former pregnancy center clients like Lauren Urrea, a physician assistant who now spends her lunch breaks scanning ultrasounds at a nearby pregnancy center.

5. **\$0 federal funding.** Crisis Pregnancy Centers, unlike Planned Parenthood, receive no direct federal funding.

[taken from Jay Hobbs blog, LifeNews.com]