

Life Matters

Catholic Pro-Life Committee | Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas



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- Healing Ministry recognizes milestones
- Meet our Bishop's Dinner Honorary Chairs
- Gabriel Mom shares her journey to forgiveness
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And more!



www.prolifedallas.org

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A new door to dialogue ... Let's talk truth!

Becky Visosky, Executive Director
Catholic Pro-Life Committee

Dear Friends of Life,

A new door has opened in the unlikeliest of places. Our annual March for Life in downtown Dallas a few weeks ago received unprecedented coverage by the local media. You might ask why this year as opposed to the many years when the event was basically ignored. In a nutshell: It was the expectation of conflict. With the advent of the so-called "Women's March," the media anticipated there would be a new angle to a decades-old debate played out between two rivaling marches.

But something different happened. The media came to our march and saw it for what it was – peaceful, family-oriented, even joyful, despite the somber memorial. This opening allowed us to exhibit what it means to really be pro-woman and pro-family, and that being pro-life is not inconsistent. We don't ask women to park their God-given gift of creation at the door for equality. On the contrary, we honor women and men's equal dignity, while still appreciating their unique differences, and by extension, the sacred gift of life emanating from their union.

In the words of national author and radio host Eric Metaxas who spoke at the Dallas rally – we are the real women's march. So what can we do with this new window of opportunity? We can rise above the culture of conflict and partisan soundbites. We can seek out occasions for dialogue – asking those who may disagree with us what concerns them. Often, there is common ground on which we can build, like the value of family and our call to support the most vulnerable.

In the coming year, we have just that chance. In March, our Bishops invite all Texas Catholics to participate in **Advocacy Day** in Austin, Texas. Together, we advocate for our Catholic values of life, justice, charity and religious freedom – urging our state leadership to embrace the full dignity of the human person from conception until natural death. The CPLC will be hosting an advocacy training on February 9th to learn more about this important biennial event (details on back cover). Also in March, the much-anticipated film about the conversion of Planned Parenthood manager Abby Johnson – **Unplanned** – will be released. This film has the potential to reach and persuade persons, who like Abby, have been deceived by the abortion-giant. Stay tuned for premiere details! Finally, we have opened the reservations for the **26th Annual Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner** – which is a great opportunity to bring family and friends to see the amazing fruits of pro-life ministry in North Texas.

Of course, as we share the Gospel of Life among our friends and family, it is likely that one or more among them have experienced the pain of abortion (even if we don't know it). The good news is that our message is always one of love with a path back to Christ's merciful forgiveness. This year, we are celebrating 20 years of that path through Rachel's Vineyard™ in Dallas, thanks to your support. Together, we can continue to heal our broken culture one mind, one heart, at a time.

Grace and blessings,

On the cover: Two women brave the cold for the unborn at the North Texas March for Life!

Healing the Brokenness

New year marks healing ministry milestones

“I have hope now. I had not felt that before. I didn’t even believe there was forgiveness for what I had done. Now I know differently.”



“The Penitent Woman”

This is one of many testimonials CPLC’s Healing after Abortion Ministry has received in 20 years of offering Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreats for women and men, under the auspices of Project Rachel, and five years of Project Joseph® Days of Healing for men.

Although 2019 marks milestone anniversaries of this ministry, abortions continue and so many are in desperate need to heal. “We’re closer now than we have been to becoming a post-Roe world,” said HAA Director, Eileen Kuhlmann. “But, with 60 million babies aborted since 1973, the need for healing will continue to be a residual effect for decades.”

Launched in 1999, the Dallas chapter of Rachel’s Vineyard™ was one of the first four sites worldwide. Project Joseph® began in 2014 when the need for a program devoted to men became apparent. Together, they ensure women and men have a path to Christ’s merciful love. For more information, visit racheldallas.org. 🕊

Leading on Life

Dorothy and John O’Dwyer chair 26th Bishop’s Pro-Life Dinner

We are proud to announce Dorothy and John O’Dwyer as Honorary Chairs of the 2019 Annual Bishop’s Pro-Life Dinner on April 13.

Chicago-area natives, Dorothy and John moved to Plano in 1983 and have been members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish for over 35 years, with brief breaks to live in Germany and China. They have four children and nine grandchildren. John and Dorothy believe every child has the right to life. In their words, “We need to help these courageous women who choose life with support, education and prayers, and CPLC certainly achieves that.”



In addition to their support of the Catholic Pro-Life Committee and local maternity home, Bella House, the O’Dwyers have also been involved in various parish ministries and are members of the Circle of Friends of UT Southwestern, which provides funding for medical research. Dorothy has also volunteered for Bryan’s House and My Friend’s Place, and John has served on the board of United Way of Dallas and the International Myeloma Foundation. 🕊

Thank You!

A blessed fall – thanks to your generosity

In September, we kicked off our “Imagine” campaign for North Texas Giving Day, highlighting the beautiful “firsts” for every child.

In October and November, we enjoyed a beautiful day on the links at the CPLC Classic Pro-Life Charity Golf Tournament



and our newly-expanded Christ Child Market and Luncheon, featuring the St. Rita Jubilate Deo choir.



Rounding out the year was our annual appeal with a double-the-impact, matching donation.

“On behalf of those we serve, we are most grateful for our community’s sacrificial giving,” said Meg Finley, CPLC Director of Development. “These critical funds will help ensure our life-saving ministries can continue.”

Create a Legacy of Life

Consider adding the CPLC to your will to build and sustain a Culture of Life in the future.

For information on bequests and other non-cash contributions contact Becky Visosky, CPLC Executive Director, at 972-267-5433.

In Her Words

Gabriel mom shares her journey to forgiveness

I believe everyone has been through some kind of trauma in their life. Mine came from ten years of sexual abuse at the hands of my stepfather. It started when I was three years old and continued until I was 13. One day I decided he had violated me for the last time, and I told my mother. He was removed from the home and sent to prison. He will probably never get out.

As a result of the sexual abuse, I was defiant in school. I was drinking and doing drugs from the age of 17 to about 23. It was then that I found out I was pregnant. At that point, I decided to make better decisions for myself and my unborn child. I had recently become clean and was very scared, thinking I wasn't fit to raise a child. The father and I weren't getting along at that time, and I felt God telling me to move back to Dallas to raise my child closer to my family.

I was referred to Bella House, a maternity home where I lived until after my son was born. I considered adoption, but ultimately decided to raise my son. I gave birth to Roman Luke on June 26, 2017. It was the best day of my life!



Gabriel mom Leah Daniels receives her GEMS certificate along with a \$1,000 scholarship from Project Gabriel Director Ingrid Meyer at the 2018 Christ Child Luncheon in November.

“Project Gabriel and GEMS empowered us as moms to become better parents, to become independent, and to live our lives in a Godly way.”

While at Bella House, they encouraged me to attend classes offered by Project Gabriel's GEMS program (Gabriel Education Ministry and Support). At the beginning, I was very skeptical and stand-offish, but I saw what beautiful spirits all the women working there had, and began to embrace the ministry.

One class that really impacted me was on forgiveness. I learned to forgive my mother for not protecting me from my stepfather. I learned to forgive my stepfather and, most

importantly, I learned to forgive myself for the damage this experience did to my mind, body and spirit. It was after this class that I began to heal and, finally, I felt my life was headed in the right direction. Project Gabriel and GEMS empowered us as moms to become better parents, to become independent, and to live our lives in a Godly way.

I recently became engaged to my son's father. Only by God's grace and mercy was this possible. I didn't grow up with a father, and I didn't want the same for my son. I thank God every day for my life and my family.

Psalm 38 says: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Through Project Gabriel, I have grown closer to Him through prayer and reading my bible. I am currently working at a church as a Sunday school teacher. God used me to evangelize to others. I never thought I would be doing this in a million years. I am very thankful for all my fellow GEMS classmates. We are all very strong women who deserve the best for ourselves and our children.

I am living proof that things do get better if you make the right choices and change your life for the better. With my scholarship from GEMS, I plan to get my Associates of Applied Science. Graduating from college has always been my dream since I was a little girl, and thanks to Project Gabriel, it is finally possible. 🙏

By Gabriel Mom and GEMS Scholarship Recipient Leah Daniels

Learn more about this ministry at prolifedallas.org/projectgabriel

Marching for a Post-Roe World

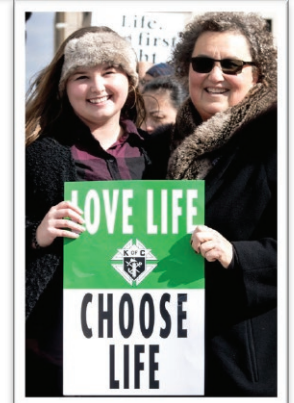
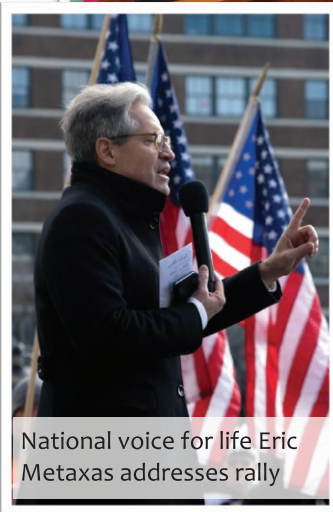
North Texas braves the weather for the cause of LIFE!

Despite nearly freezing temperatures and winds, North Texas faithful came out in droves to pray, march, and rally for LIFE at the 46th Annual Roe Memorial Mass and March!

This year's theme: *A Post-Roe World; Equal Dignity, Equal Support*, challenges us to work for a world where all life is respected and sacred. The day-long memorial events started with over 100 people at prayer vigils at Dallas abortion facilities, 200-plus youth and their families at the Youth for Life Rally, a packed cathedral for the bilingual Roe Memorial Mass, and over 6,500 young, old, and in-between marching for LIFE!

The rally included a great lineup of speakers: Dallas Bishop Edward Burns, Mater Filius' Executive Director Marthalia Burkle, Project Gabriel Mom Sibio Rumumba, and national radio host and author Eric Metaxas.

Thank you North Texas for making it a beautiful day for Life! 🙏



LOVE LIFE! CHOOSE LIFE! ;DEFIENDE LA VIDA!

Honors

In Honor of:	Given by:	In Honor of:	Given by:
40 Days for Life Dallas Rally	Robert and Carol Baca	Jimmie K. Herman	Ann Herman
Babies Born with Special Needs	Teresa Ferrara	Doris Hesseck	Kevin and Judith Rohr
Babies Unborn	Teresa Ferrara	My Mother	Todd and Vivienne Kamp
Birth Mothers who Chose Adoption	Alice Fly	Elisa Low	Kimberly Sementa
John and Rosemary Boyd	Mary Noon	Sarah Martinez	Mark Martinez
Cardinal Raymond Burke	Jose and Carmen Moreno	Our Blessed Mother Mary	Jose and Carmen Moreno
Donna Burkhardt	John Burkhardt	Gabriel Paul Middleton	Susan Aviles
Courtney E. Burns	Kevin Burns	Bill and Eleanor Moser	Sharon Gross
John Buskmiller	Catherine Buskmiller	Mothers Who Choose Life	Frances Trojacek
Lucia Caballero	Miguel and Kathryn Caballero	Jackie Ondracek	Melanie Kuhr
My adopted child	Paula Scott	My Family	Robert and Rosemary Patrick
All God's Children	Robert and Carol Baca	Jessica and Mikaella Pinaga	Riza Pinaga
Children	Dr. Cristina Valdez	Priests of Diocese of Dallas	Jesus and Elida Adrian
Father Tim Church	Jose and Carmen Moreno	Marianna Rodriguez	Robert Rodriguez
Barbie Cook	Quinn Cook	Isaac and Gloria Sandoval	Don and Cathy DeLorenz
Culture of Life	Robert and Carol Baca	Isaac and Gloria Sandoval	Roger Scott, Jr.
Ida Lazaro and Pilar Delfino	Phil and Corazon Delfino	Father Andrew Semler	Jose and Carmen Moreno
Cathy DeLorenz	Elizabeth Boteler	Adam Sherburne	Mike and Laney Sherburne
Father John Dick	Randy and Toni Reinert	Kim and Adam Sherburne	Mike and Laney Sherburne
Lindsey Eggleston	Lucia and Rob Luscek	Our Children: Allyson, Albert and Alexander	Al and Linda Solis
Alison Murphy Ferren	Terence and Nancy Murphy	Mr. and Mrs. Taylor	Cassie Daniel
Karen Garnett	Mike and Sharon Perkins	Allison Tremblay	George and Donna Smith
All Glory to God!	Randy and Toni Reinert	Christina, Adriana and Miguel	Dr. Cristina Valdez
Suzanne Gregg	Bradley and Becky Visosky	Sherry Wiewiorowski	Joseph Hollier

Gifts to the Catholic Pro-Life Committee made in honor or memory of or in thanksgiving will be remembered at daily Mass for CPLC intentions. We also notify the recipient of your generosity at your request. You can make a gift today in support of life and those you love at prolifedallas.org/donate. Thank you!

Memorials

In Memory of:

Damian Adams
All Souls in Purgatory
Nola Arceneaux
Maureen's Baby
Our 5 Unborn Babies in Heaven:
Jessica, Joshua, Jordan, Anne and
Hope, Elizabeth
Unborn Babies, Moms and Dads
Kenneth R. Becket
Jean Bilgore
Carrine Bowdre
Ellen Lucille Bradshaw
Jackie Brightwell
Grandma Brown
Miguel Caballero, Sr.
Sophia Caeli
Maryjane Callagher
Gabriel Heath Carter
Deacon Cerrato
Christen
Alfred Cohen
Mrs. Diane Cook
Theodore Donahue

Zuzanna Fennell
Bill Fetzer
Alvin Flok
John Franch
Chad Fredrickson
George Fuentes
Jeremy Fulbright
Mindi Maria Garnett
Dorothy Gorman
Luke Kent Hamilton
Mary Helen Harman
Kendall Harrell
My Father
Richard and Marie King
Jack Kishpaugh
Bob and Mary Little

Given by:

Quinn and Barbie Cook
Eileen Jex
Rose Arceneaux
Kevin and Judith Rohr
Paul and Amy Dorsey

Robert and Carol Baca
Robert and Carol Baca
John and Marsha Emmett
Bill and Mary Trelc
Robert and Carol Baca
William J. Ptacek
Beverly Barnes
Miguel and Kathryn Caballero
Mark and Mary Mulvaney
John Callagher
Randy and Toni Reinert
Jesus and Elida Adrian
Mary Agnes Gilbert
Gordon and Sally Collie
Quinn and Barbie Cook
Dr. Stephen and Carolyn
Donahue
Jim Fennell
Veronica Fetzer
Robert and Mary Criswell
Kenneth and Teri Franch
Mike and Laney Sherburne
Mrs. Annie Fuentes
Edward and Patty Fulbright
Eddie and Karen Garnett
Janet Kovac
Sharon Gambulos
Mary Ann Harman
Rose Arceneaux
Todd and Vivienne Kamp
Steven and Theresa King
John and Patricia Kishpaugh
John and Patricia Kishpaugh

In Memory of:

Jackie Markwald
Nancy H. Marshall
Diane McDowell
Mary Ann McGregor
Mike McKinney
Raoul Melancor, Jr.
Genevieve Mello
Susan Marie Mello
Charles J. Metzler
Jose Moreno, Sr.
Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Dawn Ann Murphy
Rory S. Nunley
Judy O'Roark
La Vera Peters
Sean Miguel Pinaga
Alice Provaznik
Michele Provost
Jane Reed
Arden Smith
Mary Smith
Mary Smith
Mary Smith
Mary M. Smith
Mary M. Smith
Mary M. Smith
Mary M. Smith
Joe and Rita Szatkowski
Juliet Vanderwerf
Gus Washington, Jr.
Trudi Weinberger
Marcella Weisbruch
Dr. Mary C. Winston

Given by:

Mike and Laney Sherburne
Bruce and Sandra Marshall
Judge Pat McDowell
John and Patricia Kishpaugh
William and Clara McKinney
Rose Arceneaux
Ed Mello
Ed Mello
Dr. Jonathan Metzler
Jose and Carmen Moreno
Jose and Carmen Moreno
Leo Murphy
Tracy Nunley
Leonard and Margaret Ruby
Robert and Mary Criswell
Riza Pinaga
James and Eileen Finkeneller
Paul and Dawn Shanks
Robert and Mary Criswell
Jeffrey and Renee Smith
Robert McGee
Patrick Smith
Jacob and Mary Kristin Schaad
Dr. Brian and Kelly Deville
Paul and Tracy Viramontes
Michael Casey
William Weidenhammer
Paul and Karin Szatkowski
Mixaida Van der Werf
Rose Arceneaux
Dr. Stephen and Mary Beth Burns
Doug and Peg Weisbruch
Richard Winston

Celebrate life at the Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner

With personal reflections and acoustic performance by award-winning Christian artists

The 26th Annual Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner on April 13 promises to be an evening of inspiration and entertainment.

The featured performer is **Tenth Avenue North**. Although recognized with multiple Dove awards and gold records for their music, Tenth Avenue North is so much more. Lead singer Mike Donehey is as much a speaker and evangelist, as he is a singer. Never one to shy away from tough topics, their performance will be highlighted by reflections on the culture battle and how the band's message has helped inspire the pro-life, healing community.

The evening will also feature **Gloria Purvis**, EWTN host of "Morning Glory," known for her compelling style and commitment to the truth. Be sure to mark your calendars for this special night benefiting LIFE! Tickets are on sale now at prolifedallas.org/dinner. 🕯️



Mark your Calendars!

Spend an hour this
GOOD FRIDAY at a
at a Modern Day Calvary

Pro-Life Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 19, 2019
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Service in English:
Southwestern abortion facility
8616 Greenville Ave at Royal Ln, Dallas

Servicio de Oración en español:
Planned Parenthood, 7989 W Virginia Dr, Dallas



www.prolifedallas.org/calendar



SAVE THE DATE: Texas Catholic Advocacy Day

**Advocate for
Catholic Values**

March 26, 2019
Austin, Texas

[Learn More](#)

Join us for an
ADVOCACY DAY TRAINING
Saturday, February 9
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
12:30 p.m.



www.cathdal.org/advocacyday

2019 Youth For Life Pro-Life Boot Camp *tentative dates*

Day Camp: June TBD
Location to be determined

Overnight Camp: July 26-30
University of Dallas

*For students entering grades 9 - 12 and ages 14 - 17
Chaperones (21+) and Jr. Staff (18-20) needed

www.prolifedallas.org/bootcamp



Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreats Healing after Abortion Ministry

1999 - 2019: 20 years of Healing in Dallas

Retreats in English: March 22-24, August 2-4, December 6-8
Retiros in español: 15-17 de febrero, 7-9 de junio, 4-6 de octubre

For confidential assistance,
visit racheldallas.org or call 214-544-CARE (2273)
For assistance for men, call 469-416-2101

www.prolifedallas.org/healing

Visit us at www.prolifedallas.org



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