



CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE COMMUNITY CREATED TO LOVE. COMMITTED TO LIFE.

The Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Pro-Life Community Board of Directors Elects Cynthia Schmidt New Executive Director

Attorney, board member, and mother of five to lead North Texas's premier pro-life organization into its next chapter

DALLAS - The Catholic Pro-Life Community (CPLC), the Respect Life Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas and one of the nation's largest and most effective diocesan culture of life organizations, today announced the appointment of Cynthia Schmidt as its new executive director, effective immediately.

Schmidt, a Dallas attorney and committed board member of the CPLC since 2024, brings a decade of legal and business leadership experience to the role. She most recently served as Partner at Hilgers PLLC, where she practiced complex commercial litigation and helped lead a practice group of more than 100 attorneys, overseeing budgeting, strategic planning, hiring, and business development.

"The CPLC serves the most vulnerable members of society," said Schmidt. "I am honored to lead and grow our organization in the midst of a culture that so badly needs the joy of the Gospel."

As a board member, Schmidt served as the Mistress of Ceremonies of the 33rd Annual Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner in February, chaired the ad-hoc Strategic Development Committee, and served on the Mergers and Finance committees. Her hands-on involvement with CPLC's strategic planning, employee relations, and organizational development positions her uniquely for the executive director role.

Schmidt holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Political Science from the University of Notre Dame, where she served as class president and received the Irish Clover Award for Student

Leadership. She earned her Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law, graduating magna cum laude and Order of the Coif. Her legal career includes service as a federal law clerk to the Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn of the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, and as a fellow at First Liberty Institute defending religious freedom.

"Cynthia's unique combination of legal expertise, business acumen, deep Catholic faith, and personal witness to the sanctity of life make her the ideal leader for the CPLC at this pivotal moment," said Dr. Mayra Thompson, Chair of the CPLC Board of Directors. "Cynthia's vision for the organization to carry out its mission, along with her proven track record of leadership, position her to guide the CPLC as one of the leading culture of life organizations in the nation."

Schmidt is a mother of five living children (ages 2 through 10) and a devoted parishioner at St. Rita Catholic Community. She brings a deep personal commitment to the Church's mission, said Rev. Fr. Josh Whitfield, Pastor of St. Rita Catholic Community.

"Cynthia's faith in Christ is also her passion for the fullness of life. She's a strong and brilliant daughter of God, a wife and mother, and I simply can't think of anyone more equipped to lead our local pro-life movement into a new era of witness and charity. Y'all, I'm excited about this!" said Fr. Whitfield.

The CPLC, founded as the Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas in 1993, operates a wide array of life-affirming ministries including Bloom Pregnancy Help Center; Gabriel Outreach, which supports mothers through pregnancy and beyond; Healing After Abortion; and Parish Engagement, which partners with parishes, schools, and community groups to provide life-affirming education and resources across the diocese. The CPLC partners closely with Catholic pro-life organizations and maternity homes throughout North Texas.

Schmidt assumes her role at a time of significant opportunities and challenges for the pro-life movement. She has expressed a commitment to expanding the relevance and reach of the CPLC's ministries and ensuring the CPLC is a joyful representation of the fullness of truth in Jesus.

"We aim to provide solutions to the challenges that real people face," said Schmidt. "I want the CPLC to be the first place families turn to when they need support, and a joyful witness that changes hearts."

About the Catholic Pro-Life Community

The Catholic Pro-Life Community (CPLC) is the Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas, commissioned in 1993 and devoted to restoring respect and legal protection for every human life from conception to natural death. For more information, visit prolifedallas.org.

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