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The Wisdom of Being a Fool for Christ

In 2012 Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said, “God assumed from the beginning that the wise of the world would view Christians as fools...and he has not been disappointed.” It seems like the Honorable Justice Scalia had a crystal ball with which he could see what would continue to happen to our great nation: that Catholics and Christians would be ridiculed not only for expressing our beliefs but for even having these beliefs. Make no mistake, those who follow Christ are under attack.

We believe that marriage is the sacred union of one man and one woman; that physical intimacy should occur only after marriage; that ALL life is sacred, from natural conception through natural death; and that children should be treated as precious blessings. These beliefs have us labeled as racist, homophobic, anti-woman, and anti-freedom. Here are some of the latest assaults:

~The Hyde Amendment, a bipartisan-supported amendment since 1976 that prevents the use of federal funds for abortion except in the case of rape, incest, or endangerment of a mother’s life, is in grave and imminent danger of being overturned.

~Planned Parenthood continues to push for unrestricted access to the abortion pill by mail, claiming that the chemical abortion is “safe and effective.” There are documented cases of allergic reactions, hemorrhaging, and even death for women who have taken the abortion pill. Some WHC clients who took the abortion pill told us it was a horrendous experience and much more traumatic than the abortionist told them it would be.

~The American Medical Association’s (AMA) LGBTQ advisory committee is advocating for the removal of gender ID from birth certificates because *assigning specific genders harms the dignity of children*. Fifteen states already allow parents to put a gender-neutral “X” in lieu of their baby’s actual gender on their newborn’s birth certificate, regardless of their child’s God-given sexual identity. These parents will raise their child as an “it” until their confused child tries to guess if he or she wants to be a boy or a girl.

~The Equality Act, portrayed as an inclusive act banning discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation, is edging closer to becoming law. However, the Act actually discriminates against health care providers by mandating they perform abortions and gender transitions even when those procedures violate their religious beliefs. It also puts parental rights at risk, where parents could not necessarily make decisions about their children’s education or medical care. It would also end religious freedom, free speech, and the right for women to have equal rights under the law.

No matter how troubling things seem, we must remember that God put us in this time and place for a specific purpose. It is a privilege to be here and fight for him! Our Lord triumphs in the end, and I believe those who attack us know that. Otherwise, why would they be so angry and afraid?

It seems as if some people are waking up to these attacks and fighting back. They realize what is at stake and are taking action:

~The Supreme Court will hear arguments this fall on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, where the state of Mississippi will defend its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, with minimal exceptions. *This case has the potential to help overturn Roe v. Wade*. Additionally, Governor DeSantis was one of 12 governors who recently filed a brief asking the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

~Many organizations, including Alliance Defending Freedom, The Heritage Foundation, Focus on the Family, the USCCB, and many evangelical churches are actively fighting against the Equality Act.

What can we do? Pray more fervently than ever before and continue to make our voices heard. “Fear not!” is one of the most repeated commands in the Bible. We must take that command seriously. For, as Saint Paul said to the Romans, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Scalia concluded his 2012 statement with this: “Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world.”

May we all delight in being fools for Christ!

~Nancy Basham, Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Join us for an Evening of High-Stakes Fun!



HOLD'EM FOR LIFE XIV
A Benefit Event for
Women's Help Center
Presented by the
Blessed Trinity Council #17182

Saturday—September 18, 2021

6:30 PM Social Hour; Tournament begins at 7:30 PM

Blessed Trinity Parish Hall
10472 Beach Blvd.

For information call or text: 847-778-8824 or email
iHoldemforlife@gmail.com
Adults only, please



to the many churches, schools, ministries, and individuals who have organized Baby Bottle Drives and donated diapers, clothing, formula and other baby items to our centers this year. Your support is greatly appreciated by WHC and many babies and families!



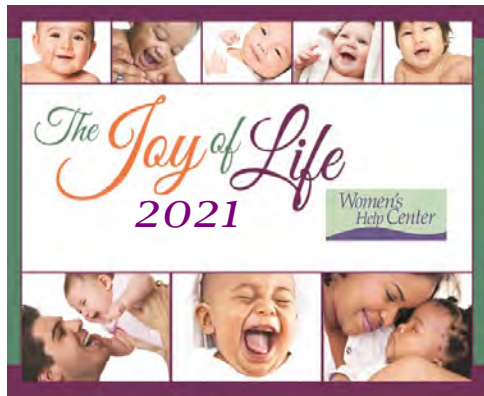
**WHC
CENTERS**

University
4209 University Blvd. S.
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904.398.5143

Westside
4116 Blanding Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32210
904.503.2964

Samuel Wells
3599 University Blvd. S. #1201
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904.374.5188

Callahan: Coming Soon!
541841 US Hwy. 1
Callahan, FL 32011



A Night of Inspiration at the 2021 Gala for Life

It was a night of joy as supporters from all over North Florida joined us to celebrate *The Joy of Life* at the 2021 Women's Help Center Gala for Life. Keynote speaker Sister DeDe Byrne, POSC, connected with the audience beautifully as she prayed with us, shared memories of her childhood as one of eight siblings, and talked about how God gently called her to her life's vocations.

"God, throughout my life, showed me some lights that helped encourage me to know that I was going to be his doctor," Sister said. "I credit my parents for helping me recognize and follow those lights. Their devotion to our Lord influenced me and everyone in our family."

Sister went on to say that her parents attended daily Mass, which was her most important inspiration. "They brought Christ home to us every day and taught us to trust in God's word," she said.

A missionary surgeon and retired U.S. Army Medical Corps Colonel, Sister DeDe lives a life of service. She is a member of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, an order that has been in the United States for over 70 years. She dedicates her time to helping the poor and underprivileged and is also devoted to saving the pre-born and their mothers from abortion. As a medical provider of the abortion pill reversal (APR) process, Sister DeDe helps women who regret starting the chemical abortion process.

"We save lives, and we save souls," Sister said of her work with abortion-minded women. She then shared the story of a young, pregnant, Catholic teen who received the support she needed to choose life for her preborn baby and received forgiveness through the sacrament of Reconciliation, all in the same day!

Sister concluded that the most significant thing she could share with us is that we must be ready to face spiritual battles.

"We have a battle between our Lord and the devil, and we have to ask ourselves which side we're on, she said. "God is in charge. We need to be in a state of grace and be battle-ready. We have to be the light of Christ. We're here to save souls. But you can't save souls unless you work on yourselves first."

Guests also heard from several board members who shared their perspectives on the importance of Women's Help Center to the Jacksonville community. Executive Director Nancy Basham updated everyone on how WHC is reaching more abortion-determined women than ever before, saving them and their preborn babies from the horror of abortion. Thanks to everyone who joined us at the Gala, whether in person or via livestream!



Sister Deirdre Byrne, POSC



Fr. Ed Murphy, WHC Spiritual Director and Pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, led guests in the opening invocation

Gifts for Life!

First Saturday Mass is celebrated in the Chapel of the Unborn at Women's Help Center at 4209 University Boulevard South. The Rosary begins at 9:00 AM and Mass follows at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome!

In Memory Of

Msgr. James Heslin	Judy Russom
Roy Provost	Hank Pelz
Laura Holtz Relliham	Heather Lafser Riley
Nell Sada	Paul McNeil Danese
Edward Milcarsky	Diane Erickson
Raquel Fuentes	Richard Echhoff
Godinez	Frank Stoppa
Tim McAnallen	Bob Shircliff
Jill Anderson	Catherine Schafer
Diane Herbert	Harlene Turso

In Honor Of

St. Andrew the Apostle
Fr. Denis O'Shaughnessy
Maria Milcarsky (Healing)
Dr. Ed Schelonka (Healing)
Don and Midge Barnhorst
Candace Crosby
Teresa Rivera

Center News

A Gift of Life Honoring Roy Provost



Fr. Alex Carandang from Sacred Heart Parish blessed the system

A rainy evening didn't dampen spirits or quash the immense joy that accompanied the dedication of the new ultrasound system

at Women's Help Center Westside. The system was presented by the Knights of Columbus Fr. Maher Council 648, with support from St. Matthew's, Sacred Heart, St. Pius V, and Most Holy Redeemer parishes. The evening began with prayer and a presentation by Tom Measday, former Grand Knight of Council 648. Tom shared that the ultrasound was

dedicated in honor and memory of Roy Provost, past Grand Knight of the Council. Roy was a staunch supporter of life for many years, and his wife Kathy and their family continue to honor that legacy. Roy's granddaughter Isabella spoke as the representative of the many Provost family members in attendance, including Roy's wife Kathy, their children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She talked fondly of the guidance and inspiration that her grandfather imparted to the entire family. The family then presented Council 648 and Women's Help Center with checks from the Roy and Kathy Provost Foundation.

Center Manager Rachel DeClemente welcomed guests and shared the touching story of a woman and her preborn baby who were spared from abortion because the mom was able to see her child on the new ultrasound machine. Women's Help Center is immensely grateful to the Fr. Maher Council, the Provost family, and all who helped make this donation possible. Vulnerable babies and mothers are saved from abortion every week at the Westside Center because of this incredible gift of life!



Kathy Provost (in blue), surrounded by her family

New Callahan Center Opening Soon

Renovations on our beautiful new center, located at 541841 US Highway 1 in Callahan are almost complete! Strategically located just west of I-95, this center will minister to at-risk women and families in Nassau County and Southeast Georgia. Thank you to the many individuals, ministries, and churches who helped make this happen. We are blessed by your generosity of time, talent, and treasure.

If you are interested in volunteering, give us a call at 904-398-5143. We would love to talk with you!



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Samuel Wells Center

Ashli Bryan, RDMS

Sonographer/Client Svcs. Coord.

Colleen Carr

Client Advocate

Cosette MacLaren

Client Advocate

Mission Statement

Through God's help and guidance, Women's Help Center provides a safe and loving environment for women, by promoting the best interest of children (both born and pre-born) and families so they can strive toward the potential endowed to each individual by God.