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Women's Help Center News

Changing lives, one heartbeat at a time, since 1990

Fall 2020

A Voice for Life

"Abortion is an intrinsic evil, meaning that it is never permitted or morally justified, regardless of individual circumstances or intentions." USCCB, September 2020



Over 2,000 children are killed by abortion every day in the United States

is a critical landmark because...a new genetically distinct human organism is formed when the chromosomes of the male and female pronuclei blend in the oocyte." In other words, life begins at conception.

Many other prominent scientists affirm that life begins at conception. So why do pro-aborts continue to state that an unborn child is not, in fact, a child? I don't know. But I do know that, as Christians, we are called to defend the sanctity of life at all stages. We must stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

We also must share with others that new life brings joy! And share with them that there is a tremendous amount of help for women and families who are struggling emotionally, financially, or otherwise. This is why Women's Help Center exists: to support women and families through pregnancy and beyond, helping them learn and grow to be loving families. Our mission is to empower women to make the choice for life and continue to help them once they have made that choice.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) recently released the following statement on the importance of voting for life:

World-renowned embryologist Keith L. Moore affirms in his book, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology* that "human development begins at fertilization."

In the book *Human Embryology and Teratology*, Ronan O'Rahilly and Fabiola Miller assert that "Although life is a continuous process, fertilization ...

that it is never permitted or morally justified, regardless of individual circumstances or intentions."

Our own Bishop Estevez recently affirmed this when he tweeted, "If we do not hold Life as preeminent and central to all else, then it's easy to rationalize that we can compromise all other things. If a Catholic Christian cannot form their conscience around this one issue of Life, they can believe almost anything."

According to the Guttmacher Institute, ten states and Washington, D.C. currently permit abortions through all forty weeks of pregnancy: Alaska, Colorado, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The state of Florida allows abortion until twenty four weeks of gestation, which is past the stage of viability. Additionally, the number of abortion clinics that limit their surgical abortions to the first trimester decreased from 46 percent in 2018 to 31 percent in 2019. This means that **more abortion clinics are now providing abortions in the second and third trimester.**

The time is now. Let us unite and make our voices heard so that abortion becomes not only illegal but also unthinkable. Our nation's unborn children and their mothers are counting on us. Let us do this for them, and for our Lord and Savior. May God bless you and your loved ones.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Psalm 46:1

~Nancy Basham, Executive Director

A Warm Welcome, and a Heartfelt Thank You!



We extend a warm welcome to our new Medical Director, Dr. Robert Raspa, MD. Dr. Raspa graduated from West Virginia University and completed a Family Medicine Residency at the Naval Hospital Pensacola. After serving 21 years in the Navy, where he attained the rank of Captain and directed the Family Medicine Residency at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, he worked at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville for 16 years. Dr. Raspa now works part time for the Emergency Resources Group and online with MyCatholicDoctor.com. He has provided a broad scope of care including maternity, newborn, child, adult, and geriatric care in ambulatory and hospital environments. He is a Creighton NaPro Technology Consultant and provides natural family planning care. Dr. Raspa has delivered over 1000 babies!



As we welcome Dr. Raspa, we also bid a fond farewell to Dr. Edward Schelonka, who retired earlier this year. A Family Medicine Specialist, Dr. Schelonka was our Medical Advisor for many years, working tirelessly to support our efforts to help abortion-vulnerable women choose life for their babies. Dr. Schelonka is the recipient of this year's Women's Help Center Guardian Angel for Life award, in recognition for his many years of guidance and service to our ministry. Thank you, Dr Schelonka. Your work has made the world a better place. We will miss seeing you in our centers, and wish you all the best during your well-deserved retirement!

WHC CENTERS

University	Westside	Samuel Wells
4209 University Blvd. S. Jacksonville, FL 32216 904.398.5143	4116 Blanding Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32210 904.503.2964	3599 University Blvd. S. #1201 Jacksonville, FL 32216 904.374.5188

Celebrating 30 Years of Life at the 2020 Gala



It was truly a celebration of life as Women's Help Center welcomed Candace Owens as keynote speaker for the recent 2020 Gala Fundraiser for Life. Walking out to a standing ovation, Candace delivered a powerful pro-life message to a live audience of 600 and a virtual audience of many others who were unable to attend in person. Her message focused on how Planned Parenthood, the left, and the media target children and minority communities for abortion. Candace called out Planned Parenthood for targeting black women for abortion since the Progressive Era.

"Black America is the focus of the pro-choice movement," she said. "In the 1960s there was a rate of 23 percent of single motherhood in Black America. Today, there is a 77 percent single-motherhood rate in Black America. Planned Parenthood and the left have attacked the family in every single thing that they do."

Candace, who admits to once being pro-choice, credits her grandfather for helping to formulate her strong beliefs in support of life and democracy. She shared how her views on life changed as she grew to understand the truth about the

development of unborn children and the sanctity of life.

"We learned in school that (an unborn baby) is a clump of cells that magically turns into a fetus at three months. That is what science was teaching us. That is what we believed." Now in her sixth month of pregnancy, Candace shared her emotions on seeing her baby on an ultrasound for the first time.

"When I went for my ten-week scan, I was shocked to see little hands and little feet dancing," she exclaimed. "The truth was right there on the screen. You couldn't tell me it was a clump of cells. 'My body, my choice' could never have been a sentence I could utter after seeing that."

Citing celebrities who applaud abortion as a right of female empowerment, Candace believes that post-abortive women could actually be **the** voice for life.

"The girls screaming 'my body, my choice' are hurting. Imagine if we could empower them to use their voice for life. Let's help them understand that they can help others avoid that same pain," she said.

Candace's closing message was one of hope. "People are waking up...something is changing. We're fighting a spiritual battle. It's a battle of good versus evil, of Satan versus God. I'm just saying, if you have to be on one side, God is the right side to be on."



Knights of Columbus Assembly 2368 Color Corps posted the colors at the Gala

2021 Gala for Life with Sister Dierdre Byrne!



"I'm not just pro-life, I'm pro-eternal life." Sr. DeDe Byrne

We are delighted to share with you that the keynote speaker for the 2021 Gala Fundraiser for Life is Sister Deirdre Byrne, POSC! Sister DeDe is a member of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, an order founded in Italy that has been in the United States for nearly 70 years. A surgeon and retired U.S. Army Medical Corps colonel, Sister DeDe spoke at the 2020 Republican National Convention in September.

Sharing her dedication to protecting the unborn, she stated, "The largest marginalized group in the world can be found in the United States. They are the unborn." She continued, "As a physician I can say without hesitation: life begins at conception."

We look forward to welcoming Sister DeDe to the 2021 Gala for Life on Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Gifts for Life!

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

In Honor Of

St. Andrew the Apostle
Mary Ellen Bell (healing)
Fr. Denis O'Shaughnessy
Maria Milcarsky (healing)
Dawn Guarino
Candace Crosby
Diane Joseph (birthday)
Midge Barnhorst

In Memory Of

Msgr James Heslin
Laura Holtz Rellihan
Frank Stoppa
Nell Sada
Mary Jo Linnen
Lawrence Kornblum
Bob Shircliff
Daniel Siecker
John A. Beyerle
Nancy Ballas
Dawn Russo
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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 unborn) and families so they can strive toward the potential endowed to each individual by God.