

COUNCIL 1675  
PRO-LIFE REPORT  
FOR THE  
APRIL 2023  
BULLETIN

SK Matthew Leavy, Warden and Pro-Life Activities Chair  
STOLZENTHALER COUNCIL NO. 1675  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES



Greetings Worthy Brothers,  
Happy Easter, He is Risen! I hope this message finds all well. I have included in this issue a prayer guide to support the Pro-Life cause along with opportunities to join the picket in Staten Island and take a Stand for Life. Please join spiritually and if able, physically, these actions for the Cause of Life.

Additionally, I have included an article written by our Supreme Chaplain Arch-Bishop Lori that is insightful and informative. Please take a few minutes to read it. I found it to be helpful and excellent. In the word of Arch-Bishop Lori, “as believers, let us move decisively to protect human life.”

Thank you, Brothers, for your continuing support of the Pro-Life cause. Thank you all for your continuing efforts in moving forward the Cause for Life. Please pray daily for the unborn, the aborted, the pregnant mother, and the expectant father. Please pray for the strengthening of Catholic families. No prayer is ever wasted. Please ask our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney to come to the aid of the Cause for Life. God bless our land and shelter the unborn.

May the month of April, 2023 find great advances in the Pro-Life movement.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

Matt Leavy

Warden

Pro-Life Activities Chair

Stolzenhaler Council #1675

**Please review these opportunities to support the Cause of Life:**

**Pro-Life Events**

**Weekly Pro-Life pickets scheduled (Weather Permitting) on Staten Island:**

(Signs will be provided by the picket runners, please come, and bring your rosary.)

**Mondays there is one picket:**

Mondays on the sidewalk in front of Inna Tubman's (Abortionist) office.

10:30AM - 11:30AM

4360 Hylan Bl, Staten Island, NY 10312, the corner of Hylan Bl and Richmond Ave.

This picket is hosted by Marietta Canning, President of the Staten Island Right to Life League (SIRTLL).

**Tuesdays there are two pickets, both at Planned Parenthood:**

Tuesdays in front of Planned Parenthood

23 Hyatt ST.

Staten Island, NY 10301

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

(Hosted by Angela DiBenedetto, SIRTLL Representative)

Tuesdays in front of Planned Parenthood

23 Hyatt St.

Staten Island, NY 10301

**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

(Hosted by Marietta Canning, SIRTLL Foundress and President)

**Thursdays there are three pickets:**

Thursdays in front of Staten Island University Hospital **South**

**10:00 am - 11:00 am**

375 Seguire Ave, Staten Island, NY 10309

(This picket is led by Angela DiBenedetto on behalf of the Staten Island Right to Life League.)

Thursday in front of Inna Tubman's (Abortionist) office.

**1:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

4360 Hylan Bl, Staten Island, NY 10312, the corner of Hylan Bl and Richmond Ave.  
(This picket is hosted by Marietta Canning, President of the Staten Island Right to Life League.)

Thursdays in front of Planned Parenthood  
23 Hyatt St.

Staten Island, NY 10301

5:00 - 6:00 pm

(This picket is hosted by Marietta Canning, President of the Staten Island Right to Life League.)

### **Every Last Saturday of the Month**

40 Days for Life

"Monthly Witness for Life on Last Saturdays"

9:00 am optional Mass at St. Christopher's, 130 Midland Ave, Staten Island, NY  
10306

Prayer Action at Staten Island University Hospital **North**

10:00 - 11:00 am

475 Seaview Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10305

(Picket meets at the corner of Seaview Ave and Mason Ave)

This picket is hosted by Deborah Sucich of 40 Days for Life.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION for PRO-LIFE ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Staten Island Right to Life League**

<https://www.sirtll.org/>

Contact Marietta Canning

(Foundress and President): 646-662-3914, [sirighttolife@yahoo.com](mailto:sirighttolife@yahoo.com)

**40 Days for Life & SI Witnesses for Life**

Contact Deborah Sucich

(Coordinator for Staten Island and Brooklyn): (929) 218-6502,

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/statenisland>

For more info contact Debbie at [40DaysSI@gmail.com](mailto:40DaysSI@gmail.com)

## **Good Counsel Homes**

Good Counsel was founded in 1985 to help homeless, pregnant women in dire need. They have grown and are an excellent resource for pregnant women with many ways they can help. [goodcounselhomes.org](http://goodcounselhomes.org) Helpline: [\(800\)723-8331](tel:(800)723-8331)

### **24 / 7 Crisis Pregnancy Helpline**

**(800) 723-8331**

[goodcounselhomes.org](http://goodcounselhomes.org)

Alternatives to abortion are available. Call for free, confidential help. Good Counsel has a national 24 / 7 helpline, (800-723-8331), assisting pregnant women, along with a follow-up Exodus Program for mothers and children leaving the Good Counsel residences, and an outreach assisting those single-parent families who need assistance but not in a home.

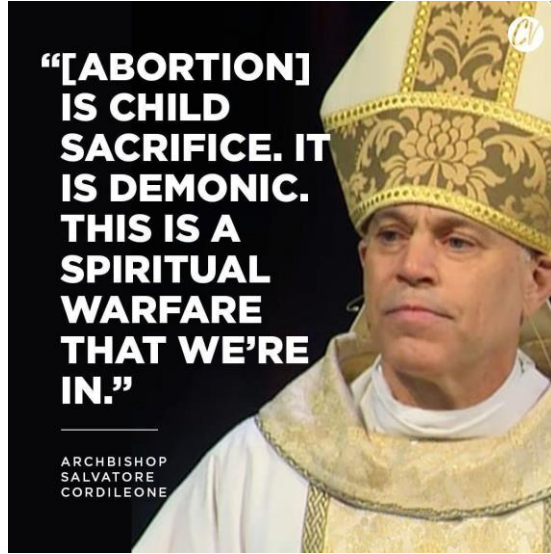
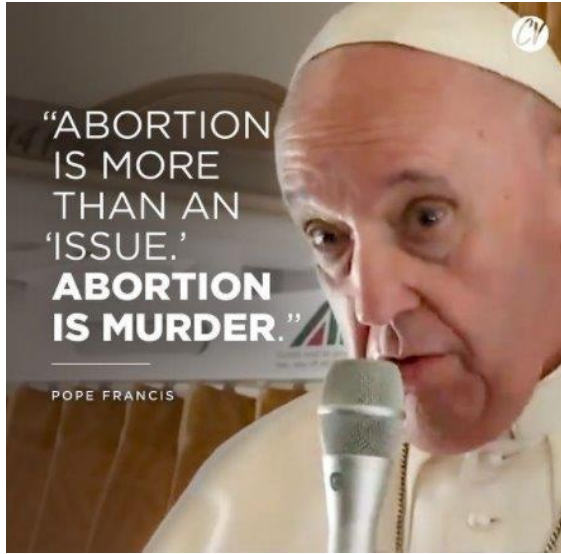
## **Lumina**

### **Hope & Healing After Abortion**

**(877) 586-4621**

[postabortionhelp.org](http://postabortionhelp.org)

Lumina is a ministry of Good Counsel that assists those suffering from a prior abortion, male or female, to reach healing and wholeness through talks, retreats and other venues. A loving resource for those suffering in silence and alone. In Christ, there is always hope.



### A Prayer for Pregnant Women and Mothers in Need

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion. Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

### A Blessing for Mothers

Almighty God has brought you  
the joy of motherhood:  
May he now bless you.

Through the mercy of God  
and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
may you and your children one day  
come to share in the unending joys of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.





## INTERCEDE



## PRAY

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

## REFLECT

On March 25, 2020, the Church celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). This prophetic document, written by Pope St. John Paul II, reaffirmed the Church's constant teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life.

*The Gospel of Life* highlights the special and particular role of women in bearing the gift of life.

St. John Paul II offers heartfelt thanks to “heroic mothers,” who, placing their trust in God, “devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves” (EV 86). The Holy Father also outlines many challenges that expectant mothers may face, recognizing that an “unborn child is totally entrusted to the

protection and care of the woman carrying him or her in the womb” (EV 58). For this reason, it is particularly important that the Church come alongside mothers, offering encouragement, assistance, and support that is life-affirming for both them and their children.

## ACT *(choose one)*

- Read the reflection, “He Made His Dwelling Among Us: The Annunciation and *The Gospel of Life*,” ([www.bit.ly/ev-annunciation](http://www.bit.ly/ev-annunciation)) and spend time prayerfully reflecting on the gift of human life. **(This was sent out in the February 2023 Stolzenhaler Bulletin. – Matt)**
- Choose a day this week to fast for the featured intention.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

## ONE STEP FURTHER

Celebrate the gift of *The Gospel of Life*

([www.bit.ly/evangelium-vitae](http://www.bit.ly/evangelium-vitae)) by reading section 87 of this prophetic encyclical on the dignity of the human person. **(For the convenience of Stolzenhaler Members I have included a copy in this Pro-Life report. – Matt)**

## DID YOU KNOW?

There's still time for your parish to join *Walking with Moms in Need*. Visit

[WalkingWithMoms.com](http://WalkingWithMoms.com) for more information.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:

[www.WalkingWithMoms.com](http://www.WalkingWithMoms.com)

From the guide above: ONE STEP FURTHER

Celebrate the gift of *The Gospel of Life*

Following is section 87 of this prophetic encyclical on the dignity of the human person.

IOANNES PAULUS PP. II (Author)

***EVANGELIUM VITAE, Section 87***

"What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works?" (Jas 2:14): serving the Gospel of life

87. By virtue of our sharing in Christ's royal mission, our support and promotion of human life must be accomplished through the service of charity, which finds expression in personal witness, various forms of volunteer work, social activity and political commitment. This is a particularly pressing need at the present time, when the "culture of death" so forcefully opposes the "culture of life" and often seems to have the upper hand. But even before that it is a need which springs from "faith working through love" (Gal 5:6). As the Letter of James admonishes us: "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled', without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (2:14-17).

In our service of charity, we must be inspired and distinguished by a specific attitude: we must care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to become neighbours to everyone (cf. Lk 10:29-37), and to show special favour to those who are poorest, most alone and most in need. In helping the hungry, the thirsty, the foreigner, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned—as well as the child in the womb and the old person who is suffering or near death—we have the opportunity to serve Jesus. He himself said: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). Hence we cannot but feel called to account and judged by the ever relevant words of Saint John Chrysostom: "Do you wish to honour the body of Christ? Do not neglect it when you find it naked. Do not do it homage here in the church with silk fabrics only to neglect it outside where it suffers cold and nakedness".<sup>113</sup>

Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good. We need then to "show care" for all life and for the life of everyone. Indeed, at an even deeper level, we need to go to the very roots of life and love.

It is this deep love for every man and woman which has given rise down the centuries to an outstanding history of charity, a history which has brought into being in the Church and society many forms of service to life which evoke admiration from all unbiased observers. Every Christian community, with a renewed sense of responsibility, must continue to write this history through various kinds of pastoral and social activity. To this end, appropriate and effective programmes of support for new life must be implemented, with special closeness to mothers who, even without the help of the father, are not afraid to bring their child into the world and to raise it. Similar care must be shown for the life of the marginalized or suffering, especially in its final phases.



The following is an article written by our Supreme Chaplain, published in the *Catholic Review*. While it is addressing a legislative bill in Maryland, it is informative and explores several Pro-Life issues that are of great import to all, and that we are also facing in one manner or another in New York.

Published in:

## **Catholic Review**

### **Person or thing?**

February 24, 2023

By Archbishop William E. Lori

(In addition to his responsibilities as the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archbishop Lori serves as **Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus** and is the former chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty.)

Recently, a bill was introduced in the General Assembly that would lead to an amendment in the Maryland State Constitution enshrining the “right” to procure an abortion. If signed into law and ratified by the voters, there would be and could be no limits on abortion.

It would be allowable through all three trimesters, up to the moment of birth. One of the goals of this legislation (and three other abortion bills recently introduced) is to make Maryland an abortion destination where the lives of unborn children could be taken almost at will and at any time.

It remains to be seen if Maryland will chart this grisly course. Affirmative votes by three-fifths of the legislature are needed to get the abortion amendment on the ballot in 2024. I sincerely hope and pray that this bill is defeated. But make no mistake. Even if a majority of Maryland voters were to pass an abortion amendment via referendum, that would never be the right thing to do.

Abortion up to the moment of birth raises the question: is the child in the womb a person or a thing? If it is indeed a person – which science, if not our own common sense, tells us it is – then we need to cherish that developing human life as well as the life of the mother.

Science is touted by some as the sole source of truth – except when science yields some inconvenient indicators. Very early on, the child developing in the mother’s womb exhibits unmistakable signs of humanity: a distinctive DNA, brainwaves, the ability to feel pain, human features. Science would lead us to conclude that the child in the womb is not a thing but a person, indeed a vulnerable person in need of our protection.

When many expectant mothers see an ultrasound image of their unborn child and hear the child’s beating heart, they choose to bring their baby to birth. We should encourage and help them, especially mothers in difficult circumstances. That is why parish initiatives such as

Walking with Moms in Need are so important. That is why pro-life pregnancy centers deserve our support, and why government assistance for mothers and their children should be supported, including by legislators opposed to abortion.

In 1979, when Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, she spoke about loving the poor and disenfranchised – a work to which she devoted her life. But she included among the poor and disenfranchised the unborn, the unwanted child. She spoke of the millions whose lives were taken by abortion. And she added that abortion is “the greatest destroyer of peace.” If we can treat the unborn as a thing, not a person, we can treat anyone that way.

St. Teresa of Kolkata’s words once again rang true with the introduction of another bill in the General Assembly, a bill that would allow physician-assisted suicide. This bill would permit a physician, with almost no precautions, to prescribe lethal drugs to patients who request them, the same sort of drugs used to administer capital punishment. Such drugs could be prescribed without checking to see if the patient is suffering from depression or if the patient’s pain could be managed, or even if a patient could potentially recover.

As with abortion, physician-assisted suicide treats the person like a thing, not a person. When someone is deemed worn out or burdensome, this legislation would encourage us to dispose of him or her. Let us make no mistake. Once enacted, the “right” to assisted suicide will expand. As is the case in other countries, it could include children, those with mental illness and those who simply want to end their lives. What is touted today as a choice may someday become a duty. Person or thing?

Pope Francis recently cited abortion and physician-assisted suicide as part and parcel of today’s “throwaway culture.” “What is [deemed] useless is discarded. Old people are disposable material; they are a nuisance ... the old, the terminally ill, and unwanted children, too; they are returned to the sender before they are born,” the Holy Father said.

Violence against the unborn and violence against the chronically and terminally ill are indeed manifestations of the culture of death – the cheapening of human life. Is it any wonder that we see carnage on our streets – more than 700 killed on the streets of Baltimore in the last two years? Were those 700 persons or things?

As Marylanders and as believers, let us move decisively to protect human life.