

Commemorating 51 Years of Outreach,
Education, Advocacy, and Prayer

32nd Annual

Right to Life

Benefit Dinner

Thursday, October 19, 2023
Dahnke Ballroom, University of Notre Dame



Right to Life
Michiana

2004 Ironwood Circle | Suite 130 | South Bend, IN 46635
574-232-5433 | life@prolifemichiana.org
www.prolifemichiana.org

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32nd Annual Right to Life Benefit Dinner

Program of Events

Welcome

Andrew Weiss

Master of Ceremonies

Honorary Chair Remarks

Walter and Elaine Nicgorski

Invocation

Rev. Andrew Budzinski

*Pastor, St. Matthew Cathedral
Board Member, Right to Life Michiana*

Keynote Interview

Dr. Alveda King

Organization Remarks and Appeal

Antonio Marchi

Executive Director, Right to Life Michiana

Closing Prayer

Dr. Alveda King

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Table Hosts

Life Patron

Anonymous	Walter and Elaine Nicgorski (2)
Pat and Patty Farrell	Phil and Laura Seng Family and Friends
Dorsey Gordon	St. Matthew Cathedral (1)
Tony and Leslie Letcher	St. Matthew Cathedral (2)
HealthMarkets	The Stahl Family
McGrath Institute for Church Life	University Faculty for Life
Walter and Elaine Nicgorski (1)	

Life Supporter

Anonymous	Sheryl Noblitt
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Baxmeyer	Sacred Heart Parish
Christ Chapel South Bend	St. Joseph Catholic Church (Mishawaka)
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The Greathouse Family	St. Pius X Catholic Church (1)
Holy Cross College (1)	St. Pius X Catholic Church (2)
Holy Cross College (2)	St. Pius X Catholic Church (3)
Holy Cross Parish	St. Thomas More Academy (1)
Little Flower Church	St. Thomas More Academy (2)
Knights of Columbus (1)	St. Thomas More Academy (3)
Little Flower Church	St. Thomas More Academy (4)
Knights of Columbus (2)	Tailwind Homes, LLC
The McFarland Family	
Murphy Rice, LLP	
ND Law School Jus Vitae	

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(Donations of \$50)

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Maura Halloran

Dr. Walter Halloran

Nicholas and Lindsey Hanlon Family

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Hal Loebach

Peter and Marilyn McCasland

Dr. Julie Plagens, DDS

Ray Plagens - HealthMarkets

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(Donations of \$25)

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Edward and Rosemary Dlugosz

Garrett Kazmierski

Rebecca Kizer

Mr. and Mrs. John Lushis

Simone Ostric

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(Donations Made in Memory of Loved Ones)

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Jim Banner	Florence Krizman
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Virginia Black	Paul Marz
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Dom François de Feydeau	Joan Mooney
Julie Fox	Rafaella Nardi
Ms. Adeline Graber	Anthony Ostric
Lisa Elizabeth Henry	Margaret Stanley
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hirl	Pastor Lester Frank Sumrall
John Kominkiewicz	Mrs. Louise Layman Sumrall
Andrew J. Krizman	Mary Farrell Wronko

Angels of Life

(Donations Made in Children's Names)

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Ella Black
Holly Black
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Dr. Alveda King

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The Spectacle Shoppe /Dr. Jason Rich

Trinity Lutheran Church - Lutherans for Life

Dawn VanArsdale

Ziker

Andrew Weiss

Master of Ceremonies



Andrew is a financial advisor for the Knights of Columbus and has served the Catholic families of Michiana for ten years. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Council #553, who have long been strong supporters of Right to Life Michiana. They have hosted the Annual March for Life since the 1970s and last year partnered with Right to Life Michiana on the "Stuff-a-Semi" project resulting in a record-breaking donation to a local pregnancy resource center.

Andrew and his wife Danielle have four children and are parishioners at Saint Joseph Parish in South Bend.

Walter and Elaine Nicgorski

Honorary Chair Couple



Walter and Elaine Nicgorski moved to South Bend in 1964 along with their firstborn, one-year-old child. They left Chicago where Walter was completing his Ph.D. in political science and Elaine had been employed in restaurant management at Marshall Field & Co. Their three children, Ann, Stephen, and Alan, graduated from St. Joseph High School and the University of Notre Dame. Walter served as a faculty member at Notre Dame until his retirement in 2012.

After the *Roe v. Wade* decision overturning abortion bans in forty-eight states, Walter and Elaine joined St. Joseph County Right to Life with a determination to do all they could to counter the liberalized abortion practices then on the horizon. They were convinced that there was no more foundational right or moral principle than that innocent life should be protected by law. In the first years of their membership, Walter volunteered in the office, wrote a legislative watch column for the local newsletter, and even helped directly persuade Mayor Richard Lugar, later Senator, to embrace a pro-life position. Then Elaine picked up the ball and served Right to Life by volunteering in the office, sidewalk counseling, marching and demonstrating, as well as serving on the Board of Directors of Right to Life as secretary over the last twenty years. They have joined the March on Washington twice and have been active in Notre Dame's chapter of University Faculty for Life. Walter and Elaine rejoice in being able to witness the *Dobbs* decision and the subsequent firm and intelligent legislation by the Indiana Senate and House.

Dr. Alveda King

Keynote Interview



Alveda C. King is an evangelist and civil rights activist and is also known for her creative contributions in film, music, and journalism. She is also an actress, singer, songwriter, blogger, author, a television and radio personality, and a former college professor. As a guardian of the King Family Legacy, Alveda is the daughter of civil rights leaders Rev. A.D. King and Mrs. Naomi King; the granddaughter of Rev. Martin Luther King, Senior and Mrs. Alberta Williams King, and the niece of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior.

We Bring Respect to Life Through...

OUTREACH



Our HerMichiana network connects women with life-saving resources in our community.

This year, we reached 2,837 individuals through our web platform, made 5,868,349 media campaign impressions in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties, provided one-on-one case-management for women in need, launched a phone/text line, began developing an interactive mapping function on our website, started expanding our resource network to cover all counties contiguous to St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties, and crafted a mobile consultation unit set to launch in the fall of 2023.

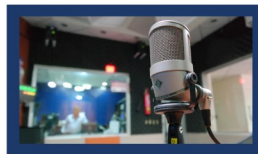
Our Sidewalk Outreach program has a long history of helping women with life-affirming options.

Right to Life has been present outside of local abortion facilities for decades, offering women help and resources. We are continuing to develop our sidewalk outreach program to respond as new threats surface in our community.



Resource Center Campaign

Our media campaign, reaching women who experience pregnancy in a crisis, directs them to local pregnancy resource centers. This campaign made 5,619,224 impressions in the past year!



"Life Update" on WUBS 89.7

Our radio show reaches the community with discussion and interviews sharing meaningful stories from the local pro-life movement and the impact of local resources.



APR Outreach

Our Abortion Pill Reversal outreach helps women who may regret starting the chemical abortion process. We connect women with local doctors who have had success reversing chemical abortion after the first pill.

...All Thanks to Your Support!

We Bring Respect to Life Through...

EDUCATION



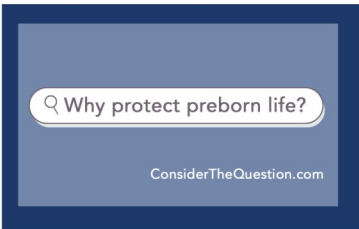
Life Team Workshops

In the past year, we presented workshops on fetal development and abortion for 318 students in local classrooms.



Public Education Exhibits

We reached thousands of individuals at local fairs and festivals this year.



Public Education Media Campaign

We are working with an interdisciplinary team of experts on a new media campaign designed to change hearts and minds. This campaign made 14,217,905 outdoor impressions in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties this year!



Kloska Family Life Defenders Boot Camp

We equipped nearly 100 individuals with the tools to have impactful and charitable conversations about abortion, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide.



Youth Scholarships

We continue to encourage the next generation of pro-life leaders with middle school, high school, and college scholarships.



Social Media

We engaged 18,473 individuals in our community with educational material shared on our social media platforms this year.

...All Thanks to Your Support!

We Bring Respect to Life Through...

ADVOCACY



March for Life and "Stuff-a-Semi"

We hosted more than 700 locals for the March for Life and Rally in South Bend and the Elkhart Prayers for Life in January. This year, we stuffed a semi with thousands of products for moms and babies, offering a record-breaking donation to a local pregnancy resource center!



Protests, Petitions, and Boycotts

We coordinate protests, petitions, and boycotts to take a stand against urgent threats. This year, for example, we partnered with community groups to protest the selling of abortion pills in pharmacies.



Monitoring of Local Abortion Threats

We monitor local abortion threats and coordinate our community's response. The last time an abortion business tried to move into our community, we were able to delay its opening for two years! We are now working to resist the movement of mail-order abortion drugs entering our community.



Mother's Day Flower Sale

We partner with local congregations to support initiatives offering tangible care to moms and babies in our community.



Pro-Life Signature Ad

We rally pro-life individuals to support the right to life of all innocent human beings from fertilization to natural death. This year, 1,338 individuals signed our pro-life signature ad!

...All Thanks to Your Support!

We Bring Respect to Life Through...

PRAYER

Respect Life Prayer Dinner

We come together with hundreds to pray for an increased realization of the sanctity of all human life. We ask that God's grace might direct the good work of the pro-life movement and motivate the action of all pro-life advocates.



National Life Chain

We gather simultaneously with groups across the country each October to pray that all innocent human life might receive the respect and protection it deserves. Together we ask that God might change hearts and minds to recognize life as our most precious gift.



Prayer at Local Abortion Facilities

We collaborate with pro-life individuals across the community to pray for the abortion-vulnerable at local facilities and make reparation for this great tragedy that plagues our culture. Every member of our staff commits to a half-hour of prayer outside a local facility each week.



...All Thanks to Your Support!

Your Generosity Unlocks Innovation!

INTRODUCING...



HerMichiana Mobile Unit

Reaching women in need with a vast network of resources in St. Joseph County, Elkhart County, and all nine contiguous counties!

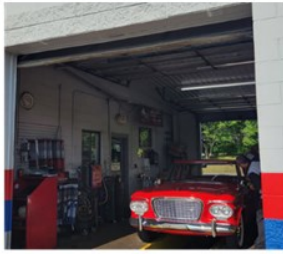


"Life: Wonderfully Made" Public Education Exhibit

An interactive experience for people of all ages fostering education and wonder at the miracle of life supported by the strength of motherhood from the very beginning

With Your Support Tonight, We Hope To...

- Hire a professional case worker for the HerMichiana mobile unit
- Expand The Life Team Workshops to kindergarten and upper elementary classes
- Launch the inaugural Michiana African Americans for Life Breakfast
- Develop an outreach to women traveling out of state for abortions
- Produce a comprehensive collection of resources for use by pastors and congregations
- Put up a strong front against the illicit mailing of abortion-inducing drugs across state borders
- Formalize strategic efforts to combat euthanasia and PAS
- Set in motion our most extensive public education campaign to date to change hearts and minds about abortion



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The **de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture** at the University of Notre Dame is proud to support Right to Life Michiana in its efforts to promote and defend the inalienable human dignity of all.

Save the date to join us on April 27, 2024, as we present the Notre Dame *Evangelium Vitae* Medal, the nation's most important lifetime achievement award for heroes in the pro-life movement, to **Dr. Elvira Parravicini**, founder of the Neonatal Comfort Care Program, which addresses the complex medical and non-medical needs of infants affected by life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. Learn more about Dr. Parravicini's amazing pro-life witness on our website.



ethicscenter.nd.edu

In Loving Memory of
Raymond and Donna
Schmidt



Donna was a dedicated, loving mother of three children and a volunteer with Birthright for many years. Raymond was a loving father and World War II Veteran, receiving many medals including the Bronze Star for Valor.


*They will forever remain
close to our hearts.*



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A photograph of a woman with dark hair and a pearl earring kissing a baby on the cheek. The baby is wearing a white onesie and has its mouth open in a joyful expression. The woman's hand is visible, holding the baby's arm.

*"We need to see each
child as a gift to be
welcomed, cherished
and protected."*

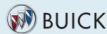
— Pope Francis



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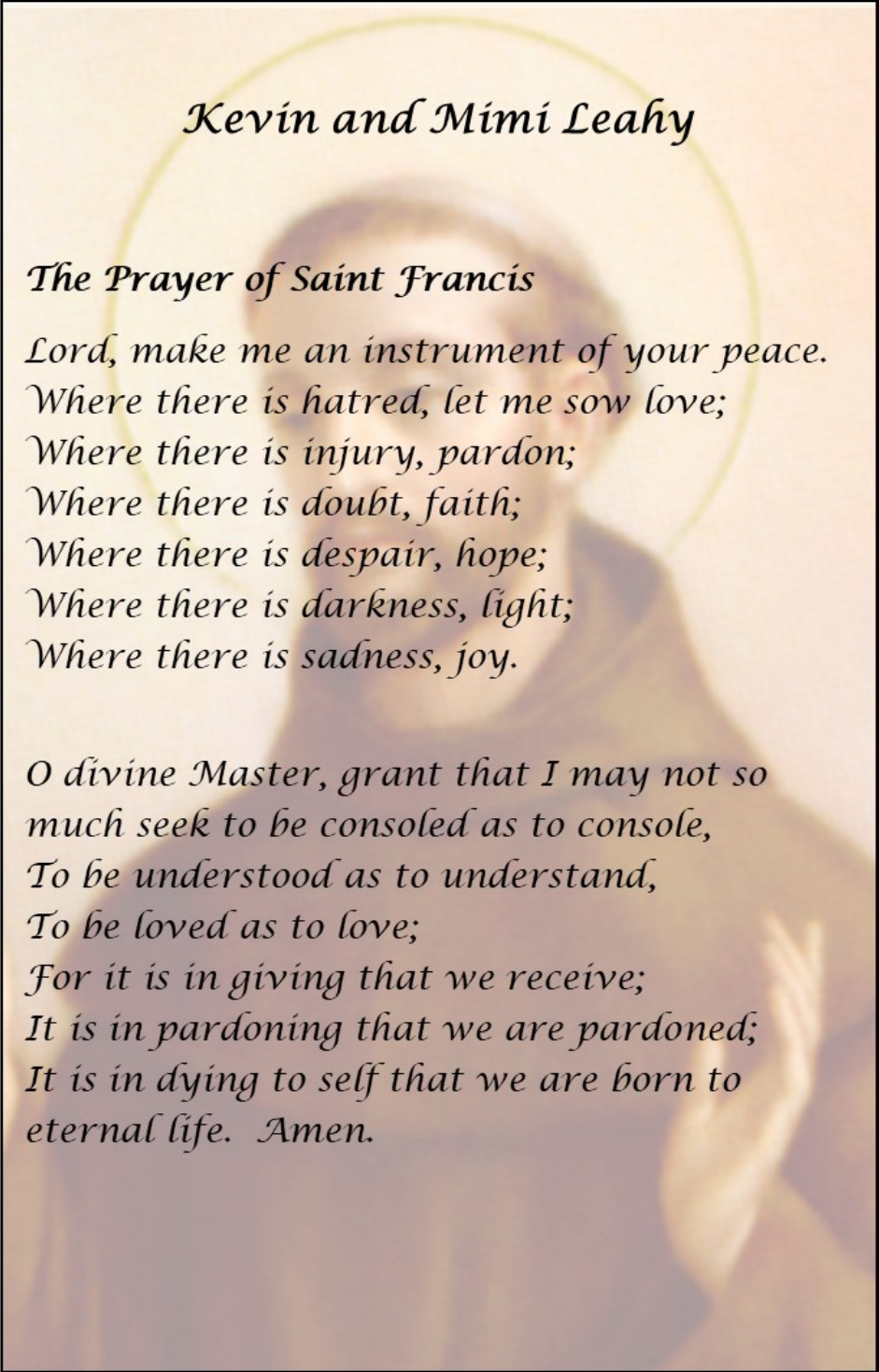


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Kevin and Mimi Leahy

The Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying to self that we are born to
eternal life. Amen.*

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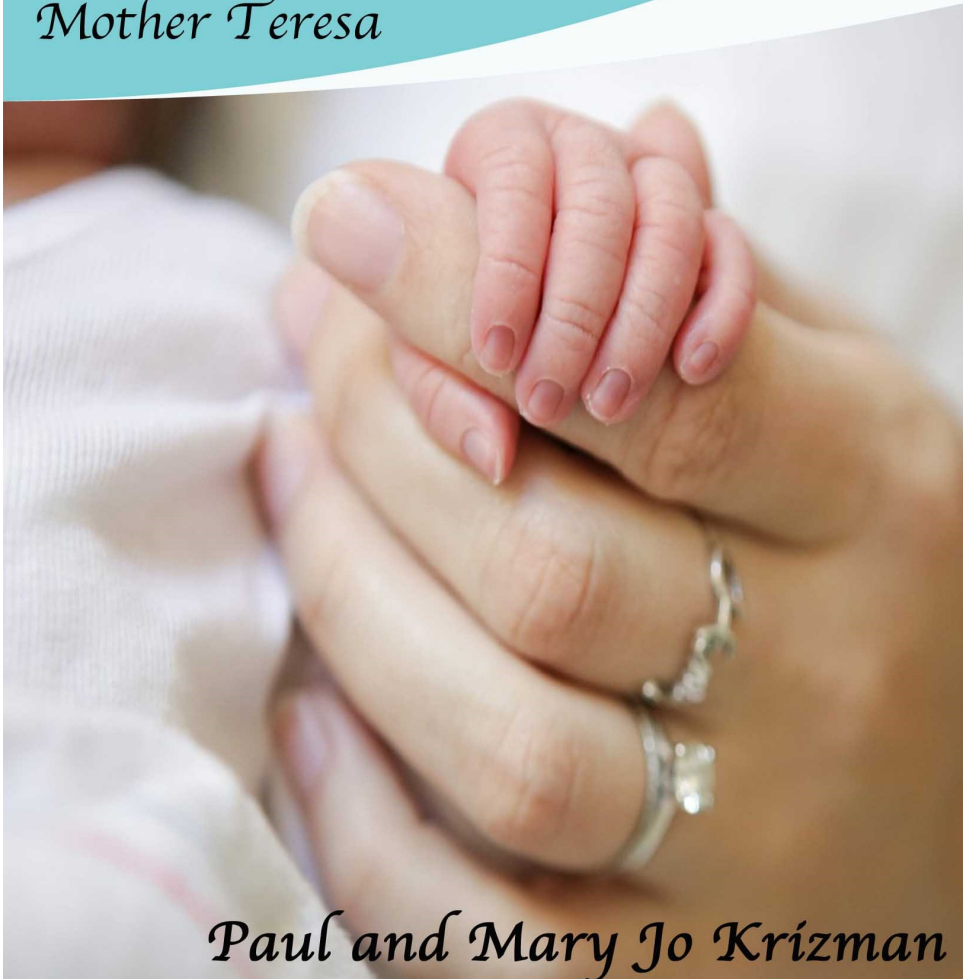
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Mother Teresa



Paul and Mary Jo Krizman




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"Life offers no guarantees but
abortion offers no chances."

-unknown



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Mike Braun

- ★ Sponsored 6 pro-life bills in the Senate
- ★ Co-sponsored 29 pro-life bills in the Senate
- ★ 100% lifetime score from National Right to Life
- ★ 100% lifetime score from FRC Action
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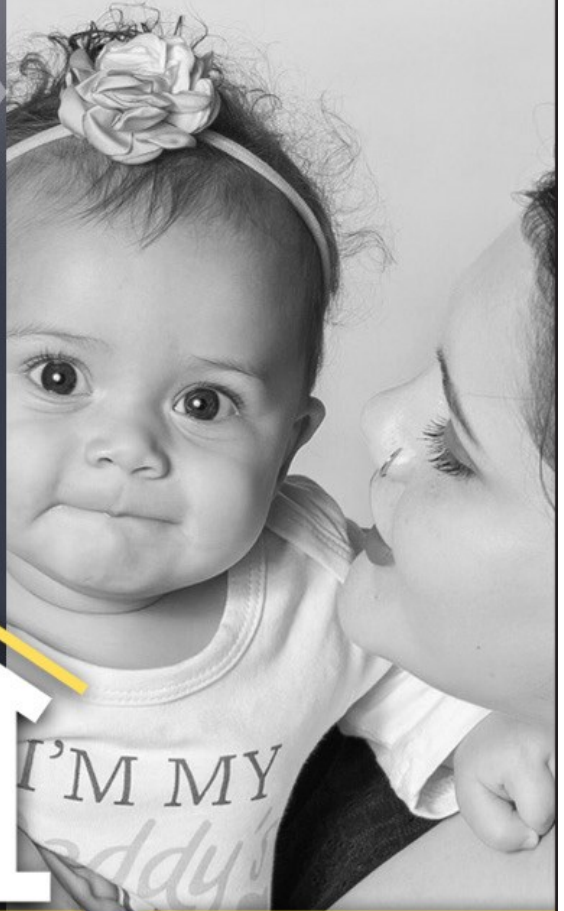
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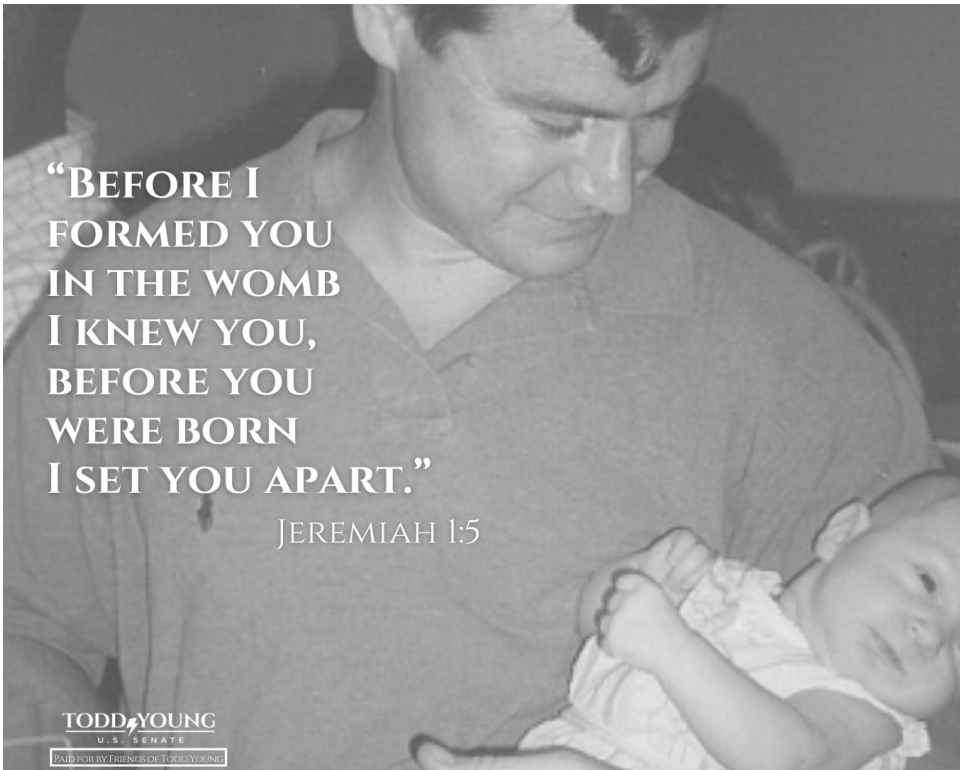


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WERE BORN
I SET YOU APART.”

JEREMIAH 1:5

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St. Joseph County Auditor

- Proud to support Right to Life Michiana
- Notre Dame Accounting graduate
- Passed CPA Exam
- St. Pius X Parishioner

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"When human life under any circumstance is not held as sacred in a society, all human life in that society is threatened." Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

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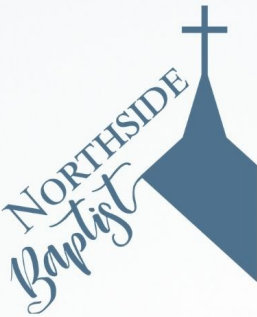
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Source: Guttmacher Institute

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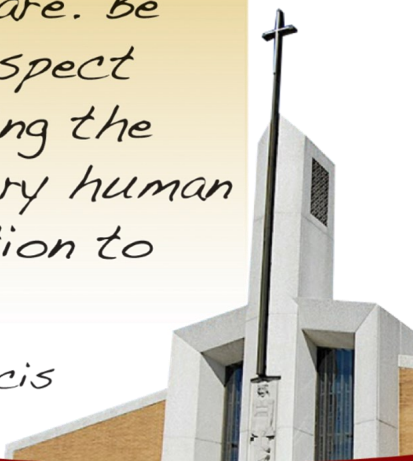
Respect Each Life

AS A GIFT FROM GOD



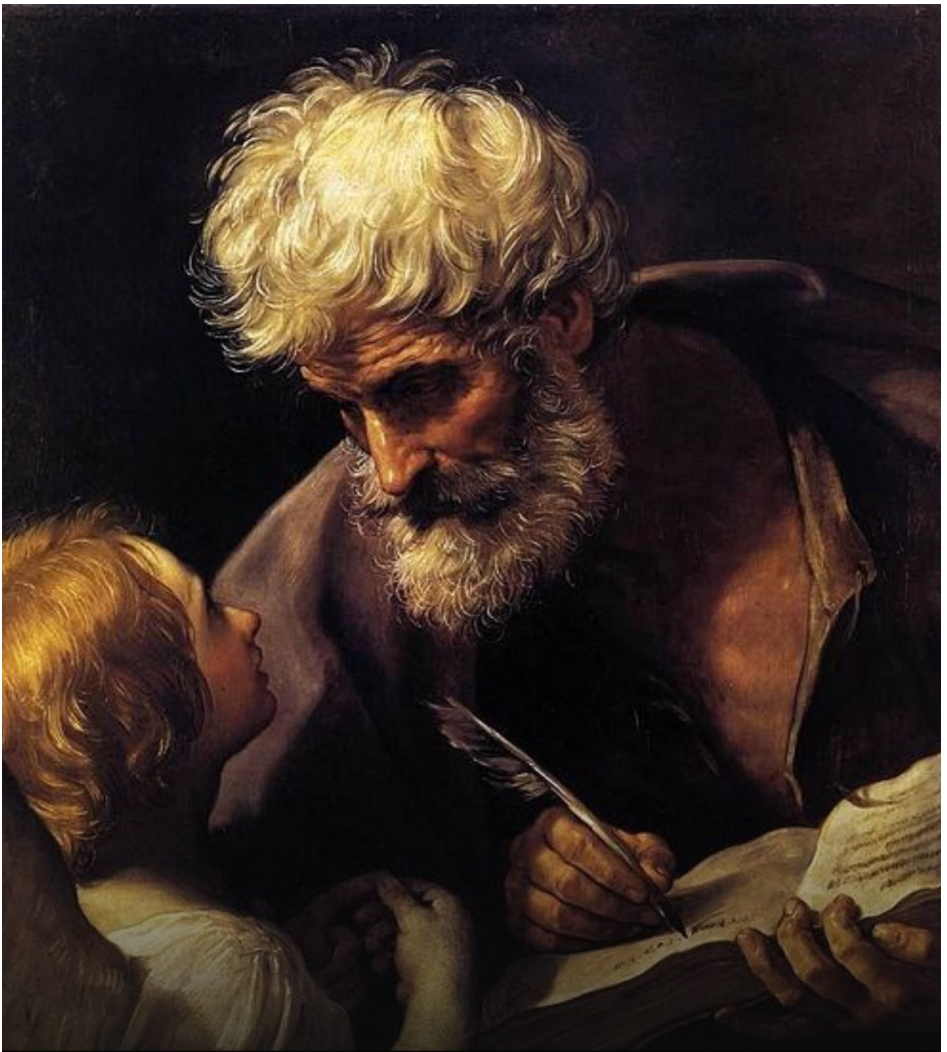
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Be living examples of love,
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life from conception to
natural death."*

-Pope Francis



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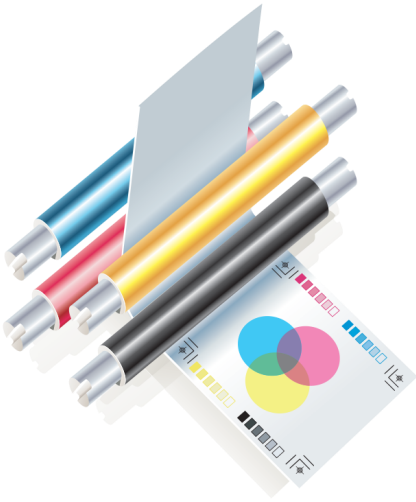
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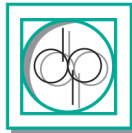
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each of us is necessary.”**

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

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give them constant protection
and grant them a healthy birth
that is the sign of our rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.

Adapted from the Rite of Blessing of a Child in the Womb

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Margie Dornbos



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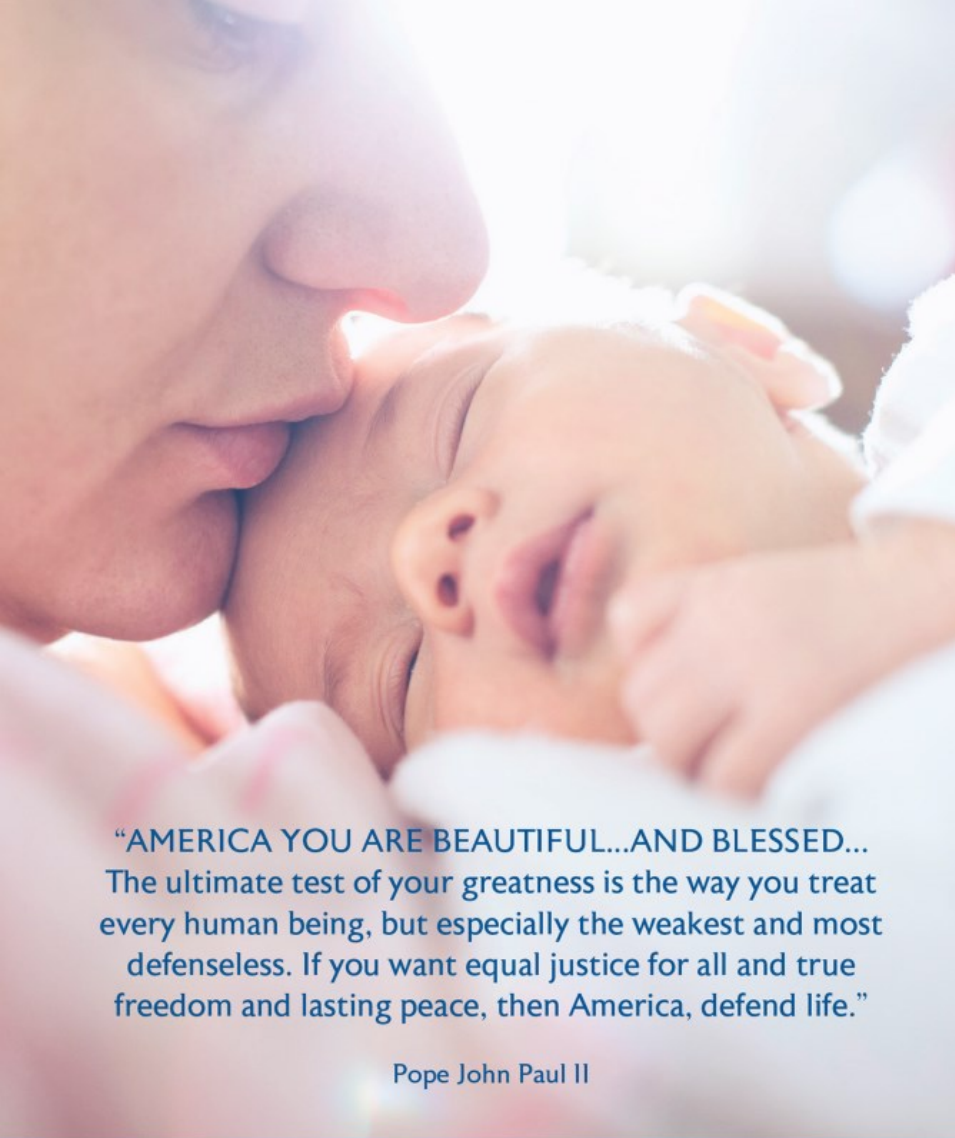
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