

Life Matters

A Publication of the Catholic Pro-Life Community | Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas

*The light
in the darkness*

What's inside ...

- Walking with our moms
- 40 Days for Life—Can you spare an hour?
- Abortion facility opens in McKinney
- A place for brotherhood
- Hispanic Pastoral Ministry unplugs

www.prolifedallas.org



**CATHOLIC
PRO-LIFE
community**

CREATED TO LOVE. COMMITTED TO LIFE.

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On the Cover: A rosary hanging in a tree outside of Southwestern abortion facility reminds us that prayer is the light in the darkness. See more pictures from July's Summer Mass and Rosary on the back page.

Looking to the Future!

I want to thank everyone in this amazing community for your warm and supportive welcome as the Catholic Pro-Life Community's new Executive Director!

Although my family and I have been long-time pro-life advocates at the parish level as well as through CPLC, I have spent the majority of my first 100 days meeting and getting to know many of you who are the true backbone of this ministry.

In my short tenure here, I can honestly say this is the hardest working group of people I've ever seen. I say that with deep admiration for Bishop Burns and his diocesan staff, the CPLC staff and board, volunteers, and the pro-life apostolates and colleagues I am blessed to work with.



The way this community bonded together to serve those in need over the past year is nothing short of remarkable.

We are ramped up to take on the challenges of the current pro-life landscape and the new ones that have revealed themselves over the past year, especially in this last legislative session.

In this issue of *Life Matters*, we want to share with you a story of a mom we've had the joy of walking with over the past several months, as well as news and information you can use to engage or re-engage with our mission to save babies and restore dignity for all life. On page two we've featured ministry icons that are positioned with articles that represent opportunities for you to *put pro-life into your life*.

As our parishes cautiously return to normal capacity and operations, now is a perfect time to energize your parish community by integrating pro-life into every facet of ministry. The Catholic Pro-Life Community is here to help. 🙏

God bless,

Geralyn Kaminsky
Executive Director



Recently the Catholic Pro-Life Community staff and board participated in its first Day of Reflection since COVID. The day is a time for spiritual renewal through prayer, reflection, and fellowship, and to be fortified to advance our mission with love despite the challenges and forces that work against us.

Walking With Our Moms

Family feels blessed and cared for during tough times



Rene and her family are in a much better place and she is now working to further her education through GEMS.

Support. Through GEMS, our moms develop a stronger sense of self-esteem, realization of their God-given abilities, and become more empowered to learn and make good choices. Rene is determined to graduate from GEMS and go on to further her education.

“I look forward to continuing my journey with the GEMS program,” said Rene. “Thank you so much and God bless every one of you.” 🙏

Rene came to Project Gabriel when she was pregnant with her sixth child. Her husband was seriously ill and could not work. Rene was a stay-at-home mom caring for her children, plus she had her own health issues.

Project Gabriel was able to care for the family and help with critical needs such as food, utility bills, gasoline, and school uniforms for the children.

Aside from material help, Rene felt a sincere care and concern for her family’s future from everyone at Project Gabriel. “I don’t know what we would have done without the assistance that Project Gabriel provided us,” said Rene. “My family and I would like to thank everyone in Project Gabriel for everything you have done for us,” she said. “I thank God for putting them in our life and blessing many other families that are in need.”

Rene joined Project Gabriel’s education program: Gabriel Education Ministry and

What Does it Take to be a Gabriel Angel? Training: Aug. 28 | Bilingual Angels especially needed

Project Gabriel provides practical help to many women just like Rene. Help comes from a Gabriel Angel who supports her through prayer, ongoing friendship and encouragement, and referrals to parish and community resources.

Would you consider being an Angel to a mom? The next training class - in person and virtual - in English, is coming up. New Angels will be commissioned at the end of training.

Saturday, Aug. 28

8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

CPLC Office—14675 Midway Road, Suite 121, Addison, or via Zoom

For more information and to register: Prolifedallas.org/angeltraining.



Put Pro-Life In Your Life

Now is a great time to put pro-life in your life. You can devote as little or as much time and effort you want, in private or in big groups, through CPLC or your parish.

Pro-Life is not a singular ministry, it’s a culture to be integrated into all our actions and in parish ministries.

The Catholic Pro-Life Community is here to offer help and guidance to individuals and parishes in creating a pro-life culture.

In this issue of *Life Matters*, watch for articles with these icons which indicate ways you can become more involved in LIFE.

SERVICE



Convert to Life— Loving counsel in front of abortion facilities with prayer partners asking the Holy Spirit to intervene.



Project Gabriel — Gabriel Angels and education program that transform moms and families.



Healing After Abortion— Includes Rachel’s Vineyard and Project Joseph helplines and retreats.

EDUCATION



Multicultural — Cultural events and educational presentations.



Education— Be an instrument that spreads the truth through our Youth and Youth Adult Ministry or Adult Ministry.

ENGAGEMENT



Community Outreach — helping reach a wider audience through prayer, parish coordination, and civic action.

Consider volunteering!

Call 972-267-5433 or email Maddie at mbrown@prolifedallas.org.

Can You Spare an Hour to Pray?



40 Days for Life is the largest Internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history; helping people in local communities end the injustice of abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful vigil. 40 Days for Life International estimates that this Fall babies saved through this prayer vigil will surpass 20,000.

Did you know that any time there is prayer presence outside abortion facilities, abortion appointments have an increased no-show rate of 75 percent? PRAYER WORKS!

40 Days for Life — Dallas Sept. 22 – Oct. 31, 2021

This year we will pray virtually and in person at both Southwestern abortion facility on Greenville Ave. and in South Dallas at Planned Parenthood on West Virginia Drive.

We invite all people of faith throughout Dallas to take part in this campaign. Parishes are needed to adopt a day(s) of prayer. Please sign up by scanning the QR code below, or contact Dallas Campaign Director, Susan Platt, at 40days@prolifedallas.org.



Medication Abortion Facility Opens in McKinney



Whole Women's Health is now in business in McKinney. The medication abortion facility opened on July 6 for women seeking abortions using pills up to 10 weeks of pregnancy.

"We were aware of the opening and quickly pivoted to make sure we had sidewalk counselor and volunteer prayer partner coverage at the new facility," said Convert to Life Ministry Director Joanne Underwood. "On opening day, we spoke to a pregnant woman and her dad who had driven in from east Texas. Praise God they got back in the car and drove away."

"Abortion is a normal part of our reproductive lives and nearly 1 in 4 women will have an abortion by the age of 45."

– Whole Woman's Health website

This facility is part of the Whole Women's Health network that operates in five states including a sister facility in Fort Worth that provides abortions up to 17 weeks.

Southwestern Staff Pens Note of Appreciation

We were happy to be back as a community on Good Friday for Stations of the Cross!

The first event back in person brought out more than 300 participants eager to peacefully pray and sing in front of Southwestern abortion facility in North Dallas and Planned Parenthood in South Dallas.

A note CPLC received from the Southwestern staff after the event offered their appreciation of our courtesy and efforts to maintain a respectful environment.

While our views on abortion differ greatly, it was a beautiful breakthrough moment that facilitated peaceful dialogue.

God works in mysterious ways! 🙏

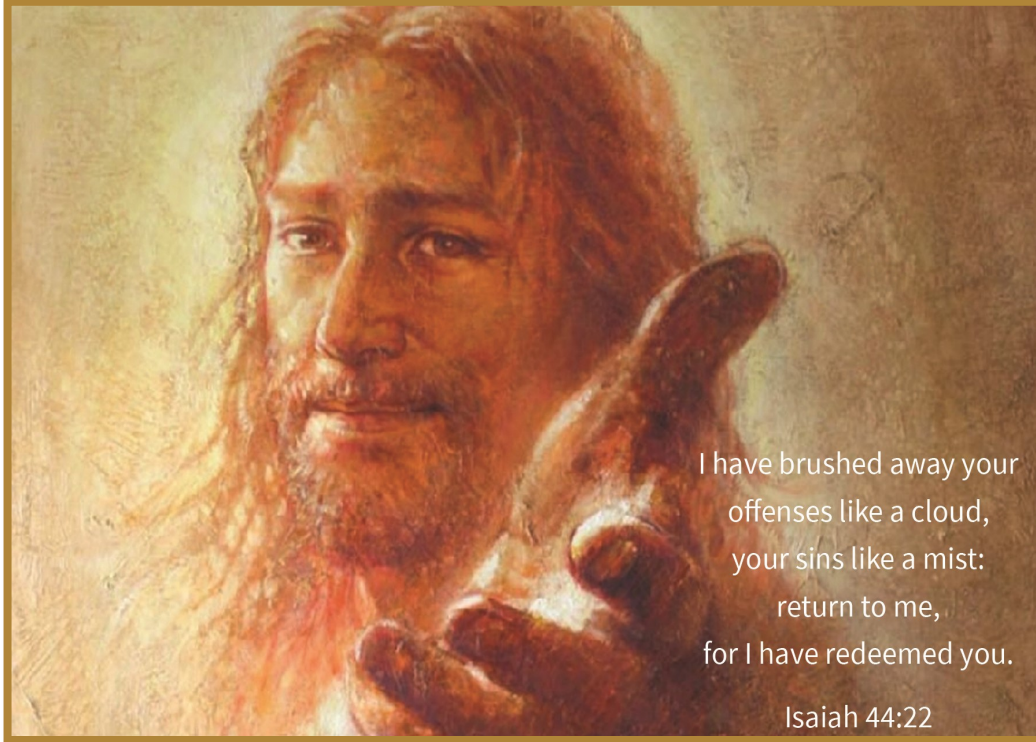
*Dear Joann and Mike,
We want to extend our thanks for the courtesy you both have shown today. We appreciate your intentions and efforts to instruct your supporters to maintain a respectful environment.*

*Sincerely,
SWSC*

A Place for Brotherhood

Project Joseph expands healing retreats to two days

Since Roe v. Wade was passed in 1973 more than 63 million babies have been aborted. And every one of them involved at least one man. This sobering statistic almost guarantees that if you don't have an abortion in your past, you know someone who does.



I have brushed away your
offenses like a cloud,
your sins like a mist:
return to me,
for I have redeemed you.

Isaiah 44:22

Project Joseph® is a ministry to help men who suffer from a loss due to an abortion decision find healing and to recognize that they are not alone. “Project Joseph changed my life,” says Reg Platt, Project Joseph graduate turned retreat coordinator and facilitator. “I was the perfect example of a man who needed it.” *Click on the QR code below to hear Reg’s full story.*

Our culture today maintains that abortion is a women’s issue, after all, it’s their bodies, right? For some, anything a man might have to say is not welcomed and is without significance or importance.

“At Project Joseph we want men to know they will be heard and accepted in a place where they can share their pain without being judged, ridiculed, or rejected,” said Reg.



Many men suffer the loss of a child in silence and rarely reach out for help. “It’s a brotherhood of friendship with complete confidentiality.” That’s because the men on the retreat team are graduates of the program.

“We understand what it feels like from every angle,” says Reg “We’ve felt the guilt, the shame, and the pain, and found the loving mercy of God and his forgiveness and comfort.” 🙏



Mercy Fund Provides Assistance

The Mercy Fund supports the Healing After Abortion retreats as a source of financial aid for those who are unable to pay the entire retreat fee.

“There is a season of healing for everyone, and when the person has entered into that threshold, it is sad to know that some back away due to the fear of not being able to pay the retreat fee, which covers room and board for the weekend,” said HAA Ministry Director Eileen Kuhlmann.

“We strive to make sure that finances are never a part of the conversation. We stand in that gap and we extend our heartfelt invitation to them to attend the retreat without concern for paying the full fee.”

If you are interested in supporting the Mercy Fund, please contact :
The Catholic Foundation at
972-661-9792.

THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Create a Legacy of Life

Have you considered adding the Catholic Pro-Life Community to your will to help build and sustain a Culture of Life in the future?

For information on bequests and other non-cash contributions, please contact CPLC Director of Development Meg Finley at 972-267-5433.



When the TRUTH needs to be told, the Catholic Pro-Life Community's Hispanic Pastoral Ministry does whatever it takes to get its messages across!

When COVID halted in-person presentations and educational events, HPM staff shifted into alternative mode.

"We had to find a way to keep reaching our audiences in spite of the quarantine," said Ministry Director Aurora Tinajero. "We took to Facebook Live with a weekly series called *"SIN FILTROS PRO-VIDA"* meaning, Pro-Life Without Filters.

"We've established quite a loyal following and we're reaching a more extensive audience with pro-life education and news."

In addition to this weekly Spanish podcast, Aurora and HPM Assistant Director Patricia Vasquez have been long-time radio personalities hosting *Celebrando la Vida* on GRN Catholic Radio KJON 850 AM from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesdays.



"We are so proud to have this amazing team as part of our outreach," said CPLC Executive Director Geralyn Kaminsky.

HPM is constantly working and reinventing themselves to ensure our messages are reaching this key pro-life audience. 🙏

Bella Vida Returns Live

The 2021 Bella Vida speaker series presentation, **"Proclamando el Esplendor de la Verdad con Amor"** (Proclaiming the Splendor of Truth with Love) will be a continuation of the tough topics facing our current culture and the teachings that will help us make sense of these topics from a biblical point of view and in fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic church.

We hear so much in the news these days about same sex marriage, gay rights and transgenderism, but when parents hear those words, it hits home in a very real and often painful way.

We will learn how we as Catholics can respond; how we can create that balance between condoning something that the Church teaches is wrong and being



Padre Richard Samour

supportive of the child you love who may have been struggling with these feelings for years.

Many of us are not prepared to have conversations with individuals inside or outside of our faith community on these issue because we lack the true Catholic teachings. Our faith is a compass by which to navigate or cope with these topics and extend support to friends, family or loved ones who may be experiencing same-sex attraction or engaging in homosexual behaviors.

This event is hosted by the CPLC Hispanic Pastoral Ministry and Mary Immaculate Catholic Church. Our speaker is

Father Richard Samour from Courage and Encourage International and includes a lunch time concert by popular Mariachi Catholic singer, **Jesse Rodriguez**, who is known throughout the Diocese of Dallas for his evangelistic and pro-life messages integrated into his music.

The cost is \$20 per person and includes a light breakfast and lunch.

We will also have door prizes and will sell raffle tickets for a fabulous prize. Space is limited, so register promptly by scanning the QR code below, at providadedallas.org, or call 972-267-5433. 🙏



Jesse Rodriguez

Bella Vida

(Presented in Spanish)

"Proclamando el Esplendor de la Verdad con Amor"

Sábado, 28 de Agosto

Iglesia Católica María Inmaculada
2800 Valwood Pkwy | Farmers Branch

8:30 a.m. — Misa

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Conferencia

\$20.00 por persona

edades de 13 años en adelante.



We Honor...

GIVEN BY:

Robert & Carol Baca
Robert & Carol Baca
Robert & Carol Baca
Robert & Carol Baca

Dr. Fred & Sandi Ciarochi
Gordon & Sally Collie
Mary Criswell
William & Sandra Drexel
Mike Fleming
Gabriel Godinez
Deborah Kaluza
Todd & Vivienne Kamp

IN HONOR OF:

Babies with Special Needs
Dad: Edwin R. Bush
Mom: Ellen Lucille Bradshaw
Floyd K. Bradshaw

Alex Sabo
Fr. George Foley
My Husband
Stopping the Genocide
Laurence J. Fleming, Sr.
All Catholic Church & Pope Francisco
Pregnant Mothers
My Mother

GIVEN BY:

Walter & Joan Minigutti
Leopoldo & Mary Dolores
Miranda
Jose & Carmen Moreno
Jose & Carmen Moreno
Laney & Mike Sherburne
Laney & Mike Sherburne
Cleo Smith
Ursuline Academy
Dr. Cristina Valdez
Gail Wedgeworth
Doug & Peg Weisbruch
Bonnye Woodlief

IN HONOR OF:

Eleanor Minigutti
Our 3 Unborn Angels

Bishop E. Burns
Fr. Abraham Thomas
Those Lost to COVID-19
Kimberly & Adam Sherburne
Fr. Joseph Nedumankuzhiyil
Fr. Joe Lehman
Cristina, Adriana & Miguel
Birth & Adoptive Mothers
Healing for Amber VanVickle
Ann Simons

We Remember...

GIVEN BY:

Elizabeth Arnold
Robert & Carol Baca
Robert & Carol Baca
Robert & Carol Baca
Robert & Carol Baca
Dr. Alberto & Reyna Castro
Gordon & Sally Collie
Quinn & Barbie Cook
Melba Corley
Jackie Crawford
Mary Criswell
Valente Diaz

Dr. Stephen &
Carolyn Donahue
Jim Fennell
Teresa & Philip Ferrara

Veronica Fetzer
Annie Fuentes
Glenn & Eileen Georgia
Gabriel Godinez

Carolyn Guy
Mary Ann Harman

IN MEMORY OF:

Bucky Arnold
Grandparents
Bridgette Ann Becket
Kenny & Mason Edward
Pam McConnell
Prudencia Castro
Donald Benson
Diane Cook
Nicolas Soto
Isaac Sandoval
Richard M. Criswell
Children Aborted for
Mother's Health
Theodore Donahue

Zuzanna Fennell
Olga Morales
& Her Love for Children
in Faith Formation
Bill Fetzer
George Fuentes
The Hesse & Georgia Families
Padre Esteban Jasso
de Fort Worth
Jeanne Allen-Beason
Mary Helen Harman

GIVEN BY:

Chris Jalowy
Deborah Kaluza
Todd & Vivienne Kamp
Patricia King
Judge Pat McDowell
Tom & Terry McDowell
Tom & Terry McDowell
Sharon Mitchell
Jose & Carmen Moreno

Jose & Carmen Moreno
Leo Murphy
Marguerite Nelson
Robert & Rosemary Patrick
Shawn & Lynda Pingel
Allen & Carol Pitts
Raul & Cecilia Rangel
Paul Robertson
Cecilia Rodriguez
Kevin & Judith Rohr
Thomas Ruggio
Philip & Rebecca Ryan
Matthew Salo
Dick & Elizabeth Scofield
Michael & Vicki Shaw
Laney & Mike Sherburne
Lucky Sluder
Thomas & Susan Stanzel
Judy Townley
Frances Trojacek
Dr. Cristina Valdez
Rodney Walter
Charles & Marge Wick
Susanna Wu

IN MEMORY OF:

Jeanne Allen-Beason
Babies Lost to Abortion
My Father
James King, II
Dianne McDowell
Bob Leminger
Jean Hagar
Deacon Brian Mitchell
Emilia Moreno &
Sandra Salinas
Lupe Zarate
Dawn Ann Murphy
Jeff
Robert S. Patrick, II
Dr. Anacleto Ordinario
Richard Martter
Ron Mulligan
Darlene Robertson
Adriana Ornelas
MCH's Baby
Kimberly Ruggio
Those Lost to COVID-19
Jean Diane Stanley
Gene Naes
Doug Reckers
Norma Sherburne
Lisa Wilson
Richard Martter
Jean Diane Stanley
Jerry & Mary Zapletal
Virginia Haro
Jean Diane Stanley
Thomas & Marianne Wick
Jean Diane Stanley

We Thank...

GIVEN BY:

Nancy Ball
Jose & Carmen Moreno

IN THANKS FOR:

Jacob Ball
Grandchildren

Gifts may be made in honor or memory of, or in thanksgiving for, a special person or intention, and remembered at daily Mass for CPLC's intentions. Recipients of your generosity will be notified at your request. Names are listed as of printing. In case of an error, please notify Meg Finley, Director of Development, mfinley@prolifedallas.org or 972-267-LIFE (5433). Thank you.



Mark Your Calendars

AUGUST

- 13-15 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (in English)
- 14 Quarterly Parish Pro-Life Coordinators Meeting (in person)
- 28 Gabriel Angel Training (in English)
- 28-29 Project Joseph Retreat for Men (in English)
- 28 Bella Vida (en español)

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Catholic Pro-Life Community Golf Classic
- 21 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Kickoff
- 22- Oct. 31 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil
- 23 North Texas Giving Day

OCTOBER - RESPECT LIFE MONTH

- 1-31 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil
- 2 Youth Day - 40 Days for Life
- 8-10 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (en español)
- 16 Bilingual Respect Life Mass with Bishop Burns and Bishop Kelly. St. Joseph Catholic Church, Richardson, 5 p.m.
- 30 Pasos Por La Vida (en español) and Eucharistic Procession

NOVEMBER

- 3-5 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (in English)
- 6 Youth Leadership Series #1 (Leader profile, service and prayer)
- 13-14 Proyecto José Retreat for Men (en español)
- 20 Christ Child Gift Market and Luncheon
- 25 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 4 Youth Leadership Series #2 (Leader profile, service and prayer)
- 23 Empty Manger Christmas Caroling

JANUARY 2022

- 15 Roe Memorial Mass / North Texas March for Life
- 15 Roe Memorial Youth Rally
- 21 Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Unborn
- 21-23 Texas Rally for Life Youth Pilgrimage to Austin
- 29 National March for Life in Washington D.C.



For a complete calendar of activities and events as well as updates to scheduled dates, please visit prolifedallas.org/calendar, or scan this QR Code.



More than 75 prayer warriors attended our Summer Mass, Adoration, and Rosary last month at Southwestern abortion facility, while 15 more prayed the Rosary in Spanish at Planned Parenthood. During Fr. Wade Bass's celebration of Mass that Saturday morning, two moms chose life for their babies. PRAYER WORKS! Thank you to all who attended or participated via Facebook Live.



**CATHOLIC
PRO-LIFE
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