

Summer 2018



Be Informed. Be Empowered.
CrossroadsPRC.org



Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center Newsletter



MISSION STATEMENT

Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center is a Christian organization that promotes the sanctity of life by providing caring services to pregnant women in crisis within our area. Our staff provides education, guidance, and spiritual support especially to those considering abortion or other alternatives in a spirit of compassion, love, and grace.

The countdown to Gala night continues!
This event is open to the public. RSVP by Wednesday, September 19th—
985.446.5004 | Michele@CrossroadsPRC.org

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL

Celebrate Life Gala

Wednesday, September 26, 2018
6:30PM—9:30PM

Nicholls State University, Cotillion Ballroom
Business-Cocktail Attire

Silent Auction, Music, Drinks, & Hors d'oeuvres

Letter From The Director

Dear Friends, We all want to make a difference in this world; God put that desire in each of us. If we are following Him, we look for the places He is at work so we can join Him.

The good news is that the Lord is working in many places—like right here at Crossroads. We're watching in wonder as He touches the lives of vulnerable women and changes their hearts and minds to value the sanctity of human life.

We're a team here, from volunteers to financial supporters to board members and prayer warriors. This ministry isn't about one person—or even a few. Everyone's playing a part, and everyone's making a difference.

One way you can have an impact is through a financial gift. At this time, we have several key needs as we get ready to enter into the new year. You'll see examples of center and client needs throughout this newsletter, and if you haven't already, we'd like you to prayerfully consider taking part in this ministry financially.

You'll find an envelope enclosed with this publication, and it's for you—should you choose to join us. Because of Him, we're a winning team. Please join us in the victory!



For LIFE with you, *Michele*



SAVE THE DATE!

Crossroads will be participating this year in the Archdiocese of Houma-Thibodaux's Annual #iGiveCatholic Day on November 27, 2018.

Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you, **Theresa Fussell**, for your dedication to Crossroads! Your service to the Lord has played an important role in our LIFE affirming ministry. Your commitment is appreciated. God bless you!

OFFICE STAFF

Michele Beary, Executive Director
Julie Barbier, Executive Assistant

MEDICAL TEAM

Dr. Nicole Prosperie, Medical Director
Jennifer Peltier, Nurse Manager
Kristin Fortier, Sonographer

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CHAPLAIN

Rev. Joseph Tregre

front and CENTER

Abortion, Is It Still Worth the Fight?

"If we took a moment of silence for each person lost to abortion, we would be silent for over 100 years."

As a millennial, abortion had been the law of the land for over 10 years before I was born, for over 25 years before I was a mid-teen. As a teenager beginning Catholic high school, I was more interested in video games and playing sports than politics and the law governing our society. My sister was graduating from Vanderbilt, and I was just discovering that another Catholic school existed in our diocese (What's the word?... :). As a Catholic priest now, with a particular passion for the pro-life movement, I can recall the words of John Paul the Great, *"Place your intelligence, your talents, your enthusiasm, your compassion and your fortitude at the service of life!"*



Rev. Joseph Tregre,
Chaplain of Thibodaux
Regional Medical Center
& Chaplain of Crossroads

"The pro-life movement is not primarily a response to Roe v. Wade, but to Jesus Christ."
- Fr. Frank Pavone, President of Priests for Life

I had accepted abortion, not as okay, but as the state of things, which I had no control over. Pretty typical thinking of a young person, who grew up under the mantra of self-love and tolerance and of acceptance of all things and all people and all behaviors regardless of right or wrong. I can only imagine what it must have been like for those who witnessed the legalization of abortion and the senseless death of so many tens of millions of the unborn in the years to follow. How shameful I must have appeared.

"Life, once conceived, must be protected with the utmost care."
- Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World

As a young person, I wonder if all those who have fought the *fight for life* are tired? I hope not!! The fight has just begun!! With the advent of a new conservative Supreme Court, hopes of the overturn of Roe v. Wade are rising in the horizon. Will Roe v. Wade be overturned? Hopefully, but if not, at least the *right to life* could be returned to the States. The trigger law for Louisiana, which automatically prohibits abortion in our pro-life state, goes immediately into effect with the overturn of Roe v. Wade, making abortion illegal in Louisiana. Democratic and pro-life Governor John Bel Edwards recently signed into law a ban on abortions after 15 weeks gestation in Louisiana, pending the passing of a similar law in Mississippi. Similar states proposing laws restricting abortion after the first trimester and providing strict parameters for abortion clinics include Arizona, Arkansas, Texas, and several others.

"Human life must be absolutely respected and protected from the moment of conception."
- Charter of the Rights of the Family

An estimated 54 million abortions have happened since Roe v. Wade. The *fight for life* has not ended. Each and every human life is precious and worth saving. Please join me in praying for the end of abortion and the overturn of Roe v. Wade and for a new age of respect for life in this Third Millennium. The end of abortion, is it still worth the fight? Yes, I can give you 54 million reasons why it is. #newprolifegeneration #millennialsforlife

Did you know?

October is Respect Life Month!

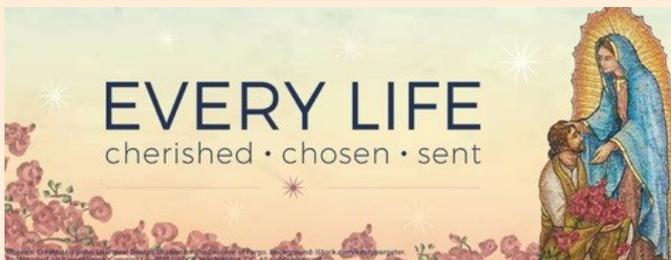
"We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence."

~ U.S. Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, November 2001

Join the Life Chain

October 7, 2018 on Respect Life Sunday:
 11:00AM at Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales
 2:00PM at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral

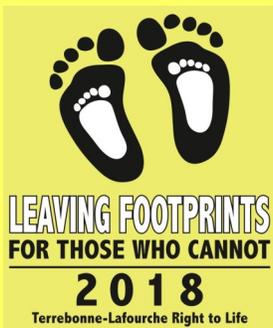
The Annual Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills and that the Church supports the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception.



Respect Life Month is an excellent time to initiate pro-life prayers throughout the year. Pray for:

- ♥ Women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, that they will seek guidance from the Lord and choose life for their baby.
- ♥ Those involved in the abortion industry, that they will seek out the Lord who will change their hearts and minds to respect life.
- ♥ Staff and volunteers at pregnancy care centers, that they will seek courage, strength, peace and endurance from the Lord.
- ♥ Pro-life politicians, that they will seek courage to stand tall for pro-life and for those opposed to life, that their hearts will change.
- ♥ Those suffering from an abortion, that they would find healing and forgiveness in the Lord.

Thank you for praying. It's the best investment in this ministry any of us can make.



TERREBONNE LAFOURCHE RIGHT TO LIFE 2018 5K RACE FOR LIFE

October 6, 2018
 Broadmoor Park - Houma, LA
 Kid's Fun Run ½ mile at 8:00AM
 5K Run/Walk at 8:30AM

Register Online at www.imathlete.com/events/RaceforLife
 Contact KB Fabre call/text 504.453.7544

HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

Heartbeat's Annual Conference is designed for ministry leaders, staff, board members, and volunteers of life-affirming pregnancy help centers, medical clinics, maternity homes, and non-profit adoption agencies, as well as professionals in the areas of medicine, counseling, social work, and education.

Michele Beary was able to attend this conference as a result of a grant awarded to Crossroads from the Bayou Community Foundation. The conference was held April 9-13, 2018 in Anaheim, CA, and was filled with workshops, keynote speakers, exhibitors, worship services, and daily Mass.

Highlights from the conference included an in-depth day on *Legal Essentials*, speakers – Kerri Caviezel, Dr. Ronaldo Archer, Father Shenan Boquet, Jor-El Godsey, workshops by Peggy Hartshorn, Dr. George Delgado, and special guest – Melissa Coles, birth mother from the *I Lived on Parker Avenue* documentary.

Watch the documentary for free: www.ILivedOnParkerAve.com



L-R Melissa Coles, Shawn Coles, Michele Beary, Jeanne LeBato, Benjamin Clapper

Another Look at Abortion

Uniquely You

From your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music. If you'd been born just 23 weeks after conception, your chance of survival would be 50-80 percent; by 25 weeks, it's over 90 percent, and that's still *months* before full-term birth.¹

Now, if someone takes an innocent person's life after he or she is born, it's against the law; just minutes before birth, it's legal in most states and called abortion. The only real difference is a declaration by the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* (1973).

By 18 weeks in your mother's womb, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music.

Abortion Is Permitted Up to Full-Term Birth

Many people don't realize how unrestricted legal abortion is, misled by *Roe's* claim that states may ban abortions after viability "except when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother." ("Viability" is when the baby has a reasonable chance of survival outside the womb.) But in *Roe's* companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, the Court defined "health" to include "all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age—relevant to the wellbeing" of the mother. That seems broad enough to permit virtually any abortion post-viability.

The Supreme Court, however, has yet to be confronted with a challenge to a post-viability ban that will test *Doe's* breadth. Indeed, 20 states currently ban late-term abortions subject to a narrow exception for the mother's life or physical health (not for emotional, psychological, familial, or age-related reasons). Most of these laws have gone unchallenged, but they are hard to enforce even if they are constitutionally permissible.

Effects of Abortion

Abortion results in the death of a child. For many mothers, abortion causes severe and long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma. Many women experience overwhelming guilt, shame, and grief. Other effects have also been documented: depression, withdrawal from others, eating disorders, self-punishing behaviors like "cutting," sexual dysfunction and problems with intimacy, alcohol and drug dependency, problems bonding with other or subsequent children, abortion-related nightmares, and other sleep problems.²

Family relationships may suffer as the aborted child's father, grandparents, or other family members experience their own guilt, grief, or loss. Even if the mother keeps her abortion secret, family members can be distressed by changes in the mother's behavior and mental or emotional health.³

What the Church Teaches

The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional abortion is gravely wrong. In April 2018, Pope Francis wrote: "Our defense of the innocent unborn ... needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development."⁵

The Church does not approach difficult pregnancy decisions with a false "either/or" mentality, pitting mother against child. For example, a baby conceived in rape is not an aggressor deserving death by abortion. She is innocent, like her mother. They both deserve compassionate care and support, not more violence. Abortion doesn't bring healing or peace, but both can be found in the courageous decision to give birth to the baby.

Today, many babies diagnosed prenatally with a disability are aborted. Frightened parents, unsure of their ability to care for such a child, can trust that God gave *them* this child for a reason. Parents raising children with disabilities often write about the unexpected joys and transformative effect on their families.⁶

Even when the disabilities are so severe that the baby is likely to die before or soon after birth, “many parents who carried their children to term say that protecting their baby and honoring his or her natural life, no matter how brief, was profoundly healing.”⁷

Very rarely, continuing a pregnancy may put a mother’s life at risk—for example, because of a tubal pregnancy or aggressive uterine cancer. It is morally licit to remove the threat to the mother’s life by removing the cancerous uterus or the fallopian tube where the child implanted, even though it is foreseeable that the child will die as an indirect and unintended result of such surgery. But abortion—a direct and intentional taking of a child’s life—is never morally permissible.

What Are We to Do?

Love them both! Support women who need help during *and after* difficult pregnancies through the work of your diocesan Respect Life office and local pregnancy care centers.

Educate yourself and others about struggles some experience after abortion, and find out where to refer those seeking help at www.hopeafterabortion.org. If you feel called to support your local ministry, contact your diocesan Project Rachel Ministry office for ways you might help.

Stay informed about key federal legislation and the voting records of your elected representatives by visiting www.humanlifeaction.org and www.usccb.org/prolife. Stay updated on state issues by signing up to receive information from your state Catholic conference or diocesan pro-life office.

Most importantly, pray daily for the end to abortion, that all mothers and children experience the loving support of the Church community, and that all who suffer after abortion find healing and peace.

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¹“Fetal Development,” Perinatology.Com; <http://perinatology.com/Reference/Fetal%20development.htm>; J.L. Hopson, “Fetal Psychology,” *Psychology Today*, Sept. 9, 1998 (last reviewed June 9, 2016);

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/199809/fetal-psychology>.

²D.P. Sullins, “Abortion, substance abuse and mental health in early adulthood: Thirteen-year longitudinal evidence from the United States,” *SAGE Open Med.*, Sept. 23, 2016; <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2050312116665997>; P.K. Coleman et al., “Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences” *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* 22:4 (2017) 113-118;

<http://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf>; G. Pike, “Abortion and Women’s Health,” Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, 2017; <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortion/~media/C69E4B25A78D433F94780BD29240CA21.ashx>.

³P.K. Coleman et al., “Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences” *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* 22:4 (2017) 113-118; <http://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf>; P.K. Coleman et al., “Induced Abortion and Intimate Relationship Quality in the Chicago Health and Social Life Survey,” *Public Health* 123:4 (2009) 331-8; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19324381>.

⁴*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd ed., 2271.

⁵Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, (Libreria Editrice Vaticana), 101.

⁶See also: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “A Perfect Gift” (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2018).

⁷United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis,” (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015).

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Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

View, download, or order the U.S. bishops’ pro-life materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife

Change for LIFE

~ baby bottle campaign ~



2018 Church Partnerships

St. Eloi Catholic Church	\$924.25
St. Francis De Sales Cathedral	\$5,875.84
St. Hilary of Poitiers Catholic Church	\$3,965.97
St. James Catholic Church	\$786.85
St. Philip Catholic Church	\$929.93
Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church	\$3,140.00

THANK YOU!

TOTAL DONATIONS:

\$15,622.84

Get Involved!

Spare change really can **change lives**,...one penny, dime or quarter at a time!

Interested in hosting a fundraising campaign at your church or organization?
Contact us today! 985.446.5004 or support@crossroadsprc.org



Upcoming Baby Bottle Fundraisers:

- October 1-31, 2018—University Baptist Church
- October 13-14, 2018—St. Joseph Co-Cathedral Catholic Church
- October 20-21, 2018—Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church
- October 27-28, 2018—St. Genevieve Catholic Church



Year-round Opportunities to Change Lives

SOHL Sanctity of Human Life

JANUARY—What better way to observe Sanctity of Human Life month than donating spare change to save more lives?

Mother's Day and Father's Day

MAY & JUNE—While acknowledging moms and dads, you can help support those served by Crossroads by planning a mock "Baby Shower" or a Baby Bottle Fundraiser!

Respect Life Month

OCTOBER—Observe respect for LIFE month by having a mock "Baby Shower" to collect needed baby items for moms who choose life for their babies!



Did you know that every time you purchase anything on Amazon you can help Crossroads earn donations? It's easy! When you shop, Amazon will give 0.5% of your purchase price to your selected charity.

Login to **Smile.Amazon.com** and choose "**Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center**" in **Thibodaux** as your charitable organization.

Our special link is smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0722568

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Who says diaper duty isn't a call for celebration?

An unplanned pregnancy can cause a wide range of emotions, even in the best of circumstances. Pregnancy and parenting can be filled with a lot of uncertainty. Our Earn While You Learn (EWYL) parenting curriculum helps ease anxiety and build confidence. The EWYL curriculum is based on a simple belief that providing useful knowledge and aid to those experiencing a crisis pregnancy is a vital part of a successful program.

Each time a lesson is completed, credits are earned and used to "purchase" baby supplies, maternity and baby clothes, diapers, and other much needed items. Many of these supplies are donated by generous individuals, churches and organizations throughout the community. Partial funding for this program is also provided from a grant from the Bayou Community Foundation.

EWYL teaches the skills a young couple needs to help them become successful parents, and empowers Crossroads staff to offer a real and meaningful choice to those who choose life. EWYL is not just a curriculum, it is a way of making real and permanent changes for the good of the client and the center.

Our staff creates a lesson plan that is unique to the needs of each client. The lessons are fun, interesting and practical. Through regular lessons that included videos and worksheets, first time parents, Solana and Dwayne, were able to gain self-confidence and knowledge needed to carry out a healthy, positive pregnancy and parenting experience. Congratulations to Solana and Dwayne! We're thrilled to welcome their sweet baby boy into the Crossroads family!



ABOVE & BEYOND

Big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers from University Baptist Church for painting the outside of Crossroads! Thanks to Chris Degeorge, John Cox, Sr., Lee Barrios, Bill Fussell, Theresa Fussell, Kay Simpson, Cindy Groce, Delaney Long and Zoe Bernard. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to Crossroads!



Showering Love

Thank you to the following churches and groups for your generous donations, fundraisers, and "baby showers!"
Thanks to Thibodaux High School BETA Club, Individual Donors and Our Lady of the Rosary Church!





BE INFORMED. BE EMPOWERED.

Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center
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Email: support@crossroadsprc.org
www.CrossroadsPRC.org



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Proudly affiliated with ...



Purchase Your Plate Today!

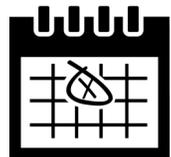
When you buy a Choose Life license plate, not only are you donating to pro-life pregnancy centers and adoption agencies in the state that are helping women to choose life, but you are spreading the message of life out on the road!

www.ChooseLifeLA.org



ITEMS FREQUENTLY IN SHORT SUPPLY

- Diapers (newborn to size 6)
- Baby hygiene items (wipes, bath wash, lotion)
- Girl & Boy baby clothes (newborn to size 18 month)
- Maternity clothes (all sizes)
- New baby bottles and bottle brushes
- New diaper bags and changing pads



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 09.26.18—Celebrate Life Gala
- 10.06.18—5K Race for Life
- 10.07.18—Respect Life Sunday—Life Chain
- 11.27.18—iGiveCatholic Day ~24 hour online giving

Safe Baby Haven Law

In Louisiana, no one ever has to abandon a child again.
Crossroads is a Safe Baby Site.

Louisiana's Safe Haven Law provides a safe, legal, anonymous, last resort to abandonment. Parents can leave their unharmed baby, up to 60 days old, with an employee at any medical facility, fire department, hospital, police department, emergency medical services provider, pregnancy crisis center, medical clinic, public health unit or child advocacy center in Louisiana.

For more information, call 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373), or www.LouisianaSafeHaven.com

SAFE BABY SITE

