

Worship Event Will Bring Together Pro-Life Catholics & Evangelicals at March

On the night before the massive March for Life, for the first time ever a **non-denominational prayer & worship** event will be held at the Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel. “The March for Life is such an **incredibly diverse** experience--racially, ethnically, denominationally, and generationally,” says Ryan Bomberger, Chief Creative Officer of The Radiance Foundation. “OneVoiceDC is an event that will enable Christians to focus on what we’re all about—loving God and loving people.” [MarchforLife.org]

Church’s Teachings on Sexuality

Many Catholics find the teachings of the Church on sexuality among some of its most challenging – and there’s almost nothing more at odds with today’s society. Yet it is through our sexuality that we are first defined and that we are first able to discover our purpose here on earth.

Janet Smith of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, explains: “God is a lover, and he made our bodies to reveal that we are to be lovers or ‘spouses’ – that is committed, unconditional lovers who treasure new life. ... The body and soul are an integrated whole that allow us to touch another’s soul when we touch another’s body.”

“Pornography,” she continues, “is a betrayal of one’s spouse: it is voluntary experience of sexual pleasure not in service of marital unity.” In opposition, “the marital act can help deepen the intimacy that the spouses should be developing in the rest of their lives together.”

“Chastity is the virtue that enables us to respect and not use others. Lust treats the bodies of others as objects to satisfy our desires. Chastity, or discipline over our sexual desires, allows us to **see others as persons of infinite value** who should never be used.” [“The Meaning of Human Sexuality, In Focus sect. *Our Sunday Visitor*, 1/4/15]

Duggar Family Saga Continues

Jill Duggar, daughter of Bob and Michelle Duggar from the reality show, **19 Kids and Counting**, celebrated Christmas with her family and shared with the world that she and her husband, Derrick, are thankful for their baby boy that’s on the way. On Christmas Day, Jill, 23, posted a photo on **Instagram** of her baby bump wrapped up like a present, with a note that read: “To Jill & Derrick, From: God.”

Last year the Duggar family was the subject of controversy because of their pro-life Christian views. In November

the liberal website Change.org organized a petition to pressure TLC to cancel the show, gathering over 180,000 names. They accused the Duggar family of “using their fame to promote discrimination, hate, and fear-mongering” and criticized Jessa Duggar’s comment on Instagram **comparing abortion to the Holocaust**.

However, their petition to cancel the popular reality show was unsuccessful and Jim Bob Duggar said it just gave them “more exposure.” This isn’t the first time a Duggar has spoken out against the abortion holocaust. In 2013, during the Family Research Council’s Values Voter Summit, Jim Bob said, “We have since 1973 (when *Roe v Wade* was decided) had 55 million abortions, so what we have going on is a baby holocaust.” [Sarah Zagorski, *www.LifeNews.com*, 12/30/14]

Are Culture Wars Dead?

Four decades after *Roe v Wade*, abortion remains a red-hot issue in America. Current battles, however, also center on same-sex “marriage.”

Writing for the Supreme Court majority that overturned the Defense of Marriage Act’s key section recognizing only heterosexual unions as marriages, Justice Anthony Kennedy declared bigotry to be the source of opposition to same-sex marriage. Yet, in a recent address, Pope Francis declared that children “have a right to” parents of both sexes: “a father and mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child’s development.” So is this pope of forgiveness a bigot?

Moral conservatives have two good reasons to persist in the culture war over issues like abortion & same-sex marriage. One is defending moral truth is the indispensable underpinning of values like the sanctity of innocent life and the uniqueness of heterosexual marriage. The other is defending their own right to a secure place in the ongoing public debate about morality and public policy. For it’s disturbingly clear that the coercive instincts of opposing culture warriors will be to punish traditionalists and impose silence on them if they get the chance. [Russell Shaw, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 12/28/14]

“Creation is sacred. It has sacramental meaning. It reflects God’s glory. That includes our bodies. Our sexuality has the power to procreate, and shares in the dignity of being created in the image of God. We need to live accordingly.” [“Love is Our Mission: the Family Fully Alive”, *Our Sunday Visitor Press*, osv.com.]