

ProLife Ministry News

Holy Family Church

Florham Park

January 2013

40th Year of Legalized Abortions ... *Time* reports more restrictions, declining abortions reflect a growing Culture of Life!

Holy Family parishioners have done our share to promote a culture of life. For many years we have participated in the annual March for Life to protest the infamous US Supreme Court decision in January 1973 that declared children up to nine months in the womb are not human persons deserving of protection under the law.

Now it's your turn, as a practicing Catholic, to participate as we attend the 7 a.m. mass on **Friday, January 25**, and then take a chartered bus to D.C., returning by 10 pm that evening. The bus trip is free for parishioners, many of whom take the day off from work; students can request school permission to spend the day with us for a worthy, life-affirming cause. In Washington, we will have the opportunity to meet and speak with members of Congress and participate in a peaceful march from the Ellipse to the Supreme Court Building. Contact Barbara Tinari to sign up: 973-822-0084 or btinari@optonline.net.

... help build respect for all human life ...

Notre Dame to Lead March for Life

The University of Notre Dame Right to Life Club has received the honor of leading the annual March for Life on January 25th. Students and faculty will hold the large "March for Life" banner and lead the annual march on the nation's capital. Notre Dame will have one of the largest groups present, with reportedly more than 600 students, faculty and staff currently registered to attend.

"The march is an amazing witness to the passion and sheer size of the pro-life movement," said Jen Gallic, president of Notre Dame Right to Life. "It is such an honor and very humbling to be asked to lead all those dedicated to upholding the dignity in every life. The March is so important because it provides an opportunity for the pro-life community to come together and fight the injustices inflicted on the smallest and most innocent among us." More information on the Notre Dame Right to Life Club and their activities can be found at chooselife.nd.edu

Remarkable YouTube Videos

1. **Think Fast**: Just how sure are you of the truth? This brief video makes you think! Type this link into your internet browser: http://youtu.be/MQJDP_FyOuI

2. **Baby Yawning in the Womb**: Science has discovered that babies can and do yawn in the womb! This amazing ultrasound footage shows an unborn baby yawning, again and again. <http://youtu.be/ju-ETBv9jls>

3. **Silent No More**: Shows the hearts of women who regret their abortions; features the work of Silent No More - an organization dedicated to helping any woman suffering after an abortion. Such women deserve to have their stories told and their voices heard. <http://youtu.be/ldOkAZVyEB4>

4. **The Final Frontier of the Civil Rights Movement**: Many youth today care deeply about social justice and equality. No issue is at the heart of social justice more than preserving life itself. <http://youtu.be/WnmSKVGluIQ>

5. **Aaron**: The story of a young boy who went missing. A powerful testimony to the realities of abortion, its message is unique and gripping. <http://youtu.be/Q0XjX-y8NoI>

Speak up for Life Whenever You Get a Chance!

Abortion is

... **barbaric** - it uses surgical and other instruments, and chemicals, to dismember, poison and/or burn to death a developing member of the human species.

... **ignorant and anti-science** - ignorance of the plain scientific facts of human embryology and developmental biology. There are no longer any excuses.

... **morally primitive** - using violence to get what we want for ourselves.

... **uncivilized** - decent societies do not solve their problems by eliminating innocent human beings.

... **insulting to women** whom it tells must kill their developing child in order to succeed and find happiness in their lives and careers.

[SOURCE: Paul Stark, *LifeNews.com*, 12/12/12]

Last Two Years Saw Record Number of Pro-Life Laws Passed

The number of abortions is at its lowest level nationally and states are seeing historic low abortion figures thanks in large part to state pro-life laws. These laws — ranging from parental notification and informed consent to banning abortions later in pregnancy and cutting of taxpayer funds for abortions or the Planned Parenthood abortion business — are saving lives every day. This trend contradicts abortion advocates who say the November election marked a defeat for the pro-life movement.

Many of those new pro-life laws included allowing women to see an ultrasound of their unborn baby before an abortion while others included ensuring abortion facilities follow the same health and safety laws that apply to legitimate medical centers performing outpatient surgeries. In addition, laws adopted in Louisiana & Oklahoma require abortion providers to make the fetal heartbeat audible to the woman prior to an abortion. Arizona, Michigan and Virginia approved such laws on abortion clinics — that have shut down many abortion centers that fail to comply. [LifeNews.com, 1/2/13]

Secular Research Unexpectedly Supports Parental Notification Laws

Professors from San Diego State University and the University of Colorado, Denver, have published a study of suicides from 1987 to 2003, revealing that adoption of a law requiring parental notification or consent before a minor can obtain an abortion is associated with an 11% to 21% reduction in the number of 15 to 17-year-old girls who commit suicide. The authors state that parental involvement laws provide pressure against having unprotected sex and, as a consequence, serve to protect young females from depression and parental conflict. The results support the idea that unprotected sex imposes a greater psychological burden on girls than on boys of comparable age. [SOURCE: J. J. Sabia & D. I. Rees, "The Effect of Parental Involvement Laws on Youth Suicide," *Economic Inquiry*, January 2013.]

On the EWTN T.V. network, over 60 hours of powerful and engaging programs dealing with life issues are being aired in January. Program titles include: Demographic Winter: the Decline of the Family; The Vitae Monologues; Turning the Tide: Dignity, Compassion and Euthanasia; Echoes of Our Choices; and coverage of the March for Life. TUNE IN!!

Eagle Scout project - Installation of a Tomb for the Unborn

Years ago, our Knights of Columbus and Holy Family's ProLife Ministry installed a bronze plaque on the front lawn of our parish. Many other parishes have had similar projects. Now 17-year-old parishioner Jimmy Irving of St. Therese parish, Succasunna, has successfully installed a 4-foot Tomb for the Unborn at the front entrance of the church. The tomb has an angel embracing a heart on which is engraved: "Respect life. Pray for the unborn. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Scout Irving and a team of volunteers also planted shrubs as a background to the monument, and this Spring plans to raise funds for a marble bench and to add annual flowers. St. Therese pastor Fr. Marc Mancini said the tomb "is located at the front of the church because Respect for Life should be at the forefront of our efforts." [*The Beacon*, 11/22/2012.]

Nobel Prize for Ethical Stem Cell Research Cheered by Catholics

Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University was announced as one of two winners of the 2012 Nobel Prize for Medicine. He discovered a process that gives adult cells the same ability that embryonic stem cells have to turn into any kind of cells in the body. Fr. Tom Berg, professor of moral theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, NY, said the breakthrough puts human embryonic stem cell research largely out of business.

In a 2007 interview with the *NY Times*, Yamanaka said he was moved to start the project when he looked at an embryo through a microscope: "When I saw the embryo, I suddenly realized there was such a small difference between it and my daughters. I thought, we can't keep destroying embryos for our research. There must be another way."

Fr. Berg said this research has pushed most scientists away from using embryonic stem cells because it is not only "more fascinating scientifically" but also more cost effective in light of federal government restrictions on embryo use. Fr. Tad Pacholczyk of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, cautioned that the breakthrough "doesn't eliminate the temptation to treat very young humans as commodities in the assembly line of medico-business research." [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 11/11/2012]