**Let There Be Life**

Saint Cletus Respect Life Apostolate Newsletter 3, May 2022

“**If you want peace, work for justice. If you want justice, defend life. If you want life, embrace truth—the truth revealed by God.” ---Saint John Paul II**I

 **1. From the Teaching of the Church**

One of the tactics of the pro-abortion forces is to misrepresent something from the Catholic Church or one of its leading thinkers to make it appear that the Church herself is or was ambiguous about abortion. Recently the president suggested that St. Thomas Aquinas would have been okay with abortion. Nothing could be further from the truth. While Thomas did speculate on when God put the soul into the person, and that it might be sometime after conception, he said that we must recognize that from the moment of conception the human fetus is ordered by nature, and thus by God to be a human person in the image of God. He added that to deprive him or her of existence is a terrible violation of the natural law given by God, is an unnatural act, and is also a violation of the human nature of the person who causes the act and thus is intrinsically evil.

 **II. From the St. Cletus Respect Life Apostolate**

Have you stopped to take a look at the original painting of St. Gianna and her family and read the plaque that the St. Cletus Parish Respect Life Apostolate commissioned? It hangs just to the east of the baptismal pool on the wall by the large window. Though urged by her doctor to abort her fourth child due to possible health risks for her, she refused and gave birth to a healthy baby. Ensuing health issues took her life. She stands as a great contemporary patroness of family, the unborn, and example of selfless giving so that another might have life. Next time you’re in church take a minute to visit St. Gianna Molla.

**III. Locally at St. Cletus and in St. Charles**

 Did you know that in 2021 Birthright St. Charles, now 40 years old, provided almost $100,000 in direct financial assistance to pregnant women and mothers. More than 500 women were served with 100% of services and assistance given with no cost to clients. Volunteers gave 5,300 hours of service. They are at 2125 Bluestone Drive, St. Charles. They’re phone is 636-724-1200. If you know someone in a crisis pregnancy, who needs a pregnancy test, or who might be considering placing for adoption, or who needs health care for her unborn child or herself or counseling, or financial assistance, please consider referring them to Birthright St. Charles.

 The proceeds from the Respect Life Apostolate Baby Shower at St. Cletus were given to Our Lady’s Inn of St. Charles, a home for women in crisis pregnancy situations. The diapers donated to our annual “Diaper Drive” were given to Crisis Pregnancy. The date for the annual Archdiocesan Pro-Life Convention has been set for October 15, 2022. This is open to everyone. More details will be made available as we receive them over the summer.

**IV. State and National**

 Deacon Sam Lee, Director of Campaign Life Missouri spoke at the RLA Parish Coordinators meetings at the Rigali Center, April 25, 2002. He addressed some of the main areas of focus this year for pro-life legislators.

 1. An Omnibus Abortion Regulation Bill (HB2012) which among other things would enact the “Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act”, protections for persons and institutions from ebing forced to fund or participate directly or indirectly in abortion, and the statutory defunding of Planned Parenthood in all state funded programs.

 2. A proposed state constitutional amendment would keep Missouri abortion neutral, The Protect Children First bill (HJR 138 and SCS SJR 52 & 53). This bill would “recognize that our children are our future and are a blessing and gift from Almighty God.” It states that “It is the public policy of the state of Missouri to give special consideration to the care of our children born and unborn, especially those who are orphans, or children in foster care, and those children who are victims of abuse.” It would make the Missouri state constitution “abortion neutral” by adding: “Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion, or to require funding of abortion by taxpayers or by any other means.”

 3. Increased funding for Missouri’s Alternatives to Abortion Program from $6.46 million to $8.66 million in HB 3011. This bill also includes language to help abortion alternative agencies reach out to women at risk of having an abortion when search engines and social media platforms try to suppress or block them.

 4. Postpartum extension of health care coverage for low-income mothers from 60 days after birth to one full year after birth who are covered by Medicaid or the Missouri Show-Me Healthy Baby health care coverage for unborn children whose mothers do not qualify for Medicaid.

It is crucial that we pay attention to what is being introduced, debated, and voted on at the national and state level on all life issues. We are fortunate to have many legislators in Missouri who support our pro-life concerns. It is very important to call, write, or e-mail them to let them know these issues and bills are important to you. It is also important to contact them to show your gratitude for their willingness to stand up for the protection of the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, and all those who live on the margins of our society, and in opposition to the death penalty.

***“Truth draws strength from itself and not from the number of votes in its favor.”***

**Pope Benedict XVI**

We meet the third Wednesday of every month in the St. Cletus Parish Hall—the Callahan Room.

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