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The purpose of this newsletter is to help educate, update, and inspire those interested in pro-life issues.

Do You Have Questions Or Comments On Anything In This Newsletter?

Would You Like To Recommend A Topic On The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?

Do You Feel Moved To Share A Personal Story About The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?

Do You Feel Moved To Submit A Personal Story About Healing And Hope?

Submit feedback to defendlife@stpaulkensington.org.

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WE HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO ATTEND THE MARCH 22 SEMINAR!

Thank you to Dan and Stephanie Field for volunteering to attend the Archdiocese of Hartford pro-life seminar on March 22. The Connecticut legislature is again trying to legalize assisted suicide with House Bill 5326. The Archdiocese of Hartford Pro-life Ministry is sponsoring the seminar to discuss a campaign to oppose the legislation. All parishes in the Archdiocese are asked to send a representative to the seminar. This is a very important issue that needs our attention. Please watch for an email soon inviting all of you to a gathering where Dan and Stephanie will share with us the information from the seminar.

THE “SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL” PRAYER CAMPAIGN

<http://www.hli.org/2014/03/saint-michael-archangel-defend-us-battle>

Human Life International (HLI) is a Catholic apostolate devoted to building a culture of life. A prayer campaign was initiated by HLI in 2008 called *Saint Michael the Archangel Prayer Campaign for the Conversion of Abortionists*. “Recognizing that the fight against the culture of death is primarily a spiritual battle, the prayer campaign was designed to encourage the faithful after every Mass to seek Saint Michael’s intercession for the conversion of abortionists and all agents involved in the crime of abortion. HLI asked people to sign a pledge, to pray the Saint Michael Prayer daily and distribute as many copies of the prayer as possible. Since 2008, HLI has, through this campaign, united hundreds of thousands of people around the world in this powerful prayer of intercession and invocation. Over 2.5 million prayer cards in 27 different languages have been distributed since then. Because of the worldwide threat against the dignity of life, we continue to vigorously promote this devotion.”

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,

be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil.

*May God rebuke him we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits
who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.*

BRANFORD CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MAKES NATIONAL NEWS

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/blog/connecticut-high-schools-pro-life-censorship-makes-national-news>

It's great to hear news of young people who are involved in the pro-life cause. One such young person is a Branford High School student who knows her First Amendment right to free speech. Following the guidelines and recommendations of the national "Students for Life of America" organization, she formed a Students for Life club to "help educate students about the issues of abortion, euthanasia, and infanticide". What made the news however was not simply the fact that she is brave enough to form the club, but the attempts by the school administration to censor her by telling her that club events can only be performed after school even though all other clubs are allowed to host events during school. That censorship didn't sit well with the public or with free speech defenders like the Alliance Defending Freedom organization. It seems that so far the issue will be quickly resolved in her favor.

HERE COMES THE STORK BUS!

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/how-some-kids-with-a-van-are-changing-the-pro-life-movement>

Mobile ultrasound vehicles have been very effective in helping women considering abortion to change their mind. A 23 year old young man knew this and with the help of a friend and donations from local organizations "to bring to life a sleeker, smaller, more mobile ultrasound vehicle" they formed what is called Save the Storks. The Stork Bus is a smaller version of a

typical mobile ultrasound vehicle and “doesn’t require a permit or special permission to park. It will fit in a parking space or even at a meter.”... “The stork was chosen as the mascot because of its comforting, unoffensive, nostalgic connection to motherhood and pregnancy.” After a pregnancy test and a sonogram by a licensed sonographer, “any expectant mother will be welcomed by whatever pregnancy center is closest to the bus at the time. The Stork team is prepared to call a cab for the mother if she needs a ride. In other words, unlike the abortion clinic, the Storks and the pregnancy centers are in it for the long haul. They are going to get her what she needs to take care of herself and her baby, body and soul.”

CONTINUE TO VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION TO ANY BILL THAT LEGALIZES ASSISTED SUICIDE

<http://www.ctfamily.org/>

The Family Institute of Connecticut along with the Catholic Bishops of Connecticut is leading the charge opposing assisted suicide because “it is bad public policy that puts vulnerable populations at risk.” Please make your voice heard in the fight to protect our most vulnerable citizens from assisted suicide.

If you haven’t done so already, click on this link to send your message to our lawmakers:

<https://www.votervoice.net/FICT/Campaigns/30344/Respond#/?page=respond>

A WONDERFUL STORY FROM A PARISHIONER

A parishioner forwarded me this letter written by his younger daughter when she was in the 10th grade. She’s 34 now. He asked for it to be shared with you. The letter is about her brother who was born with Down syndrome. It’s a great story of how persons with disabilities bring out the best in our humanity.

My Brother

An amazing experience happened to me last summer. In June of 1995, my mom found out that she was pregnant with her fourth child. From before he was born, to the time after his birth, and up until now, we're all constantly been on our toes preparing for and taking care of him.

Having a new baby in the house was going to be a very big change to our lives. When my parents first told me, I was fifteen years old. My sister was seventeen, and my brother was twelve. The first thing that came to my mind when they told us was, "are we keeping it?" I couldn't believe I'd ask such a question, since my parents are strongly against abortion, but it is so common now a days. My mom was forty years old, going to school and without a job. So, of course, we were living off my dad's salary alone and we were also sending my sister to college. Money was tight. On the good side, we have a large family who helped out. We obviously went through with the pregnancy. The doctor told us that women over forty have a greater chance of having a child with Down Syndrome. We thought this would never happen in our family. I remember the day my parents sat us down to explain that the baby definitely had Down Syndrome. I never held in my emotions that well and that long before. Right when I left the room, though, I started balling uncontrollably, wondering and worrying about what this little baby's future was going to be like. At this time I remember going to the doctor's visits, seeing the tiny creature on the ultrasound screen. I was amazed at how small and underdeveloped, but at the same time very developed, it was. Now it was time to pick a name. We had to think of girl and boy names since it was only about the second month so we still didn't know the sex. When we finally found out it was a boy, and after taking suggestions from the whole family, my parents decided on the name. His first name would be the masculine form of my grandmother's name, and his middle name would be that of my great grandfather who was the fire chief of New Britain. My mom was getting a little depressed because she had just lost a real lot of weight and was taking organic vitamins for energy. She had to get off them because she didn't know if there'd be any effects on the baby. She soon started to gain weight and show. As the months went on we got more and more ready and as the eighth month came to an end, the time had come. My dad called us from the hospital to tell us that mom was in labor. He called again when my brother was born, and once more to make sure we had a ride to the hospital.

My mother was in actual labor for about four hours. When we got to the hospital with my grandparents and uncle, my brother was being warmed under the lights. It was March 3, 1996. He was so small and precious. He was two weeks premature and very delicate. We didn't go to school the next day, so we could spend it with my mom at the hospital. We couldn't bring my brother home right away because he wasn't strong enough, but when we did, it was really fun. The dog was so jealous that she wouldn't go anywhere near him. My brother had a severe case of jaundice so we had trips to and from the hospital to cure it. We were so happy when we could finally take him home permanently. The God parents are my aunt and uncle. We had the Christening in April. Before we knew it, he was making his first noises and showing reactions and signs of familiarity. He has his own personality. It is so interesting to see him, so inexperienced and clueless to what's ahead.

I see changes in him every day and he's growing right before my eyes. His first two teeth have come in on the bottom. The slowed development, as a result of the Down Syndrome, is beginning to show. Most kids are walking by now, although he does get wherever he wants to go, he just does it by creeping on his knees and elbows. We have to be careful of the pets' dishes on the floor and open doors. He hasn't said a word yet, but sometimes he comes close. He knows his name and can put the face to a voice when someone speaks to him. He follows some commands like, "How big are you?", where he'll put his hands high in the air. For "Clap," "Yay!", he claps and sort of says yay. He can wave and blow kisses on command. He recently started to hold his own bottle. We all have to be careful because he loves to pull hair, glasses, anything, and he's quick! Before his first birthday, he has been to New York, Boston, parties, concerts, restaurants, and sport games. He'll be coming with us in November to Disney World. When he watches tv, his favorite thing to watch are Yankees games. My dad has almost taught him to say "Yay Yankees!". His favorite commercial is Bob's Discount Furniture and he loves Keith Sweat's video for Just A Touch (good taste, I'm teaching him well). My mom is out of school now and just got a new job in Wallingford. People at her work, when they see my brother's pictures, say, "What a beautiful grandson!". If I take him out, a lot of people think he is my son. It doesn't bother my mom too much, just makes her feel a little old. He is growing up so fast and everyday he does something new. Now that both my parents are working, things are a little easier. And with our big family, my brother will never be deprived of love.

I'm very happy to have him in my life. He is a wonderful addition to our family and has brought so much joy to all of our lives. My brother is one of the most important people in my life and I'm very thankful for having him here.