

Dear Friend,

Well, 2016 is upon us, already. It feels as though the new year is just begun, and yet so many amazing things have happened.

While the weather caused cancellations for many heading out to the March for Life, we were overjoyed to welcome nearly 500 to our annual Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse. Mark your schedules for next year, because the March for Life will fall on January 27th due to the inauguration. We tentatively intend to hold our annual Roe Remembrance on Monday, January 23rd—which would mean that for the first time in many years, you will be able to attend both the Columbus and DC observations of *Roe v Wade*. We've also held two trainings—one sidewalk counselor training and one on "The Adoption Option" with Bethany Christian Services. We kicked off our 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign, and we've helped nine (and counting!) women turn away from their abortion appointments so far this year. Since this time in 2015, Founder's abortion clinic has gone from being open six days per week to only being open 3-4 days each week. In response, we are working to deploy a "second shift" of volunteers who will be able to be at the clinic in the afternoons to reach women who are arriving for later abortions as well as to offer post-abortion healing and recovery information to those who are leaving after their abortions. On a similar theme, we are excited to announce that GCRTL, with the financial and content support of several of our volunteers and the Homeschoolers for Life, has created our own proprietary literature for use on the sidewalk and in community education efforts. The piece has a more modern look. It walks women through fetal development and the legal and ethical issues related to abortion; it highlights the emotional and physical consequences of abortion; it shares information on clinic safety infractions and lawsuits; and it provides referrals to both pregnancy help centers and post-abortion healing programs. Most importantly, the literature directly reminds the abortion-minded woman that we care about her and her unborn child and that we will be praying for them—we will never give up on helping them. If you'd like some of the literature, you are welcome to stop by our office.



I just returned from our amazing pilgrimage to Mexico as part of a group from Greater Columbus Right to Life that prayed alongside our counterparts in Mexico at their abortion clinics. It was amazing to hear and see how a place with such different culture, language, and laws also struggles with the foothold that the culture of death is gaining, often in the name of empathy and egalitarianism. While we were in Mexico, we had the opportunity to pray at some of the most beautiful churches in the world. For me, personally, it was a beautiful opportunity to focus on prayer and fellowship — a necessity in doing this work that can sometimes feel more like a luxury in the day-to-day chaos that comes with running an organization. We should occasionally ask ourselves how we are doing emotionally and spiritually. As I was reminded in the pre-takeoff safety video on the plane to (and from) Mexico: we cannot give to others if we ourselves are running on empty! If you want to help others grow in their faith—get stronger in your own. Want to change the world? Start with yourself and start in prayer.

We are kicking off two new programs this Spring, and I'd like to invite you to learn a bit more about each. One is a spiritual adoption program—giving you the opportunity of spiritually adopting a child at risk of abortion somewhere in the world and committing to pray for him or her for the next nine months. The second program we are calling "Project Mass Intention" which is being spearheaded by one of our volunteers. Learn more about both later in this newsletter.

Finally—did you hear that we are bringing Matt Walsh to Columbus for our annual banquet on June 13th? I am so excited. If you tend to stay away from social media, you may not be familiar with Matt Walsh. He is phenomenal. Matt is a writer who regularly contributes to publications like The Blaze (Glen Beck) and Huffington Post. According to Facebook, his content was one of the ten most liked and shared postings in 2015, and he was the only opinion editor to reach the top ten list. If you plan to attend, please register as soon as possible, because this event will sell out.

Thank you all for your support and your friendship. God Bless, and let's keep the momentum in central Ohio!

Beth

Beth Vanderkooi—Executive Director

PS: Thank you all for the great feedback on our end-of-life issues coverage. We will be announcing an end-of-life educational series very soon in response to this timely and critical pro-life issue.



GCRTL PRESENTS: MATT WALSH

MONDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2016
6:00 PM
VILLA MILANO
(1630 SCHROCK RD, COLUMBUS)

Matt Walsh has been described as one of the leading voices of reason among millennials. His approach to family, faith, the right to life, and the most popular news items of the day have earned him the moniker “professional sayer of truths.” His influence spans generations and includes nearly half a million followers on Facebook and other social media outlets. He is a regular contributor to The Blaze and Huffington Post, and he is a frequent guest on radio and television programs. You can check out his writings at www.TheMattWalshBlog.com.

We are extremely excited to announce that Matt will be coming to Columbus on Monday, June 13th, 2016, to headline a dinner to benefit Greater Columbus Right to Life. The dinner is free to attend. At the conclusion of the meal will be an opportunity to support the work of GCRTL.

Register today—either online at www.gcrtl.org/banquet or by returning the enclosed RSVP card in our response envelope. Please note that we anticipate that this event will reach capacity, so we **strongly** encourage that you register early this year.

I've never heard a convincing pro-abortion argument in my life. Today is no exception. And, because these people defend the mass murder of children, I must take any and every opportunity to battle their lies and propaganda. That's what I try to do here, to the best of my ability - Matt Walsh

Liberals realize that abortion is a matter of absolutes. Either you're for it or against it. Either you accept one side's premise or the other. And which ever you accept, it's really quite impossible to accept it only partially. It's time for conservatives and their alleged representatives in D.C. to go all in. If you're pro-life, then you need to be pro-life without exception. Period.
- Matt Walsh

We would like to invite you to consider underwriting the event by becoming a sponsor. Sponsorships start at just \$250. Sponsors receive premium seating, acknowledgement at the event and in our printed materials, and help us ensure that every dollar raised the night of the event will support the work of Greater Columbus Right to Life. You can learn more about sponsorship online at www.gcrtl.org/banquet or by contacting our office.

We also invite you to consider becoming a table host. Table hosts commit to filling a table of ten at the dinner—inviting friends, family, colleagues, neighbors, members of your church and others to join us in our efforts to end the culture of death in central Ohio.

Register online today at www.gcrtl.org/banquet

Unlike organizations like Planned Parenthood, Greater Columbus Right to Life does not receive any financial support from state, federal, or local government. Our work is supported entirely through the generous gifts of individuals, churches, and donor-directed foundations who share our mission. Our annual banquet is our single largest fundraiser of the year. If you would like to support our work in the community, please consider joining us on June 13th or making a financial gift today. Thank you. Contributions to Greater Columbus Right to Life are generally considered tax-deductible.

ROE REMEMBRANCE

While winter storm Jonas meant that many trips to DC for the March for Life missed the event due to cancellations or the need to leave early, nearly 500 joined the annual Roe Remembrance at the Statehouse.

The keynote of the event was Madison Gesiotto, a student at the OSU College of Law and contributor to the Washington Times. Madison's story went viral last fall when she faced on-campus threats after writing a column that discussed abortion in the black community. When she shared the threats with the Dean of the College of Law, Madison was shocked when the response was to castigate her pro-life position. We were also joined by Senator Rob Portman, also kept out of DC by the weather, Pastor John Coats, Fr. Michael Mary Dosch, and Fr. Don Franks.

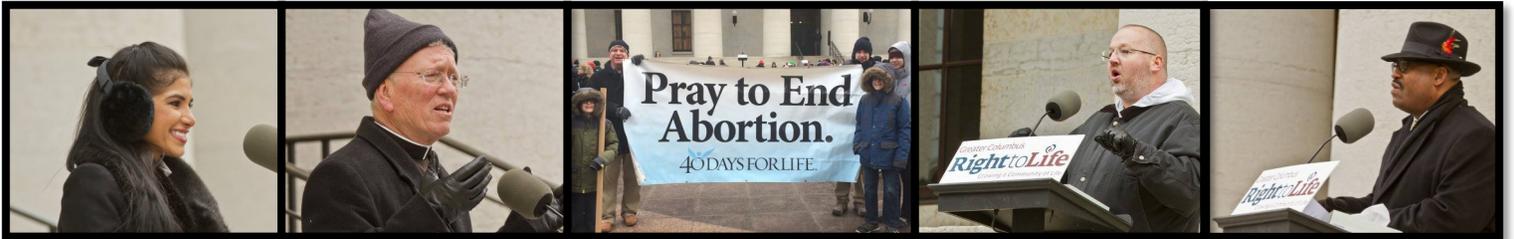


Photo Credit: Larry Pishitelli Photography. www.pishphoto.com



MASS INTENTION PROJECT

One of our volunteers is spearheading a project that will have a Mass said for prolife intentions at every Catholic Church in the eight-county region represented by Greater Columbus Right to Life this year. If you would like to participate in the Mass Intention project, send or make a donation of at least \$10, indicating that the donation is for the project. Proceeds will be used first to have the Masses said and secondarily to support our work in Respect Life and Pro-life small groups in churches. Not Catholic? Not a problem - you and your church can still participate, and you can direct the designation toward the church of your choice (assuming they will work with us).

What is a Mass Intention? If you have never heard of a Mass intention, here is a simple explanation: In Catholic and some other churches, each service (or Mass) is said with a particular intention: often a person or group of people. That person or those people are mentioned specifically in the prayers of that service. Generally there is also a small financial stipend that goes to the pastor or priest who says the Mass - usually about \$10. It is similar to providing an honorarium to a minister who performs a wedding or funeral.

If this does not sound like your church's practice, but you would like to participate in the project, alternate ideas include working with the pastor to give a prolife-sermon or otherwise including special prayers for the unborn at the church. We would love for as many churches as possible to participate, so feel free to reach out with ideas! You can learn more about this project and our other prayer programs at www.gcrtl.org/pray, or you can contact our program organizer at mary@gcrtl.org.

MEXICO PILGRIMAGE



In February, a group of pro-life pilgrims from Greater Columbus Right to Life went to Mexico to pray with our counterparts for an end to abortion. In Mexico City, abortion is legal up to 12 weeks. Like Columbus, Mexico City has two abortion clinics, both of which are run by Marie Stopes International (Marie Stopes was a



British contemporary of Margaret Sanger). We also had an opportunity to pray at some of the most beautiful churches in the Western Hemisphere, including the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City—where we saw the Tilma of Our Lady. Because of the role that the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe played in converting the indigenous to Christianity and ending the bloody practice of infant sacrifice, the image of the Tilma is especially revered in pro-life circles, particularly Catholics. The group also had an opportunity to see Pope Francis, whose visit to

Mexico coincided with the Pilgrimage. Learn more about the pilgrimage and see our virtual photo pilgrimage experience at: www.gcrtl.org/guadalupe.



Upper R: The pilgrims pray with local volunteers at the Ixtapalapa 40 Days for Life. Middle L: A photo of the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bottom (R-L): Praying at the Ixtapalapa Marie Stopes, Praying at the Roma 40 Days for Life, and the Papal motorcade.

UPCOMING EVENTS

40 Days for Life

Now—March 20, 2016
 Founder's Abortion Clinic
 1243 E Broad Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43205
gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life

Sidewalk Counselor Training

Saturday, April 9. 9am
 GCRTL Training Center
gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling

Matt Walsh: Plant a Seed

Monday, June 13th
 Villa Milano
 1630 Schrock Road
gcrtl.org/banquet

Sidewalk Counseling and Prayer Partner Drop-in

1243 E Broad Street
 Columbus Ohio
 9:30-12:00 Saturdays

THANK YOU!

Dee Printing has generously printed our newsletters for several years. Dee specializes in church and school printing.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

Have you ever heard of Spiritual Adoption? In the weeks following the Roe v Wade Supreme Court Decision, a prayer and prayer program was developed that would allow

a prolife individual, group, or even church to spiritually adopt a child who was at risk of death from abortion somewhere in the world. Once you spiritually adopt a child, you will have the opportunity to name your child and then commit to praying for that child over the next nine months.

We are kicking off a massive community-wide spiritual adoption program here at GCRTL, and we would like to invite you to join us. There are two ways to participate. The first is simply to request to join our program. There is absolutely no cost to join. We will send you (at no cost) your choice of prayer cards—one version contains fetal development information. The other features an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and was blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady in February of 2016. With each, you will have an opportunity to name your child and pray for him or her for the next few months.

For those who would like to include additional educational information on fetal development for use in a church, school, or business, we are also excited to offer an expanded program. You will also receive prayer cards of your choice (as many as you would like), but you will have the opportunity to purchase the “Touch of Life” fetal models in 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 22, and 26 weeks gestation along with educational posters depicting fetal development. We will make the fetal models and posters available at list price of \$350. They are perfect for use in a classroom or in a Church vestibule or gathering area. Learn more or sign up on our website at www.gcrtl.org/pray.



This pro-life fetal development display at the National Cathedral in Mexico City made us realize how effective it would be if more churches displayed fetal development info.