

Dear Friend,

While each season has its beauty and its devotees, for as long as I can remember autumn has been my favorite time of the year. An Ohio autumn is something especially lovely to behold. Cool crisp mornings warm into sunny afternoons and fade into dark evenings – perfect for a bonfire or a football game under the lights. There is a quietness to the fall, even in the city. While I look forward to a peaceful snow, the first green of spring, and the blooms of summer, the autumn is by far my favorite time of the year.

Perhaps part of the appeal of autumn is that there seems to be less of it, and you never know for sure when it will arrive or how long it will last. Summer's heat waves can stretch out, and one never knows when the first snow or sleet of winter will arrive – you simply must enjoy fall for as long as it lasts.

Lastly, fall is the season that we most correlate with giving thanks, and I am reminded how thankful we are. This past summer, we helped our 200<sup>th</sup> woman turn away from the abortion clinic, more than 50 women of whom have been in 2015. We also give thanks that our programs are demonstrably contributing to a reduction in the number of abortions in Ohio, with central Ohio leading the state in reducing abortions since 2013. To our donors, our volunteers, our friends and our collaborators—thank you.

This fall, however, has been a little less joyful on a personal level. Like many Americans, I am a caretaker for a relative who has been in a state of persistently poor health for several years. Late this summer, he was given a diagnosis of cancer. We had no idea until his bones started breaking, too late for any real treatment. We are now measuring his earthly life in months and weeks, quite a blow for someone in his mid-sixties. It has been a difficult time, but even among the difficulties, I'm aware that it is also a beautiful time.

I share this not because I am asking for your prayers or your condolences, although I know that many of you will send them, and for that I thank you. I share it because it has been a good reminder that it is easier it is to think about life and death in the abstract than it is to make decisions in times of trial. We can never forget that at the root of our prolife work are real struggles faced by real people, not abstract theological, logical, or political/legal arguments to be won and then walked away from. It is immeasurably easier to obliquely refer to moral concepts like natural death or the value of human suffering than it is to watch a loved one waste away from a terminal illness. It is much easier to tell a friend to keep his or her chin up and pray for a miracle than it is to sit solitary watch in the night as a loved one struggles for each breath. I can easily discuss the concepts of a “Will to Live” as an alternative to the “Living Wills” pushed by many medical facilities, but it is harder to make the decisions when they count the most. Sometimes, I fear that for the truth of our apologetics and the sincerity of our beliefs, we forget that our level-headed logic is most needed at the hour we are least inclined toward it – rationality and faith are the most difficult when we are swept up in grief and other emotions. We feel most alone as we bear our heaviest crosses. Who has not echoed the words of Christ, “My God, why have you forsaken me?” We are working to build a culture of life because it is the moment when we feel the most isolated that we most need those around us to affirm life. These are the times when pro-life parents procure abortions for their daughters. This is when we begin to wonder if perhaps assisted suicide is not so bad. Here is why it is not sufficient to be prolife for yourself but morally accepting that others may choose a different path - we most need a community committed to the gospel of life and the light of God's love when we are in a moment of crisis that we cannot see past. Although I have not abandoned my prolife beliefs in these moments of suffering, I also know that it is partially because I am fortunate to have been able to have difficult conversations in the past and strong support in the present. Moreover, I can see how this has given me special empathy into the experiences of others, and I hope that as a result I can show greater mercy to those who have not been as fortunate as I have.

The Christian sees God's love in the midst of human suffering, and in our





# GCRTL PRESENTS: MATT WALSH

## SAVE THE DATE MONDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2016

Matt Walsh has been described as becoming one of the leading voices of reason among millennials. His reasoned 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 also a regular contributor to The Blaze and Huffington Post, and he is a frequent guest on radio and in television programs. You can check out the bulk of his writings at [www.TheMattWalshBlog.com](http://www.TheMattWalshBlog.com).

We are beyond excited to announce that Matt will be coming to Columbus on Monday, June 13th, 2016, and we invite you to save the date today. Additional information, including how to reserve your seats, will be announced in early 2016. If you would like to serve on the banquet committee or are interested in sponsoring the banquet, let us know via the enclosed envelope or email us at [rsvp@gcrtl.org](mailto:rsvp@gcrtl.org).

*I would like to make a gift for Life*  
 Recipient information on reverse

Text here. Return the donor card to GCRTL and provide gift as

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  check  credit  cash

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_  
(3-4 digit security code on back)

Granville Rd, St 115, Columbus OH 43229



Many of us work hard to find the perfect gifts for loved ones at Christmas, celebrating the gift of Life through the birth of a Savior. Increasingly, we are hearing that people are weary of the consumerism and commercialism that has taken over the holiday seasons, but they do not want to forgo the tradition altogether. If this sounds like you, or if you would like to do something more meaningful than a sweater or more personal than a gift basket, consider making a donation to Greater Columbus Right to Life in honor of a friend or loved one this year. We are making it easy and adorable with our precious Gift of Life Gift Cards! On one side, fill out your contact information and the gift that you’d like to make. On the reverse, include recipient information and how you would like to notify him or her. Gently tear the card along the perforated line, include a personalized message on the back, and present the adorable gift card to your friend or loved one. Then mail the gift information and donation to us. To make it easy, we’ve included one copy for you to give now. To make it extra easy, we have included one of our beautiful memorial gift cards in this newsletter. You can request additional cards online at [www.gcrtl.org/yea](http://www.gcrtl.org/yea) or by sending us the additional recipients’ names and contact information. It makes an especially thoughtful gift for that person who is downsizing, the stalwart prolife volunteer, or your pastor or priest. You can even give a gift in honor of the abortion clinic worker who you have especially been praying has a change of heart. Not interested in a charitable gift this year? No problem! Feel free to pass it along to someone else or keep the card in your wallet as a reminder to pray for life each time you see it!

*Love the idea? We also have charitable gift card options for birthdays, retirements, anniversaries, and other special occasions. We can also work with you or your loved ones for memorial designations.*



## DEAR FRIENDS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

capacity to love others we seek to enter into their suffering to relieve them of it. Paradoxically, perhaps it is when this capacity is the strongest that it is most vulnerable to misunderstanding. Too often, in moments of great emotion or crisis we confuse real love with something that momentarily eases a certain type of suffering. We cannot confuse being relieved from suffering for being redeemed of it. When the destructive power of sin and death looks a lot like an empathetic hand reaching out to help, those who stand in defense of truth can also be perceived the enemies of God's own mercy, and perhaps sometimes we are.

We are struggling, friends. We are struggling to paint a portrait of the beauty of God's creation in a world that favors the over-exaggerated features of caricatures. We are struggling to share the greatest story ever told in a world of cynical soundbites. We are struggling to balance lives that honor the word of God while offering hands that lift up the strength of His mercy. Increasingly, the culture seems short on beatitudes and full of platitudes, when it should be the opposite. Still, there is hope.

While we cannot know the day or the hour of death, we can work toward a world that supports the dignity of human life at all of its stages and rest a little easier that in our moments of crisis someone will be there for us. We spend a lot of time fighting abortion as the flagship of the culture of death, and well we should. But we need also to be mindful of the increasing pressures placed on end of life decisions – on the threats to the elderly, the infirm, and the disabled. We must also be mindful that defending the dignity of life also means defending the end of life

Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and the New Year are all approaching, and with them an opportunity to have discussions with family members about the ethics and decisions that shape end of life care. We must be vigilant—assisted suicide is gaining traction and many are caught unaware by the sudden illness of a loved one. We need to be especially conscious of the pressures placed on the terminally ill or dying. It isn't always comfortable, but we must have these conversations if we are to build a true culture of life. Having these conversations now will make it a little less difficult in the future. In my family's case, it means that we are able to focus on making the best of the time we have left with my loved one and I have been able to appreciate not just the time that we have left but the opportunity to find peace in the midst of stress and suffering. What a beautiful gift to have been given.

Earlier, I shared that facing the death of a loved one has been a great reminder of the need for mercy in our hurting world, but I also want to start conversations about affirming the dignity of life even as we approach death. If it helps, you are welcome to share what "a friend" is going through in her family to get it started.

God Bless and Happy Thanksgiving ~ **Beth**

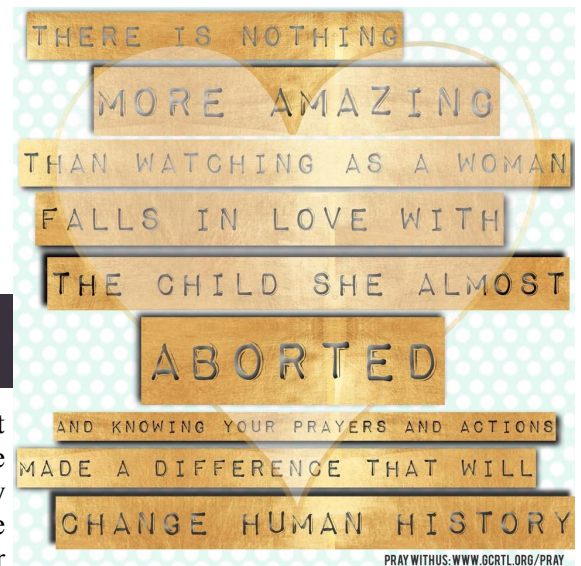
PS: We are putting some additional information on our webpage that might be helpful when considering end of life care, and we plan to have a 2016 speaker series on bioethics and end-of-life care. Learn more at: [www.gcrtl.org/resources](http://www.gcrtl.org/resources).

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Fall at Founder's! We can say that this was the most beautiful weather that we've seen for 40 Days for Life in our campaign history. More importantly, we were excited to welcome several new churches and many new volunteers to pray with us on the sidewalk, many of whom have made a commitment to continue praying with us. We also saw at least five women turn away from their abortions.

40 Days is over, but we are not finished! Our volunteers are committed to a presence every day that the clinic is open, and we are noticing that a few things are changing at Founder's. The clinic appears to be consolidating appointment times and closing the clinic a few days a week. They've had a crowdfunding campaign for the last few months in order to raise enough money to purchase a week's worth of billboard advertising. Together— it suggests a business that is tightening its belt, which is not especially surprising. Not long ago, we learned that the owner/management of Founder's was sued for owing back taxes to the City of Columbus on more than \$1.2 million in income: you can learn more about this at [www.gcrtl.org/blog](http://www.gcrtl.org/blog).

Do not be confused—abortion is not wrong because abortion clinics are tax cheats, although not paying taxes is a trend in Ohio—a Planned Parenthood near Cleveland owes several hundred thousand dollars in back taxes. Neither is it the case that abortion clinics are bad places because they fail health inspections or send women to the ER. They are bad places because they end the lives of innocent unborn children. As long as our society believes that abortion is a safe and legal procedure, however, we will continue to push back against that false narrative. Won't you join us?



# REST IN BEAUTY

DECEMBER 5, 2015  
REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT  
[WWW.GCRTL.ORG/RETREAT](http://WWW.GCRTL.ORG/RETREAT)

*Since love grows within you, so beauty grows. For love is the beauty of the soul.*

We are excited to invite you our first ever Rest in Beauty retreat, with special guest speaker Mary Frances Seeley, Phd, who will be discussing Compassion Fatigue in prolife advocates, caregivers, and ministry workers. Following Sister Seeley's talk, Fr. Josh Wagner will present on Purpose, Presence, Focus, and Momentum. Following the talks will be an opportunity for spiritual renewal that includes prayer with faith leaders from some of the prolife churches that we work with and praise and worship. St. Patrick's Church, located across the street from the event space, will host an opportunity for adoration, confession, and Mass for those who are interested.

This no-cost spiritual mini retreat will be held at the Columbus State Community College conference center on Saturday, December 15th from 12:30 until 4. Additional information is available at [www.gctrl.org/retreat](http://www.gctrl.org/retreat).

## MAKING AN IMPACT

Life is precious. There is no feeling in the entire world like watching a mother fall in love with the unborn child she nearly aborted and knowing that your support helped make it possible. It is awe-inspiring to know that in a way that you cannot yet understand, you helped change the course of human history forever by witnessing a mother turn away from the clinic. Even when our prayers do not see immediate results, we know that they have value by both our faith, which assures it to be true, and their fruits. It is undeniable that the dramatic increase in prayer, training, and sidewalk counseling played a demonstrable role in the significant reduction in abortions in 2013 and 2014 here in central Ohio—reductions unmatched in the state. We cannot place a value on that. Planned Parenthood and Founder's, however do, and it ranges from about \$500 to about \$1500—that is the revenue that they gain with every abortion "choice" and it is the revenue that they lose with every life choice.

### Feeling Extra Generous?

**We have an opportunity to open a pro-life operations and training center a few steps away from one of the two remaining Columbus abortion clinics. If you have the means to be an extraordinarily generous giver and would like to make a legacy gift to support life in central Ohio, please give us an opportunity to share our dream with you.**

Our work is priceless, but it does come with some costs. With your help we are doing amazing things in our community.

As the end of the year approaches, I would like to invite you to help us continue this work and grow it in 2016. Nationally, about 30% of nonprofit giving falls in December, which is often attributed to the generosity of the Christmas spirit and an opportunity to maximize charitable donations for tax purposes. If you see value in the work that we are doing, I would respectfully ask that you make the most generous gift that you are able this year end. We are doing good work, and we need your help in order to continue. To help make this our best year yet, we have several ways to give—you can mail us a contribution in the enclosed envelope or you can visit us online at [www.gctrl.org](http://www.gctrl.org) for more opportunities including: looking to see if your employer matches gifts, maximizing your tax benefits, and opportunities to give non cash gifts like stocks or property. Thank you. We hope you have a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and the happiest of New Years.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Rest In Beauty Retreat**  
Columbus State Com College  
Saturday, Dec 5, 2015  
Register online at  
[www.gctrl.org/retreat](http://www.gctrl.org/retreat)

**Carols at the Clinic**  
Founder's (1243 E Broad)  
Saturday, Dec 19, 2015  
10am

**Roe Remembrance**  
Downtown Columbus  
January 22, 2016

**Guadalupe Pilgrimage**  
Feb 13-20, 2016  
[www.gctrl.org/guadalupe](http://www.gctrl.org/guadalupe)

**GCRTL Annual Banquet**  
Special Guest Matt Walsh  
Monday, June 13, 2016

County Of Occurrence	2014	2103	2012
Total	21,186	23,216	25,473
Cuyahoga	8,548	9,037	9,201
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>4,966</b>	<b>5,698</b>
Hamilton	3,890	4,171	4,601
Lucas*	733	1511	1960
Montgomery	1,855	1,798	1,930
Summit	2,022	1,730	2,075
Other	1	3	7

Source: Ohio Department of Health Abortion Statistics Report.

\*Note: After a Toledo clinic closed, abortions at a nearby Michigan clinic increased, and Michigan reported about 700 additional out of state abortions in 2014.