

Luke for a true example of joy and sacrifice as Mary's "yes" brought the light of Christ to a world in darkness.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High..." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. Luke 1: 30-35

It seems unimaginable to me the feelings and questions Mary may have had when she heard the angel's words. And yet we know because of Mary's trust in God, she prayerfully gave her "yes" and accepted God's plan for her life. Tragically, in a culture increasingly darkened by sin, an "unplanned pregnancy" is often viewed as unwanted and subject to "choice," but we know that no pregnancy is unplanned to God. Each human life has a beautiful purpose and is loved by God.

As I reflect on our outreach activities this past year and the blessings of working with many dedicated pro-life members in our community, I am in awe that in God's providence we have been loved into existence at this most consequential time in history. By His grace we have been called to bring the light of Christ to a culture that denies the love of God and His divine plan for life, marriage and family. There is no greater blessing than to joyfully accept and embrace God's call to offer hope, healing, and protection to the weakest among us, in all stages of life.

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

May we imitate Mary's model of saying "yes" to God's call to protect life from natural conception to natural death. Thank you for your generous support and, on behalf of all of us at Johnson County Right to Life, I wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas.



Candlelight Walk for Life & Dinner Saturday, January 18 at 6:00pm

Pray for an end to abortion at Emma Goldman Clinic as we mark the 47th anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973.

The procession to Emma Goldman Clinic will begin after the 5:00pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Iowa Clty. Following the walk, a complimentary Chili Dinner will be served in the parish hall.

RSVP for dinner at www.JCRTL.org

Thank you to all who participated in the **40 Days for Life** prayer campaign, Sept. 25 - Nov. 3. Whether you joined us on the sidewalk or prayed from work or home, you were united with Christians from around the world to pray and fast for an end to abortion. During the world-wide fall campaign, **742 babies were saved from abortion and 5 workers left the abortion industry!** In addition, the lives of family and friends have been transformed forever by the decision to choose life.

I want to thank our 40 Days for Life Vigil Coordinator, **Gary Sieren** for his outreach efforts to increase awareness and participation in our prayer campaign. We appreciate the prayer volunteers who contributed inspirational email messages throughout our campaign: **Vivian Baumhover**, **Gwen Prentice**, **Judee Albert**, **and Deacon Chris Kabat**.



Our mission to build a culture of life must continue as we pray for an end to abortion and raise awareness regarding the root problem of the culture of death, contraception. We know that long before a woman (and the man accompanying her) show up at Planned Parenthood or the Emma Goldman Clinic for an abortion, they have from an early age been swimming in a sea of propaganda and advertising from a culture that promotes a contraceptive mentality. This mentality results when the separation of sex from procreation is taken for granted and those involved in sexual intimacy feel entitled to be relieved of any responsibility should their contraception fail. Abortion is a back-up to failed contraception. In fact, 53% of women seeking an abortion reported they were using contraception when they became pregnant.

We can overcome the contraceptive mentality and build a culture of life by embracing reproductive health care that fully respects life. The foundation of the Creighton Model FertilityCare System accepts fertility as a normal, healthy process and is a powerful family planning and health monitoring tool for a woman's entire reproductive life. Using NaProTechnology, medical consultants can assist women with infertility, repeated miscarriages, PMS, ovarian cysts, and a variety of reproductive issues.

I invite you to join us in our mission to pray and work to restore a culture of life that respects the sanctity of life and promotes health care that provides a continuum of care for natural procreative choices. You can learn more about the Creighton Model FertilityCare System at www.JCRTL.org

The spring 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign starts Feb. 26, 2020. If you haven't had an opportunity to participate, please visit www.JCRTL.org to learn more and sign-up to receive notifications.

Support a "Protect Life" amendment to Iowa's Constitution to defend the dignity of all human life

The people of lowa, not the state Supreme Court, should decide how lowa regulates abortion. In June 2018, the lowa Supreme Court created a nearly unlimited "right" to an abortion by striking down an lowa law providing for a three-day reflection period before an abortion is performed. To reach their decision, the Court announced they had identified a fundamental right to abortion in the lowa Constitution. Its action erased the rights and protections of an entire class of humanity and makes lowa a potential haven for unrestricted abortions. (lowaCatholicConference.org)

Petition Text:

I support a "Protect Life" amendment to lowa's Constitution that would read: "To defend the dignity of all human life, and to protect mothers and unborn children from efforts to expand abortion even to the day of birth, we the people of lowa declare: Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to recognize, grant or secure a right to an abortion or require the public funding of it."

Learn more and sign the petition at www.JCRTL.org

Make a New Year's resolution to pray for unborn children in danger of abortion.

What is the Spiritual Adoption Program?

Participants in the Spiritual Adoption Program pledge to pray for nine months for a baby in danger of abortion. During each month of the program, the "spiritual parents" are given information about their baby's

development in the womb. While this child will remain unknown to his or her 'spiritual parent', God knows who the child is. Many people have found that naming 'their child' helps to keep them focused on the reality that their prayers are



helping to save a particular baby from the harm of abortion. This can be done in a church or school setting, with age appropriate materials.

Please visit **www.JCRTL.org** to learn more about this life-saving program.