

# Johnson County Right to Life

Engage Educate Embrace



Spring 2020

## A Note From Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director

As we look forward to celebrating Easter, I believe we can all agree this Lenten time of preparation has been unlike anything we could have imagined. With most of the world in some form of quarantine and following “social distancing,” we have more time to reflect on the state of our lives prior to COVID-19. Loneliness was present even though technology allowed us to communicate and interact with anyone in the world. Frenetic schedules of work and social engagements dominated and yet many were unable to devote time to check on an elderly neighbor or spend quality time with family members.

Like a modern-day walk in the desert, this health crisis has stripped us of “control” and “comfort” in our daily lives. We have come face to face with the fragility of life and how our actions can directly impact the well-being of others. The global focus on the essential value of LIFE has been breathtaking. Suddenly, our self-interests feel insignificant in light of the fear and suffering that has impacted our global human family. While we might long for our regular routines, He seems to be whispering to us, **Be still and know that I am God.** Psalm 46:10

Guidelines to “socially distance” ourselves have become like seeds, producing acts of kindness and appreciation for loved ones and neighbors in need. Is it possible that “social distancing” has brought us closer together? In the midst of fear and uncertainty during these times, it seems that God is inviting us into His suffering, blessing us so we can be a blessing to others.

**Love one another as I have loved you.** John 13:34.

As Ambassadors for Life, our mission has always been to be a blessing to those whose lives are perishing at the hands of others. While the world is opening its eyes to the vulnerability and value of life, we must continue to pray for those who, in fear, seek to preserve their lives by sacrificing the life of their child. Now, more than ever, we are called to empower them with community resources and the perfect love and hope of Jesus Christ.

Let this be our Easter Prayer for Life:

- May all those impacted by COVID-19 receive the divine healing of Jesus Christ, in mind, body and spirit.
- May our world unify as one human family to love and care for the weakest among us, born and unborn.
- May our world no longer distance itself from the source of life, Jesus Christ, the giver and maker of LIFE.
- May this time of stillness in our world fill us with renewed joy and passion to build a culture in which life, marriages, and families flourish.

Thank you for your generous support and I wish you and your family a blessed Easter.

## Natural and Wholistic FertilityCare

- Looking for a safe and effective way to manage your hormonal health for your entire reproductive life?
- Tired of being told the pill is the only solution for your health issue?
- Do you want to identify and treat the root cause of infertility?

Learn how you can chart your cycle and what the **Creighton Model FertilityCare System** has to offer.

Contact **Cassidy LeClaire, FCPI** at (319) 929-2224  
or email at: [ViaVeritasFertility@gmail.com](mailto:ViaVeritasFertility@gmail.com)



In the midst of the current health crisis, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed a state public health emergency declaration that stopped all non-essential medical procedures, including abortions. After the ACLU sued on behalf of abortion companies, a judge ruled that “essential” surgical abortions can be performed. Abortions are never medically necessary. (Read more about this topic on the next page.)

\*\* ACLU stands for American Civil Liberties Union. You can't have individual liberty unless you first have a right to live.

JCRTL helped sponsor students to attend the **National March for Life** in Washington, D.C. in January.

**Liam McDonald - Homeschool Freshman - St. Wenceslaus Church**

"This was my first time at the March for Life in DC. I attended because I wanted to make a difference and feel very strongly about this subject. The atmosphere at the march was excitement and comradery. The highlight for me at the March was seeing President Trump."

**Noah Kabat - Homeschool/City High Senior - St. Wenceslaus Church**

"This was my third time at the March for Life. I chose to attend this year to be a witness to the horror of abortion and to be a voice for the voiceless. The atmosphere was one of energy, just complete excitement and love for the cause. The vigil Mass at the National Shrine is always a highlight, and it was again this year...also seeing president Trump speak at the rally. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend the March once again this year and for the generous donations that we received."

**Maria Brown - Homeschool/City High Senior - St. Wenceslaus Church**

"This was my fourth time attending the March for Life. I chose to attend this year again because abortion is not yet illegal. As long as abortion is legal, there is a need for the March and for students like myself to attend. The atmosphere of the March this year felt solemn but still vibrant. Our bus played *Unplanned* on the trip to DC, and the reality of what abortion truly does sank in deep. I also was honored to march in defense of unborn children who could not speak for themselves. The vibrancy of love and passion in the air is so infectious. I hope that one day, the March will no longer be needed!"

**Sarah Martin - Regina High School Junior - St. Mary Church, Iowa City**

"This was my first time at the March for Life. I have always been pro-life and my friend told me about the March. Seeing everyone gave me so much hope for the future and lit a fire inside of me. For the first time in my life, I felt like I was doing what God called me to do. Every life is precious and valued. I am going to try to encourage more students from Regina to attend next year and join in this life-changing experience."



## Is Abortion an Essential Service?

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, when non-essential businesses have closed to mitigate the spread of the virus, the National Abortion Federation announced the following: "During this public health crisis, pregnancy care, including abortion care, remains an essential health service. Abortion care is a time-sensitive service that cannot be significantly deferred without profound consequences for women and their families."

Calling abortion "essential" is contradicted by the secular rallying cry that it is all about "choice." Having a "choice" infers making a decision when presented with options. Based on this, abortion clearly falls within the context of an "elective procedure." In addition, the abortion industry constantly reminds us that abortion constitutes "healthcare." Inherent in the concept of "healthcare" is whether a service is medically necessary." According to an article by James Studnicki,\* there are key factors that define the term, "medical necessity."

- 1) "The service must be required to prevent, diagnose, or treat an illness, injury, or disease." Pregnancy is clearly not an illness or a disease and thus abortion is not a viable "treatment." A unique, new human life begins at conception and thus is no longer preventable.
- 2) "The service must be clinically appropriate and considered effective for the individual illness, injury, or disease." This requirement implies that the treatment provides a benefit to the patient based on peer-reviewed, scientific studies. There is no literature or scientific data showing that abortion results in a positive outcome for both the mother and her unborn child.
- 3) "The service is not primarily for the convenience of the individual, the individual's health-care provider, or other health-care providers." Obviously abortion fails this requirement on all counts.

Abortion is clearly not essential, nor is it healthcare. With the drastic measures being taken to save lives during this global health crisis, abortion as a "choice" is exposed once again as the lie that it is. Are women freely choosing abortion or are they forced to choose abortion because of desperate, non-medical circumstances?

*"No one wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal, caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg."* Frederica Mathewes-Green from her book, *Real Choices*

\* Late-Term Abortion and Medical Necessity: A Failure of Science by James Studnicki