



An Orthodox Christian Initiative

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## Be the Voice for the Voiceless

It was a heart piercing and moving weekend and a real call to action for Orthodox Christians everywhere, when faithful from multiple jurisdictions gathered together to hear Papa Demetri Carellas speak on the crucial topic of the sanctity of life of God's precious unborn children. It began on Saturday, January 20th, with a Retreat at the ZOE House entitled **"Be the Voice for the Voiceless"**, and culminated with a beautiful pan-Orthodox Supplication Service on Sunday evening at St. Innocent Church in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. We thank the St. Innocent community most sincerely for their generous hospitality! We were led in prayer by Fr. Ilia Marzev of St. Sergius, Fr. Andrew Harmon of St. Matthew the Evangelist, Papa Demetri Carellas, Fr. Nicholas Mihaly, (Spiritual Advisor to ZOE for Life!) from St. Nicholas in Erie, PA, Fr. Alessandro Margheritino of St. Innocent, Fr. Jacob Van Sickoe of St. Theodosius and Fr. Andrew Bartek from Holy Assumption in Marblehead, OH. Fr. Jonathan Lincoln served as deacon. After the service, there was fellowship and a talk by Papa Demetri in the church hall. Over the course of the weekend, he enlightened the faithful on the history which led to the tragic Roe v Wade decision to legalize abortion and the heart wrenching statistics on how the precious life of an unborn child is taken—on average, every 30 seconds! He

*continued on page 4*



## Jessica Was A Victim Of Human Trafficking!

**Dear Members of ZOE's House,**

I hope you all have an amazing Christmas and an even better new year. I recently came to ZOE's House and received a car seat for my soon to come son Major. I am beyond grateful for it. We have nothing and you have given me the most needed item for Christmas this year. I am now able to bring my son home from the hospital when he comes. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers. I pray for all of you as well and for all the other babies you help as well. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart. I can't wait for you all to meet little Major when he gets here. **With love, Jessica, A Survivor**

## ZOE Women's Center News

As many of you are undoubtedly aware, we are expanding our services to include limited obstetrical ultrasounds to determine the viability of pregnancy for women who are considering abortion. This is wonderful and exciting news and many of you have given generously to make this goal a reality. We thank you!

As a result of generous support, we will soon be purchasing an ultrasound machine. God has also blessed us with a certified sonographer, Dorina Popa, who will scan our beautiful clients. You will get to know her in the next edition of our Newsletter. Dr. George Thomas, D.O., who has volunteered to be our Medical Director, and Dr. Craig George, M.D., a radiologist, who will be offering his time to read our ultrasounds are introduced in these pages. The Lord has truly blessed us.

The next step in this process is to train volunteers who have expressed a desire to mentor those abortion-  
*continued on page 4*

# ZOE Women's Center Staff

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## Meet ZOE Women's Center Medical Director!



The Lord has presented us with a Medical Director we are all grateful to know, and absolutely delighted to be working with! Allow us to introduce you Dr. George Thomas, D.O. A family physician for over 40 years, Dr. Thomas was born in Syria and raised near Pittsburgh, PA. After graduation from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine,

he moved to Cleveland to practice medicine with his older brother, Harold. They were later joined by younger brother Jim and more recently by Harold's son, Paul.

Dr. Thomas is former President of the Ohio Osteopathic Association and the American Osteopathic Association. He remains active in the Osteopathic Association on a national level and currently is the Director of the Bureau of Federal Health Programs, working with Washington, D.C. to influence health policy nationwide. He was named

Family Physician of 2011 by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, Best Doctor in Cleveland from 2008-2013 by Cleveland Magazine and awarded the American College of Family Physician's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

A founding member of St. Luke Orthodox Church in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Dr. Thomas also serves as a member of The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese Board of Trustees.

Married to Anne Bourjaily Thomas, they have four children, Farrah, a health psychologist at the Cleveland Ohio Veterans Administration, Tiffany (married to Casey) a Veterinary Technician, Michael a second year medical student and Katherine a university senior. He and Anne are proud grandparents to Carsten and Owen. George recently retired from his medical practice and enjoys reading, gardening and traveling.

Dr. Thomas is a gentle, Christ centered man, who has graciously offered to serve as our Medical Director gratis. We are forever grateful for his open heart, and immensely excited to see what the future of ZOE Women's Center brings, under his watchful eye and loving guidance.

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## Craig George MD, a Board Certified Radiologist



Craig George MD, a board certified radiologist, gratefully accepted the blessing of volunteering to read ultrasounds for ZOE Women's Center. This type of ministry is nothing new to Craig. He actually got to know his wife while volunteering his medical expertise at a crisis pregnancy center in Stark County. (God blesses our efforts!) With a focused interest in diagnostic

ultrasound, he developed the ultrasound program at the Cleveland Clinic, part of which was teaching ultrasound physics to resident physicians.

Craig's professional career has taken him to the

Cleveland Clinic, Kaiser Permanente, and the Cleveland VA Medical Center where he is the recently retired Chief of Radiology. He is currently enjoying semi-retirement, working 3 days a week.

He is the father of 3 beautiful daughters: Jackie (Joe) of Indianapolis, Hallie (Pavan) of Detroit, and Tracy of New Haven. He is also the father-in-law of 2 brilliant sons, and the unabashedly prideful grandfather of beautiful baby Henry.

He and his wife, Cindy are active members of St Matthew Antiochian Parish in North Royalton where they enjoy participating in the parish council, Bible studies, and various other ministries.

Craig is excited to be part of the ZOE for Life! team and to witness the power of God at work in the lives of those who interact with this ministry.

# A Loss for ZOE for Life!



We at ZOE for Life! have lost one of our shining lights. Our sister in Christ, Daria Petrykowska, entered into eternal rest on July 21, 2017. Daria's love of Christ shone forth in all aspects of her life: in her love for her

husband, Jerry, her Church, her faith, and for the clients who came to ZOE House.

Daria spent her whole life working for the Church. She was very active at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Parma, Ohio, in the Diocese of the Midwest, as well as in the national level of the OCA. She served as the Vice-President of ZOE for Life! for many years, and ministered to clients at ZOE House weekly, for even longer. She never failed to ask clients if she could pray for them and loved selecting children's clothes that she would give to their mothers saying, "This can be worn when you take

them to church." The Church, and our Lord, were always the focus of her thoughts.

Daria was a teacher by profession and she used those talents to work for Orthodox Christian Education Commission for the OCA. She was always teaching others about the Faith, but for many of us, her greatest teaching came from the example of the way she lived, especially during her illness. She taught us all what True Faith in the Lord looked like. She loved God and knew He loved her no matter what she was going through. She totally submitted herself to His will. We can only pray that our faith can be that strong in the face of adversity.

Thank you, Daria, for sharing your faith and your love with us. Thank you for all you did for ZOE for Life! - all done for the Glory to God. We miss you very much, and always will.

***"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over little things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." (Matt. 25:21)***

## 2017 Gifts

To all our friends who donate to preserve life, please accept our whole hearted thanks! As we said in the last issue of our Newsletter, due to the additional expenses incurred for printing, paper and mailing when

acknowledging every donor, to be better Stewards of the generosity of our Supporters, we are no longer printing the names of every supporter. We hope that our letters of thanks to you personally are sufficient to express our unending gratitude. We are presenting below those gifts made in Honor of, or in Memory of, or for the Special Occasion of: **Thank you all!**

### In Honor of:

A Christmas Gift to ZOE for Life!  
Mary  
The Moms Who Let Their Babies Be Born Alive!  
Monthe, Zachary and Lea Kofos  
Megan Minamyer  
Mother of God  
Pantelis Grandchildren, Bob, Alex, Eli, Haley, and Ava  
Parishioners of St. Mark, Youngstown, OH  
Our Grandchildren, Both Adopted, Whose Mothers Chose Life for Them  
Fr. And Pani Peter Staviski's 55th Wedding Anniversary  
John and Thomas Tullis  
Willow Noelle Walker

### In Memory of:

All of the Aborted Children. Memory Eternal!

All Our Loved Ones  
Sandy Asik  
Babies Aborted in 2017  
John Bacik III  
Deceased Bymakos and Balale Family Members  
Harry Carratt  
2 Unborn Children  
JoAnn and George, Nicola and Zoe and Tony Chirakos  
John Dellas  
Godmother Zoe and Newly Departed Michael  
Helen and Dennis Gouskos  
John G. Janas  
John  
Fr. Stephen and Matushka Catherine Julia Lane  
Michael, Anna, Anya and Ellen Andrea Macko  
Barbara Maluff  
Sotirios Maniatis  
Maximos

Hristos (Chris) J Murton and Aphrodite (Frieda) N. Murton  
Metropolitan Nicholas of Amyssa  
Thano G. Pasalis  
Daria Petrykowska  
Daniel Resanovic  
Walter and Mary Rohan  
Metropolitan Nicholas Smisko Styliani  
Peter D. Tatis  
Jennie Trivanovich  
Milie Vovos  
Deacon John Zarras

### For the Special Occasion of:

Christmas 2017  
Pascha  
Remission of Cancer  
To Help ZOE for Life!  
100th Anniversary of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, Palos Heights, IL



## Join Our Bottles for Babies Campaign

We want to send you a baby bottle, and ask you to fill it with loose change. What could be simpler? Simply empty your change into the bottle every day. When it is full, take it to the bank and send the cash to ZOE. Reuse and repeat! Contact Despina at [despina@Inmavrakistfamily.com](mailto:despina@Inmavrakistfamily.com).



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## ZOE Women's Center News cont.

*continued from page 1*

vulnerable and abortion-minded women who find their way to ZOE Women's Center. That is the process through which we are currently journeying.

Heartbeat International is an umbrella organization that exists for just this purpose. One of their trainers came to Zoe House on Saturday, February 10th to begin training the Orthodox faithful who had expressed an interest in participating in a more intimate way with our clients who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy.

Ultrasounds provide a powerful tool in facilitating decision-making for women in crisis pregnancies. Statistics tell us that the combination of loving, compassionate peer mentoring in conjunction with the use of a limited ultrasound is an even more effective practice to help women who find themselves in such situations. When someone who cares sits down with someone in crisis in an attitude of love and grace, lives and hearts are changed in an amazing way.

This is what ZOE for Life! is all about: saving one life at a time, one person at a time.

## Be the Voice for the Voiceless cont.

*continued from page 1*

discussed the deceptive tactics employed by abortionists and brought to light their misleading and partially false claims of being a resource for women's "health."

Most of all, Papa Demetri moved our hearts to realize that we, as Orthodox Christians, cannot be silent and inactive but must do everything in our power to help this most worthy cause and to be a "voice for the voiceless." This starts first with prayer. He gave icon cards with a poignant prayer that many Orthodox Christians around the US are praying daily at 12 noon. He strongly encouraged every Orthodox Church to begin its own Pro Life Chapter, with ZOE for Life! as its parent organization. He suggested some practical ideas for these parish level groups.

Each group can commit to pray daily at noon the prayer for unborn children, their mothers and fathers, and those who are participating in the act of abortion. Every church can hold a monthly Supplication Service to the Mother

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*The primary goal of ZOE for Life! is to preserve the life of the unborn child. We recognize that every soul consecrated by God is a gift to be cherished. ZOE for Life! helps pregnant women in distress who need confidential emotional and spiritual support to encourage them to choose life for their unborn child; assists Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt; and provides life-affirming resources and an Orthodox Christian education program for Pure Living/Abstinence.*

of God pleading her intercession and aid. Groups can ask a speaker to come and educate the faithful on what can be done to help the Pro Life movement, and more people can become involved in the ZOE for Life! ministry. Papa Demetri also told of several Pro Life organizations with which one can become involved, such as Heartbeat International and 40 Days for Life. Papa Demetri encouraged and inspired us to become involved.

Papa Demetri urged us with much love, telling us that it is past the 11th hour, and we must pray and act! Further, that "If we do what is in our power (to help and save pre-born babies), God will do what is in His power." But we must begin. May God give us His grace to lovingly help others to see and accept that life is a precious, sacred gift from Him which begins at conception and that there are life affirming choices for pregnant mothers. May we truly become a Voice for the Voiceless!

*\*We hope to post Papa Demetri's complete remarks on our website, [www.zoeforlifeonline.org](http://www.zoeforlifeonline.org).*