



THE LAMENT OF RACHEL

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**An Orthodox Christian Initiative**

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## Be His Church

Following Christ's Resurrection, faith was abundant. Christ had Risen! He was seen by many, and even Ascended into Heaven right in front of them! Who had ever seen such a thing? It was an awe inspiring time to be a believer.

His faithful gathered in homes, like yours, to share the good news, to be strengthened in the faith by teaching, and to grow in the Spirit by the partaking of His Body and Blood. They assisted one another out of their abundance, joyfully, knowing that whatever they had, had been given them by the very Hand of God. Those who were in need asked without shame, knowing they would not be judged, but assisted with love. Christians dedicated themselves to the Lord and one another, bearing each others' burdens, lifting each other up, blessing one another however possible.

This is the Church that flourished, despite hardships and persecutions. These are the seeds the Lord planted by His own Hand while still among us. This is the faith we inherited. This was, and is, His Church.

Have we allowed the things of this world to dilute this faith, making our responsibilities to Him less urgent? Do we rely on our splendid buildings and our clergy to deliver the love the Lord Himself gives freely to each of us? Is that how the early Church grew?

To be in church only to observe is not fruitful. Neither is it beneficial for us to fast and attend services if we do not walk in His Footsteps. We cannot be Christians for a few hours, one day a week, only. In order to be truly His, we must become His active Reflection in the world around us. We must take His Church out of the buildings and into the streets.

Our joy in the Risen Lord must spill out of us and onto those who do not know Him: His love for us; His compassion for us; His Forgiveness and Mercy. Then our Church will be His living, breathing Body. Then we will Be His Church.

## Volunteer Training at ZOE House

On Wednesday, February 1st, our volunteers met at ZOE House to explore how we could offer more services to our clients. These beautiful women, some of whom you see here, have worked tirelessly to offer the love of Christ to those who come to us, lacking the basic necessities to provide a safe and healthy home for their

little ones. We are so fortunate to be working with such loving women!

Their input to how we address those who seek our assistance was invaluable, and has already begun to shape our new efforts. God bless them, every one!



*Left photo from left to right: Diane Hastings, Sue Range, Shirley Kules, Krista Kaminsky and Marianne Kormos.*

*Right photo from left to right: Presvytera Nicole Keares, Nayla Aboumrad, Gail Malaniak, Presvytera Lena Athanasiou, Presvytera Goldie Doukas and Betty Swingos.*



# 2016 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:

Adrian and Emilia  
All precious babies born  
All Present and Past Members of  
    Philoptochos Chapter 6018  
All those that you serve  
Maria G. Antonakas  
Bishop Gregory of Nyssa  
Each one of you who do for the unborn  
    babies and to help the single  
    mothers and their children. I  
    thank you  
For the Glory of God!  
Fr. and Pani William George  
Benjamin Grysiak  
Charles and Cleo Hoy  
LIFE!  
Matrix Life Care Center Lafayette  
Deacon John A. Pantelis on his 60th  
    Birthday 5-16-2016  
Members of Aliquippa Philoptochos  
Alwyn Minamyer (a saved life)  
Lli Nelson  
Irene Tunanidas - Advocate for the Deaf  
    and Hearing Impaired  
The 50th Wedding Anniversary of Jerome  
    and Daria Petrykowski  
Wishing you many helpful, happy years  
    in your new ZOE Home  
Xristos Anesti!

## In Memory of:

All precious babies unborn  
All the anonymous aborted babies  
    throughout the world  
All Unborn  
Artemis Bastar  
Katherine, Constantine and Basil Avdelis  
Lydia Cherep Becker  
Nicholas Bellas  
Elenor Bourjaily  
Caryn Cherpas  
Anna Ciuba  
Fanny, Nicholas, George, Catherine,  
    Anthi, Constantine, Fanny  
    and Stathi  
Hilary  
Baby Jovan  
John Kappos  
Mary Klonaris  
Angie Lakios  
Mary Lucak  
Luda's Parents, Alex and Nadia  
    Anikienko  
Gerasimos Manalis  
Manuel and Lydia  
Ann Matsko  
Maximos  
Mark Mosconas  
Mother Alexandra  
Hristos (Chris) J. Murton and Aphrodite  
    (Friede) W. Murton

Simeon Giac Viet Nguyentan  
Our Parents  
Starr Pawliczka  
Charles and Frances Oyer  
(parents) Helen and Charles  
Fr. Alexander Schmemann  
Phillip Serene  
Stephen Sidonik, Sr.  
Samuel S. Stive  
Peter Demetrios Tatsis  
The Unborn  
John Vedouras  
Millie Vovos  
Michael Vuich  
Winnie Wangler  
V. Rev. Protopresbyter Gregory Williams  
John Zarras  
Zoe, Helen Agafia, Lydia

## For the Special Occasion of:

Baptism of Izabelle Marie Wyborski on  
    Thomas Sunday 2016  
Christmas  
Mother's Day  
The Birthday of Fr. John Nakonachny  
The Glory of God!  
Holy Pascha  
Nativity of Christ  
Opening of ZOE Women's Center  
Pascha  
Supporting One Person for 2017

## Carpatho-Russians Support Life

***Our hearts are full to bursting with thanks to our Carpatho-Russian sisters and brothers in Christ.*** Under the guidance of His Grace, Bishop GREGORY, his faithful most generously stocked our shelves with always needed diapers and wipes, along with every other conceivable baby item new mothers need to provide a safe and healthy home for their little ones.

God bless you for all the love you have offered His tiniest souls!

## Great Lent Giveaway to Benefit ZOE for Life!

Under the direction of Archbishop-Elect Daniel, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA have undertaken projects to benefit ZOE for Life! How grateful we are to be supported by such a loving collection of His Children. We will also be spotlighted during church camp events this summer. Please accept our warmest thanks for all you are doing to support His little ones!

# Greetings from ZOE for Life!

## Livonia, Michigan

The Michigan chapter of ZOE for Life continues to grow, slowly but surely. We have formed a personal relationship with many of the moms that we have been ministering to for 18 months, still providing them with diapers, wipes and age-appropriate clothing. We look forward to seeing their infants/toddlers as they grow during our visits to Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church on the first Sunday of each month.

During the Nativity Fast season, we were incredibly blessed to receive a magnanimous financial contribution from an anonymous donor who attends St. Vladimir Orthodox Church in Ann Arbor (ROCOR). The only stipulation that the donor made was that it be used wherever and however ZOE deemed fit to help the moms we serve. Perhaps to pay a delinquent utility bill, a car repair, a down payment on rent, etc. We will be very judicious in how and where we spend these funds, keeping in mind ZOE's mission and the needs of the moms and children that we serve.

This windfall has and will allow us to expand our outreach beyond simply providing moms with diapers and layette items (not that those things aren't gratefully appreciated and needed!). For instance, the vehicle of one of our moms broke-down in early January and she could not afford to fix it. ZOE was able to pay for the repair, to include a much needed tune-up and a new set of tires. Without this generous donation, we would not have been able to assist her. She was so very thankful, because she is a single mom (as are all of the women we minister to), had a part-time job and was so fearful that she would lose her employment without reliable transportation.

Very recently (February 19), the car of another one of our moms was vandalized while she was attending the hot meal that Ss. Peter and Paul provides to the homeless and poor every Sunday. She was so distressed to walk out to her van, only to find that the windshield wipers had been torn off while she and her 2 young children were enjoying their dinner! Once again, "ZOE to the rescue" and we were able to pay for the replacement of her windshield wipers.

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What would be a minor bump in the road for many of us is a huge financial burden to the poor and needy that we serve and can mean the difference between feeding their children or paying a bill. We are so grateful to work closely with ODO (Orthodox Detroit Outreach)... between their goods works and ZOE's ministry, we are able to heed God's call to feed the hungry and clothe the poor.

We appreciate your continued prayers and spiritual support. Any monetary donations you are able to provide will be accepted with great joy! Checks can be made payable to ZOE for Life!-Livonia, MI and mailed to P.O. Box 258, Farmington, MI 48332.

With love in Christ,  
ZOE for Life! – Livonia, Michigan  
855-ZOE-LIFE (855-963-5433) • [www.zoehousemi.org](http://www.zoehousemi.org)  
Email: [info@zoehousemi.org](mailto:info@zoehousemi.org)

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## Volunteers Sought

We have created ZOE Women's Center Medical Committee to help us move forward with our plans to expand the services we offer women in distress due to unplanned pregnancies. Some of these services are parenting classes, abortion healing classes, child raising classes, as well as offering some abortion vulnerable women limited obstetrical ultrasounds, pre-natal vitamins and referrals to doctors for obstetrical care.

If you have a few hours a week, and can volunteer to be a: Client Advocate • Receptionist • Community Coordinator • Nurse • Sonographer • Fund Raiser • Medical Assistant • Physicians Assistant • Administrative Assistant.

**WE NEED YOU!** Please contact Despina at: [despina@mavrakisfamily.com](mailto:despina@mavrakisfamily.com). **THANK YOU!**



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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ZOE for Life! is a non-profit, Christ-centered organization with three major goals:

- To help women who need confidential emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies;
- To assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt;
- To provide an Orthodox Christian education for Pure Living and other resources.



Friend us on Facebook

## Wish List for ZOE House

- Financial donations in any amount (always our greatest need)
- Target, Walmart or Visa gift cards
- Diapers, Baby Wipes
- Baby Wash Cloths, Baby Towels
- Baby Shampoo, Baby Lotion
- New Infant Cars seats (asked for every day!)
- Pack and Plays
- Newborn Clothing, Blankets
- Strollers
- High Chairs
- Baby Swings

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## 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@Inmavrakisfamily.com](mailto:despina@Inmavrakisfamily.com).*



## Akathist for the Unborn

Once again, St. Matthew the Evangelist Orthodox Church in North Royalton, OH, lead by Fr. Andrew Harmon, acted as host to our annual Prayer for the Unborn. Accompanied by Fr. Remus Grama of St. Mary Cathedral in Cleveland, and Fr. Costa Keares of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in North Royalton, we were led in a beautiful supplication service.



At the reception immediately following, Karen Contoveros and Dawn Koukios, two of the dedicated volunteers at ZOE House, shared moving stories of some of those they have assisted there.

Afterwards, Maria Bartan, a parishioner of Fr. Grama, showed us handmade bracelets she had made to give to

our struggling moms, with the promise to make more. What smiles she has brought to our clients faces through her handiwork.

Sister Anastasia of St. Sava Monastery in Richfield, offered to have some of the women who knit for her make baby blankets for our newborns. These are received with so much gratitude from our moms, many of whom have no other support system to help them nurture their little ones.

Thank you to everyone who came to pray with us, and continue to pray to save the lives of the unborn!

*Speakers Karen Contoveros and Dawn Koukios.*

