



Volume 16, Issue 2/Summer 2015

**An Orthodox Christian Initiative**

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## ZOE for Life! is Going Medical!!

In the past we have been able to help mothers and infants by meeting some of their material, and spiritual needs. While this is a very needed and worthwhile service, we recognize the multi-faceted needs of women and men in crisis pregnancy. We desire to assist them even further during this challenging time. Therefore, through the prayerful support of the faithful, ZOE for Life! is taking another step toward abundant life and, in faith, is beginning the process of adding peer counseling and limited medical services!

The first step in this journey has already begun, as we continue to search for a larger, more suitable space for this pan-orthodox ministry. Additionally, we have volunteer training scheduled for Saturday, November 24, 2015, for any and all who wish to participate. This will focus on basic verbal and nonverbal communication practices utilized in peer counseling situations, as well as practical exercises on introducing one to a relationship with Jesus Christ. (Please let us know if you would like to attend or if you have any questions about this.)

Next we will begin to develop policies and procedures for the medical component. This will consist of pregnancy testing and limited obstetrical ultrasound to confirm the viability of a pregnancy. Statistics tell us that as high as 90% of abortion-minded or abortion-vulnerable women who see an ultrasound of their babies choose not to abort. We believe that the impact of this service is just too significant to ignore.

Of course this means we need your support. You have been incredibly generous with your resources. That is what got us to this point. Now, as we move further into our mission statement, we need you even more. Please prayerfully consider donating your resources: time, expertise, finances, and prayers. It is a very exciting time to be a part of the ZOE for Life! ministry. To get involved now, call Kathy at 440-842-6639.

God bless you for all you do to save His little ones!

## Follow the Peace

She was a petite woman, perhaps in her thirties, someone you would naturally be drawn to; someone you would want to be friends with.

Yet there she stood, at the back of the little collection of people, weeping quietly.

She would not lift her eyes, just continued staring at the floor, keeping her distance, while other people came forward and shared their thoughts. Her suffering was so compelling, it was difficult not to tear oneself away, and reach for her, embracing her in the hope of offering some sort of consolation.

Finally, when everyone else had moved away, she came closer.

After a few moments, she confided, "I had an abortion when I was in college," her voice caught in her throat.

She gathered herself with a big breath.

"But I'm married now. My husband and I have three beautiful children."

"How wonderful."

*continued on page 6*

# Annual Parish Life Conference for the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

From July 1 to 5, Saiyedna (Metropolitan) Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, generously invited volunteers Helen and George Chala, Sr., to represent ZOE for Life! at the conference held this year in Irvine, CA. We must thank Fr. Josiah, Fr. Kevorkian and George Younes, who were most helpful in facilitating the presence of ZOE for Life! at the Conference.

The message of ZOE for Life! was well received, and every attendant was presented with a ZOE for Life! pamphlet in their registration packet. Helen and George enjoyed a most wonderful reception at the conference. Everybody was supportive of what ZOE for Life! stands for: saving the life of the unborn.

From the questions asked, it was clear that most were very surprised to hear that Orthodox Christian women have abortions! Helen and George explained that it is because the Orthodox Christians are a very close knit society, (everyone knows every family), and that women in crisis prefer to get abortions to avoid any whisper of embarrassment to their families.

This Parish Life Conference was very informative and well organized. It was an honor to be there.

We at ZOE for Life! want to thank Saiyedna Joseph, for his support and approval in allowing us to participate in this well attended Parish Life Conference, and Helen and George Chala, Sr., for representing us so well!

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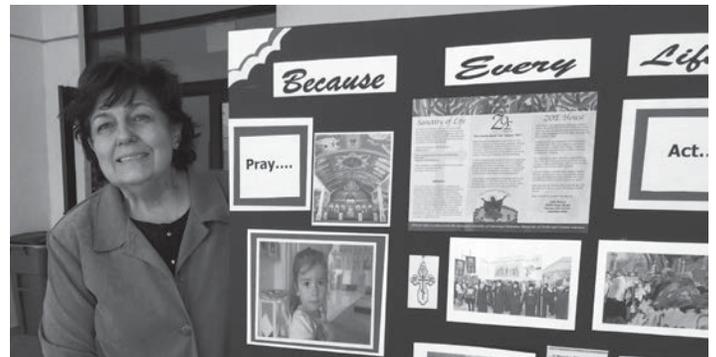
## “A Taste of Greece” Greek Festival

St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA. Held a beautiful festival! Thank you to Fr. Steven Tschlis for inviting ZOE for Life! to be present, to share its message.

The festival began with a short prayer service by Father Steven in the beautiful sanctuary of St. Paul’s Church. From there we moved out to the large festival grounds. Helen and I had already set up the ZOE for Life! display, so we decided to get some dinner and pastries and bring them over to our booth.

Wowzzie what a delight of genuine Greek goodies! We got calamari , moussaka, spanakopita and gyro in pita bread, yogurt sauce and veggies ( delicious ). We then attacked the pastries: loukoumathes, baklava, and a very sweet walnut pistachio mix pie.

The next day it was chicken and rice in a delicious kapama sauce along with dolmathes and keftethes and



then of course those great Greek pastries. All washed down with a great aromatic Greek coffee.

As my wife Helen and I enjoyed this great banquet at our booth, people stopped and asked questions about ZOE for Life! The message we tried to convey is: “It is our Lord Christ Jesus’ commission to help save the life of his babies in the womb.” This is the main reason we do this wonderful God given work.

We handed out pamphlets and answered many questions, and made new friends for ZOE for Life!

This work we do is pleasing to our Lord Christ Jesus and we don’t even feel like we are working!

*ZOE for Life! Volunteer, George Chala, Sr. (left) and Helen Chala (top), at the “Taste of Greece” Greek Festival.*



# Volunteer Training - November 24th, 2015

ZOE for Life! is offering, for the first time, Volunteer Training. This is just the beginning in our expansion of the services we offer. ZOE is growing and this opportunity for Volunteer Training is part of that growth.

We will explore "The LOVE Approach". Love, in this case, is an acronym for Listen, Open Options, Vision and Values, and Extend and Empower. Primarily we will be focusing on communication, utilizing the reality that God is a relational God and we are called to follow His example by forming relationships with our 'clients' and others.

There will also be some great information regarding sexual integrity, fertility, fetal development, and very basic legal issues regarding helping others.

Ready to be better equipped at being a peer-to-peer counselor, and assisting women in crisis? We are ready to show you, step by step, how best to work with women in distress.

On Saturday, November 24th, we will meet at 9:30am at Holy Trinity, 6822 Broadview Road, in Parma, Ohio. Join us to hone your skills, have your questions answered, and be better prepared to do what the Lord is calling you to do.

Call Kathy at 440-842-6639 to reserve your space for this dynamic training session, but hurry, space is limited!

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## Join Our Bottles for Babies Campaign

Are you interested in saving the lives of His littlest ones, but don't know what one person can do? Then ZOE's Bottles for Babies Campaign is for you.

We want to send you a baby bottle, and ask you to fill it with loose change. What could be easier? 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!

Where you work could also be a place to make your bottle available, or at church during coffee hour, at Bible study, anywhere like-minded people meet.

Create a fundraising event at your parish. We can send you helpful tips on how to maximize your efforts!

This could be done every day at your place, or in public places at special times of the year, like the Nativity Fast, Fast for Great Lent, and between Mothers Day and Fathers Day. You can contact us with any questions at [zoeforlifeonline.org](http://zoeforlifeonline.org), or by phone at 440-893-9990.

So please, take a moment and fill out this form and you can place it in the envelope provided. We promise to get your bottle out to you, pronto!

Thank you in advance for your support, and thank you for all you do, to protect His little ones!

### 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!*



Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Baby Bottles!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# Detroit Choir Honors ZOE for Life!

Saturday, May 2, 2015, is a day that will live in the memories of supporters of ZOE for Life! for years to come. On that day, the Orthodox Choir of Detroit, sponsored by The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit, traveled to St. Mary Romanian Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio, the parish of Father Remus Grama, to share their awe inspiring music.

***Under the unquestionably masterful direction of Matushka Kopistiansky, these extraordinary voices lifted us all spiritually.***

Under the unquestionably masterful direction of Matushka Kopistiansky, these extraordinary voices lifted us all spiritually. "Let us lift up our hearts", as our clergy prays in the Divine Liturgy. The choir shared sacred hymns in several different languages, but their celestial delivery overcame all barriers. Their music spoke to our hearts. Their voices were so joyful and pure, that listening to them one imagined that Heaven itself must be filled with such loving and tender hymns of praise to our Almighty God. We are still enraptured by the warm cocoon of adoration they created.

This is the first time the choir has traveled outside of

greater Detroit. The choir members gave up many hours of rehearsal, and their entire day on Saturday, to support our life saving work. One choir member left her husband in Washington, DC, to sing for us!

Like ZOE for Life!, the Orthodox Choir of Detroit is comprised of members from many jurisdictions. They are a stunningly beautiful example of how through

unity, God can be praised more powerfully, and His message can be shared more broadly.

Many thanks must be given to Fr. Grama, Fr. John, and the parishioners of St. Mary's who graciously opened their Cathedral and their hearts to us, even preparing a lovely reception following the concert.

We will always be grateful to Fr. Laurence Lazar, John Lazar, and the entire Orthodox Choir of Detroit for traveling to Cleveland to benefit ZOE for Life! The concert was unquestionably a stellar event, one we will all cherish.



# Greetings from ZOE for Life! – Livonia, Michigan

On August 11, 2015, ZOE for Life! – Livonia, Michigan delivered 652 disposable diapers and 900 baby wipes to the FOCUS Motor City Resource Room. We did this as a first step toward accomplishing our mission, to assist women in crisis pregnancies. We are confident that by doing so, we will increase the awareness in the community that we are here to help our sisters and brothers in distress due to unplanned pregnancies, and their little ones.

We feel that we can mutually benefit from a partnership that shares similar goals. As we gain momentum within the Orthodox community in the metropolitan Detroit area, we hope that Orthodox church organizations will embrace our cause. We look forward to their support either financially, or by holding their own baby shower or diaper drive. We hope they will collect diapers and baby wipes, as well as new and gently worn layette items, blankets and strollers that we, in turn, will deliver to those in need, at absolutely no cost to them. As we have received 501c(3) status from the IRS, all donations are tax deductible.

By working closely with COCC (Council of Orthodox

Christian Churches) of Metropolitan Detroit, we will endeavor to increase our outreach and provide spiritual and material assistance to an ever widening circle of clients.



Our next monthly meeting will take place on Monday, September 14th at 7:00 at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church. Paula Kappos from Cleveland, Ohio will be joining us, and would love to meet you! Please join us if you can!

Our group is very excited to begin spreading the good works and goals of ZOE and we are grateful for your prayers, love and support. Any donations you are able to provide will be accepted with great joy.

With love in Christ,  
ZOE for Life! – Livonia, Michigan P.O. Box 258  
Farmington, MI 48332-0258 Phone: 855-ZOE-LIFE  
(855-963-5433) Web – [www.zoehousemi.org](http://www.zoehousemi.org)  
E-mail – [info@zoehousemi.org](mailto:info@zoehousemi.org)

## Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly & Philoptochos Conference

From June 24 - 26, 2015 in Columbia, SC, His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios, Atlanta Diocesan Philoptochos President, Dee Nicolaou, and the parish of Holy Trinity in Columbia, SC, welcomed us into their midst. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to share the mission of ZOE for Life! with our loving and compassionate sisters and brothers in Christ. Their genuine hospitality and warm welcome made us feel instantly at home!

We were honored to speak at their Clergy-Laity Luncheon, and were immediately embraced by their obvious Christ-like love. Through their generosity and support, more than \$3200.00 was donated to help save the lives of unborn souls, who are unable to speak for themselves.

With overflowing hearts, we thank you!

*ZOE for Life! really was recognized in Atlanta at the All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. Pictured here with our new display are Father Mark Hodges sons Micah, 17 and Benjamin, 15 and lovely wife Matushka Donna and Daria Petrykowski, right, ZOE Vice President.*





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Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

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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

## Follow the Peace *cont ...*

She hesitated. "My husband doesn't know," she whispered.

She waited.

"Have you gone to confession?"

"How can I? How can God possibly forgive me? I can't forgive myself." Her voice broke, and sobs followed.

That's when the embrace came, an effort to transmit His love to her.

"Are you greater than God? How can we measure His mercy by our poor human abilities? He will lift this from you, if you confess from your heart."

"I don't think I can."

"You have to. The evil one relishes your suffering, he thrives on it. For how many years have you been carrying this burden in silence? The Lord offers peace. He will give you His peace."

So many times women in crisis are frantic, out of their minds with worry, wondering what to do, not knowing which way to turn. Being torn, pulled apart by boyfriends, parents, friends.

This simple statement, to follow the peace, always leads to God, and to life.

We hope to be able to share more of His Peace, as we move forward to create a Women's Center. Please help us make this happen, if you can. God bless you!

## What does God have to do with sex?

A Pure Living spiritual expedition sponsored by ZOE for Life! Teens & Twenties don't miss this opportunity!

What does God have to do with sex is a chance for you to recognize how precious you are in the sight of God. This expedition is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Orthodox faith.

Saturday, October 24th 2015

9:30 am-5pm

Vespers at 5pm

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

6822 Broadview Road

Parna, OH 44134

Let us know if you are coming. RSVP and bring

**1 non-perishable food item** with you!

Email: [lea.g.khoury@gmail.com](mailto:lea.g.khoury@gmail.com)

or call **Lea Khoury (216) 551-7650**

"For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Ephesians 5:30-31)