



An Orthodox Christian Initiative
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March for Life in Washington, DC

Every year since 1974, the March for Life has taken place in Washington, DC. This year was special as, for the first time ever, a sitting President of the United States came and addressed all of us. If you missed it, you can hear the speech of President Donald Trump on Youtube.

Representatives from ZOE for Life!®, Orthodox Christians for Life, seminarians and Orthodox Christians from around the country were there. His Beatitude TIKHON, Primate of the Orthodox Church of America, invited us all to a hierarchical Diving Liturgy which was held at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington. He was joined there by Bishop Apostolos, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (who offered the opening prayer at the March), Bishop David of Alaska, from the OCA,

Archbishop Melchisedek of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, from the OCA, Archbishop Michael of New York, of the OCA, Bishop Paul of Chicago, of the OCA, Bishop Daniel Diocese of the West, of the OCA., and Bishop Thomas of Charleston, of the Antiochian Archdiocese. We met His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, when we converged at the Mall. Our beloved Hierarchs offered special prayers of supplication for the Orthodox Christians gathered there, before we began the march to the steps of the Supreme Court.

Next year the March will take place on January 29th. Come with us!

First Row L to R, His Beatitude TIKHON of the OCA; Paula Kappos, Bob and Kathy Kovalak, and Lisa Palivoda. Bottom Row L to R, Kathy, Bishop Paul of the OCA, Paula Kappos; Bishop David of Alaska (OCA), Bishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh (OCA), Archbishop Daniel of the UOC, His Beatitude TIKHON (OCA), Archbishop Michael of New York (OCA), Bishop Paul of Chicago (OCA) and Bishop Daniel of the West (OCA).



How ZOE for Life!® Began

On a warm sunny day in 1998, a group of Orthodox church friends sat on a porch in deep conversation. They discussed how the Lord had blessed each one of them and how they would like to serve Him in some way. As a result, a survey was sent to female parishioners at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Cleveland Heights, OH, to see what they felt was the greatest social need, and where they would like to get involved and make a difference. The survey revealed three major areas of interest: battered women and children, an Orthodox adoption agency, and women in distress due to unplanned pregnancies.

After meeting with representatives of the Ohio Department of Health and Family Services, executive directors of crisis pregnancy centers and representatives from Care Net, a national Christian organization that fosters crisis pregnancy centers, they were stunned to learn that the Orthodox community very likely suffers higher abortion rates than the national norm. Clergy sadly confirmed this, stating that women in crisis due to unplanned pregnancies only discussed this during confession.

These conversations galvanized the friends as nothing else had. They began meeting in earnest to create and develop an organization that catered to this urgent need. So, ZOE for Life!® (which means 'life' in Greek) was born.

ZOE for Life!® won the important endorsement of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), the predecessor to the

Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America in 2003.

In the summer of 2006, ZOE for Life!® opened the doors to ZOE House - its first community outreach center serving the northeast Ohio area. It helps women who have chosen life but are struggling to provide daily necessities for their newborn and serves as a place for support and counseling. ZOE House also serves as a repository for physical necessities including maternity clothing, diapers, wipes, pack and plays, car seats and clothing for newborns and toddlers. In 2019, ZOE House served 600 families, 300 of them being new clients.

The ministry these friends thought of on a porch many years ago continues to grow.

Since then, ZOE for Life!® opened its first chapters. Detroit, MI in August 2015 which was subsequently moved to Ann Arbor, MI in November 2018.

In 2019, ZOE Women's Center™ opened. ZOE Women's Center™ offers women pregnancy testing, confirmation of pregnancy viability via limited obstetrical ultrasounds, health information, adoption referrals, post-abortion and sexual healing groups and support in an unplanned pregnancy.

Left: Prayer Service for the Unborn 1-19-20 at St. Matthew the Evangelist Orthodox Church in North Royalton.

Right: A simultaneous prayer service was held at Ss. Peter & Paul in Burr Ridge, Illinois



2019 Gifts

To all those who donate to preserve life, please accept our sincere thanks! To be better Stewards of your generosity, we are no longer printing the names of each Donor. We hope that our personal letters of thanks express to you our never ending gratitude. We are sharing those gifts made for special commemorations. **God bless you all!**

In Honor of:

Bulko Grandchildren
Damian
Mary Demas
Dove Grandchildren
Eastern Orthodox Clergy Association of
the Mahoning Valley
St. Elia (OCA) Akron, OH
Father Don Anthony Freude
The Glory of God
Benjamin Grysiak
The Holy Theotokos Mother of God
Paula Kappos
Milissa
Pohly Grandchildren
Health of Family [from Ekaterini
Poulakos]
Michael Roshak
Sharon Shuto
Unborn babies

In Memory of:

Adam
Violet Allard
Matushka Andrea
Sandra, Alex, & Sarah Asik
George Bacatselos
John & Anna (Kost) Bacik
Lydia Becker
Fr. Steven Beloride
Elizabeth Benson
Stanley & Violet-Ann Custer

Daria
Deceased Members of Sts. Peter & Paul
Russian Church
John Demas
Emilee
Bishop Mark Forsberg
Dn. Basil & Matushka Barbara Frenchek
Catherine van der Goes
Rose Golio
Anatoly Ignater
The Innocents
Issa
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V. Rev. Stephen Karaffa
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Nun Olga
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Roseanne Sepsick
Philip Serene
Presvytera Olympia Simeonidis
Anthony Sirabella
Mary Smith
Mary, Mother of Charlotte Staviski
Wafra
Deacon John Zarras

For the Special Occasion of:

Christmas
Feast of the Nativity
Feast of the Transfiguration
Holy Resurrection of Christ
Nativity of Christ
Nativity of Christ Jan 2019
Retreat Sponsorship from [Clergy of
Cleveland]
Tony's birthday, brother of Olga Ptach

Prayers for the Living:

Eric Nektarios
Melony Photini

**ZOE for Life!® is searching for Cleveland based Radiologist to assist with UltraSound services.
Please phone 440/893-9990 if you have an interest or can serve.**

ZOE for Life!® Binghamton Chapter

Plans are proceeding for the formation of the ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier chapter. Lay people and clergy from parishes along New York State's Southern Tier--Binghamton, Johnson City, Vestal, Endicott, Ithaca, Lansing, and Elmira Heights--have formed a steering committee that has been meeting to write bylaws and begin the process of filing the necessary paperwork for incorporation and obtaining 501(c)(3) status. The members have contacted and visited existing local crisis pregnancy organizations to gather information regarding the need for services in the area. The committee has decided to forge ahead with establishing the chapter while we continue to discuss and pray about our focus.

In November we received good news from the National Jr. ACRY, the philanthropic group of

the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A. The group provides opportunities for youth ages 8-18 to live their faith in action and be connected to other Orthodox youth from across the diocese. Every year they organize a National Jr. ACRY Lenten Mission Project where all chapters raise funds for a common cause. At its recent convention last Labor Day weekend, the National Jr. ACRY decided that this Great Lent they will be supporting the new ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier chapter.

For more information about ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier, contact Matushka Marge Kappanadze at mkappanadze@gmail.com or (607) 259-2646. Please remember our efforts in your prayers.



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 Georgiann at cgbod@sbcglobal.net.



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"ZOE for Life!® is a Christian ministry which affirms the value of all life by helping women in a confidential manner during and after crisis pregnancies. We are committed to providing care, support and education to empower women to make decisions everyone can live with."

Our days are full of distractions ...

This world is rife with temptations to steer us away from what is truly needful. Our good intentions are easily pushed aside by the 'urgencies' of our professional, financial, and social pursuits. We want to be admired and respected for the image we present to the world. What about the image only He can see?

We are all invited to live these upcoming days approaching Easter with a more focused effort to know Him more intimately. To reflect Him in our lives. Fasting, charity and almsgiving, service to others all offer opportunities to live our lives closer to His example.

But what does He tell us? "... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." (Matthew 6:18). Here is the challenge. Doing our spiritual work in secret.

For every day leading to Easter, do one good thing that will pass without notice. Do it without the expectation of repayment. Just one thing. Every day. It can be as simple as a telephone call to someone you haven't seen for a while, or a card to someone who is ill or struggling, or helping a stranger carry their groceries, or smiling and encouraging the person who is facing you. For that moment, be there with them. Particularly if it is difficult. Especially if it is difficult. There are people who are suffering beyond our imaginings. People who struggle

just to face the world. People who are alone and bereft of the smallest kindness. Who among us truly knows the hearts of men? No one on this side of heaven. What you do in secret will stretch your soul, exercise your faith, and expand your heart.

Forgive, forgive quickly, and with your whole heart. Rid yourself of every grievance you have suffered. Forgive and do not judge. They are loved by the Most High as much as you are loved. Are any of us blameless? Are any without fault? Does that person even exist?

Free yourself from the ceaseless cares of this world. Give yourself the chance to run into His open arms. Do these things in secret, "... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." (Matt 6:18)

Praying this Lenten season bring you more of Him, and less of the world. May God bless you for all you do!

Newsletter Sign-up ...

The ZOE for Life!® newsletter provides important information, as well as news on activities and events of interest. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please go the web address below and sign-up.

<http://www.zoeforlife.org/Newsletter.htm>

