



To awaken hearts to the truth that
life is sacred, giving glory to God.

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www.zoeforlife.org

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Bringing America Back to Life

Defenders of life celebrate the Supreme Court's recent reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, with their decision that the Constitution of the United States does not protect a pregnant woman's right to choose to have an abortion. Hopes and prayers of many believers have been answered. Of course, this does not outlaw abortion - it only defers to individual states to make laws for its citizens.

The reaction of those who support the jettisoning of children from the womb who are unwanted is extreme, as we have seen even before the final decision was released. As a result, millions upon millions of dollars are being pumped into abortion providers around the country in order to bolster their influence and the sway they wield over women in distress to terminate the lives of their own children. Last year one of the largest abortion providers in the United States received **22 million dollars** from private donors alone! How can we combat this tsunami of death-promoting ideology?

Soon we will be confronted by women in unplanned pregnancies angry and pressed to make speedy decisions about their pregnancies. We receive calls from women near and far, confused and frightened by the results of decisions they have made in the past. It appears to them now that they have even less time to consider their options in states, like Texas which have passed 'heartbeat' laws.

We spoke with an Executive Director of a Crisis Pregnancy Medical Center in Texas, where a law, which took effect last September, restricts abortion essentially at six weeks. What are they seeing in their area as a result of this law? Angry clients feel much more pressure to immediately abort their children, removing any opportunity to peacefully

consider an irrevocable decision. Their client advocates recognize that their first contact with a woman, usually by telephone, may be their only opportunity to befriend and counsel a woman, in an effort to give her the time and wisdom to consider the consequences of decisions she may make. That initial conversation may be the only chance she has to receive the support and encouragement, guided by faith, to stir their hearts to make a life-affirming decision.

If we are able to reach these women, and connect with them, they may come and receive the support we can offer, and perhaps actually see the child that they carry. Abortion clinics never offer this option. So women, in probably the most vulnerable time of their lives, are denied the knowledge and access to their own bodies and offspring before making a decision that changes the course of both their lives forever. You can help us navigate these murky waters during these dark times. First, with heartfelt prayers that God will place His Finger on the hearts of every misguided soul. Second, by your generous financial support. Scan this QR code to make a donation.



Finally, by helping us speak to mothers and fathers grappling with these decisions. Join us! Call us by calling 440-893-9990. We look forward to speaking with you. Live your faith, remembering that with God, we can help bring America back to life!

ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier Chapter News

The good news is that our storeroom and office are set up, and our website is published! The not-so-good news is that we're faced with the possibility of losing our space within the next couple of months as the building will likely change hands. Nonetheless, we persevere in progressing towards a grand opening. We're pursuing alternative options for office space while we put together a core of motivated volunteers with human services, medical, and counseling expertise who will be trained to meet with future clients. We've been blessed with a sizable monetary donation from an anonymous couple of philanthropists who are dedicated to supporting our work, as well as a modest grant from a local automobile dealership, and funds from a local parish's baby bottle drive.

Through your prayers, we remain convinced that God will provide the determination, financial support, loving volunteers, and physical space we need to continue.

Contact Matushka Marge Kappanadze at: mkappanadze@gmail.com or (607) 259-2646 for additional information.

Mailing address:
ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier
54 Baxter Street
Binghamton, NY 13905



Our recently donated sign!

ZOE Women's Center® Update

Exciting Opportunity for Executive Director of Women's Center®

We are seeking a Dedicated Christian and a passionate defender of life to serve as the Executive Director of our Women's Center®. She should maintain a consistent life affirming belief, have strong interpersonal communication skills, organizational skills, and be comfortable with public speaking and media relations. The Executive Director will be responsible for efficiently guiding the organization in the successful realization and management of the

Women's Center®, under the guidance of the Board of Directors and Medical Director, adhering to the Mission Statement and Statements of Faith and Principles. This is a full time position.

Resumes may be sent to: paulamk@roadrunner.com

Accounting Assistant Needed

ZOE for Life!® needs your help! If you have a background in Accounting and have a few hours a month to help with some basic Financial Statements, please contact Karen Contoveros, cell phone 440-759-6215. Please consider sharing your time and talent with this essential ministry.

Thank you.



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On the Sacredness of Human Life and its Untimely Termination

We are grateful that on June 19, 2022, our beloved Hierarchs published an official statement on the Orthodox teachings regarding life. We are honored to include the portion regarding abortion here. To read the entire statement, please go to

www.assemblyofbishops.org/news/2022/human-life-sacredness

Preamble

We, the members of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, promote and uphold the sacred and inviolable essence of human life. The continued challenges of our time prompt us to publish a more comprehensive statement of the Orthodox Church's regard for human life and, in particular, the termination of human life. Prepared by our Committee for Church and Society, and affirmed by the Assembly as a whole, this statement seeks to succinctly articulate Orthodox Christian teaching for the faithful and to continue the Church's tradition as a beacon and witness to life as freely given by our good and loving Creator.

Human Life is Sacred and Inviolable

The recognition of each human person as created in the image and likeness of God, destined for eternal life and therefore, sacred and inviolable, is a cornerstone of Christianity. Through the Church's canons, dogma, and moral code across the centuries, we have affirmed this understanding of human life from the womb to the tomb. These convictions are taught and witnessed by the Orthodox Church in all its manifestations around the world today. All human life is both sacred and inviolable, regardless of age, health, or any other status. Human life, including free will, is rightly understood as a gift from God, meant to be cherished and respected. We are all meant to "have life, and have it abundantly," as we know from our Good Shepherd (John 10:10-11). When human life is understood in this way, we are inclined to care deeply for one another and to cherish and protect each and every person.

Abortion

Our salvation begins with a conception. The Mother of God's miraculous conception of her son and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ marks the beginning of new life and hope in the world. As we sing in the Troparion that celebrates the Annunciation, "Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery!"

Our liturgical calendar includes other feasts of conception, including the Righteous Anna's Conception of the Mother of God and the Conception of John the Baptist by his parents Elizabeth and Zachariah. The Church has integrated these celebrations into its life not only as an affirmation of these figures who played such important roles in salvation history, but also because these feasts

teach us that human life is bestowed by God and that the origins of every new human being are clearly inseparable from conception. Therefore, human life in its earliest manifestations in the womb is sacred and inviolable. Any act to terminate life in the womb – whether by abortive medications, medical procedures, or destructive behavior – denies this truth, is considered murder, and risks terrible spiritual consequences for those involved.

As with any instance of sin, mercy and healing – not retribution and punishment – are the way of the Lord. The Church is called to minister to those seeking abortions, those who have had or those who have been forced to have abortions, and those who have performed abortions, knowing that abortions are often sought because of poverty, abuse, coercion, neglect, despair, or the influence of a life-denying ethos that has become a societal norm. Church-sponsored and other programs that provide spiritual, physical, psychological, and financial support to expectant single mothers and couples in situations in which abortion is being considered, and to young families in need of extra care, should be vigorously supported by the Church and the faithful.

Current societal trends condone abortions for what some perceive as non-desirable human qualities, including physical or chromosomal abnormalities, or a less desirable sex. The Church appreciates, respects, and cares for all manner of human life and, therefore, never condones abortion in these cases. Every human life is worthy of our prayer and protection.

The Assembly of Bishops has previously acknowledged that there are "rare but serious medical instances where mother and child may require extraordinary actions" (Statement on Sanctity of Life, 2019); see also Assembly of Bishops Endorses Alternatives to Women in Crisis Pregnancies, 2021). This refers to tragic situations in which an abortive measure will preserve life. For example, if both mother and unborn child will almost certainly perish should the pregnancy continue but the mother will likely live if an abortion is administered, the Church grieves the tragedy of the situation and offers space for the discernment of the mother, the father, and the pastor as to the most life-giving course of action. Yet, these situations are unique and unusual and do not condone abortion as a norm in any way. Furthermore, the Church does not accept contemporary thinking that links free will with the right to abortion.

We continue to uncompromisingly reject any acceptance of abortion, while creating a merciful and compassionate path for all of those who have experienced abortion to journey back to the Church and to re-commit to human life as sacred and inviolable.



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 for Life!®. Reuse and repeat! Contact Georgiann at cgbod@sbcglobal.net.



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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Are you a physician who is wanting to help confirm the sanctity life of the unborn? ZOE Women's Center® is in need of a licensed physician to read ultrasounds to confirm the viability of pregnancy. This is pro bono work, and currently occurs once a quarter. We are hoping this will increase. Please contact Paula at 440-893-9990 to help.

What's New at ZOE House®

Be His Loving Hands

Due to the war in Ukraine and other countries around the world, many families come to us without their husbands, with young children who need every kind of support we can offer. Often we receive calls from case workers from social service agencies, looking for help for these needy families. Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, ZOE House® is beautifully stocked with lovely clothing items and other baby items for families in need.

What we lack, are volunteers to meet with these women, many of whom have no other assistance available to them. It is wonderful that we as Orthodox Christians can help our sisters in Christ, but we could do so much more if we only had the hands of hearts to meet them.

Please, if you have a few hours a week, and the compassion to reach out to those in need, please contact ZOE House® at 216-465-9030, and offer your time and energy be a lifeline of support to His children to help them through this difficult time. YOU can be His Hands at ZOE House!®



Photos by Dianna Kall