



The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

JANUARY 2019

VOLUME 2.4

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Students from Fr. Gabriel Richard High School, along with other students and their chaperones, attended the 2018 March for Life in Washington D.C. March for Life President Jeanne Mancini says that the large majority of those attending the annual march are youth: teens, "tweens," and millennials.¹

"We are the Pro-Life Generation!"

Even the secular media are finding it hard to ignore the growing number of young people in the pro-life movement.

As far back as 2010, *Newsweek* quoted the reaction of then-President of NARAL Nancy Keenan to the large numbers attending the 37th March for Life: "There are so many of them, and they are so young."² More recently in 2016 a headline in *The Washington Times* read, "March for Life buoyed by young people opposing abortion in

increasing numbers."³ And an opinion piece published just before the 2018 March for Life opened with this: "So you may like it or not like it, but thousands of young people are coming from all over the country to support the March for Life."⁴

I had the opportunity recently to talk with some Christ the King teens who

are part of the Pro-Life Club at Fr. Gabriel Richard High School. I asked them to share a little about what influenced their decision to get active in the pro-life movement, their experiences, and what they would say to other teens.

Several students spoke about the role of their

"We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit." - *Mission Statement of Christ the King*

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L'Chaim!

Catholics are urged to work for the protection of the lives of the unborn. ... At the same time, Catholics are also called to reach out with help, support, compassion, and healing to those mothers who have had abortions. The merciful King of Kings desires all to be fully reconciled to Him



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

As they celebrate the New Year, Rosh HaShanah, the Jews greet each other with an expression of hope for the year, an expression that means, "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good year!" Being inscribed in that most crucial Book continues in the Christian tradition, as it is referenced, for example, at that most climactic moment in Creation, the Last Judgement, when admission to Heaven is given to those whose names are found in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 20).

As we enter the secular new year, having that expression be the attitude and intent that we bring to this new year is certainly appropriate, i.e., that especially those we know and love would live this new year in a way that truly honors the Lamb! For Catholics especially, as we begin our new year honoring the Mother of God, we would do well to encourage one another to live in a way that honors her Son. Some of the Fathers of the Church like to contrast the roles of the two great mothers in our life: Mary and Eve. Eve is named Eve because she is the mother of the living. Eve is the mother of those born; Mary, the Mother of those born again!

In Hebrew the word we translate "Eve" would be



L'Chaim literally means "To life!"

Life is the first gift we are given, a gift from the Holy One of Israel.

better spelled *Cheve*. It comes from the Hebrew root meaning *life*, the same as the expression *L'Chaim*, which literally means "To life!" Life is the first gift we are given. We see it as a gift, a gift essentially from the Holy One of Israel, Who Himself creates every immortal human soul, made in His image and likeness, a unique person, created to know and to love Him in this life and in the life of eternity. On Rosh HaShanah, the Jews eat an apple dipped in honey, a hopefully prophetic act symbolizing the hoped for sweetness of the New Year. We are given life that we may know the sweetness of walking with Him Who created us, Who gave us life.

Unfortunately, however, there are still so many who

are not given that opportunity to experience the gift of creation, to walk in the sweetness of that life here on Earth, because their lives are intentionally ended before they can even leave the womb. Some of the strongest statements of condemnation that are issued by the Church are against this act of abortion. It is one of the few actions specified in the Code of Canon Law that "automatically" excommunicates those who participate in it.

Catholics are urged to work for the protection of the lives of the unborn, especially by assisting those who need special support and help and love because of the circumstances of their pregnancies. At the same time, Catholics are also called to reach out with help, support, compassion, and healing to those mothers who have had abortions.

The merciful King of Kings desires all to be fully reconciled to Him. The attitude of the Catholic Faithful should mirror the intent of His Heart, a Heart filled with compassion and love for sinners, desiring all to be reconciled to Him and to His Father, that their names, too, would be in that Book of Life. We are also reminded that the worst sin any of us has committed is the worst sin that all of us have committed, that we are personally

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“We are the Pro-Life Generation!”



CTK teens in the FGRHS Pro-Life Club include (l-r) Grace Benz, Anna Benz, and Monica Blaney. They all agree with Grace: “There’s nothing better than being pro-life!”

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families in influencing them to get active in the pro-life movement. Monica Blaney, a 16-year-old junior, said, “My parents really tried to give my siblings and I the message that all life should be respected.”

That message was lived out in a very special way in her family when her little sister Mary Kate was born with Down’s Syndrome and a congenital heart disorder.

Senior Anna Benz, 17, and her 16-year-old sister Grace also talked about the effect of their parents and siblings. “My family is very pro-life,” said Anna. “My mom and dad worked in soup kitchens in New York for many years. My mom has started her own clinic in Detroit where she helps moms.” Grace agreed, saying, “They motivate me to want to do something about ending abortion.”

Senior Daniel Bischoff, 17, spoke about the influence of his 7th and 8th grade teacher Edmund Miller, one of the co-founders of Guadalupe Workers (www.guadalupeworkers.org). “One time I went to Detroit with Mr. Miller,” said Daniel. “He was

teaching moms [who Guadalupe Workers had helped choose life] and we played with their kids. It was amazing to think that these were kids who could have been aborted.”

Several students also mentioned the effect of attending the March for Life. Sophomore Joe Ghezzi, 16, who first attended the March for Life as his school’s 8th grade trip, remembered a particular moment during the march: “Getting to the top of the hill, turning, and seeing all the people behind you, filling the street. It made a big impact.”

It’s not just big events like the March for Life, though, that have influenced the students. Junior Teresa Hoving, 16, said, “For my Sophomore Service, I was assigned to help at ArborWoman. I didn’t interact

with the clients; I was doing things like helping to sort diapers. But that experience opened my eyes to the fact that everyone can do something in the pro-life movement.”

Nor were the activities solely related to abortion. Sophomore Geno Cousino, 15, noted, “My first pro-life activity was my favorite: playing piano at a nursing home and seeing the smiles on their faces.” Grace also spoke about the importance of serving the poor. “Being pro-life is more than just ending abortion.”



As he played with the children of moms who were helped by Guadalupe Workers, Daniel Bischoff said, “It was amazing to think that these were kids who could have been aborted.”

Teresa Hoving and Daniel Bischoff are also members of FGR’s Pro-Life Club. Teresa has learned, “Everyone can do something in the pro-life movement.”

When asked what they would like to say to their fellow teens who might read this article, Geno said, “Abortion is a real-life problem, and it’s only going to get worse.” In a similar vein, Monica said, “It can be really easy to desensitize yourself to issues like abortion. We need to make ourselves more aware of the problem. Make that commitment!”

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Created for this

Katie Perrotta joins the Sisters of Life

The entire Perrotta family (including a few members who didn't make it into this photo) travelled to New York in September to see off Katie as she joined the Sisters of Life.

Photo courtesy of Heidi Perrotta



In September 2018, Katie Perrotta joined the Sisters of Life in New York as a postulant. Katie, the daughter of Dominic and Heidi Perrotta, was active in the Students for Life at Eastern Michigan University and served as chair of the CTK Pro-Life Action Committee.

Before joining the Sisters, Katie worked as program coordinator for i.d.9:16, Renewal Ministries' outreach to young adults. This interview first appeared in the Renewal Ministries Newsletter, November 2018. Excerpts are reprinted here with their permission.

When did you feel called to religious life?

My Confirmation sponsor asked if I would have an openness to religious life. I said "yes." I see that as an opening of my heart to that possibility. However, I didn't think seriously about it until I met the Sisters of Life at a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) conference about five years ago.

What attracted you to the Sisters of Life?

In addition to vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, they vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. They make a total gift of themselves for the dignity of the human person.

At an i.d.9:16 retreat, I realized my heart breaks for women in crisis pregnancy and for their children. When I met the Sisters of Life, I saw so much of myself in them and a deeper reality to the meaning of love.

Tell us about your pro-life involvement.

My parents taught my ten siblings and I a deep understanding of the dignity and value of each person. Also, my mother had an innate ability to find people in need of help. She bought maternity clothes, cribs, and other things for them. Once she befriended a girl she met at Wal-Mart who was unmarried and had no family support. That girl came

to our house many times. My mom taught me that to be pro-life, you have to do something about it. It's a verb.

How did your dating relationship help you hear God's call?

I was dating a man who was faithful, ambitious, and caring, but God wasn't giving us the call to move forward. We had dedicated our relationship to Fr. Solanus Casey, who had done a litany to Our Lady of Loretto to discern his vocation, so we did that same novena last year. Shortly after it ended, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we had a staff Mass. During intentions, I prayed for women facing crisis pregnancies. Internally, I began to struggle. I finally told the Lord, "I'm ready to surrender this and give it to You."

The Lord then impressed upon my heart just how seriously He takes the lives of women facing crisis pregnancies and the lives of the children who are so vulnerable. He said, "Will you take on the cross for these women and children? Will you offer your life to comfort My Heart?" It was a voice not my own, but so calm and distinctly loving. I thought, "Thank You, Lord, for showing me what You created me and my heart for."

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My parents taught my ten siblings and I a deep understanding of the dignity and value of each person. ... My mom taught me that to be pro-life, you have to do something about it. It's a verb.

Saving Lives, Building Families

Family Life Services brings help and hope, one life at a time

Since its beginnings in the mid-1980s, hundreds of Christ the King parishioners have worked and volunteered for Family Life Services (FLS). Recently we asked Kathy Niemiec and Bonnie Mauch about their experiences with the ministry.

What is your role at FLS and what does it entail?

Kathy: I'm the staff RN Nurse Manager. My role is to help women in the first two trimesters of pregnancy to have their first ultrasound, receive prenatal vitamins, get medical insurance, enroll in the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) nutritional program, and help them make their first OB appointment for prenatal care.

Bonnie: I'm a volunteer counselor. I help women when they come for their initial visit for a pregnancy test. I also meet with other women with children and help them find the services they need.

How did you come to serve at FLS?

Kathy: Since I was young I've always had a passion for life and the poor. In 2011, as a widow, I needed to find work, so I prayed to God to lead me to a job where I could make a difference. On the next weekend, this FLS job appeared in our CTK bulletin. I interviewed for it that Tuesday and the following Tuesday I was hired!

Bonnie: The Holy Spirit, tugging on my heart, guided me to FLS. I was first introduced to the

Baby Bottle Boomerang program. Then I saw the little white house on Packard (where FLS used to be) and felt that I should check it out, but didn't. Then I helped at an event with another center and thought I should help out closer to home and see if FLS would want my help.

What prior work and/or volunteer experience helped prepare you for your position?

Kathy: As a Registered Nurse, I worked in Labor and Delivery and in Pediatrics at a children's hospital.

Bonnie: I love people and enjoy meeting women and men and showing them that the staff at FLS truly cares for them. I try to share God's love for them. I have had wonderful training sessions to help me prepare for volunteering at FLS. If anyone would have told me ten years ago that I would be working at a pregnancy center, I would have said, No way, I'm not prepared to do that. God puts you in a place where He can see you can make a difference, and He provides you with the skills you need if you ask Him.

Has anything surprised you as you've been serving there?

Kathy: What surprises me day after day is the incredible kindness and charity of our staff and volunteers for the women and families we serve.



Kathy Niemiec (l) and Bonnie Mauch are among the hundreds of Christ the King parishioners who have worked and volunteered over the years for Family Life Services.

They are full of joy and have hearts of gold in serving. In spite of the very sad things that can happen when a woman does choose abortion, and we grieve over this and for her, still our Lord is always with us because we pray for His forgiveness, love, and mercy. Being at peace with Him, we can then extend His peace to the women. That is why we are joyful!

Bonnie: It is such a blessing being there because I have met people from a different socio-economic background that I would not have been able to meet before. There is a very diverse group of women who have exposed me to other cultures and languages. I love how the staff is always working together and wants the best for the clients as well as the volunteers.

Do you have any stories you could share?

Kathy: We were doing an ultrasound for a lady who

"If anyone would have told me ten years ago that I would be working at a pregnancy center, I would have said, No way, I'm not prepared to do that. God puts you in a place where He can see you can make a difference, and He provides you with the skills you need if you ask Him."

—Bonnie Mauch

Saving Lives, Building Families



These staff and volunteers from the Thursday shift at FLS are among the many people working to form a "Team for Life," praying to the Holy Spirit for the women who come to the clinic and asking Him to guide all that they say and do so that the women will be able to choose life.

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was thinking she couldn't possibly take care of a second child. As she was having the ultrasound, she told us how she was teaching her 2-year-old son to say his prayers. As soon as we began to see her baby on the screen, we all noticed how her baby was "kneeling with hands folded in prayer." She burst out, "Look, my baby is praying!" With that reality in front of her, she decided she could take care of a second child and went on to give birth.

Bonnie: I worked with a woman who initially felt she couldn't have another baby, but she saw our sign on a bench while waiting for the bus and came to us. She had a beautiful baby girl. Another young woman came in abortion-minded. She was scared and told us she had had difficult pregnancies with both of her girls. She wasn't sure how she could handle another child. Our nurse and I spent time talking to her and we ended up referring her to our physician director and supported and prayed with her through making her decision. She now has a beautiful boy through an uneventful pregnancy.

Kathy: Then there was the ultrasound of a young college woman who had her life all planned out, and it didn't include a baby. As we did the ultrasound, we asked if she was ready to see her babies. She said, "Babies?" We said,

"Yes, here are your twins!" After she got over the shock of watching these precious 14-week-old babies tumbling around inside her, she got on the phone with their father, right there on the ultrasound table, to tell him! Miracles like this happen very often, and we delight that the Lord hears our prayers!

If there was one thing you could say to our readers, what would it be?

Kathy: If you ever know of a woman who is facing this question of giving life or having an abortion, bring her to FLS so we can give her real options. Then pray for her.

Bonnie: Please remember us and our mission and pray for us. I have been so blessed since I joined the FLS family. I have grown in my faith and my prayer life. Come join us!

A word about...

Family Life Services Clinic and Pregnancy Center

FLS Clinic and Pregnancy Center is an interdenominational Christian pro-life ministry to serve pregnant women and their families. Everything done through the ministry supports Catholic teachings regarding sexuality and family life.

Services provided include free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds; material needs

(maternity clothing, baby items, etc.); and community referrals (WIC, Medicaid, doctors, etc.). In addition, they offer parenting classes, miscarriage support, and abortion recovery.

FLS recently had to cut back temporarily on its hours on Fridays due to a lack of volunteers. There are countless ways men, women, and

students can volunteer. Not all volunteering is directly client-centered; it frequently supports the work done at the Center. Training is provided for all volunteer positions.

For more information or to volunteer, call 734-434-3088 or go to their new website, flsfriends.com, or their client website, familyliveservicesclinic.com.

From Life Teen to A1:8

Accompanying our teens on a journey to encounter Christ and then equipping them to take Him to the ends of the earth

I'd like to take you on a journey from the past into the present and invite you to dream with me about the future of Youth Discipleship at Christ the King. I'm only in my third year at Christ the King, so I interviewed Becca Zahm, one of my longest standing volunteers, to get a clearer glimpse into the past.

Barbara Morgan was instrumental in getting a youth group started at CTK in the early 1990s. The Life Teen program was quickly adopted because of its quality materials and model for how to do youth ministry. They operated out of a Core Team of volunteers; Becca's parents, Tony and Carrie Zahm, were among the first core team members.

Their gatherings were called Life Nights. These nights had a structure similar to the Mass; they followed a gather, proclaim, break, and send format. Life Teen also focused on Mary and the Eucharist, which are two of the pillars of spirituality emphasized at CTK.

I asked Becca, "What are your favorite memories from attending Life Teen as a high schooler?"

"I really looked up to the Core Team," she said. "I was amazed that this group of cool adults was interested in getting to know me. They were there to support us in small groups and by praying for us. They were willing to lay down their lives for



us in many ways. I'm still close friends with some of them today!"

The program stayed Life Teen at CTK for 20+ years as different youth ministers came and went, each one building on the foundation of the one before. We are sincerely grateful for the hard work and dedication of the following people:

- Elaine Donnelly, 1992-1993
- Cheryl Ferreira, 1993-1997
- Christa (Ozog) Breen, 1997-2002
- John Biskner, 2002-2005
- Kara (Coulter) Cardella, 2005-2006
- Brad Schmidt, 2005-2015
- Sarah (Patton) Benjamin, 2015-2016
- John Hoving, 2016-present

So what was the rationale for the transition from Life Teen to A1:8? Becca replied, "I loved my years being associated with Life Teen, but we have outgrown what they offer as a program. We are blessed with an abundance of amazing people and resources here at CTK. We honestly

haven't used Life Teen's materials in a long time and have been working on rebranding what we do for a few years now. The change to A1:8 Youth Discipleship was not an attempt to be trendy. Instead, it is where we felt the Lord calling us after a time of prayer and discernment."

I asked Becca, "What are you most excited about with regard to this change?"

"The new name A1:8 comes from Acts 1:8, which mentions being **clothed with power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us and being His witnesses to the ends of the earth**. This seems to fit perfectly with our charismatic identity and also where our parish, diocese, and greater Church have been moving with regard to missionary discipleship."

As Becca mentioned, we are moving in a direction that we feel the Lord calling us, in order to help our students GROW and GO!

Youth Discipleship can be a rather broad category with seemingly paradoxical goals at times. We want our high

The new A1:8 program name refers to Acts 1:8. The logo shows a compass, pointing in all directions, indicating our intention to follow Jesus' command to bring the Good News to the ends of the earth.

I loved my years being associated with Life Teen, but we have outgrown what they offer as a program. ... The change to A1:8 Youth Discipleship was not an attempt to be trendy. Instead, it is where we felt the Lord calling us after a time of prayer and discernment.

—Becca Zahm

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I invite you to share with me your thoughts and dreams for our youth. ... The future of Youth Discipleship at CTK is bright, but it needs more laborers in the field.



John Hoving is Director of Youth Discipleship and a member of the CTK Senior Leadership Team.

From Life Teen to A1:8

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Survey results from our first A1:8 retreat in Fall 2018, a powerful time of encountering the Lord.

discern if the Lord may be calling you to apply for the Core Team. Our high schoolers need current disciples—young or old, married or single—to accompany them on their journey. Might the Lord be calling you to sacrifice a few hours of your time each week to minister to our young people?

The future of Youth Discipleship at CTK is bright, but it needs more laborers in the field. We have 100+ high schoolers coming to our events, but many of our current Core Team are no longer available on Sundays and Tuesdays when we normally meet.

God is on the move! And we're committed to doing all we can to continually seek Him and His will for our ministry. — *John Hoving*

schoolers to become independent yet stay part of a family; be leaders yet servants; be fervent yet humble. More than anything, we want them to do three things before they graduate:

- Encounter the living God
- Hear His voice in prayer
- Share His love with others

We have a variety of ways we are currently meeting these

three goals: retreats, worship nights, the Sacraments, Scripture, prayer ministry, small groups, study, and service opportunities. Yet we also feel the Lord calling us to dream big and find new ways to grow and go!

I invite you to share with me your thoughts and dreams for our youth. You can email me at jhoving@ctkcc.net. I also want to encourage you to

L'Chaim!

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responsible for putting the Lord Jesus on the Cross and that even while we were doing so, His response was, "Father, forgive them."

January is a special time of action for the unborn, as we unite in working to secure full rights for those who have not yet left the womb and also doing all we can to assist

mothers in difficult situations to make that choice to allow their baby to experience the gift of life here and now. The Lord Jesus has given each of us great capacity to yield to His Holy Spirit and receive the grace and strength we need to truly build His Kingdom. Now, as we begin this new

year, is an excellent time to use that grace to build this aspect of the Kingdom, securing rights and safety for the most vulnerable and innocent among us. May we extend our prayer of *L'Chaim* to all, including and especially those who have not yet left the womb. — *Fr. Ed Fride*

Ministry Spotlight

Pro-Life Action Committee

It doesn't take long for a visitor to Christ the King to figure out that this parish likes kids! It's not just our many large families, though, that make our parish pro-life. CTK parishioners are involved in a wide variety of activities and organizations with the common goal of promoting respect for human life from conception to natural death.

But how do you learn more about various aspects of the pro-life movement? How do you, especially if you are new to the area, find out about the many pro-life efforts happening in our community and region?

Christ the King's Pro-Life Action Committee was established about ten years ago to meet this need. Its mission is:

- To educate CTK parishioners on all pro-life causes
- To raise awareness of opportunities to actively participate in pro-life causes, events, and activities
- To support CTK parishioners who are engaged in pro-life activities and draw in, empower, and encourage other parishioners to do the same.

Brigid Kowalczyk, the current PLAC chair, and Marge Skrobola have been involved with PLAC from its beginning about ten years ago. Brigid says that she initially got involved because Bill Champion, former chair of the Social Ministries Commission, asked her to. "But I'm also pro-

life and willing to do what I can to help the cause. Showing others what that looks like is one of the main things the committee has been trying to do."

Marge says, "It's hard to say how long I have been active in the pro-life movement through 40 Days for Life, Right to Life, Catholics in the Public Square, Ave Maria Radio... always side by side with amazing folks whose passion is to end the scourge of abortion in our country."

Committee member Mariel LaFleur got involved with PLAC in 2015. "Early August 2015, I watched the David Daleidon *Center for Medical Progress* videos on YouTube that exposed the horrific facts that Planned Parenthood was actually selling baby parts, and for profit. The truth and graphic imagery brought the reality of this holocaust home to me." She also read *Unplanned* by former Planned Parenthood director Abby Johnson, whose decision to leave Planned Parenthood was influenced by 40 Days for Life people praying outside her clinic. "Reading her words inspired me to get involved here at CTK and to pray at Planned Parenthood during the 40 Days Campaign."

To fulfill its mission, the PLAC has pursued a number of initiatives, including:



The Pro-Life Resource Center and baby item collection location in the Church near the elevator are just two of the ways that the Pro-Life Action Committee tries to support the right to life.

- Establishing a Pro-Life Resource Center in the Church next to the elevator.
- Supporting area crisis pregnancy organizations, such as Family Life Service, ArborWoman, and Guadalupe Workers, through an ongoing collection of baby items next to the Resource Center.
- Providing pro-life prayers and meditation resources in the Adoration Chapel.
- Using the CTK bulletin, email, and other means to encourage parishioners to get involved in area events sponsored by groups such as 40 Days for Life, Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Sidewalk Advocates for Life, and Students for Life.

For more information and to get involved, contact Brigid at bak.aa47@gmail.com. —

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“We are the Pro-Life Generation!”

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FGRHS Pro-Life Club members Joe Ghezzi (l) and Geno Cousino. Geno is looking forward to attending the March for Life for the first time this month. Joe, who first attended the march in 8th grade, says, “It made a big impact.”

Joe noted, “Life is a beautiful thing and everyone should have a right to it, no matter what stage it’s in.” Similarly, Daniel reflected on the personhood of the unborn child: “It’s a person who has a heartbeat, their own blood type ... He or she has dignity as you have dignity.”

Teresa observed that there’s room in the movement for everyone. “Don’t be afraid to find ways that you can help this cause in your own life.”

Grace and Anna Benz perhaps spoke for all the others when Grace said, “There’s nothing better than being pro-life!” To which Anna added, “We are the Pro-Life Generation. We’re all in this together. If we all work together, we could be the generation in which abortion is abolished in this country.” — *Theresa Hofer*

Special thanks to Barb Brown, Moderator of the FGRHS Pro-Life Club, for the photos and her other help with this article.

¹ Jeanne Mancini, “This is the Pro-Life Generation,” *RealClearPolitics.com*, May 2, 2018. Retrieved online December 21, 2018.

² Sarah Kliff, “Why Young Voters Are Lukewarm on Abortions Rights,” *Newsweek*, April 15, 2010. Retrieved online December 12, 2018.

³ Valerie Richardson, “March for Life buoyed by young people opposing abortion in increasing numbers,” *The Washington Times*, January 21, 2016. Retrieved online December 12, 2018.

⁴ Nicole Russell, “The March for Life Happens Today, and Thousands of Young People Are There,” *Daily Beast*, January 19, 2018. Retrieved online December 12, 2018.



Theresa Hofer is editor of *The Open Door*.

The Sisters of Life are proclaiming, “He is here.” In seeing the bride—a religious sister—you get a glimpse of the Bridegroom, Jesus.

Created for This

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What happened after that?

While preparing for an i.d.9:16 Instagram video, I spoke about a time when I carried the bells at the front of a Eucharistic procession to proclaim the Lord’s presence, and people dropped to their knees when I walked by. That night, I sat with the Lord, and in the silence, I heard—when I finally shut up—in this still, inviting, calm voice, “Will you

ring the bells for the rest of your life?”

I knew that meant being a Sister of Life. They are proclaiming, “He is here.” In seeing the bride—a religious sister—you get a glimpse of the Bridegroom, Jesus. I was profoundly awestruck and felt very unworthy and ill-equipped.

One additional inspiration in which the Lord further

confirmed in my heart His power to do great things with simple people’s lives came the night before Renewal Ministries’ Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto, in praying and seeing Sr. Ann [Shields] and her joy in her vocation. I realized the Lord can do radical things with people’s lives and it satisfies them and the Lord can bless the whole Church through it.

Schedule of Major Events

- 12/31, 5:30pm: Vigil of Mary, Mother of God
 - 1/1/19, 10:30am: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Parish offices closed
 - 1/11, 25: Upper Room
 - 1/20: Winter Alpha begins
 - 1/21: Holy Hour for Marriages
 - 1/26: Women's Retreat Day
- For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ctkcc.net.

MAJOR EVENTS—JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	Jan. 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Feb. 1	2

Save the Dates!

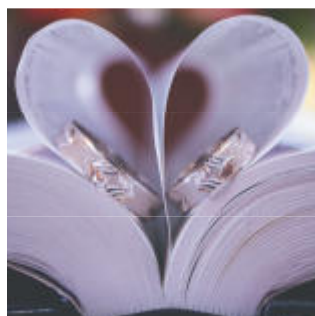
Women's Day of Renewal

Saturday, Jan. 26,
Men's Retreat
Friday-Saturday,
Mar. 29-30,
Christ the King
Join us for these special times of reflection on "Real Suffering: Finding Hope and Healing in the Trials of Life."



World Marriage Day Mass, Dinner, and Dance

Saturday evening, Feb. 9
4:30pm Mass at CTK with renewal of vows, followed by dinner and dancing at a local venue.
All married couples are welcome to join in this celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.



Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, Feb. 23, 10am-5pm
Our Lady of Fatima Church Michigan Center
Men, come grow in your faith with your brothers in Christ!
See www.themanevent.org for more information.



Check future bulletins for more details about these and other great events!



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Coming in future issues...

- Accompanying each other on our journeys
- Parishioner and ministry profiles
- Youth ministry
- Arts and the Church

Look for this and more in future issues of

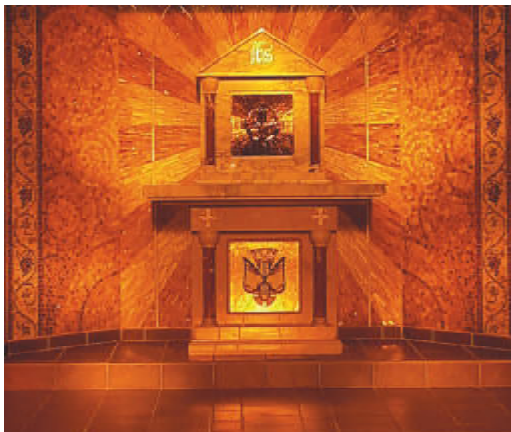
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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ctkcc.net.

The Open Door is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.



**Arise! Shine,
for your light has come,
The glory of the Lord
has dawned upon you.**

Isaiah 60:1

(First reading for the Feast of the Epiphany)

Photo by Patricia Meyer