

LIVING THE *GOSPEL OF LIFE*  
AMIDST A *CULTURE OF DEATH*

HUMANE VITAE, EVANGELIUM VITAE, AND A WITNESS FROM THE FRONT LINES

By Lisa M. Schmitz

January 11, 2022, Tapping into Theology

# Prayer

○ Mary, Mother of the Life Within,  
All life we entrust to you:  
The life of every expectant mother  
And the child within her womb;  
The life of every human body;  
The life of every human soul;  
The life of every newborn child  
And the life of all grown old.  
You held the Lord to your own heart  
And drew Him so close in,  
So draw us now in all our needs,  
○ Mother of the Life Within.  
Amen.

From: <http://www.dayforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/DFL17-leaflet-v5.pdf>

## Goals for tonight's talk

- **National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (Jan 16);**
- **49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roe v Wade (Jan 22, 1973)**
- **Taking Stock:** *Revive, renew, refresh* our understanding of what it means to be pro-life
  - Profound need for building a *Culture of Life*
  - Being Pro-Life is not “optional” or a “side issue” for a few of us to address
  - It's a responsibility of ALL of us in a war against a *Culture of Death* and against “principalities and powers”
- **Living the Gospel of Life:** How we can help build the *Culture of Life*

## What we'll cover

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- **The “Culture of Death” from Evangelium Vitae**
- **Humanae Vitae and Contraception**
- **Other Pro-life Issues – a quick review**
- **Evangelium Vitae: Building the Culture of Life**
- **All interspersed with stories from the “front lines”**

## Preface

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- I am not a theologian, priest or religious
- Simply my reflections as a (hopefully) well-formed Catholic lay person –
- And my actual worked experience in prolife fields: pregnancy centers, maternity homes, sidewalk, prayer warrior, boycotter, etc.
- First parts of our time tonight might feel dark. Stick with us! We'll end on hope and light.

# Evangelium Vitae

Highlights only!

The Culture of Death

Incomparable Worth of the Human Person

Building A Culture of Life – At end of talk

## The Culture of Death

- A “world view of despair”
- Our Lady of Guadalupe and conversion to hope
- “Culture of Death” – coined by Saint JPII in Evangelium Vitae

## The Culture of Death – Attacks Against Life

In EV, JP II starts by reaffirming the statements from 40 years prior in Vatican II that

- **"whatever is opposed to life itself" (including abortion and many other insults against the dignity of the person)**
- are **"infamies" that "poison human society"**.

### **Attacks Against Life - "extraordinary increase and gravity"** (#11)

- Extent – especially where life is weak and defenseless
- Causes/Motivations – cultural climate with "new and more sinister" attacks against life: *Culture of Death*
- Consequences – profound change in life and relationships, and *the death of the State*

**Summary of all of Chapter 1 and incorporating parts/concepts of 2 and 3**  
**"extraordinary increase and gravity" (#11)**  
**"extent, causes, consequences" (#10)**  
Extent: (#11-16)



## The Culture of Death - Described

- “New and more sinister” attacks against life are a problem at the *cultural, social, & political* level
- Broad sectors of public opinion justify crimes against life in the name of RIGHTS and INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM.
- Use rights to claim EXEMPTION FROM PUNISHMENT and AUTHORIZATION BY THE STATE – so that crimes against life can be done with total freedom and even assistance of health care systems (#4)

“New and more sinister” (#4) attacks against life are a problem at the *cultural, social, & political* level (#18)

- Broad sectors of public opinion justify crimes against life in the name of RIGHTS and INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. #4 and elsewhere
- Use rights to claim EXEMPTION FROM PUNISHMENT and AUTHORIZATION BY THE STATE – so that crimes against life can be done with total freedom and even assistance of health care systems #4 and elsewhere

## Culture of Death – “Perverse Idea of Freedom”

3. **Notion of Freedom** that “exalts the isolated individual in an absolute way” with no sense of solidarity/relationship to others
  - This individualistic concept of freedom becomes the ***freedom of the strong against the weak***, who have no choice but to submit.

All the above - #19

## Culture of Death – “Perverse Idea of Freedom”

### 4. **Notion of Freedom detached from the idea of TRUTH**

- When a person denies an OBJECTIVE OR UNIVERSAL TRUTH, he no longer uses the TRUTH about good and evil as an indisputable source of information about the choices he should make.
- INSTEAD, he uses only his subjective and changeable opinion or his selfish interests or whims.

These views of freedom lead to MORAL RELATIVISM - a serious distortion of life in society

All #19, leading to #20

## Culture of Death – The Death of Democracy

- ❑ Result: “DEMOCRACY, CONTRADICTING ITS OWN PRINCIPLES, EFFECTIVELY MOVES TOWARD A FORM OF TOTALITARIANISM”.

“The State is no longer the ‘common home’ where all can live together on the basis of principles of fundamental equality, but it is transformed into a TYRANT STATE, which arrogates to itself the right to dispose of the life of the weakest and most defenseless members, from the unborn child to the elderly, in the name of a public interest which is really nothing but the interest of one part.”  
(#20)

- ❑ The process leading to the disintegration of the State itself has already begun!
- ❑ Final result: ***the death of true freedom.***
- ❑ {From 1995: how much more true does that ring even today}?

## Culture of Death – “Sinister Character”

- 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roe v Wade- Jan 22, 2022: ~63 million in US alone since 1973
- Forms of abortion – enormous sums toward research, e.g. RU486 or Morning After Pill
- Contraception – abortifacients
- New forms of attacks against life due to scientific/technological advances
- Artificial reproduction (in vitro)
- Pre-natal diagnosis
- Euthanasia
- Declining birthrate
- Systematic global anti-birth polices
- Paid for by tax dollars – ACA and state laws

## Culture of Death – “Sinister Character”

- Secular humanism is pervasive - especially the younger generations do NOT understand the world and actions in moral terms
- Even when young people are seeking the truth, they are not always finding it: NARAL concerted attacks
  - Undercover operations to close down prolife centers (real-life story)
  - Prolife centers accused of being “deceptive” but clients don’t always find truth at abortion clinics (real-life story)

## Culture of Death – “Sinister Character”

- ▣ PP and Abortion Clinic – aggressive strategic plan
- ▣ Positioning – Sidewalk Advocates can't reach
- ▣ Community Health Educators & Sex Ed National Library
- ▣ Technology (prolife fighting back with geo caching)
- ▣ Direct to our Kid's phones
- ▣ Web cam abortions; mail order abortions

## From Worldview of Despair to Hope

- Ending on Light before our break
- Abortion, Mary Magdalene and the Lord of Life (real-life story)



# Humanae Vitae & Contraception

Humanae Vitae – On the Regulation of Birth

Grave New Questions

Conjugal Love and Parenthood

Union & Procreation

Licit & Illicit Means

Grave Consequences

The Truth is Achievable

Modern Day Contraception

## Humanae Vitae – On the Regulation of Birth

- Encyclical Letter of Pope Paul IV, 7/25/68
- Purpose – address new grave questions pertaining to the transmission of life
- Reviews Church teaching on love, man, marriage
- Discusses licit and illicit means of regulating birth
- Forewarns of “grave consequences” of birth control
- Insists it’s possible to observe the Divine Law
- Appeals to many parts of society to observe/promote these truths

## Humanae Vitae – Grave New Questions (#3)

Given the state of world today:

1. Shouldn't the Church revise the "rules" in place up until now, given the sacrifices required to observe them?
2. Wouldn't birth control be allowable and wise if the intention is a less fruitful but more planful fertility?
3. In bringing forth life, isn't it really the overall marital love that is important, rather than every individual sex act?
4. Given modern man's increased sense of responsibility, hasn't the time come to entrust the regulation of birth to his reason and will, rather than his biological rhythms?

HV #3

## Humanae Vitae – Conjugal Love and Parenthood

- Problem must be considered with total view of man, including his eternal nature (#7)
- Conjugal love: (#8-9)
  - ▣ Has its origin in God
  - ▣ Is total gift of self to the other for the purpose of full communication of their selves on their path to mutual perfection, & to participate with God in creation of life
  - ▣ Transmits grace, as it reflects union of Christ and Church
  - ▣ Is fully human, total, faithful and exclusive, and fertile

## Humanae Vitae – Conjugal Love and Parenthood

- Responsible Parenthood (#10)
  - ▣ Means knowledge and respect of their biology
  - ▣ Means reason and will must exercise reasonable dominion over instinct or passion
  - ▣ Is exercised by the deliberate generous decision to raise a numerous family OR the decision to avoid a new birth for grave motives & with respect to the moral law
  - ▣ Implies “a more profound relationship to the objective moral order established by God”, interpreted by a right conscience. Not free to proceed at will w/o God.

## Humanae Vitae – Union & Procreation

- Calling men back to the constant doctrine: “each and every marriage act must remain open to the transmission of life”. #11
- Cannot separate the two purposes of the marital act: unitive and procreative #12
  - “...By it's intimate structure, the conjugal act, while most closely uniting husband and wife, capacitates them for the generation of new lives, according to laws inscribed in the very being of man and of woman.” #12
- To do so contradicts the nature of both man and woman and their total self gift in relationship, and thus contradicts God's will. #13

## Humanae Vitae – Licit & Illicit Means

- Illicit Means of Regulating Birth: abortion, sterilization, or any action related to the conjugal act that renders procreation impossible. #14
- Cannot permit an evil even for an intended good.
- Licit Means: taking into account the naturally occurring infertile periods, in marriage only #16  
“The Church is the first to praise and recommend the intervention of intelligence in a function which so closely associates the rational creature with his Creator; but she affirms that this must be done with respect for the order established by God.” #16

“Every action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible.” p. 9, #14

Cannot justify a sterilized act saying that it would constitute a whole together with the fertile acts already performed or to follow later, thus contributing to the same moral goodness. P.9.

## Humanae Vitae – Grave Consequences

### Grave Consequences of Artificial Birth Control #17

- “Wide and easy road” toward conjugal infidelity
- General lowering of morality
- Men losing respect for women and considering them an “instrument of selfish enjoyment”
- Dangerous weapon of public authorities to impose contraception and choose which method

**“The pro-abortion culture is especially strong precisely where the Church’s teaching on contraception is rejected.”p.13**



## Humanae Vitae – Grave Consequences

### Evangelium Vitae:

- “Contraceptive mentality” strengthens temptation of abortion when contraception fails. “The pro-abortion culture is especially strong precisely where the Church’s teaching on contraception is rejected.”  
#13
- “The close connection which exists, in mentality between the practice of contraception and that of abortion is becoming increasingly obvious.”  
Products act as “abortifacients”. #13

## Humanae Vitae – The truth is achievable

- The Church is the Guarantor of True Human Values
  - Foresees that this teaching will not be “easily received by all” – too many voices contrary to the Church #18
  - “To tell the truth, the Church is not surprised to be made, like her divine Founder, a “sign of contradiction”, yet she does not because of this cease to proclaim with humble firmness the entire moral law, both natural and evangelical. Of such laws the Church was not the author, nor consequently can she be their arbiter; she is only their depositary and their interpreter, without ever being able to declare to be licit that which is not so by reason of its intimate and unchangeable opposition to the true good of man.” #18

## Humanae Vitae – The truth is achievable

- It's possible to observe the Divine Law with the help of God #20
- Mastery of self is needed #21
  - Requires solid convictions about the true values of life and family
  - Requires ascetical practices, including observance of periodic continence. (Fruits: higher value on conjugal love, fully developed personalities, spiritual values, etc.)
- Need Atmosphere Favorable to Chastity #22
- Need help of public authorities, scientists, Christian married couples, medical personnel, priests, bishops #23-30

Atmosphere of chastity – educators, media (incl every form of pornography) #22

## Modern Day Contraception

- No form of birth control is 100% effective
- All hormonal birth control methods have serious potential side-effects, from hair loss to stroke
- All hormonal birth control methods can act as an “abortifacient” – prevents implantation of embryo
- The “Morning After Pill” is several times stronger than the birth control pill. Since January 2007: legal over-the-counter if 18 years of age.
- Natural Family Planning (NFP): modern methods are up to 98-99% effective. Married couples using NFP have a 5% divorce rate, compared to 50+% in society.

## Other Pro-life Issues

Stem Cell Research

In Vitro Fertilization

Euthanasia

Vaccines and Medication & Aborted Fetal Cells

## Quick Overview

### □ Stem Cell Research

- ▣ The Church does *NOT* oppose *ADULT* stem cell research
- ▣ EMBRYONIC stem cell research *kills the embryo*; the Church thus **always opposes** this destruction of innocent life, even for research that could help other lives.

### □ In Vitro Fertilization – selective reduction required; fertilized embryos in storage.

### □ Euthanasia – Suffering redemptive; God is the Lord of Life.

### □ Learn more at

<https://www.ppcitizensforlife.org/our-what/>

From USCCB – “Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning: Questions and Answers”, and “Selected Quotes from Church Documents: On Human Cloning”

## Quick Overview – Vaccines and Medication

- As also evidenced by videos by David Daleiden, a market exists for aborted fetal parts
- According to many reputable sources, aborted children are commonly used in science, biomedical research, and manufacturing
- Many vaccines are created and/or tested via aborted fetal cells.
- For now, all vaccines for the COVID-19 virus being distributed are produced and/or tested with cell lines that originated from an aborted child.
- Other evidence suggests that, for those cell lines to function, they must be living cells at the time of harvest. (See <https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/2/blog/the-caryn-lipson-blog/>, LifeSite News, others)
- “Remote cooperation” (creating market)/Alternative treatments.
- **“End the Use of Aborted Children in Science”** (Children of God for Life)
- **“Babies are Not Spare Parts”** (Taking Recourse)
- **“Abortion will continue as long as people refuse to be inconvenienced”**. (Life Decisions Intl, <https://fightpp.org/>)
- Learn more at Children of God for Life <https://cogforlife.org/>, Taking Recourse <https://takingrecourse.com/>, Charlotte Lozier Institute <https://lozierinstitute.org/>

# Vaccine Chart – Children of God for Life



Children of God for Life is the pro-life worldwide leader in the campaign for ethical biomedical research and commerce that preserves the dignity of human life.

## Abortion-Tainted Vaccines for US and Canada and Ethical Alternatives

DISEASE	PRODUCT NAME	MANUFACTURER	FETAL CELL LINE	ETHICAL VERSION	MANUFACTURER	CELL
ACUTE RESPIRATORY	Adenovirus 4, 7 Oral	Barr Labs	WI-38, HEK-293	None	NA	NA
CHICKENPOX	All Varivax, Varilrix	Merck, GSK	WI-38, MRC-5	None	NA	NA
COVID-19	<a href="#">See here.</a>	<a href="#">Moderna, Pfizer, J&amp;J, AstraZeneca</a>	HEK-293, PER.C6	None	NA	NA
EBOLA	Advac, VSV-EBOV	J&J/Cruc, BioProt	PER.C6	Ervebo (rVSV-ZEBOV) 2-2020	Merck	Vero
HEPATITIS A	Vaqta, Havrix, Avaxim, Epaxal	Merck, GSK, Sanofi, Berna	MRC-5	Alimugen (None in US or Canada)	Kitasato (Japan Only)	Vero
HEPATITIS A&B, HEPATITIS A&TYPHOID INFECTION PREVENTION	Twintrix, Vivaxim	GSK, Sanofi	MRC-5	Engerix Hep-B Only, Recombivax Hep-B, TyphimVi	GSK, Merck, Sanofi	Yeast
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA	G-CSF	Octapharma	HEK-293	Neupogen, Zarxio	Amgen, Sandoz	E-coli
MEASLES-RUBELLA	MMR, Priorix	Merck, GSK	RA273, WI-38, MRC-5	MR+M (Japan Only)	Kitasato	Rabbit
MEASLES-RUBELLA	NR Vax, Eolarix	Merck, GSK	RA273, WI-38, MRC-5	Attenuvax (Measles Only)* AIK-C+R, Tanabe (Japan)	Merck, Kitasato, Mitsubishi	Rabbit
MUMPS-RUBELLA	Biavax II	Merck	RA273, WI-38	Mumpsavax (Mumps Only)*	Merck	Egg
RUBELLA	Meruvax II	Merck	RA273, WI-38	Matsuura, Takahashi (Japan)	Kitasato	Rabbit
MMR+CHICKENPOX	ProQuad/MMR-V, Priorix Tetra	Merck, GSK	RA273, WI-38, MRC-5	None	NA	NA
RABIES	Imovax	Sanofi	MRC-5	RabAvert	GSK	Egg
SHINGLES	Zostavax	Merck	WI-38, MRC-5	Shingrix	GSK	Hamster
SMALLPOX	Acambis 1000	Acambis	MRC-5	ACAM2000, MVA3000	Acambis, Baxter	Vero

Note: ImmuneGlobulin shots will provide temporary immunity (4-6 months) for Hepatitis-A and Rubella (3-4 months).  
 \*Ethically produced separate doses of measles and mumps vaccines are unavailable. Merck stopped providing them.  
 If the vaccine you are questioning is not listed, then to our knowledge it is not abortion-tainted.



# Living the Culture of Life

Evangelium Vitae

Stories from the Front Lines

“Faced with the countless grave threats to life present in the modern world today, one could feel overwhelmed by sheer powerlessness: good can never be powerful enough to triumph over evil”! (#29).

## Evangelium Vitae – *The Gospel of Life*

- Encyclical Letter of Pope John Paul II, 3/25/95
- JPII's purpose for Encyclical:
  - ▣ “Precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability” #5
  - ▣ “Pressing appeal to all in name of God to respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!” #5
  - ▣ Does this by “meditating” on the Gospel of Life.
  - ▣ Describes the “**Culture of Death**” and calls for “**Culture of Life**”

When St. JPII published the encyclical on the Feast of the Annunciation, Mar 25, 1995, he shared essentially a two-fold purpose for the letter:

- “Precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability” #5
- “Pressing appeal to all in name of God to respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!” #5

## The Gospel of Life

- The GOOD NEWS . “I came that they may have *life*, and have it abundantly”. Jn 10:10.  
Means NEW and ETERNAL life in communion with the Father. #1
- “The Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person, and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel”. #2

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”. Jn 10:10. But in this case we see he means not just life on earth, but NEW and ETERNAL life in communion with the Father. #1

He affirms: “The Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person, and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel”. #2

## Incomparable Worth of the Human Person

- Man's earthly life is just the beginning, since he is born to share the life of God eternally
- Jesus' incarnation, death, and resurrection secured our eternal life – all these show value of human life
- This "lofty, supernatural vocation" shows the GREATNESS of our life on earth (in time)
- Life in time is the basic condition for our entire eternal existence
- Every human community and political community is founded on the recognition of this right (#2)

**"Truly great must be the value of human life if the Son of God has taken it up and made it the salvation of all humanity." #33**

## Building the Culture of Life

**Evangelium Vitae:** *We are called to PROCLAIM, CELEBRATE with our whole lives, and SERVE the Gospel of Life.*

□ **Proclaim the Gospel of Life:**

- To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life. He is the only Gospel. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- *Proclaim the CORE of the Gospel:* man is created for eternal life with God, man's life is a gift, his body/soul are inseparable, Jesus has a personal relationship with each person, sincere gift of self is fullest way to realize our freedom.

## Culture of Life – Evangelium Vitae

### □ **Proclaim the CONSEQUENCES of this Gospel:**

- Life - a gift of God - is sacred and inviolable. Procured abortion and euthanasia are absolutely unacceptable.
- Human life must not only be preserved but must be protected with loving concern.
- The very meaning of life is found in giving and receiving love, pointing to the true/full significance of sexuality and procreation.
- Love gives meaning to suffering and death; despite the mystery that surround them, they can become saving events.
- Science and technology should always be at the service of man and his integral development.
- Real-life Story - Kathy

## Culture of Life – Evangelium Vitae

### □ Celebrate the Gospel of Life with our Whole Lives:

- Foster a *contemplative outlook based on our Faith in God*: see and be grateful for the beauty of life, the fact that it is a gift, its call to freedom and responsibility; learn to see God in everyone; search for meaning in the sick/suffering.
- “It is time for all of us to adopt this outlook, and with deep religious awe to rediscover the ability to *revere and honor every person...*” #83, quoting Paul VI
- “...The *Gospel of Life* is to be celebrated above all *in daily living*, which should be filled with self-giving love for others.” #86.
- Also includes Daily Prayer, liturgy, Day of Life, etc.

## Culture of Life – Evangelium Vitae

- **Serve the Gospel of Life:**
  - Service of *Charity*: volunteer work, social activity, political commitment. Pressing need. Faith working through love.
  - Service with a “*Specific Attitude*”: caring for others as someone for whom God has made us responsible. Every person is our Neighbor.
  - Service that is “*Profoundly Consistent*”: “We need to ‘*show care*’ for all life and for the life of everyone.”
  - Special roles for families, volunteers, doctors, civil leaders...
  - No “monopoly” on defense and promotion of life. “These are everyone’s task and responsibility.” #91

“These are everyone’s task and responsibility.” #91



## Culture of Life – Evangelium Vitae

### **Transforming the Culture:**

Calls for a “general mobilization of consciences”, a “great campaign for Life”

1. Renew Christian communities themselves
2. Form consciences regarding Life
3. Re-establish link between *life and freedom* and *freedom and objective Truth*
4. Re-educate about life's origins; sex, love, chastity, responsible procreation in marriage; suffering and death

## Culture of Life – Evangelium Vitae

### **Transforming the Culture, continued**

5. Adopt a new *life-style*! Practical choices must be made with correct value of the “*primacy of being over having, of the person over things*”. #98
6. Pray and Fast. Some demons can only be driven out this way. “A great prayer for life” urgently needed throughout world. #100

Adopt a new life-style! Practical choices must be made with correct value of the “primacy of being over having, of the person over things”. #98

Pray and Fast. Some demons can only be driven out this way. “A great prayer for life” urgently needed throughout world. #100

## Conclusion – Hope in Jesus and Mary

- Mary: “The one who accepted ‘Life’ in the name of all and for the sake of all was Mary, the Virgin Mother.... Through her acceptance and loving care for the life of the Incarnate Word, human life has been rescued from condemnation to final and eternal death”. “Incomparable model of how life should be welcomed and cared for.” #102.
- “The Lamb who was slain is alive, bearing the marks of his Passion in the splendor of the Resurrection.” He “proclaims, in time and beyond, *the power of life over death.*” Must make our way in confidence towards a ‘new heaven and a new earth’.” #105

Finally, as St. JP II concludes in *Evangelium Vitae*, we must Hope in Jesus and Mary.

- He says that Mary is the “Incomparable model of how life should be welcomed and cared for.” #102.
- And Jesus, “bearing the marks of his Passion in the splendor of the Resurrection” ... “proclaims the power of life over death.” #105

## Culture of Life – Other Practical Steps

### **Ten Challenges for the Pro-Life Movement :**

1. Pray – ask the one true Savior to end abortion.
2. Fast for the conversion of abortionists.
3. Remind Christian churches that abortion exists with our permission.
4. Embrace the other prolife questions with the same fervor as abortion.
5. Go on the offensive against government funding for abortion/family planning organizations.

Based on Ten Challenges for the Pro-Life Movement in 2008: Human Life International

## Culture of Life – Human Life International

6. Boycott corporations/organizations that fund or promote abortion. [fightpp.org]
7. Educate doctors about abortifacient birth control
8. Challenge the accepted notion that condoms and birth control reduce abortions [Sexual Risk Avoidance and NFP]
9. Reject politicians who believe in rape, incest, life-of-the-mother and fetal deformity “exceptions” .
10. Recruit others into the pro-life movement – most Americans are prolife.

# Serve the Pro-Life Movement



- Many “Arms” (hands, feet, toes...) to the Pro-life movement!
- Many types/purposes, local, national, international:
  - Church efforts
  - Advocacy/Education
  - Lobbying/Political
  - Marketing/Outreach
  - Student Groups
  - Membership Groups
  - Healing/Post-Abortion
  - Support
  - Direct Action
  - Pregnancy Resource Centers!
  - **Maternity Homes!**
  - And more...

# Pro-Life Organizations



- ❑ **Church efforts:** [Diocesan Respect Life Apostolate \(Julie Bailey\)](#) USCCB Pro-life Secretariat, Community Caring for Life; Pro-life groups/events; Social Justice Committees
- ❑ **Advocacy/Education:** Human Life International, Human Life Alliance, Priests for Life, Life Decisions International, Feminists for Life, [Colorado for Life](#)
- ❑ **Lobbying/Political:** [Pikes Peak Citizens for Life \(PPCFL\)](#), National Right to Life
- ❑ **Marketing/Outreach:** Pro-Life Across America
- ❑ **Student Groups:** [Students for Human Life \(PPCC, UCCS?\)](#)
- ❑ **Membership Groups:** Physicians for Life
- ❑ **Healing/Post-Abortion Support:** [Project Rachel](#), Silent No More
- ❑ **Direct Action:** [Sidewalk Advocates for Life](#), [40 Days for Life](#), [Save the Storks](#), [LifeNetwork](#), [Mater Filius \(Maternity Home\)](#)

\* Blue text = local efforts

# Mater Filius Colorado Springs



- Mater Filius Colorado Springs is a Catholic apostolate created to walk alongside women facing an unexpected pregnancy and in need of support.
- *When open in 2022, we will offer a tranquil home, assistance with healthcare appointments, transportation, spiritual care, nutritious self-prepared meals, access to child enrichment, and a path to independence. We acknowledge that families do better when they stay together! Children under 5 will be welcome to live here as well.*
- At Mater Filius Colorado Springs, we Defend Life with Love! Moms and baby will receive continuous love and support during their stay and be well-supported after they leave our home. Our child enrichment program is available to the children of all residents and graduates.

SEE [MaterFiliusCS.org](http://MaterFiliusCS.org)



# Mater Filius Volunteer Opportunities



A true Ministry – opportunities for all skills, talents, time

- Director Roles:
  - Operations
  - Administration
  - Director of Doulas (Mentors to Moms)
  - Volunteers
  - Communications
  - Spirituality
  - Child Enrichment/Catechesis
- Internal Roles
  - Doulas (Mentors to Moms)
  - Respite Imas (Housemothers)
  - Child Enrichment/Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Helpers
  - Donation/Boutique Volunteers.
- External Volunteers
  - Maintenance Volunteers
  - Seamstresses for our Tilmas (blessed uniforms for staff/volunteers)
  - Car Repair Volunteers
  - Bookkeepers/Accountants
  - Computer Techs
  - Social Media experts
  - Proposal and Grant writing
  - Counseling
  - Social Work
  - Translators
  - Any other talent you would like to share
- Resource Volunteers
- On-Call Volunteer
- Internships!
- Learn more at [MaterFiliusCS.org](http://MaterFiliusCS.org)

## Final Real-Life Stories - Choice

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1. Texting saved a life.
2. Two Sisters.

## Remember...



*“In the midst of the encroaching darkness of the culture of death, we have heard the voice of Him who said, ‘In the world you will have trouble. But fear not, I have overcome the world.’”*

*“Because He has overcome, we shall overcome. We do not know when; we do not know how. God knows, and that is enough. We know the justice of our cause, we trust in the faithfulness of his promise, and therefore we shall not weary, we shall not rest.”*

The late Father Richard John Neuhaus,  
National Right to Life convention banquet, July 2008