

Sanctity of Human Life

Leader's Resources

Why We Celebrate the "Sanctity of Human Life"

Human life is not an achievement. It is an endowment, a gift from the Creator. It has measureless value, because every human being, at every stage of development and every state of consciousness, is known and loved by God. This is the source of human dignity, the basis for human equality, and the reason for human sanctity. It must therefore be asserted without exception or qualification: No one is worthless whom God has created and for whom Christ died.

(Adapted from *That They May Have Life*, The Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod, The President's Commission the Sanctity of Life, 1997.)

On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court's infamous Roe vs. Wade decision legalized abortion on demand for any woman at any point during her pregnancy. This tragedy has led to the most egregious form of social injustice. Millions of abortions have been performed since then, disproportionately targeting African Americans. The women and men who make that choice live with a lifetime of regret and suffering. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday can be celebrated at any time of year but is nationally recognized on the Sunday nearest January 22. Christians of all traditions join each year to remember the unborn and celebrate human life at all stages in life's journey. As leaders in God's Church, we hope you will use the following tools to encourage, educate and motivate your congregation.

Fact Sheet

- At current rates, about one in three American women will have had an abortion by the time she reaches age 45.
- 60% of abortions are coerced; 70% of abortive women believe abortion is immoral; 80% of post-abortive women said they would have chosen life if supported.
- Abortion is not "safe" and not "rare."
- 22 babies are aborted each day in Allegheny County.
- 1.2 million abortions are performed in the US annually.
 - That equals 3,287 per day...roughly the same number who died on 9/11.
 - That's over 2.5 each minute or one every 24 seconds.
 - How many have died since you began reading this page?
- Between 1973 and 2007, 43 million abortions occurred in the U.S. (equal to the combined population of NE, KS, MO, TN, SC, OH, and PA)
- 36,570 women obtain an abortion in Pennsylvania each year. Almost 8,000 of those are performed in Allegheny County.
 - 75% of those women say that having a baby would interfere with their work, school or career goals.
 - Though African Americans comprise only 13% of the population, they suffer over 40% of the abortions in Allegheny County.
 - 52% of those women are under 25 years old.
 - 54% of women having abortions used contraceptives during the month in which they became pregnant.
- The rate of abortion has been slowly declining since it's peak in 1984 when over 55,000 abortions were performed in the Commonwealth.

Women's Choice Network

Our Mission

With the love of Christ, the Women's Choice Network reaches out to women most vulnerable to abortion offering life-affirming alternatives, practical assistance, and ongoing support.

Our Vision and Values

- **Promote the Sanctity of Human Life.** We will proclaim the sanctity of all human life and the Biblical expression of sexuality in a Christ-centered professional environment.
- **Reduce and Ultimately Eliminate the Abortion Market.** Using the latest medical technology including obstetrical ultrasound, the PCCs seek to measurably lower the number of abortions in Allegheny County.
- **Provide Care.** Offering ongoing practical support and professional services, we commit to care for every family member touched by an unplanned pregnancy.
- **Promote Sexual Integrity.** With every practical and effective forum provided to us, we will speak publicly about sexual integrity. We intend to prevent abortions by reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies in the communities we serve.
- **Reach our Community.** Partnering with local churches and community leaders, we endeavor to educate our communities about life before birth, acknowledging the sanctity and value of each human life.

Quick WCN Facts

- The Women's Choice Network has been in ministry for over 23 years and was formerly the Pregnancy Care Centers and Crossroads Pregnancy Services.
- Opened in 1985 and 1986, these two organizations have helped thousands of young women choose life and have celebrated over 4,700 birthdays. Some of our earliest "clients" are now in college!
- We also reach thousands of teens in local schools and youth groups each year with the message of sexual purity.
- In 2008, 878 women were directly cared for by our ministry. 241 little ones were born to our clients. Dozens of women are in accountability groups as they develop parenting skills, learn more about adoption, or struggle through Post Abortion Stress.
- In 2006, we converted both our centers to full time medical clinics offering a medical staff and limited obstetrical ultrasound to our abortion minded clients.
- Our current budget is \$450,000 per year. We receive no State or Federal funding but rely solely on the gifts of individuals, churches and private foundations.
- We are affiliated with Care Net, Abstinence Clearinghouse, National Institute for Family Life Advocates, ECFA and Focus on the Family's [Option Ultrasound Program](#).
- Our web address for donors and supporters is: www.mypregnancycenter.org
- Client services website is: www.pregnancycareinfo.org
- Reach us at 724-935-0130 or adminpcc@verizon.net

Quick Resources

Heartlink.org Click on Faces of Ultrasound. A client from our Oakland Center is featured as the Pennsylvania "Face of Ultrasound."

www.beavoice.net Look for the Sanctity of Life button. Answers questions and provides links to practical articles, stories, and ways to be involved. From Focus on the Family.

www.standtrue.com Newsletter and pro-life products from the founders of Rock for Life. Great content and messages for youth and 20-something audiences.

pcuc.org Look for fetal life images from 2D, 3D, and 4D ultrasound.

paprolife.org 8 quick facts you need to know about abortion.

[The First Nine Months](#) This short booklet beautifully illustrates fetal development from conception to birth. From Focus on the Family. Call 1-800-A-FAMILY

[The Christian View of Abortion](#) This pamphlet contains scripture, quotes from early church leaders, and great information about abortion in a concise and well documented format. From Heritage House. www.hh76.com or call 1-800-858-3040

[What About Abortion?](#) From Concordia Press, this well written issue statement will be appreciated by all Christians. Concordia Publishing House www.cph.org

[Thirty Days to Become Pro-life](#) A fantastic resource. In the 30 Day format, this booklet works as a devotional and covers not only abortion but all the issues related to the Sanctity of Human Life. Worth the investment. From Thirty Days Communications www.thirty-days.org or 423-756-0410

[Horton Hears a Who DVD](#) For your youngest church members, this classic Dr. Seuss story reminds us that "People are people no matter how small!"

For additional order information or prices, call 724-935-0130

Sermon Starters

Genesis 1:26-31 Man created in God's image, God declared his creation "Very good!"

Psalms 139:13-17 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb...

Deuteronomy 5:17 You shall not murder.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God gives me life.

Isaiah 44:2 This is what the Lord says--he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you. Isaiah 49:1 The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother, he called me.

Luke 1:39-45 Story of Elizabeth, carrying John the Baptist in her womb. As she greets her cousin Mary, now pregnant with Jesus, John leaps in her womb at the sound of Mary's voice.

Genesis 16 and 21:17-21 Hagar's "crisis pregnancy" and God's provision. El Shaddai or "The God who sees" meets the needs of a woman seeking help in a crisis.

Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus' criteria for separating the sheep from the goats is how we care for "the least of these."

Proverbs 24:1-12 Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?

Quotes for Thought

It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish. --Mother Teresa

Destruction of the embryo in the mother's womb is a violation of the right to live which God has bestowed on this nascent life. --Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion. --Mother Teresa

There is no public morality without private virtue. --Eran A. Call

How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers. --Mother Teresa

America, you are beautiful...and blessed...The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life. --Pope John Paul II