I am alone, helpless and hopeless...
...without a Savior

The following is Part I of a 10-part series.

We need to start at the beginning in my series called The Good News & Kingdom Living (see sidebar below). No matter how many people we surround ourselves with, we are basically alone. No matter how healthy we are, it takes one illness or accident to show us how helpless we are. Whenever we think about where we are going after we die, we are hopeless … without a Savior.

Scripture includes this theme. “For I am alone and afflicted” (Psalm 25:16) demonstrates how lonely we are. “While we were still helpless” (Rom 5:6) illustrates how we are in need. “Lord, save me,” (Matthew 15:30) Peter exclaims, showing he is hopeless … without a Savior.

Let us open our hearts to the need of a Savior. We learn Who that Savior is in the next part of the series.

I am alone, helpless and hopeless...
...without a Savior

By CARLEIGH ALBERS
Diocese of Dodge City

Thousands of people from around the United States gathered in Washington D.C. on Jan. 19 on the National Mall to peacefully protest against abortion in the 45th annual March for Life. Out of those thousands of protestors standing up for dignity of the unborn were 26 from the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

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Local Catholics march in Topeka

A delegation of dedicated adults and high school youth departed the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe parking lot at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, to travel to Topeka for the Kansans for Life Pro-Life Rally and March.

The group braved the harsh Kansas winds and snow and arrived at the Topeka Performing Arts Center to participate in the Mass prior to the march and rally.

Immediately following Mass, the group took a stand with thousands of other adults and youth from across the state in the March which ended on the Capitol steps.

After lunch, the group returned to the Capitol for a tour and to listen to

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Continued on Page 3
Fasting and abstinence during Lent
Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14

Lent is the time before Easter during which the faithful abstain and fast in remembrance of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made on Calvary. It is a 40-day time of preparation before Easter, the memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus. There are two main ways that Catholics use to focus on growing closer to God during the Lenten season: abstinence and fasting.

ABSTINENCE
Abstinence is the act of “doing without” or avoiding something. For example, some may abstain from chocolate or alcohol by not consuming them. Particular days of abstinence during Lent are Fridays, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. As canon law states, Catholics over the age of 14 are expected to abstain from the eating of meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays throughout the Lenten season (Canon 1250-1253).

During Lent, Catholics are also encouraged to undertake some sort of personal penance or abstinence. Examples include giving up sweets, a favorite TV show or not listening to the radio in the car on the way to work. Giving up these things isn’t some sort of endurance test, but these acts are done to draw the faithful closer to Christ.

For example, a person may give up his favorite TV show, but if he simply turns the television to another channel, the Lenten penance really does not mean as much. Instead, the person should consider devoting the spare time to prayer or perhaps family. As always, when considering acts of penance that are stricter than the norm, it is important that the Catholic would speak with a priest or spiritual director. Any act of penance that would seriously hinder one’s health or the health of others would be contrary to the will of God.

Fasting
Fasting is the act of doing with less. In the Catholic Church, those ages 18 -59 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (Canon 97). On such days, those fasting may eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength. However, together, the smaller meals should not equal a full meal.

Eating between meals is not encouraged, but liquids are allowed. It is important to understand that the Church excuses certain people from these obligations. Examples include those who are frail, pregnant or manual laborers. The Church understands that those who are frail, pregnant or manual laborers. The Church understands that these obligations may be an important reminder of what it means to suffer. This small suffering should not be met with misery but with great joy as we better understand the incredible sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for humanity.

Parents look forward to the first words of their child. First words have an unusual, an uncanny, staying-power. You know this. We all know this.

At press time
Abortion ban fails
A procedural vote on a Senate bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks failed on the evening of Jan. 29, after a more than three hours of debate. More on this story in the next issue of the Catholic.

Bishop Herbert dies
At press time, the Catholic was informed of the death of Bishop Herbert Hymes, 75, a religious vocation from St. Joseph Parish, Scott City. An article about the bishop will be included in the next issue.

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PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN
The Diocese of Dodge City requires all employees and volunteers who work with children to participate in a Protecting God’s Children awareness session. Through the Diocesan Awareness Sessions and other educational efforts of the diocese, all people of the diocese can learn how to discuss different aspects of abuse — including sexual abuse — with children and how to teach them to protect themselves.

The next PGC session is scheduled for:
LIBERAL: 9 a.m.-Noon, Saturday, Feb. 17, at St. Anthony Church in Liberal, 1510 N. Calhoun St.
The contact person is Father Jacob Schneider (620) 624-4135; the PGC facilitator is Cherry Deges (620) 338-7501.

Space is still available
Father John Forkuoh to lead pilgrimage to Holy Land
Father John Forkuoh, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Spearville, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for 11 days, beginning May 28 and concluding June 7.

The adventure will include visits to the following locations:
Jerusalem • Nazareth • Bethlehem • Via Crucis • Cana • Dormition • Nativity Church • Capernaum • Last Supper • Getsemani • Tel Aviv.

The price for the pilgrimage, including Mass each day, airfare, 4-5 star hotels, breakfast and dinner, tips, taxes, etc., has been discounted to $3,800. Call 855-842-8001 to pre-register and for more information about the trip. You can also contact Sandy with proximo travel at sandi@proximotravel.com.

Another Way
+ Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore Bishop Emeritus of Dodge City

Bishop Gilmore to co-lead upcoming retreat
Bishop Emeritus Ronald Gilmore of the Diocese of Dodge City and Jacqueline Loh will lead a retreat called, “Light and Darkness together” Feb. 9-11 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita.

The retreat will explore how people can remain hopeful through times of darkness. Participants will learn practical ways to respond to prayer with illustrations from scripture stories and testimonies regarding how much God responds to each of us through the ministry of healing.

The cost of the weekend is $190 for single occupancy and $150 per person for double occupancy. The commuter cost is $100. All registrations include a $50 non-refundable deposit.

Friday, Feb. 9 check-in begins at 6:30 p.m. The retreat concludes Sunday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m. Register by visiting www.SLCWichita.org or calling the Spiritual Life Center at (316) 744-0167.
Being pro-Life means seeing God in the unborn

Local Catholics join March on Washington

Continued from Page 1

The pro-life movement doesn’t stop when people return home. “There are tons of things that people can do in their hometowns to support the pro-life movement,” Brown said. “One thing that comes out every year from the USCCB is Respect Life Sunday. It is the First Sunday of October. People have stood out in the public square standing up for life. There are organizations such as Birthright or Catholic Charities that are always accepting baby items to give away to expectant mothers. Baby showers are pretty popular and easy to do for these organizations. Prayer is probably the most important. Praying a rosary, visiting the tomb of the unborn, praying for our government and church leaders. The possibilities are endless.”

After coordinating two of the cross-country treks, Brown said she is ready to pass the baton. “Right now, I am praying for someone to step up and take charge of the trip next year,” Brown said. “It was hard to leave but I want to eventually take my son on this trip but not sure that next year is the right time for us. There were groups that joined other dioceses for this trip. I want to see this trip continue for the diocese, but feel at this time, I need to step back and take care of my family and other priorities at the parish.”

If you are interested in coordinating the March for Life pilgrimage or know someone who may be interested please contact Jaclyn Brown at dre@gbpeace. kscxmail.com or at 620-792-1396 or Adam Urban at aurban@ dcdiocese.org or 620-227-1540.

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Washington D.C. (CNA - President Donald Trump praised the pro-life movement’s support for pregnant women and touted his administration’s pro-life policy achievements in his remarks to the March for Life Friday.

“You come from many backgrounds, many places, but you all come for one beautiful cause: to build a country where life is celebrated, protected and cherished,” he told the March for Life Jan. 19 via videocast. “The March for Life is a movement born out of love.”

“You love every child, born and unborn, because you believe that every life is sacred, that every child is a precious gift from God,” he told the marchers on the National Mall while speaking before an audience in the White House Rose Garden.

“Because of you, tens of thousands of Americans have been born and reached their full God-given potential. Because of you.”

Hundreds of thousands of people were in Washington, D.C. to attend this year’s March for Life, which is in its 45th year. The theme of this year’s march is “Love Saves Lives.” The march is held annually on or near the anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which mandated permissive abortion laws nationwide.

The president said he was “honored and really proud” to address the march. While previous presidents addressed the march while in office by phone or remote loudspeaker, organizers said he is the first president to do so via telecast.

Trump made history by being the first sitting president to address the March for Life via live video feed. The president stated that he was “honored and proud” to be addressing the march this year. “The March for Life is a movement born out of love,” Trump said.

According to Gallup, only 18 percent of Americans believe that abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. Forty percent believe that abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. Forty-six percent of people call themselves “pro-life.”

“I think the pro-life movement is quite strong in the United States, when it comes to abortion, specifically speaking,” said Luke Blair, pastoral assistant at Prince of Peace in Great Bend who attended the march for the first time this year. “I would like to see it become a nonpartisan issue that focuses on all issues of life, as the mantra says, ‘from conception to natural death’, including the care of the ‘least among these’ as Jesus speaks of in the Gospel of Matthew.”

The group that attended consisted of pilgrims from Great Bend, Marion, Leoti, Elliswood, La Crosse, Hoisington, and Dodge City. Along with marching for life they also attended other sites such as the National Shrine of John Paul II, the Smithsonian museums, the “Life is VERY good” rally hosted by the Diocese of Arlington, and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

They also attended Mass before the march at Nativity Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception. They also attended Mass before the march at Nativity Catholic Church with others from Kansas, including Archbishop Nauman of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, who presided over the Mass.

“My experience at this year’s March for Life was definitely a positive one!” Blair said. “I had never been on the March before, so it was a new experience. It was amazing to hear the testimonies of so many people who, in some way, have contributed to the pro-life movement. It was amazing seeing so many young people—especially from my alma mater, Benedictine College—participating in Mass so joyfully.”

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T he Jan. 21 Gospel reading detailed the moment that Christ comes across James and John out on their boat tending their nets.

“Then he called them,” Mark 1:20 reads. “So, they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.”

When I heard this reading, I placed myself in their boat. How would I respond to Christ? What would I do? (As a side-note, this reading also touches me because my aunt’s name was Zebedee. We used to sing, “Zebedee doo, Zebedee yay! My, oh, my, what a wonderful day!” I recall how she’d chase us with an iron spoon and pelt us with stale biscuits. Happy times.)

What would I do if Christ called to me? How would I feel? How would you feel?

Remember, you wouldn’t be committing to attending a meeting each month, you would be leaving everything you knew behind! Forever.

I’ve never been a joiner. Well, I do belong to the Dark Web Society. It’s darker than the regular Dark Web. It’s so dark we don’t even use electricity. We just stare at a black screen.

So, my first impulse would be to say yes to Jesus, “Oh, I’m just so busy these days, what with the boys in little league, the new addition to the house and the wife’s mother coming to visit. And just how is it? Any excuse I could come up with.

Could you leave everything behind?

What if, for example, James had just built shelves in his bedroom, as I did a few weeks ago? Finally, after seven years, I have all my books shelved neatly by my bed instead of in a huge pile that I trip over every night. Would James have left the boat and followed Jesus if he had just built nice bookshelves in his bedroom? Would the full of newly organized books keep him from leaving?

Or … or what if John had a pet back home? How would he leave this pet hedgehog, Mr. Peepers? Will Zebedee remember to feed Mr. Peepers? And if not, what will happen to Mr. Peepers? Does anyone take into account what would happen to Mr. Peepers?

How would my family feel about me leaving? Would he be mad at me? Would he tell the rest of the family I had abandoned him and that I was a big disappointment, and that now he regrets the day that I made him hire one that Popel’s Pocket Fisherman for my 11th birthday, thinking that that would one day be a wealthy deep sea pocket fisherman?

What about the “hired men”? Would they be angry? What about the cool fisherman in the leather jacket with the live-by-his-own-rules attitude who I wish I could be more like? I don’t want the cool guy thinking I’m a nerd because I left them to do all the work! Would I be the Potsie to his Fonzie? There’s nothing worse than having the cool guy think you’re a nerd.

Having said this, I admit that probably would have followed Jesus, if not just because my brother had, and I’m not gonna let my brother one-up me! Once I join Jesus, other issues arise. For example, I tend to have a bit of OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). For instance, I have to check to see that my doors are locked and that I’ve unplugged everything. OCD is great for physical fitness.

“Jesus, I gotta go back … just for a minute,” I can see myself telling the Lord after walking a mile or two. “I’m thinking I didn’t tie down the mast properly.”


“Yeahhhh, I appreciate that … but it’s just really bugging me,” I answer pleadingly.

“Oh okay,” he says with a sigh. “Go check the mast. We’ll wait.”

I won’t hear the other apostles mumbling as I go.

See, I would be really irritating. That’s why I don’t join things. Eventually the apostles would decide to ditch me, then they’d get in trouble for ditching me, and then I’d be the guy who made them get into trouble for ditching me, which would be really awkward.

And all this would amount to one big hill of worry. I’ve never handled worry well, considering I’m so practiced at it. This is why my cardiologist and I are on a first name basis. And why the lady at the pharmacy counter knows me well enough to ask how my cat’s acne is doing. And why my stomach thinks I’m an evil dictator and always tries to overthrow me.

Pretty soon the worry would cause my belly to start to ache, and with a desperate request, I’d be holding up the apostles once again.

And while indisposed, I’d hear an apostle mutter, “I didn’t think it was scientifically possible for one person to hold that much.”

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What is pro-life? RESPECT

By MICHELLE LA ROSA

Washington D.C. (CNA) - Last week, I attended the national March for Life in Washington, D.C. I have attended the march on several occasions before, and it is always a beautiful and encouraging experience. But unfortunately, I also witnessed something at this year’s march that was discouraging. As marchers arrive at the Supreme Court – the end of the march route – they usually encounter a few dozen counter-protesters, waving signs and chanting slogans in support of abortion under the guise of women’s “freedom.”

This year, however, there were also a few demonstrators waving signs about immigration: With Congress in a stalemate over DACA and the threat of government shutdown looming just hours away, the immigration issue was in the spotlight in Washington that day.

I didn’t hear what the people with the immigration signs said to the marchers. But suddenly, a whole group of pro-life marchers started chanting, in unison, “Build that wall! Build that wall!”

This is wrong. Whatever one’s views on immigration, it is a matter of basic courtesy to maintain respect and courtesy when discussing an issue. DACA is not just a heated political topic. It is a policy question with human consequences: family members facing separation and young adults whose entire lives may be uprooted. Uncertainty causes real suffering for hundreds of thousands of people impacted by DACA. The “Build that wall!” chant tossed out so casually by the pro-life marchers did not express a coherent argument or invite reasoned debate. All it did was harm.

There are several issues being debated within the pro-life movement. One is how to respond to the inconsistencies coming out of Washington, D.C. Another is which social initiatives and political policies will best achieve the goals of the pro-life movement. Still another is the question of whether abortion is the sole issue under the pro-life banner, or whether other issues—the death penalty, for example—fall under the same umbrella. People of good will may debate and strongly disagree on these questions. What’s not up for debate, however, is the necessity of respect for other people, no matter what they are, and what they think. Taunting people at a march called “Love Saves Lives” discredits pro-life claims about the dignity of every human person.

Shortly before the march began, I talked to Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore. Now 45 years after the Supreme Court mandated legal abortion nationwide, I asked him if he is hopeful about the future of the pro-life movement. He said that he is hopeful, first and foremost, because the pro-life movement is joyful. Because of this joy, he said, the pro-life movement is growing.

My own experience supports Archbishop Lori’s observations. The pro-life movement is a joyful movement, and people take notice. One year ago at this year’s march shared with a CNA reporter that her mom had considered abortion while pregnant with her, after being kicked out of her home and lacking support from family. It was the support and joyful witness of pro-lifers that led her to reconsider and choose life for her daughter, who is now active in the pro-life movement in Canada.

This is the pro-life movement at its best: joyful, supportive, full of hope. And it is a standard that must not be compromised. When individuals wearing pro-life t-shirts shout antagonistic, vitriolic comments at anyone, they do a disservice to the cause they profess to care about so deeply.

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And it made me think of the Blessed Sacrament: forever silent, forever listening, forever avaialbe to hear our stories again and again.

We all know what it means not to be listened to, to have the sacredness of our story trampled over by the well-meaning, the distracted, or the careless. God forgive me for my trampolings – they are too many. But I am grateful to be learning that listening to one another is in its way a participation in honoring the sacredness of the soul before me; it is to kneel at God’s altar in awe for the unique and unrepeatable person he has created.

Let’s do better to listen one another. Heavenly Father, in the cacophony that is human suffering and strife, teach me the peace and stillness of the Blessed Sacrament, and like the silent Christ of the Holy Eucharist, to bear witness to the sanctity of every person I encounter.

Elizabeth Kelly is an award-winning speaker and the author of six books, including “Jesus Approaches: What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament.” She serves as a spiritual director in the Ignatian exercises and leads retreats with a particular focus on helping women to flourish in their faith. She teaches in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas (MN). Her website is: www.embooks.com.

To ‘listen’ to one another

By ELIZABETH KELLY

Your Heart, His Home

There’s a quote I keep in my office, from a book by Elizabeth Kelly: “To ‘listen’ to one another. This is why we observe National Sanctity of Human Life Day: to affirm the truth that all life is sacred, that every person has inherent dignity and worth, and that no class of people should ever be discarded as ‘non-human.’” The President Trump explained in the proclamation.

The statement calls on Americans to recognize the human dignity of the elderly, the infirm, the disabled, the addicted, the mentally ill, single moms, orphan and foster children, pregnant mothers, and their unborn children. It also commends those who volunteer to assist pregnant mothers and legislators who work towards legal restrictions on abortion.

In the proclamation, the president explicitly highlights “the humanity of the unborn,” citing medical advances that make possible operations on babies in utero and images that “present us with irredeemable evidence that babies are growing within their mothers’ wombs — precious, unique lives, each deserving a future filled with promise and hope.”

Roe v. Wade anniversary observed as National Sanctity of Human Life Day

By COURTNEY GROGAN

Washington D.C. (CNA) - President Donald Trump has proclaimed that Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion nationwide, is being observed as National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

“Today, we focus our attention on the love and protection each person, born and unborn, deserves regardless of disability, gender, appearance, or ethnicity,” began the president’s proclamation issued Jan. 19, the same day he spoke to March for Life participants via live video.

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Who is served?

Post-Adoption Support

The staff at Catholic Charities understands that adoption is a lifelong process and an intergenerational journey. They are here to help serve all members of the adoption triad—adoptive families, birth parents, and birth and adoptive siblings—and adoptive families by providing comprehensive information, ongoing emotional support, and assistance with search and reunion.

Through their Post Adoption Services, they help with family and parent/child issues that may develop over time, and provide resources for anyone who has been touched by adoption.

SEARCH AND REUNION

An increasing number of adult adoptees and birth parents are coming to Catholic Charities searching for information about their birthparents or their own children. Within the confines of the law and its records, we can:

- Provide Non-Identifying Information: A summary of your birthparents background.
- Share your adoptive parents story if you have this information.
- Obtain Original Birth Certificates for those born in Kansas
- Provide identifying information: Names, social and medical background as well as legal documents found in the original Court Petition.
- Conduct a Search/Reunion: Locate adoptees and birth families as intermediaries between adoptee and birth family in arranging phone calls, or face to face meetings. Provide counseling for all members of the adoption triad: adoptive, birth family and adoptive parents.

A compelling need-to-know is the usual reason for someone to undertake this difficult and often frustrating search process. Self-identity and finding one’s roots is uppermost in searchers’ minds. When an adoptee or birth parent makes the decision to search, one can only hope to find long awaited answers to life-long questions. For the adoptee, questions of “Who do I look like?” and “Where did my abilities and my talents come from?” can be frustrating and lonely. Adoptees, in particular, have many questions regarding health issues. Current medical background information can be crucial for not only the adoptee but also for their children. The reunion process offers the opportunity for the adopted adult to know first hand about the circumstances that led to their adoption and to have information about their family of origin.

For the birth parent, they carry questions of whether their child is okay, has the child had a good life and is the child happy. For birth parents to know about what happened to the child they parted with all those years before and to be able to explain their actions can go a long way to healing the wounds left by the experience. Whatever the degree of contact, even if only short lived, the majority of people feel a sense of well-being and ability to move on and make other decisions in their life.

Adoptive families can often feel left out of the reunion process. It may have stirred up a lot of feeling including a fear of losing the son or daughter they have raised and loved. For most adopted adults, these are important relationships, which they do not want to jeopardize. Reassuring their adoptive families, including them being open and honest can help them to feel more at ease with the reunion. The bonds formed by years of love and devotion are extremely durable and are often strengthened further by a reunion.

It is impossible to predict the outcome of a reunion or how it will develop. Each situation is unique. It is coming together of strangers who may have a deep and intimate bond formed in a previous relationship. The birth mother is likely to have a very vivid memory of that relationship and the feelings she experienced at the time. The adopted adult is likely to have a strong need to know what happened during those early days of his or her life. While the birth father may not have had the same level of involvement with the baby, he may also have strong feelings and memories from that time.

Often, both the adoptee and birth parent feel that a piece of our identity is missing. Search and reunion can help fill that void and make them complete. As a result of searching, some adoptees and birth parents will develop a life long friendship. For others, answers to questions and peace of mind will be achieved.

If you are interested in finding out more about connecting with your birthparents, or your adult children, contact Lori Titsworth at titsworth@ catholiccharitiesks.org or by phone at 620-792-1303.

To donate to the Vibrant Ministries -- Uniting Our Church Appeal, go to www.dcdiocese.org/vibrant-ministries, or contact Mark Roth, mroth@dcdiocese.org. 620-227-1535.

Vibrant Ministries appeal nearing $9.8 million

Compassionate God,

You are the light of the world. You give us your Son to illuminate our path, and the Holy Spirit to shine through us. Loving Father, bless us with the desire to be with you in all things. Invite others into your light and love, and walk with us on our journey to holiness. Merciful God, bless our efforts to unite our Church as you help us to respond to the needs of the least among us. Form our faith and strengthen priestly vocations. May we generously share our hearts with one another, in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Kinsley’s Appeal collection begins in Spring 2018.
In the United States:

3,500 babies are aborted each day

2 million couples are currently waiting to adopt

What’s wrong with this picture?

Greater love has no one than to give up one’s life for a friend.

This could be said, too, for those who save the live within them by giving that life to another.

In a country where an estimated 3,500 babies are aborted every day, there are an estimated two million couples currently waiting to adopt a child.

Enter Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas.

Catholic Charities opens its hearts and its hands to: anyone who is pregnant and struggling to learn to understand, accept and support her child; a birthparent who has chosen the adoption process; and parents seeking to adopt a child.

Gone are the days when a newborn was taken from the birthmother never to be seen again, their lives a mystery to one another. Today, through the Catholic Charities Open Adoption Program, birthparents remain a part of the child’s life. In an atmosphere of mutual love, the adoptive parents raise the child in the loving embrace of family, while the birthparent(s) remains to offer their loving support.

For more information about adoption services at Catholic Charities, contact Lori Titsworth at titsworth@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org, or by phone at 620-792-1393.

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**Pro-Life means sharing life**

February 4, 2018 Page 7

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**Sharing lives**

Dodge City couple journeys the heart and soul of the Catholic Charities Adoption Program

**By DAVE MYERS**

Southwest Kansas Catholic

Ross and Tracy Smith had just returned from a company ski trip to Breckenridge, Colo. when the Southwest Kansas Catholic visited their home in Dodge City.

One of the stories they shared from their bus trip provided a look into just what kind of parents the couple would be to the child whom they are hoping to adopt one day soon through the Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas Adoption Program.

“We were on I-70 and were hit with a bad snow storm,” Ross said.

“There was a long line of busses and semis on the side of the highway putting on their chains,” Tracy added.

“We could see the other bus drivers out struggling by themselves to get the chains put on,” Ross continued. “We all got out and helped. He had half of the bus out there working. We made short work of it.

“Our driver felt pretty lucky that he had a bunch of Kansas farm boys on his bus!”

One day—hopefully soon—a little child will be equally as lucky, facing life with the support of two loving and hard-working parents.

Ross and Tracy met while attending Kansas State University in Manhattan.

“His friend had a Dodge City tee-shirt on,” Tracy recalled, smiling. “The two could have been from anywhere across Kansas. Even well beyond its borders. Kansas State University is, well, Kansas State University after all.”

Turns out, Ross and Tracy were raised just 30 miles from each other, Ross in Cimarron and Tracy in Ford. And with that, a new family history began its first stages.

Tracy was raised on her family farm, the daughter of Ronnie and Dina Herrmann. She has two older siblings, Milo and Erin. She attended Bucklin High School and eventually earned a degree in Human Resource Management; she now serves in recruiting and event planning for Crop Quest.

Ross was born in Paris, Tex. and moved to Cimarron as a toddler. He learned a love for farm-work from his father, John Smith, a cattleman, and his mother, Mary. He has three older siblings, Rachel, Nicole and Joshua. After earning his degree, he taught geography and history at Dodge City High School for five years before devoting himself full time to working on his-in-laws’ family farm in Ford.

“I want to pass down some of the things that my parents taught me,” Ross said of parenthood. “They did a good job. They worked hard. I gained a lot of values from them.”

Having spent two semesters in Spain and Mexico to learn the Spanish language—as well as the Spanish and Mexican culture—Tracy said she is very open to adopting a boy or girl of a different cultural heritage.

“I would look forward to mixing some of our culture and values with their heritage,” Tracy said.

The couple recognizes that it must be an agonizing decision for the birth-parent to choose the adoption process.

Tracy said she appreciates the fact that Catholic Charities “would help the expectant mother’s decision to either parent the child, or go through the adoption process.

“We’re taught that the first priority is the baby, then the birth parents, then the adoptive parents,” Tracy said.

They admitted that the thought of open adoption (in which the birth

“We all got out and helped. He had half of the bus out there working. We made short work of it.

“Our driver felt pretty lucky that he had a bunch of Kansas farm boys on his bus!”

-- Ross Smith

As part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Tracy Smith has for five years enjoyed the friendship of a little girl named Sofia. Tracy and Ross have grown close to Sofia’s family, as well.

“Uncle Ross” lends his time and talent to help one of his nephews with a bit of bicycle repair.

Tracy and Ross Smith of Dodge City are seeking to adopt a child through the Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas Adoption Program.

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“Dave Myers’ photos courtesy of Tracy and Ross Smith.”
SKYAC is coming!

UUUUNNNNNNN!! To the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, March 4 for the third annual Southwest Kansas Young Adult Conference (SKYAC)!

All young adults ages 18-39 are invited to attend the event, which is designed to offer participants the chance to get closer to God and each other in an atmosphere of fun and praise.

Although the event begins on March 4, participants have the option of attending a social mixer the night before at Boot Hill Distillery beginning at 7 p.m. until TKO (they’re kicked out).

The next day will be filled with fun and praise, informative talks and games. There will be guest speakers to cover topics that are relevant to the various stages of life that young people find themselves in, and there will also be plenty of time for prayer and conversation.

“Our motto for the Southwest Kansas Young Adult Conference is ‘Duc in altum’ which is Latin for ‘put out into the deep’, as Jesus tells the apostles to do in Luke 5:4,” explained Gentry Heimerman, Director of Young Adult Ministries for the diocese.

“We hope that this time together draws us ever deeper into the mystery of Christ. For a boring life is that which is lived in the shallows.”

A light breakfast will be provided after Mass on Sunday and lunch is included with the registration.

The cost is $30 per single registration and $55 per married couple. Free daycare is offered for anyone who needs it. (Just be sure to let organizers know on the registration form.)

For more information about SKYAC, or to register online, go to https://www.dcyoungadult.com/skyac

Who’s speaking?

FATHER GALE HAMMERSCHMIDT
Father Gale Hammertschmidt is a priest from the Diocese of Salina. He is currently the chaplain at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center at Kansas State University.

“What it is to be a young adult in the Church today”

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary specialize in education across the Diocese of Wichita. After settling there in 1976 they now have over 25 Sisters who serve the Diocese.

“A young Sister’s experience as a millennial in the convent”

ETHAN STUEVE
Ethan and his podcast partner Patrick are chewing on all things Catholic in their podcast The Crunch. Sometimes poignant, sometimes informational, sometimes absolutely useless, Ethan and Patrick hope that their conversations lead themselves and others closer to Christ in his one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

Catholic Charities free Life Skills classes

Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas is presenting life skills classes.

Each one hour class is presented at 305 W. Mary in Garden City from 6-7 p.m.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Feb. 13
Learn the importance of healthful living and essential grooming practices for optimal health and well-being. Will also assist those who are feeling overwhelmed, facing changes, or who lack management experience, to use time wisely.

HOME MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY
Feb. 27
Learn safe, affordable cleaning methods, develop strategies for controlling clutter, and understand important factors of home safety.

ESSENTIAL FOOD, NUTRITION, ACTIVITY
March 13
Develop skills related to food, nutrition, and physical activity with instruction and hands-on learning experiences related to food preparation, food safety, grocery budgeting and making healthful choices for nutrition and physical activity.

For more information about the Catholic Charities Life Skills Series, call 620-272-0010.

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

Decisions made in the past may no longer be what’s best for the future. To help keep everything up to date, Edward Jones offers a complimentary financial review.

A financial review is a great opportunity to sit face to face with an Edward Jones financial advisor and develop strategies to help keep your finances in line with your short- and long-term goals.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, call or visit today.

Todd J Armatsys
Financial Advisor
1904 Broadway
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-795-5481
1-800-432-8249

Lloyd Davis, CFP
Financial Advisor
210 E Frontview Suite B
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-0651

Edward Jones
Member SIPC
Making Sense of Investing
Faith and Light
Being Pro-Life means celebrating the gifts of God’s special people

Persons who face physical and intellectual disabilities, their families and friends, take part in the monthly Faith and Light gathering at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City. At right, Frank and Virginia Sumaya facilitate the evening of prayer, song, and discussion, which concludes with a shared meal.

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

They came into the large room one by one, some smiling in anticipation, others a bit apprehensive, their friends or family—or both—in tow.

Some were talkative, eager to chat. Others were quiet as a church mouse (but not so quiet that they were immune to bursts of laughter).

They were young and, well, not so young, men and women, English and Spanish speaking.

Despite all the differences, the one thing they all had in common is that they were surrounded by unconditional love and acceptance.

This is Faith and Light, a non-denominational monthly gathering for people with physical and intellectual challenges, their friends and family. It is hosted by Virginia and Frank Sumaya. Virginia embodies sweetness and light and unconditional acceptance, while Frank goes from sharing his wisdom-filled teachings on the Gospel to showing joyful acceptance of the participants disguised as fun-loving needling. Both equally shine the light of Christ on all those gathered.

After several years of overseeing the monthly gatherings, they are slowly transitioning to another host. But when new facilitator Claudia Lucero called Virginia just hours before the Jan. 21 event after having become ill, Virginia quickly organized an itinerary and gathered up the supplies.

Among those participants was Margie Sloan, who brought with her Kiley Kline and Milton Rivera, one shy, the other in perpetual anticipation of conversation. When asked if she was their mother, Sloan replied, “No, I used to work at Arrowhead West, and we became friends. I bring them to the meetings—with their parents permission.”

EARTHY GOD

Each gathering is opened with the beautiful litany, “Everyday God.”

“Everyday God,” “O Jesus,” “O Spirit,” or “Come, be with us.” Eleven verses are sung. After each line, a participant holds a large, colored placard that reads, “Everyday God,” “O Jesus,” “O Spirit,” or “Come, be with us.”

“God is there for everything we need, everyday,” Frank Sumaya said in English and then in Spanish. “Every day he is something different that we need.”

“Is prayer?” Virginia Sumaya asked all those gathered. “Tom, would you like to share?”

Tom Patterson, a man in his 60s who’s been coming to the gatherings for more than a decade, can’t answer. He’s too busy laughing. It was something his friend whispered. But that’s okay. Laughing is part of the joy of the moment. Seconds later he answers, “It’s asking God to help people.”

There are several more thoughtful responses. Then Frank says of prayer, “You share your pain, your sacrifice, but mainly you say thanks! What if you lost everything and then suddenly got it all back? Would you feel the same? Probably not!”

Virginia discussed many types of prayer, including adoration, which she described as “praising God simply because He is God.”

“Contemplation” she said, is spending time with God in silence, relaxing and being attentive to God’s presence.

The most important kind of prayer, Virginia said, “is the Mass. It is important because it brings us together as a community to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.”

A supper always concludes the Faith and Light event. Many people brought desserts and salads, while a chili dinner was provided. The sharing continued; more laughter, more joy.

“See you next month!” a smiling man shouts as the participants filter out the door.

If you would like to attend a gathering, volunteer to help, or to form a Faith and Light community in your parish, call (620) 682-0455.

Faith and Light presently numbers more than 1,450 communities on five continents in 83 countries with 38 different languages. Two thirds of the countries where Faith and Light is present suffer from great economic difficulties or political instability. Members of Faith and Light communities come from different Christian traditions without distinction of age, culture or income.

--From www.faithandlight.org

What is pro-life?
In some industrialized countries, including the United States, prenatal screening leads to the abortion of an estimated 60 to 90 percent of children with Down syndrome or other genetic anomalies. The rights of the disabled must be defended from the very first moment of existence.

--America, The Jesuit Review magazine

“Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

“It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered.

“This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.”

-- John 9:2-3
Dumpster diving for the impoverished

By ELISE HARRIS

Rome, Italy (CNA) – In a recent general audience, Pope Francis condemned modern society for silencing “the voice of the elderly” and, although not openly, disposing of the elderly, saying that a civilization which views them only as burdensome is “perverse” and ill.

Facing regular stares or criticism from curious or suspicious onlookers, Marta told reporters “It doesn’t faze me. I do it because I know there are people in need who are waiting for me.”

Marta’s project began several years ago with a family that was about to lose everything due to a crisis in the economy. Subsequently she learned of others in need. She said the eight families she now serves “always welcome me with open arms and with great decorum.

“They have never asked me for anything and they never waste anything: with the flour they make bread, with the milk they make cheese.”

Deacon Benito Cutelle of the Nativity of Our Lord Parish discovered Marta’s charitable outreach after noticing her digging through a dumpster. At first he thought she was retrieving the food for herself.

“I was mistaken,” Cutelle said. “She was not searching through the garbage for herself, but for people who didn’t have anything to eat. I was really surprised. At her age she very humbly provides a service, an important service to benefit our poorest brothers.

“What she regrets is that when she’s too tired, there is no one else to help them.”

Marta, who says she has a lot of energy, commented “The politicians and those who make public policy decisions ought to realize the real situation and how much poverty there is still today.”

“Do not cast me off in my old age; do not forsake me when my strength fails.”

— Psalm 71:9

At 79, Marta busies herself each day collecting pounds of edible food from dumpsters to give to the poor. She collects some 90 pounds each day, including whole bags of oranges that were discarded due to one bad orange.

What is pro-life?

“Those who are ill or alone, require greater attention and care, he said. However, rather than being a burden, such persons are what the Bible refers to as “a storehouse of wisdom,” the Pope said, and pointed to how the Church’s tradition has always placed great value on the elderly and devoted special attention to the final stage of life.

“Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength fails.”

— Psalm 71:9

...The quality of a society can easily be evaluated by the way it treats its elderly members....
Holy Father makes surprise visit to sick children

By ELISE HARRIS

Rome, Italy (CNA) - In yet another "Mercy Friday" outing, Pope Francis recently traveled to the outskirts of Rome to visit sick children receiving care at a campus of the Vatican’s Bambino Gesù hospital, offering comfort to patients and their parents.

According to a Jan. 5 Vatican communiqué, the Pope made the visit around 3 p.m., heading to the Palidoro campus of Bambino Gesù children’s hospital, which sits about 20 miles west of Rome.

Francis made his way through different wings of the hospital, greeting the children who are receiving care and their parents, who are helping their children through “these tiresome and painful trials.”

Bambino Gesù, colloquially known as the “Pope’s hospital,” is among the most important pediatric hospitals in the world. Founded in 1869 by the Duchess Arabella Salvati, the hospital was donated to Pius XI in 1924, with the aim of giving it a more stable future.

The Palidoro campus was established in 1978 under Bl. Paul VI, who entrusted Bambino Gesù with the activities of the “Pontificia Opera di Assistenza” clinic in Palidoro, which specialized in care for polio patients and until that year had been separate from the hospital.

The campus is also currently home to a special exhibit titled “Caro Papa, ti regalo un disegno,” meaning, “Dear Pope, I’ll give you a drawing.”

Promoted by both Bambino Gesù and the Jesuit newspaper “La Civiltà Cattolica,” the exhibit consists of a series of drawings given to the Pope by children throughout the world either through the mail, or in person during audiences or trips abroad.

The drawings were given to La Civiltà Cattolica, which partnered with Bambino Gesù to launch a campaign using the images as a means of supporting and welcoming the children who come to the hospital from all over the world.

Pope Francis’ visit to the hospital is a continuation of his “Mercy Friday” custom which he began during the Jubilee of Mercy, in 2016. Originally planned once per month for the duration of the jubilee, the Pope has continued these visits as a means of practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. He has met with refugees, children, women freed from sex trafficking, and the terminally ill, among others.

What is pro-life?

Being pro-life is to serve the most vulnerable: children, refugees, the impoverished, despite their country of origin, despite their financial status, despite their religious affiliation, despite the color of their skin. It is to build the culture of life despite the cost to ourselves.

In the last two years, there have been approximately 100 small “humanitarian” patients admitted to Bambino Gesù from countries like Albania, Benin, Belarus, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Myanmar, Moldova, Syria, and the Ukraine.

Bambino Gesù is the largest pediatric hospital in Europe, a center of excellence recognized worldwide for the treatment of many diseases. Thirteen percent of patients usually come from outside Italy.

With the help of associations and hotels, the hospital offers free accommodation for families coming from outside Rome.

Children’s drawings for the pope include the joyful (as above, with the pope pictured outside the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City), and the troubled (as below, with refugees landing on shore after a harrowing crossing).

supporting the action of the Bambino Gesù means enlarging the boundaries of solidarity,” he added.

The subjects of the hundred drawings are very different from each other. There is one, done by a German child, where Francis holding the world on his shoulders, like the Greek mythological figure Atlas. Casey, an American, drew a child swimming in the sea, with a question addressed to the Pope at the top: “Do you like swimming? If not, what do you do in the summer?”

Many other children have instead depicted war scenes, migrants fleeing the sea in boats—small, innocent artists sharing their own suffering.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro observed: “There is a certain ‘rawness’ if you will, in their way of representing the world, there is nothing too childish. We basically also see how the pope is seen as a person capable of lending a hand to this world. Children try to project their image of the pope, but they also try to convey the world. And this affects the viewer a lot.

“It is a way of understanding how children perceive reality, especially in those places, in those situations that appeal to all of us so that we can act, we can make the world a better place.”

The exhibition will remain open until mid-February 2018. The exhibition also includes some screens with a video animation of other drawings. There is Arturo, an Italian, who asks the pope to convince U.S. President Donald Trump not to start the Third World War, “because we want to live in peace,” he wrote.

“The best wishes for the Christmas that comes are the invitation to make this wounded land a world worth living,” says Father Spadaro.

According to Mariella Enoc, president of the Bambino Gesù Hospital, “The drawings of these children remind us that everyone is a citizen not only of his own country, but of the world. It is a particularly important message for the pope’s hospital, which wants to be, with the help of everyone, a place of care open to all children, especially those who need it most.”

‘Pope Francis, I Give You a Drawing’

CNA – One can already see the talent of the unknown Mexican child who drew the Pope against the backdrop of the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe (right).

Other small artists, on the other hand, still need to refine their skills and techniques. Francis, however, especially appreciates the spirit with which thousands of children give him his drawings, handing them directly to him by hand, when they have the precious opportunity, or sending them in the mail.

“But what are you doing with all these drawings? Where do you put them?” once asked the pope’s Jesuit conferee, Father Antonio Spadaro, director of La Civiltà Cattolica. The Pope then looked at him for a few moments, then replied: “You take care of them!” and adding, don’t keep them locked in a drawer. The wish was that this gifts of the children’s drawings to the pope may again become, if possible, a gift for other children.

Thus, the idea was born of exposing 100 of them to Palidoro, not far from Rome, in the famous Bambino Gesù pediatric hospital, owned by the Vatican. The exhibition, entitled “Dear Pope Francis, I am giving you a drawing”, was inaugurated on Dec. 19, 2017, with the intervention of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State.

“I was able to see that these drawings express a great affection, a great love for Pope Francis,” he declared.

“It is a precious treasure that communicates the world seen by children: it makes us feel and see the world from the point of view of children. And according to Mariella Enoc, president of the Bambino Gesù Hospital, “The drawings of these children remind us that everyone is a citizen not only of his own country, but of the world. It is a particularly important message for the pope’s hospital, which wants to be, with the help of everyone, a place of care open to all children, especially those who need it most.”
By ELISE HARRIS

Denver, Colo. (CNA) - A man who lost his own child to abortion believes men have important things to say on the issue, and their voices need to be heard.

“We are told that men shouldn’t talk about abortion,” but it’s an issue that affects them too, Jason Jones told CNA in a recent interview, “It’s a man’s issue and it’s a woman’s issue.”

“As a man, I have something in me that wants to protect the vulnerable from violence. That is what men do,” he said.

Jones, a national pro-life advocate, said when he speaks frankly in those terms, men respond to him, because “we need to say the truth.”

When men tell the truth about their own experience with abortion, “it changes people,” he said. “No one has a happy abortion story. When people tell the truth, it influences people.”

Jones, who often shares the story of his own child’s abortion, told CNA he was 17 when he and his girlfriend Kate found out they were pregnant. Still in high school, they planned to hide the pregnancy while he dropped out and joined the army so he could take care of the baby. He was excited to be a father, he said.

However, while still in basic training and during their third trimester, Jones got a call from his girlfriend’s father saying his daughter, whom they had already named Jessica, had been murdered.

“That was it for me. It horrified me. It was unbelievable,” he said. “I had never been to church a day in my life. I knew nothing about politics. I was just a kid who was last in his class in high school, who to me, school was just something I had to do to play football.”

However, since the moment he found out that his daughter had been aborted, he says he has committed his life “to protecting women and children from the violence of abortion.”

Jones, 46, is now a film producer, author, and human rights worker known for his proactive lifestyle. He remained an atheist for years, though his contact with Christian organizations and study of political philosophy eventually led him, in 2003, to the Catholic Church.

“We talk to men about abortion, I talk to them as a man. I talk to them plainly,” he said. “I talk to them as a man who has lost his child.”

Jones said his message to people who might be in a state of fear or crisis because of an unexpected pregnancy would be “what are you afraid of”?

“I had that experience, I became a teen parent,” but looking back, “what was I afraid of? … Being a father is such a beautiful gift … there is no more beautiful thing in the world than being a father.”

* Nick Hoof survived an abortion that resulted in the seving of part of both of his legs. With the support of two adoptive parents, and his coach, he’s become a competitive wrestler.

OneLife LA event an opportunity to celebrate life, face culture of death

By PERRY WEST

Washington D.C. (CNA) - Thousands gathered in Los Angeles on Jan. 20 for a rally and march supporting the dignity of every human life and proclaiming that every human person is “made for greater.”

“God made a decision to make each one of you. He decided to make you, to make me. This is how special we are to him,” said Archbishop Jose Gomez in his homily during the Requiem Mass for the Unborn, which concluded the Jan. 20 OneLife LA event.

“(God) comes to us to proclaim the Gospel of Life,” he said. “We are called to announce this good news to every person that we are made for greater things,” he said, closing the event’s theme, “Made for Greater.”

Archbishop Gomez told CNA that the event was created four years ago. The archbishop said he saw the need for both an annual celebration of life and an opportunity to address the challenges in the culture of death, such as abortion and assisted suicide.

The day began with a youth rally at 11 a.m., where young people from Southern California gathered at La Placita Olvera. There, bands led the crowd in praise and worship, and Daniel Rangel-Santos, executive board vice president of the USC Caruso Catholic Center, shared the story of how his parents were advised to abort him when doctors discovered a likely birth defect.

“Immediately, my parents strongly refused to have the abortion. For them, despite their financially humble situation at the time, a birth defect was neither an issue nor an excuse for an abortion. They loved me and they wanted to meet the new Son God sent them,” he told CNA.

Shortly after noon, dozens of students, families, seminarians, clergy, and religious made their way to the Los Angeles State Historic Park, chanting along the way, “We are the pro-life generation” and “OneLife LA.”

Karen Gaffney, worldwide pro-life speaker and the first person with Down syndrome to ever swim the 21-mile stretch of the English Channel, was the keynote speaker at the event. She decried the abortion industry’s effort to target babies with Down syndrome, saying, “They want to screen us out.”

However, she also expressed gratitude for the steps taken by schools, businesses, and individuals to work toward greater inclusion for people with Down syndrome.

“We are musicians and artists, actors and fashion models, we own black belts in Taekwondo. And some of us have even executed a mortgage,” she said jokingly, referring to her own accomplishments of crossing the San Francisco bay 15 times.

Gaffney encouraged the crowd to take the time to learn more about Down

Continued on Page 17

House passes protections for abortion survivors

Washington D.C. (CNA) - As the annual March for Life began just blocks away from the U.S. Capitol, the House of Representatives passed a bill requiring medical care for babies surviving botched abortions.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act requires physicians and abortion clinics to provide proper medical treatment for babies born alive after an abortion. The bill mandates fines and the possibility of imprisonment for medical professionals found to be noncompliant.

“Justice and compassion took a great leap forward today,” Marjorie Dannenfels of the Susan B. Anthony List said of the bill’s passage.

“We thank Leader McCarthy and our allies in the House for holding a timely vote on this crucial bill, as hundreds of thousands of pro-life Americans rally at Congress’ doorstep,” Dannenfels said in a Jan. 19 press release.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), says that abortionists would be required to meet the same standards of care for a child surviving an abortion as would be expected for infants of the same gestational age who were not subjects of an abortion. The law would also specifically require surviving babies to be transported to a hospital.

Women undergoing abortion could not be prosecuted under the law’s provisions, but it would give them a cause for a lawsuit if a child surviving an abortion was uncared for.

A bill already exists which orders medical care for babies surviving late term abortions, “It’s a man’s issue affects them too,” Congressman Chris Smith, M.D., former head of the Centers of Disease Control Abortion Surveillance Unit. “(Live births) are little known because organized medicine, from fear of public clamor and legal action, treats them more as an embarrassment to be hushed up than a problem to be solved. It’s like turning yourself in to the IRS for an audit,” Smith said, quoting Dr. Cates.

The legislation needs 60 votes to pass through the Senate, which has not yet passed a 20-weeks of pregnancy passed by the House last year.

“We urge the Senate to follow their colleagues’ lead and pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act as well as the Pain- Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would end cruel late-term abortions after five months of pregnancy,” Dannenfels said.

In his remarks supporting the bill, Smith encouraged Americans to continue working to end abortion. From the House floor, he offered “a call to increased prayer and fasting asking God to protect the weakest and most vulnerable and to heal.”

What is pro-life?

Being pro-life doesn’t only mean to protect the unborn, it means to offer love and guidance to those touched by abortion in any way, including those who have had an abortion. We are called to promote the welfare of all our brothers and sisters, helping them to draw closer to our Loving Lord.

Why this man says abortion isn’t just a woman’s issue

February 4, 2018 The Southwest Kansas Catholic

Being Pro-Life means helping those touched by abortion

Speaker, is enforcement—the lack of legal bill has little power to be enforced. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), is that the current for the infants who survive late term professionals to provide emergency care for. if a child surviving an abortion was uncared for. We are called to promote the welfare of all our love and guidance to those touched by abortion in any way, including those who have had an abortion. We are called to promote the welfare of all our brothers and sisters, helping them to draw closer to our Loving Lord.
The Southwest Kansas Catholic February 4, 2018  Page 13

DACA’s demise means discarding some of our most educated

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

The DACA program benefits 800,000 young immigrants, nearly 7,000 of whom live in Kansas. If the DACA program is not renewed on March 5, there is a good possibility the 2,000 or so students you will know will be placed on the deportation list.

“Your’e talking about attorneys,” Ernestor De La Rosa, Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Dodge City.

“You’re talking about nurses. You’re talking about teachers. You’re talking about individuals who have been educated in our school systems.”

“I am not talking about the brightest and the most talented group that are already here.”

De La Rosa is an advocate for immigration reform and works with the City of Dodge City to navigate legislative issues.

“People will start losing their driver’s licenses; they will be pulled out of the workforce; we will see families being separated, which is already happening; you will see the individuals who have been in the United States their entire lives being deported to a country that is not familiar to them, where they may not speak the native language, where they may not have any family.”

De La Rosa is a Dodge City High School graduate; he earned his Master’s Degree in public administration from Wichita State University in 2014. He is well spoken and intelligent. And if the DACA program is not renewed, in July 2019, he can be deported to a country he barely remembers.

“My family came to the U.S. through a visitor’s visa 15 years ago after being sponsored by an uncle who is a United States citizen,” De La Rosa explained. “My family was able to obtain a Visa for 10 years, which we thought would allow us time until our green card would be issued.”

“The brokenness of the immigration system has been clearly evidenced by the U.S. Bishops in their 2001 pastoral statement, ‘Welcoming the Strangers Among Us,’ and in 2013’s, ‘Strangers No Longer...’ The mountain of red tape is nearly insurmountable. People are on waiting lists for years or decades. It has been addressed by multiple presidents, including Ronald Reagan, who created an amnesty in exchange for tougher border protection and penalties. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama tried to address the system. Despite their efforts, the immigration code has not been reformed in more than 30 years. So, it was little surprise that, when asked whether or not he ever received his green card, De La Rosa responded, ‘We’re still waiting.’

Then came DACA, or the “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” program. Established in 2012, the program sought to bring the immigrant out of the shadows. DACA allowed individuals who arrived here before age 16 and prior to June 15, 2007—and who were able to pass a stringent background check—to receive a protection from deportation, work permits and driver’s licenses.

“Nineteen percent of the DACA recipients are college or high school graduates.”

For two years, DACA recipients can live in the United States without fear of being deported. After two years, they reapply. De La Rosa last renewed in July 2017, which means that if there is no DACA fix, he can be deported as of July 2019.

On Sept. 5, 2017, the DACA program was rescinded by President Donald Trump. In January 2018 Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell promised that the issue would be addressed before the March 5 deadline. Hopes remain that an agreement will still be reached. Thanks to a court injunction, “they are accepting DACA renewals but they are not taking any new applications,” De La Rosa explained.

Does he fear being that the issue will be dealt with prior to the March deadline?

“That’s one of the things I struggle with,” De La Rosa said. “Last year, McConnell made the same promise that he would address the issue of DACA in December, yet nothing happened, and here we are again with a promise that the immigration debate will take place.

“That’s where dreamers are skeptical and do not trust legislators on either side of the aisle.”

In a Jan. 24 statement to the press, President Trump offered a bit of hope: “We’re going to morph into it,” he told reporters. “It’s going to happen at some point in the future. If they do a great job, I think it’s a nice thing to have the issue of, after a period of years, being able to become a citizen.”

But it includes a trade-off. Trump said he would support legal status for ‘Dreamers’ in exchange for $20 billion in funding for the border wall over a period of seven years.

“We’re talking about a group of people who are educated,” De La Rosa said. “Nearly 70 percent of dreamers are college or high school graduates. We are in different professions, mine happens to be public administration. We are called to cooperate in forming a compassionate solution, and end the immigration stalemate.

Sen. Pat Roberts
Dale City Office Building
Kansas, 66501
Phone: 785-226-0357
Fax: 785-226-0012

Sen. Jerry Moran
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 521
Washington, DC. 20510
Phone: 202-224-6521
Fax: 202-228-6966

Rep. Roger Marshall
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2715
Fax: 202-225-2715

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

By MOST REV. JOHN B. BRUNGAARDT
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

The following is reprinted from an earlier issue.

As Bishop and Curia of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, we are spiritually and morally motivated to raise our voice, confirming our values and commitments as Americans and Christians.

Grounded in our Catholic mission, we are guided by our commitment to uphold the dignity of every person, to work for the common good of our nation, and to promote a living faith that works for justice.

As enunciated by Pope Francis:

“Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ! We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved.” (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 5 August 2014)

It is reported that there are approximately 7,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients in Kansas. The vast majority of these DACA youth are in the Diocese of Dodge City. (Throughout the nation, they number 800,000.)

DACA youth are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our schools, and involved members and leaders in our parishes. Many young people entered the U.S. as children and know the United States of America as their only home. The dignity of every human being, particularly that of our children and youth, must be protected.

We urge our political leaders to continue administering the DACA program and to publicly ensure that DACA youth are not prioritized for deportation.

DACA is not a permanent solution; for this reason, we also call on all our political leaders to work in an expeditious and bipartisan manner to find a legislative solution for DACA youth as soon as possible.

We note the moral urgency for comprehensive immigration reform that is just and compassionate.

What is pro-life?

To call yourself pro-life is to define yourself as someone who defends all life, from conception to natural death. Can we call ourselves pro-life if we do not defend the human rights of immigrants, documented or otherwise?

“You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself...” – Leviticus 19:34

‘Chain migration’ misrepresents reality

Calls to end “chain migration” often describe endlessly snowballing immigrant populations, caused by laws that allow citizens and lawful permanent residents to bring relatives into the country.

But what some call “chain migration” is also known as family-based immigration, or family reunification. It has been a central component of the U.S. immigration system for more than 50 years.

“The term [chain migration] just misrepresents the reality,” said Kevin Appleby, senior director of international migration policy for the Center for Migration Studies. “It’s a term that overstates the migration flow coming in, and it also has an undercurrent of discriminating against those of color and people from countries that the president has referred to in derogatory terms.”

Bill Canny, executive director of the USCBB’s Migration and Refugee Services Offices, said that the updated definition of “family”—which prevents immigrants from sponsoring visas for their parents, siblings, or adult children— is “very troubling.”

Family-based petitions are responsible for the majority of immigration to the United States, around two-thirds of total new green-card holders. The current administration is calling for a shift to a more merit-based immigration system.

“(The Catholic) understanding of migration is rooted in need, not merit,” said Julie Hanlon Rubio, professor of Christian ethics at St. Louis University. “In that sense, our obligation of hospitality is an answer to the needs of other people that can’t be met in their home countries.”

Prioritizing people based on skills they offer the economy would be “a hard sell in Catholic teaching,” she said.

Current wait times for visa range from two to 24 years, include siblings and adult children of U.S. citizens and the spouses and unmarried children of permanent residents.

“The system as it’s implemented today is broken because it takes so long to get a family member in,” Appleby said. “When opponents talk about chain migration, they don’t mention that it can take a couple of generations to actually get an extended family in.”
Otro Camino
+ RONALD M.
GILMORE
Obispo Emeritus de
Dodge City

A CIPRENSA-Hoy se conmemora el 45º aniversario del fallo Roe vs. Wade que legalizó el aborto en todo Estados Unidos. Esta ley ha permitido desde entonces el exterminio legal de más de 60 millones de bebés en el vientre materno.

La Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos decidió legalizar el aborto luego de que a comienzos de 1970, Norma McCorvey alegara que había sido violada por una pandilla y resultó embarazada. Las abogadas Sarah Weddington y Linda Coffee, recién graduadas de la Facultad de Leyes de la Universidad de Texas, convencieron a Norma de que debería abortar en lugar de dar a su bebé en adopción.

Mientras el caso era visto en los tribunales, la bebé nació y fue dada en adopción. Nunca fue abortada.

En 1987, McCorvey admitió que había mentido y que no había sido violada por unos pandilleros. El padre de su bebé era una persona a la que ella conocía y quería.

Hace más de veinte años, Norma se convirtió al catolicismo y dedicó su vida a promover la defensa de los no nacidos, hasta que falleció el 18 de febrero de 2017.

Todos los años la Iglesia en Estados Unidos promueve una gran iniciativa nacional en la que participan personas sin distinción de afinidad religiosa o política, con la que se busca revertir el fallo de 1973 para acabar con el drama del aborto en el país.

Para ello proponen una serie de actividades, como el rezo de una novena en sufragio de los bebés que han muerto por esta práctica y por los que están en peligro de ser asesinados en el vientre materno.

Este año la gran Marcha por la Vida se realizó el viernes 19 de enero en Washington D.C., y participaron medio millón de personas.

Además el presidente Donald Trump dirigió un mensaje a través de la señal satelital para agradecer “a cada persona aquí presente hoy, que trabaja con gran corazón para asegurarse que los padres tengan el cuidado y apoyo que necesitan para elegir la vida”. “Gracias a ustedes, decenas de miles de estadounidenses han nacido y alcanzado todo el potencial que Dios les dio... ustedes son los testigos vivos del lema: ‘El amor salva vidas’”, expresó.

“Gracias a ustedes, decenas de miles de estadounidenses han nacido y alcanzado todo el potencial que Dios les dio... ustedes son los testigos vivos del lema: ‘El amor salva vidas’.”

Hoy se cumplen 45 años de la legalización del aborto en Estados Unidos

Los padres esperan con ansias las primeras palabras de su hijo. Las primeras palabras tienen un poder de permanencia extraño e inusual. Usted lo sabe. Todos lo sabemos. Valoramos el Evangelio de San Marcos por este motivo. El más antiguo de los Evangelios fue el primero en darnos las primeras palabras de Jesús al abrir su ministerio público. (Marcos 1, 14-15)

Se ha cumplido el tiempo y está cerca el reino de Dios: arrepientanse y crean en la Buena Noticia. Arrepientanse y crean esta buena noticia, este Evangelio. Sus primeras palabras son poéticas, pero sus primeras palabras son profundas.

Arrepentirse es un movimiento en nuestras almas. Nos alejamos para no ser tragados por las cosas de este, nuestro mundo. Nos movemos hacia las cosas de Su mundo, el mundo divino. La palabra sugiere un “quiero” con nuestro pasado personal. Es un profundo cambio de mentalidad. Solemos pensar en esta cosa compleja como una conversión personal.

Arrepentirse es un dolor real por el pecado: por querer las cosas a nuestra manera, en lugar de hacerlo a Su manera. Ese fue el Pecado Original, y sigue siendo el objeto de cada pecado personal desde entonces. Y el dolor implica una resolución real para evitar el pecado en el futuro. Sería un Dolor triste sin esa resolución.

Arrepentirse es algo que crece. Es una transformación lenta. Tiene altibajos únicos para cada uno de nosotros. Dios está con todos los que luchan por cambiar, con todos los que permiten que el Señor haga su camino, a su manera.


**Primeras palabras**
Estoy solo, desamparado y desesperado...

... sin un Salvador

Necestamos comenzar al principio de mi serie llamada La Buena Nueva y la Vivir el Reino (ver recuadro). No importa de cuántas personas nos rodeemos, básicamente estamos solos. No importa cuán saludables estemos, bastan una enfermedad o un accidente para mostrarnos cuán impotentes somos. Cada vez que pensamos hacia dónde vamos después de que morimos, no tenemos esperanza...

... sin un Salvador

La Escritura incluye este tema. “Porque estoy solo y afligido” (Salmo 25,16) demuestra cuán solos estamos. “Mientras aún estábamos indefensos” (Rom 5,6) ilustra cómo estamos necesitados. “Señor, salvame” (Mateo 15,30). Pedro exclama, demostrando que no tiene esperanza...

... sin un Salvador

Abramos nuestros corazones a la necesidad de un Salvador. Aprendemos Quién es ese Salvador en la próxima parte de la serie.

Fe y Luz

Ser pro-vida significa celebrar los regalos de personas muy especiales para Dios

Entronaron uno por uno, algunos sonriendo por la anticipación, otros un poco inquietos, su familia o amigos – o los dos – también los acompañaban. Algunos hablaban, con ansias de platicar. Otros estaban callados (pero tan callados que eran inmunes a las sonrisas). Eran jóvenes, y otros no tanto, hombres y mujeres, hablando inglés y español. A pesar de todas las diferencias, lo que todos compartían era que todos estaban rodeados de amor incondicional y aceptación.

Esta convivencia está abierta para aquellos con alguna discapacidad intelectual o física, y también para sus familiares y amigos. Para más información, comuníquese con el Sr. Sumaya www.v.sumaya@hotmail.com, 620-682 0455.

Secciones de conscientización

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajan con menores a asistir a las sesiones de conscientización de Proteger a los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de conscientización están disponibles en ambos inglés y español. Son conducidos por gente que trabaja con menores a asistir a las sesiones de conscientización de Proteger a los Niños de Dios.

En la próxima parte de la serie, Señor, salvame, la próxima parte de la serie, Stío a Jesús y su Iglesia, no al mundo ni a la carne, y como nosotros mismos, por medio de Cristo Jesú, a la vida, la gloria y el honor. Aclamemos a nuestro Salvador, diciendo: “Jesús es mi Salvador. Jesús es mi salvación.” Aclamemos a nuestro Salvador, diciendo: “Jesús es mi salvación.”
OBITUARIES

SOCCORO MERCADO DE LLAMAS, 85, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Jan. 13, 2018. She helped her daughter and son-in-law, Rocio and Javier Alvarez in the family restaurant Casa Alvarez in Dodge City. Socorro is survived by three daughters, Alina Hernandez, Rocio Alvarez and Maribel Cardenas; a son, Moines Llamas; 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Father Wesley Schawne presided.

FRANCIS J. BEHR, 88, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, died Jan. 16, 2018. He served in the United States Army from 1948 to 1952 during the Korean War as a sergeant. A lifetime Hoisington resident, Behr retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1989 after 24 and one-half years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus #1521. On Oct. 7, 1952, he married Evelyn (Huschka) Seyfert; she preceded him in death on April 28, 2016. Survivors include two sons, Ronald J. and Norma E.; two daughters, Mary Ann Behr and Janice K. “Jan” Nondorf; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; and one on the way. Fathers Anselm Eke and Pascal Klein presided.

ENCARNACION E. MATUREY, 96, of St. Alphonsus Parish, Satanta, died Jan. 20, 2018. She was a native of Loma, Texas, and was the daughter of the late Joseph and Maria (Sanchez) Mata. Mrs. Maturay was preceded in death by her husband, Allan E. Maturay, who died in 1958. She was survived by two sisters, Mildred Sherman of McPherson, Kan., and Amelia Garcia of Wichita; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DAVID R. OBERLEY, 78, formerly from Sacred Heart Parish, Ness City, died Jan. 23, 2018, at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, Mo. He was born Dec. 19, 1939, in Pittsburg, Kan., to George and Helen (Brown) Oberley. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Louise Marak.

May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. There in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

‘We are God’s hands and feet’

Continued from Page 12 syndrome.

Also in attendance was Bishop W.C. Martin, pastor at Bennett Chapel Baptist Church, who has helped members of his parish adopt 76 children; Jose Arellano who aids Homeboy Ministries, which helps teens escape gang violence; and Patricia Heaton, pro-life advocate and star in ABC’s Sitcom “The Middle.”

“`I love the fact that so many of these diverse groups can all get together and support each other... I think that’s also the other important thing – to look around and see how much support there is from all kinds of people – everybody has a stake in this,” said Heaton.

The day concluded with Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. After the liturgy, 180 candles were lit and processed to the base of the altar in memory of the 180 unborn lives aborted that day in Southern California alone.

For many On-Life LA attendees, the march is just one way to witness to the dignity of life all year round.

Father Alan Benander, a Norbertine priest, prays for the unborn at every Mass he celebrates. He is also the Right to Life Moderator at St. Michael’s Preparatory School in Silverado, California, where he is a teacher and coach.

When Father Benander leads his students on pro-life outings, he reassures them of the power of prayer and fasting.

“This trip I took 20 students, and I said, ‘We are going to pray for an end to abortion, and we might not be able to stop every abortion from happening but pray for one particular girl right now who is thinking of killing her unborn child,’’ he told CNA.

In addition to prayer, Father Benander said Catholics should aim to educate themselves more thoroughly, so that they can be sources of catechesis for those who support abortion.

Rangel-Santos, from the USC Caruso Catholic Center, agreed. He told CNA that he worked to support “The Real Sex Week” at the USC, where he is a senior. As part of the initiative, he spoke to students at the secular college about “the effects of pornography, developing healthy relationships, resources for reproductive health, support for victims of sexual assault, self-defense classes, and the effects of sex in the media.”

In addition to advocating and praying for an end to abortion, march participants also focused on end-of-life care. California legalized assisted suicide in a high profile bill in 2016.

Sister Isabella, a Carmelite of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus of Los Angeles, has spent the last seven years caring for the elderly in the area. Those she works with often face suffering and depression, but Sister Isabella said the answer is not in handing them pills that will kill them.

“We are God’s hands and feet in this world, and we have to say yes to the love,” she told CNA. She recalled how an elderly man once told her, “‘When you all are near, the suffering doesn’t matter anymore, because the love is greater.’’

“That’s what we have to do when someone is suffering. It’s a call for help, it’s a call to love to a greater degree, and if we don’t listen to that call, our brothers and sisters...won’t feel God’s love for them.”

—-
Died February 6, 1951

Father Theophile Hard

Father Theophile Hard was born May 10, 1885 at Boscoil, Aargau, Switzerland. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on April 8, 1916. After serving several years in Canada, he became ill and transferred to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and then transferred again to the Wichita diocese in 1928. He served as temporary administrator at St. Catherine, Dubuque, when the pastor, Father John Faber, took a leave of absence for a year due to his health. In 1929, Father Hard was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart, Cordia, with the mission St. Michael, La Crosse. Due to a population shift, Father Hard was appointed first resident pastor at La Crosse with Cordia as a mission. He then served a third Rush County parish, Mary, Help of Christians at Loretto, from 1932 to 1937. His remaining assignments were at parishes in the Wichita diocese: Immaculate Conception, Burns, with the mission Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Spring Branch; and St. Joseph, Humboldt. In 1950 he retired to Chanute. He died there in his home on Feb. 6, 1951, at the age of 65.

Father Alex Stremel celebrated a requiem Mass at St. Joseph’s Church, Humboldt. Father M.J. Gorges delivered the sermon. “For many years Father Hard was an energetic pastor who did not hesitate to undertake tasks because they were difficult. In recent months he had nothing to look forward to except the cross, and he resigned himself to the way of the cross.” (Advance Register, Feb. 16, 1851)

Bishop Mark K. Carroll celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Michael’s Church in La Crosse. Burial was in the parish cemetery, located at the west end of La Crosse cemetery.
Pope’s Monthly Intentions

FEBRUARY 2018

Say ‘no’ to corruption

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

ANSWERS

DEUTERONOMY

GENESIS

NEHEMIAH

ECCLESIASTES

JOB

NUMBERS

ESTHER

JOSEPH

PROVERBS

EXODUS

JOSHUA

PSALMS

JUDGES

LEVI

RUTH

LEVITICUS

NEHEMIAH

PSALMS

NEHEMIAH

GENESIS

NEW TESTAMENT

S G N E Z R A J X S Q E

M U K U B R P O B C H

A M C H M S J R A C S A

S U T I A B E O L E E I

H V L T V E E B S G M

G N M S O I S R H T D E

B S R R O I V T S H U H

J J P Z A J U E R E J E

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K Q T G E N E S I S A T

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Keller’s Monthly
Intentions

FEBRUARY 2018

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

Sankofa: It is never too late to correct or correct a wrong. The ones digit of Gentry’s age isn’t 5, nor is it 4 (Mark) or 2 (Dan), so it must be 3.

First:
1. Songs by the Beatles
2. Balls
3. All were assassinated
4. They have drums
5. Dives
6. Waves
7. Carpets
8. Flakes
9. Courts
10. Parties

Second:
1. Gentry is 23, Eric is 35, Mark is 54, and Dan is 42.
2. The 42-year-old cannot be Gentry, Eric, or Mark, so it must be Dan.
3. The ones digit of Gentry’s age isn’t 5, nor is it 4 (Mark) or 2 (Dan), so it must be 3.
4. Gentry is 23.
5. The ones digit of Eric’s age isn’t 3 (Gentry), 4 (Mark), or 2 (Dan), so it must be 5.
6. Therefore, Eric is 35.
7. The tens digit of Mark’s age isn’t 2 (Gentry), 3 (Eric), or 4 (Dan), so it must be 5.
8. Therefore, Mark is 54.

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PRO-LIFE = RESPECT 4 ALL LIFE!
Freedom Stickers aim to combat Super Bowl human trafficking

Minneapolis, Minn. (CNA) - Super Bowl LII, a matchup between the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles, is being played today, Feb. 4, at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. As the game approaches, victim advocates warned about a darker side to major sporting events: human trafficking.

At least one group is on a mission to help.

In Our Backyard is an Oregon-based nonprofit that works to provide “pathways to freedom” for the victims of human trafficking.

Before the Super Bowl, the group distributed “Freedom Stickers,” and encouraged Minnesotans to place them in public restrooms. The stickers, which are printed in English and Spanish, contain the number for the National Human Trafficking Hotline and encourage women who are in an unsafe situation to call or text the number for assistance.

Nita Belles, the executive director of In Our Backyard, told CNA that the idea for the stickers came from her long-time work with domestic violence survivors. She said she realized that one of the only times a woman is alone is when she’s in a bathroom stall. Belles began placing “shoe cards” in restroom stalls — small cards with a hotline number, which could be hidden in a shoe.

The Freedom Sticker is a similar concept, but since victims of human trafficking are often moved and stripped searched, the sticker cannot be removed from the restroom. Instead, Belles says a woman can store the number in her phone or text it privately from the restroom stall. After someone calls the hotline, they can be connected to law enforcement or other resources.

“Freedom Stickers raise awareness for community members who see them,” Belles added.

In Minneapolis, In Our Backyard held an event distributing the stickers, as well as educating people about how to spot human trafficking in their communities. In Our Backyard has held similar events for the past eight Super Bowls.

In addition to these events, Belles hopes to change cultural views of sexual exploitation, noting that demand drives human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Belles has worked to combat human trafficking for more than a decade. “Human trafficking is what I call domestic violence on steroids,” she told CNA.

“We must educate people to know that the myth of ‘the oldest profession’ is really ‘the oldest form of oppression,’” she added.

“We need a change of beliefs about everyone being equal, and that it is not okay to oppress people.”

Nationwide, more than 60,000 stickers have been distributed in 41 states.