

Worthy of Living a Life
March for Life Experience
by Shyna Quadras

The March for Life 2020 was one of the most eye-opening and incredible things I have ever experienced. I was blessed with the opportunity to go to the March with the Diocese of Rockville Centre and fellow students from Long Island college campus ministries this year. This was my first time going and it could not have been any better than it was. It was amazing to see thousands of people, ranging from all different ages, peacefully stand up for the right to life. I was so happy to march for something so close to my heart. Growing up, I attended a Catholic High School in the Bronx and it was in their theology curriculum to teach about the morality of abortion to all high school students. This was the first time I learned about abortion and opened my eyes to its harmful nature. It was a single theology class in high school really educating me on what was going on during these procedures that led to a lifelong fervent desire to do everything in my power to stop it.

As a freshman at Stony Brook University, going to the March for Life and giving a voice to the voiceless was the most important thing that I could have done at this point in my life. Walking down Constitution Avenue and reading the various signs held up by people from all different walks of life truly had a huge impact on my life. Reading signs that said things from, “I regret my abortion,” to “Conceived in rape and I love my life,” really deepened my conviction that all life is precious from conception to natural death no matter the circumstances. It made me realize that we should treat everyone we encounter with God’s love and mercy because you never know what they have experienced or gone through in their life. We, as Catholics, know the moral truth that abortion is wrong, but we should never harshly throw this information at someone or condemn people for what they have done. Rather, we should approach them with compassion and help open their hearts to receive God’s love, so that their eyes and hearts may be open to His will for their life.

Being surrounded by so many like-minded people from all different backgrounds reminded me that you do not have to practice a certain religion, have a certain occupation or have any qualifications to be pro-life. It is revealed to us through natural law that human life is valuable and precious from the time of conception. Everyone is worthy of living a life and has human dignity that is inviolable and inherent. Some mothers or even fathers may have a hard time realizing this fact when put in a situation they deem “impossible,” so it is our duty as the “Pro-Life generation” to help them realize that a baby is a blessing and gift from God. Not only should we encourage them to bring the baby into this world, but we should support them even after the pregnancy if they feel they are not equipped to give life considering their circumstances. No one can do it alone. I hope and pray that one day everyone will truly respect and understand human dignity and worth and this culture of death will come to an end.