

***Dear Friends for Life:***

**Thank you** to all who supported the **March for Life 2020** – whether through your pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., Holy Hours, prayers for the safety of Marchers, defraying of bus costs or provision of snacks, and all other forms by which our Diocesan Marchers were uplifted in the pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 24, 2020! This day was a great success for our Diocese – a demonstration of our genuine love of Life, our dedication to building a Culture of Life, and our sense of real community in cooperating with each other to give glory to God and the Gift of Life. We are so grateful to *everyone* who dropped by in those final days before the March to pick up and distribute signs, brochures and DVDs to make sure every bus had materials from our Office! It is no surprise then that this year, attendance from our Diocese was about 50% higher than last year! Coming late onto the scene, we could not have done it without you, our dedicated pastors and the bus captains at our parishes and schools! I extend a most profound “**Thank you!**” to all of you!

Our next big undertaking is the **40 Days For Life (40DFL) campaign** which is the natural fulfillment of the commitment to defend life motivated by participation in the March for Life. 40DFL is an international campaign conducted during Lent with the aim of ending abortion. The campaign involves a continuous peaceful vigil at an abortion center, prayer, fasting and in our local version, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There are no graphic signs. Over the years, 40DFL campaigns across the country have saved the lives of many babies and converted many souls away from the depraved abortion industry. Since 2007, campaigns across the world are responsible for 16,742 babies saved, the closure of 104 abortion centers, and 196 abortion workers leaving the industry. In fact, Abby Johnson’s conversion was brought about by a 40DFL campaign at her clinic (chronicled in the movie “Unplanned”).

Recognizing the wonderful fruit of this forty day sacrifice, the Diocese of Rockville Centre is wholeheartedly supporting the 40DFL initiative this year. Please see the informational flyers in this newsletter on how you can participate. We look forward to seeing you at the kick off Mass, at the vigil sites, the Holy Hours, the midway event and/or the closing Mass. ***This is the message of love and mercy in action – it opens hearts, changes minds, saves lives and saves souls. Come join us!***

Finally, as you know from our first newsletter, our first order of business was to consecrate the Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics to our Blessed Mother on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This year, we are blessed to have with us on Long Island during the Lenten season, the **Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe!** This is one of only four life-sized photographic replicas of the Image in the world that were commissioned by the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. They are intended to journey as Missionary Images on a Mission in the New Evangelization to bring conversions and a Culture of Life and Civilization of Love, for which St. John Paul II prayed.

Right now there are more than 30 visits scheduled. Once the schedule is finalized, we will be posting the itinerary so that you may have multiple opportunities to venerate the Image and receive the graces needed to persevere as we strive to transform the Culture of Death in which we live, into the Culture of Life which the Lord intends.

We thank you all for your kind words and continued support through prayers, witness and good works to advocate for Life. Feel free to check out our website, but please be patient as we begin to rebuild it over the coming weeks and months.

God bless you

Lisa Honkanen, M.D.