



THE LAMENT OF RACHEL

Volume 17, Issue 2/Fall/Winter 2016

**An Orthodox Christian Initiative**

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# You Are His Weakness

## You are precious in His sight.

In fact, you are His weakness. Consider this:

Do you have children of your own, or a niece or nephew, a Godchild? How often do you think about them, throughout the day? Do you watch over them? Can you help but notice how they look, act, behave? Do you go to their sports activities, academic or musical events? Do you want to know what they dream, what they hope? Does your heart swell when they do something commendable, or someone speaks highly of them? What wouldn't you do for them? And your love is limited; it is only human love.

## How can we fathom Divine love?

He calls us His children. How do you suppose the Lord feels about you personally? He blessed you at your conception. He offers Himself up to you continually through Holy Communion. He dwells within you, His own blood courses through your veins. He hears your unspoken thoughts, He is with you each and every moment of every day. He weeps with you, and rejoices with you. His unwavering focus is on you, dear reader.

But His attention is not limited to you alone, but also on the outcasts; those who live in poverty; the panhandler; the homeless; the immigrants and those who are bereft of a loving family. He loves those who plot evil against us, those who hate and the lost. He knocks at the doors of their hearts just as He does yours. He calls upon you to imitate His model of love.

How can you imitate His divine love in your life? Reach out with tenderness even to the most difficult around you. Often He brings people to you for a purpose. Touch them with His charity and kindness. Give them your heart, expecting nothing in return. Was He not

rebuffed when He was among us? "Is a servant greater than His master?" (John 15:20)

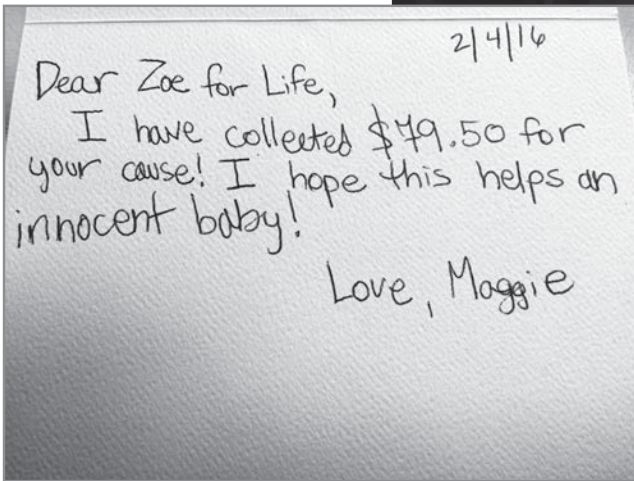
We implore you to work to be His echo in this world and keep your sight Heavenward. Act as He did. Love as He did. People around you will be touched in such a way as to leave His indelible fingerprint on their hearts, even if you do not recognize the immediate impact of His love. He will complete the work to bring them home to Him. No good deed returns to Him empty. It is for us all to be His servants, and act on His behalf.

All you have to do, is love. Share His love with those unseen, His unborn children, today.



# GCCOC Meets at ZOE House

On Tuesday, September 13th, the Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy held their monthly meeting at ZOE House. Following the meeting, luncheon was served. We love our clergy, and bless them for their love and support of the mission of ZOE for Life!



## \$500 Raised from Bottles for Babies

Many parishes help ZOE for Life! in many ways. Some Last spring, the GOYA of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, raised \$500.00 in their Bottles for Babies Campaign! What tremendous love for others is shown by our young people! Thank you so much!

## Bottles for Babies Campaign is Going Strong!

With sincere gratitude to Tina Pappas at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church in Miami, Florida, 100 bottles will be distributed throughout the parish as a Christmas offering. The Lord is fruitful through His children! Thank you for helping ZOE share His love with more of His little ones!

## Join Our Bottles for Babies Campaign

We want to send you a baby bottle, and ask you to fill it with loose change. What could be simpler? Simply empty your change into the bottle every day. When it is full, take it to the bank and send the cash to ZOE. Reuse and repeat!



Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Baby Bottles!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# Greetings from ZOE for Life!

## Livonia, Michigan

In our efforts to expand the outreach of our ministry, ZOE for Life has partnered with Image Clear Ultrasound Detroit ... a mobile ultrasound-equipped vehicle that provides free pregnancy tests, basic ultrasounds and referrals to social agencies for women in crisis pregnancies. We gave the ICU Mobile vehicle staff a supply of our ZOE for Life! brochures and asked them to refer any pregnant women to us who are in need of diapers, wipes, maternity and baby clothing or layette items.

We received our first referral from ICU Mobile on August 2. This young woman is truly in a crisis situation. She is 23 years of age, has 4 children (ages 1, 2, 5 and 7) and is pregnant with her 5th child.

She was very depressed, her car had broken down and she couldn't afford to repair it. At the time we called her, she only had 5 diapers left for her 2 youngest children. The very next day, 2 women from our ZOE ministry delivered 300 diapers to this mother's home, as well as household items that she desperately said she needed (laundry soap, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, canned goods). We promised her that we would provide clothing for all of her children and we have learned that she is going to carry her unborn child to term. We are so very humbled that she has chosen life for her baby and will continue to help her however we are able to.

Our Michigan ZOE ministry can be very difficult... these mothers are in very dire financial straits and their needs are far beyond what we can provide. One of the moms with 2 young daughters is homeless and another recently had her 3 children removed from their home due to opioid abuse by the mother. We do not stand in judgment, as these beautiful children did not choose to

be born into such poverty or unstable living conditions. We pray that God will guide us as we do whatever we can to provide material and emotional support to these women, who often feel that their lives are so hopeless.

We are so very grateful for the generous donations of infant clothing, diapers/wipes and layette items from the Orthodox community in Detroit. By the grace of God we were able to provide each of our 4 pregnant moms with a stroller, car seat and Pack 'n Play upon the birth of

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their babies. Even a donated double stroller for the mom who had twins!

Additionally, we recently learned about a Community Diaper Program offered by Jet.com for non-profit organizations. We applied and are now approved to purchase diapers online at a 30% discount, with no shipping charges or tax. What a blessing!

We are so very thankful for your continued prayers and spiritual support. Any monetary donations you are able to provide will be accepted with great joy! Checks can be made payable to ZOE for Life!-Livonia, MI and mailed to P.O. Box 258, Farmington, MI 48332.

With love in Christ,

ZOE for Life! – Livonia, Michigan  
855-ZOE-LIFE (855-963-5433) • [www.zoehousemi.org](http://www.zoehousemi.org)  
Email: [info@zoehousemi.org](mailto:info@zoehousemi.org)

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## In Loving Memory

It is with great sadness that we share news of the falling asleep of our dear friend, Lydia Cherep Becker. Lydia was one of our very first volunteers at ZOE House, taught at our Pure Living Retreat, and was a sincere supporter of "life". Everyone she ministered to at ZOE House was treated with love and respect. Before each client left ZOE House, she would offer to pray with them. Not one ever refused her prayers on their behalf. Now she prays for us from Heaven. She will be truly missed. Memory Eternal, dear Lydia!





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Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ZOE for Life! is a non-profit, Christ-centered organization with three major goals:

- To help women who need confidential emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies;
- To assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt;
- To provide an Orthodox Christian education for Pure Living and other resources.



Friend us on Facebook



## Newsletter Sign-up ...

The ZOE newsletter provides important information, as well as news on activities and events of interest. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please go the web address below and sign-up.

<http://www.zoeforlifeonline.org/Newsletter.htm>

## Supporter's List

Many many individuals and organizations have generously sustained this ministry for 18 years. As His faithful servants, you have opened your hearts for the protection and support of those in need, as our Lord and Savior asked us to.

Our Annual Donor's List has reached a point where we now add additional costs to the printing and postage of our Winter/Spring edition of our Newsletter, in order to acknowledge your generosity. We are always mindful of the foundational role you play in ZOE for Life!, and would like to ask your permission to dispense with producing this annual list. The monies saved will allow us to serve more of our sisters and brothers in Christ. We will continue to acknowledge those you wish to honor and memorialize with your support of this ministry. With all our hearts, we thank you! Please keep us in your prayers.

## Enthronement of Bishop Irinej

On October 1st, 2016, at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA, ZOE for Life! Vice President, Daria Petrykowski (left), and President Paula Kappos (right) were honored to be among those present to witness the Enthronement of His Grace Bishop Irinej of Australia and New Zealand to the Throne of the Bishops of Eastern America. 18 years ago, while still a priest, he was an energetic proponent for ZOE for Life!, urging us on when we first approached the Orthodox clergy in Cleveland, Ohio, for their blessing. As an Honorary Board Member, he has been a steadfast supporter of our work, even from as far away as Australia. Rejoice with us! He is a true example of Christ's love, and supremely worthy. God grant him many years!

