

In Memorium

Often, when we suffer the loss of someone we care for, we look for a means of expressing our sympathies to those closest to them. Many have made memorial contributions to ZOE, finding its life-affirming message to be of comfort. Please consider making a donation in the memory of your dear one. We will send the family an acknowledgement of your contribution and a pamphlet in order to acquaint them with ZOE's mission. *Thank you.*

ZOE's Adoption Program

ZOE was founded on the premise that every life is precious. Women who find themselves in crisis pregnancies need the non-judgmental, Christian support that will allow them to carry their babies to term. This must be our primary concern. To this end, we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to help her sustain her pregnancy.

In the event that she seeks to create an adoption plan for her baby, our Adoptive Registry was created. This registry is restricted to Orthodox Christian faithful. An application must be completed, along with necessary support documents, and submitted with a small fee of \$50.00, which will keep your paperwork on file for two years. Please note that this fee has recently been changed.

ZOE is not an attorney, law firm, private or public licensed adoption agency or social worker. We are a referral service for both women in crisis and those seeking to expand their families through adoption. It is impossible to anticipate when these opportunities to adopt a child will occur. We do our best to respond to those women the Lord guides to us as though they were our own daughters, responding to her own individual needs with love and respect.

Regarding international adoption, at this time we are working with an Orthodox attorney whom we would refer you to if you are interested in adopting from Guatemala.

What is ZOE?

Through the grace of God, ZOE for Life! began in 1998. A group of individuals in the Greater Cleveland Orthodox Christian community recognized that there was no Orthodox Christian resource to assist women through crisis pregnancies. ZOE has evolved as a non-profit, Christ-centered initiative with three major goals:

1. To help all women in crisis pregnancies.
2. To assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt.
3. To create an Orthodox Christian abstinence program to educate our young people.



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ZOE

FOR LIFE

An Orthodox Christian Initiative

3352 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
440/893-9990

hotline number 877/436-LIFE (5433)

www.zoeforlifeonline.org

Bottles For Babies

During the 2004 advent season the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League of Saint Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, sponsored a project to support *Zoe for Life!* This project involved parish youth collecting their spare change in icon clad baby bottles. The project began in late November when Pani Matka Iryna Mahlay spoke at a monthly meeting of the parish youth group. Her explanation of the mission of *Zoe for Life* truly gave the youth motivation to raise money for the organization. A large baby bottle was used to collect donations from St. Vladimir's parishioners. The Junior U.O.L. member collection, along with parish donations totaled six hundred and twenty dollars.

Junior U.O.L. Members pose with their baby bottles

Top to Bottom, Emily Kominko, Oksana Mahlay, Danylo Moysaenko, Lesia Mahlay, Christy Bohuslawsky, Orest Mahlay, Alex Grossman.



March for Life

Once again ZOE sponsored a bus trip to Washington DC to participate in the annual March for Life. At 4:00 a.m., 27 passengers from Ohio and surrounding states boarded the bus in Cleveland to join other faithful Orthodox Christians to offer a prayerful witness to the sanctity of human life. Walking behind the new banner of Orthodox Christians for Life, we sang hymns as we marched down Constitution

Avenue. In front of the United States Supreme Court, His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman, concluded the march with a Memorial Service.

On Sunday, January 23, Sanctity of Life Sunday, ZOE sponsored a Prayer for Life service. Cleveland area clergy served the Akathist Hymn to our Lord Jesus Christ, as we prayed for a change in human hearts and civil laws, which have

legitimized the killing of over 35 million unborn children in the name of "choice" and "privacy".

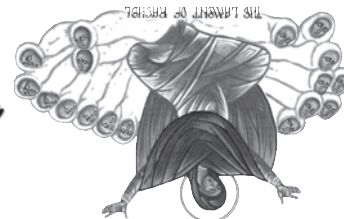
If you have never attended one of these events, please make every effort to join us next year. We can assist you in organizing these activities in your city. Become a witness to the truth – the truth of the sanctity of life. It will be an experience you will make an indelible imprint on your heart.

To be a good steward of the gifts God has given us, please notify us if you receive more than one issue of our Newsletter or if your address changes.

Our Mission Statement:
To help women who need emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies; to provide confidential access to existing professional agencies; to connect interested women with potential adoptive Orthodox Christian families.

3352 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

ZOE
FOR LIFE



Nonprofit Org
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Permit No. 1364

Is the ZOE for Life! hot-line listed in your local phone book? If not, raise the necessary funds at a coffee hour or bake sale and get the number listed! Remember, the hotline is (877) 436-LIFE (5433).

ZOE for Life! is endorsed by the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas.



How Do You Spell “Holy”?

As the pastor of Holy Cross Orthodox Church on Holy Cross Lane, it never ceases to amaze me how often misspelled is the simple four-letter word: “holy”.

Hardly a week passes when we don’t get mail or deliveries addressed to HOLLY Cross (two l’s). When ordering supplies or even pizza by phone, we’re invariably asked to spell our address. The federal government also appears to need some remedial spelling help in this regard.

Why is this? Is it merely an innocuous spelling error or is it sheer ignorance?

My considerable experience suggests that, more often than not, it is, regrettably, the latter. Thus, I have increasingly come to view this “little thing” as yet another symptom of the deepening spiritual crisis of modern society.

If folks can’t spell “holy”, if the word has all but disappeared from our vocabularies and conversations, so too has its profound meaning.

I fear this dilemma has also penetrated some religious groups. The words of the Bible, for example, are not regarded today as holy words that command respect and obedience. They are seen as philosophical concepts subject to personal interpretation.

Just look at the cover titles on some of the 70-some translations or “versions” now available.

What used to be known simply as “the Holy Bible” is now whatever the respective translators or interpreters want to name it and/or whatever a particular group wants to say to them. Never mind that the Holy Bible itself uses the word “holy” over 650 times!

When the Lord God was enumerating the sins of ancient Israel, He spoke through the Prophet Ezekiel, saying, “**You have despised my holy things**” (22:8)

This is an equally relevant prophetic voice for our day and times. And we can see the present spiritual crisis unfold before our eyes in a single contemporary, controversial “issue”: HUMAN LIFE.

“**So God created man in his own image, in the image of God her created him; male an female he created them**” (Genesis 1:27)

America’s Declaration of Independence essentially echoes this biblical teaching, attributing certain unalienable rights (like life!) as being endowed by the Creator.

Every person, created in the image of God, shares the holiness of God, and is therefore to be regarded as holy: literally “consecrated”, “sanctified” or “blessed”. Jesus Christ, God incarnate, revealed this clearly in His first coming.

He didn’t just suddenly appear as an adult at the time of His Baptism. He came to sanctify—making “holy”—every phase of human life beginning in His mother’s womb.

Tomorrow (January 23), many will observe a special Sanctity of Life Sunday.

On Monday (January 24), many will participate in the Annual March for Life in Washington D.C.

Meanwhile, some will vehemently criticize these observances declaring that abortion is a personal choice, even going so far as saying that a decision for abortion “is between a woman and God”.

But God has spoken decisively, in the written words of the Holy Bible and the Incarnate Word of His Son. The only choice therefore is whether we, as individuals and as a nation, will accept, respect, and obey or, in the prophet’s word “despise”, what God has revealed: that all human life is holy.

In doing so, we may even remember how to spell “holy”.

This article by Fr. Dan Kovalak appeared in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette on Saturday, January 22, 2005, under the headline “**What does it say about society if people can’t even spell “holy”?**” It is reprinted here with his permission.

Stitching Their Way to Heaven

Recently ZOE was contacted by a group of women wanting to create baby quilts for our little ones. These precious blankets, meticulously done, were obviously sewn with love. It is not surprising how powerfully they impact expectant mothers, because they make the life within them so much more tangible. We wish each of these women could have witnessed the oceans of gratitude in the eyes of the mothers who received them. Many thanks to our angels who spent so many hours with needle in hand: Jusina Ahrens, Susan Bronkhurst, Barbara Clark, Denise Copeland, Emilia Fassett, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Ann Hirschfeld, Adrienne Humfeld, Nona Humfelt, Sue Lee, Wendy Lee, Theodora Mallory, Ann Murray, and Cori Wright.

Sexual Purity: Purity of Mind, Body, and Soul

Any youth minister or parent looking for an Orthodox abstinence video should look no further than the second video in the Orthodox Teen Video Series entitled Sexual Purity: Purity of Mind, Body, and Soul which was produced by the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in conjunction with Greek Orthodox Telecommunications. “This video has been created to assist parents, youth workers, and Sunday School teachers in helping young people find purity in their lives,” states Rev. Fr. Mark A. Leondis, *National Director* of the Dept. of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. This video comes with a resource book that includes Scriptural and Patristic references to sexual purity, statistics in society, tips for parents and teens, as well as three complete youth sessions for a retreat or Sunday School titled: “Sex in youth culture: images and messages”, “Temptation and self-discipline”, “Sex basics: beyond the birds and the bees”, and a parent discussion session. This video has been professionally produced and ZOE for Life! gives it the highest recommendation. To order this video simply contact the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at (646) 519-6180 or youthoffice@goarch.org. This video and resource book can also be aquired through The Light & Life Publishing Company at www.Light-n-Life.com or (952) 925-3888 (order #SEXU105) and through ZOE for Life!



We now have available the Lament of Rachel icon in two sizes, 8x10 and 4x5. The icons have been beautifully reproduced and are mounted on wood.



ZOE Board members, from left to right, Kathleen Kovalak, Helen Primbas, Secretary, Pani Matka Iryna Mahlay, Anna Warren, Treasurer, Valerie Spoerl, Fr. Timothy Sawchak, Spiritual Advisor, and Paula Kappos, President.

Help spread the message and raise awareness

of the work of ZOE for Life! and the Orthodox stand on abortion. Contact us if you need any ZOE for Life! pamphlets, calling cards, or magnets. We also have ZOE lanyards available which would be perfect for any youth attending a retreat or for participants in a ZOE walk-a-thon which you could organize in your area.

ZOE Statistics – 8-30-03 – 8-31-04

Calls: 374

Hotline Calls: 37

E-mails: 159

Clergy Calls: 2

Adoption Inquiries: 37

Women in Crisis: 13

Children Adopted: 1

Abortions Averted: YES!!!

Spring 2005 Supporters List –

Thank You For Your Generous Support!

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