



# Mother of Life Pregnancy Center

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

## NINE WEEKS OF WONDERMENT

For quite a long while, Mother of Life Pregnancy Center needed a new ultrasound machine. Aging equipment was not the best tool for showing a pregnant woman convincing evidence of the human life in her womb. Initial conversations about the means of acquiring a new machine commenced two years ago as a dream.

Progress began early last year when Paul Gebhart, Life Program Director for the R.I. State Council Knights of Columbus, inquired about the Center's needs. When Gail mentioned the ultrasound machine, Paul described the Knights' Ultrasound Initiative which grants half of the money needed for a new machine after state and local Knights councils and the pregnancy center raised the first half.

Discussions began in earnest in September after the State Council wholeheartedly made assisting the Center with acquisition of a new ultrasound machine its highest Life Program priority.

On December 22, we presented a comprehensive grant proposal to Paul and State Deputy David Quinn, which they enthusiastically endorsed. Included was a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine designed and manufactured by a pro-life company, plus associated equipment and examination room upgrades, and expert training. Within days, they launched our fundraising collaboration by reaching out to Knights statewide.

Earlier in December, Gail had received an email from a couple who wrote that their 50th wedding anniversary was coming up in January and they wanted to celebrate that golden blessing by philanthropically doing something special. They requested a meeting.

On January 13, we gave our gracious guests a tour of the Center and then presented our highest priorities, including acquisition of a new ultrasound system, a need which had suddenly reached a

heightened level of urgency because during the afternoon of the preceding day, a critical component of the old machine began to malfunction, forcing us to postpone an ultrasound appointment.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we exchanged warm farewells in the doorway and waved goodbye. About 45 seconds later, the doorbell rang. Standing before us was the same lovely couple who straight-away said, "We decided that we want to give you half the cost of the ultrasound machine."



Knees buckling, eyes tearful, and mouths agape in wonder, we could barely utter "Thank you." The instant we first publicly mentioned our collaboration with the Knights, this incredible couple had met our goal.

Their donation to the State Council's Charitable Fund on our behalf was matched by the Supreme Council's Ultrasound Initiative, enabling us to proceed with the purchase. In early February we received the magnificent new machine.

Since the State Council had committed to the associated goal of supporting upgrades and training, fundraising among local councils continued. Suddenly, on February 23 — nine weeks to-the-day after they had accepted our proposal — the Knights of the Rhode Island State Council issued to the Center the campaign-concluding check.

Throughout this period of miracles too numerous to publish, we saw and felt the hand of God in everything, bringing sweet awareness that each of us serves as an instrument for His will in cooperation with His timing, His plan.

Words cannot adequately express our enormous gratitude and awe. God is great and we thank Him for all the amazing people with whom He blessedly associates us and with whom we continue to strive in His service. For the Knights of Columbus, and that wonderful couple, and all the special people who contributed to this amazing achievement, we pray God's abundant love.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

On May 31, we celebrated the Feast of the Visitation — that pro-life movement of spirit when holy infants in two holy wombs encountered and recognized each other.

As you'll read herein, it is a time of great spiritual movement and renewal at Mother of Life Pregnancy Center, in large part because of your support. Our spirits rejoice!

May yours as well as we share this faith journey with you!

*Gail Faray-Musick*

# HOLY VISITORS — HEAVENLY HELP

On two occasions this year, the Center has been blessed to receive and spend time in prayer with special objects of our faith.

January 22

The staff greatly benefited from a day-long retreat in the presence of a missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe — Patroness of the Americas, the unborn, and Mother of Life Pregnancy Center.

The 3-foot by 5-foot framed icon is a replica of the miraculous and complex representation of the pregnant Virgin Mary, which the power of God manifested on the *tilma* of Saint Juan Diego on December 12, 1531.

Powerfully led by our chaplain, Rev. Scott Carpentier, we worshipped the Real Presence of Our Lord, prayed the Rosary and venerated Our Lady, made our confessions, and celebrated Holy Mass. The spiritual harvest still feeds us.

We give special thanks to Lisa Cooley, Coordinator of the Diocese of Providence Office of Life & Family, who brought Our Lady's image to the Center and to parishes throughout the diocese during Respect Life events in January.

For a detailed, fascinating Knights of Columbus presentation on the history and significance of Our Lady of Guadalupe, visit [www.kofc.org/en/news-room/our-lady-of-guadalupe/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/our-lady-of-guadalupe/index.html)

April 21

The Knights of Columbus came to us from New Haven bearing a first-class relic of founder Blessed Father Michael McGivney. The bit of bone, housed in a humble and handsome reliquary, was shared by Brian Caulfield, Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Canonization of Blessed Father Michael McGivney, and by Brother Knight Peter Sonski, both associates of The Father McGivney Guild.

We believe that Blessed Father McGivney was instrumental in our acquisition of a new ultrasound system. When we met with David and Paul in December, we entrusted our collaboration to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Blessed Father McGivney. To have his relic present, and for David to touch the reliquary to our new ultrasound machine was astonishing and so right!

Our guests gave us a packet of prayer cards, each with a third-class relic embedded and imprinted with a prayer for Blessed Father McGivney's canonization. If you would like to join us in making the prayer, please request a card when you send your next donation.

Special thanks to Kara Young who recommended that the Knights visit Mother of Life Pregnancy Center with the relic!



Reliquary containing a bone fragment of Blessed Father Michael McGivney.

Photos courtesy of Deborah Arruda



Knights of Columbus gathered around the reliquary on our altar. Left to right: Richard Lafond (Communications & Development Facilitator), Brian Caulfield (Postulator), Michael Benson (Board Member and Treasurer), David Quinn (State Deputy), Jim Gilcreast (Board Member), and Peter Sonski (Guild Assistant).



Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

## SPRING ROSE SALE — A GREAT SUCCESS

"We sold out!" So it was said by a number of parishes the day after our Mother's Day Weekend Rose Sale. They added that they could have sold even 50 – 100% more roses. It's heart-warming for us to envision 3,700 roses handed on to mothers and wives, filling vases on dining room tables, and set before statues and images of Blessed Mother Mary.

May God bless everyone who purchased and received roses, plus the many people who made monetary contributions well beyond the price of a rose, and the innumerable volunteers who organized and staffed rose sale tables in the churches, and particularly the pastors who enthusiastically supported the sale or made donations in lieu of selling roses.

Everyone had a lot of fun, and the Center benefited very well from the outpouring of generosity! Let's do this again in October 2021 and May 2022. Thank you!

## MONTHLY DONATIONS INCREASING!

It is an extraordinary blessing when donors commit to monthly giving. Recently, several have even doubled their commitment! Astounded, yet we remain humbled by even the widow's mite. Please consider using the enclosed form to renew your commitment. Bless you!

## PARENTING CLASSES AT THE CENTER

Mother of Life Pregnancy Center has an inherent mission awareness that a pregnant woman is already a parent, as is the man with whom she conceived the child; therefore, free parenting classes, like free pregnancy tests and free ultrasound examinations, are at the core of our services.

There are a variety of ways by which students come to be enrolled. Monica and Colman already knew they were expecting when they searched online for nearby parenting classes. Independently, both came up with Mother of Life.

Exemplary students, they attended all scheduled classes, organized their materials and completed homework, and prepared their home according to what they were learning. Following up with photos and a note about their achievements, they wrote, "Thank you for offering this program for free. It has truly opened our eyes, and the information provided will help us to be better prepared, not only as parents, but also as people!"

Many enrollees, however, arrive with considerable apprehension about parenting; they don't know what to expect of this new life. Understandably, they fear doing something wrong, not knowing what to do when their child is sick, and "bringing up my children in this changing world."

Apprehension can only arise in a caring heart; thus, the curriculum of 8 classes informed by videos, books, and teaching by our counselor, Colleen Earnshaw (M.A., Counseling, Certified Parenting Instructor), corresponds with their yearning for knowledge. In due time, learning dispels their anxieties and they become confident, nurturing parents.

One student spoke of it as, "Making sure I fulfill my child's emotional, psychological, physical and, most importantly, spiritual needs." Another, when asked what she perceives her strengths to be, said, "Praying, and faith in my ability to protect my child."

Sometimes, absent an external emotional support structure, they must rely solely on those personal strengths. When our team praised another couple of parents for their dedication, studiousness and enthusiasm by saying, "You're awesome," they responded, "No one has ever said that to us!!"

Consequently, the affirming effects of the classes stimulate positive intergenerational impacts. One young lady, who had been given up for adoption at birth, poignantly said, "I'm only 15. My mother was 15 when I was born. I don't want to give up on my son the way my mom gave up on me." The bleak cycle broken, imagine how the child in her womb will praise her when he is 15.

Forming a positive culture of life is an essential part of our mission. Ongoing professional staff development includes participation in webinars that focus on insights that must be gleaned from and healing that must take place within a society that is already three generations deep in harmful cycles that have been enabled by legalized abortion.

Awakening naturally accountable parenting is one of the many necessary steps.

To resonate with and serve parental instincts, the practical and mechanical elements of parenting are covered within the context of human development and relationship formation. Faith is woven into classroom discussions by discerning the students' openness and by interjecting faith-reflecting statements about the miracle of the new life developing in the womb. Insights like these encourage moms to become more nurturing.

Monica said that the most helpful things she learned were about "lactation and the baby's behavior, to not mistake baby's actions towards you as being personal, but instead understanding baby's natural reactions and instincts. Also, learning about sleeping patterns and how to put baby on one," to which Colman added, "Babies need to have a schedule."

On the day of their last session, Monica and Colman brought a lovely thank you card: "Dear Colleen, today is bittersweet, but we can't express how grateful we are for your time and dedication. Thank you so much for helping us to become better parents. God bless you and all that you do. You are amazing and very much appreciated! With love, Monica & Colman."

**"THANK YOU FOR OFFERING THIS PROGRAM FOR FREE. IT HAS TRULY OPENED OUR EYES, AND THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL HELP US TO BE BETTER PREPARED, NOT ONLY AS PARENTS, BUT ALSO AS PEOPLE!"**

### WHEN ASKED WHAT SHE LIKED BEST ABOUT THE CENTER'S SERVICES, A.O. SAID...

*Everything is in order and the employees are awesome!"*



### WHEN ASKED IF WE COULD PRAY FOR HER, K.W. ANSWERED...

*"Please pray for my boyfriend to find the strength he needs to be more confident as a parent."*



Completion of studies is celebrated with a certificate, and when their baby is born the Center gives the full-fledged parents a layette, which is 2 bags full of baby clothes and other supplies.



**Mother of Life  
Pregnancy  
Center**

A Place of  
Hope, Healing  
and Love

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD?

A significant volume of mailed pieces are returned to us by the U.S. Postal Service with the notation "Temporarily Away." If you have two or more different addresses at which you receive mail during the course of the year, would you please inform us with an approximate schedule for each? Send the details to [richard@motheroflife.org](mailto:richard@motheroflife.org).

Thanks so much!

### RADIOLOGIST NEEDED

As we increase the volume of clients we serve with our new ultrasound machine, we will need assistance in reading scans and providing diagnostic evaluations. If you or someone you know is currently licensed in the state of RI as a radiologist, has a passion for life and is interested in volunteering, please contact Executive Director Gail Faraj-Musleh at 401-421-0821 or [gail@motheroflife.org](mailto:gail@motheroflife.org). On-site presence is not a requirement; communication, documentation, and sign-off with our nurse/sonographer can be maintained electronically.

### SPANISH INTERPRETER NEEDED

Demographic demands have increased the Center's need for on-call interpreters fluent in both Spanish and English, whose services can be rendered remotely or in-person.

A non-English-speaking family of three (father, pregnant mother, and 1-year-old boy) were brought to our door at the very start of the workday by a non-Spanish-speaking pro-life sidewalk volunteer who encountered them about to enter Planned Parenthood where the mother had an appointment for an abortion.

Our staff labored diligently to communicate using online translation software, but the inadequacies of that non-human tool impeded our normally superb sufficiency of services. During the course of 4 hours, our counselor and nurse made substantial progress with the mother, opening her mind and heart to the great support that is available, yet she is still somewhat abortion-vulnerable.

There is a fundamental reason why artificial intelligence is so-named. There will never be a substitute for heart-to-heart-to-heart communication.

Our short-term solution is an on-call translator experienced with medical interpretation. Our long-term solution is for the entire staff to become fluent in Spanish. To that end, we are also seeking a Spanish language instructor.

**To assist with translation and or instruction, please contact Colleen Earnshaw: 401-421-0820, [colleen@motheroflife.org](mailto:colleen@motheroflife.org). Thank you. *Gracias*.**

