

January 22, 1973 – Day of Infamy
35 Years and over 48 Million (recorded) Legal Abortions Later

I am writing this article on December 28th, the Feast of the Holy Innocent Martyrs. There is such a paradox here because this feast comes in the midst of the joyful celebration of Christmas – within the Christmas Octave. Yet, we are reminded in this that the Baby - Jesus, born in Bethlehem, came to suffer and die on the hill of Calvary for our salvation. The deaths of these little Holy Innocents were due to the sin and fear of one man – King Herod. Although they were not capable of understanding, they witnessed to Christ through the shedding of their blood. Now from heaven, where they are eternally rejoicing with all the saints, they pray to the One for whom they died and with Whom they reign. They pray for us! They pray with the “Holy Innocents” of our day, for the Herod’s of our day, who let pride and fear and selfishness and greed and an unquenchable thirst for power cause the death of so many millions of our unborn brothers and sisters. They pray for the millions of their mothers (over 33,000 every year in New Jersey alone*), whose hearts continue to be gaping wounds, as they long for their babies, once safe in their wombs, but now lost to the holocaust of abortion. They pray for us in our battle with indifference, selfishness, the pursuit of pleasure and comfort, wealth and honor. They pray for us for courage in the battle with the forces of darkness and death. They pray for us that we may have the love and compassion for all the unseen victims (the babies, their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters) of this culture of death. They pray for us to have faith and hope beyond what the human eye can see – to see the truth of Jesus’ word as He says: “I have conquered death.”

Tuesday, January 22nd sadly marks the 35th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in America, and scandalously, the proliferation of the distortion of “Choice” and “reproductive rights” throughout the world through our influence. Since 1973 there have been OVER 48 MILLION reported “legal” surgical ABORTIONS in the United States alone. That is about 3,700 babies aborted every day, and 1,350,500 annually. That is one every 24 seconds. For every 100 births in the United States, there are 31 abortions. That is 1/3 of a generation GONE! THAT IS A HOLOCAUST!

Upcoming Pro-Life events:

- Sunday, January 20th , 12 Noon, Pro-Life Mass and Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Cathedral-Basilica & St Lucy's, Newark

This First Annual Archdiocesan Pro-Life Mass will be celebrated by The Most Reverend Thomas A. Donato. Following Mass there will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life at St Lucy's Church. St Lucy's is a short walk from the Cathedral. Parking is available at both locations. Prayers and music at this Holy Hour will be lead by the Young Adult Ministries of the Archdiocese.

- Tuesday, January 22nd - March on Washington

For a list of busses leaving from various areas of the Archdiocese, see www.rcan.org/life

- Tuesday, January 22nd - Trenton Rally for Life (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM).

This Rally, sponsored by NJ Right to Life, will be on the steps of the NJ State House, 125 West State St., Trenton. Various pro-life speakers to be featured (www.NJRTL.org) In addition, that morning at **8:30 AM a Mass will be celebrated at St John the Apostle Church**, 1805 Penbrook Ter., Linden, NJ 07036 (www.SJANJ.net). Following Mass **car pools** will leave from St John's parking lot for the Trenton Rally. See www.rcan.org/life or e-mail us at arnewrespect@sjanj.net or call the Respect Life Office (732) 388-8211 for more information.

We join with all the heavenly witnesses interceding for a “culture of life” to replace our too often promiscuous and confused culture of death. We join in a particular way, in mourning, with all those mothers and fathers who have participated in the horror of abortion. We are grateful to God for those among them who have come to know in Christ Jesus the healing grace of faith and repentance, and reconciliation with God and their babies. Now these men and women, are by the witness of their lives and their words, the clearest proclamation of the folly of abortion, the sacredness of all human life and the power and mercy of God. We continue to thank God for the faithful few veterans in the pro-life movement and the energy and enthusiasm of the youth and young adults of our Archdiocese in communicating the Gospel of Life. Let us approach this deplorable anniversary with prayer and penance and with profound hope in the triumph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as we continue to ask the Lord to receive our prayer and to SEND US and other workers into the vineyard proclaiming and living the “Gospel of Life.”

* According to the NJ Department of Health, only hospitals and licensed ambulatory care facilities are mandated to report the number of abortions to the State. Private physicians, unlicensed clinics, and women's centers (broadly defined as a place where women can receive gynecological services including induced terminations) are not included in this mandate. Therefore, **the number of abortions reported to NJDHSS is approximately half the actual number performed in the state.**