



Out of the darkness a light breaks forth and

A new generation emerges



Committed to bringing
Christ's life and love to
a world that thirsts.



Dear Friends,

Join the Sisters of Life in a unique evangelization opportunity. In July 2008 over 500,000 young people will descend upon Sydney, Australia to celebrate World Youth Day with Pope Benedict XVI. With the Knights of Columbus collegians, the John Paul II Institute faculty and students world-wide, the Sisters of Life have been invited to co-sponsor a major event at WYD '08. We will host a dynamic site on human life and human love (read more details on the following pages).

The issues young Catholics most struggle with and against in our current culture are those connected with the sacredness of human life and human love. This "Love and Life Site" will be an unparalleled opportunity to touch the hearts of many thousands of young people, proclaiming to them the liberating truths about the human person, marriage and family and the hope towards which we all strive, in a context that affects their whole person.

Because faith is more often "caught, than taught," I wish to send as many Sisters of Life to Sydney as is possible. For I believe, that the most eloquent teaching on the sacredness of human life and the God-given gift of human love will be the witness of young Sisters who have joyfully made of their lives a holocaust, a sweet gift to the Lord, that others might have life and find authentic love in Christ. Our Sisters will go as a religious family proclaiming that "love is possible."

Will you help send a Sister to Sydney? Our Sisters desire to be missionaries of life and love to the young of the world. You can help us take the message of the Gospel of Life to the ends of the world! May God bless you always for your generosity and support.

In Christ, our Life,

Help Send a Sister to Sydney

We need your help!

It will cost about \$1,500 to fly a Sister to World Youth Day.

Contributions to assist this missionary journey to the youth of the world may be sent to:

St. Paul's Convent 586 McLean Ave Yonkers, NY 10705

World Youth Day gathers hundreds of thousands of young people from around the globe to celebrate and learn about the Catholic faith, to be with the Pope, and to build bridges of friendship and hope between continents, peoples and cultures.

www.wyd2008.org



Let us be missionaries of a new evangelization and, together, bring the Gospel of Life to the ends of the earth!



WORLD YOUTH DAY

Sydney, Australia 2008

“World Youth Day is much more than an event.

It is a time of deep spiritual renewal, the fruits of which benefit the whole of society. Young pilgrims are filled with the desire to pray, to be nourished by Word and Sacrament, to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, who illuminates the wonder of the human soul and shows the way to be the image and instrument of the love which flows from Christ. It is this love, Christ's love, for which the world yearns.”

Pope Benedict XVI



Love Life link

Connecting
man to the
truth and
beauty of
human life
and love

Over 500,000 young pilgrims are expected to attend World Youth Day. We invite anyone participating to join us at the Love and Life Site, hosted by the Sisters of Life, Knights of Columbus and JPPII Institutes. Help spread the Good News; tell your friends, your school, your parish youth group, tell anyone you know who is going to WYD. We hope that many of them will cross the threshold of the Love and Life Site!

For more information on the Love and Life Site, the program of events, and maps of the site location visit: www.LoveLifeLink.org



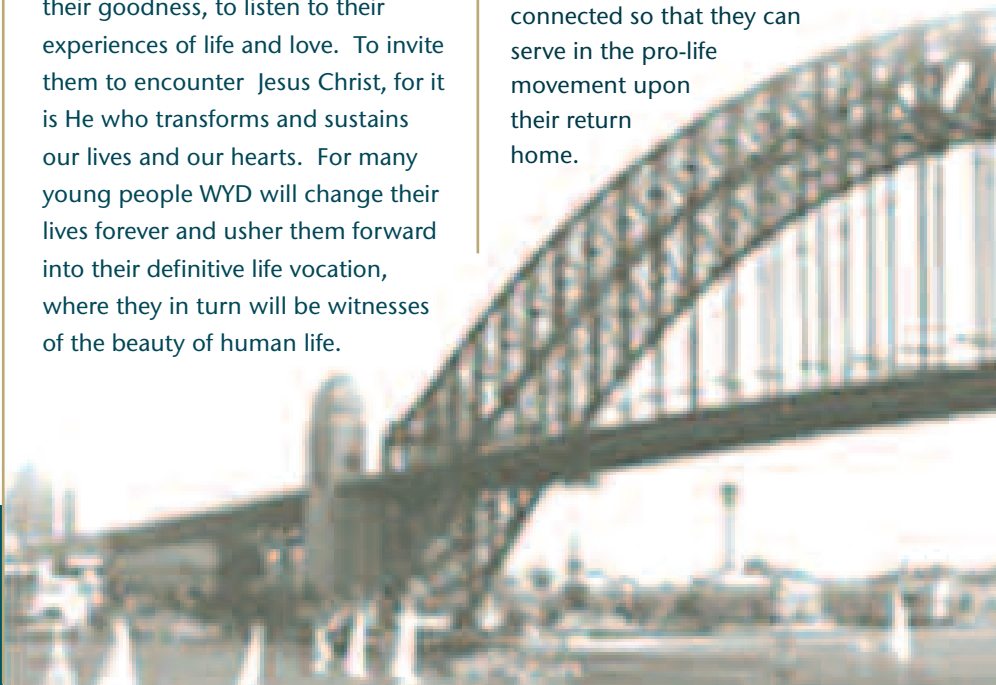
THE LOVE AND LIFE SITE at world youth day 08

Young people are urgently searching; they know that only authentic love will satisfy their hearts' deepest desires. But what does real love look like living the midst of a culture so devoid of genuine love and reverence for life? The "Love and Life Site" will be an invitation to step into a microcosm of the Culture of Life. It will be an incredible encounter with young people from around the world, speaking of the things most pressing on their hearts. A unique opportunity to teach, to guide, to love them, to delight in their goodness, to listen to their experiences of life and love. To invite them to encounter Jesus Christ, for it is He who transforms and sustains our lives and our hearts. For many young people WYD will change their lives forever and usher them forward into their definitive life vocation, where they in turn will be witnesses of the beauty of human life.

The Love and Life Site will consist of three key components:

- **Prayer:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place continually. Young pilgrims will also be invited to join the Sisters of Life as the community chants the hours of the Divine Office.
- **Catecheses:** Each morning the Sisters will animate an Official WYD Catechetical program for English speaking pilgrims. Bishops will give instruction to young pilgrims on the WYD theme specifically as it pertains to the topics of human life and human love, and will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the pilgrims.
- **Youth Fest:** In the afternoons and evenings of Wed., July 16 to Fri., July 18th the *Love and Life Site* will present a powerhouse of dynamic speakers, and richly entertaining cultural events, theater and concerts, in multiple languages, all with the focus of building up the Culture of Life. The site will highlight a top-notch *Theology of the Body* lecture track taught by international JPPII Institute professors and graduate students.

In an outdoor piazza, the Site will feature interactive, educational display booths from various pro-life organizations worldwide, providing young people with opportunities to get connected so that they can serve in the pro-life movement upon their return home.



It was a World Youth Day Thunderbolt

In a crowd of 800,000 the Pope spoke directly to me

I heard my call to be a Sister of Life in many ways. Like the gentle breezes that spoke to Elijah, God's promptings were so subtle that it took me years to realize their divine source. Thankfully, He also provided three major thunderbolts during the summer of 2002, which began my journey to the convent.

The first event was the *Tertio Millennio* seminar I attended in Poland. The seminar brings young Americans and Europeans together to study Catholic social teaching, particularly the Christian humanism of Pope John Paul II. I always had a keen interest in politics, religion and culture and had been active in pro-life activities for years. I thought I would be a witness to the sacredness of human life in the world through political activity. However, during the seminar, I sensed God was calling me to a more radical way of building the culture of life. As noble as a vocation to public service might be, I

understood that the more urgent battle to heal our wounded culture was a spiritual one – one that would be waged through prayer and sacrifice.

The second event was the priestly ordination of my older brother Raymond de Souza, right after I returned from Poland. He had heard the call to be a priest through

his study of Catholic social teaching and attending WYD 1995 in Manila. Speaking of his own vocation, he said something that made a lasting impression on me: *one mission in life is better than a hundred options*. Until then, the question of what to do with my life had remained just that – an interesting theoretical question to which there were endless possibilities. I had accepted the modern mantra of “keeping my options open.” At his ordination, I saw a peace in him resulting from accepting his mission in life and I wanted that same peace.

The next week, I went to WYD in Toronto. I was astounded by the panorama of religious sisters from all over the world. Before even speaking to them, their presence spoke volumes about the joy of religious life. The Stations of the Cross provided a vivid image of the sacred amidst the secular. As young people carried the cross past Toronto's most powerful institutions - the financial district, the university, city hall and the provincial parliament - the WYD theme of youth being the salt of the earth and the light of the world came



alive. Two days later at the closing Mass, in a crowd of 800,000 people, I felt the Pope speak directly to me when he told young people considering their vocation, “*do not be afraid to walk the royal road of the cross!*” I had not paid attention to the gentle breezes of Christ's call through the years and so the aged and ailing Pope had come all the way to my own country to tell me in person!

After WYD, I knew I had been touched by God's love in a singular way that demanded a response. The call persisted and I visited the Sisters of Life twice in 2004. On both retreats, I experienced “the peace the world cannot give” and I no longer wanted to explore any more options in life. God used my brother's vocation and WYD 2002 to point me toward my own vocation. I hope that, in turn, He will use my vocation and the Sisters of Life at WYD 2008 in Sydney to point others toward Him.



The World Falls Away

The whole world fell away last night
as I lingered beneath His gaze.
From His house of gold
came a piercing light,
His mercy poured out in rays.

His plan from all eternity
was stated in solemn voice:
A mysterious, spiritual maternity
could be mine if I made the choice.

Inspired by the Spirit's breath
to atone for children lost
in the darkness of the culture of death:
My life would be a holocaust.

The ordination of a man
was what gently drew me in,
to a call of love that in part, began
when the Spirit descended on him.

In the world of noise, I could not
hear God's call to be a mother,
so He used the soul of one so dear,
and spoke it through my brother.

Rebuild My Church

Camp St. Joseph, nestled between meadows and cornfields about two hours north of New York City, has provided a place of solitude, retreat and respite for our Sisters and those we serve. Three years ago the Camp's rickety chapel was condemned. We decided to have a community of volunteer co-workers come to live and work with us to build a new chapel (in 30 days!). They were invited to share in our life of prayer and community. Our co-workers ranged from ages 6 to 72 years old -- the majority being of college age, and ranged in skill from never having seen a hammer to expert Carpenter and Construction managers for 50 years. As work got underway, it became clear that we were building much more than a chapel.

SV Summer Volunteer Service Project



I've never seen such pure joy in Christian Living in my whole life! There was so much joy and forgiveness... I could do 55 things wrong and no one would say a word. I did one thing right and everyone cheered for me. There was such joy and forgiveness.

Doug Hinsperger (Age 55)

I loved the whole experience of being part of a real Christian community. I learned that you can't be a Christian on your own. I was so grateful to pray and eat and work with Sisters and to be part of a real Christian family.

Anthony Nguyen (age 19)

I was supposed to stay for five days and ended up staying the entire month! It was beautiful to see how we became a family, we molded together as the body of Christ, all building God's Church--literally the Kingdom!

Jessie Cuadros: (Age 21)

This project changed my life! I found myself just wanting to pray all of a sudden! In the world it gets very easy to put God aside--praying when you feel like it. It was great to be with the Sisters and watch how they live, a community caring for each other and loving others.

Kerry Connors: (Age 20)



WILL WE ROLL BACK THE TIDE?

[Or allow the destruction of millions of human beings through embryonic stem cell research to determine our fate.]

Professor Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University, was presented with the John Cardinal O'Connor Award on April 20th. His scholarship and teaching exhibit fearless trust in the power of truth and have made an indispensable contribution to the intellectual formation of the Culture of Life. The following is an excerpt from his remarks at the 7th Annual Friends of the Sisters of Life Dinner Dance.

“On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, struck down the laws of fifty states prohibiting or significantly restricting abortion....

These men probably had no idea that they were unleashing a struggle for the soul of the nation... All no doubt believed that legal abortion was a humane and enlightened policy, one that would ease the burdens of many women and girls and relieve the enormous cost to society of a high birth rate among indigent, often unmarried, women. They seemed blithely to assume that abortion would be easily integrated into the fabric of American social and political life.

They were wrong on all counts...

The Roe justices were also wrong to imagine that legal abortion would prove to be enlightened or in the slightest respect humane. On the contrary, the policy imposed by the Court has proven to be an unmitigated disaster. In the thirty-four years since *Roe* and *Doe*, abortion has taken the lives of perhaps fifty million unborn victims—each a distinct, unique, precious human being. It has done immeasurable moral, psychological, and sometimes physical harm to women who are so very often, and in so many respects, truly abortion's "secondary victims." It has corrupted physicians and nurses by turning healers into killers. It has undermined the moral authority of the law by its injustice. It has abetted irresponsible—even predatory—male sexual behavior.

Far from reducing the rate of out-of-wedlock births, particularly to poor women, illegitimacy has skyrocketed in the age of abortion. Now the abortion license has metastasized into widespread elite support for deadly embryo experimentation ...

The justices were wrong moreover to suppose that America, as a nation, would learn to live with abortion license. A notable effect of the Court's rulings was to energize the grassroots pro-life movement that had come into being a few years earlier to resist legislative efforts to liberalize state abortion laws... Today, a common commitment to defending the unborn is at the heart of an unprecedented Catholic-Evangelical alliance ...

It is this alliance that stands in the gap today against embryo-destructive biomedical research. **This issue has brought us to a crossroads.** Its resolution will determine whether we truly will be able to roll back the abortion license or whether the license to kill the unborn by abortion will further metastasize to the point at which millions of human beings are produced by cloning and similar technologies to be destroyed in the embryonic or fetal stage of development to produce stem cells, tissues, and organs for the benefit of others. *The status quo will not hold.* If we succeed in achieving a ban on all forms of human cloning, the principle of respect for embryonic human life we will have established in our law will become an irresistible force for rolling back the abortion license. If we fail to ban the production of embryos by cloning to be destroyed in scientific research, the cultural and political entrenchment of the idea that the embryo-killing is acceptable will destroy all hope of rolling back abortion—even if *Roe* is overturned.

At least one more pro-abortion justice must be replaced if the regime of judicially imposed abortion-on-demand is to be dismantled. At best, the vote on the Supreme Court today is 5 to 4 in the wrong direction. This by itself makes the 2008 presidential election literally a matter of life and death.

Professor Robert George, Fr. Groeschel and Mother Agnes

Hosts: Mary Kay and Bruce Barket

Dinner dance guests and friends of the Sisters



What's in a name?

In religious life as in life, for those who take it seriously, receiving a name has great significance. Naming a thing calls it into being, announces a particular unrepeatable life, and can even have, in a mysterious way, a prophetic quality as a summons pointing to or intimating the unique way a soul will image or serve Christ.



After receiving the habit, SV Constitutions, and their religious names, the new novices are joyfully greeted by the community.

Sr. Maris Stella

Latin for Star of the Sea, Maris Stella is an ancient title of our Blessed Mother. As a child, I loved Mary as the Mother of Jesus and saw her as the perfect guide to her son. This title shows the Blessed Mother as the ever present mark that guides the Church through the seas of this life, for in God's design, "He has founded it upon the seas and formed it on the waters." (Ps 24) I see this name as a promise from God that he has given me His own mother to lead me throughout my religious life into a closer union with Christ and the Church. The image of Our Lady as the guide of her son's bride, the Church, gives me confidence and courage as she leads us with an inviting beauty and tenderness. God prepared me to understand this ancient title of His mother and His Church as I spent hundreds of nights at sea on a ship as a naval officer.



Sr. Joan Marie

I first felt compelled by the virtue, femininity, and truly generous human spirit of St. Joan of Arc. And felt also perhaps the same urgency of the mission she had in her desire that her people know true freedom, translated for me today, as the freedom to answer the question most under fire: "what is man"? A question only Jesus who became man can fully answer. Yet it is the Love that inspired her love that moves me most. To be sure, although Joan's courage moves me deeply, it is because her mission is an obedience born of love for God and her people and not that she battled as a man. It is because of Joan's steadfast purity and truly feminine presence that she roused men to be men, "My men, my men, to arms!" "Loving them to the end," the witness of her love and fidelity, tested and purified in persecution by even the Church, in turn purifies.



Sr. Brigid Ancilla Marie

My name, given by the Lord, is one that expresses the innermost desire of my heart and calls me to deeper love and conversion daily. St. Brigid, Patroness of Ireland, lived to "feed the poor, repel every hardship, to be gentle to every misery..." Brigid can mean "bride," and Ancilla means "handmaid;" I hope one day to be the bride and handmaid of Christ. And so I strive to love like St. Brigid and Our Blessed Mother, as I echo Mary's words "Ecce Ancilla Domini, Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum." "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word." Lk 1:38



Sr. Mary Aquinas

I was drawn to St. Thomas Aquinas because I feel called to proclaim the Incarnation in the face of the dualism that underlies many of the offenses against life. Beyond his Dominican vocation to preach the goodness of creation, I particularly admire St. Thomas Aquinas' virtues of humility, purity, and love of truth, along with his great devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist. I am blessed to call upon the intercession of this big brother in the faith and that of our Blessed Mother in my Religious Name.



The act of prostration before the Sisters profess their perpetual vows signifies their entrance into Christ's Pascal Mystery -- completely laying down their lives so that others may receive the gift of everlasting life.



Perpetual Profession *August 6th, 2007*

Sr. Mary Gabriel, Sr. Veronica Mary, Sr. Rita Marie, and Sr. Bridget beaming with joy after making a total gift of themselves; espoused to the Lord of Life forever.



First Profession

Responding to the call of the Lord, Sr. Bernadette Maria and Sr. Maria Emmanuel profess their First Vows--echoing Mary's Fiat, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done onto me according to Your word."

In them burns a unique thirst for love that can only be quenched by the Eternal One alone. - Pope Benedict XVI

VILLA MARIA GUADALUPE

Retreat Center



Are you longing for some quiet time away?

A peaceful place you can find refreshment... a place you can hear that still small voice of the Lord speak to your heart and set you on a new course once again?

Here at Villa Maria Guadalupe the Sisters of Life offer weekend retreats and days of recollection for singles, married couples, families, priests and religious.

Participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, joining us as we chant the Liturgy of the Hours, adoring the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, and experiencing His profound mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation are some of the ways you can enter into His Holy Presence. Consider one of our upcoming retreats and come spend time with the Lord.

He waits for all those who thirst.

MISSION STATEMENT

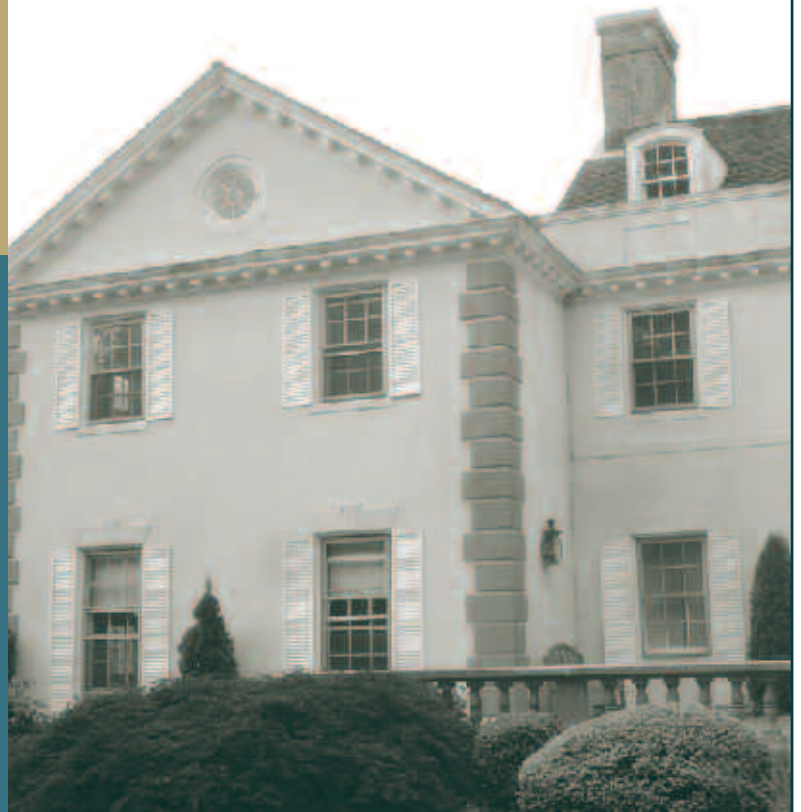
Villa Maria Guadalupe is an international retreat center of the Knights of Columbus operated by the Sisters of Life.

A Sanctuary of renewal, hope and mercy under the protection of the Blessed Mother, Villa Maria Guadalupe promises to play a unique and integral role as the spiritual foundation of the Culture of Life.

Location: *Situated in picturesque Stamford, Connecticut,*



Villa Maria Guadalupe sits on the top of a hill-crest surrounded by acres of grounds providing a tranquil getaway from the noise and bustle of the city for prayer and reflection. Those joining us for weekend retreats often enjoy hiking through the wooded trails of nearby Bartlett Arboretum and Nature Center.



Suddenly, amidst the noise of a busy world,
you hear a still, small voice whisper,

make a retreat.

► FALL WEEKEND RETREATS

A. Oct. 5-7, 2007

Retreat for Women

Meditations on the Dignity
and Vocation of Women

Rev. Brian Mullady, O.P., director

Suggested donation: \$215

B. Oct. 19-21, 2007

**Theology of the Body Retreat
(for College Students)**

Reflections on God's plan for Human Love

Rev. Luke Sweeney, director

Suggested donation: \$75

C. Nov. 16-18, 2007

**Pro-life Retreat
(Open to all)**

Reflections on the Gospel of Life

Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., director

Suggested donation: \$215

D. Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2007

**Theology of the Body Retreat
(Open to all)**

Reflections on God's plan for Human Love

Rev. Walter Schu, L.C., director

Suggested donation: \$215

► SPRING WEEKEND RETREATS

E. February 22-24, 2008

**Theology of the Body Retreat
(Open to all)**

Reflections on God's plan
for Human Love

Suggested donation: \$215

F. April 4-6, 2008

**Pro-life Retreat
(Open to all)**

Reflections on the Gospel of Life

Suggested donation: \$215

G. April 18-20, 2008

**Spanish Theology of the Body Retreat
(Open for all)**

Reflections of God's plan for Human Love

Rev. Armando Marcel, D.C.J.M., director

Suggested donation: \$215

H. April 25-27, 2008

**Ignatian Prayer
(Open to all)**

Rev. Timothy Gallagher, O.V.M., director

Suggested donation: \$215

► FOR THE FAMILY

I. Sunday, Nov. 4, 2-4 pm

Family Day

Bring the family, meet the Sisters,
conference for adults, talk with Sisters
for children, games and activities for all.

J. Sunday, Dec. 9, 12-3 pm

Fiesta Guadalupe

Mass, meal, conference on

Our Lady of Guadalupe

► EVENINGS DURING ADVENT 2007

K. An Advent Series

with the Sisters of Life, 4:00 pm

Holy Hour, Conference, Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 9

Sr. Mary Gabriel, S.V.

Sunday, Dec. 16

Mother Agnes Mary, S.V.

Sunday, Dec. 23

Sr. Dorothy Guadalupe, S.V.

► DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

L. May 10, 2008

Retreat for Women

Meditations on the Dignity

and Vocation of Women

Great Mother's Day gift!

Suggested donation: \$30

► M. PRIVATE RETREATS 2008

Opportunity for private, preached and
directed retreats for women:

(may attend all or part of retreat below)

January 3-12, 2008

March 26-April 4, 2008

May 27-June 5, 2008

August 5-14, 2008

August 22-31, 2008 (preached)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____M _____F (indicate for room assignments)

I would like to register for:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

(please circle)

_____ I am interested in making a private retreat _____

(please indicate which one)

My check, payable to the Sisters of Life, for \$ _____ is enclosed.

*Please note: When we receive your donation, your registration will be confirmed.

Mail to: Sisters of Life 159 Sky Meadow Dr., Stamford, CT 06903

For more information and to register please

mail form to: Sisters of Life

159 Sky Meadow Dr., Stamford, CT 06903

or Fax: 203.329.1495

or visit: www.sistersoflife.org/vmg.htm

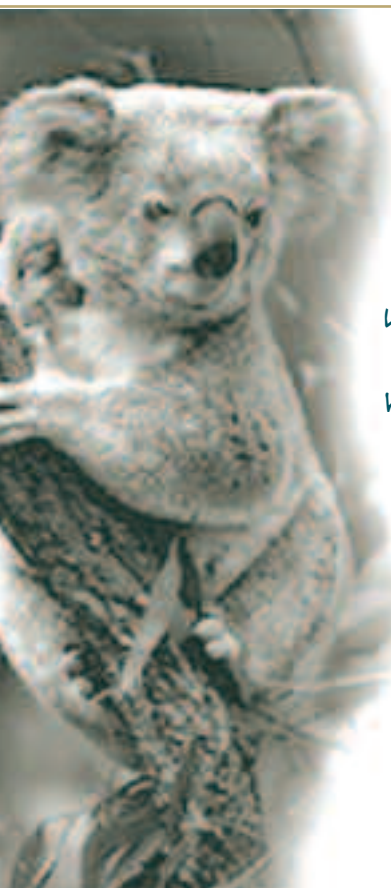
or call the Sisters of Life at: 203.329.1492

SISTERS OF LIFE

St. Paul's Convent
586 McLean Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10705

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Printed through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus. Written and designed by the Sisters of Life.



Let me Koalify
that for you,
mate...
I'm not just
hangin' out waitin'
for a herd of
kangaroos to come
hoppin' by.
I've staked out
my spot waiting
for World Youth
Day 2008!
(best spot in
the house, mate!)

-Zaccheus
Sydney, Australia

SV DIRECTORY

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
(Generalate)

586 McLean Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10705
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Fax: 914/968-0462

**VISITATION MISSION
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WEB SITE:
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www.LoveLifeLink.org

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