

# FATHERHOOD

the awesome calling.

When the Lord  
bestows on man  
the gift of fatherhood  
He entrusts to him  
an irreplaceable mission.

As protector, guardian  
and transmitter  
of the Father's love,  
man reaches the heights  
to which he has been  
called by grace.

Photo by Claudia L. L. / iStockphoto





**In anticipation** of celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cardinal O'Connor's entrance into eternal life this May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we devote this issue of our newsletter to a consideration of fatherhood. The notion of fathers and fatherhood prompted a happy and telling memory of our father and founder -- Cardinal O'Connor. Customarily faithful, my large family was present in 1991 for the simple ceremonies surrounding my acceptance as a postulant with the Sisters of Life. Cardinals were unfamiliar company, and when introduced, the proper (and rather awkward) title "Your Eminence" stuck on the tongue of one of my sisters, and she blurted out with a smile, "It is good to meet you, Father O'Connor." As soon as the words had fallen off her tongue, she apologized profusely, and he responded, "My dear, you may always call me Father. It was the only title I ever desired in life."

All priests are called to be fathers, to generate the life of souls, to protect that life, to provide spiritual nourishment and guide the growth of that same spiritual life. Fatherhood, whether spiritual or natural, like anything worthwhile, isn't an easy task. It demands sacrifice. It requires that one "give God permission" to move beyond self-seeking or the fear of failure, and live for the other with a keen awareness that simply one's presence is a gift, and one that matters well beyond one's own lifetime. For uniquely, a father's love gives us a hint of the loving providence of God, our Heavenly Father.

With the help of your prayers and practical support, we see daily in our missions God, the Father's generous response to the everyday needs of our unborn brothers and sisters and their young and vulnerable parents. Thank you for being the material expression of God's provident love to so many.

With the grateful prayers of all the Sisters of Life for you and your loved ones,

*Mother Agnes*

## Fathers are so important.

They profoundly impact how we view ourselves, what we value, our hopes for marriage and family and our relationship with God. Their love, presence, self-giving and example of living faith strengthen us. Their limitations and human weaknesses wound us. As we grow into adulthood we realize that our hearts' need and longing for a Father who knows us intimately, loves us tenderly, understands and accepts us, who is wise and strong and will never let us down can be met by God alone. Our relationships with our earthly fathers is meant to give us a taste, an experience, however incomplete, of the love God has for us. So we can find ourselves disappointed in our relationships with our parents because we are expecting another human person to fill an infinite longing within. Only in God are we destined to find the love that truly satisfies and completes us.

The impact of a father is immeasurable. The following articles illustrate how one father's love and example has had an eternal impact on his daughter Faustina (one of our postulants) and on his son-in-law Will and his family.

### Top 10

#### ways to grow into a really great Dad

1. Say yes to the challenge of fatherhood, each day.
2. Love your wife and treat her with great respect – the model you set will greatly influence your children's decisions later.
3. Make prayer an essential part of your life. Teach your children to pray, and let them see you pray, regularly. Be faithful to the sacraments.
4. Spend time with your children. Play with them. Let them know you enjoy the gift of being their father.
5. Love your children enough to discipline them. Teach them clearly right from wrong.
6. Grow in patience.
7. Forgive your children and allow them to hear you say "I'm sorry."
8. Tell them "I love you". Don't be afraid to be affectionate: let your children feel loved.
9. Talk with your children – especially as they enter teenage years. Be genuinely interested in how they are.
10. Lead by example: Select your friends, your entertainment, your social outings knowing that your choices influence your children more than you will ever know.

When asked about her relationship with her father our postulant Faustina immediately responded: "Growing up I knew my Dad loved me." She paused trying to articulate just what he did to provide her with that certainty. "The language of his love was the sacrifices he made to be with his family. He made it a priority to be home for dinner every night, and never disappeared afterwards. Free time for him meant family time, evenings and weekends were spent helping us with our homework, going to our games, and taking us on day trips. Through his gentle encouragement and confidence in me, his love was present to me even when I was struggling in school or sports. And in receiving his love I found that I not only wanted to love him, but I wanted to be good for him."

## The strength of a man

lies in his willingness to give of himself totally to his wife and children.



Examples of her father's generous self-giving made a lasting impression on Faustina: "He was always ready to give up what he had for us. I remember, we had this old clunker with the muffler hanging off that made a lot of noise; I hated driving in it. But he would take it to work every day and leave the nicer car for us. Even after I moved out, I knew that he would be there for me whenever I needed him, without question. I could call him in the middle of the night if my car broke down and he would be there to help.

As she reflected, Faustina realized that the faithful and loving relationship that her mother and father shared was at the heart of it all. "If I didn't see him loving my Mom none of this would have mattered. He was always seeking to serve her.

the cooking and was always the last person to sit down at dinner, making sure everyone was taken care of first. I would see him sacrifice what he wanted to do for my mother. He loves simply being with her. It's sweet."

The greatest gift her father provided was to pass on the faith to his children. "He stressed the importance of having a relationship with Jesus. He would tell us you can't call Jesus your friend if you just talk to him in the morning and at night. You have to invite him into your day." He was a great example of this, "I would see and hear him pray throughout the day, asking for help or thanking God. It was natural, like talking to a friend."

Mr. Bianchi's paternity became an icon of the Heavenly Father's love for Faustina. "When I would go to Church and hear about God as a father it was a natural connection to make. If my earthly father, who is broken and has human weaknesses that I have experienced, loves me like this; how much more would God love me, accept me, treasure me. In college I was so surprised to hear people say that they didn't believe God loved them. I was completely dumbfounded. I thought that experiencing God's love was just second nature, like breathing. Look around, see the beauty of creation, you're alive...of course God loves you! But I realized that many people struggle with that. I can't thank my father enough for this gift."

The strength and security that a father's love provides is exceptional. While not all are blessed to have had an experience like Faustina; we all have access to the incomparable love of our Heavenly Father. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God." And lest we doubt his personal love and providence for us he sent Jesus to reassure us of his fidelity and nearness. "In this way the love of God was revealed to us; God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him."

In our next article, Faustina's brother-in-law reflects on the impact Mr. Bianchi's example has had on him and his family.





"...the day will come when you are no longer fulfilling that position; someone else will fill your shoes, perhaps even doing it better. But no one can step into your role as father."

## Putting family first by William Gonzalez

IT WAS TIME to make another dreaded phone call to tell my wife that problems had come up and I wouldn't be coming home the next day as scheduled. I was thousands of miles away, yet I could hear the disappointment in her voice as she tried to be understanding. She was used to this happening, but it didn't make it any easier for me.

For four years I felt the strain that my frequent and sometimes unpredictable absences would render upon my family. I decided something had to change. I chose to take a position that meant a significant reduction in pay but would require far less travel and allow much more control over my schedule. Doing what was right for my family — and what I believe was God's will — brought serenity and relief.

My father-in-law served as an admirable role model in this regard. A busy doctor with his own practice for years, he made the sacrifice of taking a much less desirable position as a prison physician. In doing so, he was able to work a more regular schedule and be present to his eight children. Naturally, the work environment presented its share of sufferings, but he was home everyday when his kids were coming home from school. Steve Woods, in his book, *Christian Fatherhood*, remarked, "For our children, love is a four letter word spelled 'T-I-M-E.'" This resonated deeply with my wife, who still talks about her father's heroism with heartfelt gratitude.

While changing jobs is not a necessity or even an option for most, all of us should take time to evaluate the importance we place on our work and family. As we consider the task of "balancing work and family," the word "balance" seems to infer a kind of equality. However, as husbands and fathers, our wives and children need to be a higher priority. No matter how much you pour into your job, in the final analysis, the day will come when you are no longer fulfilling that position; someone

else will fill your shoes, perhaps even doing it better. On the other hand, no one can step into your role as father. Pope John Paul II observed that "the place and task of the father in and for the family is of unique and irreplaceable importance" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 25).

In the daily struggle to do well in our careers and attend to the needs of our families, we can follow some helpful tips:

**1. Put God first.** He will give you the grace to properly order your life. Research daily Mass times in your area and attend when you can. If you have a long commute, try using that time to pray or listen to spiritual books on CD or tape. Cultivate a devotion to

St. Joseph, who is both the patron of workers and our exemplar of fatherhood. Finally, as the spiritual head of your family, learn to lead your family in prayer at home.

**2. Be organized and use time efficiently at work.** When at work, work! Stay focused on your task and don't waste time with other distractions. Avoid the "water cooler syndrome," where more time than water gets swallowed up. This will aid in your ability to accomplish your duty and leave work on time.

**3. Live within your means.** I have been asked by my co-workers, "How can you afford to not work all the pay periods available to you?" The answer is simple: We are content to live with less. This removes the inevitability of working overtime to pay for items that aren't necessities. Meeting the needs of both work and family is a continual challenge, but with God's grace and a willingness to follow his will, it doesn't have to be a tightrope act.

This article originally appeared in *Columbus* magazine November 2009 and is reprinted here with permission from the Knights of Columbus, New Haven, Conn. Find additional articles and resources for Catholic men and their families at [www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org).



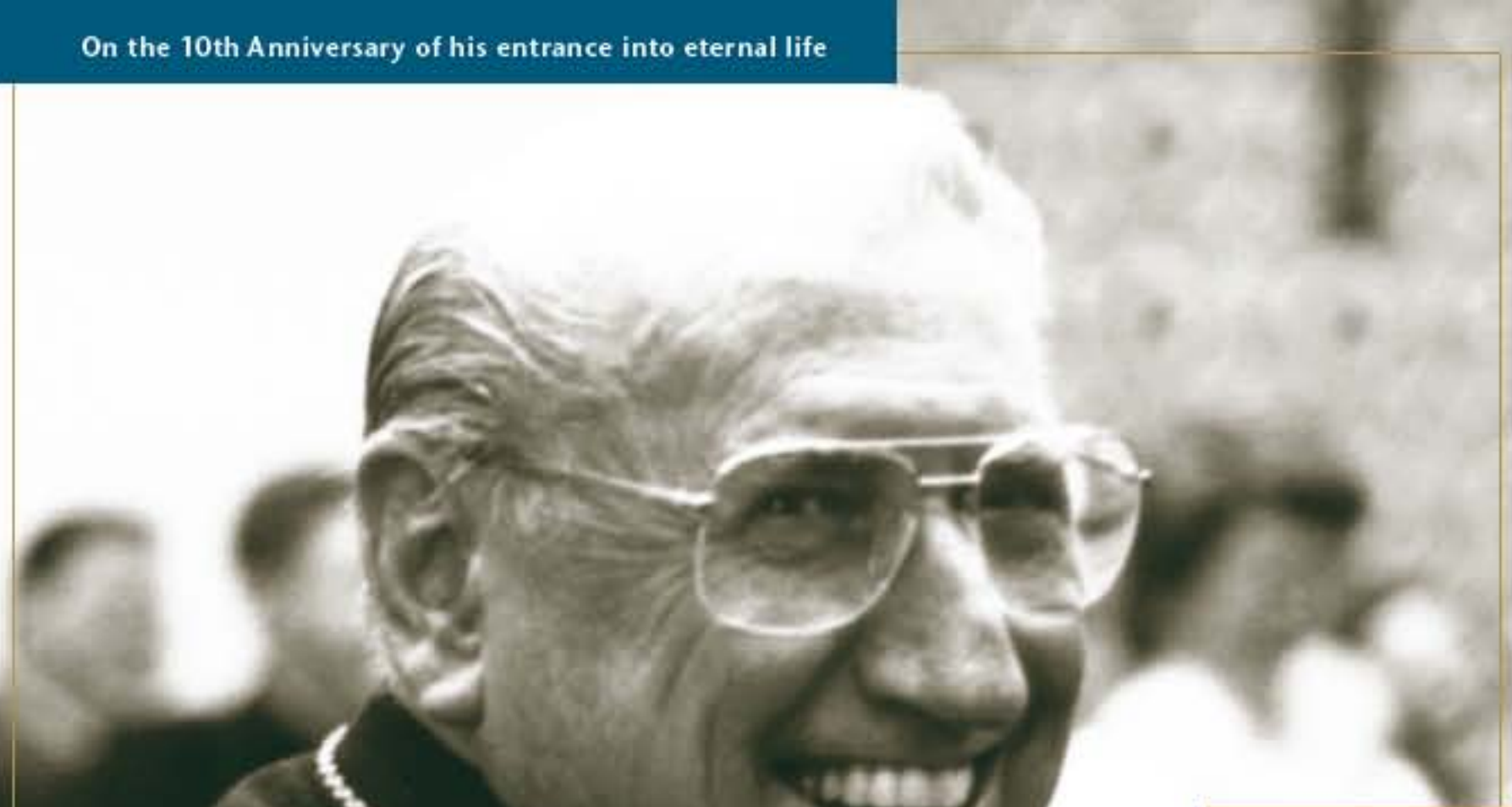
## A BELOVED SPIRITUAL FATHER

His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor was known to many as a Prince of the Church, the late Archbishop of the capitol of the world, and an international leader and diplomat. He held prestigious degrees and the esteemed titles of Cardinal and Admiral. He was greatly admired for his leadership and his bold fearlessness before men. Yet of all the titles His Eminence held, that of Father was most important to him. His daily celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was the very center of his life. Through this worship of God, and his deep love for Jesus Christ, he was given the strength to make an offering of himself to God for his flock and to live as a good shepherd until the end.

One of Cardinal O'Connor's most passionate beliefs was the inestimable power of redemptive suffering. He often preached and taught that by uniting our sufferings with the suffering of

Christ on the Cross we can become instruments of enormous good in the world. He frequently shared with his own priests who were suffering or ill, that Christ did not make possible the salvation of the world when he was teaching, preaching, or working miracles, but when he was helpless, and suffering on the cross. When He appeared to be utterly powerless with His arms spread wide on the cross, He was radiating the greatest power ever unleashed in the world. In his final days, Cardinal O'Connor united his own suffering with that of Christ's and fully lived out his priesthood. In and through this great suffering, he experienced the love of God. In a final conversation with a fellow Cardinal he shared his experience of the wonders of the love of God, and said "the love of God is staggering, absolutely staggering; it is impossible to measure the love that God has for us."

"It is my very sincere prayer that if I live for a week, if I live for 20 years, my last breath will be in support of the sacredness of every human life."  
— John Cardinal O'Connor





# The Life of John Cardinal O'Connor



**John Joseph O'Connor was born on Jan. 15, 1920,** in a row house in Philadelphia, the fourth of five children born to Thomas and Dorothy O'Connor. His father was a skilled painter, specializing in gold-leafing and his mother was a devout and kind woman. His love for the handicapped developed at a young age, as he was very close to a cousin with Down syndrome. When he was ten, he was seen by his sister defending a young handicapped girl who was being taunted on the street by a gang of boys. Growing up, he always picked up jobs in the neighborhood to help earn money for the family.

## Dec. 15, 1945

Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and assigned to St. James High School as a teacher and guidance counselor. He taught night school for adults, hosted two weekly Catholic radio news programs, worked in psychiatric hospital wards, taught the mentally disabled, and assisted at St. Gabriel's Parish.



## 1952

During the Korean War, he joined the Navy as a chaplain at the request of his bishop and expected to serve one tour. Twenty seven years later, after serving onboard ships, in Vietnam, at the US Naval Academy and finally as the Chief of Chaplains holding rank of Rear Admiral, he retired from the military. At each duty station, he began sacrament classes for children with mental disabilities, a group who was generally under-served and unrecognized before his arrival.

## 1979

Hoping to return home as a parish priest after his military service, he was named auxiliary bishop in charge of the military vicariate. Before his ordination as a bishop, he made a retreat in Dachau, Germany and visited the concentration camp. In placing his hands in the crematoria he felt the intermingled ashes of Jew and Christian, rabbi, priest and minister. He thought, "Good God, how could human beings do this to one another." He received a life transforming grace and promised that for the rest of his life he would do everything he could to protect and enhance the sacredness of all human life.



## June 29, 1983

He was installed as Bishop of Scranton and was thrilled to be back in his home state.

## March 19, 1984

He was installed as Archbishop of New York. Before his arrival he announced "Efforts on behalf of the unborn are going to be my number-one priority. They will permeate everything I do." Early in his years in New York, while in prayer he was struck by the scripture verse, "this demon can only be cast out by prayer and fasting." Relating these words to the widespread contempt for human life in our world, he was given the inspiration to found a religious community of women totally dedicated to interceding on behalf of the unborn and the most vulnerable.

He faithfully celebrated daily and Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral where he boldly proclaimed the truth and was often quoted by newspapers and TV stations.

## Oct. 15, 1984

He announced from the pulpit in St. Patrick's Cathedral, "Any woman, of any religious persuasion, of any ethnic background, of any color, who comes to the Archdiocese of New York under pressure to have an abortion and not having any money, we will give her complete medical and hospital care free of charge. If she wishes to keep her baby after the baby is born our legal staff will help her do so, or they will help her place the baby for adoption." Since that announcement,



One of the many children born at Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Holy Respite for pregnant women, and the vision of Cardinal O'Connor.

## 1920-2000

over one hundred thousand women have been served by the Archdiocese and the Sisters of Life.

## May 25, 1985

Elevated to Cardinal. During that year, he launched an annual Mass for the handicapped which became one of his greatest joys as Archbishop. He established the state's first AIDS unit at St. Clare's Hospital in Manhattan. Over the years, he would quietly visit over a thousand AIDS patients during the night. He would simply listen to them and do the humble tasks of washing the patients' bedpans and cleaning them.



He became known, nationally and internationally for his diplomatic skills meeting with presidents and leaders of nations to negotiate peace and the release of hostages. He was known nationally for his work on the U.S. Bishops' 1983 peace pastoral, his vigorous pro-life work, his promotion of Catholic-Jewish relations and his efforts for Middle East peace.

"He served the rich, the poor, the powerful, the powerless and the sick," as well as "the holy ones in our midst, and the sinners. He was not afraid to speak in ways that were not 'politically correct'...but he always did it with love."

-William Cardinal Baum



"Over the course of hundreds of years, Almighty God has inevitably raised up religious communities to meet the special needs of the day...My reading of the 'signs of the times,' impels me to believe that the Holy Spirit, 'brooding over the bent world,' wants to inspire a religious community whose charism would be uniquely the protection and enhancement of a sense of the sacredness of human life itself."

- John Cardinal O'Connor

## Nov. 2, 1989

After more than five years of prayer, he wrote a column in Catholic New York entitled, "Help Wanted, Sisters of Life" inviting women to contact him who might be interested in forming a religious community.

## June 1, 1991

The Sisters of Life was founded with eight women. Reflecting on the event he said, "As close to being a number one joy as anything I have experienced was the founding of the Sisters of Life. That was an extraordinary thrill. Each time I receive a new Sister it makes my heart light up more than almost anything you can talk about."



## August 1999,

He was diagnosed with cancer and states that "I am in unutterable peace and my life is in the hands of a loving God." Throughout his illness he continued to say Mass in the Cathedral bearing witness to the power of redemptive suffering, and the Good Shepherd who to the end gives his life for the flock.

## May 3, 2000

His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor entered eternal life. Tens of thousands of people of every religion and background waited in line to pay their respects while he lay in state. The incredible outpouring of emotion throughout the days of mourning gave witness to the fact that he had touched the hearts of individuals through his fatherly love, kindness, compassion, and tremendous generosity.

His final request to his beloved niece, Eileen, was to share with others these words, "I want to remind the people that we must be kind to each other, we must be gentle. Our world moves so fast but we must never forget that love is truly the only thing that matters. I do not know why my life led me to any sort of prominence. I am not special. I am only an ordinary man. But if my position now permits me to be heard in some way, I want to spend the rest of my life devoted only to love, to doing good, to being prayerful. And we must never forget that we must help each other. We must all spend our lives in love. Please tell the people this."





# CAROLINE

my eternal blessing.

*The night before I delivered, I was in the chapel desperately praying. I was in tears just saying over and over again, "I can't do this." In a moment of grace, everything changed. I heard the Lord speak to me and say, "Give up and trust Me." It was like the weight of the world instantly lifted and from that point on... I committed myself to being a mother.*

-Nancy

Cardinal O'Connor recounts his first meeting with Mother Teresa, as a pivotal moment of grace: "I was coming down the steps from the awesome high altar of St. Peter's in Rome, having just had the Pope place his hands on my head and ordain me a Bishop. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Mother Teresa almost pressing herself into the stone wall of the Basilica. I had never met her before, but I broke the line, incurring the wrath of the Master of Ceremonies, and went over to her. I said nothing. She looked at me and said, 'Give God permission.' That was all. Give God permission. Let God work through you. Let God use your hands. Let God speak to people through your lips. Let people look into your eyes and see God. It's as simple as that. Give God permission. I don't, most of the time. But when I give Him permission and get out of the way, He does an awful lot."

## Giving God Permission

On the eve his death, May 2, 2000, just blocks away from his residence, Nancy, a guest at Sacred Heart Convent was kneeling in the chapel and received the grace to "Give God Permission." The next day her daughter Caroline entered the world and Cardinal O'Connor entered eternal life. She recounts her story.

### What was your response to the news of your pregnancy?

I seriously thought my life was over. I had my entire future planned out. I would work for a little while, travel, get married and then settle down. When I unexpectedly got pregnant, it was like the entire world went dark. Having recently graduated from a Catholic university, I was extremely humiliated. I thought, "How can I do this?" I felt like I had no options. I began looking for a place where I could go to deal with my situation. I needed somewhere to think about what was happening to me and about the baby, who I honestly could not fathom being a part of my life. Then, somebody told me about the Sisters of Life.

### How was your time at Sacred Heart?

Before I came to Sacred Heart, I felt like a completely broken person. I was mad at the world, mad at myself, depressed, and utterly hopeless. I remember ringing the bell and coming through the front door for the first time. I saw another guest, Jennifer, smiling with her baby. I saw the Sisters smiling. I smiled, and from that moment I really started to heal. It wasn't because of anything anyone said. There was no "let's have a group session or let's talk about you." It was simple things that really made a difference like laughing with the other guests and the Sisters (they are pretty funny), and being part of a community.

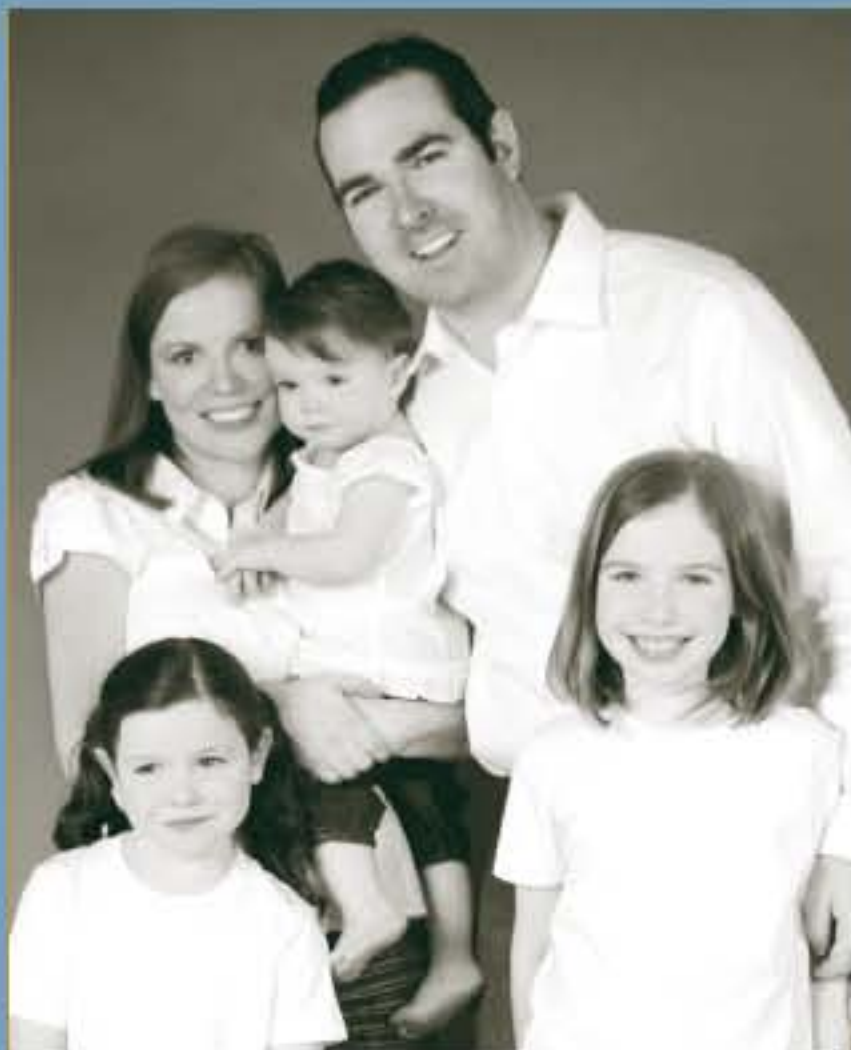
### What had to change for you accept your pregnancy?

I spent a lot of time praying in the chapel, usually late at night. Even after I accepted I was having a baby, actually raising a child still seemed impossible. Where would we live, how would I support us? The night before I delivered, I was in the chapel desperately praying. I was in tears just saying over and over again, "I can't do this." In a moment of grace, everything changed. I heard the Lord speak to me and say, "Give up and trust Me." It was like the weight of the world instantly lifted and from that point on, I just gave up. I let go of all of my expectations of what my life was supposed to be. I gave up my anger, I gave up all of the hopeless thoughts, and I committed myself to being a mother and to doing whatever I had to in order to make my life work. Most importantly, I trusted the Lord to help me—to help us. After that, miracles happened and I am so happy to say the outcome was really exceptional.

(cont'd on next page)







#### Could you share about the day of Caroline's birth?

The day before I had Caroline, Cardinal O'Connor became very ill. The atmosphere at Sacred Heart was different than any other time since I'd been there. The Sisters, although they were their usual loving happy selves, were obviously dealing with something critical. They were keeping vigil all day and night, praying for the Cardinal. I remember Sr. Monica was in the chapel in the middle of the night when I told her that I needed to go to the hospital. I was comforted knowing at that time there was so much prayer and grace filling the house.

My actual experience at the hospital was amazing. I can't imagine anyone ever having more a happy and perfect time in a delivery room than I had with Sr. Elizabeth Ann and Sr. Loretto Michael. After we had an impromptu party with several of the nurses on the floor, we settled down to wait out my labor. I made the Sisters stay awake all night and pray. I told them, "I'm going to sleep, but you can't sleep, you have to keep praying!" (I caught Sr. Elizabeth Ann dozing a couple times. I hollered, "Are you praying?!" and nearly startled her out of her chair.) Caroline was born 6:03 AM May 3, 2000, and it was glorious! The first time I looked at her I thought, "Oh my goodness, so much fuss over this beautiful baby." I was completely elated.

#### What has it been like since Caroline's birth?

I look at my life now and all of the miracles and blessings since Caroline's birth and I thank God for Cardinal O'Connor and his vision for the Sisters of Life and Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent. I definitely found myself at Sacred Heart. It wasn't just a birth for Caroline; it was a birth for me—becoming a mother. My focus totally shifted outside of myself.

#### You said miracles happened. Can you share some of them?

It has been miracle after miracle. I got a great (affordable!) apartment in Manhattan just a few blocks from Sacred Heart. Through the help of one of the other moms at Sacred Heart, I got a job at a magazine, which turned out to be the beginning of a fantastic career for me. Carl, Caroline's father, also came back into my life. We were married in 2002 with Caroline as my maid of honor. Along with Caroline, we have 2 other daughters. Ava, 6, and Clare, 1. My life didn't turn out like I expected. I never in a million years thought I would spend six months in a convent in the middle of New York City, especially pregnant. But I am absolutely overjoyed and grateful for the way things did happen. I thank God for leading me along this very difficult path.

#### Why do you think this decision is such a hard one for many women?

I think women in my situation are the most likely to have abortions because they're in college or have a good job; they have their lives planned out, and they know what they want. They have all of these expectations about what life is going to be like and an unplanned pregnancy isn't part of it. It's a humiliating situation that many women would rather not expose themselves to. It's tempting to have an abortion and make it all go away. It seems like the easiest thing, but it's not. If I had chosen that, just think of what I would have given up. To other women struggling like I did, I can only urge them to not allow the world to tell them what will bring them happiness. Be strong, pray, listen to God and have faith that by courageously walking through the pain and loving their child into this world, it will all work out. It will be better than they could have ever imagined—whatever their current situation. And, find the Sisters of Life!

#### Now after ten years what is it like when you come back to Sacred Heart?

I love coming to Sacred Heart. My kids love Sacred Heart. The Sisters spoil them with treats and they run up and down the stairs like they own the place. I'm still very close to the moms that lived here with me. The bonds, with the moms and with the Sisters, are powerful. We are our own special family and this convent will always be my home.

#### Updates from the mission

##### Villa Maria Guadalupe

Once again we will be hosting LIFE FEST on July 4, 2010 at Villa Maria Guadalupe. All are invited – bring the family – to join us as we celebrate the gift of life with music, talks, games, Holy Mass and a Marian Procession. Visit our website for more details and for a listing of our fall retreats.



##### Hope and Healing Mission

In our Hope and Healing Mission, we are privileged to witness God's merciful love at work in the lives of women who have suffered the effects of abortion. After a recent Day of Prayer and Healing, one woman said, "This is the most peace I have felt in the 29 plus years since my abortion. I truly feel God's mercy." Another woman commented, "The most important message I took from the Day of Prayer and Healing is that the process of healing from abortion is not about who you are or what you have done but about who God is and what He has done." Another person wrote, "The Sisters have helped me to rediscover God's love and compassion and I was given the courage to ask for His forgiveness. They have truly helped me break free from the grasp of my guilt and despair. I feel as though I am reunifying with humanity. I am beginning to enjoy my family for the first time and I feel a closeness to God that has long been missing in my life." We praise God for His mercy that endures forever.

##### Visitation Toronto

Our Toronto Visitation Mission is growing daily with over a thousand Co-workers who are inspired to build the culture of life in Canada. Our mission center, where we serve pregnant women, is now fully operational, located at St. Catherine's Parish in Downtown Toronto. In the past several months, we have had the joy of seeing many new babies welcomed into the world with love as they bear witness to the truth that life is always a good. Our toll-free Canadian number for pregnancy calls is: 1-877-LIFE-380.





## **Sisters of Life**

St. Paul's Convent  
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Yonkers, New York 10705

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### **Sisters of Life Directory**

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Yonkers, NY 10705  
914/968-8094  
Fax: 914/968-0462

■ St. Barnabas  
(Postulant House)  
445 East 240th Street  
Bronx, NY 10470  
718/708-6742  
Fax: 718/708-6744

■ St. Frances de Chantal  
(Novitiate House,  
Vocations)  
198 Hollywood Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10465  
718/863-2264  
Fax: 718/792-9645

■ Villa Maria Guadalupe  
(Retreat House)  
159 Sky Meadow Drive  
Stamford, CT 06903  
203/329-1492  
Fax: 203/329-1495

#### ■ Sacred Heart of Jesus (Holy Respite)

450 West 51st Street  
New York, NY 10019  
212/397-1396

■ Visitation Mission  
to Pregnant Women  
320 East 66th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
Pregnancy help call:  
212/737-0221  
toll free: 877/777-1277  
Co-workers of Life call:  
347/843-8900

■ St. Augustine Convent  
2661 Kingston Rd.  
Scarborough, ON  
M1M 1M3 Canada  
416/261-7207 (ext. 266)  
Fax: 416/261-0923

#### ■ Toronto Visitation Mission to Pregnant Women

St. Catherine of Siena  
1099 Danforth Avenue  
Toronto, ON M4J 1M5  
Pregnancy help call:  
(416) 463-2722  
Fax: (416) 463-1687

#### ■ Dr. Joseph R. Stanton Human Life Issues Library

1955 Needham Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10466  
718/881-7286  
Fax: 718/881-7287

■ Post-Abortion Retreats  
toll free 866/575-0075  
hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org

**What might happen**  
in our land if one million  
courageous Christians declared  
their uncompromising allegiance  
to Jesus Christ and to biblical  
faithfulness on some of the most  
urgent moral issues of our day?

**The Manhattan Declaration**, released  
in November 2009, affirms the dignity of  
every human being as a creature fash-  
ioned in the image of God, possessing  
intrinsic rights of equal dignity and life;  
marriage as a union of man and woman,  
ordained by God; and religious liberty,  
the inherent freedom of human beings  
created in the divine image.

Christians are joining together to  
affirm our right and, more importantly,  
to embrace our obligation, to speak and  
act in defense of these truths. We call  
upon all people of good will to consider  
and reflect on the issues addressed.

**Signatories include:** Archbishop  
Timothy Dolan, Cardinal Justin Rigali,  
Archbishop Chaput, as well as Dr. James  
Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family.

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