

ST. MARY'S RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER

In him was life and the life was the light of men – John 1:4

St. Mary Parish Franklin, MA

March, 2013

St. Mary's Respect Life Baby Shower and Friends of the Unborn

Each year, the Respect Life Committee sponsors a baby shower to collect items for various Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the Boston area. This year the baby shower will be held on the weekend of March 16th and 17th and all items will be donated to the **Friends of the Unborn** in Quincy, MA. Parishioners may donate items needed for a newborn such as diapers and wipes, infant clothing, layette items, onesies (long and short sleeved), infant hats/caps and socks, bibs and spit cloths, infant toiletries, nail clippers, baby monitors, and diaper bags. Items can be left in the bassinet in the front of the church near the side entrance. Monetary donation may also be made and left in the basket near the bassinet with checks made out to the Friends of the Unborn.

Friends of the Unborn is a Christian based Crisis Pregnancy Center and sheltering-home for pregnant, homeless young women. The home provides a

For more information about **Friends of the Unborn** visit the web site at www.FriendsOfTheUnborn.org or contact them directly at:

PO Box 692246
Quincy, MA 02269-2246
Email: Info@FriendsOfTheUnborn.org
Phone: (617) 786-7903
Toll Free 1-888-761-8538

loving atmosphere while the staff offers compassionate assistance and guidance to women in need of help.

Friends of the Unborn believes most women would choose LIFE for their unborn babies instead of abortion if they had the loving support of those around them. Through the efforts of many volunteers, they offer that support and much more.

"Countless pregnant women in crisis have benefited from the outstanding Christian witness of the Friends of the Unborn. Their loving and supportive programs affirm the dignity of the women as they assist them in their decision to choose life for their children".....Most Reverend Francis X. Irwin, Former Secretary for Social Services, Archdiocese of Boston.

Friends of the Unborn is totally supported by donations from good people who care about the unborn and the mothers in crisis. This support is the life-blood of the organization.

Through the donations and the support of individuals and pro-life groups throughout the archdiocese, **Friends of the Unborn** is able to provide a number of services to help young women in need. These services include a place to live, nutritional meals, case management, housing advocacy, professional counseling, spiritual guidance, adoption counseling, community referrals, retreats, alcohol and drug counseling, layette assistance, and referrals to OB/GYN doctors.

Join us on Sunday afternoon April 28 for the annual Respect Life Walk to Aid Mothers and Children sponsored by the Massachusetts Citizens for Life. This year the walk will be held on Sunday April 28 at Castle Island Park in South Boston. For more information, visit the MCFL web site at www.massprolife.com.

History of Friends of the Unborn

This very busy shelter and crisis pregnancy center began in 1984 in Marilyn Birnie's home. At the time, Marilyn was living with her two daughters in their two-family home in Hull, Massachusetts. While watching a Christian program on TV,

Marilyn learned about the serious problems so many girls face today when they find themselves pregnant. Oftentimes, parents will tell a girl that she has two options...abortion or leave their home. Boyfriends will often abandon the girl or offer her money for the cost of abortion. The pregnant girl is often desperate and chooses the abortion because she does not know of any other option.

After a great deal of prayer, Marilyn spoke with her daughters about the possibility of using their extra bedroom for a pregnant homeless girl. Her daughters said that they had no problem with this idea and would accept a girl and offer her support and friendship. Marilyn finally contacted Leslie Collins, Director of the Pregnancy Help office of the Archdiocese of Boston and asked if she needed a place for a pregnant girl to stay. Leslie was delighted with the offer and indeed did have need of Shepherding Homes for homeless pregnant girls in crisis. Within a short time she sent an 18 year-old girl to Marilyn's home. Instead of keeping the appointment for the abortion her mother made for her, this young girl moved in on a Monday in September of 1984. That little unborn baby is now 29 years old, a beautiful girl and a blessing to her mom and grandparents.

Marilyn didn't know on that day that this young girl would be the first of many homeless pregnant girls to be placed in her care. She realized that the Lord had prepared and gifted her to work with these wonderful young women and within 6 months had found space for 5 more girls in her home. Friends of the Unborn had become a ministry! Over the next twenty-three years, three more residences would be open for pregnant women and girls, and a thriving Crisis Pregnancy Center would be established. During their stay, the girls attend classes in Parenting, Nutrition, Abstinence, Violence Prevention, Bible Study and more. **Friends of the Unborn** also provides counseling, referrals and networking services to their residents and Crisis Center clients. All of the residents are encouraged to further their education, and carefully plan for their futures. There are many wonderful success stories to be told about their "graduates" over these many years. Keep your eyes on their web site and you'll see a few of these stories.

It is important to note that after young women deliver their babies, they come back to the home and continue their housing search. These dear residents and their babies stay for as long as it takes them to find a home of their own. Usually this happens before the baby's first birthday. Of course residents must live by the rules of the home if they are to keep their residency.

Most importantly, Marilyn, the Staff and Board of Directors of Friends of the Unborn have saved the lives of many innocent, unborn children because of their unwavering commitment to the sanctity of all human life.

Marilyn once said at a pro-life rally in Boston, *"We win every time a child takes that long, often perilous journey down the birth canal into the arms of a loving mother"*.

Abbey Johnson, former Planned Parenthood Director will speak about her conversion to the Pro-Life movement and to the Catholic faith on April 14 and 3:00pm at St. Catherine of Siena in Norwood, Ma. For more information visit her web site at www.abbeyjohnson.org.

Abbey's conversion began when she assisted with an ultrasound-guided abortion where she watched in horror as a 13 week old baby fought and eventually lost its life at the hand of an abortionist. At that moment she realized what an abortion really is and began her transformation to becoming an outspoken advocate for the Pro-Life movement. She is the author of the book *"Unplanned"* where she tells the story of her conversion.

A message from Friends of the Unborn: *"Our homeless Moms are ever so grateful for all the kindness extended to them, especially those unexpected joyful gifts which are so needed and lift their spirits. We are always in awe of people like you, who make our home a happier place because you care through your thoughtful deeds"*.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit...Romans 15:13.