

## **A Message from St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry**

In memory of the 63 million babies lost to abortion since the 1973 ruling of Roe vs Wade, white remembrance crosses with pink and blue flags will be displayed along the St. Stephen property adjacent to Boyette Road. This memorial should be used to promote pro-life discussions and prayer within your families. It is a teaching moment for parents that can be done in an age appropriate and sensitive manner. It can be as simple as saying a Hail Mary every time you see the display. Offer prayers for the babies lost to abortion, for the families wounded by abortion, and for the protection of all human life, especially the most vulnerable, the unborn.

The human person is made in the image and likeness of God. We as Catholics must teach our children that every life is a gift from God and needs to be protected from the moment of conception to natural death. Life begins at conception-NOT birth. Birth is one day in the life of a person who is already nine months old. A fetus is not a "potential life" as many would have you believe, but a "life with potential!"

The Respect Life Ministry has fetal development models and pro-life materials available to share with parish families. Contact us at [Respect\\_Life@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:Respect_Life@StStephenCatholic.org). We encourage parents to share the *Meet Baby Olivia* video with their families at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-lQOooYAs8>.

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, explains, "It is not necessary to teach children the details of reproduction before they learn that abortion is a bad thing. The basis for teaching about abortion is not the reproductive system, but the dignity and worth of every human person, whether that person is big or small, young or old, healthy or sick, wanted or unwanted, convenient or inconvenient.

The basis for teaching young people about abortion is the same basis on which we teach that the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" applies to any other category of people.

Some may be afraid to use the word "abortion" with children, reasoning that as someone once told me, "they don't understand all the aspects of it." Let's face it: nobody does. We do not aim to teach them "all the aspects." The key point with children is that when they hear the word "abortion," they know it is something bad, something that kills, something to be avoided. Education is not just concepts. We influence children not only in how they think about abortion, but in how they feel about it. They should be trained to reject it, and to see it as a part of the list of injustices and evils in the world rather than part of the list of rights, freedoms, and choices. The Pontifical Council for the Family has written, "Before adolescence, the immoral nature of abortion, surgical or chemical, can be gradually explained in terms of Catholic morality and reverence for human life" (1995: *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*, n.137). <http://www.priestsforlife.org/preaching/prchild.html>

Please storm heaven with your prayers for the end to abortion and all attacks on human life!

Yours in Christ,

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry ~ [Respect\\_Life@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:Respect_Life@StStephenCatholic.org)