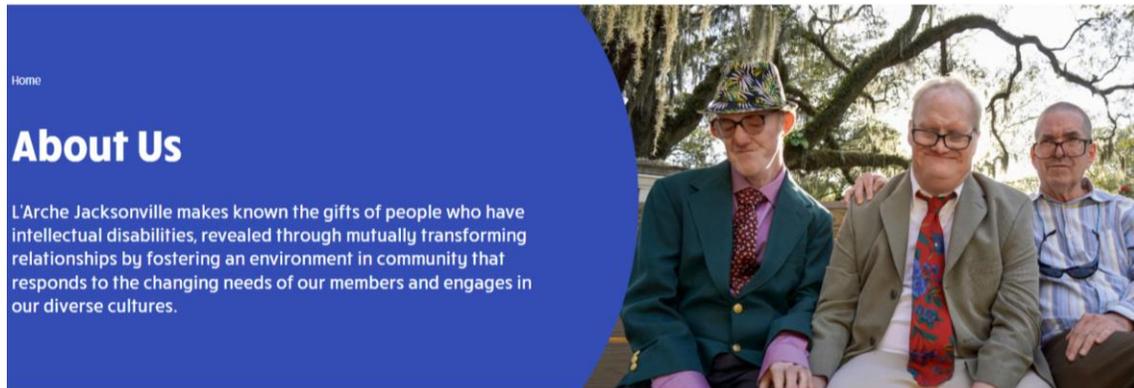


St Joe's Respect Life Community Communiqué, February 26



Special Needs. Last month Cindy and I went to our Diocese monthly Muffins4Life event at L'Arche of Jacksonville. L'Arche is a bold response to society's assumptions about people with intellectual disabilities. They strive to create a space where people with intellectual disabilities are placed at the center of a community. The Jacksonville location has 4 family-style homes, the Blanchart Community Center, and an off-site day program called the Rainbow Workshop where people with intellectual and physical disabilities can share their gifts. Currently they have 13 residents ranging in ages from 44-80. The Jacksonville location is one of 29 communities and emerging groups in the US and of nearly 160 communities in 37 countries throughout the world. Fr Ruchinski approved a donation of \$500 from our Human Life & Dignity ministry to the community following our visit. He also approved of \$500 donations to Morning Star School, Camp I Am Special, Community Hospice & Palliative Care, and Divine Mercy House this past month (we are so blessed to have Fr Ruchinski here 😊).



*Promoting the dignity of all life
from conception to natural death.*



Respect Life Collection

January 10-11, 2026

Your generosity supports pregnancy resource centers, college outreach, parish-based respect life activities and advocacy initiatives that support the work of the Diocese of St. Augustine Office of Human Life & Dignity.



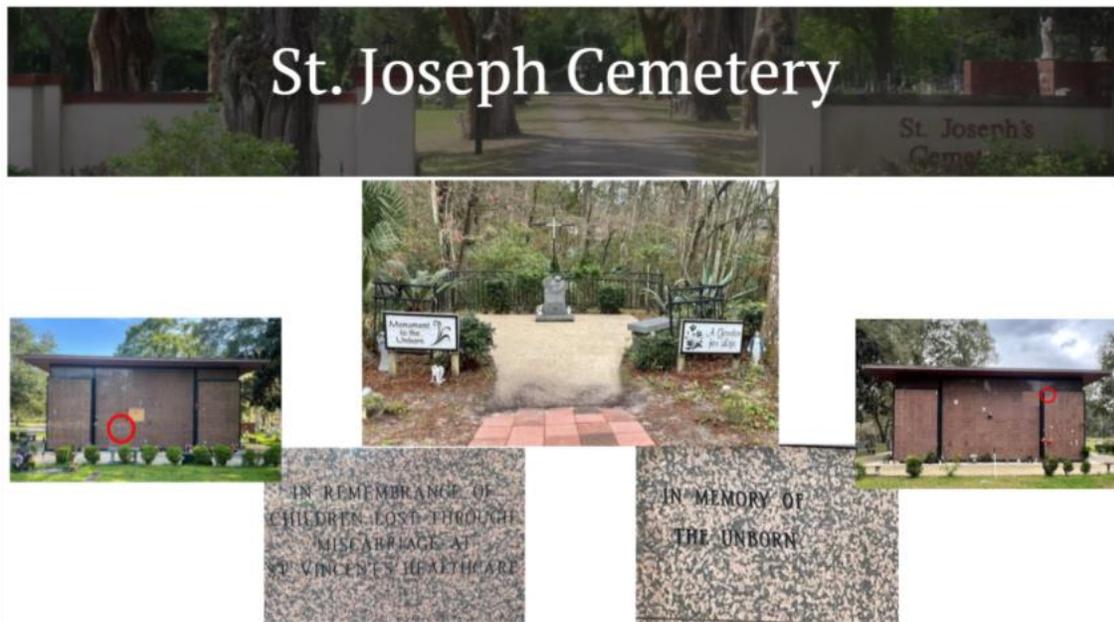
Respect Life Collection. We conducted the Diocese Annual Respect Life Collection in January. The generosity of our parishioners was evidenced by donations exceeding \$10,500! Pulpit talks reminded parishioners that the greatest threat to human life is abortion. Since 1973, over 67 million abortions have been performed in the US. Worldwide in 2025, 73 million innocent humans were killed by abortion, outnumbering deaths by all other causes by more than 10 million. Abortion is still legal in Florida. About 1 million abortions occur in the US every year. And a recent study revealed that in vitro fertilization procedures result in sacrificing nearly twice that number of innocent human beings each year. These numbers are not counted in abortion statistics. It is the infallible teaching of the Catholic Church that abortion is intrinsically evil. To purposely end the life of an innocent, unborn human being is murder. Deliberately committing or facilitating an abortion, as well as engaging in gravely immoral In vitro Fertilization procedures to conceive a child, are mortal sins. Jesus offers forgiveness for those who have been involved in abortion and IVF through the sacrament of confession, and support groups offer healing. The Diocese Respect Life collection benefits 29 pregnancy centers, 5 maternity homes, 2 post-abortion healing programs, 3 college campus ministry programs, and our parish ministry. Thanks to everyone who gave their support to this important ministry.



Our regularly scheduled Holy Hours for Life are on the first Wednesday of the month in the Cody Center Chapel from 7:00-8:00pm. Our next Holy Hour for Life will be on Wednesday, March 4. Please come and help us pray for the unborn in Eucharistic Adoration if you can.

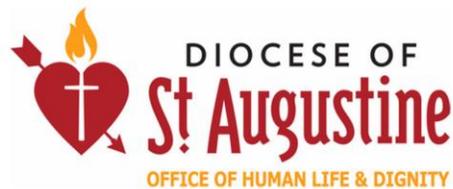
Praying to End Abortion

First Saturday Prayers for the Unborn in St Joseph Cemetery. We continue with these events on the First Saturdays following the 8:00am Mass. This event was initiated due to our “pause” on the First Saturdays Church Bus Trips to Planned Parenthood. We gather with the CRHP group at the Crucifix in the center of the cemetery and pray the Rosary and then move to the Monument to the Unborn and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The vaults in our Mausoleum (containing the St Vincent's vault for miscarried/stillborn babies and the vault for the Unborn) are also appropriate places to pray for babies prematurely lost to stillbirth, miscarriage, and abortion at any time. Please join us on First Saturdays if you can.



It's been over a year since we last saw an abortionist show up at Planned Parenthood on a Saturday (on December 7, 2024). We continue to have a reduced presence at Planned Parenthood on Saturdays to interact with and educate their customers who go for other services, and to see if any abortion "doctors" begin to show up again on the weekend. Since our last Communiqué I witnessed 52 hours over 27 days with 20 prayer pals. We observed 264 “customers” enter, received 3,628 positive and 157 negative reactions from passersby, and the Holy Spirit moved 13 women to accept a “Blessing Bag” containing pro-life information. We recorded a potential and a firm SAVE during this time. I invite, encourage, and pray that more St Joseph pro-lifers will come out as we have difficulty maintaining a pro-life presence on the sidewalk during weekday hours. Young people on the sidewalk are a great visual and a resource to effectively communicate with “customers” who are members of the same generation. Please pass the word to faithful pro-life people you know. They do not have to be parishioners or Catholic. Please direct interested faithful Pro-Life people to contact me at paulmunnell@gmail.com or 941-416-1325.

Divine Mercy House. A call for help went out last March to acquire a minivan for our local maternity home. Recently that call was answered as DMH was the recipient of a generous donation of a new minivan. Special heartfelt thanks to our anonymous donor.



Sidewalk Advocacy Training

Our Guest Speaker and trainer will be: Michele Herzog, Central Florida Branch Manager, Pro-Life Action Ministries

Cindy, Laura, and I attended the training sponsored by the diocese. We were provided with a sidewalk counseling manual and various informational materials.

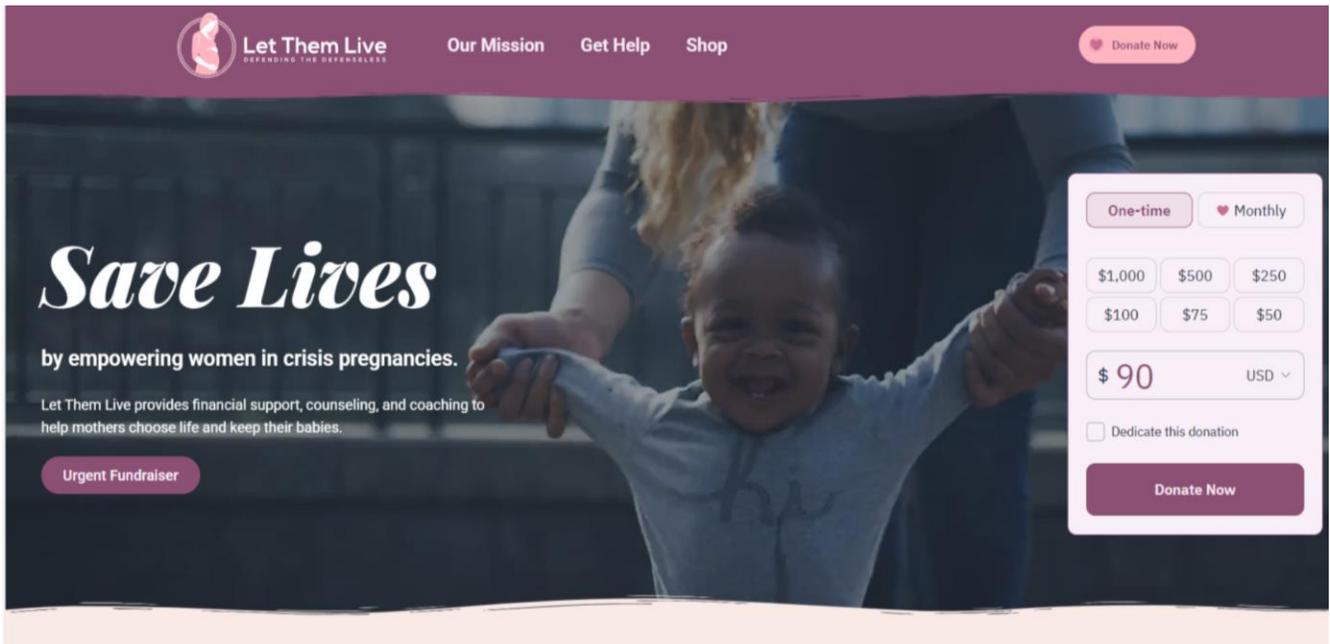


“Killed by the Abortion Pill” card

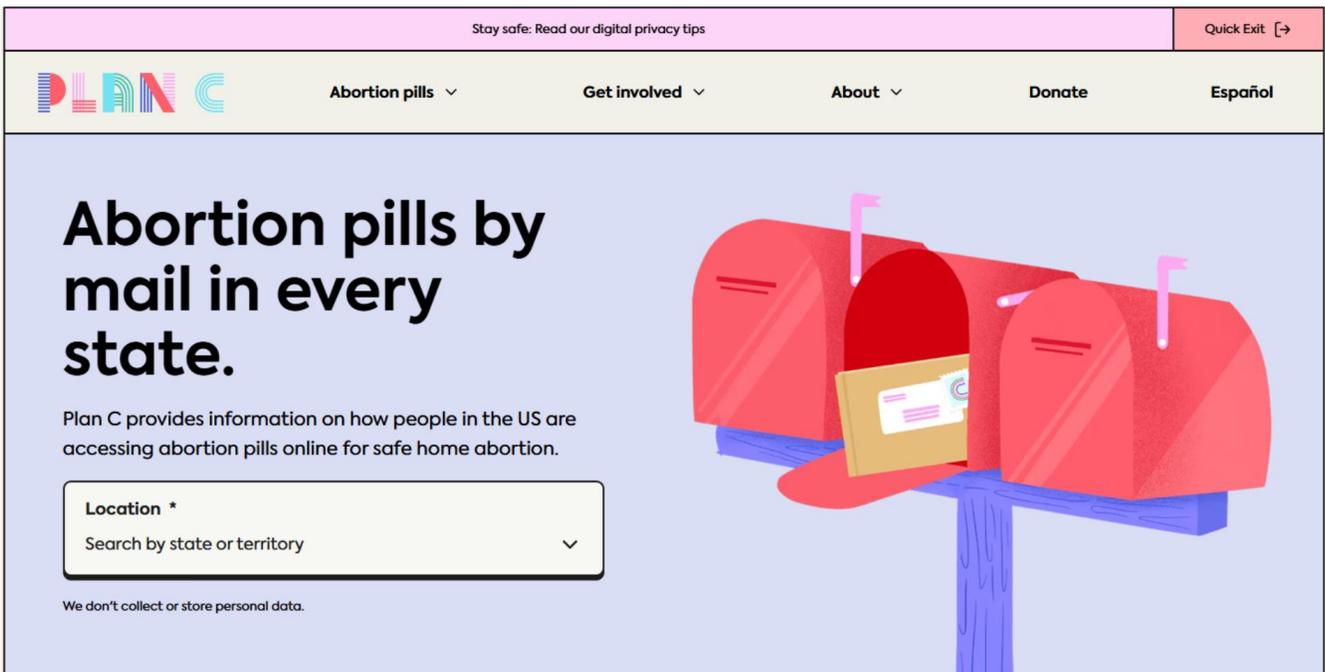
This card includes the photo of a 7-week-old baby killed by the abortion pill, along with the mother’s brief, but powerful, testimony about how this experience very negatively affected her. Also includes information about Abortion Pill Reversal.

Spanish version on reverse.

And we were made aware of a helpful website called “**Let Them Live**” that offers financial support for women in crisis pregnancies...[Home - Let Them Live](#)



We were also informed of a dangerous pro-abortion website called “PLAN C” that advertises abortion pills by mail (this is illegal in Florida). Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and all responsible adults with influence over young vulnerable women need to be aware that this website is full of evil misinformation/lies. Note the “Quick Exit” button in the top right corner of the website (wonder why they put that there 🤪)



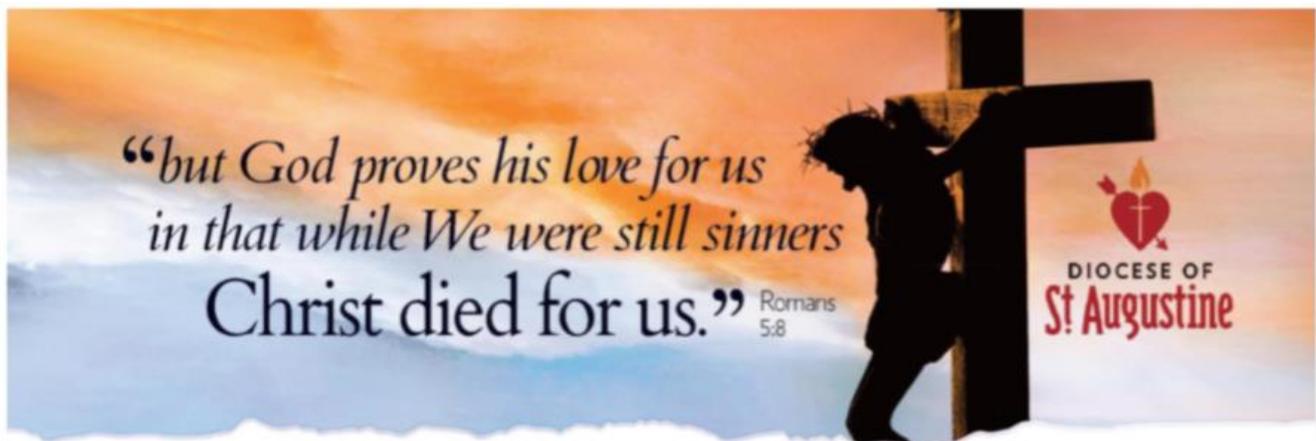


Death Penalty...Florida Executions

Two more death row prisoners were executed by the state of Florida in the past 2 months.

Ronald Heath was executed by the state of Florida on Tuesday, February 10, for the 1989 murder of Michael Sheridan.

Melvin Trotter was executed by the state of Florida on Tuesday, February 24, for the 1986 murder of Virgie Langford.



More than a dozen individuals are scheduled for execution in 2026. On March 3, 2026, the State of Florida intends to execute Billy Leon Kears, now 53 years old, for a crime he committed as an 18-year-old. We continue to pray for those prisoners on death row and their victims. Please continue to voice your concerns to Gov DeSantis to stop these executions. To get automatic alerts from FLCAN you can sign up at this link [Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops - FLORIDA CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK \(FLCAN\) - Tallahassee, FL](#). Otherwise, I will continue to send you emails with the links. When you receive the email/text message, just click on the “Take Action” button to make your voice known. We’ve paused our bus trips out to the Florida State Prison on execution days, due to driving conditions on the rural roads in the darkness. If necessary (and we hope it won’t be), we will restart the bus trips in May and will continue until August for future executions.

Human Life and Dignity Resources (Quick Reference Guide)

With so many local resources and opportunities to help support a culture of life and not enough space to get all these in our Bulletin, I have this as a regular space in our Communique. If you know of any other resources that provide support in these areas of our ministry, let me know.

Help with High-Risk Pregnancy

Wolfson Children's [High-Risk OB / Perinatal | Wolfson Children's | Jacksonville, FL \(wolfsonchildrens.com\)](#)

University of Florida Health Jacksonville [High-Risk Pregnancy - Pregnancy \(mother and baby care\) - UF Health Jacksonville \(ufhealthjax.org\)](#) and [Heart Care in Pregnancy - Women's Health - UF Health](#)

St Vincent's (Level III NICU) [Healthcare | Ascension](#)

Doctor Ratings [Best High Risk Pregnancy Doctors in Jacksonville, FL | Healthgrades](#)

Pre Natal and Post-Partum Help [Welcome to the Motherhood Space Day Program! Mental Health Support for New Moms \(youtube.com\)](#) and [Find Postpartum Support With 'The Motherhood Space' \(jacksonvillemom.com\)](#)

Unborn Advocacy

"Why We're Pro Life" links to ebooks ([Why We're Pro-Life \(catholic.com\)](#) English and [Por que Somos Provida \(catholic.com\)](#)) Español

Pro Life advocacy at Planned Parenthood. Daily vigils on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and select Saturdays. Contact Paul at paulmunnell@gmail.com or 941-416-1325.

Cemetery Prayer Vigils at Monument to the Unborn, First Saturdays following 8:00am Mass.

Holy Hour for Life in Eucharistic Adoration, First Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00pm.

Unplanned Pregnancy?

Divine Mercy House Maternity Home [Divine Mercy House](#) Contact Amy at 904-268-6282

[Contact — Divine Mercy House](#)

First Coast Women's Services [Pregnancy Help & Information Jacksonville, FL • Free Pregnancy Clinic Services \(fcws.org\)](#) 904-262-6300

Pregnancy Resource Center Information [PRC-Directory-2023.pdf \(dosafll.com\)](#)

Adoption/Foster Parenting

Choose Life License Plates [Choose Life - Florida \(flchoose-life.org\)](#) 386-339-1885

Foster Parenting/Family Support Services [Foster Care - Family Support Service of North Florida, Inc. \(fssjax.org\)](#)

Isaiah 117 House [Isaiah 117 House](#)

Foster Closet [Home - Foster Closet](#)

Currently Involved with Abortion?

Abortion Pill Reversal [Abortion Pill Reversal - Home](#) 877-558-0333 Changed mind/heart? Save your baby.

Abortion Worker [Home | abortionworker.com](#) or call 888-570-5501 Escape the Abortion Industry and get assistance to find respectable health care work.

Post Abortion Healing

Rachel's Vineyard [Rachel's Vineyard \(rachelvineyard.org\)](http://rachelvineyard.org) Local rachelvineyardjax@yahoo.com or call Mary Huston at 904-221-3232
Support After Abortion [Support After Abortion](http://supportafterabortion.org) 833-403-HEAL (4325)
Can't Stay Silent [Can't Stay Silent \(cantstaysilent.com\)](http://cantstaysilent.com)

Reproductive Loss

Grief Share [Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosaf1.com\)](http://redbirdministries.org)
Red Bird Ministries [Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosaf1.com\)](http://redbirdministries.org)
Contact Regina at reginabquinones@gmail.com

Special Needs

Camp I Am Special [Camp I Am Special | Catholic Charities Jacksonville \(ccbjax.org\)](http://campiamspecial.org)
Contact (904) 230-7447 campiamspecial@ccbjax.org
Morning Star School [Morning Star School | \(morningstar-jax.org\)](http://morningstarjax.org) Contact Abbie Johnson (904)721-2144
development@morningstar-jax.org
San Sebastian Catholic Church Deaf Ministry [\(6\) San Sebastián Catholic Church Deaf Ministry-St. Augustine, FL | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/san.sebastian.catholic.church.deaf.ministry)

End of Life

Guide to Palliative Care and Hospice Catholic [Catholic Guide to Palliative Care and Hospice — The National Catholic Bioethics Center \(ncbcenter.org\)](http://ncbcenter.org)
Palliative Care & Hospice for Children [Community PedsCare® | Community Hospice & Palliative Care](http://communitypedscare.org)
Health Care Advance Directives [Patients Rights Council](http://patientsrights.org)
Euthanasia / Physician-Assisted Suicide [to-live-each-day-with-dignity-hyperlinked.pdf \(usccb.org\)](http://to-live-each-day-with-dignity-hyperlinked.pdf)

Death Penalty

Death Penalty [Death Penalty | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosaf1.com\)](http://deathpenalty.org)
Prison Ministry [Prison Ministry - Diocese of St. Augustine \(dosaf1.com\)](http://prisonministry.org) Contact John Chick, 904-293-3807 or jchick@dosaf1.com or Local at St Joseph Deacon Corky Hecht dcncorky91@yahoo.com

Human Trafficking

Blue Campaign [Blue Campaign | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](http://bluecampaign.org) 888-373-7888 Human Trafficking Hotline
Asservo Project [Home - The Asservo Project](http://asservo.org)

Same-Sex Attraction

Courage & Encourage [About - Courage International, Inc. \(couragerc.org\)](http://courageinternational.org)
Contact: Fr. Ed Murphy (904) 797- 4842 ewmurphy59@gmail.com
Desert Stream/Living Waters Ministry [Who We Are | Desert Stream Living Waters](http://whoweare.org)

Thank you all for helping to build a culture of LIFE!

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Paul Munnell

Respect Life Coordinator, St Joseph's Catholic Church