# RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY NEWS



### April is Abortion Recovery Awareness Month | Visit priestsforlife.org for Resources

### **Abortion Pill Reversals: A Second Chance for Life**

By Megan Reichert, Medical Assistant, Bella Health + Wellness, Denver, Colorado



Megan Reichert

When I graduated from college in 2018, after working for a brief time on an ambulance crew as an EMT, a woman I know in the Catholic community invited me to a job interview at a Catholic women's clinic

in Denver called Bella Health + Wellness. Shortly after, I was hired as a medical assistant. Bella is a pro-life OB-GYN clinic that provides medical care and counseling in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church – we do not prescribe contraceptives and we often perform abortion pill reversals.

To be part of an abortion pill reversal is a deeply sacred thing and the moral significance of it is certainly not lost on the team at Bella. During the procedure of a reversal, while two medical staff perform an ultrasound and administer progesterone to reverse the effects of the abortion pill, one member of the staff (or the Catholic community) sits in the chapel to pray for the success of the reversal as well as for the salvation and well-being of the baby and the mother.

# The first abortion pill reversal that I was a part of deeply affected me.

A young woman called us stating her situation and what she had taken, and was now having second thoughts about going through with the abortion. It is a staggering phone call to receive. What an honor to be the hands that help to bring life-giving means into the death process of an abortion attempt! I'll never forget that girl. She was a beautiful young woman who didn't look much older than myself. It is amazing to consider the wisdom of a 20-year-old who was able to pierce through the lies of the culture. She KNEW that she was a

mother, even when the whole world told her that her baby was just a "clump of cells." Young, naïve, uneducated in the truths of the faith, she still heard the truth echoing inside her. She knew that it was wrong, and that knowledge led to action. Tragically, after three days, her baby succumbed to the abortion process. Through God's grace and mercy this young woman was given the grace to seek help to undo her poor decision and was hopefully changed forever. I will always see that case as a victory — only God knows what good was accomplished in the soul of that young woman.

Colorado was the first state to decriminalize abortion and is one of seven states where third trimester

abortion is legal. An abortion clinic in Boulder, Colorado specializes in third trimester abortions. Specializes in third trimester abortions! It has to be stated twice to be believed. Unfortunately, much of the news is rather bleak. In 2021, there were nearly 13,000 abortions in Colorado alone. There were over 800,000 abortions

nationwide. It would be difficult to make a case for the success of the pro-life movement. But that does not mean the fight is futile, for many victories have been won and will yet be won.

On a hopeful note, in March 2021, Bella delivered two beautiful and healthy twins who had successfully gone through an abortion pill reversal.

Only five abortion pill reversals have ever been done on twins in the U.S.

I was blessed to be a part of that reversal process. I will never forget the father who hung his head in his hands after

seeing the ultrasound of his two children in the womb and exclaimed, "I should've known better. I should've protected them." God is forgiving and He heard that father's remorse. Eight months later, two beautiful, healthy twins came into this world. Thanks be to God!

In sharing this, I need to remind all of us of the great mercy of God. The Church recognizes that many people may not fully understand the gravity of this sin because of circumstances, weakness, and lack of faith and moral formation. Many young women find themselves afraid and in dire circumstances bereft of the help they need.



This does not negate the reality of the evil of abortion and the fact that there is violence done to the life of the child in a mother's womb. I believe this calls us, the Church, to more education, prayer, and action to offer the necessary love and services for those in crisis pregnancies.

The fight for life is far from over. Prayer is the strongest weapon we have against abortion, so pray every day for an end to abortion. I know I will. God bless you and thank you for your prayers.

#### **OUR FAITH**



The Image of Divine Mercy was painted in 1933 by artist Eugene Kazimierowski
You can read more about
Divine Mercy at
TheDivineMercy.org

### **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24**

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. The Image of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, is to be venerated on Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Lord appeared to St. Faustina and then directed her to have this appearance of Himself as the Merciful Savior painted and then venerated publicly. (Source: The Divine Mercy.org)

Divine Mercy observances in our deanery and area include:

**St. Mary-Wakeman**, Sunday, April 24: Adoration and Confessions from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet will be sung at 3 p.m.

**St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer, Norwalk,** Sunday, April 24: Adoration from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m.

**St. Alphonsus, Peru,** Sunday, April 24: 3 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet with Adoration and Confessions followed by Mass

**Sorrowful Mother Shrine Chapel, Bellevue,** Sunday, April 24: 2:30 p.m., Divine Mercy Devotions

#### The Divine Mercy Novena starts on Good Friday, April 15

at home:
https://www.ewtn.com/
catholicism/devotions/novena13366

Use this link to pray the Novena

#### PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of Peace and Justice, we pray for those caught up in the current violence in Ukraine. We implore you for peace. Holy Spirit, Our Consolation, comfort all those who fear.

Grant wisdom and discernment to those in power.

Holy Family, who fled to Egypt, guard all those who have sought refuge away from the land they love, and bring them safely home again.

Mary, Mother of us all, cast your protecting veil around all suffering lands and peoples. Turn all hearts back to your Son, Our only Savior and the Prince of Peace.

Amen

Source: The Catholic Company

#### The Gospel of Life

Excerpt taken from Encyclical Letter of John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) 1995, Ch. III, p. 94

As far as the right to life is concerned, every life, every innocent human being is absolutely equal to all others. This equality is the basis of all authentic social relationships which, to be truly such, can only be founded on truth and justice, recognizing and protecting every man and woman as a person and not as an object to be used. Before the moral norm which prohibits the direct taking of the life of an innocent human being "there are no privileges or exceptions for anyone. It makes no difference whether one is the master of the world or the 'poorest of the poor' on the face of the earth. Before the demands of morality we are all absolutely equal."\*53

\*53 JOHN PAUL, II, Encyclical Letter Veritatis Splendor (August 6, 1993)

#### St. John Neumann Deanery Respect Life Ministry Mission Statement

TO: Live the gospel of life in all its aspects and fullness.

TO: Intercede for the protection of life and the restoration of the culture of life.

TO: Fulfill the demands of educating and informing our parishes and those in our sphere of influence about respect for life in all issues.

TO: Engage our parishes in the spiritual and temporal battles against life and God's commandments and holy word.

## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS

**Deacon Mike and Diane Wasiniak**, St. Alphonsus/ St. Joseph, Monroeville | 419-512-1713 | nurse21853@aol.com

**Dave Fisher**, Immaculate Conception, Bellevue | 419-217-9071 | fisherofmendf@gmail.com

Mary Fortino, Our Lady of Lourdes, New London | 419-929-0268

**Char Forrest**, St. Anthony of Padua, Milan | 419-503-2747

**Kathleen Persensky**, St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer, Norwalk | 419-668-6343 | persenskyk@gmail.com

Sandra Pecora, St. Mary, Wakeman | 216-789-4236 | sandiep5@frontier.com

**Karen Ott**, Co-Chair, St. Paul the Apostle, Norwalk | 419-668-1240 | karenannott@gmail.com

Bev Reichert, Co-Chair, and Deacon Jim Reichert, St. Paul the Apostle, Norwalk | 419-706-0464 | bevreichert@gmail.com

#### **Respect Life Email News**

Dave Fisher, Respect Life Team member from Bellevue Immaculate Conception, puts together an email message that provides links to news articles about life issues. If you are interested in life issues and would like to receive these emails, please email Dave at <a href="mailto:fisherofmendf@gmail.com">fisherofmendf@gmail.com</a>.