

The Pregnancy Care Center of New York

Newsletter

March 2024

Edition 3, Volume 3

Pregnancy Care Center Mission:

Acknowledging that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection, the mission of the PCC of NY is to offer servant-hearted love, hope, and help to anyone considering abortion by presenting them with realistic alternatives and Christ-centered support through our life affirming network of counselors, churches, and individuals. Referrals for abortion will not be offered.

Executive Director's Message



Arlene Rutuelo
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The clocks have moved forward, the weather is warming up and the flowers are now starting to peak out looking for signs of Spring.

Spring has almost arrived and with Spring comes the Pregnancy Care Center's Spring Fundraising Gala, the date for the largest Christian gathering on Staten Island is April 18, 2024.

Our theme at the 2024 Annual Spring Fundraising Gala is, "...The Breath of the Almighty Gives Me Life" from Job 33:4.

The invitations have hit the mailboxes and have been posted all over social media. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we really need everyone who supports Life to attend. The Gala committee has been working tirelessly to welcome you and to share with you how the Lord has been moving this past year and the vision moving forward.

This year we have our very own Jessica Bocaya, Director of Outreach for the PCCofNY as our Master of Ceremonies!

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You Are Invited To
The Pregnancy Care Center of New York
Annual Fundraising Gala



"...The Breath of the Almighty Gives Me Life."
~Job 33:4

Thursday April 18, 2024
Doors Open 6:45pm
Li Greci's Staaten
697 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310

RSVP
by April 4, 2024

\$100 per ticket will cover expenses for the evening.
A Love Offering will be taken.

Scan the QR code below or visit the link
provided to register.



<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/?e=27083>

We hope that you are able to join us!
For more information, please call us at
718-667-4357 or email info@pccofny.org

Voices for the Unborn
Sponsorship Opportunities

\$5,000- Defender of Life
\$2,500- Pro Life Champion
\$1,500- Supporter
\$1,000- Guardian Angel
\$500- Friend

All sponsors will have the opportunity to
distribute promotional material at the event,
and will be included on website, social
media, and email promotions.

Contact Arlene Rutuelo at 718-614-4724
or email arlene@pccofny.org



Board of Directors' Message

Remembering Saint Patrick

On March 17th, many Americans will celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green, eating corn beef and cabbage, chanting Erin Go Bragg (Forever Ireland) and participating in local Irish day parades. But who was Saint Patrick and why should Christians remember him? Saint Patrick was born in Britain circa 386 AD, his birth name listed as Maewyn Succat, with the name Patrick later taken during his religious journey. His father, Calphurnius, was a deacon from a Roman family of high standing and his mother, Conchessa, was a close relative to the patron Saint Martin of Tours. * At 16 years of age, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland where he was sold into slavery.

Patrick's master, Milchu, was a high priest of Druidism, a pagan sect that held major religious influence over the country. Patrick spent six years in captivity suffering adversity, hunger, and loneliness while tending to his master's flocks. It was during his enslavement that Patrick wrote, "the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes, and although late I called my sins to mind, and was converted with my whole heart to the Lord my God". ** Amazingly, Patrick came to love the very people that abused him.

Rescued through a miraculous turn of events, he returned to his family in Britain. Once home, he was stunned to realize that he longed to return to Ireland and share the gospel with them. Reluctantly, his parents agreed and supported his efforts to gain theological training. Patrick returned to Ireland preaching the gospel to pagan tribes in the language he had learned as a slave.

For nearly half a century, preaching to the least likely and least lovely, he evangelized, planted churches, and pushed for social

The Gala invitation is in this newsletter and if you need to know more information on sponsorships or tickets, please reach out to me by emailing Arlene@pccofny.org

Finally, I wanted to share a song that has ministered to my soul these past months.

"You've Already Won"

As you are aware, the PCCofNY's mission is that we acknowledge that every human life begins at fertilization and is worthy of protection. Truly not a popular mission statement in the abortion capital of the world, New York State.

But I am determined to follow what Nathan told David in 1 Chronicles 17:2.

"Nathan told David, whatever is on your heart, go and do it; God is with you."

Be blessed by the lyrics and go listen to the song online:

"You've Already Won"- Shane & Shane

*There's peace that outlasts
darkness
Hope that's in the blood
There's future grace that's mine
today
That Jesus Christ has won
So I can face tomorrow
For tomorrow's in Your hands
All I need You will provide
Just like You always have*

*I'm fighting a battle
That You've already won
No matter what comes my way
I will overcome
I don't know what You're doing
But I know what You've done
I'm fighting a battle that
You've already won*

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reform. He later wrote "many thousands were born again unto God" ** as God's grace had so blessed his efforts. As a result, Patrick has become known as the Apostle of Ireland. Jesus said, "Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44) and "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6:27). It is when, like Patrick, we come to love God's enemies and ours that we are set free for great effectiveness.

Sonia Justiniano

*Biography.com

** Ligonier.org

Outreach Coordinator- Jessica Bocaya

The Word of God teaches us to "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). This month, we are rejoicing with our fifteen year old mom who chose life. A while back if you recall, we had a young lady call us in a panic from her church bathroom because her mom was giving her an ultimatum saying "have an abortion or else!" I was able to comfort her, share scripture and pray with her. When the mother of this young lady learned of her communication with the pregnancy center, she demanded that she cut ties immediately. Weeks later, the mom of this young lady called us asking for a foster home that would take her "out of control" teen from her home. The mother never knew that I had previously been the one in contact with her daughter. The Lord blessed me with the opportunity to share Jesus and pray with the mother as well! James 5:16 says "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." As we lifted this family up in prayer asking the Lord for divine intervention and reconciliation, He heard us, and He answered! This month we received a call from our fifteen year old. She is now nearly five months pregnant, due July 16th, she is having a boy and his name is Malikai! When I asked about her pregnancy she said she is "very excited". When I asked how is her relationship with God, her response was "my relationship with God is great actually, I feel forgiven, loved and blessed!" She is currently living with her mom who has accepted her and the baby! To God be the glory for all that He has done!

*There's mercy in the waiting
Mana for today
And when it's gone I know You're not
You are my hope and stay
When the sea is raging
Your Spirit is my help
He'll fix my eyes on Jesus Christ
And I'll say that it is well
Oh I know that it is well*

*I'm fighting a battle
That You've already won
No matter what comes my way
I will overcome
I don't know what You're doing
But I know what You've done
I'm fighting a battle that
You've already won*

*I know how the story ends
We will be with You again
You're my Savior my defense
No more fear in life or death
I know how this story ends*



A new baby was born this month!

Meet Noah Caleb Vicente, born
March 1st!



Featured Pastor's Corner (we will be highlighting a different pastor every month)



Pastor Dave Watson
Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel

As citizens of the kingdom of God, we are commanded to speak for those who cannot speak and to defend the rights of who cannot defend themselves. ("Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." - Proverbs 31:8-9)

As students of the Bible, we know that at the moment of conception our God creates the soul, the immaterial part of man and then surprises the rest of the forming of baby in their mother's womb. ("For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." - Psalm 139:13).

As Christians, we know that it is because we are made in the image of God that we are SO loved and have SO much value that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died for US ("But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8).

These are just some of the reasons we are pro-life. For us it is not a matter of convenience but of conviction. It is not a matter of how we feel but what Scripture clearly teaches. But being pro-life costs.

On January 30, 2024, just a few short days ago, six pro-life activists were convicted of a Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act offense (signed by Bill Clinton in 1995). By all accounts they had prayed and protested in a non-violent manner but they had blocked the clinic doors of an abortion clinic. They were speaking for the unborn babies who cannot speak for themselves. They each face 10 ½ years in prison and \$250,000 in fines not to mention attorney fees. They are of course appealing their convictions. Being pro-life costs.

Father Frank Pavone has been the director of Priests for Life since 1993. It is a position he was assigned to by the then Cardinal of New York City, John O'Connor. Father Frank has on a shoe-string budget shaped "Priests for Life" into a major force for the Pro-Life cause. He was rewarded for his efforts by being defrocked (kicked out of the Priesthood) by the Catholic Church in November of 2022. Being Pro-life costs.



Planned Parenthood nationally is, according to their 2022 report, responsible for 355,000 abortions in the calendar year 2022. This accounted for almost half of all abortions performed in the United States of America that year. Their budget to do this includes over 600 million dollars of funds from the US government and its taxpayers. Pregnancy Care Centers, those on the front lines trying to save the unborn are out- spent astronomically by Planned Parenthood and its affiliates. They are competing in the marketplace for the hearts and minds of pregnant woman considering abortion. They could do so much more if only the funds were available. Being Pro-life costs.

Being Pro-life costs. If we are going to make a difference in our city, it will cost us time as we carve hours out of our busy schedules to serve on the board or volunteer at the center or give our center some serious prayer. We understand that being Pro-life costs.

Being Pro-Life costs. If we are going to change the dynamic in our state it will cost in our talents. We'll need to use the skills God has given us to benefit the unborn. We'll counsel, we'll network, we'll share social media posts, we'll paint, we'll clean the bathrooms, we'll organize, we'll call, we'll work in any way we can. We'll do this because we know being Pro-life costs.

Being Pro-life costs. It will cost in our treasure. We'll systematically and sacrificially give to our Pregnancy Care Center and to the Pro-Life cause. We'll put our money where our mouths are and we'll put our money where our heart is, with the unborn, because we know being Pro-life costs.

Volunteers of the Month



We are excited to feature the volunteers for the month of March. We want to recognize "The Three Amigas Helping Hands" organization and its founders, Lisa Vega, Kelly Vargas and Lorraine Perez. When we met these ladies, immediately we discovered that we share a passion for serving families on Staten Island. Since then, both Lisa and Lorraine demonstrated their acts of kindness in lending a "helping hand" at our Annual Yard Sale! Not only did they offer their time to help set up and staff the event, but the organization also generously provided us with plenty of diapers and similar donations to be sold in order to help raise

funding to support our mission! Thanks to these incredible ladies, we were able to raise funds that will further reach more women facing unplanned pregnancies on Staten Island. We want to give a huge "thank you" to our supporters and now friends, Lisa, Kelly and Lorraine.



Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

Prayer:

- New Location- We are getting closer to renovation day! Please pray that we will be able to open this spring/summer.
- Geofencing/Google Ad Campaigns- Please pray that more inquiries that come in will be from Staten Island. We've had many women referred to other Pregnancy Centers because they came from other boroughs.
- Gala- Please pray that we are able to acquire sponsorship opportunities in order to reach our fundraising goals.

Praise:

- We continue to praise God for the new location! We have received 3D prints so we are excited to unveil a sneak peek at the Gala!
- Partnership with Compass Care- The Lord knew a sonogram room was our hearts desire! Praise God, we will be offering sonograms to our clients as we have teamed up with Compass Care!

In The Media



Alabama Court Correctly Rules That Frozen Embryos Are Children

By Stephen P. Hayford

Pro-life advocates in New York and across the United States should be heartened by a landmark court decision issued on February 16, 2024. In [LePage v. Center for Reproductive Medicine](#), the Supreme Court of Alabama ruled that frozen embryos are recognized as children for purposes of Alabama's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act.

The LePage court confronted a tragic situation that arose at a fertility clinic in December 2020. According to the court, a hospital patient walked into the fertility clinic and removed several embryos from a freezer. The patient accidentally dropped the embryos on the floor, and they died.

The three sets of parents of the deceased embryos sued both the clinic and the nearby hospital whose patient had caused the deaths of the embryos. A trial court dismissed the plaintiffs' cases, ruling that the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act did not allow for claims based on the deaths of frozen embryos and that frozen embryos should be accorded the legal status of property. The plaintiffs appealed.

The Supreme Court of Alabama [reversed](#) the trial court's decision. The court noted that prior decisions established that the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act applied to unborn children. The court held that the law did not exclude "extrauterine children—that is, unborn children who are located outside of a biological uterus at the time they are killed"—from its protections. The court rejected the argument that frozen embryos should be considered to be property.

In a [concurring opinion](#), Chief Justice Tom Parker [argued](#) that "the theologically based view of the sanctity of life adopted by the People of Alabama encompasses the following: (1) God made every person in His image; (2) each person therefore has a value that far exceeds the ability of human beings to calculate; and (3) human life cannot be wrongfully destroyed without incurring the wrath of a holy God, who views the destruction of His image as an affront to himself."

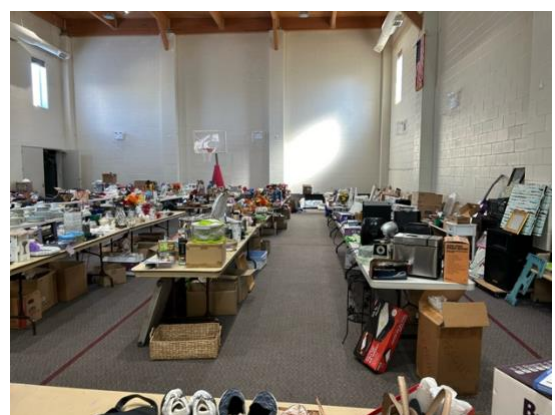
Some pro-life voices have praised the LePage decision. "Each person, from the tiniest embryo to an elder nearing the end of his life, has incalculable value that deserves and is guaranteed legal protection," Lila Rose of Live Action [said](#). Rose [added](#), "The Alabama Supreme Court decision should be applauded and used as a model of honest and prudential jurisprudence nationwide." Josh Craddock, an affiliated scholar with the James Wilson Institute, [commented](#) that the decision "recognizes a basic moral truth that's written on our hearts and backed up by basic science found in any basic science textbook."

However, many political figures who consider themselves to be pro-life have reacted negatively to the LePage decision. The reason? It has major implications for the fertility industry (which [enjoys widespread popularity](#)), and, specifically, for the practice of in vitro fertilization. Since the decision was released, [at least three](#) Alabama fertility clinics have "suspended" their services due to concerns that the decision would create liability for them. The Hill [explains](#): "During IVF, a patient self-administers hormone injections over about two to three weeks. An egg, or several eggs, is surgically removed from the ovary and fertilized within a laboratory environment. The fertilized egg, now considered an embryo, is then implanted into the uterus or frozen for later use." Betsy Campbell of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association asserted that the LePage decision "could make it impossible to perform IVF to the standard that has been honed over the last 40 years." Campbell added, "The goal of IVF is to have a healthy pregnancy with a single baby, and that requires creating enough embryos [to] give the best chance of pregnancy." Often, infertility specialists engineer multiple embryos, evaluate which embryos appear healthiest, implant those embryos into a woman's womb, and cause unused embryos to be frozen for later use or (sadly) discarded. As New Yorker's Family Research Foundation has said for many years, these practices are deeply problematic from a pro-life perspective. While the hearts of Christians should go out to the millions of American couples who struggle with infertility, we must not be so eager to pursue biological parenthood that we compromise our Biblical principles.

In recent days, former President [Donald Trump](#), [several Republican governors](#), and the [Senate Republican Campaign Committee](#) have all spoken out against the LePage decision or expressed support for legislation to protect the fertility industry. The mainstream media has already [pounced on the inconsistency between these comments and the professed pro-life convictions of many of the persons who made them](#). These Republicans are understandably concerned that Democrats will use the decision against them in the November elections. However, Republican candidates and officeholders should be mindful that there are things more important than the next election. If in vitro fertilization is to be conducted, it should be conducted in a manner that respects human life. If in vitro fertilization cannot be conducted in a manner that is respectful of human life, it should not be conducted at all.

Asserting that frozen embryos are human beings with legal rights may be deeply unpopular in certain circles. However, there is one major upside to that assertion: It's truthful.

Last Month Recap Annual Flea Market



Rising Dough Fundraiser at Jimmy Max

March 26,2024 From Noon- 11PM

**Jimmy Max will help by donating 50%
of the food portion of your bill to our
agency when you mention to your
server that you are supporting
Three Amigas Helping Hands!**

**Reservations strongly recommended for
groups of 6 or more!**

**Jimmy Max
280 Watchogue RD
Staten Island NY
(718) 983-6715**





Food for thought:

Romans 8:38-39 ESV

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Quote:

"This eternal, unchanging character of the love of Christ gives us something to stand upon apart from our fluctuating feelings, our wavering frames, and the changes that ever take place in our apprehensions of divine realities. The love of Christ to us is not changing and changeable like ours to Him, but like Himself abides forever."

~ JC Philpot

2024 Donations are Welcome

An easy way to increase your donation is by asking if your employer offers matching contributions to charities. Your donation of \$100 can become \$200 at no cost to you.



You can donate by going to our website: <https://www.pccofny.org> or our App and go to DONATE. All donations are tax deductible. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular monthly support on our secure site. If you prefer send a check, please send to: PO Box 141128, SINY 10314.

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