



*"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth
and the right of every child to be born."*

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Blessings for a Joyful Easter Season

Springtime Thoughts

As I write this in early March I have noticed with much excitement one of the first signs of Spring — the flight of the geese returning to their homes to the north! It always lifts the spirit to witness this annual event that signals that winter is coming to a close and spring is not far behind. Increasing longer daylight will see trees bud out and flowers poking their green shoots out from beneath the thawing earth, blossoming and filling our lives with the beautiful colors of God's earthly creations.

Spring is always a wonderful reminder of God's beautiful gift of life. Nothing is more precious than the life of a newborn baby and the gift that this baby brings to his or her parents — the embodiment of their love embraced in this precious little being. When parents welcome this new life, they are accepting a gift of love from God. With nurturing and loving tender care, their child becomes their gift to God, a soul that will glorify Him, someday, for all eternity.

*As we welcome spring,
our very best wishes
to all parents for a very
Happy Mother's Day
& Happy Father's Day!*



Mother's Day Flowers

*Our annual Flower
Fund-raiser will be
held on Mother's Day
weekend, May 7 & 8 at*



*19 participating
churches. Coordinator Alice Benson
has been involved with
preparations, enlisting the help of
fellow volunteers and parish
representatives. It will be a busy
weekend for all participants. We
thank Alice, her husband, our
Birthright volunteers and all parish
volunteers who give so generously of
their time to help out each year.
Their collaborative efforts are so
important in ensuring a successful
fund-raiser for Birthright. We
expect to have a good selection of
beautiful carnations, sure to bring
an extra bit of joy to mothers on this
special day! We look forward to
seeing many of you on this weekend!*



Annual Dinner Presentation

We were so pleased to welcome many of you to our annual Fall Dinner at Holy Family/St. Lawrence Parish Hall in Essex Junction in October. Dr. John T. Bruchalski, our guest speaker, engaged us with his presentation, telling of his life growing up in a good Catholic family, drifting away from his faith while in medical school, his experiences with abortion, and ultimately his conversion and return to his faith. He recounted that in medical school it was taught that abortion was good for women and to help them, a good OB/GYN doctor needs to perform abortions.

Shortly thereafter a friend invited him to go to Mexico City. While there, he visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe where he heard a gentle voice telling him, "why are you hurting me?" Startled, he put it out of his mind. When he began his residency he started performing abortions. After he ended a pregnancy where the baby was born alive, the neonatal doctor who took charge of caring for the baby advised him to stop. She had just returned from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje and said, "you've got to go there." It was only two days later that his mother

asked him to join her on a trip to Medjugore, and it was there that a total stranger came up to him and said, "Jesus

loves you and he's asking you to help the Holy Spirit renew the face of the earth through medicine." He recalled that "it was at that moment I found the mercy of Christ." Returning home, he announced that he would no longer perform abortions.

Within six months he was made chief resident. Following his lead, 18 of the other 20 residents stopped performing abortions as well. He credited the intercessory prayer of his parents, family and all the other people praying for him for turning his life around.

Dr. Bruchalski travels frequently to meet with medical students across the country and internationally. As the trend is moving to put strong pressure on faith filled students to not go into OB/GYN, he inspires and brings a message of hope and encouragement to them. On Saturday afternoon before the dinner he spent time with Dr. Joseph Nasca and two UVM medical students at the Newman Center. He was good at getting the students to speak of their experiences as students, their backgrounds and their future plans.

Dr. Bruchalski is the founder of the pro-life OB/GYN medical practice Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax, VA. "Transforming hearts through Healthcare" is the motto of his non-profit foundation, Divine Mercy Care, whose mission is to provide healthcare to the underserved, their costs being covered through donations from the surrounding communities. About 33% of deliveries a year at Tepeyac are to underserved women, those who are abortion minded or vulnerable. They partner with over 20 pregnancy centers, providing a seamless transition from a crisis pregnancy to pre-natal care, delivery and beyond.

"One of the things I like about Birthright," he stated, "is that you form relationships with your clients, with your people, it's how you show love. And in healthcare, health is based on relationship between doctor & patient, between patient & family, between patient, doctor and the unborn as well as with their God.

"By collaborating and working together (pregnancy centers and doctors) we can make abortion unwanted, children welcomed, families stronger and communities more caring.

"The only thing that's going to change this situation that we're in is mercy, Divine Mercy. It was people like you who prayed and supported people like me to change my heart on this issue of abortion and I am just grateful because in the end the only thing that's going

to change this situation we're in is Divine Mercy — there is really no other answer, politically, socially, economically, and you are catalysts of that mercy and I am so grateful for the kindness you showed me tonight."

To listen to Dr. Bruchalski's entire talk, go to lcatv.org, click "video on demand", "series" & "apply", "Lifelines" then "Lifelines" again, then click #0066. A very special thank you to Ethel Brousseau for videotaping his talk.



Outreach & Updates

- Fall was a busy time. Besides our dinner, we hosted tables at UVM's Student Activities Fair, Gifts of the Kingdom, Vermont Christian Rock-toberfest, and the Vermont Catholic Conference. We met so many wonderful people who showed interest in our work, including one woman who told us she had been helped by Birthright many years ago—what a joy!
- Marge Hennessey and Eve Dubois attended the Birthright Regional Meeting of Vermont, New Hampshire & Massachusetts chapters in October. It was great getting together with volunteers from other chapters to share ideas and successes, as well as hopes and plans to make Birthright more effective in our communities.

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Our Mission Statement

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering a positive alternative to abortion.

It is a non-profit charity that provides caring, non-judgmental help and support to women who are distressed by an unplanned or untimely pregnancy.

All Birthright services are free, confidential and available to any woman regardless of age, race, creed, economic or marital status.



Our Services Include:

- ~Free pregnancy tests
- ~ Friendship & emotional support
- ~ Maternity & infant clothing
- ~ Information on:
Pregnancy
Fetal Development

Referrals for:

- Medical/Prenatal Care
- Professional counseling
- Financial assistance
- Parenting skills
- Legal advice
- Adoption
- Education/trade skills