

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Mother of Life Family,

As we approach the weeks leading to Christ's birth, we turn toward Bethlehem, to that humble stable where Mary and Joseph, having found no room at the inn, welcomed the Christ Child into the world.



This image speaks deeply to our mission at Mother of Life Center. Every day, we meet mothers who, like the Holy Family, are searching for a place of safety, love and hope, a place where new life is not turned away but cherished. In a world that often says "there is no room", we are called to open the door.

Through your generosity, prayers and steadfast support, you help us make room for mothers to be seen and loved, for babies to be born and nurtured, and for God's grace to dwell among us.

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, may we continue to make room in our homes, in our hearts, and in our communities for all who seek refuge and hope. Thank you for walking with us on this mission of mercy and love.

With gratitude and prayer, *Lise*

ROSE GALA GLADNESS

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended the 2025 Rose Gala at the Dunes Club on September 28th. Your presence made the evening truly special, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity in support of our pro-life mission.

Your gifts are making a tremendous impact on the work we do, and your prayer requests have been placed in our chapel in the company of the Blessed Sacrament.

The evening was filled with grace and joy. Father Taillon reminded us of the infinite mercy of God, comparing it to the endless waves upon the beach. Dr. Kearney's inspiring talk on abortion pill reversal exhibited the life-saving power that each of us has, one to another among those who need us. The spirit of fellowship and joy in the room was a perfect reminder of the life and hope we celebrated together.

Once again, thank you for being part of this memorable evening and for your generosity. Your support helps us to protect and celebrate the sacred gift of life.

Lise Desmarais, Executive Director, right, with Barbara Skeffington, Rose Gala Honorary Hostess.



Rose Gala photos courtesy of Paul Gebhart, Life Director, R.I. State Council Knights of Columbus. **See more featured photos on page 3.**

INSPIRATION FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Dear Friends,

We enter once again into the holy season of Advent. The Church describes the Advent Season in this way:



"Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight." (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar, #39).

Expectant delight! What a wonderful and pregnant phrase! Expectant delight is what a child experiences in the first moments of waking on Christmas morning. Expectant delight is what couples embrace when they discover that the fruit of their love is about to enter the world as a newborn baby.

Expectant delight is what we should all feel when we come to discover that there is hope for a new beginning and that sin and death does not have the final word in our lives anymore. Expectant delight! That is what the Lord offers us this Advent and it is nothing less than this for which we have been created.

Have you ever lost that expectant delight? It can happen and, sadly, does happen for a lot of people. Advent is a time to discover once again the reason why God made us.

It is a time for listening to readings that celebrate the way the arid, parched earth receives a new and fertile beginning; how the lion and the lamb become friends; how a child is to be born in an obscure and forgotten place to give sight to the blind, liberty to the captives and to announce a year of God's favor to people everywhere.

Expectant delight is not for a select few who somehow wind up on life's favored list. No, expectant delight is for you. God offers Advent for you.

This Advent come to discover once again this expectant delight that has the power to change everything. It is waiting for us in the Sacred Liturgy, in the Word of God proclaimed and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is waiting for us in a thousand different ways that God announces, "Here I am" in every facet of our lives. But, this Advent, are we waiting for Him?

*Sincerely in Christ,
Father Mahar*

Rev. Christopher M. Mahar is the pastor of Saint Augustine Church, Providence, and the shepherd of Saint Augustine School.

MOTHER OF LIFE CENTER IMPACT REPORT – 2025

We have a strong and effective organization because you say “Yes!” to participation.

414 women served

123 babies born

16 mothers & babies baptized

18 referrals to Catholic churches

7 referrals to Rachel’s Vineyard

We accomplish these things also with the indispensable help of numerous volunteers. Some assist weekly. Others, such as Catholic school students, serve periodically. All are needed and cherished!

Since January, your support
has resulted in:



Each client’s “Thank you!”
expressed to us is for you as well.

56 pregnancy tests

48 ultrasounds

43 parenting classes

102 community agency referrals

14,430 materials goods given out

The vast quantity of maternity and baby goods that we give freely to our clients and their children are largely provided by you!

Thank you for empowering us to serve families who are in great need.

A SECOND CHANCE FOR LIFE

At Mother of Life Center, we encounter women in all kinds of difficult situations—homelessness, hunger, domestic violence, addiction and more. One encounter recently reminded us of the hope and second chances our Center provides through Abortion Pill Reversal.

A former client, pregnant with her third child, was coerced by her doctor into taking the first abortion pill. Filled with regret, she called our office in desperation, remembering a pamphlet about Abortion Pill Reversal she saw in our Family Advocate’s office. A hotline nurse quickly connected her with a tele-health physician who prescribed progesterone to reverse the pill’s effects.

Still anxious, she reached out to us to confirm her baby’s well-being. With our Medical Director’s approval, we brought her in for an ultrasound. Praise be to God, the scan showed a strong heartbeat and a healthy baby growing safely in her womb!

Because of a simple pamphlet, she found the help she needed, the way to reverse her decision, and the peace of mind that her child was safe.

We entrust this mother and her baby to the loving intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn, who reminds us that every life in the womb is precious in God’s eyes.

WELCOMING LITTLE ONES TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

When we gently ask a new client if she has a faith life, we do so with the blessed reassurance that the Lord above, literally—reposed in the tabernacle of our chapel—is calling her to venture closer to Him. This year, sixteen women have expressed their desire to do exactly that.

A year ago, newly-pregnant mom Talia eagerly answered that although she herself was not baptized she was looking forward to having her baby boy baptized, which she did in mid-July at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Johnston.



After Deacon Jason Gardner baptized her child, Talia excitedly said that she, too, will join the Catholic Church after she completes OCIA classes.

WHEN ASKED WHAT SHE LIKED BEST ABOUT THE CENTER’S SERVICES, A.R. SAID:

*Mother of Life is an amazing,
helpful, trustworthy, non-
judgmental organization!*



WHEN ASKED WHAT WE MAY PRAY FOR HER, B.B. REPLIED:

*Please pray for a healthy
pregnancy and a stable home.*

SHRINE OF SACRED LIFE

At the Center, we meet many women who have grieved not only abortion, but also miscarriage and stillbirth. We are preparing a memorial in our chapel to honor aborted, miscarried, and stillborn babies. This shrine will provide a peaceful place for families & individuals to pray, reflect and honor the dignity of every child’s life, no matter how brief.

If this memorial is meaningful to you or someone you know, please contact Lise by phone or email.



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Are you retired or working part-time and seeking a rewarding weekday volunteer opportunity? The Center is always in need of hands-on support. Please contact Lise, lise@motheroflife.org or 401-421-0821, for an interview.

KNIGHTS — CHAMPIONS OF CHARITY

Spiritual, physical and financial contributions from Knights of Columbus have always been the mainstay of our support structure. Here is a small sample of the many ways they always come through to help meet the Center's needs.

Richard Feole, retired electrician and active Knight of Council #322, volunteered his skills and efforts to replace and rewire a pump that circulates a gentle stream of water through the grotto of Our Lady in the Center's foyer. The sweet sight and sounds calm both clients and staff. We are grateful!



Photo courtesy of Center board member Rebecca Schulte.

Fr. Donnelly Council #322 of Cranston again hosted a free cookout for the annual Mother of Life Center Open House. Knights and visitors from throughout the state, and their families, also attended with numerous donations of baby goods and cash contributions.

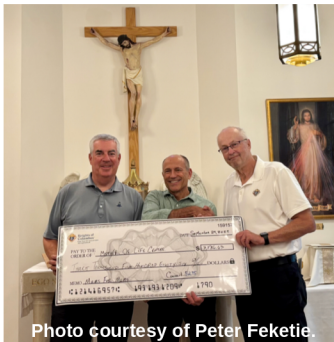


Photo courtesy of Peter Fekete.

And, recently they delivered two huge boxes of new winter coats for the children of our clients. Their kindness will help keep so many little ones warm and cared for this season.

Continuing a reliable tradition of tremendously generous giving, the Knights of Pope Saint Pius XII Council #5295, Narragansett, held a Mums for Moms sale in September at St. Thomas More Parish to benefit the Center. With great affection we thank both the Knights and the parish!



Dozens of councils and hundreds of individuals ease our burdens, thoroughly exemplifying **Faith in Action**. Learn more at kofc.org. May God abundantly bless all Knights and their loved ones!

A GORGEOUS OCEANSIDE GALA

Photos courtesy of Paul Gebhart

*Late September proved to be a wonderful time for a gala!
Please join us on Sunday, September 27, 2026.*



Father Taillon delivering the Invocation



Volunteers from
Providence College for Life



New life! Deep love!



It's all about family!



Pro-life sidewalk prayer warriors



Precious Center volunteers

2026 ONLINE AUCTION IS COMING

Our first Bids for Babies auction was such a rewarding experience, we'll do it again. The bidding period will be May 23 - June 6. Please put those dates in your calendar!

In the meantime, we would appreciate your suggestions of business owners who would be open to supporting the Center with their donations of gift cards, retail items, activity tickets, etc.

You, too, can donate bid-worthy items through our auction website starting in late-January. We'll announce its activation online, so be sure we have your email address. Transmit info to richard@motheroflife.org. Thank you for your enthusiasm!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN — A NEW ADDITION FOR CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

The Center's daily calendar is chock-full of client appointments for goods and services. Concurrently, we receive the many donations of the goods we give away. This often congests the client service area when everyone and everything is coming and going through the same doorway and a very small foyer.

A kind engineer is donating the design of an additional entrance on the backside of our building, which will become the primary portal for delivery of baby and maternity goods to the Center. It will also expand our storage capacity, happily needed because many donations are quite voluminous.

We will launch this campaign early in the new year, so please pray and plan for its success!

If you can help now, note "Capital Campaign" on your check or online donation. On behalf of our clients we thank you.



This is Where
Hope is Found.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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PROVIDENCE, RI
PERMIT No.488

400 Atwells Avenue . Providence, RI 02909 . 401-421-0821 . motheroflife.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 8

**Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception**

Immaculada

Fray Juan Sánchez Cotán, 1617

OUR MEDICAL TEAM IS COMPLETE

We are pleased to announce that our medical team at Mother of Life Center is now complete. Dr. Christina Beyer has accepted the role of volunteer Medical Director, generously offering her time and expertise.

We welcome our newest staff member, Sharon Leighton, RDMS, who brings 25 years of sonography experience. Plus, Maria Therien Tout, RN, joined us in September 2024, adding her skill and compassion to client care.

With this dedicated team we are now fully staffed and regularly perform pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. We are deeply grateful for the exceptional care they provide to the mothers and families we serve.

THE YEAR-END OPPORTUNITY

When you consider your year-end tax-deductible contributions and or legacy giving, please contemplate the daunting nature of the work we do and its critical importance to lives and souls. You can donate safely and easily at motheroflife.org (scan the qr code) or by mail: Mother of Life Center, 400 Atwells Ave., Providence RI 02909. May God bless you for your always compassionate and cheerful charity!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

During this holy season which might otherwise become laden with chores and distractions, we encourage you to pause — even now — for just a minute or two and consider what Almighty God is doing for the clients of Mother of Life Center through your charity. In daily prayer we recall and give thanks for your gifts. *May you and your loved ones experience all the graces available to you throughout a holy Advent and a happy Christmas!*

STAYING IN TOUCH

Do we have your most current address(es)? Are you a snowbird? What is your preferred mode of communication, email or print mail?

A financially significant volume of mailed pieces are returned to us by the U.S. Postal Service, for a fee, with notations “Temporarily Away” or “Forwarding Order Expired”.

If you have two or more different addresses where you receive mail during the year, please inform us with an approximate schedule for each. Transmit details to richard@motheroflife.org, or include a note with your next contribution. Thank you very much!