



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S GREETING

Bright and blessed Advent greetings to you, our pro-life family!

Praying the invocation he composed for our Rose Gala, our chaplain, Rev. Scott Carpentier, said, "Oh Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of Life, we honor you as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thank you for pointing us to Jesus Your Son, The Savior and hope of the world. Renew our hope in Him, that we all may have the courage to say yes to life..."

Mary didn't give her yes only once. She offered it every day to God, submitting her will to all that He had planned, not knowing the coming details of every single day. We gather daily in our chapel to give our yes for THAT day, to be obedient to God's will as Mary was obedient — daily, because assent to God's will is not a one-time thing.

The power of your daily fiat changes everything you do. Fruits of your yes will pour in, as they have for us, infusing daily duties and special events. We are a strong and sustainable ministry because you have said "Yes" to being part of this work.

Advent is an opportunity to give our yes again, following the example of Mary. The path is challenging, but the fruits are positive, wonderful and real! May Advent illuminate our hearts and minds, and may the radiance of our every "Yes" burst like sunrise upon a world longing for holy light. And may you and your loved ones enjoy a warm and wonderful Christmas!

Ariel Faray-Musleh

A "BEAUTIFUL, CLASSY, AND HOLY" ROSE GALA

Those and many similar words were expressed by Rose Gala attendees throughout the night and since.

On Friday, November 19, more than 200 supporters gathered to celebrate life. It was a beautiful evening featuring big hearts, beaming smiles, and bountiful donations!

Highlights included Fr. Carpentier's powerful invocation, an engrossing personal story told by supporter Charlotte Pellegrino, praises by former client Cely De Barros with her precious daughter Ariene, and a persuasive statement of "Yes!" by Center secretary Julie Lamin.

The lively atmosphere swelled when Center Board Member Jim Gilcreast was handed the microphone to lead our live auction and paddle raise. Very deliberately, we put only one item on the auction block: a magnificent quilt hand-crafted by Center Board Member Rebecca Schulte and her friend Nancy Silva, which features our logo in the center panel. Bidding was very competitive and concluded at a deservedly high mark.



Young ladies of the St. Philip Church Youth Ministry greet the guests.

Then, with abundant quips and classic Irish story-telling, Jim conducted a paddle-raise that astonishingly quickly generated tens of thousands of dollars in

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AUTUMN ROSE SALE — A SPLENDID SUCCESS!

From Ecuador to your door — that was the trajectory of 3,800 roses during our annual Autumn Rose Sale, featuring some of the best-looking, most-desirable and aromatic roses we have ever had the pleasure of distributing. May God bless the growers and shippers, and our wholesaler, Ron Derozio!

Most of all, thank YOU! You gave donations beyond the suggested amount, you gave donations in lieu of selling or buying roses,



David Martinelli, Knight and parishioner, picking up 300 roses at the Center for St. Augustine Church, Providence.

you volunteered to coordinate our rose sale in your parish, you staffed the tables at multiple Masses, and you volunteered to pick up and deliver roses.

Admiration and respectful gratitude go out to the many parishes that supported in every way, whether by hosting the sale of roses, distributing donation envelopes, or sending donations outright. They are:

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CHARLOTTE'S STORY

Shared by Charlotte Pellegrino at our Rose Gala on November 19...

"In 1967, at the age of 18, I gave birth to a baby boy at a hospital in Boston. I loved him the instant I saw him, but could not keep him because life at home in Providence with my parents was difficult and my pregnancy was unwelcome. The baby's father, my boyfriend, was only 17 years old and not open to parenthood.

"I had no one to turn to and I felt unlovable. I was fired from my workplace for being pregnant. Sadly, I had no choice but to give up my child to adoption.

"When I let go, I felt like a part of me had died, that I was no longer whole. Into the emptiness, I poured shame and self-loathing, believing that what I had done was unforgivable. When a priest came into the maternity ward to offer me a blessing, I told him that if he knew what I'd done he would turn away. He countered by saying, "You gave a baby life," and then he blessed me.

"As the years went by, my self-recrimination worsened. I thought of searching for my son, but was always afraid of what

I might find, such as the possibility that his life had become a worst-case scenario and he might feel overwhelming hatred for me, which I felt I deserved.

"Every day I prayed for him and any family he might have. I found a prayer to "Our Lady, Un-doer of Knots", and said that prayer daily, year after year. Suddenly, in February 2019, Our Lady untied the biggest knot in my life.

"My cousin received an email through her registration on a genealogy website, which stated:

'It appears that we are a 1st or 2nd cousin match. I've been doing some background on my parents, as I am an adopted child who was born in Boston, but was raised in Cranston.'

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SPLENDID SUCCESS

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All Saints, Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul, Holy Ghost (Providence and Tiverton), Holy Name of Jesus, Holy Trinity, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Loreto, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Sacred Heart of Jesus (E. Providence), Ss. John and James, Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Ambrose, St. Ann, St. Anthony (Pawtucket & W. Warwick), St. Augustine, St. Brendan, St. Charles Borromeo (Providence), St. Christopher, Saint Dominic, St. Elizabeth, St. Eugene, St. George Maronite, St. James (Manville), St. Joseph (Burrillville), St. Madeleine Sophie, St. Mary (Bristol & Providence), St. Mary of the Bay, St. Philip, St. Rocco, St. Theresa, and St. Thomas the Apostle.

"Welcome to the family!" greetings of gratitude go to the pastors and parishioners of the seven churches that participated for the first time or reactivated their participation: Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Elizabeth, St. Brendan, St. Dominic, St. George, St. Rocco, and St. Thomas the Apostle.

Big thanks also to organizations that took the lead in their areas: Knights of Columbus at numerous churches statewide, and Providence College Campus Ministry at St. Dominic Chapel.

If you do not see your church/parish listed above, then please help us bring it along in the Spring. Our next Rose Sale will be conducted Mother's Day weekend, May 7 & 8. A conversation with your pastor and an email to richard@motheroflife.org will make it bloom and grow. Thank you!

WHEN ASKED WHAT SHE LIKED BEST ABOUT THE CENTER'S SERVICES, M.M. SAID...

"I liked very much that the nurse took time to sit and familiarize me with the entire process beforehand."



WHEN ASKED IF WE COULD PRAY FOR HER, K.C. ANSWERED...

"Please pray that I have a safe twin pregnancy."

GREATLY ENCOURAGING!

Since we published our Autumn newsletter, more contributors, both new and previously occasional, have responded affirmatively to our invitation to become monthly donors. The range of commitment levels is heartwarmingly broad, and all are made in the same spirit of compassion.

Every donor, whether regular or intermittent, demonstrates that fundamental virtue, and each time that someone takes it to the next level, we are amazed by the boldness of their choice. As we have previously expressed, a steady flow of donations supports the stability of the Center and our provision of its services for needy moms and babies.

Please consider a New Year Resolution of monthly giving. Your perpetual presence will be prayerfully esteemed. To donate online, visit motheroflife.org/donate, or use the enclosed pledge form and envelope. May God bless your generous hearts!

"BEAUTIFUL, CLASSY, AND HOLY"

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pledges, much of which has been matched by two sets of very generous donors—\$15,000 by North American Catholic Educational Programming Foundation; and, \$4,000 by a special couple wishing to remain anonymous.

This Rose Gala is a garden of love which continues to bloom and grow. We are grateful to everyone who attended, donated, and volunteered, plus the many who donated outright, and those who, even possessing tickets, did not or could not attend. God bless you all!



Happy guests at Table 8!



Center Board Member Rebecca Schulte with handmade quilt high bidder, Cheryl Sleem of Michigan.



Center Board Member James Gilcreast charms the crowd.



Ariene applauds her mom, guest speaker Cely De Barros.



Gala guests Paul & Toni Mancini.

ROSE GALA 2022

Demand for 2021's tickets was so great that we sold out long before the deadline, and then continued selling with the gracious encouragement of the venue. Eventually though, we had to stop, even while tickets were still in demand.

Therefore, we are looking into conducting our 2022 Rose Gala on two consecutive nights. Tickets are not yet for sale and dates are to-be-determined, but we invite you to make reservations now to help us make decisions. To put your name(s) on the list, please visit motheroflife.org/donate, click the Events tab and scroll down to Rose Gala 2022, or contact gail@motheroflife.org, 401-421-0821. You'll receive first alerts regarding ticket sales and details.

All Rose Gala photos throughout this newsletter are courtesy of Paul Gebhart, Life Program Director for the R.I. State Council Knights of Columbus.

CHARLOTTE'S STORY

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"The writer, named Chris, went on to say,

'I recently obtained my birth certificate... my father wasn't listed... my mother was. Her name is or was Charlotte...'

"I began an email exchange with Chris, in the course of which I told him about my feelings of guilt and self-hatred. He replied, 'You have nothing to feel guilty about. You loved me enough to give me life.' His words commenced the healing of my 52 years of loss, fear and pain. A whole new chapter in our lives as mother and son had begun!"

While Charlotte was sharing her story, people in the room and online—all the way to Honduras—were tearfully wondering if Chris was going to be there at the end of the story, and he was!



Charlotte embraces Executive Director Gail Faraj-Musleh as her son, Christopher DePalo, addresses the audience.



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Pregnancy
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A Place of
Hope, Healing
and Love

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE SHARE

You probably have some friends whose hearts resonate with yours on pro-life matters. At your request, we will be happy to send them a copy of this newsletter. Please send us their name and address via gail@motheroflife.org or call 401-421-0820. Thank you!

OB-GYN / FAMILY PRACTITIONER NEEDED

Pro-life pregnancy centers have a perpetual need for pro-life health care professionals, which are not easy to come by.

If you know one in Rhode Island or elsewhere who specializes in NaPro Technology, Creighton Model, NFP, please ask them to contact Executive Director Gail Faraj-Musleh at 401-421-0821 or gail@motheroflife.org.

YEAR-END DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

While you are designating your Advent and Christmas almsgiving, and evaluating your year-end tax status, we ask that you prayerfully consider a precious donation to Mother of Life Pregnancy Center. The gifts we have received during 2021 have answered our prayers, and so we are looking to the year ahead with hope and courage. Your distinctive donation will boost our ability to assist the special souls that God will send to us in 2022. Contribute online by visiting motheroflife.org/donate.



Thank you very much! May God bless you and your loved ones with a great new year!

Please remember the Center in your QCD, will or estate.



YOU NAME IT — UPDATE

The response to our invitation regarding memorialization and dedication opportunities at the Center has been outstanding! Several bricks have been inscribed and installed on the terraces flanking our front door. Two chapel pews, the lectern, and the 14th Station of the Cross have all been dedicated. Furthermore, the beautiful Our Lady of Grace grotto in our client waiting area has been dedicated to fulfill someone's long-standing wish.

To order memorials, visit motheroflife.org/donate, click the Donate tab and scroll down to Memorializations; or, contact gail@motheroflife.org, 401-421-0821.