

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Mother of Life Family,

This Spring, my heart has been especially full of gratitude and hope—hope that comes from the young people who generously give their time and talents to our mission. They show up with willing hands and joyful hearts, and their energy, creativity and generosity make a real difference for the families we serve.

Pro-life students are our future. Very soon they will be adults who will vote, influence their friends and colleagues, and help shape



The Prout School Pro-Life group held a St. Valentine's Day Rose Sale to benefit Mother of Life Center.

their communities. They will be mothers and fathers raising life-affirming families.

Some will discern religious vocations while others become teachers, nurses, business leaders, pro-life advocates and public servants. Whatever path they choose, they will carry with them deep respect for the dignity of human life.

Seeing their dedication reminds me that the culture of life is growing quietly,

faithfully and beautifully in the next generation.

Thank you for supporting our mission and for investing in these young hearts. Together, we are serving today's mothers and babies, and helping to form tomorrow's leaders and witnesses for life.

With gratitude and hope,  Lise Desmarais, Executive Director

## ANNOUNCING ROSE GALA 2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: THOMAS GLESSNER, J.D.

Mr. Glessner is the founder and president of NIFLA, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, which serves and represents more than 1,800 pregnancy centers and clinics across the nation, including Mother of Life Center.



On the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision, he was profiled in *Legacy of Life: Honoring Fifty of the Greatest Pro-Life Leaders of the Last Fifty Years*.

He is a member of the bar associations for the Supreme Court of the U.S., as well as the states of Washington and Virginia, and has appeared in media outlets such as *EWTN* and *The Federalist*.

In 2018, he successfully challenged a California law forcing pro-life pregnancy centers to advertise for abortion. That landmark case, *NIFLA v. Becerra*, secured the free speech rights of not only pregnancy centers, but also all Americans. CATO Institute called it "the most important free-speech case of a generation."

Please plan to join us on Sunday, **September 27** for another great Rose Gala! Registration will be available by June 1.

## INSPIRATION FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Dear Friends,

In his January 9 "Address to Members of the Diplomatic Corps," our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV reflected on the "profound vision of life as a gift to be cherished, and of the family as its responsible guardian." He went on to categorically reject "any practice that denies or exploits the origin of life and its development." He continued:



*"The primary objective must remain the protection of every unborn child and the effective and concrete support of every woman so that she is able to welcome life."*

His message reminds us all that the choice for life and the protection of the unborn is not a political decision or a mere cultural preference, but a deeply human commitment that we are all responsible for.

It is a joy for me to serve as the Chaplain of the Mother of Life Center. In so many beautiful and practical ways, the warm and thoughtful staff at the Center embody the Pope's call to support women and to help them welcome life. From free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, to practical material assistance, they help expectant mothers every day. They are always ready to work with women who have experienced an unexpected pregnancy to make decisions that will allow for a path forward. They work hard to offer community assistance referrals that will allow for the financial assistance necessary to welcome a new child.

Mother of Life Center even offers parenting classes to help new families in navigating the challenges they face. Additionally, they are prepared to make adoption referrals and to facilitate that difficult process that can open up the path for another family to receive the gift of life if a woman feels like she simply cannot support a child on her own. They are also always ready to provide emotional support for women after an abortion, in an environment that is loving and compassionate.

This Lent there is a lot that we can do, and are doing, to answer the Holy Father's call to support the inviolable gift of human life and the family. I am grateful to all of you who have prayed for this crucial ministry and mission to human life, and for your very practical support for organizations like the Mother of Life Center. It is making a great difference!

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Mahar*

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

## JOYFUL NEWS & TOUCHING ENCOUNTERS

Through our continuing efforts to promote the Gospel, we are always engaging in meaningful conversations about faith and baptism with our clients. By God's grace, two had their babies baptized on March 22!



Pictured upper right: Rev. Joseph Brice, Pastor, St. Patrick Church, Providence.  
Lower right: Rev. Christopher Mahar, Pastor, St. Augustine Church, Providence, and Chaplain, Mother of Life Center.



Another client reached out asking about baptism for her baby and, as we suggested, she spoke with a nearby priest. After their conversation, she decided not only to prepare for her baby's baptism but also to have her marriage blessed first!

Among the mothers who have recently come in for pregnancy tests and or ultrasounds, each story has been different: some joyful, some heartbreaking, and some still unfolding. Here are two that stand out...

During her ultrasound, **Vivian** kept her eyes closed rather than look at the image of her baby on the screen. "I'm anxious about this pregnancy," she confided. With our gentle encouragement she finally looked. Awe replaced fear as she focused on her child. Afterwards she walked lightheartedly down the sidewalk, gazing with a smile at the ultrasound photographs she was holding just above her belly.

We met with **Naomi** who was really struggling. She had been so sick with vomiting that she felt overwhelmed and was considering abortion. We offered practical help and invited her in for an ultrasound. When she saw her baby and its heartbeat, everything changed. She cried peacefully. Then we handed her a small, soft model of what her baby looks like at this stage. Holding it made life feel right. Softly she said, "I can't wait to hold my baby." It was such a tender moment.

Thank you all for your continued support. Your prayers and generosity make all the moments — both joyful and difficult — possible as we serve each mother who walks through our door.

## INSIGHTS & UPDATES

Does your family invoke the Epiphany Blessing at the doorway of your home or workplace? Just as we were gathering the staff in the foyer with the blessed chalk, Holy Water and prayer guide, a client rang the doorbell. She was overjoyed when we invited her to participate. Amazed, everyone declared the exquisite Divine Order that brought us together for the blessing. God is good, all the time!

In our Advent newsletter we spoke of plans for a building addition that will improve client confidentiality and material goods management. Thank you for the gifts you gave to support this endeavor. Currently, we are obtaining quotes for construction so that we can discern the most cost-effective collaboration. We are still looking forward to proceeding with the project this year.



Adding this access and storage structure has become necessary because the Center is blessed to be very busy providing client goods and services while simultaneously receiving and processing the inventory of donated goods.

As we pursue grant support for the work, our most pressing need is for the general financial contributions that fundamentally help us serve new and existing clients. Thank you for your precious partnership!

At a weekly staff meeting we always discuss the remarkable experiences of the preceding days. One outstanding topic is the growing frequency of clients visiting our chapel and staying to pray, including one young woman who remained an hour, and another who asked us to pray over her baby. These are the sweet fruits of asking the Lord to direct and use us for the temporal and eternal good of others.

### WHEN ASKED WHAT SHE LIKED BEST ABOUT THE CENTER'S SERVICES, P.R. SAID:

*You made me feel very comfortable. I enjoyed my time at your office.*



### WHEN ASKED IF THE ULTRASOUND INFLUENCED HER DECISION ABOUT HER PREGNANCY, C.A. REPLIED:

*I am so happy!*



### BECAUSE THE LIGHTS ARE ON

We can never overstate the tangible value of your donations in our day-to-day operations. You keep the lights and heat on so that we can warmly embrace the baby whose mother chose life here several months ago; the mom who was edified by our counseling and parenting classes; and then, just before the birth of her little girl, she received the layette set with which to nurture her baby.



A special note of enduring thanks goes out to our monthly donors who help us meet such basic needs. During this holy season, please consider how you might be able to amplify your gifts. At [motheroflife.org](https://motheroflife.org) click **DONATE** and then check the box for the monthly option. Or, click **SUPPORT OUR WORK** to consider several other ways you can make a meaningful difference. Thank you. May God bless your merciful charity!

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## HIGH SCHOOL DONORS & VOLUNTEERS DEMONSTRATING FAITH IN ACTION

Our high school volunteers continually inspire us. Throughout the year they help with our rose sales, serve graciously at our Gala, and organize collections of baby goods at their schools and parishes. Their faith and conviction are both sincere and inspirational. What moves us most, though, is not only what these young people do, it's who they are becoming.

A huge thank you to **Bishop Hendricken High School senior Joseph Ferris!** He truly went above and beyond by organizing a donation drive through the churches of Christ the King, Saint Anthony and Saint Joseph (West Warwick), and Saint Kevin (Warwick).

He pulled up to our front door with a truck overflowing with donations for our families — including an amazing and unprecedented 10,000 diapers! This was the largest single donation we have ever received, and we are tremendously grateful to Joseph, the pastors, and all the parishioners who generously contributed.

Thank you, Joseph, for making a difference in the lives of so many! Your compassion and dedication are truly inspiring, and we are grateful for your efforts in supporting life-affirming care.



A heartfelt thank you to **Chloe and Capri, senior students of Mount Saint Charles Academy,** for choosing to support Mother of Life Center through their service project! They generously gathered donations at their own parishes to help mothers and families in need.

Thank you, Mounties! Your generosity & enthusiasm make such a difference.

We were also blessed to welcome the **Mount Saint Charles Community Service Group.** They joyfully jumped right into the work, helping us sort, size and fold an enormous amount of baby clothes for our mothers in need. We are thrilled and grateful that they visit the Center one day every month to lend so many helping hands.



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**God is truly pouring His blessings on Mother of Life through youth in our community. We are profoundly thankful for their support, and that of their faculty group advisers.**

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Our **Mother's Day Rose Sale** will be hosted in parishes **Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10.** Thank you for your support!

A new group of **Biking for Babies** missionaries will visit and overnight at the Center on July 14 during their 600-mile ride from Portland to Philadelphia. Our 2025 partnership resulted in a fourth bountiful grant from this vital non-profit.



We are enormously grateful to the **Navigant Credit Union Charitable Foundation** and the **Rhode Island Foundation** for big grants that are helping us to provide for our clients' basic human and maternity needs. *People helping people* is their commitment and ours!



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## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MURAL PROJECT – STUDENT MURAL DESIGN CONTEST

A unique opportunity for college art students to showcase their creativity through a meaningful public artwork celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe at Mother of Life Center. The winning design will become a lasting, inspiring mural prominently displayed on the exterior of the building, visible to all who visit.

To promote the Center's mission of supporting pregnant mothers and their families in need, we are seeking a sacred artistic interpretation of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her message of hope, faith and life.

Entries are welcome from college students at URI, RISD, Providence College, Brown University, Johnson & Wales, or other local art programs.

Artwork may be in sketch, digital or traditional media. Designs should be original and suitable for rendering to a large-scale mural.



The winning design will be announced at the 2026 Rose Gala and thereafter painted on the front of the building under the chapel window. To strengthen community awareness, recognition will be provided in local and social media.

Submit your design with your name, school, year, and contact info, then scan and email it to [Lise@motheroflife.org](mailto:Lise@motheroflife.org) or mail to Mother of Life, 400 Atwells Ave, Providence, RI 02909.

Entries must be submitted **by August 28.** For more info, contact Lise Desmarais at 401-421-0821.

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La Résurrection

Michel Corneille the Elder, 1640-1650

## THE SHRINE OF SACRED LIFE

In our sensitive work we encounter not only clients who have suffered the loss of a baby, but also supporters who reveal their very personal stories, usually in the serenity of our chapel.

Testimonies such as these gave us the idea for a special memorial within Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, a place of prayer and remembrance for children lost before or at birth.

The design in development will feature an image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Acrylic tiles at 4"x2" each will be available for dedication by those mourning or honoring the loss of a baby due to abortion, miscarriage or stillbirth. This will occupy a section of wall under the wings of the Holy Spirit stained glass window facing the entrance to the chapel.



Our indoor memorial honoring the dignity of every human life will provide a space for reflection and spiritual support. Our Lord Jesus being truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle will evoke the words of Holy Scripture: *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted."* (Psalms 34:19a)

We hope to have this opportunity ready by Summer. Cost will be announced. If you want to be on the call list, send a message to [Lise@motheroflife.org](mailto:Lise@motheroflife.org) or call her at 401-421-0821. Thank you.



## ONLINE AUCTION OPEN FOR BROWSING, DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

Have you visited our 2026 auction website yet? There is already an amazing collection of items, including gift cards for many restaurants, museum and theatre tickets, jewelry, a safari, and a **One-Night Stay at the Ocean House in Watch Hill!**

The bidding period will be **May 29 - June 13**, but right now you can browse the growing list of items and tag your favorites. As a registered bidder you will be reminded when the auction opens and when someone has outbid you or you have won!



While on the auction homepage, please use the tools available for donating items, contributions and sponsorships.



Refer your friends to *Bids for Babies* and you'll automatically be entered into a contest. The person with the most referrals will win a special prize that will be announced soon!