



OCTOBER 3, 2021

# CATHOLIC TIMES

MAGAZINE OF THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2021

*St. Joseph, defender of life,  
pray for us!*

[respectlife.org/celebrate](https://respectlife.org/celebrate)



**2** | October, the month of the holy rosary

**8** | QU receives transformational gift

**12** | Meet our seminarians

There is Hope for the  
**BROKEN**



**October 7th, 2021. 6:30 p.m.**  
**St. Katharine Drexel Parish**

Chicago radio personality **Kevin Matthews** found a statue of the Virgin Mary broken and lying by a dumpster. His life would never be the same.

Experience this compelling story of hope and healing. Walk in a candlelight procession with Our Lady of the Broken as we pray for peace and healing in our lives and in our city.

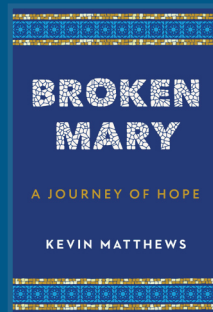
**EVENT DETAILS:**

• 6:30–9:30 p.m. *Music, Kevin Matthews Talk, Rosary Procession, Exposition, Benediction, Book Sales*

**LOCATION:**

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Parish  
722 S. 12th St., Springfield, IL 62703

[katharinedrexel.com](http://katharinedrexel.com)



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## RESPECT LIFE MONTH



*St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!*

## 40 Days for Life at Granite City abortion facility gears up for fifth campaign

By MELINDA NOSSER  
Vigil Coordinator

**GRANITE CITY** — During the summer of 2019 Joan Kane heard the call to lead the 40 Days for Life campaign at the abortion facility in Granite City, and the fruits of that “yes” continue to grow as the core team prepares for the fifth consecutive campaign.

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful vigil in front of abortion businesses.

The abortion facility in Granite City has been in operation since 1974 and their web site boasts that over 100,000 abortions have been performed in those years, averaging 3,000 per year. Abortions are performed up to 24 weeks with women coming from many different states that have more restrictive abortion laws. It is very common to see a car with Missouri plates in the parking lot.

“We hope that Christians will put their faith into action by coming out to pray and fast to end the demand for abortion where we live. No woman wakes up in the morning wanting to have an abortion. Your prayerful presence on the sidewalk can be her last sign of hope from God that she has other options and the first sign of mercy as she comes out after her abortion,” said Kane.

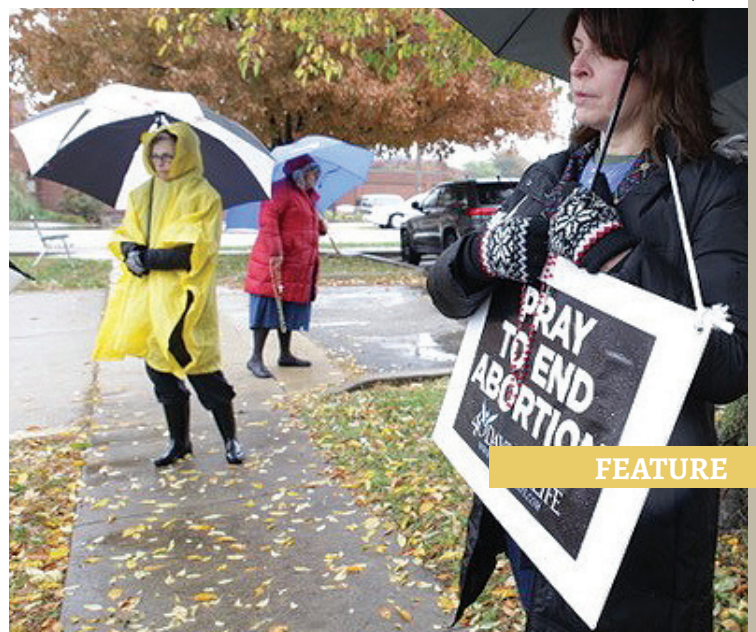
When asked about the many fruits of the campaigns, Rose Wascher, co-leader, replied, “We have saved 43 babies so far. Jerry Kapp has started the presence of sidewalk advocates who counsel women in crisis at the abortion facility, (there is an) increasing presence of prayer warriors from all different denominations coming from both near and far communities, and (there is) Baby Oliver who is the first baby we followed until his delivery from a ‘save’ in the fall 2020 campaign.”

“People who come out once to pray are deeply impacted and realize that even in Illinois we can do something ourselves to help. We have seen all types of churches working together to end the demand for abortion,” said Kane. “On a worldwide level, God has used 40 Days for Life to establish a proven track record of saving lives and closing abortion facilities in over 1,000 cities and 64 countries.”

To find out more or to volunteer go to [40 days-gc.com](http://40daysgc.com) or email [Info@40daysgc.com](mailto:Info@40daysgc.com).

The events in Granite City include:  
– Thursday, Oct. 14, 4 p.m.  
Mid-point rally  
– Sunday, Oct. 31, 2 p.m.  
Closing rally

Submitted photo



# St. Joseph

Faithful Protector of Mother and Child

## Chance meeting saves a life

By JERRY KAPP

**GRANITE CITY** — A chance meeting one Friday in early April this year, resulted in a young Latino mother's change of heart and choosing to give life to her baby. It's a beautiful story of discipleship and conversion. God brought a gentleman, who is an abortion facility sidewalk advocate, and a pregnant woman together through a chance meeting.

The woman was on her way to the Granite City abortion facility to abort her baby; the gentleman, not planning to pray at the Granite City facility that day, acted on a nudge he felt to go pray. "To think I almost didn't go to Hope (abortion facility) that Friday because I knew I'd be praying alone. But I felt a nudge and wanted to obey God," he said.

While driving to the abortion facility he saw a pregnant woman and her friend stranded along the side of the road. Her car had a flat tire. Our disciple believes the intervention of each person's guardian angel was working overtime that day. "The three of us were together almost two hours, which allowed

for great conversation about many things," he said.

The disciple shared stories about life, struggles, and

"An amazing blessing! Praise God for his inspiration!"

God's plan in each life — life affirming stories. "It was totally the Holy Spirit doing his work through me. As I was finishing up changing the tire the woman said that they have

a name for a person like me in her country, her community. She said, 'You are a healer,' then she said she was choosing life for her baby. So beautiful."

This humble disciple strongly believes it was God's plan that he would meet this pregnant woman and her friend and that he would help her choose life. God used this disciple to help change not only a flat tire but also a woman's heart for the life of her child. "An amazing blessing! Praise God for his inspiration!" exclaimed the disciple. ✠

## A Beacon of Light PHC — pro-life action for babies and moms

**MARYVILLE** — In early September, a new Texas law went into effect banning abortion after a baby's heart-beat could be detected. Immediately, abortion-rights activists came out in full force, claiming such laws are not pro-life — just pro-baby — and demanding answers and accountability for the mothers' lives and the support they may need. If our culture is to ever change, we must be able to answer those demands by dedicating our time, talents, resources, and action where our hearts are by holistically loving and caring for moms and families.

A Beacon of Light (ABL) Pregnancy Help Center in Maryville excels at this. Offering free and confidential pregnancy tests and ultrasounds for women facing unplanned pregnancies, allows ABL to aid them choosing life — but where ABL shines is in empowering new moms

and families in their pregnancy and parenting journey.

Creating a relationship with clients — with no end date — is an essential foundation for changing lives. When partnered with ABL's Earn While You Learn program that provides education, peer-counseling, and material assistance, families feel increasingly confident in parenting, relationships, and life skills. Staff regularly check in on clients to make sure they have a support system; sometimes providing the only support system they have. ABL even organized a professional photographer who volunteered her time for pregnancy and family photo shoots for clients. The love and confidence of the expectant and new parents shone through in the photos.

ABL was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from Focus on the Family that will allow them to complete The Life Center training offered by the NIFLA, ensuring that ABL continues to operate with a foundation of excellence in these turbulent times.

The mission doesn't end with the mother's decision to choose life for her baby. Rather, it is merely the beginning. ✠



# Bishop Creek woman lived long faith-filled life

By FATHER MICHAEL MEINHART



Submitted photos

she had left on my childhood memories. On the evening of Jan. 2, I gathered with Agnes and some of her family in the living room of her home and we prayed together one last time. I was able to anoint Agnes, give her the *Apostolic Pardon*, and celebrate Mass there giving her both species of the Blessed Sacrament. After anointing her, she looked at me and said, “Thank you” — possibly her last words.

On the morning of Jan. 3, Agnes died, fortified by the sacraments and with family near. She received the grace of a happy death, and we certainly hope the eternal reward for a life lived out in faith. ❖



**BISHOP CREEK** — Growing up in Bishop Creek, there were a couple of givens when you went to church — one of those was the presence of Agnes Brummer at Mass. In a way, she was an Anna (Luke 2:37) of our faith community. She was there at church — and she was praying. Agnes lived her very long life (102 years) to the fullest — filled with her faith, her family (12 children, 61 grandchildren, and 173 great-grandchildren), and many friends.

After I joined seminary, I knew many people from home were praying for me — yet something about Agnes and her prayers always stuck out to me. When she saw me at Mass on breaks, she would call out, we would talk, and she would always tell me the specifics of when she prayed for me last.

At the end of December, I received word that Agnes had entered the final stages of her life. One of her grandchildren even sent me a video of the family gathered around her bed praying the rosary — the twist was that from her deathbed, Agnes was leading the rosary!

I knew I had to go see Agnes one last time on this side of eternity. I wanted to say “thank you” for all those years of benefiting from her prayer and the very formative witness

Father Michael Meinhart always appreciated the prayers and presence of Agnes Brummer, of Bishop Creek. Here he is shown with Brummer at his first Mass in 2020 and then celebrating a Mass at the bedside of Brummer and her family members the night before she passed away at 102 years old.



# Ladies of Charity of Quincy responds with compassion to serve marginalized

**QUINCY** — The Ladies of Charity of Quincy has been actively helping those in need since it was established in the early 1930s. The association of women strives to bring dignity to each person and to respond with compassion to every human misery. They endeavor to make Christ present and serve the needs of the poor and the marginalized of their community.

The Ladies of Charity of Quincy services include providing food, clothing, bedding, household items, newborn layettes, diapers, and personal care and hygiene items. The organization operates both a Ladies of Charity Center, where everything is given away without cost to the receiver, and a Ladies of Charity Thrift Store, where items are sold at a reasonable price. Net proceeds received at the Thrift Store support the ministry of the Center.

In the early 1930s, the Ladies of Charity of Quincy was formed after several years of meeting informally. In the early years, members stored items in their own garages and visited the homes of the poor to minister to their needs. The Quincy association has undergone many changes over the decades, going from use of a portion of a building on Jersey Street, to construction and occupation of their present Center on South 4th Street. An addition was added to this building in 1995. In addition to occupying the new building in 1981, a Thrift Store was established that same year. After renting several sites, the organiza-



Submitted photo

tion decided in 1985 to purchase a building on 12th and Chestnut. For 30 years the Thrift Store operated from this site. In 2016 the Ladies of Charity of Quincy purchased its present Thrift Store building at 24th and Elm.

Jane Haas been an active volunteer for this Vincentian organization for 13 years and has served as president for the last eight of those years. “We’re listed in the Official Catholic Directory under the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. We are the only Ladies of Charity organization in Illinois,” she said.

Currently the organization is serving an average of over 1,200 people (about 350 families) per month. Drawing from nearly every parish in Adams County,

*Continued on page 20*



**PRO-LIFE BRIDGES DAY** — Springfield Right to Life takes a unique approach to share their message about the sanctify of life. Tim Moore (shown here) and pro-life supporters erected pro-life banners, signs, and American flags on an interstate overpass in Springfield. “Our hope is to spread the pro-life message to hundreds of motorists during rush hour, 3-6 p.m.,” said organizer Dave Klestinski.

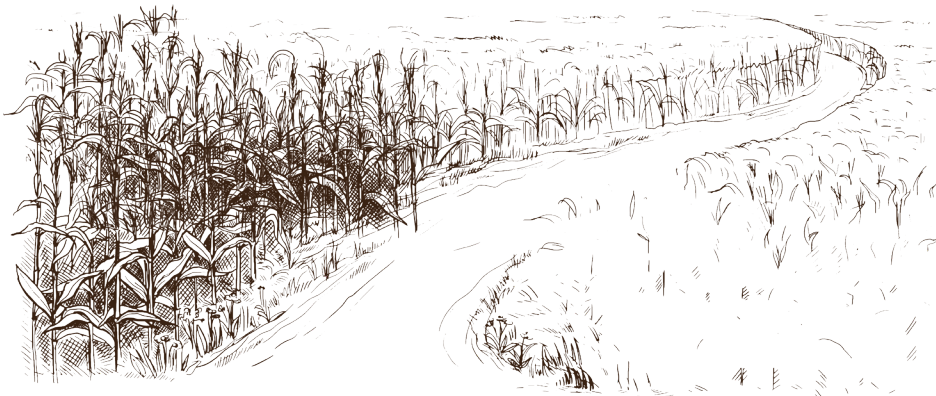
Submitted photo

*St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!*



# The parable of the good farmer

By ROBERT J. FORMEA, DVM  
Brighton



There once was a Good Farmer who tilled the land with knowledge, skill, and love. One spring he planted a large field of corn, fertilized it, weeded it, and carefully watched over it. The rains came regular and heavy and soon the corn sprouted and grew vigorously. In just a short period of time it was knee-high and thick with a healthy, deep-green hue. The Good Farmer enjoyed gazing at his field in the evenings as the sun set low and waited with eager anticipation at what was sure to be a bountiful harvest in the fall.

But one night his Evil Neighbor came and, for reasons known only to himself, cut down every corn plant in the entire field. When the Good Farmer discovered the treacherous act the next morning and saw the tracks leading back to his Evil Neighbor's abode, the Good Farmer indignantly confronted his Evil Neighbor.

"Why did you do such a thing?" cried the Good Farmer. "You have destroyed my corn!"

"No sir," the Evil Neighbor replied. "I did no such thing. There was not a single ear of corn in the field so how could I have destroyed it?"

Confounded, astonished, the Good Farmer replied, "You cut down my corn plants, my corn is destroyed."

"Good sir," the Evil Neighbor smugly replied, "I may have cut down some corn plants but, I reiterate, there was not a single ear of corn in the field, correct? Therefore, I did not destroy any corn."

The Good Farmer could barely control his exasperation at such a foolish, flawed argument. "We live in a temporal world!" shouted the Good Farmer. "It takes time for the corn, for any living thing, to develop to its full potential! To blossom, to bear fruit, is not an instantaneous event but a complex progression of events set in motion

and sustained by God. You destroyed the life that the ears of corn relied on to eventually come to fruition."

"Sorry! No ears of corn present, so no corn destroyed," replied the Evil Neighbor, a prideful smile playing at the corner of his lips.

"We shall see about this," said the Good Farmer. And he took his case to the highest court in all the land. Astonishingly, the High Court agreed with the Evil Neighbor, using his very argument to justify its position.

Dejected, saddened, angered, confused, the Good Farmer returned to his farm. How could such a foolish argument win the day? He prayed with fervor that night to God that humankind might return to reason. Strengthened, he vowed to again plant his field of corn. But this time he would be on guard against the Evil Neighbor and the Good Farmer would do all in his power to remain faithful and ever vigilant. He knew, as any child would know, that there was corn, there was life, in the field. Not yet developed to its full, God-given potential, perhaps, but life all the same! ♦

**Editor's note:** Robert Formea wrote this story to demonstrate the flawed thinking that human life does not begin at conception.



# LADIES OF CHARITY

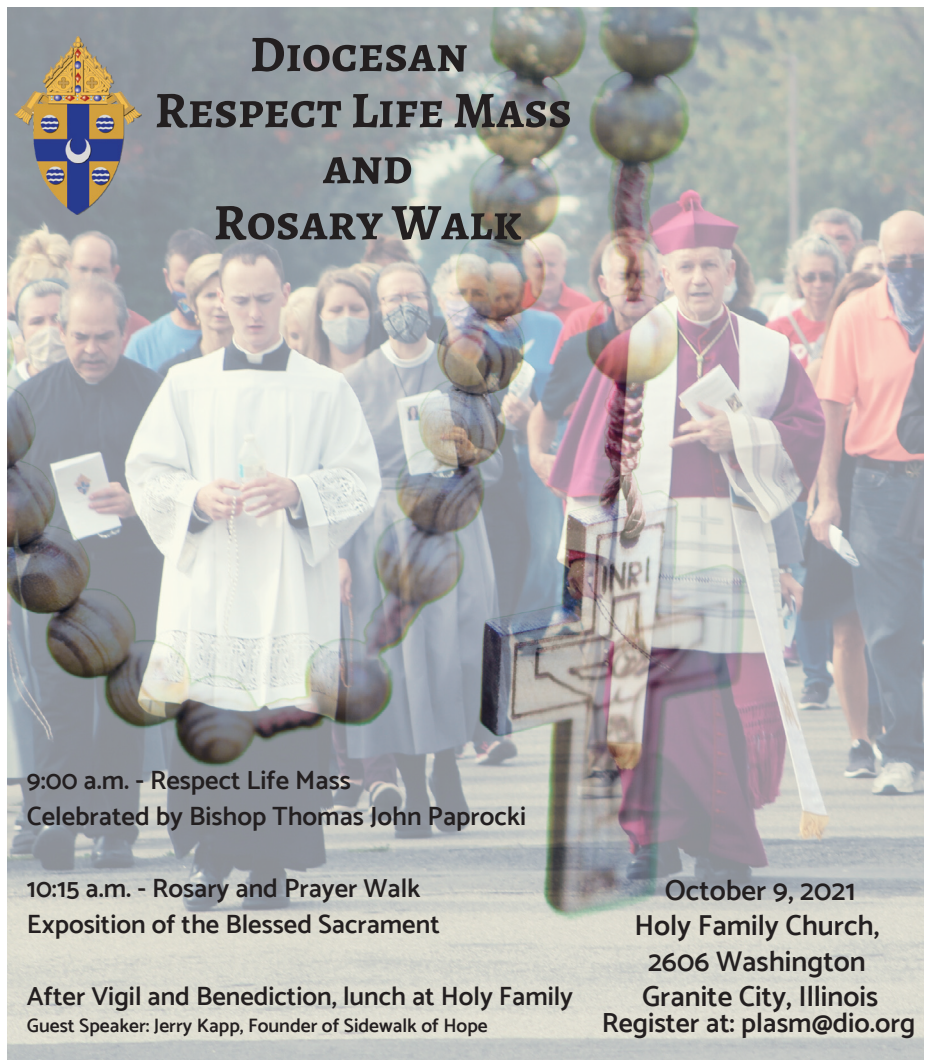
*Continued from page 18*

they have a total of about 120 active volunteers in their two Quincy facilities, donating over 22,000 hours of service each year.

“Though we do not provide counseling to unwed mothers or new parents, we do provide for many material needs,” Haas said. “Each month, visitors to our Center may visit our Center one time to obtain food and clothing for the whole family, household products, and a couple of personal hygiene items. We have maternity clothes, diapers, and newborn layettes, as well as a good selection of every type of clothing needed. We also have toys and books for all ages, bedding, towels, and many holiday and miscellaneous items.”

The Ladies of Charity are grateful to the people of Quincy and the surrounding areas. Their generosity allows the Ladies to distribute all items for free to anyone who is in need, said Haas.

For more information, go to <https://ladiesofcharityquincy.org>.



**DIOCESAN  
RESPECT LIFE MASS  
AND  
ROSARY WALK**

9:00 a.m. - Respect Life Mass  
Celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

10:15 a.m. - Rosary and Prayer Walk  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

After Vigil and Benediction, lunch at Holy Family  
Guest Speaker: Jerry Kapp, Founder of Sidewalk of Hope

October 9, 2021  
Holy Family Church,  
2606 Washington  
Granite City, Illinois  
Register at: [plasm@dio.org](mailto:plasm@dio.org)

## Protecting God's Children for Adults®

### DIocese of Springfield in Illinois OFFICE FOR SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**Protecting God's Children for Adults®** is a child sexual abuse prevention program offered by the diocese to instruct Church personnel on the prevention of child sexual abuse and the steps to creating a safe environment for the protection of children and young people. All Church personnel are required to attend a Protecting God's Children for Adults training session. See [dio.org/safeenvironment](http://dio.org/safeenvironment) for a description of Church personnel.

Date	Weekday	Time	Training Site
Oct. 27	Wednesday	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Quincy, 1721 College Ave., St. Francis Solanus, in Parish Center hall Church Office, (217) 222-2898
Nov. 4	Thursday	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Highland, 1412 Ninth St., St. Paul Church, in Parish Ctr. Church Office, (618) 654-2339
Nov. 30	Tuesday	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Quincy, 1721 College Ave., St. Francis Solanus, in Parish Center hall Church Office, (217) 222-2898

Please call the contact number of the training site to register your attendance. The training sessions are typically 2 ½ to 3 hours. Compliance with the training requirement requires a participant be present for the entire session. There is no fee for attending the training session. Because of the sensitive nature of the training topic children under the age of 18 should not be in attendance.