

MARBLEHEAD PURSE BINGO SPONSORED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tickets are \$40 which includes 16 games of bingo and a buffet dinner. Cash bar will be available. Pre-order for Wine is now available.

Tables will be reserved for tickets purchased in groups of eight only. It will be at St. Mary's Byzantine Hall on Saturday March 9. Doors open @ 5:30 & dinner @ 6:00pm. (Dinner provided by 1812 Food & Spirits. Bingo begins @ 7:00pm.

Call and pay by Credit card at MPCOC 419-702-7492

ANOTHER THANK YOU RECEIVED FROM ST. MARY OF EGYPT ORTHODOX MISSION & CHAPEL

Dear Fr. Andrew & Parish,

Thank you for your donation of \$500. Your support helps to sustain the Mission, the Chapel and the Outreach Programs.

Last year, our Outreach Program distributed food to over 3,700 people--up over 300 individuals from the previous year. This food is purchased from the Cleveland Foodbank & donated by caring people like you.

With Love in Christ! Thank You.

THANK YOU RECEIVED FROM ST TIKHON'S SEMINARY

Dear Fr. Andrew,

Greetings on the feast of the Great Wonderworking Hierarch Nicholas! Among the most beloved stories from the life of St Nicholas is his work of charity, giving gold to provide for the futures of the daughters of a poor man. Through the church's donation of \$333 in November you are likewise helping to provide for the future of our 50 seminarians, as well as American Orthodox Theological and Pastoral Education in general.

This past month St Tikhon's hosted the annual Vocations retreat, inviting young people to come to seminary for a two-day retreat focused on their callings in the church and how the seminary might help them take the first steps on fulfilling those callings. This year's retreat was entitled *Training Disciple-Makers: "Am I called to be a Priest?"* And focused primarily on discerning a Priestly vocation. In all we are were privileged to host more than a dozen young men, all of whom felt some calling to serve the Lord. We hope to see some of them returning as students in the next academic year!

With love in Christ

V. Rev. John Parker III, D. Min, Seminary Dean

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES

Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and /or an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table. (Note: Father will be bringing his own.)
- Make a list of those living in the house including pets and all deceased you want prayed for.
- Turn off all TV's, radios, computers, etc. So as to keep focused on the blessing service.
- Make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- In some customs, someone (usually a child) takes a candle and leads Father through the house while the rest follow.
- If you have any items to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.). Put them on the table where the blessing will take place.
- When the priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table and join in the blessing. PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT.
- Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this tradition.

NOTE: Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

Strong Orthodox Christian presence anticipated at January 18 DC March for Life

January 22, 2019 marks the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States, and Orthodox Christians from across the US will be marking the occasion by participating in the annual March for Life in the US Capital on Friday, January 18.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon will join other Orthodox Christian hierarchs, seminarians, and clergy and faithful from around the country in the annual March, which will conclude with the celebration of Memorial Prayers for the victims of abortion near the US Capital. The theme of this year's March is "[Unique From Day One](#)".

The March will begin at noon on the grounds of the Washington Monument. Orthodox Christian participants are asked to gather at that time at the "Orthodox Christians for Life" banner, which will be prominently displayed at the southwest corner of 12th Street and Constitution Avenue.

Metropolitan Tikhon, together with Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek; His Eminence, Archbishop Michael; His Grace, Bishop Daniel; and representatives of the OCA Chancery staff will join other Orthodox Christian marchers for the opening rally and presentations prior to the March.

Representing the [Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America](#) will be His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of the [Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston](#).

Metropolitan Tikhon and an entourage from the OCA also will attend the annual Rose Banquet at the Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel on the evening of the March.

On the eve of the March—Thursday, January 17—Metropolitan Tikhon and the OCA delegation will attend the Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Slated to begin at 5:30 p.m., the Vigil will include a homily by the Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kansas City, KS and Chair of the US Conference of Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

General information on the DC March and Rose

Banquet — including details on making reservations — is available on the [March for Life website](#).

In related news, His Grace, Bishop Paul will lead Orthodox Christian marchers at [Chicago's March for Life](#) on Sunday, January 13. Marchers will gather at Federal Plaza at 2:00 p.m. for the opening program and march, which will conclude at 4:00 p.m.

The 15th Annual Walk for Life West Coast will be held in San Francisco on Sunday, January 26. A Pan-Orthodox Sanctity of Life service will be celebrated at the Civic Center at 11:30 p.m., while the rally and March will begin at 12:30 p.m. at Civic Center Plaza. [Additional information](#) is available online.

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon Sanctity of Life Sunday January 20, 2019

To the honorable Clergy, venerable Monastics, and pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

For forty-six years, we have lamented the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States of America. And for forty-six years, those who consider life to be a sacred gift from God have gathered each January in Washington, DC and elsewhere in this nation to proclaim this most sacred gift. Created as we are in the very image and likeness of God, we turn to the One Whom we worship as the "Giver of Life" in thanksgiving for sharing His very life with "every man who comes into the world," even "from his mother's womb."

In our liturgical worship, we continuously acknowledge God as the "Bestower of Life." And in doing so, we recognize that His precious gift is imparted at the moment of conception—a reality underscored in Luke 1:41, in which we read that John the Baptist "leaped" in his mother Elizabeth's womb, rejoicing in her encounter with the Mother of God. It has become increasingly evident, however, that proclaiming the sanctity of life involves much more than lamenting the legalization of abortion and protecting the unborn, crucial as these are.

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WATCH: Abortion activist tells kids: Abortion is ‘part of God’s plan,’ like visiting dentist

January 2, 2019 ([LifeSiteNews](#)) – By any definition, the video featuring a young woman chatting with children has now gone viral, racking up 822,00 hits by January 2. It is part of a series called “Kids Meet,” and prior episodes have included gimmicky setups like “Kids Meet A Bounty Hunter” as well as your typical progressive indoctrination sessions, such as “Kids Meet A Gender-Non-Conforming Person.” Each of those videos earned around 40,000 hits.

Their latest release, however, is different. Featuring the founder of “Shout Your Abortion” Amelia Bonow, it is titled “[Kids Meet Someone Who’s Had an Abortion](#)” and has Bonow explaining to children why aborting children is not only okay, but could actually be “all part of God’s plan.” Bonow, who has an extraordinarily hard-looking face, asks one young girl what she’s heard about abortion. “I don’t exactly know what happens, but you go and get rid of the baby,” the girl replied uncomfortably.

Bonow sets the record straight for them. “You go to the doctor, and they put this little straw inside of your cervix, and then inside of your uterus, and then they just suck the pregnancy out,” she replies. “And it was like a cr*ppy dentist appointment or something. It was just like, ‘This is a body thing that’s kind of uncomfortable,’ but then it was over, and I felt really just grateful that I wasn’t pregnant anymore.”

Bonow is the sort of activist who has never met an abortion she didn’t wholeheartedly support. Some of the older kids asked her if she had been reckless, and why she and her partner hadn’t used a condom. *Whatever*, was Bonow’s response. *We did what we wanted to do, and then got rid of the baby afterwards, easy peasy. What’s the big deal?* Even when the kids—and we’re talking about *kids* here—seemed uncomfortable with it, she assured them that there might be situations you just go with, in the moment, that might lead to needing an abortion later.

One African American boy couldn’t quite get over her cavalier attitude. Although he thought abortion was moral in some circumstances, he felt that “if, like, you are being reckless” then perhaps abortion was wrong.

“Do we want people to just have all those babies?” Bonow asks, not mentioning that it is the babies that would be “sucked” out of the uterus.

“No,” the boy replied.

“So what do we do with them?” she questions.

“Put them up for adoption,” he stated. Bonow disagreed, stating that this scenario would force her to “create life” and that it would mean she would have a child somewhere in the world. She also indicated that she doesn’t believe it is a life until the baby is actually born, although she referred to abortion throughout her brainwashing session as a solution to her unwanted baby. “I think it’s all part of God’s plan,” she asserted.

Bonow, of course, wasn’t forced to create life. She and her partner did that voluntarily. In fact, she reveals that they didn’t take any measures to *prevent* life from being created in the first place. It turns out that when you use your reproductive organs, reproduction can at times occur. That, unfortunately, is not the sort of thing that makes it into progressive sex education curriculums.

Bonow then turned her attention to the two young girls, one of whom identified as Catholic. The Catholic Church, the little girl noted, was opposed to abortion because it was “like, killing the baby.” Bonow, an adult, asked them pointedly what *they* thought. Shifting in obvious and understandable nervousness, one girl said uncertainly, “I think it’s up to you.” The other girl nodded: “Same.”

“I feel supported by that,” Bonow said approvingly, smiling creepily.

The entire video is a trainwreck of misinformation and abortion propaganda. Bonow makes fun of the fact that many people accurately highlight the scientific reality that life begins at conception, because she finds that fact very inconvenient to her ideology. She attempts to get a few kids chuckling about this, as well, hopeful that they have not, at this stage in their life, been exposed to embryology or a sonogram or ultrasound of a pre-born baby. Even then, one of the kids accidentally refers to the life in the womb as a “baby” at one point while explaining why he agrees with her. The truth has a way of getting out.

Bonow does helpfully explain to a couple of kids that she doesn’t call pro-lifers “pro-life,” but prefers to refer to them as “anti-choice.” After all, Bonow says unsubtly, “pro-life” is just a propaganda term because pro-lifers don’t want to take care of the poor, or help. **Con’t Pg 10**

Abortion Article Con't

people who have given birth to their babies. Bonow has either never heard of crisis pregnancy centers, or is lying, and very likely both. “You’re not pro-life, I’m pro-life,” she announced defensively, after explaining why she had to abort her baby just because she didn’t want one.

At the end of the video, one tattooed teenage girl—who is apparently very supportive of abortion—asked Bonow if she had any tattoos. Bonow responded by peeling back her lower lip to reveal the word “abortion” tattooed inside. Both of them found this to be hilarious.

This video is a perfect example of our society’s schizophrenic approach to science—and almost everything else. Science is important, except when it comes to life in the womb, where it becomes inconvenient for those wishing to shout their abortions at little kids without judgment for killing littler kids. Watching the video, it is hard to see Bonow as anything but a bully when she is talking to the smallest girls, because obviously they are only allowed to voice one opinion or they’ll promptly find themselves arguing with an adult abortion activist who spends her life defending her irresponsibility and subsequent feticide in public.

Interestingly, pro-life activists could tell Bonow what children really think when they encounter the idea of abortion. Most of them are instantly sad, and many of them ask a question that Bonow might have a hard time answering: “Who broke the baby?”

Luke 18:35-43 (*Gospel*)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.” Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Archpastoral Message Con't

While we so often speak of life “in the womb” and eternal life “beyond the tomb,” there are many related issues that are encountered “in between.” Our commitment to life of necessity extends to care for our infants, our infirm, our elderly—and ourselves. While expressing our concern and offering our prayers for the unborn, we are called to recognize that issues such as the opioid crisis, the cost of quality health care, capital punishment, the marked increase in addictions and suicide, to name but a few, are intimately connected to our recognition and proclamation of God’s gift of life.

Our Christian witness demands not only concern for the unborn, but a sense of responsibility to ensure that living a “life well lived”—seeking the blessedness to which we have been called—extends to the unborn and born alike. As we discern the will of God in our own lives, we are called to preserve and protect all life in recognition of God’s plan for His people on this earth and in anticipation of “the life of the world to come.”

As we mark this sorrowful anniversary, may we turn our attention to the “Giver of Life,” Who created us in His ever-abundant love. May we, each in our own way, proclaim His sacred gift. And may we embrace His will, that in all things He and He alone might be glorified as the “Fountain of Life” and the “Light of the world,” Who brings all mankind to that Kingdom which has yet to be fully revealed, but is already fully present in the life of His people, the Church.

With love in Christ,
+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

