

RESPECT LIFE

# Advocating *for the* vulnerable

From the unborn to the elderly:  
**Our commitment to all lives**



**DEACON MARK  
DESROSIERS**

is assigned to the  
Catholic Community  
of the Good Shepherd  
in Bolton, Columbia  
and Hebron.

**T**he sanctity of life is a cornerstone of our Catholic faith, affirming that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. Our diocese's Pro-Life Committee is unwavering in its commitment to upholding this sacred value, spearheading numerous initiatives that foster a culture of life within our community. The following pages showcase the profound ways in which our

Pro-Life Ministry embodies our faith.

One of the most powerful expressions of our commitment is through prayer. Our monthly Pro-Life Masses are dedicated to praying not only for the unborn but for all those impacted by the culture of death, including the elderly, the terminally ill and those on death row. These Masses are a vital opportunity to seek God's guidance and strength as we advocate for the dignity of every human being.

As you explore the next few pages, you will witness the transformative power of living the Gospel. Those who engage with our ministry are not only helping to change hearts and minds but are also experiencing profound personal transformation. Together, we are making a lasting impact on our community and beyond.





# Walking with Moms:

## *A parish initiative in action*

Pro-Life Committee's diaper drive reflects community commitment and compassion to aid pregnant and parenting mothers across the Diocese of Norwich



Even before the *Dobbs* decision, which reversed *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) asked parishes to support mothers in need with a nationwide, parish-based initiative called Walking with Moms in Need. Its purpose is to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. The Holy Trinity Pro-Life Committee, composed of parishioners from St. John's Church in Old Saybrook, St. Mark's Church in Westbrook and Christ the King in Old Lyme, has taken on this initiative. Our first step in this process was to contact the pregnancy care centers in our diocese to identify the resources available to moms through the centers and to determine how our parishes could support the centers in meeting the ongoing needs of their clients. The most obvious and simple need we could address quickly for all the pregnancy care centers was diapers for infants and toddlers.

The Holy Trinity Pro-Life Committee responded by running a diaper drive to benefit the clients of the pregnancy centers located in the Norwich Diocese. We collected diapers and baby wipes during July. Parishioners generously donated 7,091 diapers and 209 packages of wipes. Purchasing diapers and baby wipes is a baby step on the part of parishioners; however, the material support for the moms and families is substantial.

Members of the committee volunteered to collect the donations and distribute them to the pregnancy care centers: ABC Women's Center in Middletown, Anchor of Hope in New London,

Eastern Connecticut Women's Center in Willimantic and Birthright in Westbrook and New London. Lisa Maloney, LMFT, executive director of Anchor of Hope, stated in her thank you note to the committee: "It is exciting to provide our clients with items that communicate a simple yet profound message: We care about you!" This sentiment, "we care about you," is exactly what the USCCB's Walking with Moms in Need initiative is aiming to convey.

Every pregnancy care center the committee visited provides a warm, welcoming and comforting environment for their clients. Each center offers a life-affirming environment. A young mother of two from Anchor of Hope stated she didn't know how she would make it without the support and assistance from the center. The consistent message she receives from the center is that she is not alone. The goal of pregnancy care centers is to promote a culture of life.

-Holy Trinity Pro-Life Committee