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Whether blessing or burden

Together, we stand united for LIFE!

Becky Visosky, Executive Director
Catholic Pro-Life Committee

Dear Friend of Life,

A new shepherd is in town, and he's already amazed by you, our pro-life community. Of course, I am speaking of the Most Reverend Edward J. Burns who now serves as our eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas. We had the honor of welcoming him at his first Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner where his enthusiasm was infectious. When thanked for being a part of the evening, he remarked that he wouldn't have missed joining so many of his faithful to celebrate Life! This coming fall will be another first for our new Bishop as he celebrates our Respect Life Mass, co-sponsored by the pro-life apostolates in the diocese.

While our city is blessed with a joyful new spiritual leader, we are also burdened by a new wound. During Lent, a third abortion facility reopened – Northpark. Thanks to the generous prayers and support of so many, we were present even before it opened its doors in peaceful prayer and public witness. Indeed, on Ash Wednesday, one of our sidewalk counselors was outside the facility to offer prayers and discovered the Holy Spirit had other plans. During her prayer time, a couple arrived believing the facility was open only to find our counselor and husband standing ready with loving alternatives, which they tearfully accepted. God is so good when we least expect it!!

Sadly, the doors of Northpark still opened to threaten God's innocent children and the souls of so many suffering parents. But we remain committed to stand sentry at this new front line, as well as the two other abortion facilities in Dallas. And since January, we have seen firsthand the transformative power of being Christ's hands and feet in these dark places – with over 165 abortion-minded mothers choosing life!!

Our mission to protect God's precious gift of Life not only extends to the beginning of life but also to the end. Our decisions when faced with death can be difficult as we try to navigate medical and legal issues in accordance with our faith. This can be even more challenging for Catholic professionals who are tasked with guiding us through these complex decisions. To assist in this journey, our next Do No Harm conference on September 23rd will focus on end-of-life issues with an incredible lineup of experts, including Fr. Tad Pacholczyk from the National Catholic Center of Bioethics and Greg Schleppenbach from the U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Secretariat, plus many more. This conference is a critical, collaborative effort of the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, the local Catholic physicians and lawyers guilds, as well as the Fort Worth Diocese, Christus Health, and University of Dallas. I hope you (and your doctor and attorney) can join us for this important opportunity. More information is available at www.donoharmconference.org.

Thank you for all you do to make these opportunities for celebration, transformation and education possible.

Grace and blessings,

On cover: Prayer-goers at Good Friday Pro-Life Stations of the Cross outside Southwestern abortion facility