

Christ Our Light Parish

Saint Benedict Catholic Church, Corner of North 7th Street & Gomber Avenue, Cambridge OH Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory, 136 East High Avenue, Lore City OH Mailing: Christ Our Light Parish Office, 701 Gomber Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725 Phone: (740) 432-7609 Fax: (740) 439-0800 Email: col_office@catholicweb.com Website: www.christourlightparish.com

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Chapel and continues from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church. **BAPTISMS:** Families desiring baptism for their child must be registered in the parish. Parents must attend a preparation class. **BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Articles must be submitted in writing by noon on Wednesdays, inserts a week early, and are subject to approval by the pastor. Space is limited, so we reserve the right to edit.

FACEBOOK PAGE: Live-Streamed Mass every day. "Christ Our Light Parish, Guernsey County, OH." **HOSPITAL VISITATION:** Please call immediately if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS, AND THE HOMEBOUND: If you or a loved one wishes to

receive the Eucharist or have regular pastoral visits, please call the parish office.

RECONCILIATION:

St. Benedict Church - Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory - Sundays at 11:45 a.m. And by Appointment

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Parish School of Religion (PSR) classes for children in grades K through 8 are held Sunday mornings from September to May.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):

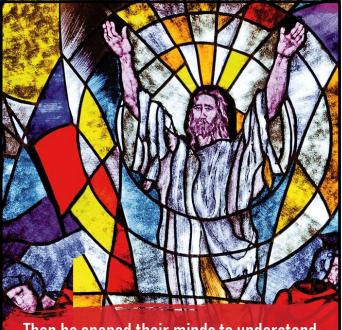
Adult preparation for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Call Fr. Hrezo or Pat Farley for information.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS: Anyone wishing to schedule Masses on special days, especially weekends, should do so at least 6 months in advance.

WEDDINGS: Arrangements must be made six months in advance.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: Registration forms can be found at the church, oratory and parish office.

Third Sunday of Easter April 18, 2021



Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day..."

Luke 24:45-46

Pastor

1 45(0)
Fr. Paul Hrezophrezo@diosteub.org
Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Robert D. Borerrdaleb9940@gmail.com
Office Manager
Therese Terrell col_office@catholicweb.com
Office Assistant
Nancy Bryan col_office@catholicweb.com
Director of Religious Education
Patricia Farley col_dre@catholicweb.com
(home - 740-439-2255)
Bulletin Deadline Noon Wednesday

Pastoral Minister

Sister Sharon Paul	
St. Benedict Church Social Ha	all
Parish Offices	701 Gomber Avenue
Office Hours	
Convent	319 North Seventh Street
Franciscan Sisters of Christian	Charity 740-255-5912
St. Benedict School	220 North Seventh Street
Phone	
Web Site	www.stbenedictschool.net
St. Vincent de Paul Society	
Web Sitewww.colsvdp.org	Phone 740-432-7609 x 207



AS IN OUR DIOCESAN GUIDELINES:

Everyone is <u>"STRONGLY ENCOURAGED</u> to wear face masks" at Mass and when in the church buildings. Please let us consider each others' concerns and health needs while attending Mass and times of prayer together.

Mass Intentions for the Week of April 18, 2021

Saturday, April 17	5:00pm	SB	† Margaret Bride (Birthday) by Annie Bride
Sunday, April 18 (Thin	rd Sunday o 8:00am 10:30am 12:15pm 3:00pm	f Easter) SB SB SSPP SB	People of Christ Our Light Parish † Dorothy Lackney by Norma Longinie † Sean Finnegan by Mother and Family Intentions of Today's Confirmands
Monday, April 19	8:35am	SB	* Agnes Lehotay by Jeremy and Kerry Muhl
Tuesday, April 20	8:35am 6:00pm	SB SSPP	† George Sabanos by Debbie, Therese, Nancy and Kathy † Ted Bailey by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jirles
Wednesday, April 21	8:35am	SB	† Daniel Yurick by Clare Becker
Thursday, April 22	8:35am 9:45am	SB SB	 † Al Mueser by the Mueser Family † Margaret Ann Paul by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (School Mass, not open to the public at this time)
Friday, April 23	8:35am	SB	† Marjorie Mills by Linda Pawlowski
Saturday, April 24	8:35am 5:00pm	SB SB	† Mary Sassone by Fr. Hrezo People of Christ Our Light Parish
Sunday, April 25 (Fou	rth Sunday 8:35am 10:30am 12:15pm	of Easter SB SB SSPP	 * Joe and Pauline Miller (Anniversary) by Family * Alex Henry (Anniversary) by Family * Lawrence L. Finnegan by Mother and Family

Ministers of the Altar for Saturday & Sunday, April 24-25, 2021				
	Saturday (SB) 5:00 p.m.	Sunday (SB) 8:00 a.m.	Sunday (SB) 10:30 a.m.	Sunday (SSPP) 12:15 p.m.
Lectors	Alycia Oswald	Sharon Miller	Gene Mailot	Betty Duche'
Ushers	Donald Poole	Craig Stickelmeyer	Jacob Padden	Eugene Duke
Cantors	Audrey Kuklica	Mary Schlacks	Choir	

Blood Pressure Screenings Next Sunday, April 25, 2021 1:15 p.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Rectory



Face masks are required and proper precautions and cleaning of equipment between persons will be followed.

The Catholic Women's Club will meet Tuesday, April 20th, with Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting to follow in the Social Hall. Masks and social distancing will be required. All women of the parish are invited to attend. The Mass is open to all parishioners.

Schedule for This Week

Sunday, April 18

After Masses	Scrip Sales (SB Marian Room)
9:15am	Parish School of Religion (SB
	Church)
11:45am	Confession (SSPP Oratory)
3:00pm	Confirmation Mass (SB
	Church)
Monday, April 19	
9:00am	Rosary (SB Church)
5:00pm	Samaritan Center Meeting (SB
	Conference Room)
Tuesday, April 20	
9:00am	Rosary (SB Church)
6:00pm	Mass (SSPP Oratory)
6:30pm	Catholic Women's Club (SSPP
	Social Hall)
Wednesday, April 2	1
9:00am	Rosary (SB Church)
9:00am-4:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration (SB
	Chapel)
4:00-9:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration Continues
	(SB <u>Church</u>)
4:30pm	Evening Prayer and Benediction
	(SB Church)
Thursday, April 22	
9:00am	Rosary (SB Marian Room)
6:30pm	RCIA (SB Social Hall)
Friday, April 23	
9:00am	Rosary (SB Church)
Saturday, April 24	
9:00am	Rosary (SB Church)
10:00am	First Holy Communion Retreat
	(SB Church)
4:00pm	Confession (SB Church)
Sunday, April 25	
After Masses	Scrip Sales (SB Marian Room)
9:15am	Parish School of Religion (SB
	Church)
11:45am	Confession (SSPP Oratory)
	Blood Pressure Screenings
	(SSPP Rectory)



First Communion:

- Retreat to be held on Saturday, April 24th, at 10:00 a.m at St. Benedict Church
- Celebrated Sunday, May 2nd, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Benedict Church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CASH BONANZA TICKETS ARE HERE!



Take a chance to win one of 25 PRIZES totaling \$108,000. All you need to do is to buy a winning ticket. Tickets are only \$5 each or 4 for \$20.

Your participation gives us the opportunity to support charitable causes, such as the Salvation Army, Right to Life, St. Benedict School, Christ Our Light Parish, St. Vincent de Paul, Freedom House (Cambridge's homeless shelter), special needs kids, homes that were hit by fire, and more. We distributed approximately \$8,000 last year. Because of a challenging 2020, it took away our fundraising breakfasts and fish frys.

To purchase tickets see a local Knight, get tickets at the Church office, contact John Sprouse at 740-432-3254 or Ron Engott at 740-685-5759. If you would like to make a DONATION, you can place a check in the church collection made payable to the *Knights* of Columbus #1641 and in the memo space, write donation. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Knights of Columbus Cambridge Council 1641 Announces Cash Bonanza First Ticket Turn in Winner:

Our \$250 winner was Joe Miller from Pleasant City. The Ticket was sold by Jeff Ross. Joe's winning ticket will be turned into the State Drawing for a chance to win one of the \$108,000 worth of prizes. You can still buy tickets before the second and final turn in. Please buy tickets by May 5th, see bulletin for details.

WE THANK ALL THAT SUPPORT OUR CHARITABLE CAUSES.

Offertory for April 10-11, 2021

Weekly Budget Amount	Needed \$9,000.00
Rice Bowl	
Miscellaneous	
Children	
Easter	
Adults	\$8,511.10

With faith and hope in the Risen Lord, we pray for the eternal peace and happiness of:

William Bodner Valerie Wallo (Mother of Melanie Birchfield)





Please pray for <u>all</u> God's children who are ill, homebound or in nursing homes, and those who care for them.

Megan Archer, Judy Beaver, Larry Beck, Dorothy Bednarski, Jon and Jeanie Bennett, Joe Bennor, Whitney Benson, Kathy Billi, Steve Bodner, Frank Booth, Brinley Boyd, Imelda Bruney, David Callihan, Rosie Campbell, Diane Carkin, Jeff Carpenter, Patti Cartner, Milt Cerny, the Chesler Family, Monica Chicwak, Yung Chuang, Karen Chumney, Lee Cline, Mrs. Theresa Cochran, Andy Colvin, Mike Cowgill, Anita Cox, Jennifer Cox, Linda Delik, Peggy Ditto, Angie Doerfler, Carl James Duch, Patty Eibel, Liam Elliott, Mary Evans, Don Fairchild, Betty Fannin, Jen Fannin, William "Buzzy" Ferguson, Irene Feyko, Marsha Finley, Fran Frohman, Greg Gibson, Pat Graven, Louise Hack and Family, Steve Hall, Dave Hanes, Stephen Hannum, Mark Hayes, Mary Ann Haynes, Violes Henry, Betty Hill, Karen Jakubisin Hinrichs, Dolly Hitzel, Ted Hoey, Angie Pruneski House, Sally and Payton Hubal, Laverne Ingles, David and Paul Iten, Rachel Jirles, Josh Jones, Diane Krall, William Kyser Jr., Amara Larrison, Martin Lehotay, Mary Long, Andrea May, Lisa McGregor, Joyce McPeak, Keagan Meek, Angela Merva, Haley Morris, Irvin Moxley, Alice Orr, Mary Ann Pachuta, John Palmer, Dick and Frances Pavlov, Linda Pawlowski, Sally Pfalzgraf, Ben Pickenpaugh, Don Ross, Emma Ross, Mary Schmid, Jett Schmitt, Terri Scott, Vi Scott, Rosemary Sebek, Irene Sekel, Steve Shedlock Jr., John Shipley, Pat Siegwarth, Joe & Joan Sikora, Carys Singler, Mallory Smith, Mike Smith, William Smith, Ramona Springer, John Sprouse, Louie Stahovec, Mark Stahovec, Mary Stoner, Stephen Storch, Ken Stump, Loran Stutz, Chris Seward, Steve and Ethel Stasny, Margaret Urdak, Gerald Warner, JoMarie Wasik, James Weidlich, Matthew Wentzel, Bill and Cathy Whitmire, Diana Whitmire, Don & Grace Whitmore, Jodie Williams, Andrea Yakubik, Helen Yakubik

We ask your prayers for all men and women serving in our armed forces and those who put themselves in harm's way to protect and serve others, especially those connected to our parish: Steven Barrows, Makenzi Carna, Becky Chesar, Phillip



Cram, Carl Duch, Scott Fearn, Josh Fletcher, Luke High, Travis Jackson, Jeremy Jones, Stephen J. Kraizel IV, Michael Kuhns, Joshua Lucas, Ryan McGough, Jeff McKnight, William Miller, J.C. Minarchek, Josh Norris, Anthony Stevens, Jesse Walters, Sean Weir, Steven Whaley, Zac Wilson, Ethan Wray

Please Pray for our Priests

April 18	Rev. Angelo Casimiro, MIC
	Msgr. John Kolesar
April 19	Msgr. Robert Kawa
	Msgr. Gerald Calovini
April 20	Rev. Anthony Rumpf
	Rev. Walter Heinz
April 21	Our Holy Father
April 22	Msgr. Anthony Giannamore
	Rev. Basil Corriere, ec
April 23	Rev. August Deasio
	Rev. David Huffman
April 24	Rev. Nicholas Polichnowski, TOR
	Rev. Joseph Safraniec
April 25	Rev. William Wagner, ORC
	Rev. James Dunfee



The Pro-Life Rosary will be prayed before all Masses the first Sunday in May.

Table of Plenty

Suggested food donations for Grace Pantry for April are noodles and peanut butter. Please place your donations in the marked box in the Marian Room of St. Benedict Church.



The Chalkboard

St. Benedict School Faithfully Educating God's Children Since 1911

Confirmation Mass will be held this Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Congratulations to our school Confirmands: Ethan Daniels, Kara Desjarlais, Cami Moore, Geir Pyscher, Tate Sikora, Grady Forbes, Tyrell Mullen, Grace Feldner, and Adam Feldner.

We are still enrolling for most grade levels for the 2021-2022 school year. The application window for the EdChoice Scholarship program will be closing at the

SCHOOL JOB OPENINGS:

School Secretary

The Secretary for St. Benedict School manages the school office and performs a multitude of tasks to support the teaching staff and Principal as well as the children and parents of the school community.

The successful candidate must possess the following key skills: demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, a friendly demeanor, is highly organized, good time management, effective communication skills, maintains high levels of confidentiality, accurate financial record keeping and proficient with technology (email, Microsoft Office and data base management programs). Practicing Catholic is preferred.

This is a full-time, 10 ½ -month position, August 1 – June 15; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Interested candidates should contact Principal Sue Sanders for a complete Job Description and Application at **740-432-6751 or sue.sanders@omeresa.net**.

Long Term Kindergarten Substitute Teacher (August 16-October 14):

St. Benedict School is seeking a long term Kindergarten substitute teacher for the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

Candidate must hold valid State of Ohio teaching license, non-tax license or substitute license, willing to take Safe Environment training, and pass BCI and FBI background checks. Interested candidates should contact Sue Sanders at 740-432-6751 or sue.sanders@omeresa.net. end of this month, so please encourage any friends or family members interested in registering for next year to contact the school office soon if they believe they may qualify for an income based scholarship.

Congratulations to Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Kelli Bruns who will be expecting her first child this summer!

Please continue to pray for our students, staff and school as we journey through the remainder of this year with "Jesus as our Guide".

In His Name, Sue Sanders



The Christ Our Light Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul wishes to thank everyone who has prayed for us, who has given us financial support directly or through the monthly needy collections and also to those who have helped to fill our winter jacket closet and hat/glove box.

We try very hard to show compassion to those who ask for our help and at the same time to be prudent stewards of your generous donations. Although stimulus and FEMA money has given much relief to many in Guernsey County there are some who have not received any assistance.

Since we restarted our services about one year ago we have worked with 431 people in requesting households. Of those requests 143 families received some material aid and the remaining were given referrals to area agencies.

If you would like to know more about the workings of our conference and the commitment of a Vincentian, please leave a message at the parish office, 740-432-7609 ext. 207. We have a need for someone to help with maintenance of our website and computer data; this can be done on a flexible schedule.

And finally, please pray for our neighbors in need and for us as we try on your behalf to give the love of Christ to them and to each other.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 24, 2021

Like the Good Shepherd that lays down his life for the sake of his sheep, Jesus lays down his life for us

that we might have eternal life. Mindful of God's unconditional love, let us ask the Lord for mercy for the times we have strayed from the fold.

The mission of the Church is to shepherd; to preach, to heal, and to give witness with our lives.

The Gospel presents the Good Shepherd as one who is both gentle and powerful. He leads his flock by the sound of his voice. The Good Shepherd has power to lay down his life and the power to raise it up again. He is willing to die rather than abandon his sheep.

When the disciples claim the power of the Risen Lord by healing a crippled man, they are put in jail.

Peter proclaims that it is by the power of the name of Jesus that the man was healed. It is a sign of the

Resurrection. "You crucified him. But God raised him from the dead."

Continued healing and preaching are signs that the Good Shepherd is among us.

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Jesus is the stone rejected by the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

How do you show that Jesus is the "cornerstone" of your life?

<u>1 John 3:1-2</u> Beloved, we are God's children now. How do you show you are a child of God each day of your life?

<u>John 10:11-18</u>

I am the Good Shepherd. Can you recall a situation when it had to be the Good Shepherd who

brought you through it?

After we celebrate Easter, there are several subsequent Sundays that have a

specific theme, such as Divine Mercy Sunday, Holy Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi Sunday. Next week, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we observe Good Shepherd Sunday.

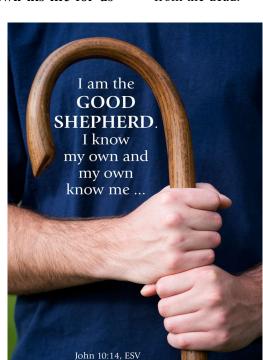
In next Sunday's Gospel reading from John chapter 10, we hear Jesus make the statement, "I am the good shepherd." Jesus uses "I am" statements forty-five times in the Gospel of John. With each of these statements Jesus describes the various ways that he is a bridge between heaven and earth. For example, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life" (6:35); "I am the light of the world" (8:12); "I am the gate" (10:9); "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25) "I am the true vine" (15:1). In these statements Jesus connects some concrete image with himself.

Recall how God responded when Moses encountered God's presence in the burning bush on Mt. Sinai, in

Exodus chapter 3. Moses asked God for his name so that he could tell the enslaved Hebrew people which of the gods was going to set them free. God said that His name is "I am." He is not one of a pantheon of gods! He is the one God! So, through using all of these "I am" statements, Jesus very boldly called himself God on the one hand and then very mercifully helped us to know more clearly the nature of God on the other hand.

"I am the good shepherd." Yes, this is an echo of Psalm 23 when King David so beautifully described God with that image about 250 years after Moses and about 1,000 years before Jesus. Other prophets, especially Ezekiel, were inspired by shepherding imagery as well.

Being a shepherd was tough business in biblical times. According to <u>Magnificat</u> devotional magazine (April 2015, p. 310-312), shepherds often had great responsibilities, sometimes with herds of thousands. They also had to contend with a whole spectrum of dangers: hyenas, jackals, wolves, bears, human enemies, burning heat by day, and the bitter cold of nighttime desert air. It's not



. . . .

surprising that shepherds would wear out over time and lose their enthusiasm for being a good shepherd.

But, God is our <u>good</u> shepherd who <u>continues</u> to be a good shepherd. He has made a *covenant* with us – the most enduring kind of promise – to be our good shepherd. He entered into our world, taking on our very humanity, to show that he guides us and loves us from within. His concern for us, even as straying sheep, is not exhausted. We read beautifully in Lamentations 3:22-23, "[The Lord's acts of mercy] are renewed each morning – great is your faithfulness!"

Jesus showed us that he is the ultimate good shepherd who not only laid down his life for all of his sheep but also has power to take it up again. Through love, expressed by our Good Shepherd, we encounter the power that is greater than any danger, even death itself.

"I know my sheep and my sheep know me" (John 10:14)!

Pastor's Letter

This past week I experienced another chapter of my recent personal health odyssey. In the end, this chapter has a good ending, but the steps along the way were eye-opening.

Briefly, when I took the COVID-19 test in December, my symptoms turned out to be related to high blood pressure rather than the coronavirus, thankfully, in a way. At that time, they conducted an EKG, which prompted the need for a cardiac stress test. Between the time of the COVID-19 test and the stress test I had already begun on the weight loss trail, down now by ~16 lbs. since the beginning of February.

The stress test showed on the positive side that the blood pressure is well under control, but there was also a "blip" of some kind that concerned the cardiologist. Therefore, he ordered that a heart catherization be conducted. "But, just don't worry about it," he encouraged. Oh, boy, that was not easy to do!

This past week was the heart catherization. That provided me with a number of firsts. I have been blessed, thankfully, again, with very good health. I also worked as an orderly at a hospital in Tulsa for a couple summers while I was in college. And, as many of you know, I have had opportunities to visit many, many parishioners in hospitals as part of sacramental visitations. This past week was the very first time for me to have the other perspective. This was the first time that I rode in a wheelchair as a patient. This is the first time that I had an IV for fluids. This was also the first time to be wheeled down the hallway in a hospital bed on the way to the catherization procedure – something I had done for others so many times as an orderly.

The crew of surgery nurses were like a NASCAR pit crew prepping everything so efficiently with amazing coordination. Thankfully, again (yes, there is a theme here!), the catherization itself showed the arteries, veins and heart to be normal, with signs of good blood flow. Blockages are not a concern. I'm happy to be "normal" in this way!

As much as I'd like to start training for a marathon now, I know we have plenty of other parish and diocesan activities to focus on. I'm grateful to have the relief of this health odyssey taking these positive turns!

Instead of a marathon, I see that the organization that helped to coordinate the matching funds and the 7 tons of food to our twin parish in Haiti is conducting a virtual 5K through Half-Marathon. This is to raise funds for the Visitation Hospital Foundation:

"Visitation Hospital Foundation is having a virtual race across Haiti to benefit Visitation Clinic in Petite Riviere de Nippes. VHF is a spinoff of the Parish Twinning Program and was founded in 1999." They have a 5K for \$20, a 10K for \$30, or a 1/2 Marathon for \$40; you may also register simply to donate.

https://runsignup.com/Race/TN/ VHFHeadquartersarelocatedinNashville/RaceforHaiti

May the Lord help us to experience the transforming power of God's love and mercy. Happy Easter!

During the 40 Days for Life 2021 during Lent, 505 babies were saved from abortion.



Knowing that "with God, all things are possible," people of faith and conscience united for 40 days to save babies and their parents from abortion. <u>Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting.</u> The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Following are stories from the vigils:

From Columbine to 40 Days for Life

As a high school sophomore, Jenica spent her lunch hour *every day* studying in the Columbine High School library. But on April 20, 1999, a strong, *irresistible* urge to leave the building led her and a friend to grab lunch at a local restaurant instead. Minutes later, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold opened fire on their classmates, killing 12 students and a teacher — most of them in that same library — while wounding 24 others.

In the aftermath of the massacre, Jenica struggled with hopelessness... but an encounter with Jesus Christ led her to become a Christian — and then a Catholic religious sister.

Having survived the senseless violence at Columbine, Sister Mary Gianna now prays weekly at her local 40 Days for Life vigil to end the senseless violence of abortion. She has sidewalk counseled at the Planned Parenthood in Washington, D.C. and addressed 40 Days for Life volunteers in Dayton, OH.

Sister Mary Gianna plans to further contribute to promoting respect for life in the medical field as she pursues her nursing degree. She'll have help completing her education as she was **recently named the winner of 40 Days for Life's 4040 Scholarship**. To apply for the next scholarship, visit: **40daysforlife.com/scholarship**.

For the rest of Sister Mary Gianna's powerful story, visit 40daysforlife.com/magazine and sign up for your **free subscription to** *Day 41* **magazine**.

"Planned Parenthood Would Kill My Baby"

Planned Parenthood is abortion. The abortion empire

provides other services as window dressing... but while its prenatal care, adoption referrals and legitimate women's health services continue to drop, Planned Parenthood is doing record numbers of abortions. When 40 Days for Life participants in Orange, California offered free help to a Planned Parenthood client, the woman snapped back, **"They aren't giving me ANY** help here [at Planned Parenthood]!" The 6.5-week pregnant mom had no intention of having an abortion but went to Planned Parenthood seeking a prenatal visit. **"I think Planned Parenthood would rather kill my baby than help me,"** the mother continued.

The woman said that during a previous pregnancy, **she came to Planned Parenthood for an ultrasound, but Planned Parenthood tried scheduling her for an abortion** instead. With direction from vigil participants, the woman went to a nearby pregnancy help center. "They were super nice and helpful," she reported. "I go back in a week for another ultrasound. Thank you, again."

<u>Sin</u>

Abortion is many things, but at its worst, it is a sin. Sin is not a popular topic in our world today (even among many Christians) as we have dangerously lost the sense of sin.

Without sin, Jesus Christ would not have needed to lay down His life, suffer, and die. Without the acknowledgement of sin, we cannot receive forgiveness. By denying the reality of sin, we rob Jesus Christ of the powerful offering of His mercy. As the timeless phrase goes, we allow the devil to steal our shame.

Preacher and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer called this cheap grace: "Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the Cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." Fulton Sheen said, "Forgiveness is not cheap. If He offered it without a Cross, you would not take it. That Cross is the price God paid to buy you from your sins. Without it, there is neither sin nor God." The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are our hope and our joy. They are why we go pray at abortion facilities... We must show up at abortion facilities, not because we are sinless, but because we are sinners who know Jesus Christ will forgive any sin and set us free. Sin is at the root of the abortion crisis — the sins that lead to abortion, the sins of silence surrounding abortion, and the sins of those who do the abortions.

Sin is how we got here. But sin is not how the story ends as we see in the women, babies, abortion workers, and all those impacted by the healing love of Jesus Christ. [Now] is a beautiful time to thank God for the gift of His Son and to ask how He can use YOU as a vessel of His mercy and love to combat the evil of abortion.

Please know that our team will be praying for you and your family this week, and we look forward to sharing the amazing results of how God's mercy is conquering the sin of abortion in local neighborhoods during the largest spring campaign ever.

We trust in the power of the resurrection and the mercy of Jesus Christ — for ourselves and the whole world. That is what is ending and will end abortion.

Shawn Carney, President/CEO and Co-founder of 40 Days for Life

