

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Young People Issue a Challenge: "Come Join the Chorus for Life"
Pro-Life Youth Conference Set for April 17, 2010
ON LINE REGISTRATION AT WWW.PROLIFEYOUTH.COM

Conference is \$15 if pre-registered by April 10th and \$20 at the door. Attendees also receive an all-new 2010 pro-life T-shirt. Registration opens at noon, conference at 12:30, concluding at 4:30 with the Rosary and Mass. Action continues with included dinner, swing dance lessons and choice of an evening concert with House of Heroes www.thehouseofheroes.com or movie BELLA, concluding at 9:00. Concert or Movie only admission is at 7:00pm for \$10.

Clarkston, MI – "If you believe human life is sacred, learn how to live and defend your beliefs!

This challenge is being issued by the young people organizing the seventh annual Pro-Life Youth Conference "Building Bridges to a Culture of Life" scheduled for April 17, at Everest Collegiate High School in Clarkston, Michigan.

The 2010 theme: "The Innocents: Let Their Song be Sung" is inspired by The Holy Innocents, those babies slaughtered in Bethlehem in King Herod's attempt to kill the Christ-child. "We view offenses against the dignity of human life as another attack against Christ Himself, where He is found among the innocent victims of today," said Daniel Popiel, DeLaSalle senior Student Co-Chair.

Local high school and college students who plan the event articulate their beliefs in an official statement: "We are Pro-Life youth of Metro Detroit. We uphold the dignity of every human life, from the moment of conception until natural death... We are daring to live our beliefs as best as we know how." www.prolifeyouth.com

"We know what appeals to the young people because we *are* those young people!" said Sarah Luttinen, a sophomore at Everest Collegiate serving on the planning committee. "We want to reach out to our peers and encourage them to make their voices heard by joining our network of young pro-lifers, to make a difference by helping others who are struggling with difficult choices to make a life giving choice. We are the Church today.

Featured speakers will share personal experiences and give powerful testimony of how they combat today's culture of death, helping youth to better discern their beliefs.

Opening Keynote panel will include: **Rebecca Kiessling**, family law attorney and mother of five children, who will testify to her life as a child conceived in rape who was nearly aborted. "Of all the speaking I do," Rebecca proclaims, "addressing youth is my favorite. I get to reach them before they have fully formed their opinions on abortion and before they head off to college, so that they are well equipped." Find out more about Rebecca at www.rebeccakiessling.com.

Gianna Jessen, also on the panel, is a Christian who believes her life was given to her by the grace of God. She shouldn't be walking, but more miraculous still; she should not

even be alive. Gianna's biological mother was 17 when she had a saline abortion in her third trimester and after being burned alive for approximately 18 hours in the womb from the saline solution, Gianna was delivered alive. www.giannajessen.com

Michele Yax, Executive Director of Mother and Unborn Baby Care Crisis Pregnancy Center will join the keynote panel to discuss the fallacy of "choice" and how abortion actually harms rather than helps women. www.womenwhocare.com

Photo Journalist **Michael Clancy**, who took the famous picture of pre-born (twenty-one week old) Samuel grasping the doctors' finger during in-utero surgery to correct his spina bifida, will share what he views as his "God-given" mission to deliver the message his picture conveys, (See the photo www.michaelclancy.com.)

Jason Jones, co producer of Bella and founder of I am Whole Life will deliver the closing Keynote, encouraging students to take the whole life pledge, "I promise to always promote and protect human dignity from the child in the womb to the child in Darfur, from the embryo to the elderly, no matter the cost to myself." www.lamwholelife.com

Workshops will be offered to help young people explore ways they can learn to sing their own song a little louder. The workshops will include:

- **The Broken Heart Sings** -Popular Culture and the Media with Jason Jones
- **This is my Song** - The rest of my story with Rebecca Kiessling
- **Communicating Life** - Michael Clancy on using creative talents to dignify life
- **Defending the Innocent** - Life Issue Apologetics with Gods Precious Infants' Sidewalk Counselor and U of D Jesuit Theology Teacher, Matthew Hill.
- **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made** - Science and beauty of in-utero development through videotography from Priests for Life, hosted by Shannon Wygant
- **Make an IMPACT for Life:** Learning How to Give a "Life Talk" with Pinckney ProLife
- **From Lamentations Come Joy:** Michele Yax explains resources of Problems Pregnancy Centers and how lives are changed and saved there
- **What's at Stake –Let your Voice be heard!**-The importance of Political engagement
- **Finding your Song in the Psalms** – Using the Lexio Divina process, listen to the voice of God speaking directly to you.
- **Song of Songs** - Girl ~ Guy breakout sessions

Those attending will be invited to help build the Culture of Life through their talents, strengthened through the sacraments of Confession and Eucharist. **Archbishop Allen Vigneron**, Archbishop of Detroit, will celebrate a 4:30 pm Sunday Liturgy to culminate the conference.

Baby Items will be accepted for local Crisis Pregnancy Centers at the door.

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Building Bridges to a Culture of Life (www.prolifeyouth.com)