

## *SAINT CLEMENT PARISH RESPECT FOR LIFE*

*We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.*

*The Respect Life Ministry is dedicated to enhancing the awareness and appreciation for God's great gift of human life. We seek to convert hearts and minds on all life issues and to transform society into a Culture of Life where every human being is valued and protected; the unborn as well as the elderly and infirmed.*

*We are caught up in the mission of the Church and we commit ourselves to work for the enhancement of human dignity at every stage of life... We seek to work together with all people of good will as advocates for life and see as our special mission the work of calling our brothers and sisters in the faith to an increased respect for life.*

*Our Mission is to promote and protect the inviolable right to life of all God's children, especially the most defenseless: "For whatever you do to the last of these my brothers, you do unto me."*

*It is the goal of the Respect Life Committee here at St. Clement Parish to assist parishioners in understanding and embracing the Church's vision of human life and dignity, both in our individual lives and families, and as a Catholic community.*

*The Respect Life Ministry through prayer, communication and education, strives to promote and protect the God-given dignity of human life from conception to natural death in keeping with the teachings of Christ as articulated by the Roman Catholic Church.*

## **Respect Life Abortion Facts:**

- Abortion is legal in the U.S. throughout all nine months of a pregnancy.
- 50 Million abortions have occurred in the U.S. since Roe v. Wade in 1973.
- One out of three (1/3) of all pregnancies in the U.S. end in an abortion.
  - Most abortions (90%+) are performed as a means of birth control.
- 55% of unwanted pregnancies occurred while using some form of birth control.
- 47% of women having an abortion have had one or more previous abortions.
  - Less than 2% of women having an abortion claimed rape or incest.
- 700,000 abortions are performed each year in the U.S. after nine weeks pregnancy.
  - Day 1 in the womb, the DNA code is encoded.
  - Approximately day 18 in the womb, the child's heart begins to beat.
  - Approximately day 42 in the womb, significant brain waves are recorded.
  - Approximately week 24 in the womb, 60% of babies survive premature birth.

< At the moment of conception, God gives each new human life a **“Soul”**

*"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.*

*Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live."* Deuteronomy 30:19