

BISHOPS' PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE

September 24, 2022



“And the Word Became Flesh”

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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September 24, 2022
Feast Day of Saint John Henry Newman

Dear Fellow Pro-Life Leaders,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom.1:7).

Over 2,000 years ago, a cosmic event forever changed the course of history. Saint John the Evangelist recorded this event with the words: “And the Word became flesh” (John 1:14). As St. Paul further reflects on this fact of the Incarnation, he wrote: “Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every kneed should bend, in heave and on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:5-11).

When Our Lord became man, He shared the Gospel in word and action. He met sinners where they were, and knew how to communicate to their hearts and minds for conversion. In today’s digital world and post-Christian era, the laity must be equipped to imitate Christ more perfectly as they meet the challenges of this culture where it is.

Our hope for you is that this pro-life conference will encourage contemporary, data-driven pro-life message and media in the digital age. We have invited local and national pro-life leaders to help us understand the “tools of the trade” that can help us in our work of building a culture of life and a civilization of love.

Enjoy the conference!

Yours in Christ,

Paige Brown
Communications and Outreach Specialist

Marion Miner
Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy

Tom Venzor
Executive Director

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:30 AM – Welcome & Liturgy of the Hours (Fr. Luke Fleck)

9:00 AM – Receiving the Diagnosis: The Culture (JD Flynn)

9:30 AM – Receiving the Diagnosis: Ourselves (Sister Mary Grace, S.V.)

10:15 AM – Break

10:30 AM – Examining the Cultural Landscape: A Closer Look at Prenatal and Reproductive Justice (Erika Bachiochi)

11:30 AM – Break

11:45 AM – Pro-Life Messaging: Research and Data on Effective Messaging (Bernadette Tasy and Kat Talalas)

12:45 PM – Lunch

1:30 PM – Lightning Round Mini-Sessions

- How to Spiritually Cope and Respond to Media & Misinformation (Dennis Kellogg)
- Loving the Marginalized: Catholic Social Teaching on Racism, Abortion, and Poverty (Maria Benes)

2:30 PM – Break

2:45 PM – Pro-Life Public Policy: A Path Forward (Marion Miner)

3:45 PM – Closing Remarks (Marion Miner)

SPEAKER BIOS



JD FLYNN is a journalist, a canon lawyer, and the founder of The Pillar, a media project focused on public accountability reporting on the life of the Catholic Church. JD is also an adjunct professor of canon law at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, and has served professionally in diocesan administration and as a consultant to the USCCB.

JD's writing has been published in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the New York Post, and other publications. He is a board member of the FIRE Foundation, which enables the inclusion of children with disabilities in Catholic schools, and in 2018, he was appointed Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska.

SR. MARY GRACE, S.V., grew up on the shores of Sydney, Australia, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame Australia with a degree in Theology. Captivated by the beauty of each human life and feeling compelled to lay down her life to protect it, she worked for the campus ministry team before entering the Sisters of Life in 2013. Sister Mary Grace made her first vows in 2018, and served in Toronto, Canada, serving vulnerable pregnant women and their unborn children, inviting those wounded by abortion into the healing mercy of Jesus, and offering retreats. She currently resides at St. Frances de Chantal Convent in the Bronx, New York, serving as the Coordinator of the Evangelization Mission. This mission is entrusted with sharing the charism of life and fostering a culture of life throughout the US and worldwide.



Ethics and Public Policy Center Fellow **ERIKA BACHIOCHI** is a legal scholar specializing in Equal Protection jurisprudence, feminist legal theory, Catholic social teaching, and sexual ethics. A 2018 visiting scholar at Harvard Law School, she is also a Senior Fellow at the Abigail Adams Institute in Cambridge, MA, where she founded and directs the Wollstonecraft Project. Her newest book, *The Rights of Women, Reclaiming a Lost Vision*, was published by Notre Dame University Press in 2021, and was named a finalist for the Intercollegiate Studies Institute's 2022 Conservative Book of the Year Award.

Ms. Bachiochi's essays have appeared in publications such as the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, Christian Bioethics (Oxford University), The New York Times, The Atlantic, First Things, CNN.com, National Review Online, National Affairs, Claremont Review of Books, SCOTUSblog, and Public Discourse. She is the editor of two books, *Women, Sex & the Church: A Case for Catholic Teaching* (Pauline Books & Media, 2010) and *The Cost of "Choice": Women Evaluate the Impact of Abortion* (Encounter Books, 2004).

SPEAKER BIOS



BERNADETTE TASY serves as a Media Relations Manager at Alliance Defending Freedom, focusing on issues concerning the sanctity of life and religious freedom. Originally from Reedley, CA, she previously worked on numerous pro-life efforts at the local, state, and national levels. In 2017, with the help of ADF, Bernadette took legal action against a Fresno State professor for leading a group of students in defacing her student group's university-approved, pro-life chalk messages. She and her group won the lawsuit, helping to intensify her passion for the pro-life movement.

Bernadette has had her work published at The Federalist, Townhall, The Daily Signal and other outlets and is a former Campus Reform correspondent, appearing on Fox News and other national media. She graduated summa cum laude from Fresno State in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies and summa cum laude in 2019 with a Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology. Bernadette was a piano instructor, choral accompanist, and full-time speech language pathologist before joining the ADF team to defend pro-faith, pro-family, and pro-life values.

KAT TALALAS is Assistant Director for Pro-Life Communications at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Previously, she has worked in law in New Jersey, as a journalist in Washington DC, and as a legislative assistant in Congress. More recently, she has served as a program coordinator and media trainer for a women's pro-life nonprofit. She graduated with high honors from Rutgers University with a BA in English and received her JD from the College of William and Mary School of Law. Her writing has appeared in a variety of secular and non-secular publications. She joined the USCCB in 2018.



DENNIS KELLOGG serves as the Director of Communications for the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln. He oversees internal and external communications for the diocese. The Office of Communications produces the Southern Nebraska Register, the weekly newspaper of the diocese, as well as all social media channels for the diocese including ones on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Dennis also serves as a resource for parishes and schools across the diocese on communication matters.

Before joining the Lincoln Diocese in July of 2022, Dennis worked for 35 years in broadcast journalism, most recently as news director of Nebraska Public Media. Dennis has a master's degree from Syracuse University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton. He has served as president of the Nebraska Associated Press Broadcasters Association, president of the board of directors of the Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association and as Nebraska state coordinator for the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA). He also served on a national committee that produced a journalism standards and practices handbook for NPR stations across the country.

Dennis and his wife Jennifer are members of St. Peter Parish in Lincoln. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

SPEAKER BIOS

DR. MARIA BENES serves as the co-director of the Before Gethsemane Initiative, a Catholic nonprofit for racial reconciliation. She holds a Ph.D. in political science with a specialization in human rights from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and a M.A. in international affairs with a concentration in conflict resolution from The George Washington University. Maria has taught college classes in human rights, international relations, and public policy. She is known for providing students with the tools to have civil and respectful conversations around controversial topics. Maria previously served as a missionary for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), followed by a couple years as a high school youth minister at Pius X High School in Lincoln, NE. She and her husband, Mitch, have three children: Gemma (10), Gerard (7) and Morgan Frances (their baby saint in Heaven). She loves the Eucharist, spending time with her family, coffee with friends and traveling. Maria has a heart for advocating for the inherent dignity of every human person from conception to natural death and bridging the political divide with Our Lord at the center.



MARION MINER is the Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy at the Nebraska Catholic Conference. A native of Wakefield, Nebraska, he graduated from Christendom College in 2009 and the University of Nebraska College of Law in 2017, where he clerked for the Lancaster County Attorney and the office of the Nebraska Attorney General. Since 2017 he has lobbied the Nebraska Legislature for laws that recognize and protect the dignity of human life and the institutions of marriage and the family. He and his wife Mary Kate have been married since 2014 and live in Lincoln.

RECEIVING THE DIAGNOSIS: THE CULTURE

JD Flynn

MY ACTION ITEM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

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MY NOTES

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RECEIVING THE DIAGNOSIS: OURSELVES

Sister Mary Grace, S.V.

MY ACTION ITEM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. You are a gift. Your life is sacred and good. When was a time when I recognized my own dignity, my own goodness, my own belovedness? What does it mean to me that God desired me from all eternity to live in infinite communion with him?
2. You have been summoned and called into this service of preserving the good of life. How is God summoning me? How do I feel that the Lord is inviting me to see others? To uphold others? To build a culture of life? What is he saying to my heart?
3. Has there been a moment in my life when I was convicted about the dignity of the human person? Am I open to putting prayer and the person before me as a primacy in my day? What might this look like in my day?

FURTHER RECOMMENDED READING/LISTENING

“But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’” ISAIAH 43:1

“For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works!” PSALM 139:13-14

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” GENESIS 1:27

RESOURCES TO KEEP CONNECTED

INTO Life: Love Changes Everything. A 12-part original series on accompanying a woman into life <https://intolifeseries.com/>

Visit Sisters of Life website: Sign up for our complimentary IMPRINT magazine mailing list with stories and articles that bring hope and life. Find original music, stories and articles on the mighty works of God in our lives and missions.

LET LOVE: A weekly Podcast with the Sisters of Life, about giving God permission in your life, letting go, and receiving the Love that frees you to live in the truth of who you are - <https://sistersoflife.org/let-love-podcast/>

THE SOURCE: Holy Hours with Music by the Sisters of Life - join us as at locations around the US we unite around the source and summit of our faith - Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. - <https://sistersoflife.org/the-source-holy-hour/>

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

EXAMINING THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE: A CLOSER LOOK AT PRENATAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Erika Bachiochi

MY ACTION ITEM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How do the 19th century women's rights advocates guide the pro-life movement today?

FURTHER RECOMMENDED READING/LISTENING

"After Roe v. Wade and Dobbs v. Jackson," Plough by Erika Bachiochi

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines or other markings present.

PRO-LIFE MESSAGING: RESEARCH AND DATA ON EFFECTIVE MESSAGING

Bernadette Tasy and Kat Talalas

MY ACTION ITEM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

[illegible]

MY NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

HOW TO SPIRITUALLY COPE AND RESPOND TO MEDIA AND MISINFORMATION

Dennis Kellogg

MY ACTION ITEM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How much time am I spending every day/week with secular news and entertainment programming on television?

Are my sources for news information based in opinion or fact? Am I skeptical of all news content? Do I have a variety of trusted news sources and not just one? Is the news delivered in a balanced and professional tone? Am I spending too much watching news? Do I contact news media in a polite and civil manner about mistakes I believe they have made or misinformation I believe they have shared?

What are some other sources I could turn to for balanced information and insight into the events going on in our community, nation and the world?

Am I sharing good faith-based articles, podcasts and programs with others who could benefit from them?

Do I pray regularly for specific journalists and for truth in our journalism?

FURTHER RECOMMENDED READING/LISTENING

Inter Mirifica, Second Vatican Council Decree on Media of Social Communications, Promulgated by Pope Paul VI

Google “World Communications Day Papal Addresses” – for over 50 years now, the Popes have specifically spoken on the theme of communications in the modern world

Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis

[illegible]

LOVING THE MARGINALIZED: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ON RACISM, ABORTION, AND POVERTY

Maria Benes

MY ACTION ITEM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How do unjust policies from the past, such as redlining, still affect people of color today?

Why does representation matter in positions of leadership in the Church, in government, in business and in greater society? Why does representation matter in artwork, multimedia, poetry and music?

How can Catholics today help to eradicate racism and xenophobia? What does the Church have to say about this issue?

FURTHER RECOMMENDED READING/LISTENING

On Earth As it Is In Heaven: Restoring God's Vision of Race and Discipleship by Father Josh Johnson (Ascension Press)

"Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love- A Papal Letter Against Racism" from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops

"The Church and Racism: Towards a More Fraternal Society," from the Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace

Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship, Papal Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis

Before Gethsemane Initiative (BGI): Catholic nonprofit that tackles racism and xenophobia from a Catholic understanding of the inherent dignity of the human person from conception to natural death.

Website: <https://beforegethsemane.org/>

Email: hello@beforegethsemane.org

[illegible]

PRO-LIFE PUBLIC POLICY: A PATH FORWARD

Marion Miner

MY ACTION ITEM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

MY NOTES

[illegible]

UPCOMING EVENTS

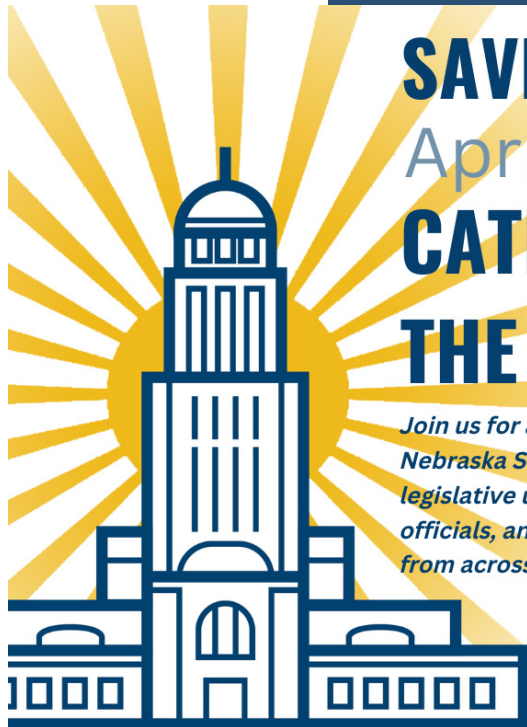
A place to learn more...



NEBRASKACATHOLICVOTER.COM



about candidates running for public office



SAVE THE DATE

April 12, 2023

**CATHOLICS AT
THE CAPITOL**

*Join us for a day of advocacy at the
Nebraska State Capitol! Expect detailed
legislative updates, lunch with elected
officials, and fellowship with Catholics
from across the state.*

*Stayed tuned
for more details!*

**SAVE THE DATE:
BISHOPS' PRO-LIFE
CONFERENCE + BANQUET**

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023