
CATHOLICS UNITED FOR LIFE

Fall 2015

Dear Friends,

This year, your prayers and financial support have helped hundreds of young adults shore up their trust in God and have educated and emboldened them in their pro-life stance.

It has been an interesting year for us here at Catholics United for Life, and the constant message from God seems to be: “TRUST ME!” The more the devil is afoot, the more God is at work as well, bringing greater good out of every evil thing the devil does.

During our Kentucky Ignite Your Torch Conference, we had already struggled with several issues, and then some of the buses, which were to transport us to the abortion center, were extremely late—almost an hour late. Youth were getting hotter by the minute in the five buses we had already loaded, and although they were very well-behaved, I was stressed.

Once we were finally at our destination, we packed the sidewalk with hundreds of vibrant youth, lay adults, priests and religious, and began to pray. While the deathscorts always try to intimidate the youth by counting them, sneering at them, and filming them, this year one of them decided to wade right into the crowd of kneeling youth with his message of hate.

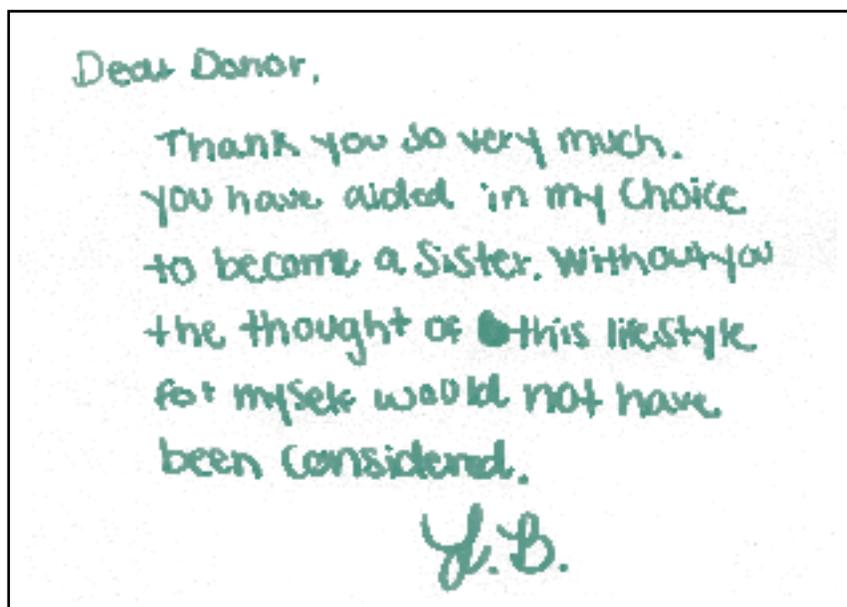
He told the teens how good it was that they were there because now they would know where to come to get their abortions...

He told the teens how good it was that they were there because now they would know where to come to get their abortions, since, he said, one in three of them would get one. He actively tried to incite some kind of incident with pushing and aggressive behavior.

It was at this exact moment, as we struggled with the escorts and worked to keep our youth safe, that I realized who was in control. God! Because the two buses had been late, we now had a much shorter time to stay at the abortion center, since we had to continue on to a scheduled Mass. We were able to quickly load all of the youth safely onto the buses and out of harm’s way.

Not only did no harm come to us, but this incident also etched in the youth’s minds an unforgettable image of the evil that goes on behind those walls, an image that hopefully will inspire them to pray and work zealously for the return of a culture of life in our country.

With a few Dominican brothers still in the area a week later, we planned a “Meet Me On the Street” event to keep the youth involved even post-conference. Many local youth returned to pray for the unborn once again. This time I was there before the youth arrived. With the appearance of each new



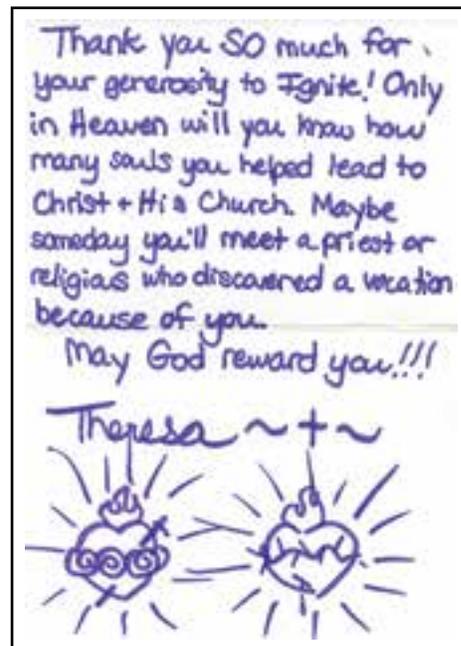
group lining a portion of the sidewalk, the escorts became visibly more frustrated and squirmed uncomfortably. "You're being brain-washed!" they jeered to the youth.

We can win battles and we can lose battles, but the only real battle is the battle for the hearts, minds and souls of individual people.

With your help, we are winning the hearts and minds of the youth!

It is only by addressing the whole human person, the need for virtue, chastity and love of God, that a culture can be changed. At Ignite, we want to reach young people *before* they ever arrive at the doors of the abortion center, with a message that is not only pro-life, but pro-*Culture of Life*. And the response is amazing!

At the conference, one young man who looked like a football player, twice my size, knelt next to me in the confession line during a holy hour. He leaned over and whispered to me, "How do you do this?" It had been years since his last confession.



Another youth wrote of coming to the conference struggling with same-sex attraction. Through talking to the religious and praying, **he left with a very different understanding of himself and his relationship with God.**

Yet another youth told us that **he was able to confess some of the really big sins that he had not had the courage to confess before.**... and a fourth teen said her heart had been changed regarding abortion.

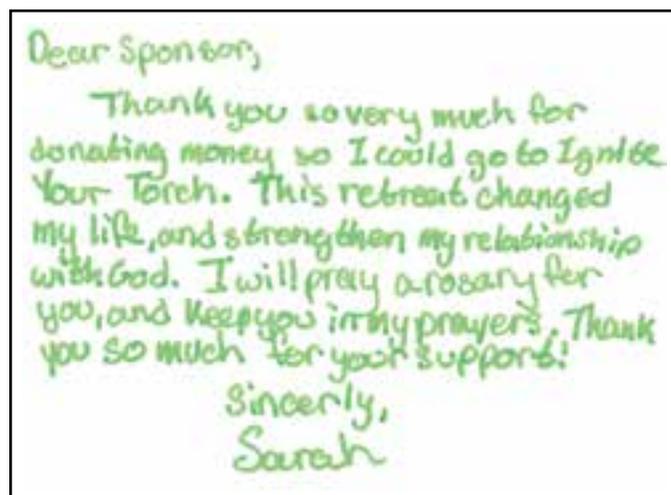


Photos: Tamara Cesare

Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more! In complete trust, we must have confidence in God's infinite mercy and know that He is sending great graces to overcome the darkness.

Through your generosity, you have been a great part of the evangelization and pro-life work we have been able to carry out this past year.

Please take a prayerful moment to consider what size gift you can afford in order to help continue our work to foster a Culture of Life.



Tamara Cesare
Tamara Cesare, President



Photos: Tamara Cesare