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*Upon hearing newly elected Pope Francis call us to evangelize and Catholic radio talk show host Al Kresta's comment, "...the problem is not in Washington, the problem is in the pews", a Pro-Life Committee member was divinely inspired to do "something." How can we help educate our family and friends on all pro-life topics? What can we have to share with others to help them understand these topics? Thus, Life Notes was born. We hope you have been enlightened and inspired to learn more about each topic presented. We hope you have shared your copy of Life Notes with others. We hope we have planted at least one seed in one person's heart. We hope we have opened one set of eyes. We have more ideas for 2014. Stay tuned! The Pro-Life Committee of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish thanks you for your continued prayers, participation and financial contributions as we all seek to value each precious gift of life from God — from conception until natural death.*

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**May – Marriage/Matrimony:** Marriage is a basic human and social institution. Though it is regulated by civil laws and Church laws, it did not originate from either the Church or state, but from God. Therefore, neither Church nor state can alter the basic meaning and structure of marriage. Marriage, whose nature and purposes are established by God, can only be the union of a man and a woman and must remain such in law. In a manner unlike any other relationship, marriage makes a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the common good of society, especially through the procreation and education of children. ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))

**June – Human Sexuality:** Man is called to love and to self-giving in the unity of body and spirit. Femininity and masculinity are complementary gifts, through which human sexuality is an integrating part of the concrete capacity for love which God has inscribed in man and woman. *Human sexuality is thus a good*, part of that created gift which God saw as being "very good" when he created the human person in his image and likeness, and "male and female he created them" (*Genesis 1:27*). We should not expect the Church's teachings to coincide with "the wisdom of this world" (1Cor 1:20) in any age or culture, for her teachings do not come from this world but from Heaven, not from man but from God. ([www.onemoresoul.com](http://www.onemoresoul.com))

**July – Contraception - The Historic Christian Teaching:** Few realize that up until 1930, *all* Protestant denominations agreed with the Catholic Church's teaching condemning contraception as sinful. At its 1930 Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Church, swayed by growing social pressure, announced that contraception would be allowed in *some* circumstances. Soon the Anglican Church completely caved in, allowing contraception across the board. Since then, all other Protestant denominations have followed suit. *Today, the Catholic Church alone proclaims the historic Christian position on contraception.* In 1968, Pope Paul VI issued his landmark encyclical letter *Humanæ Vitæ* ("Human Life"), which reemphasized the Church's constant teaching that *it is always intrinsically wrong to use contraception to prevent new human beings from coming into existence.* ([www.catholicanswers.com](http://www.catholicanswers.com))

**August – Infertility:** Natural Family Planning (NFP) is fertility awareness that is simple, scientific and reliable. It is basic knowledge that can be used either to achieve a pregnancy or to avoid a pregnancy when there are serious reasons for doing so. Many people don't realize, however, that there are different methods of NFP, all of which are in harmony with Church teaching. The most widely used methods include the Sympto-Thermal Method, Creighton Model, Ovulation Method and Marquette Model. Each has different levels of instruction and different physical observations. Please refer to <http://www.archindy.org/prolife/ministry-nfp.html> for additional information.

**September – Death Penalty - A Pro-life Position:** "Increasingly, our society looks to increased reliance on the death penalty to deal with crime. We are tragically turning to violence in the search for quick and easy answers to complex human problems. *A society which destroys its children, abandons its old and relies on vengeance fails fundamental moral tests.* We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing. This cycle of violence diminishes all of us — especially our children." (*Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action*, U.S. Catholic bishops, November 1994) Archbishop John Roach, St. Paul-Minneapolis. ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))

**October – Euthanasia:** "Euthanasia," from the Greek words meaning "good death," is something we do or fail to do which causes, or is intended to cause, death in order to remove a person from suffering. This is sometimes called "mercy killing." Advocates of euthanasia and assisted suicide advance their philosophy and legislative proposals by using terms such as "assist in dying," and "helping to die." This is carefully veiled language that, in a way very similar to the phrase "pro-choice," makes something which is very evil sound very good. ([www.priestsforlife.org/euthanasia](http://www.priestsforlife.org/euthanasia))

**November – Elderly:** "I ask the elderly, from my heart: do not cease to be the cultural storehouse of our people, a storehouse that hands on justice, hands on history, hands on values, hands on the memory of the people. And the rest of you, please, do not oppose the elderly: let them speak, listen to them and go forward. But know this, know that at this moment, you young people and you elderly people are condemned to the same destiny: exclusion. Don't allow yourselves to be excluded ... Make yourselves heard; take care of the two ends of life, the two ends of the history of peoples: the elderly and the young; and do not water down the faith...." (Pope Francis, July 25, 2013)

**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!**

*Life Notes is a publication of the Pro-Life Committee at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Indianapolis*