

C. O. O. L. Connections

COOL Newsletter Issue #2 - March 3, 2025

Welcome to the COOL Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to continue the project originally begun in 2019: to include all members in a fun central source of information!

Park Day Recap

Written by Iliana Trahan

On Saturday, February 8, the COOL hosted an extremely successful Park Day at Willow Fork Park! The event began with pizza and then allowed time for group games. The attendees enjoyed a variety of activities including spike ball, football, soccer, volleyball, skittle, and amiable walks around the lake.



CHECH Bake Sale

Written by Iliana Trahan

Recently the COOL was invited to supply the Catholic Home Educators Collective Houston (CHECH) with baked goods at their annual bake sale. COOL Treasurer

Chastity Sunderman remarked, “We had a great turnout of volunteers and a delicious variety of baked goods. I especially loved going to the morning mass for the event.”



Member Submissions

Better Too Much Than Not Enough

Written by Christine Novelero

Love. *Love conquers all. Love is love. I love you.* One word has come to encompass so many definitions, from strong liking, to physical desire, to letting others do whatever they want. From a Christian perspective, however, love is defined as this: to will the good of the other.

Now, what does the definition of love have to do with why I’m pro-life? Well, there are always two people involved in a pregnancy: the pregnant woman, and then there is “an other.” As in, the preborn child. Today’s culture often portrays the issue of abortion as a dichotomy. Either you love the woman and forget the fetus, if you’re pro-choice; or love the fetus and hate the woman, if you’re pro-life. In reality, I’m pro-life because I reject this false dichotomy. I’m pro-life because I choose to love them both.

Now, although the dichotomy is a false one, I recognize that it feels real for many women across the nation. As a student largely surrounded by pro-choice classmates, I’ve learned that many of them view abortion as a lifeline for women who can barely provide for their own needs, much less those of a child. But this is where the definition of love comes in. Whereas many would offer them the quick “solution” of a trip to the abortion clinic, our duty as pro-lifers is to show them true compassion, to accompany them in the trials of motherhood. We are called to actively will the good of these women and their children, to empty ourselves for their sake—by offering our time, money, and companionship.

Some might object, “Why would you make women go through all that for a clump of cells that won’t even feel anything?” There are several ways I could respond to that. There’s the biological route, which involves the scientific consensus that life begins at conception and developmental milestones. There’s the philosophical route, where we discuss how abortion’s

justification depends on dehumanization and why the preborn child's life does, in fact, supersede the mother's bodily autonomy.

But whereas those routes are closer to my head, the route that's closest to my heart is that of love himself. That is, Jesus Christ. Being all-powerful, he didn't have to die on the cross for us. He could've saved us with a snap of his fingers, or he could've abandoned humanity entirely. But no, he didn't choose the quick solution. He picked up the cross meant for us, bearing on his scourged back and pierced hands the suffering of all humanity.

When Jesus said, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me," he was in one way pointing at his death. As children of God, most of us aren't called to undergo a torturous death like he did. But we are all called to love like he did. As pro-lifers, that means accompanying women in crisis pregnancies, no matter how much it costs us. That means looking at preborn children with the eyes of God, as human persons who are infinitely worthy of life and love. Because at the end of the day, I'd rather have loved too much than not enough.



Announcements

MOTSY Committee

Several hard-working youth are invited to join the MOTSY Committee of 2025!

The March of The Surviving Youth is a COOL tradition that occurs every fall.

Hundreds of people gather to attend mass and complete the Jericho March near Planned Parenthood. The committee will meet twice a month and discuss important topics such as the theme, t-shirt design, poster, and outreach. Members with at least a year of participation in COOL events are encouraged. A limited number of people will be on the committee.

Sign up officially for the MOTSY Committee in the form in the email!

Dance Committee

Following great demand, the decision has been made that the COOL will host another dance in the Spring! COOL members with any amount of experience are

welcome to join and help with this fun event. Activities may include food planning, room decorating, poster designing, and outreach. Both committees will meet online via Zoom roughly twice a month. A limited number of people will be on the committee.

Sign up officially for the Dance Committee in the form in the email!

Upcoming Pro-Life Activities!

(Disclaimer: These are not official COOL events. They are pro-life events for your consideration.)

Pro-Life Lobby Day at the Capitol

On Tuesday, March 11, at the Texas Capitol in Austin, you are invited to a legislative briefing where you will learn how to lobby and about the Pro-Life priority bills. You will also have an opportunity to tour the Capitol before meeting with your representatives and lobbying them to vote for the pro-life priorities you learned about earlier in the day.

- Tuesday, March 11, 2025
- 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Texas Capitol in Austin
- Attendance is free but you must RSVP

Texas Right to Life's Team LIFE Camp

High school students will gain a deeper understanding of pro-life issues in an engaging and accessible way. You will learn about fetal development, how to confidently discuss your beliefs, and life-affirming resources available for parents in need. You will also make new friends over campfires, canoeing, hiking, and games!

- March 28-30, 2025
- Camp Chrysalis, Kerrville, TX
- Early Registration: \$100 (available through March 9)
- Sibling discount available

Interview with the President

Get to know the COOL president!

What is your name? - Gabriel Rivas

How long have you been a COOL member? - 5 ½ years

What is your favorite aspect of being a part of the COOL leadership?

- I like having the ability to work as a team with friends to accomplish many things for the pro-life cause; as well as being able to practice, experience, and develop leadership skills and working with a team.

What is your favorite memory from a COOL event?

- I have many great memories, but one of the ones I like the most is when it snowed the day of the march. It was amazing coming out of mass and seeing all the snow falling down. It was very impacting to see the amount of people that showed up even with the freezing temperature and snow. It was an experience I won't forget.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

- Cookies and Cream. All the way :D



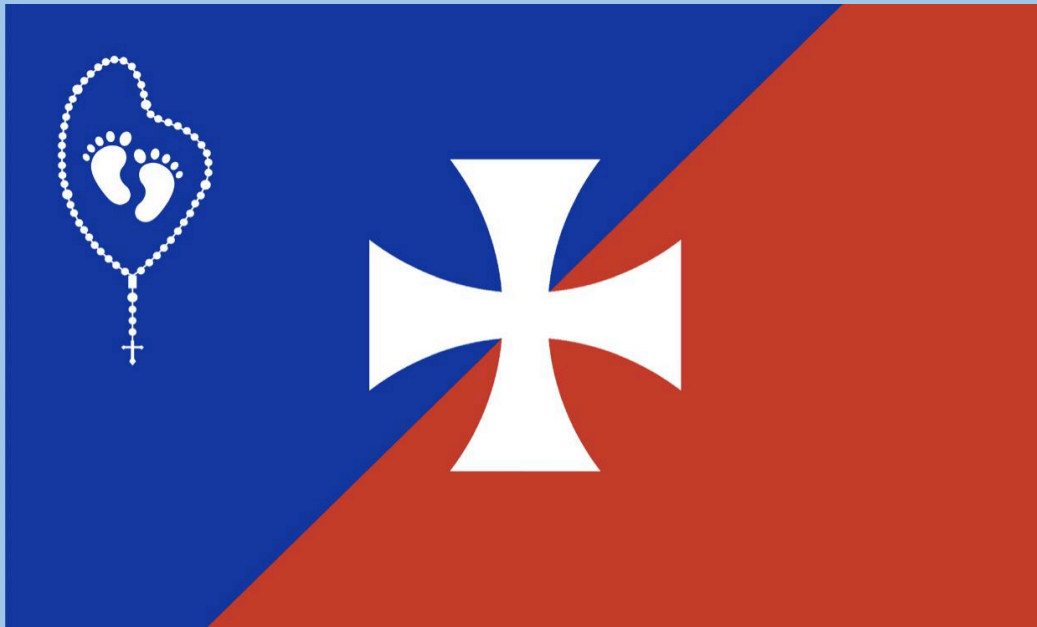
Symbolism in the COOL Flag

Article extracted from the COOL website of antiquity

Edited by Iliana Trahan. Credit to the author.

“Former COOL president, Luis Morales-Wade, 2018-2019, designed this wonderful flag, rich with symbolism. Its colors are not only patriotic but also represent fundamental aspects of what it means to be a pro-life Catholic. The blue symbolizes Mary, our patroness and Defender of Life. The red symbolizes the lives that are lost every day, which we pray for together every month in front of Planned Parenthood. Thirdly, the white symbolizes the purity and innocence of the babies in the womb as well as their pure and heavenly mother, Mary. The blue is slanted slightly over the red,

foreshadowing how Mary will conquer the culture of death. The cross symbolizes Christ's passion and invites us to follow his example as we kneel before him to pray for unborn souls. Finally, the two baby footprints in a rosary once again remind us that all children are in their Heavenly Mother Mary's eternal care. Our Lady, pray for us!"



Upcoming Events in March

- ❖ **8th** - Park Picnic
- ❖ **22nd** - General Meeting

Your work can be in the next C.O.O.L. Newsletter! Please submit any original pro-life jokes, artwork, poetry, short stories, photos, or articles.

Prompt idea: How can we build a culture of life through our everyday actions?

Due date for submissions: March 24



"America you are beautiful . . . and blessed The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life." ~ Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II (2012). "A Pilgrim Pope: Messages for the World", p.242, Andrews McMeel Publishing

