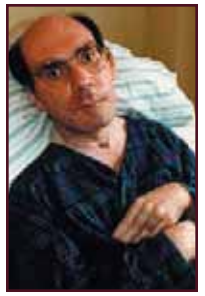


FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

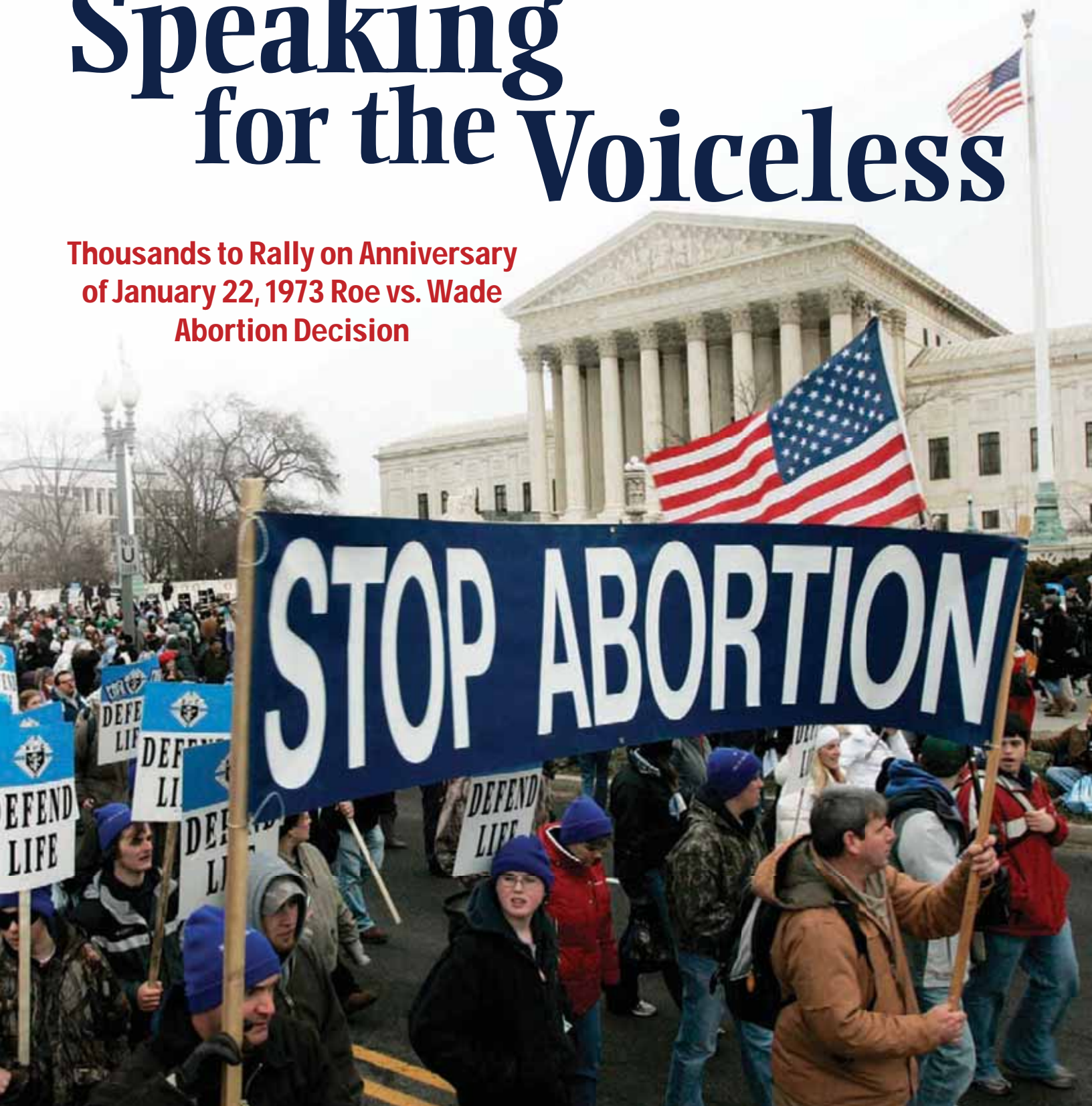
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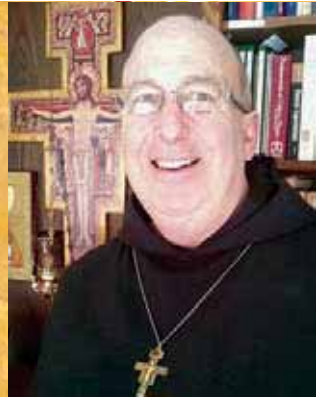
*Brother Michael,
pray for us!*



Speaking for the Voiceless

**Thousands to Rally on Anniversary
of January 22, 1973 Roe vs. Wade
Abortion Decision**





Brotherhood Update

by Brother Paul, Guardian Overall

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Br. Conrad Attends National Catholic Youth Conference

Brother Conrad traveled to Indianapolis on November 17-19th to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference. More than twenty-three thousand young people were in attendance, including one hundred and thirty youths from our Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Brother Conrad serves as our vocation coordinator.

Sunday... Our Active Day of Worship

Not all are aware that technically speaking, even for Christians, Saturday (the seventh or last day of the week) remains the Sabbath or day of rest, while Sunday is of course the Christian Day of Worship. This is the day that we actively celebrate, both publicly and privately, the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

While the Brothers mostly remain at home in prayer and reflection on Sundays, we've also encouraged each other through the years to be actively involved in spiritual pursuits, prompted by the Holy Spirit.

In that light, Brother James and Brother Seraphim have undertaken to teach religious education on Sunday at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in East Saint Paul, MN. Brother James also teaches religious education at the Church of Saint Nicolas in Carver, MN and at the Church of Saint Vincent De Paul in Saint Paul.

Brother Conrad is a member of the Cathedral Choir of the Cathedral and National Shrine of Saint Paul, whose members lift their voices to God in song during Sunday and special Feast Day liturgies.

Our Brothers are also involved in speak-

ing at parish masses for missionary work, vocations, the fund for retired religious and various respect life issues.

Sunday may be considered by some to be a day of rest — but for the Brothers, the First Day of the week is indeed one of active worship and spiritual service.

Our Apostolates Continue Full Speed

Our apostolates to international torture survivors, the poor and homeless, the Catholic KaRen community, the sick, elderly and disabled, as well as men and women in crisis pregnancies, continue in full operation. Thank you for your unwavering prayers and support as we strive to bring Christ to others!

Please know that you and your loved ones are remembered throughout the day during our communal and private prayer.

May the Lord bless you in this New Year, and give you His peace!

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

— Saint Paul the Apostle • I CORINTHIANS 13:1-13



Speaking for the Voiceless

Pro-Life Activists Gear Up for Roe vs. Wade Anniversary



Four members of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace will be traveling to Washington D.C. on January 20, 2012 to attend a National Pro-Life Youth Rally on January 21, and the National March for Life on January 23, on the National Mall. Brother Paul has spoken at the National March for Life Rally for the past seven years and is expected to address the March again this year. The Brothers will also be attending The National March for Life Convention and will attend several pro-life leadership meetings.

The other Franciscan Brothers of Peace will be attending the Minnesota Rally for Life at the State Capitol in Saint Paul at 2:00 p.m. sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life and then gather for a Prayer Rally at the new Planned Parenthood mega-abortion mill

at 3:30 p.m. also located in Saint Paul. The Prayer Rally is being sponsored by Pro-Life Action Ministries.

“Now more than ever before we must let our voices be heard and have the courage to be pro-life and embrace the entire Gospel of Life. We must also defend the rights of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters and speak out against medical care rationing and euthanasia.” said Brother Paul O’Donnell, fbp, Religious Superior of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace.

Please check your local areas for pro-life activities on this very sad anniversary and be a part of those striving to build a culture of life. Your participation, joined with others, will make a strong proclamation: “Stop Abortion and Imposed Killing Now!”

“In some causes silence is dangerous.”

— Saint Ambrose



Our Annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Program was a great success this year, with nearly six hundred families helped with emergency food needs at Thanksgiving and nearly another six hundred again at Christmas.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who helped with this annual program, especially our dear friends and benefactors who gave so generously to make the Holiday Food Program such a great success!

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”

— MOTHER TERESA





< You!
Provide Holiday Meals
to a Thousand Families!



We would especially like to thank the following parishes, schools and groups for their assistance:

Schools:

- Holy Spirit / St. Paul
- St. Thomas More / St. Paul
- Chesterton Academy / St. Louis Park
- St. Joseph's / West St. Paul
- NOVA Classical Academy / St. Paul
- St. Thomas Academy / St. Paul
- St. Joseph / Rosemount
- Maternity of Mary / St. Paul
- St. John the Baptist / Vermillion
- Holy Trinity / South St. Paul
- St. Alphonsus / Brooklyn Center
- Blessed Trinity / Richfield
- Immaculate Conception / Columbia Heights
- St. Pius X / White Bear Lake
- St. Therese / Deephaven
- St. Michael / Prior Lake
- St. Odilia / Shoreview
- Our Lady of Peace / Minneapolis

Parishes:

- Epiphany / Coon Rapids
- Pax Christi / Eden Prairie
- St. Thomas More / St. Paul
- St. Columba / St. Paul
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton / Hastings
- St. Charles Borromeo / St. Anthony
- St. Pius X / White Bear Lake
- St. Katherine Drexel / Ramsey
- St. Michael / Prior Lake
- St. Vincent de Paul / Osseo

Various Groups:

- St. Thomas University Knights of Columbus
- UNICO
- Debra Murphy and family
- McGough Company
- Tater Land
- Legendary Baking
- Midway Cold Storage
- J & J Distributing
- University Bank
- Cub Foods / St. Paul Midway
- Whole Foods / St. Paul
- Breadsmith
- Boy Scouts of St. Columba Troop 13



A Diagnosis That Serves to Kill

By Bobby Schindler

Having to stand by and witness the intentional death of a loved one is a helpless torture. Having most of the globe tuned in to your unimaginable situation exacerbates the feeling even more.

I should know since it was my family and I who tried to save my sister, Terri Schiavo, from being starved and dehydrated to death while the world watched.

People thought that Terri didn't know what was happening because they wrongly believed much of the media reports that said she was in a "persistent vegetative state" (PVS). But my family always knew that my sister was aware of what was happening and now, yet another new study reveals we were right.

The Lancet, a well-respected medical journal, just published a groundbreaking study that shows that many patients claimed to be in a PVS are misdiagnosed. Further, the study proved that many of these patients have a much higher level of consciousness than otherwise thought.

Although these findings are certainly welcome, particularly to family members who care for their cognitively disabled loved ones and already know their loved ones are not in a PVS, they are not entirely unique. There have been several other studies revealing the same. In addition, many physicians have known for years that patients diagnosed to be in a PVS were, in reality, misdiagnosed.

The real question is why these understandings haven't caused us to rethink the morality of removing food and water from such persons.

In a society where resources and medical research are so great and have revealed so much in this area, it is time to realize that PVS is nothing but a political code word for a "candidate to euthanize" and should be eliminated. This "medical term" not only dehumanizes the cognitively disabled, but these findings only prove that it is broad, subjective and unscientific. Tragically it has emerged in our society as a death sentence waiting to happen, as it turned out to be in Terri's case.

Regrettably, Terri never was afforded any type of new exam. This was despite the fact that upwards of 40 medical professionals—some being the most prominent neurologists in the nation—believed that Terri was not in a PVS or could have been helped with proper diagnosis/treatment if given the opportunity.

My family begged the judge in my sister's case, George Greer, to permit further testing and therapy during the time Terri's case was awaiting appellate court hearings. Such testing could have only helped Terri and yet Judge Greer consistently refused. Not

even the autopsy was able to confirm whether or not Terri was in a PVS. This is at the heart of this issue. The desire to impose death on patients taints the judgments of those who refuse to understand the myths surrounding a diagnosis of PVS.

Since the inception of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network, over 1,000 families have contacted us for help looking for some type of support or because they were going through a similar situation as we did. Indeed, a large number of these families were dealing with a loved one who was diagnosed with PVS and fighting to save their lives.

There is no mercy and compassion in starving a person to death. Some say this is a peaceful and painless way to die. This is contrary to Terri's last excruciating hours. And some in the media portrayed her death as "beautiful compassion." This is also patently false. Terri died a barbaric, painful and inhumane death. My sister suffered terribly and the look of desperation in her eyes those last days will always haunt me.

My family and many others knew that Terri was very much alive, alert and at times was extremely interactive. Where is the mercy and compassion in putting a human to death in a way we don't allow to happen to animals? Can anyone even imagine if it was acceptable to take our family pet and decide to starve and dehydrate it to death?

None of us deserves to be deprived of food and water, whether we have a brain injury or not. Additional studies like the one in *The Lancet* will continue to validate that those in a PVS are just as human as those of us who have all our cognitive capabilities. The capacity of the human brain and body to rebound is beyond our comprehension. We see this proven in real life cases where a person suddenly wakes up and recovers after years of being considered "brain dead" or in a PVS.

Every life is precious and should be handled with great care and consideration, whether their fate is being decided on a national scale or not.

Bobby Schindler is Co-Executive Director of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network.

www.lifeandhope.com



International Day of Remembrance for Terri Schiavo and Other Vulnerable Persons

March 31 2012 will mark the seventh anniversary of the court-ordered death of Terri (Schindler) Schiavo by starvation and thirst.

The Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network, along with numerous other right to life organizations, has established March 31 of each year as a special day to foster education, prayer and activism to stop discrimination perpetrated against disabled and vulnerable persons.

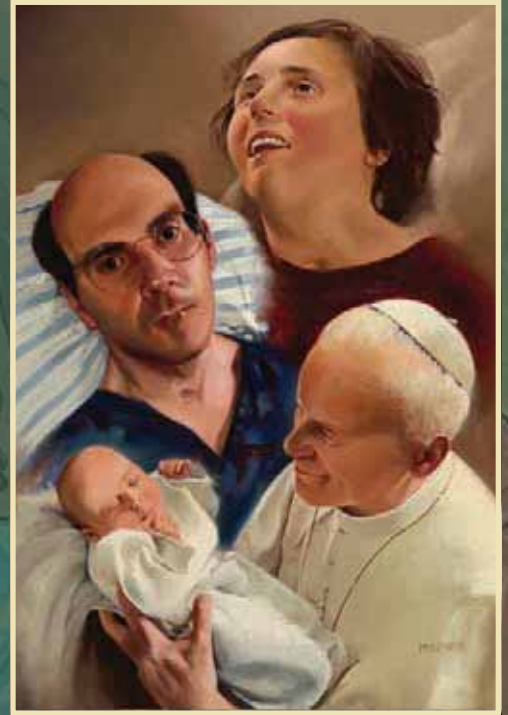
On this day, all across the world, tens of thousands of people will remember Terri Schiavo and others like her who are in danger of being euthanized for being

deemed "not worthy of life." Representatives of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace will gather with Terri's family on that day. A Catholic Mass will also be offered in her memory.

For more information please visit:
www.lifeandhope.com

"Euthanasia is a false solution to the drama of suffering, a solution unworthy of man. We are certain that no tear, whether it be of those who suffer or those who stand by them, goes unnoticed before God."

— POPE BENEDICT XVI



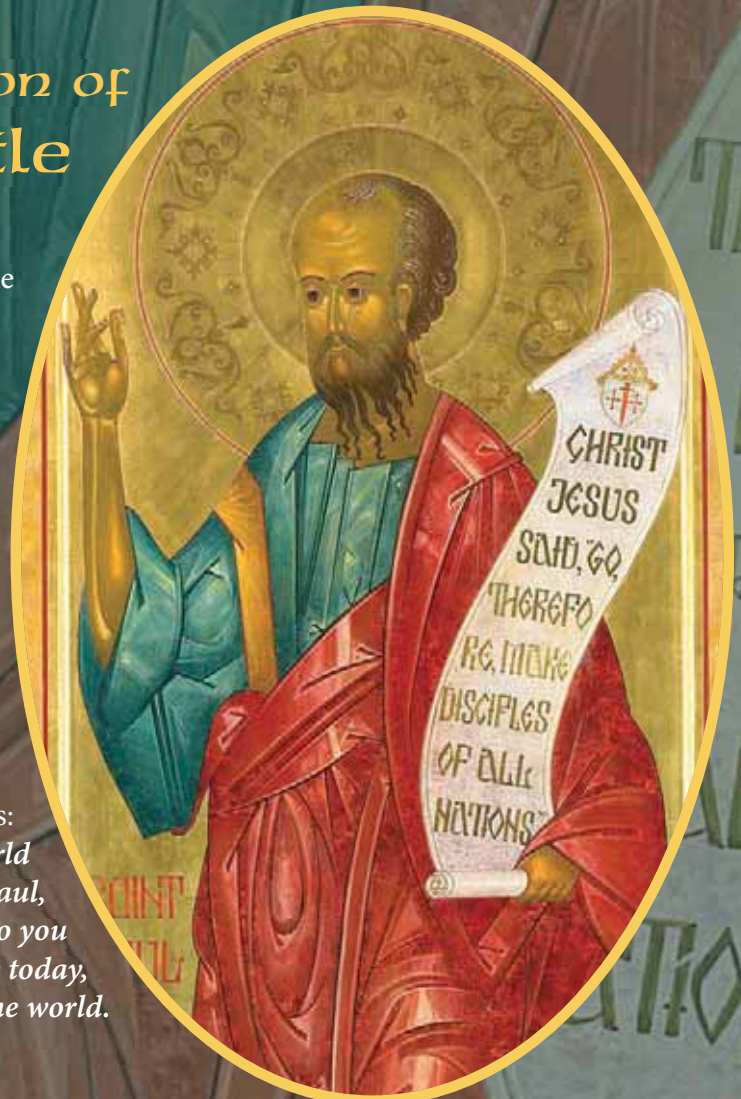
The Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

The Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle is a feast celebrated during the liturgical year on January 25, recounting the conversion of the Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, to Christ.

This feast is celebrated in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran churches. This feast is at the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an international Christian ecumenical observance that began in 1908, which is on octave (an eight day observance) spanning from January 18 (observed in Anglican and Lutheran tradition as the Confession of Saint Peter) to January 25.

The collect is:

*O God, who taught the whole world
Through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul,
Draw us, we pray, nearer to you
Through the example of him whose conversion we celebrate today,
And so make us witnesses to your truth in the world.*



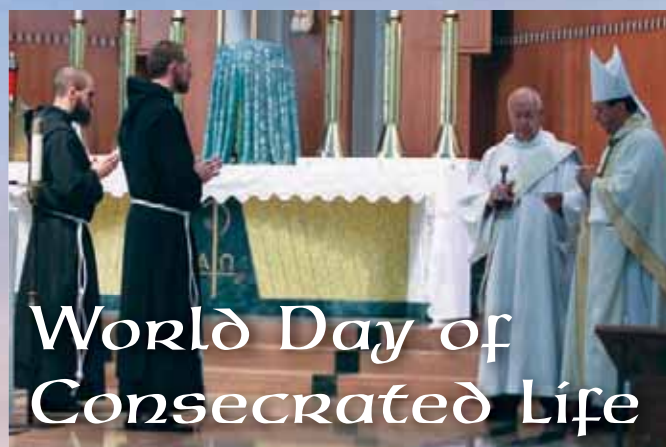
The Franciscan Brothers of Peace

As a Catholic Religious Community of Brothers, we are united in reverence for the Father's gift of life to all and seek to honor His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by sharing the Good News of Life, Love, Mercy and Compassion. We invoke the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, the Infinite Font of light and life, strength and consolation.

Inspired by the life of Saint Francis of Assisi and our beloved founder, Brother Michael Gaworski, fbp, we dedicate our lives to advancing the Gospel of Life in union with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and his successors.

We recognize the inestimable value of each and every human life from conception until natural death. We pray for God's grace and strength as we strive to give witness to the sanctity of life. And we pray that all we do, both in word and action, will be holy, true, and according to His most perfect will. May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — the God of Life, reign in our hearts forever.
Amen.

"The fraternity of Christ is closer than the fraternity of blood."
— St. Ambrose of Milan



World Day of Consecrated Life

Pope Benedict XVI had declared February 2, 2012, the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to be a World Day of Consecrated Life.

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, will preside at a special Mass at 5:15 p.m., February 2, 2012, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, to praise and thank God for the gift of the many women and men in consecrated life who are living and ministering in the Archdiocese.

The Mass is open to the public and those who live in the Twin Cities area are more than welcome to attend and show their support for Religious men and women serving the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Please pray for vocations to the religious life and to the priesthood so that the Church will be able to continue to fulfill its mission here on earth.



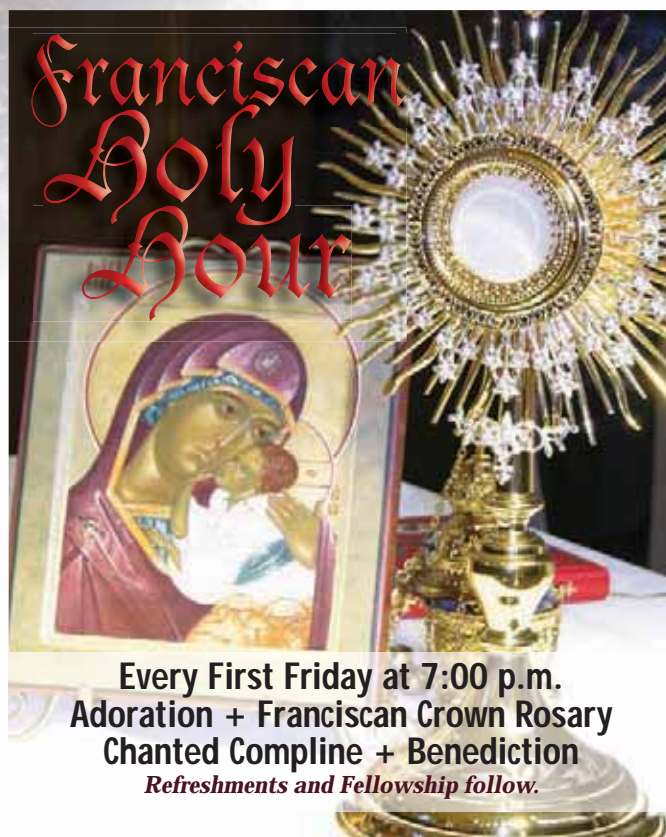
Ruby's Beggin' Box

Please remember our families in need by sending your donations of both perishable and non-perishable food to the Brothers' emergency food shelf at Queen of Peace Friary.

Donations and Gift Certificates are always needed.

Thank You for your support!

For more information, please call 651-646-8586.



Every First Friday at 7:00 p.m.
Adoration + Franciscan Crown Rosary
Chanted Compline + Benediction
Refreshments and Fellowship follow.