

SNAP-SHOT

Through the Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA), the People of God in the Diocese of St. Petersburg support over 50 ministries, programs and services to thousands across our 5 county area. Our appeal is truly an opportunity for each and every Catholic household to help further the mission of the Church, to become a part of the everyday miracles we experience through sharing our gifts as good stewards. **Let's take a closer look at some of the good works underway in...**

LIFE MINISTRY

The Office of Life Ministry works to promote the dignity of all human life through education, direct service and advocacy efforts.

Meet Yolanda. Pregnant, alienated from her boyfriend and family, who all encouraged her to get an abortion. She found herself homeless because her father kicked her out of his house due to the situation she was in. She lost her job. Her heart was torn, she felt she had no options, no one to help her and Nowhere to turn. One day, she decided she couldn't even consider bringing a child into this situation so she drove to the clinic to have an abortion, and when she got there it was closed.

But outside the clinic was a group of people praying. Those people offered to pray with Yolanda, and began to talk to her about options. They introduced her to workers from Mary's Outreach and Catholic Charities. She listened to what these people said, prayed with them, and with God's mercy and grace, she found hope.

In collaboration, Life Ministry's *40 Days for Life* program, Catholic Charities and Mary's Outreach changed Yolanda's life. She is now more than half way through her pregnancy with a healthy baby boy, has a place to live, secured a job and is working very hard to make a good life for herself and her son.

Diocesan efforts like *40 Days for Life* allow people to be a part of a larger miracle – one in which a mother in crisis accepts an offer of assistance and chooses life for her unborn child. In that place, on that day, a miracle took place for Yolanda and for her unborn child. In 2016, the diocesan Office of Life Ministry lead Pro-Life programs and services throughout our five counties with the assistance of 558 leaders.

This is only one of the many examples of hope we bring to people we may never meet – we may never know. Through one gift, lives change, and we can inspire hope for thousands.



Inspire hope-make your gift today!

This information has been provided by the Diocesan Office of Stewardship & Development. To learn more about ministries, services and programs funded by the Annual Pastoral Appeal, visit dosp.org.

