2020 March for Life theme:
“Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman”

The March for Life, the annual march in Washington to protest legalized abortion in the United States, is tying itself in 2020 to the women's suffrage movement for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

The theme of the march is “Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman.” Jeanne Mancini, head of the March for Life, remarked how two noted suffragists of their day, Alice Paul and Susan B. Anthony, were themselves staunchly against abortion.

A video made to support the upcoming march, to be held Jan. 24, said the women called abortion “the ultimate exploitation of women.”

An unnamed woman speaking in the video said 30 million female babies had been aborted since the twin 1973 Supreme Court rulings in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton that legalized abortion virtually on demand.

Mancini said speakers lined up for the pre-march gathering include Louisiana State Sen. Katrina Jackson, a pro-life Democrat who authored a bill in 2014 to require abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. It was ruled unconstitutional in 2017, but that ruling in June Medical Services v. Gee was reversed by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court said in October it would take up the case, its first abortion-related case since the death of Antonin Scalia and the retirement of Anthony Kennedy.

Also on the speakers’ list is U.S. Rep. Christopher Smith, R-New Jersey, long a pro-life advocate, who has sponsored the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, which would bar the killing of any baby who survives an abortion. Two such survivors will speak as well, according to Mancini.

The 2020 march will be the 47th such march. “We march regardless,” Mancini said during a Dec. 3 news briefing in Washington about the march. In 2016, “we had ‘Blizzardgeddon,’” she added. An even stronger blizzard in 1982 that crippled the Washington region and its transportation network did not deter those hardy but few marchers who had already made it to the nation’s capital.

The 2019 march was “the first one we marched during a government shutdown,” Mancini added. She said she is working with the U.S. Park Service to assure that there would be no complications to conducting the march should the government be shut down again.

The March for Life now bills itself as “the world’s largest human rights demonstration” and “the world’s largest pro-life event.” Mancini, during the news briefing, called it “the single unifying pro-life event” bringing together people from all points on the pro-life spectrum.

Mancini said more legislation on the abortion front is being advanced at the state level, and that the March for Life would be replicated elsewhere, including Virginia, Connecticut and Chicago.

While the march promotes legislation reflecting pro-life interests, it also aims to “change hearts and minds,” Mancini said.

Tom McClusky, president of March for Life Action, which is the sister organization of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund headed by Mancini, also spoke at the briefing. “If Roe v. Wade is overturned or weakened,” he said, “there will be even more action in the states.”

— Mark Pattison Catholic News Service
In the second of our Series on the Saints, Monsignor Richard Lavallee will give a presentation on St. Teresa of Lisieux, the “Little Flower.”

**01|29 WEDNESDAY**

**St. Francis Xavier Open House**
St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski 8:30 am – 1:30 pm
St. Francis Xavier offers strong academics, a vibrant community and a supportive, faith-filled environment for students. Walk-ins are welcome, but RSVPs are encouraged by calling (802) 665-2600 or emailing info@sfxtvt.org. For more information: sfxtvt.org.

**01|31 FRIDAY**

**Rice Prospective Parent Coffee**
Rice Memorial High School, Burlington 8 am - 9:30 am
It’s never too soon to start thinking about high school. Find out more about Rice by having breakfast and chatting with the Rice Admissions team. Then drop in to live classrooms and watch our teachers in action! Space is limited. To reserve your spot, please RSVP at https://rmhsvt.schooladminonline.com/portal/public_calendars/parent_coffee

**02|02 SUNDAY**

**World Marriage Day Anniversary Mass**
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington • 10 - 11 am
Join us as we celebrate World Marriage Day by honoring in a special way those celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary. Mass with Bishop Christopher Coyne.

**02|03 MONDAY**

**Series on the Saints: Brother Dutton of Stowe**
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm
In the third of our Series on the Saints, Monsignor Peter Routhier will give a presentation on Brother Dutton of Stowe, Vermont, whose cause for canonization is now being considered.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**01|21 TUESDAY**

**Nicholas Black Elk: Oglala of the Lakota Sioux, Servant of God**
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 9:00 pm
Cousin of Crazy Horse and subject of the famous book, “Black Elk Speaks,” Nicholas Black Elk became a Catholic in 1904. As a catechist he is credited with bringing over 400 people to the faith. In 2017, the Vatican authorized his cause for canonization. Dr. Damian Costello is a vice-postulator of Black Elk’s cause for canonization and the author of “Black Elk: Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism.”

**01|22 WEDNESDAY**

**Organist or Keyboardist/Choir Director**
Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven: Residential Care Positions
The Loretto Home, Rutland: Respect Life Coordinator
St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski: Finance Officer
St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski: Senior Accountant

**01|26 SUNDAY**

**Messe en français at St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington**
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm

**01|27 MONDAY**

**Series on the Saints: St. Teresa, The Little Flower**
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm
In the second of our Series on the Saints, Monsignor Richard Lavallee will give a presentation on St. Teresa of Lisieux, the “Little Flower.”

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**DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS**

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Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven: Organist or Keyboardist/Choir Director
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