

"Choose Life" License Plates

"Since August of 2000, the Choose Life license plates have raised over \$5 million dollars for agencies that promote adoption and provide loving alternatives for pregnant women in crisis. The funding, however, is exceeded by the educational benefits of this simply yellow tag adorning 40,000 vehicles throughout Florida. We may never know how many lives have been touched by the simple message of the 'Choose Life' tag, but we have a wonderful opportunity now to work together to multiply those numbers." (*Deborah Shearer, Director of Respect Life Ministries for the Diocese of Orlando*)

Church teaching

- ★ As far as *the right to life* is concerned, we must denounce its widespread violation in our society.... Abortion and embryonic experimentation constitute a direct denial of that attitude of acceptance of others which is indispensable for establishing lasting relationships of peace. (*Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace*)
- ★ Grant, therefore, that we may listen with open and generous hearts to every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. Thus we shall learn not only to obey the commandment not to kill human life, but also to revere life, to love it and to foster it. (*Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life*)
- ★ The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, The Gift of Life*)
- ★ The first right of the human person is his life. He has other goods and some are more precious, but this one is fundamental - the condition of all the others. Hence it must be protected above all others. It does not belong to society, nor does it belong to public authority in any form to recognize this right for some and not for others... and it is strictly unjust to refuse it. (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Declaration on Procured Abortion*)

Resources

- ★ **Texas Catholic Conference** Abortion page (www.TXcatholic.org/abortion.asp)
- ★ **US Conference of Catholic Bishops** Abortion page (www.USCCB.org/prolife/issues/abortion/)
- ★ **Second Look Project** (www.SecondLookProject.org)
- ★ **National Catholic Bioethics Center** The NCBC conducts research, consultation, publishing and education to promote human dignity in health care and the life sciences, and derives its message directly from the teachings of the Catholic Church (www.NCBCenter.org)
- ★ **Pontifical Academy for Life** The Pontifical Academy for Life was established to study and to provide information and training about the principal problems of law and biomedicine pertaining to the promotion and protection of life, especially in the direct relationship they have with Christian morality and the directives of the Church's Magisterium (www.AcademiaVita.org)

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The Texas Catholic Conference (TCC) is the association of the 15 Roman Catholic dioceses of the State of Texas, and is the Official Public Policy Voice of the Catholic Bishops of Texas.

“Choose Life” License Plates

The Texas Catholic Conference supports legislation to create “Choose” life license plates. The purchase of these plates would enable Texans to fund abortion alternative providers and promote the Culture of Life throughout Texas.

“Choose Life” License Platesⁱ

As of July 2008, 19 states produce license plates which read “Choose Life” or a similar message. Sales from these plates support abortion alternatives providers, also known as crisis pregnancy centers. Crisis pregnancy centers are social service agencies that offer alternatives to abortion. They generally provide free pregnancy tests, unbiased options counseling, referrals to obstetricians and gynecologists as well as material support in the form of baby clothes, furniture, formula, diapers and maternity clothes.

Over 400,000 “Choose Life” license plates have been sold, and have raised over \$9 million dollars to help women.

“Choose Life” License Plates for Texasⁱⁱ

Currently Texas offers over 100 specialty license plates, including university plates, military and veteran plates, and plates for sports teams. In order for the state to offer “Choose Life” license plates, the Texas Legislature must first pass legislation allowing for the creation of the plates.

Choose life license plates would enable another funding source for abortion alternative providers, which promote a culture of life to women facing crisis pregnancy.

ⁱ "Everything You Need to Know about the Choose Life License Tag." Choose Life, Inc.
<<http://www.choose-life.org/>>.

ⁱⁱ "Specialty License Plates." Texas Department of Transportation.
<http://www.txdot.gov/services/vehicle_titles_and_registration/specialty_plates/default.htm>.