

A case study in Dramatic Missionary Growth on Long Island:

Full participation of Diocese of Rockville Centre Catholic high schools
in the January 19, 2018 March For Life in Washington, D.C.

YOUR COMMUNITY
HOLINESS AND MISSION

The Catholic Church's call on Long Island to Dramatic Missionary Growth is something we pray and discern individually and communally. The Church by its very nature is dramatically missionary.

Pope Francis expresses it this way in
The Joy of the Gospel:

“Jesus can break through the dull categories with which we would enclose him and he constantly amazes us by his divine creativity. Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world. Every form of authentic evangelization is always ‘new.’”

In a special way, we discern together the impact of the Catholic education experience on *Dramatic Missionary Growth* on Long Island.

I was informed that 2018 was the first year that all the Catholic high schools on Long Island brought student delegations to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Together, we congratulate the students and faculty of Holy Trinity Diocesan High School, St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, Bishop McGann-Mercy Diocesan High School, Chaminade High School, Kellenberg Memorial High School, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Sacred Heart Academy, St. Anthony's High School, St. Dominic High School and St. Mary's High School for this prophetic and unified witness to the Gospel of Life. This exciting news is a concrete sign of *Dramatic Missionary Growth* in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

The March for Life is a spiritual pilgrimage and a day of intense Catholic formation for our Catholic high school students. It also provides our Catholic high school students with visual evidence and experience that there are vast numbers of other young people from every part of the country on the March who have the same beliefs that they do and are willing to be vocal and courageous in the public



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square about those beliefs.

As our students pray the Mass on the day of the March for Life, they make a beautiful connection between a deep reverence for the Body and Blood of Christ with a deep reverence for every human life at every stage of life.

They see the Gospel of Life in a holistic way that connects the sanctity of human life with every dimension of our Catholic social justice teaching — from a preferential option for the poor, to a firm rejection of all forms of racism and an embrace of the Divine Mercy mission of promoting racial harmony, to a critical emphasis on comprehensive immigration reform in this nation.

These memories will strengthen their conviction and Gospel of Life witness to society — not only in their high school years, but during the entire course of their lives as they pursue a wide variety of educational, career and vocational paths in the public square.

The March for Life is devoted to the fundamental Christian belief — a belief that is expressed in the

Didache, one of the most ancient of all Christian writings — that every single human life is precious to God and that no human being, no matter how tiny or unseen, is insignificant or disposable.

A strong participation in the March for Life by our Catholic high schools is a living expression of Pope Francis' powerful insight and is one index of a vital and strong Catholic identity and sense of mission in our Catholic high schools. It is a sign of *Dramatic Missionary Growth*.

In regard to the actual number of students who attended, two of our Catholic high schools brought more than 100 students, three schools brought close to 50 students, three schools brought close to 30 students and two schools brought fewer than 20 students.

We look forward to a continued increase in participation by our Catholic high school students in the March for Life in the years to come as a sign of the young Church helping to lead *Dramatic Missionary Growth* on Long Island.

Thanks to all our Catholic high school students, our Catholic public high school students and to all of you for your love for the Gospel of Life and the way you bring that love, prayer and conviction courageously and creatively to every dimension of our global public square. †

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”



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