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# Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G • Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

November 2001

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*"An educational group for pro-life nurses."*

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## Plan Now to Attend An Excellent Program November 13th 2001

Michigan Nurses For Life has a very informative program planned for November 13th on the subject of genetics. "The Human Genome Project: Science and Societal Issues" will be presented by Dr. Cheryl Dell Garrett, PhD. These are a few questions we will have answered this evening:

**"It's all in the genes" ---or is it?**

**How much of who we are is determined by our genetic makeup?**

**What are some of the ethical issues involved in genetic testing?**

**How do we keep genetic information private?**

**What is a gene, anyway, and how do changes in genes cause disease?**

Two CEUs will be awarded to all nurses attending this fine educational program. Non-nurses are welcome to attend as well.

MNFL will be meeting at the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 1100 Lone Pine Road. The church is on the Northwest corner of Lone Pine and Telegraph Roads.

Cost for the evening meeting is only \$5.00 for MNFL members and \$10.00 for non-members nurses wishing to receive the CEUs. Guests are welcome and their admission is free.

Michigan Nurses For Life would love to have you join our organization. Benefits of membership include discounts at the Spring Seminar and the bimonthly meetings. Our meetings are a great time of learning, sharing with other pro-life nurses, and becoming prepared to speak out for all life issues. Membership with MNFL is only \$20.00 per year.

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## MNFL Web Page

This year one of our goals was to increase awareness of the existence of Michigan Nurses For Life. The officers and board members decided one way to accomplish this goal was to establish a web page for MNFL. This project was undertaken in conjunction with the Educational Center For Life. We selected the organization Awesome Pages to help us accomplish this task. Our web page should be available by the end of December.



**Visit us on the Web at [www.mnfl.org](http://www.mnfl.org)**

Another way we decided to increase exposure for MNFL was to present a poster display about MNFL at the MNA convention in Detroit. On October 5th and 6th Ann Bellar, Mary Bagazinski, and Mary Lou Temple manned the poster display and provided participants with information about MNFL.



## The Inside Story...

**Dr. John Damiani, DO on  
"Reversing the Abortion Culture"**

**Nurse on the Job:  
Crossroads Pregnancy Center**

**MNFL and Madonna University Form  
Partnership**

**Calendar of Events**

## Michigan Nurses



## For Life

### **Our Purpose:**

...To raise the consciousness of the nursing profession to protect all human life from conception until natural death

...To form an educated core of nurses who can speak for their profession by acting as a community resource for life issues

...To promote public education and awareness about life issues on both ends of the spectrum, from abortion to euthanasia

...To uphold and defend human life in all stages and conditions of development

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### **Michigan Nurses For Life**

Coventry Place suite G  
1637 W. Big Beaver Road  
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

(248) 816-8489 - Office  
(248) 816-9066 - Fax  
Email: [info@mnfl.org](mailto:info@mnfl.org)

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### **Hours:**

Monday through Thursday  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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### **Officers:**

Ann Bellar, President  
Patti Schmidt, Secretary  
Mary Bagazinski, Treasurer

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### **Board Members:**

Pat Leal  
Cheryl Richman  
Phyllis Sullivan  
Mary Lou Temple

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**Editor:** Susan Beardsley

## Dr. Damiani, DO on "Reversing the Abortion Culture"

MNFL received an excellent presentation on the subject "Reversing the Abortion Culture." This very interesting lecture consisted of two parts. In the first portion of Dr. Damiani's lecture he explained where much of the errant thinking of the pro-choice movement originated. Secondly he showed us from the Christian perspective why the pro-life principles result in true happiness and fulfillment.

We learned about the principles behind Planned Parenthood based on Margaret Sanger ideology. First Sanger wrongly believed the main problem in the world was too many people due to woman's reproductive nature. She considered women as victims and slaves of their reproductive behaviors. She felt that a woman has a feminine nature, which is stronger than maternal instincts, and that through birth control woman would free herself and no longer be enslaved by maternity.

Sanger saw beneficial effects resulting from "Choice" or voluntary maternity. In marriage women would be considered equal with her husband, not his slave. Her happiness would be achieved by her absolute control of her reproductive power. The world would be better, because women would not be sexual servants. And she promoted "Every Child a Wanted Child" the idea that children are of value only because they are a choice, not because they are living human beings.

Finally she felt that the State should be empowered to make this "choice", that the unfit would be weeded out. Only people who

are considered by the State as fit would be permitted to have children. Sanger believes the government should have total control over who gives birth.

In the second part of his lecture Dr. Damiani rebuffed Margaret Sanger's ideals with the Christian pro-life viewpoint. First, the pro-life belief is that the main problem with society is too little regard for life, not that there are too many people. The pro-life movement believes life is valuable because it is of God's creation. Woman's reproductive abilities offer her protection and continuous respect, she is not enslaved to maternity.

The pro-life belief is that children are a gift from God, that there is fulfillment in having children and in giving ourselves to them. Happiness is the result of choosing life and love unconditionally, and by respecting and cooperating with God's dominion over life.

Marriage is instituted by God. Through their roles in marriage man and woman are made complete and are fulfilled. Further fulfillment comes from bringing life (childbirth) into the world. Happiness comes as spouses give themselves fully and unselfishly to one another in love.

The pro-life point of view is that every child is precious and every woman is precious. Woman is able to participate in the ongoing creation of the human race. We are all part of the covenant of God.

God's promise to us is love, faithfulness, generosity, self-giving, and fruitfulness. Pro-life thought promotes the idea that mankind should love as God loves and should cherish life as God cherishes life.

# Nurse On The Job at the Crossroads Pregnancy Center

By Jeanne Barrett, RN

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Crossroads Pregnancy Center is a crisis pregnancy center that provides alternatives to abortion. There are many programs at Crossroads, which include free pregnancy tests, counseling by volunteers, a young mom support group, a PACE (Post Abortion) group, childbirth classes, and a mother and baby care program which provides material assistance to women in need. We have just been invited to augment the abstinence education program for 7th grade students in the Troy school system. As Health Education Manager my role consists of providing first trimester ultrasound to verify pregnancy, prenatal education, phone consultation, and generally acting as a resource person to the staff and volunteers.

Crossroads Pregnancy Center provides a free limited ultrasound to its pregnant clients. The purpose of this service is to verify the pregnancy and detect fetal heart motion. It also gives the client a chance to see her baby in utero. When she sees that little heart beating she will know her baby is not just a "blob of tissue." The visualization of her baby is the first step in the bonding process between mother and child. Many hearts have been changed because of this new technology.

The training required for my position included attendance at the NIFLA (National Institute of Family and Life Advocates)

Limited Obstetrical course in California last March. The course followed AWHONN and ACOG guidelines. Upon completion of the class I had to do 50 supervised ultrasounds before I was considered competent to do them on my own. It has been a long process, and I finally completed my 50 scans in August. We have a physician off site and he oversees the ultrasound program. We are in frequent contact and he is always available when questions arise.

The second part of my job is prenatal education. I teach my clients what to expect during her pregnancy. We discuss body changes, nutrition, when to call the doctor, and what to avoid during pregnancy. Many women come to the center in their second trimester of pregnancy with no prenatal care. I strongly encourage them to see their physician as soon as possible and give them referrals if they don't have insurance.

The last part of my job is to answer e-mail, phone calls, and be a resource person to the rest of the staff and volunteers. Questions I've answered include those involving RU486, the morning after pill, natural family planning, and the grieving process.

Prayer is the glue that holds everything together. I could not work in this setting without the help of the Holy Spirit. He puts the words in my mouth that touches my client's heart. He tells me when to challenge her and when to back off. It is His love that I show my clients. It is His work that I do. I am thrilled to have a job that allows me to promote life.

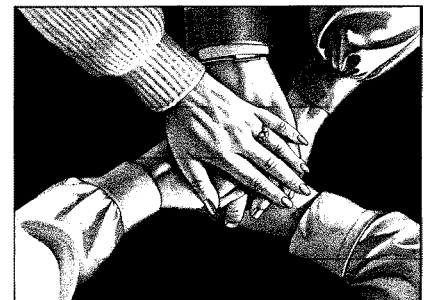
# MNFL and Madonna University Form Partnership

By Ann Bellar, President MNFL

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A goal for this year was to establish a relationship with a pro-life nursing program in order to develop and support future pro-life nurses. I am pleased to announce that Madonna University has agreed to partner with MNFL. Dr. Mary Wawrzynski, Dean of Nursing, as well as the entire executive committee gave their approval for this partnership. Mary Bagazinski, treasurer of MNFL, will spearhead this effort and we hope to award financial help based on specific pro-life assignments this year to students enrolled in the undergraduate nursing program. The officers and board members of MNFL applaud the commitment of Dr. Mary Wawrzynski to pro-life issues in nursing practice and we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership.

Madonna is a Franciscan University located in Livonia, Michigan. Both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs are available at Madonna University, including an Adult Nurse Practitioner program.



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# MNFL Upcoming Dates to Mark on Your Calendar!

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## **November 13th at 7:00 p.m.**

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**Dr. Cheryl Dell Garret, PhD**, will speak on "Scientific and Social Implications of the Human Genome Project" at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

## **January 8th at 7:00 p.m.**

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**Dr. John Anderson, MD**, Director of Henry Ford Hospice will speak on "End of Life Decisions Regarding Food and Fluids" at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

## **March 8th at 7:00 p.m.**

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**Barbara Lubinski, RN, MSN**, Director of Precious Children Respite Center will speak on "Respite Care for Chronically Ill, Disabled Children" at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

## **March 23, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

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**Michigan Nurses For Life Annual Spring Seminar with Educational Center For Life**  
**Keynote Speaker: Dr. John Diggs Jr., MD**  
"Abstinence: Just Do It!"  
Location: Kresge Hall / Madonna University  
Livonia, Michigan

**Don't miss this important event!**

**Mark your calendar NOW for November 13, 2001 - 7:00 p.m.**