

The Diocese of Metuchen
presents...

**The
Critical Life Issues
Conference
2017**

**“Be Not Afraid!
Love Unleashes Life!”**



**Saturday, October 14, 2017
8:30 AM—3:30 PM
St. John Neumann Conference Center
146 Metlars Lane,
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854**

*In collaboration with
The Archdiocese of Newark, Respect Life Office*

The Diocese of Metuchen

Diocese of Metuchen
Office of Respect for Life
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Made possible in part by

The Bishop's Annual Appeal

Among the Conference Speakers are:

Stephanie Gray

Stephanie Gray is a seasoned and international speaker who began presenting at the age of 18. She has given over 800 pro-life presentations across North America as well as in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Latvia, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. She has spoken at many post-secondary institutions such as Yale University, George Washington University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Sussex in England. In 2017, Stephanie was a presenter for the series "Talks at Google," speaking on abortion at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California.

Stephanie is a faculty member at Blackstone Legal Fellowship where she trains law students from around the world about conversing persuasively on abortion. She is author of *Love Unleashes Life: Abortion & the Art of Communicating Truth* as well as *A Physician's Guide to Discussing Abortion*. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UBC in Vancouver, and a Certification, *with Distinction*, in Health Care Ethics, from the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Eileen Benthall

Eileen Benthall is an author, speaker and certified coach with a special heart for people with disabilities and families who care for them. She is the author of *Breathing Underwater: A Journey of Hope* and co-author of *Navigating Deep Waters: Meditations for Caregivers*. She also writes a bi-weekly spiritual reflection column entitled: *“Life on Purpose”* at *RiverheadLocal.com*. Eileen is a wife and mother of four children, the youngest of whom is a child who was born with a life-threatening disease. In her talks, and in her writing, Eileen shares her family's miraculous and inspiring journey of faith in the midst of severe trials. Articles and interviews about their journey and their daughter Johanna have appeared in the NY Times, the NY Daily News, and on Fox 5 NY.

Sean O'Hare

Sean O'Hare is a young, dynamic and influential speaker on the topics of pro-life, Christian apologetics, business and philanthropy. As a lifetime entrepreneur he has been founder and operator of multiple business ventures.

His business interests have included technology, restaurants and cyber security. In the non-profit arena he is proud to serve as the Chairman of the Board for Students for Life of America. Students for Life is the largest pro-life organization dedicated to youth, high school and college students; with a presence on over 1000 college campuses! Sean has spoken at over 100 venues. This includes 50+ universities such as University of Chicago, Duke University, UCLA and Baylor University. In addition, he recently acted as an advisor to the Vatican Library in Rome

Sean has also worked with the Tim Tebow Foundation to host “A Night to Shine,” a prom for teens with special needs, in Times Square.

Rev. Edmund Luciano, III

Fr. Edmund Luciano is a native vocation of the Diocese of Metuchen, the eldest child of Edmund and Susan Luciano of Kendall Park. A product of life-long Catholic schools, he completed his baccalaureate degree in Philosophy and Catholic Studies studying at both Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, and the Angelicum, Rome. Fr. Edmund was ordained a priest May 23, 2009 upon completion of his Masters in Divinity from St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore.

Fr. Edmund is currently serving as parochial vicar of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bridgewater, NJ and Director in the Diocesan Development Office. For the past ten years he has volunteered with the New Jersey Tissue and Organ Sharing Network training hospital staff on religious perspectives on organ donation and at the Donor Sabbath advocating for a cause very near to his own heart.

Goals for the Conference

- To discover how to have compelling and compassionate encounters when discussing the abortion issue.
- To equip participants with methods such as story telling and asking questions that can be applied in order to provide a strong intellectual case for the pro-life message as well as to reach those who have wounded hearts.
- To explore how each of us, with God's help, can pull forth courage to face the challenges of illness and disabilities as well as the struggles of caregiving for those who face those difficulties.
- To discuss how the donation of organs, done in an ethically acceptable manner, is a beautiful, life-giving act.
- To build an understanding that reaching out to those who are vulnerable, including the unborn, the terminally ill, the frail elderly and those living with disabilities is necessary for a healthy society and helps to build a world where human life is always loved and respected and an environment of hope.
- To gather, to be nourished and to celebrate the gift of life in prayer and fellowship.

Be Not Afraid—Love Unleashes Life!

Agenda

7:30 AM - **Doors Open—Registration/Exhibits**

8:30 AM—**Mass celebrated by Reverend Timothy A. Christy**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Coffee Break –Visit exhibits

10:00 am Welcome

“Abortion and the Art of Communicating Truth” ~ Stephanie Gray

Short break—Visit Exhibits

11:20 am

“Breathing Underwater—A Caregiver’s Journey of Hope”

~ Eileen Benthall

Visit Exhibits—Book Signings

12:15 PM—Lunch—Dining Hall

1:10 pm

“Evangelization and Building a Culture of Life”~ Sean O’Hare

Break

2:20 pm

“Organ Donation—The Gift of Life in the Midst of Sorrow”

~ Rev. Edmund Luciano, III

3:20 pm—Benediction and Closing

Registration Form Critical Life Issues Conference *Preferred method—online registration*

To register online visit: <http://diometuchen.org/critical-life>

Please check one:

- General Admission
 Students**
 Priest/Deacon/Religious
 Parish Pro-Life Representative
 Healthcare Professional
 Educator
 Other

Price

\$25.00

**Fee is \$10.00 for High School and College Students

Total payment enclosed _____

Make checks payable to the *Diocese of Metuchen*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/email _____

Parish/Affiliation _____

Please indicate if you have any special needs. Explain:

Please list the name and address of each participant separately.

**Registrations should be received by Oct. 05, 2017.
Space is limited.**

Registration Fee includes lunch and handouts.

Send to:

**Diocese of Metuchen
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For more information:

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