



STAND IN THE GAP

Participating in and standing for the pro-life movement is one vital focus of our diocesan Office of Life, Justice, and Advocacy. This movement takes many forms such as pro-life rallies and marches like the Tampa Bay March for Life which draw people ranging from those who are firmly pro-life to those who may be unsure.

The 2025 rally, held on Saturday, February 1, drew over 1,000 participants from the Tampa Bay area and beyond. The event consisted of the celebration of Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, the march from the parish to Perry Harvey, Sr. Park, prayers, and a moving talk from well-known Catholic speaker Joel Stepanek.

Evangelization is a large part of the event – showing those around us that all people regardless of age or size are worthy of the dignity that is given by God.

“Life begins at conception, and I want to help support that and help the whole world know,” explained Zach, a young man from Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Tampa.

After ten states had constitutional amendments proposed to enshrine abortion, it made this year’s participants all the more enthusiastic.

Joel Stepanek encouraged all to follow Jesus’ example in our own communities and families. “Be ready to stand in the gap,” he said.

“When the world puts a situation in front of us where we will say ‘If you would wish to be the one to cast the first stone, you may, but I will stand here and I will take it along with that person because I will not let them suffer alone. I will not let their voice be silenced.’”



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