



Dubuque County  
Right To Life, Inc.

# LIFE TIME

NOVEMBER 2024 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 11

**\*\*CORRECTION—** The voter guide on page 11 of October's newsletter listed Iowa State Senate candidate Tom Townsend as having an unclear record on Life issues that was represented by the question mark symbol "?". This was an error. Tom Townsend is solidly pro-abortion and should have been given a "5" ranking, which is the most extreme pro-abortion ranking that can be given to a candidate.\*\*



## HOW YOU CAN INFLUENCE PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION IN 2025

Last legislative session there was a bill titled Baby Olivia that would have made it required to show a video of human development in public schools. It was titled Baby Olivia after the 3-minute video that Live Action created showing human development based on scientific evidence from scholarly sources. The legislature did not pass the bill. How many kids would hold a different opinion on abortion if they knew what human development looked like at that stage? What pro-life bill will not make it in the future if we don't do something?

One thing that helps legislators who are unsure on a bill is to have many constituents contact them with their thoughts. This information session will cover how you can make a difference in the upcoming Iowa legislative session in 5-minutes or less. Each of these events are for informative purposes and an opportunity for you to ask questions you may have on this topic. There is no obligation to commit to anything in particular by attending one of these sessions.

**We are offering two sessions to allow as many people as possible to attend.**

**1st Information Session:** Following Board Elections at our Membership Meeting. November 7th at 7pm at the DCRTL Office (2205 Carter Rd).

**2nd Information Session:** Tuesday, November 12 at 10am with doughnuts and coffee at Board Member, Laura Dolehide's house. RSVP is needed.

**If you are attending Tuesday morning's session at Laura's house, contact Shauna Peterson to sign up at [dcrtevents@gmail.com](mailto:dcrtevents@gmail.com), or by calling 563-556-5960 by Friday, November 8th.** If you can't attend either session, but you are still interested in learning more, please let us know. Together we can make a difference for the pre-born human beings and make abortion unthinkable.



# November 2024

Volume 27, Number 11  
Published Monthly

### Office Personnel:

Augustine Payne  
*Executive Director*

Shauna Peterson  
*Outreach Coordinator*

Grace Van Petten  
*Outreach Associate  
(part-time)*

### Board of Directors:

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### Contact Us:

2205 Carter Road  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
(563) 556-5960  
dctrl@dctrl.org  
www.dctrl.org

### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm  
Weekends: Closed

### Dyersville Office:

1657 15th Avenue S.E.  
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

# November 2024

Tuesday, November 5	Election Day - VOTE PRO-LIFE!!
Thursday, November 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Directors Elections - see page for candidate bios. 9am-4pm vote by phone. 6:30pm doors open. 6:45pm - meet the candidates/vote in-person.</li> <li>• Presentation: How YOU can influence Pro-Life Legislation in 2025 - DCRTL Office - 7 p.m.</li> </ul>
Tuesday, November 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: How YOU can influence Pro-Life Legislation in 2025 - Laura Dolehide's home - 10:00 a.m. RSVP required.</li> </ul>
Thursday, November 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Directors meeting</li> <li>• **Holy Hour - 7pm** St. John the Baptist, Peosta <i>(**Note date change)</i></li> </ul>
November 28-29	Happy Thanksgiving - Office Closed



# December 2024

Monday, December 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Day to order Butter Braids</li> </ul>
Thursday, December 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Night of Prayer for Life <i>(time &amp; location TBD)</i></li> </ul>
Saturday, December 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCRTL Christmas Party - Open House</li> </ul>
Tuesday, December 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butter Braid pickup. DCRTL Office</li> </ul>
Thursday, December 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Directors meeting</li> </ul>
Tuesday/Wednesday, December 24/25	Merry Christmas! DCRTL Office closed.
Thursday, December 26	DCRTL Office reopens 10:30am
Tuesday, December 31	Office closes at 12:00 noon <i>(still available for phone calls that day)</i> . Normal business hours will resume on January 2nd. Happy New Year!



## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are so grateful Sarah Hurm was able to come and share her story with us during PLA Week! Thank you to everyone who was able to join us in hearing her testimony!!

There is more to Sarah's story than what I will cover here, but I would like to share a few details so you begin to understand what she was going through. With your support, we were able to bring Sarah and her story to many schools in the area.

Sarah had three other children, and when pregnant with her fourth child, she was being pressured by the father of that child to go get an abortion. Due to the father's pressure to have an abortion (because he didn't want the responsibility of raising a child), she made an appointment for an abortion.

She decided on the abortion pill regimen as she could do it without telling anyone. She took the first abortion pill at the abortion clinic and was given four pills to take 24–72 hours later. As soon as she walked out of the abortion clinic, she immediately felt regret for taking the first abortion pill. Picking up her kids from school that day, she realized that though life was not perfect, they were alive and they were loved so why shouldn't this child receive the same love and opportunity at life. Later that night, she investigated whether the abortion pill was reversible (although Planned Parenthood had told her it was NOT reversible and she HAD to take the other pills). The next morning, she began the process of the abortion pill reversal. We can praise God that the reversal was successful.

If you'd like to read her book, a generous benefactor has donated five copies to our office, and we would love for you to experience her story. The book includes some of her journal entries from the pregnancy, her journey to a life more rooted in Christ, and a short interview with the doctor who assisted in the reversal.

Over the course of her visit, multiple people commented that they had never heard of abortion pill reversal. In order to understand how abortion pill reversal works, it is helpful to know the abortion pill regimen.

### **The Abortion Pill: The most common abortion procedure**

The first step of the process is Mifepristone (pronounced: mi-fuh-pri-stone). The drug deprives the child in the womb of the natural hormone called progesterone (pronounced pro-jeh-str-own). Progesterone has a dual purpose. It works to provide a proper environment for the newly conceived human being to implant, as well as it is the nutrients for the child until the placenta takes over at around ten weeks. Essentially, mifepristone deprives the child in the womb of progesterone (nutrients and a stable environment), thus starving the child to death if the abortion pill is successful.

The second step of the abortion pill regiment is taking four pills of Misoprostol. These pills are taken to cause contractions and delivery of the dead child. Sometimes they prescribe a double dose (eight pills) if they are closer to the 10-week mark. Sometimes, the pills do not cause the child and pregnancy tissue to expel completely. The baby's body parts and tissue left inside can cause sepsis in the mother. For more information on a recent case where the mother tragically became septic and died, see the Pro-Life Court and Legislation Update by Arthur Gilloon on page five.

### **Abortion Pill Reversal**

Prior to taking the second set of pills (misoprostol) and if the child is still alive (they look for a heartbeat), there is about a 65% chance that the first abortion pill could be reversed and the child lives.

*...continued on page 7*



# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



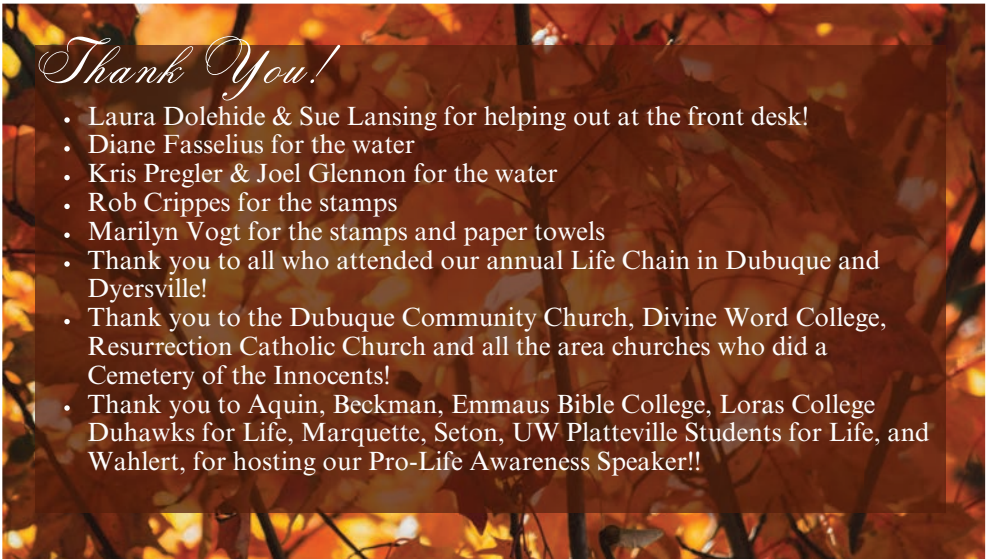
## *In Memory of:*

A Loved One.....	Anonymous
Beverly Becker.....	Joseph & Katherine Jasper
Beverly Boeckenstedt.....	Elaine Lueken, Donald & Diane Overman
Thomas Boever.....	Brian & Joan Nelson
Janas Frye.....	Bill Frye, Linda Kerkel
James Gudenkauf.....	Donald & Diane Overman
Elmer Heitz.....	George & Bonnie Heisler, Joseph & Katherine Jasper
Alfred (Fritz) Mescher.....	Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek

## *In Honor of:*

St. Therese the Little Flower.....	Donald & Carla Averkamp
Paul Hemmer (80th Birthday).....	Jim & Kathy Conlon

*When a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of \$250 or greater, their name is engraved on our memorial plaque, displayed in our office. Simply send us, along with your gift, the name of the person you are honoring and the name and address of the family to whom you'd like the acknowledgement sent. We'll be happy to send a card.*





## PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE

by Arthur F. Gilloon, DCRTL Board Member & Attorney



Dear Friends for Life—

I am going to share a hodgepodge of life news from around the country. There's lots going on.

### National News

You will recall that in February 2024, the Alabama Supreme Court recognized frozen human embryos as human “children.” This ruling stated that Alabama’s wrongful death statute would allow the mothers and fathers of human embryos stored in a cryo-facility to sue the hospital and storage unit after a wayward patient dropped several test tubes and killed their human embryos. After a public outcry concerned that IVF facilities would shut down, the Alabama Legislature passed a new law giving IVF facilities immunity from such lawsuits. The IVF storage facility and the hospital asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene and dismiss the lawsuit against them. On Monday, October 7, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its generic order list of rejected cases, including this one. The court gave no rationale for its refusal to hear the case. The lawsuit will now wind its way through the Alabama courts and may eventually be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court again. It is noteworthy that the new law passed by the Alabama Legislature would prohibit such lawsuits in the future in Alabama.

In other U.S. Supreme Court news, the high court rejected the Biden administration’s attempt to force hospital emergency room personnel in Texas to perform abortions under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act while a related lawsuit makes its way through the federal courts in Texas. The Supreme Court had issued a similar order in regard to an Idaho case. The issue is whether pro-life state laws in Idaho in Texas trump federal rules regarding hospitals that received Medicaid funding. The pro-abortion argument is that any hospital that receives Medicaid funding should be forced to perform abortions in the emergency room as an appropriate “stabilization procedure.” Abortion should never be a stabilizing procedure. Calling it such is just an attempt to force doctors to perform elective abortions on demand. If a woman’s life is in immediate danger, state laws uniformly allow abortion to save the life of the mother.

### State News

*Georgia*— You will recall last month I wrote about the case of Amber Thurman, the unfortunate Georgia mother who died after the abortion pills she took left her dead baby twins’ body parts inside, leading to a deadly infection. (See the October newsletter for details.) The attorney representing her family now says that they do not blame Georgia’s protective heartbeat law for causing her death. They blame the Georgia doctors who did not act quickly enough, because there was nothing under Georgia law that would’ve prevented them from performing life-saving surgery on Amber upon her entry to the hospital. Nationally known civil rights attorney Ben Crump stated, “Even under Georgia law, the doctors had to duty to act to save Amber. She had taken abortion pills and there were tissues left.” Although Crum’s words dehumanize the twin unborn human beings that were killed by the abortion pills, he correctly notes that Georgia’s protective pro-life law did not cause Amber’s death. Likewise, Georgia state senator Ed Setzler commented on Ms. Thurman’s death, saying, “This young mother was killed by a 9-week chemical abortion that Georgia banned in 2019 because it is dangerous for women and deadly for their children.” Please spread the word that so-called abortion pills are unsafe for both mother and child.

## PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE

...continued from page 5

In other news from Georgia, the Georgia Supreme Court reinstated Georgia's heartbeat law after a district court judge in Fulton County struck down the law on September 30, 2024. Georgia's pro-life law titled "Living Infants and Fairness Equality (LIFE) Act," originally passed in 2019, took effect in 2022 after the Dobbs U.S. Supreme Court decision reversed *Roe v. Wade*.

The law states:

"Except in the case of a medical emergency, or when a pregnancy is diagnosed as medically futile, no abortion shall be performed or attempted to be performed unless the physician performing such procedure has first made a determination of the presence of a detectable human heartbeat...of an unborn child."

(Georgia's law is not as pro-life as Iowa's, however, because it allows abortions after 20 weeks if the mother is a victim of rape or incest reported within certain time deadlines. As we know, abortion is not a cure for the trauma of rape, and women and their unborn children who are victims of crime need our help, not abortion.)

The Fulton County state court judge had ruled that the law violated Georgia's state constitution. Georgia's pro-life attorney general, Christopher Carr, immediately appealed the lower court ruling stating that he believed "Georgia's LIFE Act is fully constitutional." Georgia Supreme Court's action undoing the lower court ruling will allow the protective heartbeat law to stay in effect while the Georgia Supreme Court considers the appeal. The appeal process will take many months, meaning the lives of many expectant mothers and their pre-born children will be saved in the interim.

*Kentucky*— There's good news from Kentucky, where a long legal battle has ended with a pro-life victory. In June 2021, Louisville passed a city ordinance creating a 10-foot "buffer zone" on the public sidewalk and street surrounding abortion facilities. This ordinance prohibited pro-lifers from attempting to hand abortion-alternative information to women seeking abortions. Violations of the ordinance call for a fine up to \$500 for each offense. The pro-lifers sued, and the legal battle dragged on for years in federal court. In December 2022, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals put the ordinance on hold, preventing the city of Louisville from enforcing the buffer zone. The court case continued until on Friday, September 13, 2024, when a federal district court judge granted the pro-lifers' motion to install a permanent injunction against the buffer zone ordinance. The First Amendment constitutional rights of the pro-lifers to assemble and sidewalk counsel triumphed. These types of cases are important because they are in federal court, and while the constitutional reasoning of federal courts in Kentucky are not binding, but they do have influence on the federal courts in Iowa should the need arise here to protect the rights of Iowa sidewalk counselors.

That's all for now, friends. Stay informed. Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. will assist you in educating your friends, family, and co-workers about the humanity of the preborn, the positive Pro-Life alternatives to abortion, and how we are all helping women facing unintended pregnancies.

Arthur F. Gilloon, Attorney at Law



### Going South for the winter??

Please contact the DCRTL office ([reception@dcrtl.org](mailto:reception@dcrtl.org); 563-556-5960) with your winter address and the dates during which you will be gone. You may choose to have us discontinue the monthly newsletters or have them sent to your winter address. We can also make sure you receive it via email!

## NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

...continued from page 3

The abortion pill reversal process involves administering high doses of the natural hormone progesterone. It is done orally, vaginally, or by intramuscular injection, to try to overcome the effects of the first abortion pill. Time is critical for the success of the reversal, though there are outlier examples where a child has been saved when the first pill was taken a week prior.

It is estimated that there are over 6,000 babies rescued from the abortion pill. Hopefully the success rate for the abortion pill reversal will continue to rise as the medical community seeks to make it more effective. We will continue to cover abortion pill reversal more in depth in a coming newsletter.

### **An update on the use of Abortion Victim Imagery**

We are very grateful to all of those who took the time to share their feedback and personal stories on whether we should proceed with showing abortion victim images in public. There was a general consensus from the feedback received that there is a place for it to be used effectively. The Board of Directors formed a small committee that will work on what exactly that will look like. Thank you again to everyone for sharing their feedback!! I love that we have an active community of pro-lifers.

### **Vote Pro-Life!!!**

Don't forget to vote if you have not already done so. And when you vote, remember to vote Pro-Life!! For more information on the candidates position on Life, please refer to our October Newsletter. If you need another copy, more information on judges up for retention, or those pages printed out, please reach out to our office. We are happy to help. Many thanks to Iowa Right To Life and Pulse Life Advocates for their research on the judges background.

A happy and blessed Thanksgiving to you! One of the many things I'm grateful for is the opportunity to work full-time to end abortion, and ending this injustice would not be possible without your support.

In gratitude,

*Augustine Payne*



The perfect opportunity is available to ALL, to purchase these delicious pastries while supporting the Pro-Life cause. These pastries are perfect to have on hand for a quick treat, or of course breakfast during the busy Christmas season. Below are the available flavors. Whichever one(s) you choose, we promise you'll be satisfied!

*Cost: \$16/each (\$6.50 of that will go directly towards DCRTL).*

To order your Butter Braids, contact the DCRTL office at 563-556-5960 or via email at [dctrlvents@gmail.com](mailto:dctrlvents@gmail.com).

**Final Order Deadline: Please call or email your order by Monday, December 2nd.**

**Pick-Up Date & Time:** Please pick up your order on Tuesday, December 17th, at the DCRTL office!

#### **Available flavors:**

-Apple -Blueberry Cream Cheese -Cinnamon -Cream Cheese -Raspberry  
-Strawberry Cream Cheese -Caramel Rolls (9 per pkg) -Cinnamon Rolls (9 per pkg)

## BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Dubuque County Right To Life (DCRTL) is governed by a board of directors consisting of 9–12 persons nominated and elected for staggered three-year terms by the members of DCRTL.

Our nominating committee will present the following candidates to the general membership at the November 7th membership meeting (held at our office – 2205 Carter Rd., Dubuque, IA). Nominations from the floor by any current DCRTL member will also be accepted during the meeting. All DCRTL members are eligible to vote, but must do so in person at the meeting or by calling the office (563-556-5960) on November 7th between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.



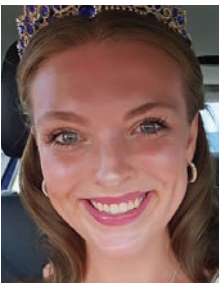
**Marian Bourek** has spent her entire life in the pro-life movement. She is a founding member of Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. (1985) and Mary's Inn Maternity Home (2015). As retired Executive Director of Dubuque County Right to Life, she still serves on its Board of Directors and is a member of several working committees. She is currently Vice President of Mary's Inn, serving on its Board of Directors. She also serves as Vice President of Life Decisions International and spent several years on the Board of Pulse Life Advocates (formerly Iowans for L.I.F.E.) Marian is also a founding member of the Gabriel Project for the Archdiocese of Dubuque and is active in her parish. Mrs. Bourek spent six years serving the State of Iowa as

a lay person on the Iowa Board of Medicine. She is a former high school and middle school teacher. She is married to Dr. Virgil Bourek, a veterinarian who practices out of his clinic in Dyersville. They have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.



**Darby Callahan** joined the board in November 2021. He is a former parish minister in the areas of youth, young adult, and evangelization ministries. He has a BA in Marketing and Business Administration from Loras College. He is currently pursuing an MA degree in Theology and Christian Ministry. He is seeking another term for the Board of Dubuque County Right to Life because he believes in the sanctity of life from the moment of conception until natural death. He is very happy with the accomplishments of Dubuque County Right to Life in the last three years and would like to continue working on our current projects and begin new strategies to continue educating

the public on the dangers of abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.



**August Christensen.** - I am the proud 19 year old daughter of Kurt and Bridget Christensen, and a student at Emmaus Bible College here in Dubuque, Iowa, studying the Bible and majoring in elementary education. A fun fact about me is that I am the 2024 Dubuque County Dairy Princess! I have always been "Pro-Life," however, it wasn't until recently that I've become unapologetically Pro-Life. It was around November of last year that my eyes were opened to the horrors of the abortion industry and the lies of Planned Parenthood. My eyes were opened thanks to the work of Stunents for Life of America, an amazing

## BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

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pro-life organization. When my eyes were opened to the truth, I cried out to the Lord, and He revealed a calling I have from Him to use whatever strength or voice I have to fight for the most vulnerable among us. I will never stop speaking up against the horrors of the abortion industry until abortion is unthinkable and illegal. I want to change hearts, so I can change minds. If elected to serve as a board member of Dubuque County Right to Life, I will do all I can to spread awareness, change hearts, and ultimately change minds. I feel a calling to serve and to minister through the Dubuque County Right to Life, and am excited to bring a young presence and uncompromised biblical perspective. I will work to empower women, create a culture of life, and protect the most innocent and vulnerable among us.



**Judy Tigges** is a graduate of Loras College with a B.A. in Accounting and currently serves as the bookkeeper of the Church of the Resurrection. She is married to Kevin and has three amazing daughters and one beautiful granddaughter. She has been an active volunteer with Dubuque County Right to Life for many years, most recently helping with the Memorial of the Unborn project. Judy also volunteers her time with Hospice of Dubuque where she started the 11 th Hour program. She looks forward to bringing her energy and sharing new ideas in her role as a board member.

Spotted in  
Dubuque  
County...



 <p><b>Babies are a Blessing</b> <i>Choose Life!</i></p> <p>Del &amp; Lois Link and Family</p>	 <p>"Do whatever He tells you." John 25</p> <p>Jesus wants YOU to save the babies.</p> <p>John &amp; Ellen Markham</p>	<p>Locally Owned &amp; Community Minded </p> <p><b>PARAMOUNT</b> <b>AMBULANCE</b></p> <p><b>(563) 690-9111</b></p> <p>Where Our People Make the Difference</p>
 <p><b>Divine Word College</b></p> <p><b>Building a culture of life!</b></p>	<p><b>In Loving Memory of Heidi Honkamp-Myhre and Arnie Honkamp</b></p> <p>Joyce Honkamp</p>	 <p><b>OUR LADY OF LIFE, PRAY FOR US.</b></p> <p><i>Dr. David &amp; Eva Stabenow</i></p>


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+Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



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Melissa Noel, 563-564-6365 or powerofprayerchapel@outlook.com

**Catholic Parishes of the Emmaus Pastorate:**

St. Patrick, Colquhoun; St. Mark, Edgewood; St. Joseph, Elkader; St. Mary, Strawberry Point; and Sacred Heart, Volga.

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."*  
-Jeremiah 1:5

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*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.*  
Jer. 1:5

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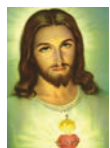
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**In Loving Memory of:**

**Bud Portz  
&  
Mary Mormann**



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woman to give birth...and the right  
of every child to be born."*

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St. Faustina,

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I desire the  
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