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# The Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville

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## **PRESS RELEASE AND MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For immediate release**

**Jan. 14, 2010**

## Bishop Stika to lead pro-life rosary service

KNOXVILLE—At 10 a.m., Jan. 16 Bishop Richard F. Stika of the Catholic Diocese of Knoxville will lead a pro-life rosary service near a local abortion clinic. Those gathered at Tyson Park, across the street from Volunteer Women's Medical Clinic, 313 S. Concord St. in Knoxville, will pray for an end to abortion and for healing for post-abortive women. Bishop Stika will be joined by most of the priests and deacons of East Tennessee as well as Catholic laity. A large turnout is expected.

Also present will be several women representing the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, which seeks to make people aware of the devastation abortion causes men, women, and families. Through their public witness, these post-abortive women hope that the emotional and physical pain of abortion will no longer be shrouded in secrecy but rather exposed and healed.

The abortion clinic on Concord Street is one of two in Knoxville that conduct surgical abortions—several thousand each year.

Several pregnancy-help centers are located within the greater Knoxville area. Two are operated by Catholic Charities of East Tennessee Inc.: one on the university campus, at John XXIII Catholic Center, and the other at 3227 Division St. Catholic Charities assists approximately 2,000 women a year through these two centers. The agency also operates pregnancy help centers in Chattanooga and LaFollette.

Hope Pregnancy Resource Center operates a clinic next to the abortion facility on Concord Street and one in Lenoir City. Choices Pregnancy Resource Center runs a center in Oak Ridge. Pregnancy-help centers are also located in Maryville and Sevierville.