

# CEMETERY OF THE INNOCENTS

## HISTORY

Cemetery of the Innocents began in 1996 in Greater Cincinnati as The Way of the Crosses at St. Agnes Church in Northern Kentucky. During the summer, the Richard and Jean Anne VonHandorf family made 2,000 crosses and another 2,000 were made by Tim Reese and his friends. The 4,000 crosses represent the number of babies who die every day from abortion in the United States.



Larry and Kay Sendelbach became involved with Cemetery of the Innocents in 1997, Larry also built 4,000 crosses and he continues to deliver and supervise the installation of Cemetery of the Innocents at area churches, schools, and more.

The crosses have been set up at hundreds of churches, schools, & other locations around Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

The VonHandorfs have donated their set of crosses to Cincinnati Right to Life. Both displays include attractive signage and/or banners that provide help information to those considering an abortion or suffering from past decisions.

In 2012, the Respect Life group at St. Jude Parish, Cincinnati built a cross display for smaller areas consisting of 50 crosses to represent each state in the country. The crosses are larger than those for bigger areas, and each bears a state abbreviation plus the estimated number of abortions performed in that state—though smaller, still an attractive and meaningful memorial.

## IMPACT

The crosses were created for and continue to be:

- 1) an educational tool for the general public
- 2) informational help for those considering abortion
- 3) a source of healing for those dealing with past abortions

**The visual impression lasts a life time.** Cemetery of the Innocents emphasizes that those remembered are valued and loved in our society.

**The intangible is made real.** Many people cannot comprehend or simply don't believe the high number of abortions performed locally or nationwide. This display uses actual abortion statistics to show the true loss of lives.

**Healing is given to the hurting.** Over the years people have called or written letters saying that seeing the crosses has prompted them to seek closure for their personal experience with abortion or loss of a child. A phone number is posted so that women can confidentially call and seek either pregnancy help or post-abortion counseling.

**Abortion Hurts Women**

*Pregnant? Had an Abortion? Need Help?*

**1.800.395.HELP** [www.CincinnatiRightToLife.org](http://www.CincinnatiRightToLife.org)

## KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

We have been blessed with very dedicated volunteers who build, help setup, and store the Cemetery of the Innocents displays. However, we need your help to continue to educate the public and help women, men, and their families.



## TESTIMONIAL

*Sacred Heart Church*

*Thank you for your precious Cemetery for Innocence. It so touched my heart last year and made me think. Long ago, I made a terrible mistake and aborted my Child. I cannot get my baby back, but if my letter would just save one young girl from the pain I've known, it would be worth it. Thank you all so much.*

*Today, I took my Baby flowers. I just wanted to thank the Church. Lord forgive me. Bring me peace.*

*I will sign no name,  
I am joined by many  
unnamed girls & women*

## INFORMATION

If you would like more information or to schedule the Cemetery of the Innocents, please contact:

For a set of 400, 800 or 1200 crosses -  
(for smaller areas)  
Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.  
513.728.7870  
CincinnatiRightToLife.org  
mail@cincinnatirighttolife.org

For a set of 2,000 to 4,000 crosses -  
Larry Sendelbach  
859.441.2712

For the 50-state cross set -  
(for very small areas)  
Mike Reckers  
513.941.2758  
mreckers57@gmail.com

