



Divine Mercy Care

Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare™

Annual Report 2022

Dear Friends:

The year 2022 at Divine Mercy Care began early and ended late for me... so typical for an OB/GYN. It was a year that took me away from seeing patients at Tepeyac and took me out of my comfort zone, with an autoimmune condition that disturbed my balance, strength and focus, and a heart block that required a pacemaker. It was also a year of new beginnings. I made the transition from the exam room to my new role as President of Divine Mercy Care, providentially, just as Roe v Wade was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Dobbs decision is a pivotal moment for the pro-life movement and for medicine. The medical establishment has operated with abortion on demand for 50 years. Now is our time at Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac OB/GYN to show the world that there is another way. We are in demand as an OB/GYN practice and as a leader in excellent women's health. Our model bridges the left and right — the social justice of caring for the poor alongside the insured while also being pro-life in all aspects of reproductive health without abortion and sterilization.

Roe is overturned, and the reality has set in that with this victory after five decades there is much work to be done. We at Divine Mercy Care must continue to play the long game — changing hearts through healthcare. While we are grateful for the legal return of abortion to the states, we've also seen immediately the confusion and painful consequences of living under abortion as “essential health care” for a generation. I spent much of the year working to combat the lies. Good medicine means mothers and children are never pitted against one another.

My book *Two Patients* was released in the Fall and gave me so many wonderful opportunities — on television, on podcasts, in op-eds and public appearances — to speak truth to power, compassion to the traumatized, clarity to confusion, science to the elites, and mercy to medicine.

Our light on the hill is shining through the dark storm. This is our moment. We were made for this next chapter of our story. We founded Tepeyac 29 years ago. We created Divine Mercy Care in 2000 to ensure that we could raise alms to provide life-affirming care to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. For almost thirty years this work has prepared us to recruit a new generation of post-Roe, pro-life doctors and medical professionals and to help renew ALL of medicine medically, morally, and mercifully.

To renew medicine is to return trust to the profession. To renew medicine is to help us all see the deeper causes of illness and sickness, anxiety and pain. To renew medicine is to address the paradoxes that plague our limited minds and closed hearts because we all know we want better, we want to be listened to, and we want to be accompanied through our challenges by those who went before us as mentors and witnesses.

Our “lane” is not to be the talking head but to be the clinical heart.

For medical students who are being challenged...

For burned out peers...

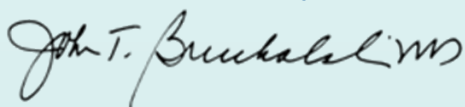
For moms carrying sick children...

For women who want better...

So 2023 will be, for us, a year of advancement through opposition. We will continue to combine the best of modern medicine with the healing of Jesus Christ. We will continue to live as witnesses to life as the language and the logic in our culture fall short. We will work to support the next generation of pro-life medicine.

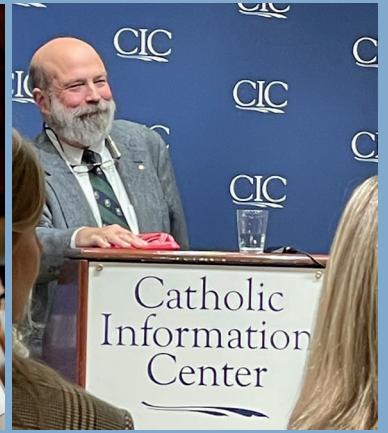
I remain grateful for your steadfast support for our mission and our work. Thank you for your prayers and your almsgiving. Thank you for trusting us when trust in medicine is in such short supply today.

In Christ our Divine Physician,

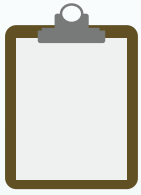


Dr. John Bruchalski

Founder, Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac OB/GYN



Life-Affirming Medicine:



1,135

Patients



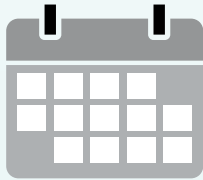
410

Deliveries



122

**Deliveries to
Women in Need**



11,782

**Total
Appointments**



68

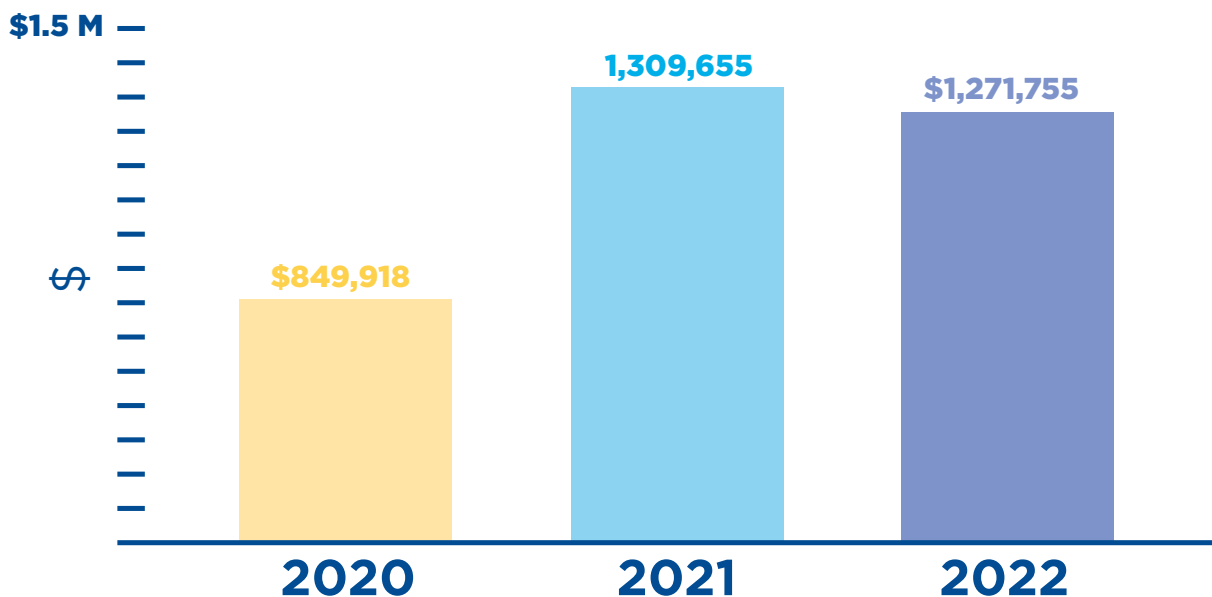
**Infant Gift Baskets
Delivered to Families
in Need**



471

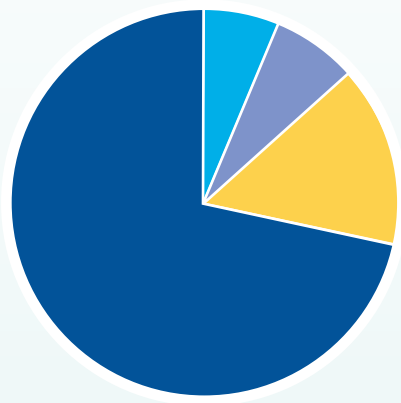
**Women Received
Financial Aid**

Annual Contributions to Divine Mercy Care



2022 at a Glance

Divine Mercy Care Expenses



6% Rent/Office expenses

7% Fundraising

16% Salaries/Benefits

71% Program support

Divine Mercy Care was featured in 40+ articles, podcasts and interviews in 2022.
See drjohnbruchalski.com or divinemercycare.org for all media links.

NBC NEWS

The Washington Post

Newsweek

FOX NEWS
radio

EWTV
Global Catholic Network

LIVEACTION

OAN
One America News Network

the
FEDERALIST

cr conservative
review

FINANCIAL
BUZZ
THE LATEST BUZZ
IN FINANCIAL NEWS

NATIONAL REVIEW

NATIONAL CATHOLIC
REGISTER

CNA
Catholic News Agency

The Arlington
Catholic Herald

CRUX
Taking the Catholic Pulse

THE CHRISTIAN POST

cnsnews
THE RIGHT NEWS. RIGHT NOW.

beliefnet

CBN
NEWS
THE CHRISTIAN
PERSPECTIVE

LIFE SITE

 **Divine Mercy Care**
Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare™



Tepeyac OB/GYN
Something More Than Medicine™

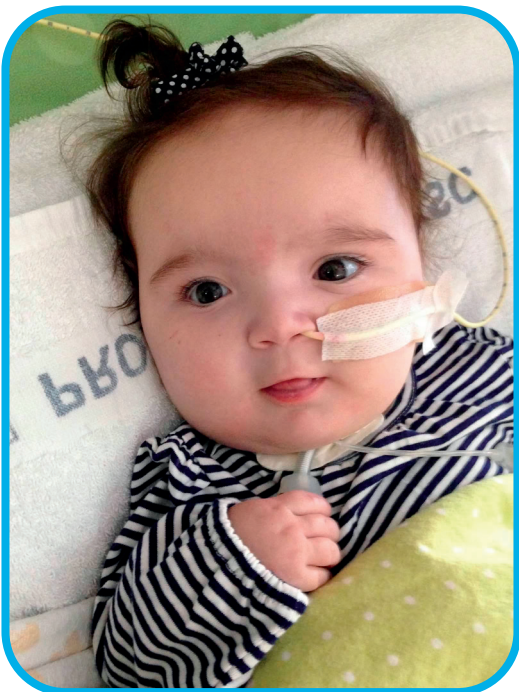
Divine Mercy Care (DMC) is a non-profit umbrella organization with the mission to advance pro-life medicine through programs that serve those in need and that educate and inspire caregivers and medical professionals. We raise funds to provide charity care at Tepeyac OB/GYN and aspire to ensure that all women have access to the life-affirming care they deserve. Tepeyac OB/GYN's mission is to restore the integrity of the human person by combining the best of modern medicine with the healing presence of Jesus Christ.

A Reflection on Pro-Life Medicine

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022 brought with it an onslaught of unfounded claims that women would die as a result, particularly when the life of a pregnant mother is at risk. Ten years after being in that situation myself, I know that abortion is never necessary, even in a case like mine.



My daughter Margaret was diagnosed with several life-threatening birth defects on a routine OB/GYN visit in 2013. She had multiple defects in the heart and an abdominal wall birth defect that left her organs growing outside of her body. The high-risk doctors urged me to terminate. It was foolishness to continue a pregnancy that doctors predicted with near certainty would end in death. At 22 weeks, there was another diagnosis — this time for me. I was developing an accreta, a serious condition that occurs when the placenta grows too deeply into the uterine wall, putting a pregnant woman at risk of massive bleeding. With this diagnosis the calls to terminate grew more insistent. I was told that I would leave my other five children motherless if I continued my pregnancy.



I was fortunate, however. I had the support of life-affirming doctors at Tepeyac OB/GYN. They did not lie or give me false hope. They didn't strong arm me into continuing my pregnancy either. Tepeyac recognized that my daughter might not survive, and that there might be a point in my pregnancy where I would need emergency surgery, which Margaret would likely not survive. Tepeyac told me the truth. With all compassion and mercy, Tepeyac doctors were clear that abortion was not necessary. I would never be asked by Tepeyac doctors to purposefully and preemptively stop my baby's beating heart. Recognizing that we were two patients, not one, Tepeyac would not rob my daughter of her dignity, her rights or her life. Nor would they rob me of an opportunity for courage or underestimate my capacity to face suffering.

I immediately became a patient at Tepeyac's Kristen Anderson Perinatal Hospice Program and the practice walked with me every step of the way for the rest of my pregnancy. I am so grateful for the support and love and care Tepeyac provided. Each and every visit, Margaret's heart was still beating. So we continued on. My condition worsened and eventually we needed to deliver my daughter, prematurely, at 32 weeks, on the Feast of the Assumption, in 2013.

Defying all odds, she will be 10 years old this summer.

My story is about a “wanted” child, sick and perhaps dying, and a life of the mother case. But I had some important things in common with all women facing abortion decisions:

- Most doctors downplay or ignore the trauma that will haunt most women who make the decision to end the life of their own child.
- Most doctors underestimate women — the courage they possess and the resilience they are capable of when faced with a difficult life situation, especially when it involves their child.
- Many doctors condescend to pregnant women, especially those women who find themselves pregnant too young, too old, or unplanned.
- Many doctors sell a lie that life without suffering is an option. Abortion ideology embraces this lie.

I was so fortunate to have access to Tepeyac OB/GYN. I had doctors who didn't deny that I had choices but told me the truth. My baby might be dying but she was safe where she was. I had doctors who took my role as a mother very seriously and who didn't try to convince me that I could sweep my “problem” under the rug with some pills or with a “safe, legal procedure.”

Because I work with Divine Mercy Care today, I know for a fact that women with unexpected and terrifying pregnancies get the same care and are treated with the same dignity regardless of age, race, or ability to pay.

This is pro-life medicine.

Overturning the 50 year old Roe decision is an opportunity for women to see abortion as an empty promise of freedom and control. It is an opportunity to show women they deserve better when it comes to reproductive health care. Women do have choices and we can demand more.

When you support Divine Mercy Care you are supporting Tepeyac's holistic model of medicine focused on relationships and dignity.

When you supported DMC in 2022 you were....

- Paying for prenatal care for a woman in need
- Putting a pregnant patient up in a hotel until she could find safe shelter
- Providing a funeral for a patient whose baby was part of Tepeyac OB/GYN's perinatal hospice program
- Supporting our annual memorial service for women who have lost children through abortion, miscarriage and other losses.
- Helping to build a culture of life.

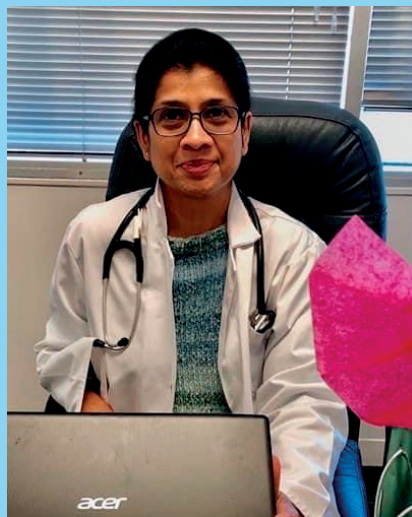
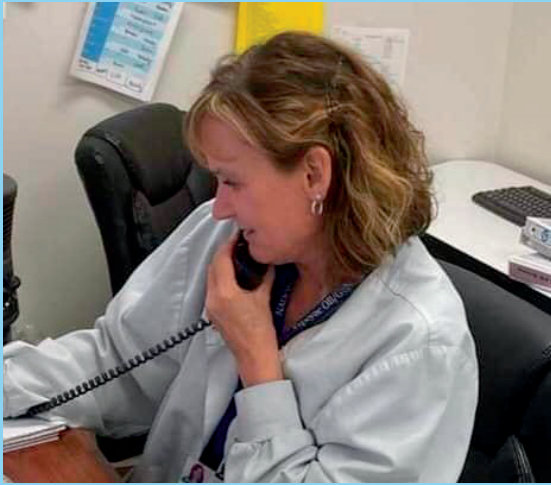
Your support for Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac OB/GYN saves lives everyday.

My daughter Margaret is just one example.

Kathryn Doherty is Chair of the Board of Divine Mercy Care.







The Arlington Catholic Herald



Never pit the mom against the baby

It was both a confrontation and a vision that provided the fuel for his medical and moral epiphany, Dr. John Bruchalski recalls in his new book — “Two Patients: My Conversion from Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine” (Ignatius Press; Oct. 2022).

One night during his residency, Bruchalski induced preterm labor for a patient who didn’t want to carry to term. When the delivery took place, he realized that — given the actual weight, probable age, and potential viability of the newborn — he was legally obligated to render aid. After the immediate emergency passed, a neonatal specialist he had called clashed with the young doctor. “Stop treating these babies like they’re tumors,” she said, summarizing the attitude that unwanted unborn children were nothing more than malignant invaders to be excised. She told Bruchalski he was, “better than that. You’re a good physician.”

A year later, after a mysterious pilgrim at the Marian apparition site of Medjugorje delivered Bruchalski a message echoing those words — “Mary said ... to be the best doctor you can be” — he experienced a vision. Bruchalski would afterward treat “two patients” — both mother and child. His new medical path — as well as his return to his Catholic faith — were decided.

In the three decades since, Bruchalski has become a pre-eminent pro-life physician — both through his practice Tepeyac OB/GYN, and its nonprofit support group, Divine Mercy Care in Fairfax.

With *Roe v. Wade* overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in June through *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the future of the pro-life movement and life-affirming medicine is once again at a turning point.

“We’re grateful for *Dobbs*,” said Bruchalski, “but it is not a time for any one of us to slack off.”

The *Dobbs* decision doesn’t eliminate abortion, Bruchalski stressed. “It’s now been just pushed

back to the states to decide, and each state is going to fight its own battles, politically,” he said. “Because remember, abortion is a political solution to health care. It’s not based in science; it’s not based in medicine ... We know genetically, human life begins at a point called fertilization; we were all once a fertilized egg.”

The societal shift toward widespread acceptance of elective abortion has not only complicated reasoned dialogue; it has exponentially raised its temperature, Bruchalski said. “At the core of this is that public discourse has become so coarsened — almost vicious — with condemnation of the other side,” he said.

A growing culture of relativism has further confounded discussion.

“It’s not about the facts,” Bruchalski declared. “The facts today are fungible; they can be manipulated. Science has been co-opted.”

That co-opting relates to the significance of words and their use. “Because we’ve moved away from genetics, and embryology, and microbiology, and cell organizational theory, we’ve moved to ‘wantedness,’ ” Bruchalski explained. “It’s no longer a child, or my child; it’s a blob, it’s a fetus — for 50 years we have bought that lie. It’s a defense mechanism. Because of relativism and now practical atheism, we’re all not created beings anymore — we are all our own gods, and we determine what words mean.”

Regaining the pro-life narrative is a challenge, Bruchalski admits. “Abortion has become such a part of the American fabric,” he observed.

How, then, to change opinions?

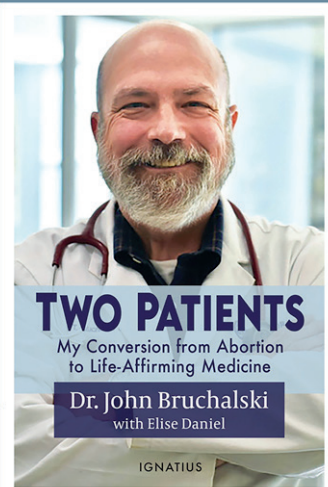
“I think it really has to be done heart to heart; person to person,” Bruchalski said. “It’s literally going one-on-one when the topic comes up.”

That requires, Bruchalski noted, both education and empathy.

“The only way we can help change this dynamic is through example, through mentoring, through being able to educate,” Bruchalski emphasized. “Compassionately look at the other person, walk in their shoes, find the common ground of the pain — and then be educated enough to hopefully enable them to see where their argument falls short,” he suggested.

“This goes far beyond the abortion question — it’s just excellent care for women, and their unborn. And we can continue to do that without having to resort to an elective abortion ... We never pit mom against baby, ever — it’s always accompanying both, as far as you can get them.”

*Kimberley Heatherington
is a freelancer in Alexandria, VA
Reprinted with permission from the
Arlington Catholic Herald*



“A glimpse of just how merciful and extraordinary the relationship between a doctor and his two patients—mother and child—is truly meant to be.”

— JEANNE MANCINI,
President, March
for Life

IGNATIUS PRESS



4001 Fair Ridge Drive, Suite 305
Fairfax, VA, 22033

info@divinemercycare.org
www.divinemercycare.org
703-934-5552

PRESORT
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mercersburg, PA
Permit #15

Follow us on social media!



Please donate!

Your gift helps serve women in need, inspire caregivers and medical professionals, and provide a model of life-affirming medicine for all.



Visit divinemercycare.org or scan this code and donate today!

