

## Math For Life

Being in Chicagoland, we are all familiar with Soldier Field. Soldier Field holds 61,500 people. In one season of eight sold-out Bears home games, 492,000 people fill the stadium.

Why the math? To paint a picture. Since the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision on January 22, 1973, made abortion legal, more than 58 million babies have been aborted in the United States. This is a conservative number based on reported abortions. Some states, such as California, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island do not report abortion statistics to the CDC. Most, but not all, states report both medical and surgical abortions. Medical abortions are legal procedures that use medications instead of surgery.



Now let's picture **58,586,286** human beings, the number of abortions reported through the end of 2015. This number of brothers and sisters we have lost to abortion would fill Soldier Field more than **952 times!** To fill Soldier Field **952 times** would take **119 years!** Try to picture **952** Soldier Fields filled to capacity end-to-end – almost 1,000 stadiums filled with people. Now picture all the people

in those 952 stadiums dead, gone, never born. If that huge loss of humanity does not break your heart, you might be heartless.

In the month of January, we commemorate the unborn with the March For Life in Washington D.C. and many other cities, including Chicago. The Catholic Church designates January 22 as the *Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children* (January 23, when the 22<sup>nd</sup> falls on a Sunday). This day is to be observed as a day of prayer and penance for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life, and for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. As individual Catholics, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

For more information about the March for Life and other events, please visit <http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2017/>.

Susan O'Brien, Pro-Life Ministry

“Love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death”

– St. John Paul II, October 8, 1995