

BABY AGNES DOE FACT SHEET

- The remains of a female infant were discovered in an abandoned dump on Kerbaugh Road near Bellwood on February 5, 1987. She was fed and “well cared for”. Pete Kreckel was reading about a similar project in the Columbian, the Knights of Columbus magazine. St Francis Cabrini Council in Warren Ohio had given a funeral service for a baby found at the bottom of a river by some fishermen.
- After months of investigation, the remains of the baby were turned over to the Knights of Columbus. Brother Ted Feller a funeral director in Tyrone donated all of his services, from the preparation of her body, and the casket and grave opening.
- She was then given the name Baby Agnes Doe, after Saint Agnes, the patron Saint of little girls. She was born around the time of the Feast Day of St. Agnes Feast day: January 21
- A “Mass of the Angels” was celebrated on June 20, 1987, giving the child the dignified Christian burial that she deserved. Father Strittmatter in his homily compared the Knights to Joseph of Arimathea, the secret disciple of Jesus who requested the body after the crucifixion. Father Strittmatter also said she changed a whole lot of people, and accomplished more than most of us will in our lifetime.
- Her remains were then buried in a plot of land set aside in Oak Grove Cemetery.
 - In 1991 Father Carl Spishak dedicated the “Respect Life Mediation Area” which included 2 concrete benches and a 12 ft x 12 ft paved area.
 - In 2007 Father Joseph Orr dedicated the new Respect Life Meditation area, which includes 2 granite benches and a Blessed Virgin Statue. Baby Agnes was re-interred there. This was funded by our Knights of Columbus, and was done as an Eagle Scout project by Jonathan Hampton.

The St. Gregory Knights of Columbus Council sponsors the Respect Life March. We get participants from Central Pennsylvania, from IUP in Indiana, to Renovo and Lock Haven. Usually around 140 people participate. Participants walk the 1.25 miles from St. Matthew Church, to Oak Grove Cemetery to the grave of Baby Agnes. A luncheon is held in the hall afterward.