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John Moore, before launching on his 2,800-mile cross-country walk to the Jan. 18 March for Life in Washington, D.C. (Voice of the Southwest/Suzanne Hammons)



by Dan Morris-Young

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What is the church doing to help single mothers? [Kaya Oakes takes a look](#) at the question in America magazine.

In turn, [Jenny Uebbing](#), mother of five and a well-known Catholic blogger, posts a humorous and helpful look at [minimalism and family life](#). A parishioner of [St. Mary Parish in Littleton](#), Colorado, Uebbing introduces her reflection by noting, "I've been an armchair minimalist since before minimalism was a buzzword. Eight moves and 5 kids in less than 10 years of marriage means I've honed the fine art of 'do we really need this?' to a science."



Bridget Bowers (The Criterion/Katie Rutter)

Chicago's [Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish](#) fields an active group of parishioners dedicated to "finding opportunities for ICSJ Parish to assist refugee families in finding a safe haven from persecution and war." The ICSJ Parish Refugee Effort recently worked with its sister parish, [St. Teresa of Avila](#), to [welcome a widow](#) with a 14-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter.

A member of [St. Luke](#) the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, [Bridget Bowers has embraced](#) helping visually impaired Catholics enhance their faith lives. Blind since birth, Bowers converted to Catholicism nearly three years ago, aided by materials produced by the [Xavier Society for the Blind](#). Here is [an audio version](#) of a feature story on Bowers.

Also out of Indianapolis: Shea McMahon, who grew up in the city's [St. Jude Parish](#), says he walked away from his Catholic faith in college. [The young man shares how](#) he found his way back through encouragement of friends and walking nearly 600 miles through France and Spain on El Camino de Santiago.

**[Related: 'Walking the Camino': Six Ways to Santiago](#)**

[Speaking of walking long distances](#), John Moore of [St. John Vianney Parish](#) in Gallup, New Mexico began walking on behalf of "the unborn and all human life" [last April in San Francisco](#). Supported logistically along the way by his daughter, Laura, the 68-year-old Knight of Columbus hopes to arrive in Washington, D.C., in time for the [Jan. 18 annual March for Life](#). He spoke with [Columbia magazine](#) about the nearly 2,800-mile endeavor.



Patti and William "BJ" Harrison stand with their three children, from left, Austin, Brooklyn and William, in Ontario. (Derek Cookson)

There is also [an annual March for Life](#) in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, this year set for May 9. One of the speakers last year was Patti Harrison, a young woman who survived teen pregnancy, substance abuse, abduction and brutal abuse to arrive today at a stable family life.

Patti and William "BJ" Harrison candidly share with journalist Agnieszka Ruck [their road to establishing](#) a stable, combined family, acknowledging central support of the Knights of Columbus, notably St. George Preca Council 17070.

[Dan Morris-Young is NCR's West Coast correspondent. His email is [dmyoung@ncronline.org](mailto:dmyoung@ncronline.org).]

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