



A silver rose on a nine-month pilgrimage will be the centerpiece of a special prayer service at St. Joseph Parish on Wednesday, **September 22**, at **6 p.m.** This special prayer service, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, is an opportunity to come together to pray for the sanctity of human life. The journey of the silver rose begins each year in March and ends on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. During that time, Silver Roses travel from town to town along eight routes throughout North America. Several of those routes begin in Canada and end in Mexico. One route ends in Washington, D.C., and another ends at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, where the Knights of Columbus was founded.

The Silver Rose Program began in 1960, when the first rose – a real, live one – was blessed by a bishop in Ontario. The rose then traveled to New York and then to Texas where it was taken across the border into Mexico. The rose ended its pilgrimage at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

To better ensure future annual trips, a *silver* rose was ultimately made. Today, due to the popularity of the program throughout the North American continent, eight silver roses travel unique routes. One of those routes includes the Diocese of Belleville and St. Joseph Parish, Benton.

During this special service, we come together to reaffirm our dedication to the sanctity of human life as we turn to the Blessed Mother in prayer. As we think in terms of "One Life, One Rose," it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses. Please join us on **Sept. 22** at **6 p.m.** for this special service.