

Catholic Church Withdraws Venue for "CelebrateYou" Event Due to Host's IVF Journey

Bestselling Author and Non-Profit Founder Katy Rey's Authentic Community Event Caught in the Crossfire of Reproductive Rights Debate in Tampa, FL

TAMPA, October 19, 2023 – As the debate of reproductive rights continues among Americans in preparation for election season, one Catholic church has begun canceling events booked in its Dunedin Catholic School gymnasium—if staff members discover the event coordinators have received in-vitro fertilization.

Katy Rey, a notable two-time bestselling author and founder of Fostering Hearts FL, a non-profit created to focus on supporting kids in the foster care system, recently faced an unexpected setback. Her cherished annual "[CelebrateYou](#)" event encountered a surprising cancellation by a Catholic Church in Dunedin earlier this week.

Rey disclosed the reason behind this unexpected move was linked to her personal journey with in-vitro fertilization (IVF), a detail discerned by the church through her social media and personal website.

The church, aligning its actions with discerning scrutiny of reproductive choices, stated it could no longer host Rey's event—an occasion that echoes with authenticity and the spirit of community, aiming to elevate non-profit awareness and celebrate life's multifaceted journeys.

"I was taken aback because my children were a beautiful collaboration between God, science and the universe, and every day I look at them, I am so grateful they are with me. This specific annual event was created with the passion I have for everyone to embrace who they are and not compare or judge each other on their journeys. I was shocked that I could be kicked out of somewhere for deciding I wanted to fight to have children and utilize resources around me."

The event invites participants from all walks of life who are encouraged to shake off labels they feel have held them back. The event also supports local businesses, creates awareness for non-profits and brings people together.

Local Reproductive Counselor and Educator Anita Momodu is equally disappointed in the church's decision.



"Every person's journey to parenthood is unique, and having options like in-vitro fertilization is essential to support diverse paths to creating families, ensuring that everyone can make choices



aligned with their values and desires. It's crucial to promote a society where individuals are free to pursue their dreams of parenthood without fear of discrimination or prejudice."

This happens at a time when tensions between pro-life and pro-choice advocates have become contentious. While Rey searches for a new location for her January event, she hopes others like her will not be penalized for their decisions.

"This is a dangerous stance to take and creates shame and isolation for women or men wanting to try and grow their families. The emotional experience I had with being

an infertile female was very hard to manage and could have been more detrimental to my mental health without the community and experts around me to get me through it."

The event is set to move forward on January 27, 2024, from 10 AM to 5 PM, and the team is currently searching for new venues that support the CelebrateYou mission. You can learn more at katyrey.com.