

April 7, 2007 Helpers Newsletter

Dear Friends of God's Precious Infants,

Our Job Is Not Done

Pope John Paul II stressed in his 1995 encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, the Gospel of Life, that as a citizen, each of us is responsible before God to change unjust laws that fail to protect innocent human life. It is clear then, that as citizens, we are obligated by our vote and lobbying efforts to spend some time working hard to make sure our representatives in government truly support laws that are just; namely laws that protect human life, before and after birth. However, after we fulfill our obligation as citizens, our job is not done. The Pope insisted that as Christians, a "People of Life and for Life", we must at all times promote and proclaim the Gospel of Life, whether the law protects or does not protect human life. We are called and challenged beyond changing the law to changing hearts; by our prayers, penance and loving witness. We must constantly work at creating and maintaining a "culture of life". Indeed it is in an atmosphere of a "culture of life" that politicians will also realize that if they do not support life, they will lose or never be elected.

The Main Point of the Encyclical

Our obligation to promote and establish a culture of life is the main point of the Encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*. This is made eminently clear by the final prayer of life addressed to Mary, the Mother of Life, with which John Paul II concluded his letter. May I now share with you that final prayer, which it would be wise to make our own:

"**O**, Mary, bright dawn of the new world. Mother of the living, to you we entrust the Cause of Life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are the victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son, may proclaim the Gospel of Life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life."

When each of us participates by our prayers, penance and loving witness in the early morning Helpers Prayer Vigils, we are only fulfilling what is our obligation, namely to be Christians, a "People of Life and for Life", who promote and proclaim with resolute courage the Gospel of Life to the people of our time. Many in today's society are enveloped and entrapped in the darkness of the culture of death and are waiting, without realizing it, for some Christians to bring to the public square, the God of Light, the Creator and lover of life. If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Please Participate in Our 7:15 AM Helpers Prayer Vigils, Which Will Be Led in 2007 by Bishops DiMarzio, Daily, Catanello and Caggiano:

DATE	LOCATION	CELEBRANT
Sat Mar 31, 2007	Church of Our Saviour 59 Park Avenue, NY, NY 10016 212-679-8166	Rev Juniper, CFR
Sat Apr 21, 2007	St Catherine of Genoa 520 Linden Blvd Brooklyn NY 11203 718-282-7162	Bishop Daily
Sat May 19, 2007	Queen of Martyrs 110-06 Queens Blvd. 11375 718-268-6251	Bishop Caggiano
Sat June 16, 2007	St John Vianney 140-10 34th Avenue Flushing, NY 11354 718-762-7920	Bishop Daily

Local Helpers Witness Throughout New York City

The Helpers Prayer Vigil on December 28th, Feast of the Holy Innocents, was grace filled. Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR was the main celebrant and homilist at the Vigil Mass held at Holy Innocents Church, West 37th Street off Broadway, in midtown Manhattan. The majority of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal participated. I led the Rosary in procession from the church to the ParkMed abortion mill, now located at 2nd Avenue and 42nd Street. The Sisters of Life, who turned out in great numbers with their Superior, Mother Agnes Donovan, led the singing. Of course many of the regular Helpers were there filling the ranks of the participants, who numbered about 300. It was a powerful witness to the Gospel of Life on the busy weekday streets of Manhattan, in New York City.

Five Women Decided to Keep Their Unborn Babies

While we prayed, counselors like Elizabeth Hickson spoke to the ladies coming to the clinic; and it was during this time of prayer and grace, that five women decided to keep their unborn babies. When we returned in prayer and song to Holy Innocents Church, the pastor, Monsignor Sakano, graciously welcomed us all, and then proceeded to celebrate the closing Benediction. A gratuitous and substantial lunch followed for all. Special thanks must be given to Father Juniper Sistare, CFR and John Paduano, for organizing and coordinating the days activities.

God Rewarded the Prayers' Patience and Charity

On December 9th, Feast of Juan Diego, Father Patrick Burns, pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Church, welcomed Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and Detective Steven McDonald as they led the Helpers procession to the Ambulatory Surgery Center of Brooklyn abortion mill, on 3rd Avenue and 43rd Street. While the Helpers were praying and singing, a small group of pro-abortion advocates, located about fifty feet away, were standing in a pen set up by the police. They

sang profane parodies of familiar Christmas carols, using lyrics that were disrespectful of Christ, the members of His Church and of the Holy Day, Christmas. To their credit, no Helpers responded to the blasphemies, but rather, they kept praying peacefully through these terrible insults. God rewarded their prayers, patience and charity. Not only did some pregnant mothers decide that morning to keep their babies, but after the prayer vigil a person said to me, "The Helpers held a similar prayer vigil here at Saint Michael's sixteen years ago." I replied, "You are right. It was July of 1990." The person then continued, "But did you know, a mother also turned around that day because of your prayerful presence, and just recently her daughter celebrated her fifteenth birthday?"

It's God's Work

On the weekdays following this Vigil, at the same Ambulatory mill, the blessings continued, for many mothers came back out and chose life for their unborn babies. Indeed, on one particular weekday the number was fourteen. And during that same week, the daily sidewalk counselor, Mike Marino, offered some helpful material to a woman walking towards the clinic. The woman said: "You already gave it to me." Mike replied, "I don't remember giving it to you." The young woman said: "You gave me the material six years ago and I now have a five year old daughter at home, thanks to you."

The next day, a woman spoke words of encouragement to the prayers and counselors as she passed by the same abortion mill. Then suddenly, she turned around and came back and simply said, "Because of you, I am a grandmother today. My daughter came here a year and a half ago and you spoke to her and offered her help and her child today is the joy of our lives. We are both deeply grateful to you. Don't be discouraged. Keep doing what you are doing. It's God's Work."

Young People from Jovenes De Valor and Lumen Dei

On November 18th, Father Robert Robinson, pastor of Saint Patrick's Church in Queens, welcomed Bishop Daily and the other Helpers as they led our major annual Helpers Prayer Vigil from Saint Patrick's to the infamous "Choices" abortion mill, where hundreds of thousands of innocent unborn babies, through the first six months of gestation, have been literally "torn apart". (Normally on Saturday mornings throughout the year, starting at 7:00 AM, Bishop Daily would be found praying with and assisting counselors like Dotty Doyle and Mary Murray outside All Women Medical abortion mill on Austin Street in Forest Hills.) More than 100 people took part in the procession to "Choices" that Saturday morning, including young people from Jovenes de Valor of the Diocese of Brooklyn and some wonderful young members of the Union Lumen Dei Apostolate, whose roots are in Peru. Some mothers turned around while the group maintained a peaceful presence of song and prayer outside the abortion mill. After a successful prayer vigil, the good people of Saint Pat's provided something to eat for all those who took part in the Vigil.

Nothing Dampened the Young People's Enthusiam

On the morning of Saturday, October 28th, there was torrential rain falling, along with strong gusts of wind, as we left the Monastery of the Precious Blood on our way to St. John Vianney

Church in Flushing, Queens, for our Helpers monthly prayer vigil. As I entered the church, to my surprise, Bishop Daily was already vested in alb, waiting in prayer. The Bishop asked me, “Do you think anybody will come this morning?” To his surprise, 30 college students came walking into the church. The students were from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Christendom College, Front Royal, Virginia, as well as Katharina Schipp, a student from Muenster Germany, who, having successfully completed her medical studies, was now finishing her doctoral research studies at Yale University, New Haven, CT. All of these students were taking part in a Helpers weekend retreat and training program at the Precious Blood Monastery, from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. (In addition, six students from Cornell University had called and indicated they were unable to come that weekend, asking to reschedule their retreat!) Even with umbrellas being blown inside out, there was nothing that could dampen the enthusiasm of those young people, so eager to witness and pray that morning with Bishop Daily, on the streets of Flushing. By the end of the Mass, many of the regular Helpers, including my nieces, Susan and Eileen Moore, filled up Saint John Vianney Church. As we left the parish church in the driving rain and wind, and headed to the Liberty Abortion mill near Main Street and Northern Boulevard, the New York City Police met us at the doors of the church to escort us to the site and back. As always, the officers of the NYPD were exceptional, professional and polite, in helping us exercise our First Amendment Right to assemble peaceably and to petition the government for a redress of grievances for the injustice done by current constitutional law, in violation of the most fundamental right to life of the unborn child. The pastor, Father Brian Dowd was very gracious and hospitable to all.

International Life Conference at Fatima, Portugal

The Helpers, Brooklyn, New York, together with the Helpers of Austria, the World Apostolate of Fatima, and the Pontifical Council for the Family, co-sponsored the World Prayer Conference for Life at Fatima, Portugal, from October 4th through October 10th, 2006. It was more than successful. Five-hundred people from forty Countries attended the Life Conference. The conference program was integrated into all the spiritual exercises at the Shrine, including a special Way of the Cross, led by Bishop Karl Josef Romer, the Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family. A special cross, made from surgical instruments actually used in performing abortions, was used for The Way of the Cross. On Saturday, October 7th, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bishop Romer offered Mass at the main shrine altar and led all the people in entrusting the Pro-Life movement to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sr. Virginia Beretta, the sister of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, addressed the Life Conference, as did the Bishop Emeritus and the present Bishop of Fatima, Antonio Marto. You can read about the conference and even listen to the talks online at www.fatima-pro-life-congress-2006.com My first talk at the conference was on Humanae Vitae and Donum Vitae; the second, on Evangelium Vitae; and the third on “Golgotha Today-Standing with Mary and John at the Foot of the Cross.” I urge you to listen, download, or view the available transcripts posted on the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants website at: www.helpersbrooklynny.org More than a hundred people stayed on Monday and Tuesday for the workshops on Sidewalk Counseling and Post Abortion Healing. At the conference, I met Helpers from all over the world who invited me to return once again to their countries. I also received requests to come to others I have never visited, like Togo, Africa, which has just become the second African nation to allow abortions, and Pakistan, where, although technically not allowed, abortions still happen because of the special difficulties unwed pregnant women encounter there.

My Talks at the World Prayer Conference for Life at Fatima

My gracious friends from the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, Vienna Austria, were kind enough to record several of the talks I delivered at the World Prayer Conference for Life, at Fatima, Portugal, last October. I've posted three of them here for your edification. Just click on any talk below:

Thursday, October 5, 2006 ["Humanae Vitae, Donum Vitae"](#)

Thursday, October 5, 2006 ["Evangelium Vitae"](#)

Friday, October 6, 2006 ["Golgotha Today - Standing with Mary and John at the Foot of the Cross"](#)

If you have a dialup connection and are having difficulty listening to the talk, or if you would simply like to save the talk to your hard disk, right click on the talk. In the drop down menu click "Save Target As...". You will then be prompted to choose a download directory. Once the file is saved, simply double-click on the file name to open it in your default media player.

Printable Version of Talks: Click on talk to view or print complete text. (.pdf format)

Thursday, October 5, 2006 ["Humanae Vitae, Donum Vitae"](#)

Friday, October 6, 2006 ["Golgotha Today - Standing with Mary and John at the Foot of the Cross"](#)

From Frankfurt to Altotting Germany

On Wednesday morning, October 11th, I was off to Frankfurt, Germany, where I was met at the airport by Wolfgang Hering, the President of the Helpers in Germany. From that Wednesday to Monday the 16th, he kept me busy, either speaking or offering Mass at shrines or praying in front of abortion clinics. I ended the week offering Mass and speaking at the great Marian Shrine in Germany, Altotting, at which Pope Benedict the XVI recently prayed. Twenty special caps, beautifully handmade, with the Papal insignia on the front of the cap, were made for the occasion of the Pope's visit to the Shrine. The Director of the Altotting Shrine received one of those caps, which he very generously insisted on giving to me as a gift. I concluded my trip in Germany by taking part that Sunday evening from 8PM to 10 PM, in a live two hour interview on the Catholic Radio, Horeb, in Munich. My favorite translator, Felicitas, made it easy to respond to the questions.

Helpers Around the World Request Your Prayers

Dietmar Fischer of Austria, who was the main organizer of the Life Conference in Fatima, has requested that we pray especially that the referendum to legalize abortion will be rejected by the

people of Portugal. Louis J. Matt Jr. of Austria, has also requested our prayers that Amnesty International would not declare legal abortion an international human right. Brother Lawrence Cole SM, a Helper in New Zealand, has requested special prayers for a court case on life coming up in their country. With the legalization of abortion in Togo, the work of Sally Hall and the Helpers in South Africa becomes more crucial. Pray for their perseverance. Fonda Lash and Maria Graham recently went to Mexico to assist people like Barbara Spencer to start the Helpers in Mexico. The Good Counsel Network together with the Helpers of God's Precious Infants in London, England conducted a 9-day novena of prayers outside BPAS abortuary in Central London. Bishop Longley and twenty-one other priests prayed outside this London abortuary. The Novena ended on Dec. 8th the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Keep in your prayers Eva and her daughter Adriana who recently spent some time here at the Monastery and are actively involved in organizing Helpers Prayer Vigils for life and would also like to start a Pregnancy Life Center in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Helpers Back in the United States

God bless Matt Ulrich and all the wonderful Helpers in Seattle, Washington, who, after many years of prayer vigils outside Aradia Women's Health Center, have learned that the abortion mill is closing after 34 years of doing abortions and training abortionists. There was also a positive story in the papers about how the Helpers have been praying outside of Panned Parenthood, Bettendorf, Iowa since it opened. God bless Rand and Jeanne Wonio, and all the Helpers in Iowa, for their prayerful dedication all these years. Keep in your prayers a wonderful pro-life priest, Father Mark Beran, who has led the Helpers in prayers for years in Omaha, Nebraska. However, Gretchen Moylan, the leader of the Omaha Helpers, has recently informed me that Father has left for Iraq as a Chaplain.

The Catholic News & Herald of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, had a front page story on the good work the Charlotte Helpers are doing under the leadership of Margaret Nogy and others. Under the leadership of Fran Fortier, the Helpers in the Diocese of Joliet Illinois will dedicate January 22nd to praying outside all the abortion clinics within their Diocese. The Nanuet, NY Helpers, under the leadership of Peggy Beirne, held a prayer vigil on December 8th, led by Fathers Frank Samoylo and Carl Johnson. Many years ago, Father Frank was one of the Helpers prayers. Charles Coudert continues to organize the monthly prayer vigils outside of Union Hospital in Framington, MA. Under the spiritual leadership of Father Ed McDonough, C.S.S.R., the Helpers in Boston continue monthly prayer vigils in front of Planned Parenthood. They started in July 1990.

Recent Trips Here in the States

On October 20th, at the invitation of Mike Riordan, I spoke to the students of the Franciscan University at Steubenville, Ohio, on the Helpers of God's Precious Infants approach to saving the unborn. On Saturday morning, after a 6:00 AM Mass in the University Chapel, two-hundred and twenty students went in a car caravan to Pittsburgh, PA, to take part in a prayerful procession to the Planned Parenthood mill. It was a holy experience for all. Back at Steubenville, later that afternoon, more than two hundred students attended a two hour workshop on sidewalk counseling and prayerful presence. On November 3rd, at the invitation of Therese Dorobek, I went to

Nashville, Tennessee and followed the same format as at Steubenville, with students from Aquinas College and other local pro-life people, both Catholic and Baptist. The vigil and the follow up workshop at Aquinas College went well.

On Friday, November 10th, at the invitation of Beth Burwell and Deborah Shearer, of the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida, I went to speak, lead a Helpers Prayer Vigil and conduct a workshop on sidewalk counseling, etc. I stayed at Saint Mary Magdalene Church thanks to the good pastor, Father Charles Mitchel. All went well. On Saturday evening I left for Fort Myers at the invitation of Judy and Bob Minahan. I stayed at their beautiful home. People came from Miami and Naples, as well as some twenty-six students from Ave Maria University, to take part in the Helpers Workshop and Prayer Vigil. Again, everything went well. Indeed the new Bishop Frank Dewane is going to lead Helpers Prayer Vigils on January 19th in Cape Coral, January 20th in Port Charlotte, and January 22nd in Sarasota. The Diocese of St. Petersburg has invited me to come on April 27th to do the same format. On February 2nd I have been invited to speak to and lead in a prayer vigil the seminarians from St. John Vianney Major Seminary, Denver, Colorado. On March 3rd I will be speaking at the Archdiocese of Chicago's Life Conference.

Some Final Thoughts

In spite of a very short notice for our Christmas Party, Sunday December 10th, about fifty Helpers who heard about it were able to attend. Helper Angela provided the food as usual, and her friend, Madeline offered her apartment overlooking the East River at Sutton Place in Manhattan, as the beautiful setting for the celebration. We are grateful to both of them for their great generosity to the Helpers. I continue to be grateful to all those who were financially generous to the Helpers of God's Precious Infants during the Year 2006. Because everyone is a volunteer, all the monies were used either to help the mothers and their children with food, clothing and rent monies, or to pay for the all the materials we distribute here in this city, across the country, and around the world.

I am grateful to God for the extraordinary generosity of so many of our volunteers whose worth is beyond any amount that I could pay them. I pray that God will enrich them with His Graces. Please keep in your prayers my dear sister, Frances Moore, whose first anniversary is today, January 7th, and Marta Catalano, whose anniversary will be on January 15th 2007. They are both greatly missed but not forgotten. Remember in your prayers all the Helpers or friends of the Helpers who have died or are sick. Be assured of my prayers that the Year 2007 will be a time of great blessings to one and all.

Until We Meet in Prayer at Calvary,

Msgr. Philip J. Reilly