

August 20, 2008 *Helpers Newsletter*

Dear Friends of God's Precious Infants,

Humanae Vitae

During my life travels between continents, I am constantly encouraged by the JP II generation of young people, aged thirty-five and younger, who not only reject the abortion culture of death but increasingly appreciate and accept the consistent positive total vision of the Church's understanding of human sexuality found in Pope Paul VI's Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* released forty years ago, on July 25th, 1968, in which he emphasized the need for a total vision to make a correct moral judgment.

Theology of the Body

This vision of Paul the VI was enhanced by Pope John Paul II's reflections, that he entitled "A Theology of the Body," which were given at the general catechetical audiences in Rome from September 1979 to November 1984. While reaffirming Paul the VI's appeal to the Natural Law as a firm basis for rejecting contraceptives, John Paul II stressed the theological dimensions of human personhood, sexuality, and marriage itself in light of the Scriptures, particularly Genesis, as a basis of Church rejection of the contraceptive culture.

Magna Est Veritas

Thus young people enthusiastically embrace the Church's teaching that sexuality is a sacred mystery, containing a visible and invisible aspect. Indeed, human sexuality involves not only the visible, total, unique gift of human love of each person to the other, but also young people realize, that in God's wise design, human love must never deliberately exclude the invisible Divine Love and Creativity of God, which brings forth the existence of a human person, who is to exist forever. This human person is called to enter into an eternal loving relationship with the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the person's own parents. The ultimate purpose of sex, in a Culture of Life is the bringing into existence, a human, loving, person who is to be forever. This is indeed a far cry from the modern contraceptive mentality in the culture of death where the pursuit of pure pleasure has become, for so many, the ultimate purpose of sex, even to the exclusion of love and life and another human person. Obviously this mentality has opened the door to all kinds of aberrations. The words of the English bard, Coventry Patmore in his Poem *Magna Est Veritas* rings true again: "When all its work is done, the lie shall rot: The truth is great, and shall prevail, When none cares whether it prevail or not."

PRO-LIFE MISSION TO BRAZIL

The International Conference To Defend Life at Aparecida, Brazil

As you likely are aware, Pope Benedict XVI spoke in Brazil in May 2007, at the great Marian Sanctuary in Aparecida, to all Bishops of Latin America, and told them to defend Life. The Bishops of Brazil, responding to the Pope's admonition, called the First International Conference to Defend Life, held in February 2008, in Aparecida. I was invited to be one of the speakers and my topic was *Humanae Vitae*, Forty Years Later. Having addressed Pope Paul VI's 1968 Encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, to pro-lifers from forty-one different countries, at the International Conference for Life, co-sponsored by the Helpers in Fatima, Portugal, in Oct. 2006, I was more than pleased to accept the invitation. After offering Mass at 4:00 A.M. on February 7, 2008, I left at 4:45 A.M. for a 7:00 A.M. flight at JFK Airport in New York, arrived in Sao Paulo, Brazil at 6:00 P.M. After a three hour car ride, I arrived late that evening in Aparecida.

To stop the Legalization of Abortion

As the first speaker on Friday morning, before commenting on *Humanae Vitae*, I warned the people in Brazil of the tragic effects the abortion culture brought to the U.S., the difficulty of changing the law again to protect life, and to make every effort to stop now the legalization of abortion in Brazil. The *Humanae Vitae* speech given at Aparecida and other videos and talks, are available on the Helpers Web sites www.helpersny.org (thanks to John Foley) and www.helperslibrary.info (thanks to Wenqi Dwyer and Mike Reddy).

Brazilian Bishops Declaration of Independence

Here in the U.S. on July 4th we celebrated Independence Day, by recalling the courageous Declaration of Independence by our Founding Fathers. The Pope sent a message to the members of the International Conference not only to defend life but indeed to resist the Culture of Death. At the end of the Conference, the Brazilian Bishops issued a similar courageous Declaration of Independence indicating they denounced the implantation of a culture of death that destroys the sense of life, of ethical values, and the natural rights from which all human laws are derived. The Bishops stated that since 1952, a global program devoted to world population control, has been implemented, especially for the poorest countries.

Bishops Resist Anti-Life Programs

The Bishops stated the program, developed initially by the Population Council created by the Rockefeller Foundation, includes promotion of anti-birth mentality, including the implantation of contraceptives, legal abortions, euthanasia and other attacks on life, within a geopolitical and eugenicist perspective. The bishops said they denounced legalization of same sex marriage and hedonistic sex education curricula. The bishops stated they would resist all these anti-life programs whether their imposition came from misguided people in their own country or from foreign governments, the United Nations, wealthy international foundations, or non government organizations like the International Planned Parenthood Federation. For a full statement of the Declaration of the Bishops refer to Lifesitenews.com.

A Moment to be Proud of Our Catholic Leadership

The Declaration was read by Bishop Dimas Lara Barbosa, General Secretary of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, on Sunday Feb 10th, 2008 at the National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Concepcion, Aparecida, Brazil. The Media reported the Declaration as the Brazilian Bishops Declaring War on the Culture of Death and a New Pentecost among Brazilian Bishops. The Bishops immediately began implementing a National comprehensive Campaign not only to resist but to take back lost ground. The legislation paving the way for the legalization of abortion on demand in Brazil was halted by the Safety and Family Commission, rejected by a vote of 33-0. A unanimous vote would not have happened if the Bishops did not speak and act as one. It was a moment to be proud of our Catholic Leadership.

It Made the Trip a Joy

At the Conference I was assisted by two wonderful Christian women Simone Almeida (Julie Maria) and Marta Maria Ceravolo Pelypec and a wonderful priest from Ireland working full-time in Brazil, Father Ailbe Michael O'Reilly, ORC. Father gave me a copy of his scholarly Doctoral Dissertation on 'Conjugal Chastity in Pope Wojtyla' which he completed at Rome in 2007. He asked me to review the Work to see if it should be published. I believed it merited publication. Father Javier Sicilia L.C. asked me to speak to the Seminarians at the Regional Seminary, Maria Mater Ecclesiae in Sao Paulo. I was blessed to be accompanied by Julie, Marta, and Father Ailbe on the bus to Sao Paulo. It made the trip a joy.

Positive Reaction by Faculty and Seminarians

After saying goodbye to Julia and Marta, Father Ailbe and I arrived in Sao Paolo and visited the Regional Seminary of Mary Mother of the Church, wonderfully administered by the Legionaries of Christ's Priests. A scholarly priest, Father Fintan Lawless L.C., did an excellent job as my translator. I spoke about the Priesthood and the Culture of Life. At the end, both the faculty and students stood in applause. Praise God! Father Ailbe and I flew the next day to Brasilia, the Brazilian capital, and prayed inside the capital legislative buildings that the members would maintain a culture of life in Brazil. Later after a wonderful lunch at a government official's home, we left for Our Lady of Fatima Regional Seminary in Brasilia.

It Was Worth the Sacrifice

Rector Father Jorge Pacheco greeted us at the seminary. Father Ailbe O'Reilly was my able translator. There was a very positive reaction by the faculty and the seminarians. I spoke on the importance of the Priesthood in establishing a culture of life. Between the two Regional Major Seminaries, I spoke to more than three hundred young men from 21 Dioceses in Brazil. The return trip on the morning of Tuesday Feb. 12th 2008 from Sao Paulo Brazil to New York involved taking three different planes, going through customs both in South America and the U.S, and twenty-two hours of travel time, yet I realized, considering what happened at the conference and at the regional seminaries, it was clearly worth the sacrifice.

UPCOMING HELPERS PRAYER VIGILS IN BROOKLYN AND QUEENS NEW YORK

DATE	LOCATION	CELEBRANT
Sat Aug 30, 2008	Our Lady of the Cenacle 136-06 87th Av Richmond Hill NY 11418 718-291-2540	Bishop Catanello
Sat Sept 20, 2008	Saint Joan of Arc 82-00 35th Avenue Jackson Hts., NY 11372 718-429-2333	Bishop Caggiano
Sat Oct 18, 2008	Saint Patrick's 39-38 29th Street Long Island City, NY 11101 718-729-6060	Bishop DiMarzio
Sat Nov 15, 2008	St. Michael's 42nd and 4th Ave Sunset Park Brooklyn, NY 11232 718-768-6065	Bishop Caggiano
Sat Dec 13, 2008	St. Paul - St. Agnes Congress and Court Streets Brooklyn 11201 718-624-3425	Bishop DiMarzio

Prayer Vigils in Manhattan and the Bronx

Sister Lucy Marie, SV, the Respect Life Coordinator, and Father Juniper CFR, with the assistance of John Paduano, will organize prayer vigils in Manhattan and the Bronx. In particular, Sr. Lucy and Sr. Mary Loretto, S,V wants to start up monthly rosary prayer vigils in Manhattan, every first Saturday of the month, led by and primarily composed of young adults. Sister Lucy requested I celebrate the Young Adults Mass at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday evening Sept 3rd in Our Lady's Chapel, behind the Main Altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral located between Madison and Fifth Ave. Sister asked me to encourage the young people at the Mass to actively take part in these monthly Vigils. I am scheduled to be the Main Celebrant at the first of the Masses, at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday Sept. 6th, 2008 at St. Patrick's Old Cathedral on Mulberry Street, NY 10012, where Msgr. Sakano, a very committed pro-life priest, is Pastor. After Mass, we will process in prayer to the Bleeker Street Planned Parenthood site.

The Young People in Cincinnati Organized the Fourth Vigil

Dean Weber who helps organize monthly Helpers' vigils outside of Planned Parenthood in Cincinnati, said that after a while Planned Parenthood did not open for 'business' on the Saturday of the Vigils. It has been informally reported, that in the U.S., when Helpers' Vigils are held outside of Planned Parenthood site, as high as 40% of the patients become no shows. The Helpers started doing it twice a month, with the same result. Then they added a third Vigil a month. The young people in Cincinnati organized a Vigil on the fourth week of the Month, which is now the largest attended Vigil of the Month. Hopefully Sr. Lucy will have the same results.

The Bishops by their Presence Bless the Helpers Apostolate



In the last six months, here in the Diocese of Brooklyn, we were blessed to have six different Bishops lead the Helpers Prayer Vigils. On Saturday January 19th the retired Ordinary, Bishop Thomas Daily offered Mass in St. Gerard Majella's Church in Hollis, and with Deacon Marco Lopez, led us in prayer and song during the procession and at both the abortion sites. After we returned to the Church, the gracious Pastor, Father Edward Doran Ph.D. and the good people of St. Gerard prepared some refreshments for all the Helpers.

On February 16th the present Ordinary of Brooklyn, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio led us in prayer from St. Paul-St. Agnes Church on Court and Congress Streets, to Planned Parenthood at 44 Court Street. Father Robert Powers, the Administrator of the St. Paul's- St. Agnes, and the people from the parish joined the Helpers from other areas of the Diocese. Also the Jesuit Professor, Father Louis Aldrich, from the Faculty of Theology of Fu Jen Catholic University of Taiwan, who is also the pro-life representative to the Vatican from Taiwan, was present with Wenqi and Drs. David and Monica.. These last three Helpers formerly lived in China. Wenqi, with the assistance of Drs. David and Monica, has already translated all the Helpers materials into Chinese. The material has been sent to Claire Fu, from the Catholic University in Taiwan, who will be coming this Fall, to learn from the pro-life movement in the USA. Claire will start by staying here at the Monastery.

On March 15th Bishop Ignatius Catanello celebrated the Helpers Vigil Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church in Jackson Heights, where many thousands of Mexican Catholics faithfully attend the Sunday Masses. Once again, we were welcomed by Msgr. Kutner and the parish priests. The Helpers and the parishioners were joined at this Vigil, with pro-lifers who at that time were being trained at the Monastery, like Carol Seward of Dallas, Texas; Student members of the Pro-Life Committee from Boston College, Massachusetts; and Matthew Marshall and others from Baltimore, Maryland. By the way, Archbishop O'Brien already prayed outside of Planned Parenthood in Baltimore. Thanks to Matthew Marshall and the other pro-lifers the Helpers in Baltimore have now been Incorporated. Hopefully their monthly witness for life in their area will complement, the constant, tremendous witness, of the ever faithful Helpers in Philadelphia, where only recently, once again Cardinal Justin Rigali led the Helpers Prayer Vigil from St. John the Evangelist Church.

In April, the Prayer Vigil was originally scheduled for Saturday the 19th. It was prudent to change the date, since Pope Benedict XVI blessed the City of New York by his presence here that week, when he spoke at the United Nations and became the third Pope to offer Mass at Yankee Stadium. And so, on April 12th Bishop Guy Sansaricq led a very prayerful Helpers Vigil, from St. Catherine of Genoa Church to Building E at Kings County Hospital, where late term abortions are performed by using the saline method. The Pastor, Father Dumont, and his parishioners enthusiastically prayed with the Bishop and the other Helpers.

On May 17th Bishop Octavio Cisneros, after a very fine homily on the sacredness of life, led the Helpers procession from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs along Austin Street to All Women's Medical Pavilion abortion mill, where Dotty Doyle and Mary Murray were doing their weekly sidewalk counseling. Because of another engagement, the Bishop reluctantly had to leave early, but we were blessed, when Detective Steven McDonald continued to lead the Helpers in the Rosary, in lieu of the Bishop. As usual, Msgr. Joseph Funaro, the Pastor, could not have been more gracious and cooperative in making the Helpers feel welcome.

Finally on Saturday the 21st of June, Bishop Frank Caggiano blest the Helpers by his presence at St. John Vianney Parish in Flushing, with a prayerful reflective pro-life homily at Mass, and a prayerful recitation of the Rosary outside Liberty's abortion mill. Again we were blest to have Steven McDonald alternate with the Bishop in leading the decades of the Rosary. The Pastor Father Brian Dowd graciously welcomed the Bishop and all the Helpers. For me, the Day was special, since it was my Birthday. I thought to myself, it was a beautiful way of giving thanks to God for the gift of my life on my birthday, by praying, that unborn innocent children will also have a birthday, and give thanks to God in the future, for their life.

Pro-Life Mission Trip to St Thomas University, Minnesota

On Friday Feb. 22, I left JFK Airport at noon for Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, where Natalie Hefner of St. Thomas University brought me to St. Paul's Seminary. Katherine Burrill, the head of the Students for Life at St. Thomas University, who invited me, organized the whole program. My visit was preceded by an interview with the reporter, Susan Klemond, who later wrote an excellent front page article, in the Diocesan Paper, the Catholic Servant, entitled: 'Live the Sacrifice of the Mass by Offering Prayer, Counseling at Abortion Sites.' On Saturday the program for the Building a Culture of Life Conference included Prayer, Action and Reflection. Besides the students at St. Thomas University, and the Seminarians of St. Paul Seminary, the local pro-life lay people were invited to participate in the Mass, at St Mary's Chapel in St. Paul Seminary, and to the afternoon conference at St. Thomas University.

On Saturday morning, after Sarah Burt organized breakfast and registration, John Posteuca and Reid Hennick led the group across the campus of St. Thomas, to St. Mary's Chapel in St. Paul's Seminary, where Father Thomas Dufner, a long time pro-lifer and an old friend concelebrated Mass. Katherine's friend, Aana Bendson, did a fine job coordinating music for the Mass. Later we traveled to Highland Lifecare Center, silently assembled and processed in prayer and song to Planned Parenthood.

After the Vigil, we returned to the University for lunch and to conduct a training session on the art of Sidewalk Counseling and establishing a follow-up prayerful presence. Kelly Whittier, a young, talented American I met in Vienna, who then joined the Austrian Helpers and now is part of a new religious order bringing Jesus, the Lord to Russia, attended the conference. After, Katherine Burrill and her wonderful parents drove me to the Seminary to pick up my luggage, and then to the airport. I am sure God will continue to use those good people to build a Culture of Life.

Other Visitors to the Brooklyn Monastery

On Feb. 20th Sister Pamela Marie, a Good Shepherd Sister, working with women in crisis pregnancies in Hong Kong, spent time at the Monastery and prayed outside the abortion site. She was happy to learn that the Helpers materials have been translated into Chinese.

From March 2-4, we were blessed with four wonderful pro-life visitors from Germany. Prof Alfred Josef Mueller, who teaches at the University in Mainz and is the Organist for St. Matthias Basilica in Trier. He gave me a CD of his original organ improvisations, played at the Church of St. Michael in Aachen-Burtscheid. This talented man spent long hours kneeling outside the abortion mill on 43rd St, praying with retiree Peter Muehlecker and Francisco Pereira Guimaraes, who lives in Germany and has a great Devotion to the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Francisco is trying to spread this devotion in his home country of Brazil. Accompanying the three men, was a long time friend and pro-lifer, Roswitha Maria Marburg. They surprised me with an unusual gift: a replica of Veronica's veil. On September 1st 2006, Pope Benedict XVI visited the village of Manoppello, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the sacred Veil, that is reputed to be that with which Veronica wiped the Holy Face of Our Lord. The image exactly maps the image of Our Lord's face on the Holy Shroud of Turin.

On Tuesday April 29th Laura Bowman from Albuquerque, New Mexico arrived at the Monastery, here in Brooklyn, and spent long hours in prayer at the abortion site at 43rd Street, and many hours learning not only sidewalk counseling but how to set up the whole Helpers approach from Vigils to Prayerful Presence. As long time pro lifers well know, after many years in this struggle, new enthusiasm and commitment is always welcomed. Laura is an organized, dedicated person, is intent on bringing new life to the Helpers in New Mexico. I am sure she will be a blessing for the unborn and their mothers.

From May 22nd to the 24th I left the Monastery for a few days, and drove to the Guadalupe Villa in Stanford, Connecticut, to offer Mass and preach at the Sisters of Life Discernment Retreat. I spoke to each new aspirant. Many present on the retreat have been or are still actively involved in the Helpers Apostolate. On May 28th Gerry Maglio, from Wayne, New Jersey, who counsels outside the infamous Engelwood abortion site, came to the 43rd St. abortion site and to the Precious Blood Monastery, to gain experience in sidewalk counseling and to obtain counseling materials.

Jessica Newman, and other members of the Missionaries of the Eucharist, stopped at the Monastery on June 6th and 7th on their way to Lewiston, Maine for their annual Summer Walk for Life, from Maine to Washington D.C. Four of the regulars were missing, for in the past year, they entered the Religious Life, Br. Peter Martye, a Dominican; Sr. Oliva Harper, Servants of the Lord; Leslee Simms, Sisters of Life; and Lauren Franko, a Dominican. In early August, Ron and Diane Allen, Helpers from San Diego California joined us in prayer outside the 43rd St. abortion mill. They have put some of my talks on their Padre Pio web site www.saintpio.org.

Pro Life Mission Journey to Iowa

Ten years ago I went to the Quad City area of Iowa, for a prayer vigil in an open field in Bettendorf, Iowa, where Planned Parenthood intended to build an abortion mills. Across the street was another empty field, where the pro-lifers intended to build a life center. Jeanne Wonio, who organized the first Vigil, invited me back to lead the Tenth Anniversary Helpers' Prayer Vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood mill that was built and across from the magnificent two story Women's choice Life Center that was also built. So, early morning on May 1, I departed LaGuardia Airport for Moline Quad City Airport.

In Our Times Life and Vocations Go Together

Jeanne Wonio met me at the Airport and drove me immediately to Iowa City, Iowa, to St. Mary's Rectory. Judee Albert made arrangements with Father Ken for me to stay at St. Mary's and to speak that evening to those attending Holy Hour. After Father Ken finished Holy Hour, I spoke of the need to reestablish a Culture of Life and that one positive way was by attending the Prayer Vigil the next morning at St. Wenceslaus' Church. At 6:30 AM on Friday, I left for the 7 AM Vigil Mass at St. Wenceslaus, joined in the celebration of the Mass by the wonderful pro-life Pastor, Father Michael Phillips. Ten years earlier, Father accompanied me for the first Vigil in Bettendorf. I was told that St. Wenceslaus has the most young men studying for the priesthood in the Diocese. Life and Vocations in our times goes together.

The Unborn Children's Sleep Must Not Be Interrupted

After Mass, Father Phillips and I led the Rosary procession to the Ari Goldman Clinic, in Iowa City. This abortion mill was the first mill in the United States set up by Margaret Sanger of Planned Parenthood, after the January 22nd 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. No mystery then, why Iowa City among Iowan pro-lifers, is known as a liberal, pro choice City. During the Vigil, some people passing in the cars gave negative gestures and at the end of the Vigil, a man living across from the mill screamed at the prayers for not caring about people who want to sleep. He did not understand that we were there precisely to make sure that the unborn children's sleep was not interrupted. After the closing Benediction, we gathered in upper room of the Catholic Book Store called the Mustard Seed, run by Christina Ossonig from Vienna, Austria. Learning about the Helpers in Vienna, Christina said she would visit them on her next trip to Vienna. After a meal and a two hour workshop, I was driven back to Davenport.

From Moline to Davenport to Bettendorf

Barb Arland-Fye, Editor of the Catholic Messenger, the Davenport Diocesan Newspaper, put some short articles in the newspaper about my coming to the quad City area. That evening I went to St. Paul the Apostle Church where Pastor Father Michael Spickermeier greeted me. Then we left for St. Mary's Church in Moline, Illinois, for a Holy Hour and talk. Later we gathered for an enjoyable evening, with other Helpers, at the beautiful home of Rand and Jeanne Wonio and their eight children, most of whom after ten years, are now young adults. On Saturday morning, following the well-attended Vigil Mass at 8 AM at Our Lady of Lourdes, in Bettendorf, Iowa, we prayerfully proceeded to Planned Parenthood. We said an extra decade of the Rosary outside Women's Choice Center, across from Planned Parenthood. We returned to the Church for Benediction, an elaborate lunch and a Life Conference, where I spoke and met many wonderful people like Linda McNeill, Cathy Trowbridge, Mary Ball, Karen Guth and others but unfortunately had to leave for a flight. At the airport, I expressed my gratitude to Rand and Jeanne Wonio, for organizing the last three days' events, and for the faithfulness of all the Helpers to God's Precious Infants and their Mothers for the past ten years.

Intense Prayer on Holy Saturday

This year, as indeed for many past years, from midday on March 21st Good Friday to midday on Holy Saturday, the Helpers here in New York City and elsewhere, maintained 24 hours of prayer outside the largest abortion mills. Under the leadership of people like Mike Marino, Rose Diaz, Charles Buckley in Brooklyn, Jorge Bernal in Queens, Mary Divine in the Bronx, and Peggy Beirne in Rockland County, many people were given the opportunity to pray. God will reward each of them for their great generosity.

40 Days For Life Program

Speaking about prolonged prayer, many Helpers throughout the country asked my opinion on participation in the spring or fall, 40 Days For Life Program. The program's director, David Bereit and his wife, are old friends of mine who once spent time at the Monastery in Brooklyn. I went to College Station, Texas to run a Helpers workshop for pro-lifers there, and to lead a Prayer Vigil to the abortion mill. It a good and holy initiative to encourage people to take part in a prolonged forty days of prayer and fasting program, outside of abortion mills. However I caution Helpers participating in the 40 Days, not to abandon the four seasons of the year, Helpers' approach. We have to remain faithful, year in and year out, aware that God alone knows how much time of prayer, fasting and penitence will be necessary to reestablish once again a Culture of Life in the hearts and minds of people, in our country, and around the world.

The Grandeur of God

On We are called to remain faithful even when we don't experience success. I think of many prayers, alive and deceased, who for the past twenty years publicly sowed countless prayers for life outside of abortion mills in our country and around the World but did not see visible results. Today there are many signs indicating God seems to allow us to reap a new harvest of life. What are these signs? In the Western world all the countries including the United States, fell below the replacement level of 2.1 However the birth rate in the United States keeps going up, so that we are back at replacement level. At the same time, fewer politicians, publicly proclaim abortion to be something positive, especially with the polls showing the majority of Americans are now pro-life. In New York City, twenty years ago, more than 115,000 abortions were performed annually It is now down to 80,000 a year. With a drop off of at least 35,000 abortions each year, obviously, in New York City, abortion

'clinics' large, like Eastern Women's, and small, like the Court Street clinic, keep closing. In the early 90's Ellen Soppe asked me to assist her, Frank Samoylo, Therese Bierne and others to start the Helpers in Rockland County. Recently Father Frank Samoylo offered a Helpers' Mass of Thanksgiving, with the closing of the sixth and final abortion mill in Rockland County.

For more than fifteen years, the Helpers prayed and counseled outside the 12 abortion mills in Dallas, Texas. With the recent closing of the abortion mill, Aaron Women's Health Center, there are only four left in Dallas. After more than fourteen years of the Helpers praying outside the abortion mill in Camperdown, Sydney, Australia, it closed. After many years of Helpers Prayer Vigils, three of the five public hospitals in the City of Bratislava, Slovakia, have stopped abortions. We must persevere and keep praying in this culture of death with the hope of seeing again the culture of life by remembering the lines expressed by the English Bard, Gerard Manley Hopkins, when he wrote: "The World is charged with the grandeur of God It will flame out, like shinning from shook foil:..Why do men then now not reck his rod? Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;...And though the last lights off the black West went Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs ...Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings."

PRO-LIFE MISSION TO AUSTRALIA

Life Mission to the Wonderful Helpers in Australia

On this long trip, I was indeed fortunate to have as my companion Mike Marino, who is my 81 years young, daily partner, in Sidewalk Counseling outside Ambulatory Abortion Center in Brooklyn. I knew that Mike would not have any problems with this demanding trip, because few can do what Mike has done for so many years, such as sidewalk counseling in New York City, six days a week, exceeding forty hours weekly. For the two weeks we were away, another extraordinary Counselor, Rose Diaz, took vacation from work to cover forty hours a week outside of Ambulatory. May God richly reward both of them for their courageous generosity.

From Sydney to Brisbane

After Mike Reddy took us to JFK Airport, Mike Marino and I left New York on Tuesday July 8th and after a stopover in Los Angeles, we finally arrived in the Sydney Airport in NSW at 6:30 A.M. Friday morning where Paul Hanrahan, the past President of the Sydney Helpers met us. From there, we drove to Our Lady of the Way Church in Sylvania, where Paul Hanrahan and his Wife Christine and their four sons and daughter, who looks just like her mom, regularly attend Mass. I arrived in time to concelebrate the 9 AM Mass. While in Sydney, Father Kevin Lovegrove, the Pastor, generously allowed Mike and me to use the Rectory of Our Lady of the Way, while Father stayed that week at the Rectory of the nearby amalgamated parish. We left our luggage in Paul's car, while we went for breakfast, since we had to return to the airport that afternoon to fly to Brisbane, in Queensland, the same distance as New York to Boston.

United to the Sufferings of Christ Brings Great Grace

In Brisbane, Dennis MacDonald and his wonderful wife waited for us, and opened their home during our brief but busy time in Brisbane. On Saturday morning at 7 AM we joined Craig Robinson and thirty other Helpers, in two hours of prayer outside a Brisbane abortion mill. While praying, Helpers Roadside Counselors offered help to all who came. Immediately after the Prayerful Presence, we went to the Villa Marie Nursing Center, where I joined the chaplain, Father Rego, a Marist priest. In the homily, I explained why the suffering of the sick, united to the sufferings of Christ, brings great grace to the sufferer and to the World and the pro-life movement. Father Rigo is deeply involved with Life Decision Incorporated, an organization reaching out to men and women throughout Australia, to help in times of crisis to keep their unborn children. Father gave me some copies of the Life Prayer he composed, especially for the members of the organization. A Brisbane Helper, Bernadette Jones, insisted on asking for the Church to have an annual World Wide Month of Prayer, Penance and almsgiving for life.

Rockhampton Helpers Drove 400 Miles

We visited a center similar to those of the Legion of Mary Center, in an area that could use their presence. After brunch, we conducted a workshop exceeding two hours on the Helpers Apostolate. Representatives of the Helpers in Rockhampton, Mark and Merle Ross, drove 400 miles to Brisbane, to attend. It was a pleasure to meet this wonderful dedicated pro-life couple. On Sunday morning I met my old friend, a wonderful Jesuit priest, Father Gregory Jordan S.J., who asked me to offer the traditional Latin Mass for a full Church of traditional pro-life Catholics. I was more than happy to do so. After Mass, Mike and I once again had to leave for the Brisbane Airport, to catch a Virgin Airline Flight to Adelaide which is like going from Boston to Dallas, Texas. We said goodbye to the hospitable and kind Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald.

The Wills Family in Adelaide

Marguerite Wills, who organized and arranged everything for Mike and I during our time in Adelaide, met us at the airport, along with Scott McKendry, the new Director of Human Life International in Sydney, who observed us during our time in Adelaide. Mike was taken to the spacious home of Des and Christine Wills, by their daughter Marguerite. It was ten years since I saw their children, who are now young adults. Francesa lives in Sydney, Xavier in South Australia, and Emma is in a Contemplative Benedictine Monastery in France. I was taken to Archbishop Wilson House, where the House Manager Simon Mills, was very helpful. Later that evening, I joined Mike for a delicious supper prepared by Marguerite at the Wills' home.

From Mt. Lofty Summit to the Low of Mareeba

On Monday morning, we drove up the Adelaide Hill to Mt Lofty Summit, for sight seeing, which was hindered by a thick fog. After an afternoon lunch in the hills, we returned to prepare for the 6 PM Mass at St. Peter's. I offered a Latin Novus Ordo Mass. After Mass, we met in the Parish meeting room for a causal pizza dinner, followed by a two hour Helpers workshop. Adelaide's retired Ordinary, Archbishop Faulkner, an old friend, who prays since his retirement outside of the abortion mills, stayed for the whole workshop. On Tuesday morning at 8 AM I offered the Helpers Vigil Mass at Mater Dei Church. After exposition, following the Banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe, about fifty helpers processed in prayer and song to the Mareeba Abortion mill in Woodville Park, and returned to the Church for closing Benediction. After a delicious lunch at 'Nice and Tasty Café in Hindmarsh, we flew to Sydney.

Sydney's Helpers Headquarters

Upon our arrival in Sydney airport, Paul Hanrahan was there to drive us to the Family Life International Center, where Gail Instance, the organizer, and many young and older Sydney Helpers eagerly awaited our arrival. In an informal setting, for next few hours, I shared ideas with the dedicated, enthusiastic counselors and prayers. When we counsel in Brooklyn, many people call Mike Marino, 'Father'. After the week in Sydney in the priests' rectory, I am afraid Mike might believe it. It does tell you the mettle of a man when people think he is a Priest.

Speaking at the Love and Life WYD Sight

On Wednesday morning, after offering the parish mass and eating, we conversed with young people attending the World Youth Day activities. We arrived early afternoon at the Love and Life Site, which the Sisters of Life from New York had organized at St. Benedict's parish. In my talk to about 500 young people, I stressed that to be a true Christian one must reflect and think. Then, pray and internalize, what you thought about or believe, and finally it must influence your life and others, namely you must act on the truth. I stressed that this is especially true in trying to reestablish a culture of Life. At the end of the talk, the young people stood and applauded. Praise God! At this site I chatted with a strong supporter of the Sydney Helpers Bishop Anthony Fischer who was responsible for all World Youth Day activities.

From Kingswood to Barangaroo

On Thursday, we attended 7 AM mass in Kingswood, West Sydney, and gathered at Marie Stopes abortion mill where the dedicated group of Helpers, for example, Elizabeth Brew and her children, prayed for two full hours while the roadside counselors offered help to all women. After the Vigil, one of the Helpers welcomed us to their home and prepared rich delicacies for the group. We drove to Barangaroo, Sydney, where we gathered with 150,000 young people to greet the large sightseeing boat carrying the Holy Father. After the Pope was welcomed by the Head of Australian Catholic Conference of Bishops, Archbishop Wilson, who hosted me several times in Adelaide, and by Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, whom I met several times in Melbourne, we listened to the Pope's words of Wisdom.

A Special Mass at St. Peter's in Surry Hills

On Friday July 18 we attended the 7 AM mass at St. Peters Church Surry Hills, with a young priest who has prayed with the Helpers in England, Father Alexander Sherbrooke of St. Patrick, in Soho Square, England, as our main celebrant. Concelebrating with me was a priest from China, Father Mathew Kou who spent 29 years in prison confinement because of his loyalty to the Holy Father. Father Kou resides in San Jose, California, where his friend, the late Ignatius Cardinal Kung, is buried on the grounds of the parish. Though the situation improves in China many young people are unaware of the extent older Catholics suffered for their Faith.

Little Peace for Catholics Loyal to the Holy See

In 1949, the Communist Party took power in China. In 1951, the Communist government launched an anti-empire movement that tried to coerce Catholics to denounce Archbishop Riberi, the Delegate of the Holy See in China, and accused the Legion of Mary of being ‘anti-revolutionary.’ Kou, a 23 year old seminarian and a member of the Legion of Mary, was arrested and spent the next 29 years in Chinese prisons and labor camps. On Sept. 8th the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, a massive persecution against the Catholic Church began. Hundreds of thousands of Christians were imprisoned. In 1957, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association was created. In 1958, the government and the Patriotic Association, disregarding the Holy See, nominated and consecrated their own Bishop. Through the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s there was little peace for Catholics loyal to the Holy See in China. I spoke to Father Kou about my friends Drs. David and Monica who also suffered for their faith during this time in China. Father Kou gave me a book written in Chinese, and insisted that I give them the book.

Praying Outside the Oldest Abortion Mill in Australia

About 80-100 Helpers participated in the Rosary Vigil in front of Preterm Foundation abortion mill, the oldest Australian mill. Besides local Sydney Helpers like Marilyn, I met Helpers from Melbourne, such as Trudy and Jane Byre. At the end of the Vigil I informally addressed the group and encouraged them to keep up their courageous witness for life. On this trip I would have loved to join the good Helpers in Perth like Helen Sawyer, Francine, Archbishop Barry Hickey, Francine, Helen Sawyer and others, who for eleven years have been faithful prayerful witnesses for life in Perth, time and distance prevented it.

Our Life Mission to Australia was Done

On Saturday after Mass and breakfast we watched WYD events on T.V. Later we went to a beautiful restaurant on the Harbor with Paul, his wife, Christine, Gail Instance, and other Helpers. Later, at Sacred Heart Residence, we visited a priest suffering from a heart condition who always prays with the helpers at the clinics. The residence was located high above but near the Racetrack where all the young people on Saturday were waiting for the arrival of the Pope. When the roar went up to the heavens we knew the Pope arrived and our job was done. After an early Sunday Mass with the Hanrahan family, our life mission to Australia finished and we left the rest in the Hands of God and the pro-lifers in Australia. Mike Marino and I left with grateful hearts for all the kindness and hospitality we experienced from the Australian Helpers. And so saying our final goodbye and asking God’s Blessing on all we started the long journey back to New York where the ever faithful Mike Reddy met us at JFK and drove us home.

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, October 2006. 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 title 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"](#)

OTHER HAPPENINGS

A Radio Session, a TV Show and Book on Helpers Apostolate

As a result of the Jan. 20 interview on EWTN with Father Benedict Groeschel many people through the U.S. contacted me or visited the Helpers website www.helpersny.org. In Australia, I was surprised that many people told me they watched the interview with Father Groeschel. Wanda Skowronska of Sydney, Australia wrote a fine book on the Helpers of God's Precious Infants and their Spirituality entitled *Roadside/Sidewalk Contemplatives*, published by Family Life International of Sydney. All copies I brought back were quickly taken. I encouraged them to have an American outlet since many would find it interesting and helpful. I agreed to a brief interview on the Helpers Apostolate by the Catholic Channel on Sirius Satellite Radio.

Rescued More Than 230 Unborn Children

The National Catholic Register in May did a Prolife Profile on the Guardian of Germany's Unborn, a young woman in her twenties, Maria Grunberger who helped rescue more than 230 unborn children by counseling women outside abortion mills in Germany. Maria is featured in a German Documentary film called Maria und Ihre Kinder (Maria and Her Children). At the age of 17, Maria said she heard me speak in Germany, and since then became involved with the Helpers, due to her maturity and language ability, as my reliable translator in Germany and other European Countries, and is actively involved with the Helpers in Germany under the leadership of Wolfgang Hering, the President of the Helpers in Germany.

Procession of a Thousand White Crosses in Munich

Recently Bishop Dr. Andreas Laun from Salsburg, Austria led the Helpers Vigil in Munich, praying outside the Stapp abortion clinic. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky will be the Keynote speaker at the Helpers Humanae Vitae Congress in Munich from Oct.3-5. On Saturday Oct.4 the Archbishop will lead the Helpers Prayer Procession of a Thousand White Crosses in Munich. A thousand unborn babies are killed each day in Germany. Here in America, Archbishop Kurtz, like Bishop Laun in Europe, prays outside abortion clinics.

October Conference For Life at Lourdes

The 3rd International World Prayer Congress for Life will be held in Lourdes from Oct. 28-Nov. 2, 2008, the great jubilee year of Lourdes, France, celebrating the Virgin Mary's apparition to St. Bernadette 150 years ago. Like the two previous Congresses in Fatima and Krakow, this year's Congress will be cosponsored by the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, Human Life International, World Apostolate of Fatima, Ja zum Leben International etc. Father Benedict Groeschel, Father Thomas Euteneuer, I and others are scheduled to speak at the Congress. For information, refer to www.hli.at/lourdes2008

New Visitors to the Monastery in September

Father Louis Aldrich S.J., Director of the Human Life Ethics Center of Fu Jen Catholic University of Taiwan, will send Claire Fu Wen-Ling to the United States to gain knowledge and practical skills of reaching mothers in crisis situations. Beginning with the third week of September, Claire will begin training, starting here at the Monastery of the Precious Blood. Hopefully during that week Father Lawrence CFR will also participate in the training courses.

Prayers and Best Wishes

Our prayers and best wishes go to Helpers Wenqi and Craig, who became engaged in China this July, and long-time Helpers, Susan Moore and Kevin Moore (not related yet) who will marry in October and also to Helper Margaret Driscoll, who married Ben Cheah at St. Daniel's Church, Syracuse, in April. Please keep in your prayers recently deceased Helpers, especially the Spiritual Moderator of the Boston Helpers, the well-known healing Redemptorist priest, Father Edward McDonough, and all those who are sick, especially Theresa Gandolfo, a faithful daily prayer outside the Brooklyn abortion sites for almost twenty years.

Until We Meet in Prayer at Calvary,

Msgr. Philip J. Reilly