



Helpers of God's Precious Infants

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Greetings to All the Helpers of God's Precious Infants from the Home Office in Brooklyn, New York

I would like to begin this newsletter by reflecting on the encyclical letter promulgated by Blessed Pope Paul VI 50 years ago this June in 1968, *Humane Vitae*. At the time before this encyclical was written, many people felt that Pope Paul would ease restrictions on artificial birth control, especially since the Anglican Lambeth Conference of 1930 endorsed it for married couples in particularly trying circumstances. Paul VI had convened a panel of bishops and experts to advise him on this issue before writing the letter, and some on the panel advised him to abandon the Church's traditional teaching, particularly with the birth control pill becoming then widely available. Instead Blessed Paul VI reaffirmed the Church's constant teaching that artificial means of birth control is intrinsically evil and should be avoided by all people of good will. He predicted that if contraception became widely used, there would be far reaching consequences for all mankind, and none of them to be desired. He prophetically foresaw that wide spread acceptance and use of artificial birth control would lead to the degradation of woman, increased sexual abuse and molestation of the same, increased efforts to control population and, of course, and great increase in abortions since contraception methods are not 100% effective. The family, the first protectors and educators of the young would be weakened and sexual immorality would be increasingly accepted. In the 50 years since *Humane Vitae* was written, in vast areas of the world we have seen what Pope St. John Paul II described as the Culture of Death. Rejection of *Humane Vitae* has led to a rejection of life through sterilization and abortion. Had more people heeded Blessed Pope Paul's teachings we would not have the Culture of Death that is so prevalent today. Once you separate the conjugal act from procreation anything is possible. Life will be suppressed at conception, and finally in old age or disability. The Helpers are there to "stand in the breach" and to try to help all those caught up in the Culture of Death. We are out on the sidewalks of over 40 countries in the world pleading with men and women to reject death and embrace life. I thank you for everything that you are doing to promote the Culture of Life.

THE FAMILY

The two parent, mother, father and children are the building block of society. Without the family inculcating culture, there can be no civilization. Any deviation from this model invites chaos. There are indeed many single parent families that have and continue to contribute to society, and many single parents are heroically raising their children in loving homes, but it the single parent family is very difficult to maintain. A quick look at history will confirm this. Before the time of Christ, although the family did exist, the patriarch of the family was supreme in all decisions including who would live and who would die, particularly his own offspring. The Israelites, the first to hear and accept the word of God were unique in forswearing killing and welcoming all children as a gift from God. However, women still did not have many rights and divorce for any reason was tolerated. Civilizations from the Greek, Egyptian, Roman and other cultures did exist, but these civilizations were often quite brutal and the place of the family was subordinated to the good of the State. Women had no role other than helper and mate of the male and had no rights whatsoever. It was Christianity, following the teachings of Jesus Christ that elevated the status of both women and the family. The wife was now seen as a partner of her husband, and a daughter of God, as her husband was a son. Together they would raise whatever children God granted them. The family was seen as a "domestic church", with the father properly at the head, but with the mother making most of the decisions for

and about her children. Obviously this was not the case in every marriage, but this was the ideal held up to Christian families. At the beginnings of Christendom arranged marriages were the norm, but as time went on the idea of marrying for love gradually took hold. This is why the Church placed such emphasis on preparation of married couples. Couples were to meet with a priest to learn all that they needed to know to be ready to live their lives together with all the ups and downs of married life. Divorce was not allowed and the Church emphasized, what “God joined, no man should put asunder”. This, too, elevated the status of women, as they now knew that they could not simply be thrown aside whenever her husband wished. Husband and wife were to help each other to attain heaven and teach their children the value of following Our Lord Jesus Christ. Since the “Enlightenment” of the 17th and 18th centuries, the family has been under attack. Many philosophers condemned the nuclear family as a stale, lifeless cauldron of conformity. They felt that for man to flourish one had to break away from one’s family and learn to express oneself in any manner one saw fit. Selfishness was applauded. “Bourgeois” values of piety, thrift and sacrifice were scoffed at. This has led to a general coarsening of social life and been very detrimental to families and women in particular. Although women have made great strides in the professions and particularly in voting rights, they have been demeaned in the way they are treated and have in many cases lost the respect of men. Many openly brag about their abortions. This is supposedly empowering. Is this progress? I don’t think so. Contraception and abortion do not create an atmosphere for true love to grow. Never in history has there been more material prosperity and moral poverty.

HARDHEARTENNESS

This breakdown of the family has produced an indifferent society which is interested for the most part, only in its own cares and worries. Some people I meet on the streets today are very hardhearted and only interested in themselves. It only stands to reason in a culture that is pushing self-reliance and self-gratification. One can see why so many abortions are performed in this country and throughout the world. In the Old Testament, God spoke to the Israelites telling them that “even if a mother should forget her child, I will never forget you” (Isiah 49:15). The idea that a mother would forget her child was almost unthinkable for the people of that time. Now abortion has become so acceptable to so many people that the elimination of abortion has become unthinkable. There have been and will continue to be difficult circumstances in which abortion seems like a good option and of course, there were abortions performed even in Biblical times, but in today’s world carrying to term an unwanted child is considered foolish. Merle Hoffman, the owner of Choices abortion facility in Jamaica, New York has referred to pro-lifers as “the American Taliban” and has stated that the act of abortion empowers women and that is why pro-lifers are against it. The vast majority of abortion businesses are there to sell abortions, not to help their clients with a difficult decision. Abortion facilities are pushing abortion and any young woman who wishes to keep her child is considered by them hopelessly naïve. Despite encountering many difficulties, the Helpers have actually increased their efforts in saving mothers and babies from abortion. In some areas, escorts have virtual carte blanche permission to deter sidewalk counselors from talking to pregnant women. Some cities and countries have “bubble zone” laws to keep the Helpers as far away from the clinics as possible. The Helpers are there nonetheless praying and sidewalk counselling to the best of their abilities. I am sure God is very pleased with all your efforts on behalf of life.

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS

I would like to add a word here about crisis pregnancy centers. They have become increasingly under attack from pro-abortion organizations. These groups have lobbied city councils and some state legislatures to pass laws forcing these centers to display in a prominent area that they do not offer abortion services or birth control pills, and do not have a medical staff (although many do, just not every day of the week). In the state of California, the legislature passed a law requiring pregnancy centers to refer for abortions. These laws are obviously unconstitutional on free speech and freedom of religion grounds as most crisis pregnancy centers are operated by Christians. California’s law is being challenged before the Supreme Court this term. Please pray for these centers that they may continue to operate without any restrictions. We need to have a place for women in difficult situations to go to, and these clinics are there to help them. Running a crisis pregnancy center is difficult enough without being harassed by the likes of Planned Parenthood with the police in tow. Abortion

businesses often send women in their employ posing as pregnant women to these centers to find out what they are doing. The abortionists are all for choice until it affects their bottom line. The abortion cartel claims that pro-lifers are lying and spreading disinformation to the woman and men they meet. Recently at the trial in New York State of some sidewalk counselors (not Helpers), a witness for the prosecution stated in court that she had set up a false Facebook page to befriend one of the sidewalk counselors being charged with harassment. It turns out that the witness was an escort for Choices abortion facility. I am imploring all Helpers to be very careful of whom they befriend on Facebook.

Schedule of Vigil Masses from May 2018 to oct. 2018

<i>Date</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Abortion Site</i>
May, 2018	No Large Vigil – Please go to your own clinics and pray.	
June 16, 2018	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Jamaica, Queens	Choices
July, 2018	No Large Vigil – Please go to your own clinics and pray.	
Aug. 25, 2018	Our Lady of the Cenacle Richmond Hill, Queens	Jamaica Hospital
Sept. 15, 2018	St. Joan of Arc Jackson Heights, Queens	Women’s Care
Oct. 20, 2018	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Jamaica, Queens	Choices

NEWS AND NOTES



On January 27, 2018 I was delighted to attend the Pro-Vita Mass conducted by the Diocese of Brooklyn, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Bishop Thomas V. Daily Pro-Vita award was presented to my niece, Susan Moore and her husband, Kevin. Susan has been involved with the Helpers all of her life starting with her mother, my sister Frances, taking her and her siblings to the early Marches for Life in the 1970s. Over the years she has done many things for the Helpers, including producing flyers for the vigils, mailings, and scheduling our large prayer vigils. She also is a prayer warrior at All Women’s Medical Pavilion in Kew Gardens, New York, and serves as Secretary on the board of the Helpers. She currently serves as my administrative assistant, making sure I am at all of my appointments and keeping up with my correspondence. Her talent and skills ensure that the Helper’s organization runs smoothly. Her husband Kevin is a long time prayer warrior first at Choices when it was located in Long Island City, and now at All Women’s. He also serves as Treasurer on the board of the Helpers. During the Mass, my nephew, Philip Moore, who also attended the Mass and who runs the Helpers in Chicago, Illinois was informed that he became a grandfather for the first time. It was a great day for life and several New York Helpers were on hand for the Mass. In other Helpers news, Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, CFR, who conducts

large prayer vigils once a month from Old St. Patrick's Cathedral in downtown Manhattan, was surprised by a group of "counter-protestors" at his February vigil. The pro-abortion protesters weaved their way into Fr. Fidelis' group, trying to disrupt the peaceful, prayerful procession to a nearby Planned Parenthood. Fr. Fidelis and his group maintained discipline, and continued to pray while walking, but this was a surprise as nothing like this had happened before. Fr. Fidelis vowed that it would not happen again and contacted the local police for a parade permit for his next vigil in March. The permit was accepted and Fr. noted that about 200 pro-lifers, including several from the Brooklyn Helpers, came to support him. His vigils usually attract 50 to 75 people. As related to me, the counter-protestors were segregated into one area of the sidewalk, while the Helpers were behind barricades on the opposite street corner. There was no disruption and no one entered the Planned Parenthood that morning. The pro-abortion protestors were in fact counter-productive, with their singing and chanting of epithets. Their behavior will not help most women considering abortion. They are making an already difficult decision harder. I read recently on LifeNews.com about a 15 year old sidewalk counselor in the Midwest who was going about her business trying to help women entering an abortion facility when out of the blue an older woman parked her car near her and started to yell and scream at her. The young woman tried to reason with her, but she would not listen. Eventually, the older woman walked up to the sidewalk counselor and, can you believe, punched her in the face. The woman who attacked the sidewalk counselor was not there for an abortion, but just the thought of someone trying to convince someone else not to kill her child enraged her. Our intrepid sidewalk counselor told the press that this incident made her even more determined to go to the clinic on Saturdays. This whole brutal assault was filmed by one of the sidewalk counselor's friends and was reported to the local police. I am sure that many of you are being harassed for what you do. This is why we need to pray for a conversion of hearts, so that a Culture of Life will be restored in this country and around the world. I recently received an e-mail from Dr. Majlinda of Tirana, Albania. She reported that the new Archbishop there was considering closing the Mother Teresa Pro-Life Center and asked for prayers. She now reports that the Archbishop not only did not close the center, but would also soon be leading a pro-life prayer vigil in Tirana. Thank you to everyone who prayed with and for Dr. Majlinda. Praise be to God. Shortly after the many school "walk outs" after the horrific school shooting in Parkland, Florida, a teacher in Rocklin Hill High School in California wondered aloud in class whether school officials would be so accommodating if students were to "walk out" over the immense number of abortions performed in this country over the course of a year. The teacher was immediately placed on administrative leave. One of her students, Brandon Gillespie, decided to find out. Although not provided with the accommodations that the students who walked out over gun violence, Brandon and several other pro-lifers at the school picked April 11 as the day they would walk out. When Students for Life, a fine pro-life organization, found out about this they leaped into action informing several of their chapters about the event. In all over 200 high schools and colleges witnessed walk outs on April 11. I am very encouraged by the faith and witness of the younger generation. They are not afraid to stand up for life. On Divine Mercy Sunday, a few of the Brooklyn Helpers travelled to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA. One of the featured speakers there was the Irish singer, Dana. Dana asked for prayers for Ireland which will soon vote on a national referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment to the Irish constitution which protects the right to life of all Irish citizens which includes the unborn. I would ask all the readers of this newsletter to pray for this intention as well. I would like to thank very much all of those who sent me rosaries in response to my last newsletter. They are very much appreciated, and sidewalk counselors from all over will be able to hand these rosaries to pregnant women considering abortion. Finally, I would like to wish everyone who reads this newsletter a Blessed Easter season.

Until We Meet at Calvary,
Msgr. Philip J. Reilly