

# February 2, 2010 *Helpers Newsletter*

*Dear Friends of God's Precious Infants,*

## Many People Still Do Not Know

**F**orty years ago, in June of 1970, New York State legalized the unjust killing of unborn infants through the first six months of pregnancy. Many people living in New York State still do not know this fact. On Jan. 22, 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court in the Decision, *Roe v. Wade*, declared that a mother had a Constitutional Right to kill unjustly an unborn child through the nine months of pregnancy. And on the same date, Jan 22, 1973, the Supreme Court in the Decision, *Doe v Bolton*, declared that a pregnant mother for the sake of her physical, mental or emotional health could end her pregnancy. Thus abortion on demand through the nine months of pregnancy tragically became the Law of the Land. Many people living in the United States still do not know this or believe it, even when told.

## The Supreme Court Decision Allows It

**I**n New York State, although the 1970 Abortion Law allowed the unborn child to be killed through the first six months in any certified doctor's office or in a State certified free-standing abortion clinic like Choices in Queens, Ambulatory in Brooklyn, and Parkmed in Manhattan; yet the same 1970 New York State Abortion Law explicitly restricted the killing of the unborn babies in the clinics after six months. However the Supreme Court Decision of 1973 allows it; and so in New York State the unborn children in the seventh, eight and ninth months are killed only in a hospital, such as Kings County Hospital. By the way, King's County Hospital in Building 'E' has for many years specialized in late term saline abortions.

## Audiences Listen to the Results with Total Disbelief

**A**ccording to the U.S Census there were 8 million people in New York City in 1970. Thirty years later, according to 2000 U.S Census, there were still only 8 million people. How is that possible? It is possible, because an average of one hundred thousand unborn babies have been aborted each year in New York City since the passage of the infamous 1970 New State Abortion Law. ***Almost four million unborn precious infants*** have been unjustly killed in New York City. It is the equivalent of killing, as it were, every other person in the City of New York. In the United States, as a result of the '73 Roe v Wade Decision, ***more than 48 million unborn infants*** have now unjustly died in this inhumane holocaust. In our Country, most people either do not know these facts or on learning them seem hopelessly paralyzed by the enormity of the number. Indeed, as I travel around the world and inform people, from other countries, of the permissive Laws against Unborn Life in the United States, the audiences listen in total disbelief.

## Yet in the U.S. There Are Still Reasons to Hope

**Y**et there are still many reasons for hope in the U.S. For example, when the Helpers Apostolate started more than twenty years ago, there were **2200 abortion clinics in the United States and about 700 Life Centers**. Today in the United States, there are **700 abortion clinics and more than 2200 Life Centers**. Twenty years ago here in the Diocese of Brooklyn **43 places advertised abortions and today it is down to 18**. Every major poll now shows that the majority of Americans identify themselves as pro-life. Across America today, I believe, the prayerful presence of God's people with their good shepherds outside these abortion mills has played no small part in the closing of these mills and the changing of so many hearts to choose life. Please continue your sacrificial presence at these abortion sites because there are still distressed pregnant mothers that need your loving, prayerful presence and help. The victims of this on-going immoral earthquake need today and tomorrow unsung generous rescuers to help the unborn children to get out of their mothers wombs alive and restore peace to their wounded mothers. ***Do make a sincere effort to attend the upcoming Helpers Prayer Vigils.***

## **THE UNBORN BABIES AND THEIR MOTHERS NEED YOUR PRESENCE AT THE UPCOMING HELPERS PRAYER VIGILS**

DATE	LOCATION	CELEBRANT
Sat Feb 20, 2010	St Charles Borromeo 21 Sidney Place Brooklyn 11201 718-625-1177	Msgr Reilly
Sat Mar 13, 2010	St Bartholomew 43-22 Ithaca Street Elmhurst, NY 11373 718-424-5400	Msgr Reilly
Sat Apr 17, 2010	St James Cathedral - Basilica 250 Cathedral Place Brooklyn NY 11201 718-855-6390	Bishop Sansaricq
Sat May 15, 2010	Queen of Martyrs 110-06 Queens Blvd. 11375 718-268-6251	Bishop Daily
Sat Jun 12, 2010	St Paul - St Agnes Congress and Court Streets Brooklyn 11201 718-624-3425	Bishop Daily
Sat Aug 28, 2010	Our Lady of the Cenacle 136-06 87th Av Richmond Hill NY 11418 718-291-2540	Bishop Caggiano
Sat Sept 18, 2010	Saint Joan of Arc 82-00 35th Avenue Jackson Hts., NY 11372 718-429-2333	Bishop Valero

Sat Oct 16, 2010	St Michael's 352 42nd Street Brooklyn, NY 11232 718-768-6065	Msgr Reilly
Sat Nov 20, 2010	Saint Patrick's 39-38 29th Street Long Island City, NY 11101 718-729-6060	Bishop Valero
Sat Dec 11, 2010	St Catherine of Genoa 520 Linden Blvd Brooklyn, NY 11203	Bishop DiMarzio

### **It Has to Come From the Heart**

After more than one facial skin cancer operation, I have been strongly encouraged to spend less time each day in the sun. Being a good patient, I no longer spend 5 to 6 hours a day praying and counseling outside the abortion mill but only 2 to 3 hours a day. However, I am not over anxious about my absence, since my 82 year old partner, Mike Marino, still spends each day 6 to 7 hours counseling and praying outside the same abortion mill. I am so impressed by people like Mike Marino, and Dan Goodnow, the President of the Helpers in Michigan and Matt Ulrich, the President of the Helpers in Seattle, Washington, and so many others, who five days a week are outside the abortion mills. You can't pay people to make sacrifices like that, it has to come from their hearts. Rose Diaz, whom I just left an hour ago, is another example. As Rose was starting her seventh hour of prayer and counseling, God had already granted her the grace to be His instrument to touch twelve pregnant mothers to come back out of the abortion mill and to keep their babies. Across the Country and around the World, I keep witnessing such extraordinary generosity by so-called ordinary people.

### **With God's Help**

Now as for myself, with my extra leisure hours, one might reasonably believe that I should have ample time to get my work done. But it seems to me, God is well aware of man's wise maxim: "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it." For the busier you are, the more work God seems to give you to do. For me time still remains scarce, for while trying to catch up on my phone calls and e-mails, my postal mail and faxes; mothers in need still keep coming to the Monastery office for help or guidance. Chaplain duties also must be met, and more and more requests keep coming from people near and far, who wish to come here or for me to go there. When I feel it is impossible to do it all, I recall once again, the words of the co-patron Saint of Germany, St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597), who said: "If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all." And so having prayed for God's help to do it all, let me tell you what has happened since the last Helpers Newsletter.

### **From Richmond Hill to Washington D.C.**

**O**n Saturday Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 after being the Main Celebrant at 7:30 A.M. Helpers Vigil Mass in Queens, at Our Lady of Cenacle Church in Richmond Hill, Detective Steven McDonald and myself led the Helpers in Prayer outside the building in Jamaica Hospital where for years they do the abortions. It is interesting how even in the medical profession the place where the abortionist is and where abortions are performed often appears to be somewhat isolated from the real place of healing. On Friday afternoon Sept. 11, I took an American Airline Shuttle from JFK in New York to Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington D.C. since Michelle Carper, the Program Coordinator of the Right to Life Office of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C., invited me to come and do a Sidewalk Counseling Training program and a Helpers Prayer Vigil. At the Airport, Laura Ferstl, the Coordinator of the Young Adult Ministry, met me and brought me to St. Matthew's Cathedral Residence where I was to stay that evening.

### **We Prayed and Sang and Knelt Together**

**A**fter a brief stop for a bite to eat, we went to Immaculate Conception Parish in D.C. where we met Michelle Carper and the other pro-lifers. After spending some time with them in front of the Blessed Sacrament, I spoke to the people about the Spirituality of the Helpers and the reasons for the next day's Prayer Vigil. On Saturday morning Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> a good crowd was present at the Vigil Mass in Immaculate Conception Church and practically all joined in praying the rosary during the lengthy walk from Immaculate Conception Church to Planned Parenthood on 16<sup>th</sup> St in D.C. When we arrived at the mill, about 40 students from Christendom College were already praying at Planned Parenthood. And so we prayed, and sang and knelt together outside of the abortion mill. Finally, we returned in prayer and song to the Church, where we had closing Benediction. After the people had a brunch, I did an extended workshop on prayerful presence, and the art of sidewalk counseling, etc. That evening, I returned to NYC on an 8:30 P.M. flight. In a later note of thank you, Michelle Carper wrote that the event was very successful and we can't wait to put into practice all we learned and are excitedly awaiting the audio of your talks.

### **Success in the Number of Abortion Mills Closed Down**

On September 19<sup>th</sup> after the 7:30 A.M. Vigil Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church in Jackson Heights, the Pastor of the parish Msgr. Garcia joined the Helpers to pray outside of the abortion clinics on 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Roosevelt Ave, and Dr. Salomon Epstein abortion mill located at Roosevelt Ave and 75<sup>th</sup> St. Along Roosevelt Ave there are many Spanish abortion mills. For many years the Helpers under the leadership of Jorge Bernal have been praying outside of these mills with extraordinary success. Not so much success in the number of turn arounds but in the number of abortion mills that have closed down after the Jackson Heights Helpers started praying there. For example at the present time they are praying outside of A-1 Abortion mill located at 95 St. and Roosevelt Ave where you might have read in the Newspaper that on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 a 37 year old woman went there for an abortion. When the abortionist cut her artery, the woman began to bleed heavily and went into cardiac arrest. She bled to death. **At the present time the abortion mill is still closed and we pray that it will stay closed like the abortion mills that closed adown at 79<sup>th</sup> St, 85<sup>th</sup> St., 92<sup>nd</sup> St, and 102<sup>nd</sup> St., after the Jackson Heights Helpers Prayer Warriors arrived.** Jorge told me he believes that his group of Helpers prayer are so efficacious because they are getting extra heavenly help from three of their wonderful prayers, Marta Catalano, John Manuella Craighton Masset, whom God took home at a relatively early age. I believe Jorge is right. After the Saturday Vigil, I drove over to St. Patrick's Cathedral Residence in Manhattan. Sister Lucy of the Sisters of Life, who runs the Respect Life Office for Archdiocese of New York, asked me to conduct a special sidewalk counseling workshop from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a number of young adults in Manhattan. The Workshop was well received.

### We Go Not to Witness the Truth but to Convert People to the Truth

Deacon Dr. Paul Schenck and Bob O'Neill who work in the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Respect Life Office invited me to come and train the people in the Helpers approach. I said I would. And so on Friday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> I drove four hours to the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. After a prayer service that night I spoke to the people about the Helpers motivation and spirituality, namely to be pro-life is to desire to save souls by changing hearts through fasting and a loving prayerful presence. We go to the mills not to witness the truth but to convert people to the truth which requires the Helpers to be Christ to others. On Saturday morning after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, we prayed outside of the Hillcrest Abortion Mill. After the Vigil we conducted a Workshop on the follow-up Prayerful Presence, sidewalk counseling, etc. After saying goodbye to so many wonderful pro-life people like Deacon Paul, Bob O'Neill and his wife and others like Susanne and her husband Paul, and Brenda Freed who is starting a Good Shepherd Mission of Hope for the mothers and their babies, I drove back to Brooklyn for a very important birthday party.

### Sister Berchmans Hundredth Birthday

One of the great hidden spiritual supporters of the Helpers was Sister Mary Berchmans, APB. Sister was born in Ireland on September 26, 1909 and spent more than seventy years here at the Monastery praying. On Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 Sister celebrated her Hundred Birthday. On December 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 God took His special Sponsa Christi home. Until the end Sister's mind was clear, her disposition cheerful, her soul reflective and prayerful. She had no enemies since everybody loved Sister Berchmans. There was no way that I would have been absent on her Birthday. On November 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 the Helpers lost another great older religious prayer, Elizabeth Thompson A.C. a contemplative hidden in the world. The Helpers Heavenly Prayer Group keeps increasing. As they will continue to pray for us, let us continue to keep them in our prayers.

### **Missionary Image Brought for the First Time to Abortion Mills in the United States**

On Saturday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, we returned to the Redemptorist-run Immaculate Conception Church in the South Bronx where many years ago, the late holy and courageous Bishop Garmendia led the first Helpers Vigil in the New York Archdiocese from that Church to Bronx Women and Planned Parenthood abortion mills. At that time Dr. Rust worked at Planned Parenthood. We were still waiting the Supreme Court Decision on the *Rust v Sullivan* abortion case, also known as the gag rule case since tax payers monies were not allowed to be given to a doctor who performs an abortion on his patient or makes an abortion referral. On that Vigil we brought the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Mexico to Planned Parenthood. This was the first abortion mill in the United States to which the Image was brought. A short time later the Supreme Court ruled in favor of life, restricting monies to Dr. Rust. Participating in the Helpers Vigil Mass on October 3<sup>rd</sup> was not only the lay people but many sisters, friars and priests of the Friars Renewal, some Sisters of Life and Missionary Sisters of Charity. It was once again a powerful witness for life on the streets of the South Bronx.

### **20th Anniversary of the Helpers of God's Precious Infants**

On Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> after the Helpers Vigil Mass in St. Michael the Archangel Church in Sunset Park Brooklyn we once again prayed outside the Ambulatory Abortion Center. The counter demonstration this time was less severe than the previous year captured on the video entitled the City of God v the City of Man. Bishop Guy Sansaricq and Detective Steven McDonald led us in praying the rosary. On that same day, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Cardinal Justin Rigali after the 7:00 a.m. Mass in St. John the Evangelist in Philadelphia led in prayer the ever-faithful Helpers in Philadelphia to the Planned Parenthood abortion mill. Here in Brooklyn, participating in the Vigil on the Helpers Twentieth Anniversary was Wolfgang Hering, the President of the Helpers in Germany, Fr. Emmanuel Ray Ikpa, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Jos, Nigeria and the President of the Helpers in Nigeria and the Vicar General of the Diocese of Jos, Msgr. Benedict Obidiegwu. The Helpers started on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 1989 on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Following the Prayer Vigil, in St. Michael's Parish Hall, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Helpers of God Precious Infants. We are grateful to Dorothy Doyle and Mary Murray for work they did in preparing the food etc. and Drs David and Monica Aachen for setting up the twenty years pictorial display of the Helpers and preparing the Helpers plaques which were presented to five people who uniquely contributed to the success of Helpers Apostolate which started in Brooklyn and has now spread across the United States and around the World. The Plaques were presented to Bishop Thomas V. Daily, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Brooklyn, who led the first Helpers Prayer Vigil and still remains involved to this day; to David O'Brien of Lawlor and O'Brien Accounting Firm, our accountant who keeps the Helpers balanced; to Kathleen O'Connell Murphy Esq. of the Murphy and O'Connell Wall Street Law Firm, who protects our Constitutional Rights; Ed Wilkinson, the Editor of the Brooklyn Tablet who from the beginning has made known and defended the rights of the Helpers; NYPD Detective Steven McDonald, a nationally known Hero, who personifies the sacrifices that all the Helpers make to pray and counsel on the streets outside our modern day Calvaries, year after year. Maria Elena Giossi, a Tablet Reporter, wrote an excellent article covering the whole event, which was reported in the Tablet on the front page of the following week's edition.

### What Do Fr. Benedict Groeschel and Msgr. Reilly Have in Common?

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> I drove over to Nutley, New Jersey to Holy Family Church to take part in the Mass of Thanksgiving being offered by Father Benedict Groeschel on the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination. It was a joyful Mass for all. As I was driving back to the Monastery after the Mass, I thought to myself, when you are busy, time really goes by quickly. Indeed on Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> of this year I too will be celebrating 50 years in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Early that morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, I hope to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving here at the Monastery with the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood. **And since on May 29<sup>th</sup> 1960 I offered my first High Mass, on Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 here at the Monastery at 2:00 P.M. I will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving which you are more than welcome to attend, if you are in the area. Come, but please bring no gift, except the gift of your presence and prayers, as together at the Altar of the Lord we joyfully give thanks to God for the gift to His Church of 50 years of Priesthood.**

### Optimistic About Helpers in Sacramento, California

**E**lizabeth and Ed Pierini who run the Helpers Apostolate in Sacramento, California invited me to come and instruct the Sacramento Helpers and join their Ordinary Bishop Jaime Soto in a concelebrated Helpers Vigil Mass at St. Rose Catholic Church on the morning of Saturday October 24, 2009. And so on Friday morning October 23<sup>rd</sup> I boarded at JFK Airport, an American Airline flight that landed in San Francisco early Friday afternoon. Ed Pierini met me at the Airport and drove me to Sacramento. That evening after the 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration at St Rose's Church, I spoke in Monsignor Kavanagh Center to the pro-lifers about "Building a Culture of Life". After the Saturday Helpers Vigil Mass with Bishop Soto, I conducted a workshop on the Spirituality of the Helpers, the Art of Sidewalk Counseling, etc. On Sunday morning after having met so many wonderful, dedicated pro-lifers, I left for Seattle, Washington, uplifted and optimistic about the future of the Helpers in Sacramento.

### **Helpers Are Flourishing in Seattle, Washington**

**M**att Ulrich, the President of the Helpers in Seattle, Washington, together with his wife Georgene have done outstanding pro-life work in Seattle and the surrounding area. Matt met me at the Seattle Airport and drove me to the south part of Seattle to St. Stephen the Martyr's Church in Renton, where I stayed. I was welcomed by the Pastor, Father Ed White, whom I met ten years ago when Ed's full time work was being a lawyer. He and Matt started the Helpers Apostolate in Seattle ten years ago. That Sunday evening in the parish social Hall from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. I spoke to the people on the Topic: "There is Reason for Hope in this Epic Struggle for Life". On Monday morning after the 8:00 a.m. Vigil Mass and Exposition at St. Stephen's Church we went and prayed outside of the Renton Cedar River Abortion Clinic. Returning to St. Stephen's we had the closing Benediction. This was followed by a light lunch and a Sidewalk Counseling workshop. After stopping for an early dinner we drove to Everett in the north part of Seattle to St. Mary Magdalen Church where I was scheduled to give a talk to the Helpers and those involved in the Forty days for Life. At the reception that followed the talk I met again many wonderful people. I missed seeing Vinnie Misciagno who is now a Seattle Helper but for years was a Helper here in New York. Vinnie is now sick and can use our prayers. On the phone, I assured him of our prayers.

### **This Young Generation Gives Reason for Hope**



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### **CUA Students from D.C. Pray Outside of Choices in Queens, NY**

**O**n Friday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> the College Students from the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. arrived at the Monastery for a weekend Helpers training program. Erin Dunne and Caroline Savoie have provided for years, in the area of life, great student leadership. We kept them busy including taking part in the Helpers Prayer Vigil at St. Patrick's Church in Long Island City. After Mass they took part in the Helpers Rosary procession to the abortion mill called Choices where at least a half-million innocent unborn babies have legally but unjustly been killed. However, it is only a matter of time, since in this huge building the abortion mill is now the only tenant left in the building. While we were praying, on that same day, Archbishop Allen Vigneron in Detroit Michigan, in a Prayer Vigil organized by Dan Goodnow, was leading 500 Michigan Helpers in a prayer outside of two abortion mills. Finally after a busy few days, the CUA students started back to D.C. at noon on Sunday.

### **Upcoming Trips to the Southwest Helpers**

On Wednesday Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Pepe Gandara, who started the Helpers in El Paso, Texas, arrived at the Monastery with his son. At the end of our conversation, Pepe requested that I return soon to El Paso. I agreed to do so since others Cities in South West area also have made that request. And so on Friday evening Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> I will be giving a talk in Tucson, Arizona and on Saturday Morning I will take part in Tucson's Helpers Prayer Vigil. On Saturday evening Feb, 27<sup>th</sup> I will be giving a talk in Phoenix and on Sunday morning I will lead a Prayer Vigil to the Phoenix Planned Parenthood clinic since most of their abortions are now scheduled to be done on the Lord's Day. On Sunday evening Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> I will be giving a talk in Albuquerque, New Mexico and then I will pray with them on Monday morning outside of Planned Parenthood. On Monday evening March 1<sup>st</sup> I will be giving a talk in El Paso, Texas and on Tuesday after Mass I will be praying with them outside of an abortion clinic in El Paso. After an early Mass on Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> I will return to Brooklyn, N.Y

### Germany and the Czech Republic

On Thursday Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> I took time off to be with members of my own family and share in a Thanksgiving Meal cooked by my sister Joan, who is an excellent cook. On the next day, Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> I left for Europe. On Saturday morning I arrive in Munich, Germany having been invited to celebrate with them the Tenth Anniversary of the Helpers in Germany. Wolfgang Hering met me at the Airport and drove me to his residence in Oberhaching where I stayed while in Munich. I spoke to all the German Helpers after offering a Tenth Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving. After the Anniversary Party, most of the people present took part on Saturday evening in a two and a half hour Candlelight Rosary Procession through the main streets of Munich. Like in New York City, the Police in Munich could not have been more polite and professional in supervising the Procession. On Sunday I gave an hour lecture on the Culture of Life before offering Mass at the Retreat Center. After dinner we drove two hours back to Oberhaching. On Monday we drove to Prague in the Czech Republic where that evening I was scheduled to speak to the key pro-life people among whom was David Prentis and his wife Michaela Slamova Prentis. She was an excellent translator. Later that evening we had dinner at his home where we stayed that evening. David, as a minister in the Church of Scotland, suffered much for being outspoken and active in the cause of Life. He and his wife and family eventually entered the Catholic Church. The next morning I had a two hour meeting in Prague, with a great pro-life Bishop, Ladislav Hucko who wanted to learn about the Spirituality and method of the Helpers.

### Austria

**I**mmediately after the meeting with the Bishop, a young man, Herfried, who councils daily outside the Ambulatory abortion clinic on Fleischmarket Street in Wien, Austria, drove me to the city of Graz in Austria. Dietmar Fischer joined us in the last hour of the five-hour trip from Prague. In the Life Center, in Graz at 5:30 p.m., I offered Mass particularly for all those workers in the Life Center and life counselors on the streets in Graz. After the Mass, I spoke to them words that hopefully motivated and inspired them to continue their great work. After the agape, we drove back to Vienna that night to the new residence and headquarters of HLI/Helpers Austria. It was the abortion clinic where, last time when I was in Vienna, I led a Helpers Prayer Vigil. All the abortionist suddenly left. It was Good Friday to Easter Sunday all over again. After Mass and a talk in the Vienna Life Center, we ate together. I met again so many good people, like Claudia, the Director of the Life Center, Herbet who organizes the daily counseling in Vienna, Sylvia, a multi talented women. Under the Leadership of Dietmar Fischer, they have done incredible work for Life.

### **World Prayer Congresses for Life - Rome Oct. 5-10 2010**

**W**hile in Vienna, Dietmar Fischer, President of HLI Austria and the Director of the Helpers in Austria and Dr. Tamas Csaky-Pallavicini M.D., the Secretary General, of the World Federation of the Catholic Medical Association, and myself, worked on the Theme, the Site, the Speakers for the upcoming World-Prayer-Congress for Life in Rome, Oct. 5-10, 2010. It has worked out extremely well. The Congress will take an in depth view of the Culture of Life, namely, a Christian Humanism v. a Culture of Death, or an Inhumane Humanism, that causes such negative consequences on Society. The participants in the Congress, besides taking part in Religious Ceremonies at St. Mary Major and St. Peter's Basilicas, will be enriched not only by meeting so many dedicated pro-lifers from around the World but also from the insights and reflections that will be shared with them by so many qualified speakers, including Cardinal Antonelli, the Head of the Pontifical Congregation for Family and his Secretary, Bishop Jean Laffitte; Cardinal Canizares, the Congregation of Divine Worship, Cardinal Comastri, the Archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, Archbishop Burke, the Head of the Rota, Bishop Laun, Bishop Klaus Kung.. You can get all the details about the World Prayer Congresses for Life by going on line to <http://www.Pro-Life-Congress.com/> or email [Dietmar.Fischer@hli.at](mailto:Dietmar.Fischer@hli.at)

### **Bratislava-Slovakia**

**W**erfried drove me from Vienna to the Quo Vadis Meeting Center in Bratislava, Slovakia, where my good friend Eva Cerovska met me with a full schedule. After a Radio, and T.V. interviews, I spoke to the people. After the meeting we went and offered Mass in a Church located near one of the Hospitals still doing abortions. There were five Hospitals, but now there are only two, doing abortions in Bratislava. It was a cold evening for a Vigil but no one backed out, young or old. I stayed that evening in a Franciscan Seminary located in the City. The next morning before leaving, the Slovakian Helpers gave me as a gift, a beautiful book with many of their signatures. The Book depicts the 14th Century Gothic-Renaissance Church of St. James that reflects well the works of Slovakian Master, Pavol. They then drove me to the Airport in Bratislava.

### **London, England**

I landed in the UK at an Airport, eighty miles north of London. A wonderful young man called Patrick, picked me up at the Airport and brought me to St. Fidelis Friary in Killip Close, London, where Father Emmanuel and the other priests and brothers of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal warmly greeted me. That evening I gave a Lecture at the rather famous St. James Church, in Spanish Place, London. Helpers came from all over the UK, some even driving down from Scotland to London. The lecture was well received by all. After the talk a Charles Bartoldus and his wife, Mary, warmly greeted me. Charles works at the U.S. Embassy in London as the Homeland Security Attache. I immediately recognized Charles as one of the bright young students to whom I taught Ciceronian Latin, more than thirty-five years ago. It has become a small world. The next day in the beautiful Church in Ealing, we joined the Community of St. Benedict in the Morning Choral Prayer and Mass. After the Mass at least 200 Helpers went in Prayerful procession to the Marie Stopes International Abortion clinic. It proved to be a powerful prayerful witness for Life. Father Emmanuel CFR and Rose and Mike O'Doherty the organizers, continue, year in year out, to do great work for God and Life. After Mass on Sunday Dec.6<sup>th</sup>, I returned to New York.

### Vigils and Visitors

On Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Father Tom O'Hara from Wisconsin spent time here at the Monastery and at the local abortion mill praying and learning about the Helpers approach. On Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> after the Vigil Mass in St. Catherine of Genoa Church, Detective Steven McDonald and myself led the Helpers in the Rosary outside of Building E of King's County Hospital where Monday through Friday late term saline abortions are performed. More late term abortions are done here than in any other hospital in the city. On Sunday, Father Kevin Sweeney, Diocesan Vocation Director, asked me to come to the House of Discernment and speak about the priesthood and Life, to the young men considering Priesthood. I did so. Since then, Father Sweeney has been made the pastor of the St. Michael's the parish in which the abortion mill, at which I daily counsel, is located. For the past twenty years Father Sweeney has been active in the Helpers. Thanks to the hard work of John Paduana, on the Feast of Holy Innocents, at Holy Innocents Church in Manhattan, about 250 lay people joined the Sisters of Life and the Friars of the Renewal in a great witness for Life on the City streets crowded with thousands of tourists. Father (Lt. Col.) Joseph Akpan, the Chief Chaplain in the Nigerian Army came to the Monastery on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> to learn all about the Helpers and to help spread the Apostolate in Nigeria. Father concelebrated the Mass at Holy Innocents Church. I was the main celebrant at the Mass and Father Benedict Groeschel, the homilist.

### Vigils, Seminarians and Saints

**F**rom Thursday evening Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> dedicated pro-lifers from Canada, were joined with people from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania in a Helpers Training weekend here at the Monastery. All, on Saturday morning, joined in the Helpers Vigil led by Bishop Daily at St. John Vianney Church in Flushing. At the request of Very Rev. Douglas L Mosey, CSB, the President-Rector of Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Ct. and Tim O'Hagan, a seminarian, I spoke to all the Seminarians at Holy Apostle, on Friday Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday Jan 30<sup>th</sup> in bitter cold weather outside of an abortion mill in Hartford, Ct. many of the Major Seminarians, whose schedule permitted, sang hymns and prayed the twenty decades of the Rosary. Before we finished a beautiful young woman came out and said because she heard from inside the singing and praying outside, she is keeping her baby. Keep in your prayer a great local pro-life priest, Father Al Guthrie who is seriously sick. Keep in your prayers also all the Helpers who are sick and those who have recently died like John Finn, an extraordinary person who helped the starting of the Helpers in California. He was the person who taped the Seminar I did on Sidewalk Counseling in Glendale California. People aaround the world, have found that tape extremely helpful. Pray for the late Dr. Jim Chu who in his early years, fled from Communism, under Mao Se Tung, in China. Shortly after obtaining his Doctorate Degree from John Hopkins University, he entered the Catholic Church. Dr. Chu later taught aeronautical engineering at Yale University. While teaching at Yale, Dr. Jim Chu started the Helpers in New Haven Connecticut. As his sickness grew worse, he prepared a great pro life couple Mike and Kerry Guidone to take his place. I told Dr. Chu 's son, who is now studying for the Priesthood in Holy Apostles Seminary, to tell Mike and Kerry, I would like to come to New Haven to lead a Prayer Vigil in honor of Dr. Jim Chu.

*Until We Meet in Prayer at Calvary,*

*Msgr. Philip J. Reilly*