

# *October 1, 2006 Helpers Newsletter*

*Dear Friends of God's Precious Infants,*

## **The Essence of Goodness Is: Preserve Life**

**M**ore than seventy-five years ago, when a young married man whose wife had become pregnant from an adulterous act was being pressured by his family to have the unborn child aborted, he turned for wisdom to Mahatma Gandhi. The wise man replied: "The essence of Goodness is: Preserve life, promote life, help life to achieve its highest destiny. The essence of Evil is: Destroy life, harm life, and hamper the development of life. The fundamental principle of ethics, then, is reverence for life. Gandhi further said: "It seems to me clear as daylight that abortion would be a crime. It would be the sacred duty of the husband to bring up the baby with all the love and tenderness that he is capable of. Nor should I see anything wrong in his accepting her repentance if it is sincere and genuine and taking back the erring wife. Especially since countless husbands are guilty of the same lapse as this poor woman, but nobody ever questions them."

## **Devastating Blow to the Most Fundamental Human Right**

**T**hese words of wisdom, compassion and forgiveness by Gandhi are so contrary to the foolishness that has gripped so many in our country today as a result of our Supreme Court Abortion Decisions. The U.S. Bishops issued a statement in Nov. 2000 describing our present sad situation when they said: "In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decisions Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton ushered in legalized abortion on request nationwide. By denying protection to unborn children throughout pregnancy, these rulings dealt a devastating blow to the most fundamental human right—the right to life. In its 1992 Casey decision the court could not muster a majority for the view that Roe and Doe were rightly decided. Yet the controlling opinion insisted that even if these decisions were wrong, they must stand because Americans have now fashioned their way of life on the availability of abortion.

**N**o more damning indictment of the coarsening effects of Roe on our national character can be imagined. This ruling has helped create an abortion culture in which many Americans turn to the destruction of innocent life as an answer to personal, social and economic problems. Which encourages many young men to feel no sense of responsibility to take care of the children they helped to create and no loyalty to their child's mother. At the same time, men who do feel responsibility for their children are left helpless to protect them.

## **Entire Families are Forever Changed**

The casualties from the Culture of death include not only the unborn but also the countless thousands of women who have suffered physically, emotionally and spiritually from the deadly effects of abortion. Fathers, grandparents, siblings, indeed entire families suffer and are forever changed also by the loss of a child. The principles of Roe and Doe have also been used to call into question the right to life of newborn children with disabilities and adults with serious illnesses.

**The Value of Human Life Can Be Assigned by the Powerful**

Ultimately this issue is not about “when life begins” or even exclusively about abortion. Modern medicine has brought us face to face with the continuum of human life from conception onward and the inescapable reality of human life in the womb. Yet our legal system, and thus our national culture, is being pressed to declare that human life has no inherent worth; that the value of human life can be assigned by the powerful; and that the protection of the vulnerable is subject to the arbitrary choices of others. The lives of all who are marginalized by our society are endangered by such a trend.”

**What can you do to help reestablish a Culture of Life? Please participate in some or all of the following Prayer Vigils in your area. Vigils in the Diocese of Brooklyn will take place:**

DATE	LOCATION	CELEBRANT
Sat Jan 20, 2007	St Gerard Majella 188-16 91st Av Hollis, Queens, NY 11423 718-468-6565	Bishop Catanello
Sat Feb 17, 2007	Saint Peter - Saint Paul 234 Congress St Brooklyn, NY 11201 718-624-3425	Bishop DiMarzio
Sat Mar 24, 2007	Blessed Sacrament 34-43 93rd St Jackson Hts, Queens, NY 11372 718-639-3888	Bishop Daily

**Some Light Was Thrown on the Tragic Irony**

Father Juniper CFR since he has returned from the Honduras mission is as busy as ever in organizing Prayer Vigils. On Saturday September 23rd, Father Juniper, with the cooperation of the pastor Father Rutler, assisted Nivene Young and John Paduano in a very successful prayer Vigil from Our Saviour Church, Park Avenue and 38th Street in Manhattan to the infamous Park Med

abortion center (Lincoln abortion center is no longer part of the name) now newly located in the building on 2nd Avenue whose primary tenants are the Offices of many Embassies connected to the nearby United Nation Headquarters. In the midst of the very people who are supposed to be working for Peace on Earth, innocent unborn children are daily being unjustly slaughtered without a whimper. Hopefully some light was thrown on the tragic irony of this sad situation by the more than one- hundred people, who under police supervision, stood early on a Saturday morning in the road on 2nd Avenue in the pouring rain, pleading with their prayers and songs to give life a chance. While we were praying four mothers came out of the abortion mill and chose life for their unborn child. Father Juniper continues to be involved with the Vigils in Yonkers on October 7th, on November 11th in the Bronx, and the Vigil in Manhattan on December 28th the Feast of the Holy Innocents, which is to be led by Father Benedict Groeschel CFR whom I replaced on September 23rd.

### **Assistant Directors of the Helpers Apostolate**

**I** am grateful that Father Juniper CFR and Father Kevin Sweeney, the Vocational Director here in the Diocese of Brooklyn and Msgr. Andrew Vacarri, the Chancellor and Administrator of All Saints Parish, three very dedicated priests who have agreed to find some extra time to help me as Assistant Directors of the Helpers Apostolate. I am following the wise maxim “ if you want something to be done, ask a busy person to do it.” And when they feel overwhelmed, I will refer them to the wisdom of that sixteenth Century Saint, Peter Canisius who said, “If you have too much to do, with God’s help you will find time to do it all.” Keep them in your prayers for there is much work to be done. For example, Detective Steven McDonald, who attends the monthly Prayer Vigils, not only wants to continue to visit the High Schools and encourage the students to attend the Bishop’s monthly Vigils, but also to visit the Knights of Columbus Councils.

### **World Conference for Life in Fatima**

**B**esides the regular work of helping women in need that is created by counseling and praying outside of abortion sites each day, the upcoming weekends will be extra busy. For as soon as I come back from the World Prayer Conference for Life, which is co-sponsored by the Helpers, in Fatima, Portugal, October 4th to 10th and the excursus with the Helpers in Germany from October 11th to the 16th, the schedule at home remains full. Pray that the referendum on the November Voting Ballot to legalize abortion in Portugal will be rejected by the people. On the weekend of October 20th, I will be going to the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, at the invitation of Michael Riordan, the President of the Students Right to Life organization, to lead the students in a Helpers Prayer Vigil in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 21st. Libby Reichert, Carrie Barden and Theresa Costello who stayed at the Monastery this Summer for four days of training must have given a positive report to Michael. Therese Dorobeck of Aquinas College of Nashville, Tennessee, has invited me on November 4th to lead them in a Helpers Prayer Vigil. The students from Catholic University of America in D. C. and the students from Christendom College will be coming to the Monastery for pro-life training and take part in the Saturday October

28th Prayer Vigil to be led by Bishop Daily. The students from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, whom I led in a Helpers Prayer Vigil over a year ago, have been conducting their monthly Vigils to the present time.

### **Prayer Vigils in Florida**

**O**n November 10th, I will be leading a Prayer Vigil in Orlando, Florida, organized by Beth Burwell and director of the Respect Life Office for the Orlando Diocese, Deborah Shearer; and on the 12th and 13th of November, I will be leading a Helpers Prayer Vigil with the Helpers in Fort Myers, Naples and Sarasota, Florida. On the weekend of November 18th, Bishop Daily will be leading our Vigil to Choices, from St. Patrick Church. Keep in your prayers, Chris Bjerke and the other Helpers in Miami, who are persevering in spite of some unpleasant opposition. I will be grateful to see November 23rd, Thanksgiving Day, arrive, when finally there is a weekday of reprieve from the killing of the innocent children.

### **Abortion 'Clinic' Closed in Houston**

**O**n September 8th, the Birthday of the Mother of God, I spoke at St. Thomas University in Houston Texas about the Helpers. The next day the students from the College joined the adults and Archbishop Daniel DiNardo in the Helpers Vigil for Life. It was organized by Dr. Marcella Colbert, the Director of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Respect Life Office and Vicky Whynott, the Coordinator who has recently replaced Christine Melchor who for many years organized the Helpers' Vigils. The Church was just about full in spite of the rain. It continued to rain, as practically all who were in the Church prayed outside the huge Planned Parenthood abortion mill. I reminded the people that God reigns over this Apostolate, indeed, sometimes He even hails and snows. Thanks be to God, the America's Women abortion clinic closed the Tuesday following the last Helpers Prayer Vigil at that site. The Houston's Helpers next vigil is on October 21st, from Annunciation Church, starting with an 8:00 a.m. Mass.

### **A Second Spring**

**B**esides Eva Cerovska from Slovakia and her daughters Petra and Adriana, David Nix from Colorado and Judy and Bob Minahan from Fort Myers, Florida, we have had students from more than a dozen Colleges here at different times during this past summer. The active involvement of so many young adults in the area of life, I believe, is in no small measure, the result of the seeds of life sown by the late John Paul II at his many Worth Youth Days. A Second Spring is taking place in the pro-life movement. Indeed there is hope for the flowers.

### **God's Ways Are Often a Total Surprise to Us**

**A**s you know the ultimate goal of the Helpers is conversion of heart by bringing the light of Christ to those in the darkness of the Culture of Death. Thus it was with joy that on June 17th that Bishop Daily after Mass in Holy Innocents Parish, Brooklyn, led the Helpers in a Vigil of Thanksgiving outside Parkway Clinic in Boro Park, where the at times abortionist is once again a full time doctor. On September 16th Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio was the main celebrant at the Helpers Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church in Jackson Heights. After Mass, the Vicar, Father Sean Ogle, led us in prayer at two different abortion sites. In Jackson Heights between 104th Street and 70th Street, there are **10** abortion mills aimed at killing Spanish babies. Joining us on this vigil was Barbara Spencer, a convert from Judaism to Catholicism, who lived in Canada but is now running a kitchen for the poor in La Paz, Mexico. She spent four days at the Monastery learning about the Helpers Apostolate, which she is going to start in Mexico. God's way are often a total surprise to us!

### May God Have Mercy

**M**ay God have mercy on the people running the El Diario Spanish Newspaper for weekly publishing their existence and addresses. If an enemy had done this I would understand, but not a paper that is supposed to be serving the needs of the Spanish people. What are they thinking? No other major papers in the city advertise the abortion providers. You can also include in your prayers for God's Mercy, all the people working for the Yellow Pages, who print ads practically glorifying abortion and misleading the women in crisis pregnancies to have the "procedure" done; which not only destroys the unborn child but causes years of sorrow for so many mothers. They too are in need of conversion, for there is no way God can bless them for helping to destroy His precious infants and hurting emotionally and spiritually their mothers.

### Omaha Nebraska Vigil

**G**retchen Moylan, the Director of the Helpers in Omaha, Nebraska, recently informed me that on September 16th, Archbishop Elden Curtis of the Omaha Nebraska Archdiocese, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church, led more than 500 men, women and children in a prayerful procession, praying the Rosary and singing hymns, on their way to the infamous Leroy Carhart abortion center, which was involved in the disgraceful Partial Birth Abortion Decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Vigil closed with Benediction at St. Mary's. Gretchen gave me the further encouraging news that 18 of the major seminarians, each from a different diocese throughout the U.S., who attended the Summer Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, prayed with the Helpers outside of the Bellevue abortion mill every Saturday during the summer. One of the seminarians was Thomas Vassalotti, from the Diocese of Brooklyn.

### A Helpers Sunday Afternoon Get Together

**R**ecently we had a wonderful Sunday afternoon get together of more than seventy-five Helpers here at the Monastery. The young college activists, pro-life students of the Missionaries of the Eucharist, joined us. During the Summer, under the leadership of Patrick Yungwirth, they walked from Maine to Washington D.C., stopping and praying outside of abortion clinics along the way. It was good to see a number of young people from Jovenes de Valor (Young People of Courage) at the last Vigil. Recently, at the invitation of Kairy Marquez, I spoke to the young people about life and the Helpers Vigils.

### **Cardinal Justin Rigali Leads Helpers Vigil**

**F**athers McFadden and Welsh, together with John Stanton and Gene Krueger, continue to organize the Helpers Vigils in Philadelphia, PA. On October 21st, after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, Cardinal Justin Rigali will be leading the Rosary Procession to Planned Parenthood. On October 28th, in Harrisburg, PA, Capuchin Father Kevin Thompson will be leading the Vigil from St. Francis of Assisi Church.

**O**n September 16th, the Helpers in Cincinnati celebrated their tenth anniversary of Helpers Vigils. Congratulations and God's blessing upon Dean Weber and all the members of the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati, Ohio, Helpers and on that extraordinary pro-lifer, Robert C. Cetrulo, as well as a very special priest, Fr. James Kelleher and all the good Bishops and priests and dedicated religious and lay people who have participated in the Vigils for the past ten years. Your example captured on our video has been used all over the world.

**I**n Detroit, Michigan, under the humble dedicated leadership of Dan Goodnow, Bishop Walter Scoenherr led the Vigil on June 24th and Monsignor Zenz led the Vigil on September 23rd.

### **From Australia to South Africa**

**M**other Agnes and Sister Kathleen, of the Sisters of Life, located here in NYC, were recently in Australia. In Sydney they met the wonderful pro-lifers, Paul Hanrahan and Gail Instance, who first invited me to Australia ten years ago. In Melbourne they met wonderful pro-life families like the Forster, Grant and O'Brien families. Paul asked me to come again to Australia. The next World Youth Day with the Pope is in Sydney. Maybe we could plan a pro-life Vigil for the young people, as we did in Duseldorf, Germany.

**I** just received from Sally Hall of Cape Town, South Africa, a twelve minute DVD using footage from the first Helpers Vigil in Cape Town. It is excellent. They give it to priests who

are going to lead the monthly Large Prayer Vigil.

### **Update: My Talks at the World Prayer Conference for Life at Fatima**

**M**y 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, earlier this month. 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](#)"

**I**f 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.

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

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

### **More News Notes**

**R**ecently, Barbara McGuigan of EWTN's Open Line Global Radio interviewed me for an hour on the Helpers Apostolate. It was pre-recorded, so you may still have time to listen to it.

**E**mily Faugno, a retired pharmacist, has been our faithful Saturday sidewalk counselor for the past 16 years outside of Choices abortion mill. Margaret Driscoll, a lawyer, has been her partner for many years. God has used them as his instrument to save countless precious infants. In the book, "Dance in the Rain", published by Paulist Press, Emily and Margaret tell about their experiences and reflections outside the abortion 'clinic'. Margaret has now opened the Driscoll Law Office in Syracuse, N.Y., where she specializes in Abortion Medical Malpractice suits. Not too long ago, I received a letter from Emily, who has for years taken care of her beloved sick

husband and is herself not as young as she used to be. May I close by sharing with you her letter to me:

Dear Msgr. Reilly,

One recent Saturday morning Dr. Robert Ferretti and I were sidewalk counseling together. Far down the block someone was approaching. "Who is that?" Bob asked. "I don't know. I can't see that far away," I replied. "Don't worry," Bob assured me. "I will be your eyes." Sometime later a woman spoke not too far away from us. "What did she say?" Dr. Bob asked. "I don't know. I couldn't hear her," I replied. "Don't worry," Bob assured me. "I will be your ears." Still later a man exited the clinic and started to swiftly walk away. "He's too fast for me, Bob. Will you go after him?" I asked. "Don't worry," Bob assured me. "I will be your legs."

Plainly the handwriting is on the wall. Dizziness problems and John needing me more at home complete the picture. Jealous as I am of my past on the sidewalk, I know it is time to give it up. I give it up knowing that Raquel, Elizabeth and Robert will more youthfully, enthusiastically and especially more capably be there to take my place.

Thank you for allowing me to be a Helper. It has been a privilege and an honor to dance in the rain with you. Thanks for the dance.

Love,  
Emily

Dear Emily,

All the unborn children who lives were spared because of your efforts, thank you. All the mothers whose hearts you reached before or after the abortion, thank you. God will bless you abundantly for what you did for His precious infants and their mothers. And I thank you and all the sidewalk counselors throughout the world, who continue to dance in the rain. It was my privilege to be your partner.

Love and Prayers,  
Msgr.

*Until We Meet in Prayer at Calvary,*

*Msgr. Philip J. Reilly*