



Helpers of God's Precious Infants

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Greetings from the Helpers of God's Precious Infants Headquarters in Douglaston, New York,

As I write, we are now deep into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, making it much more difficult to carry on and carry out the mission that God has given to the Helpers, namely ministering to young women in need and their precious infants. I know that many of you are struggling with the restrictions placed on you. Some Helpers groups are having difficulties with local law enforcement, as some localities will not allow the Helpers to approach anyone or in some cases allow any presence at all. I know that many of you were disappointed with the outcome of the election in the United States of November of 2020, as President Donald Trump, who had done so much to move this country in a pro-life direction was defeated. His replacement has already taken away some of the gains made by Trump and no doubt will do his utmost to advance the culture of death in every way possible. I urge you to remain faithful to your calling. The Helpers have never been about politics. We simply follow God's call to be a neighbor to everyone and treat all with mercy. What could be more neighborly than pointing out to a woman considering abortion that there are multiple avenues of help available to her and her baby? What could be more neighborly than prayer for that woman? What could be more neighborly than informing that woman of post abortion healing and help if she does make the tragic mistake of ending her child's life? This is the reason of the existence of the Helpers. We are there, out on the street, in our homes, or wherever duty calls to offer support and prayer for all those considering abortion. Some may not be aware that we have a Spiritual Supporters Prayer Card which can be used any time that a Helper is not able to be at his or her local abortion facility. If anyone would like this card or multiple cards please contact me and I will be sure you receive them. I also recommend, particularly if the local government has prevented you from getting anywhere near your local abortion business, to pray for one hour from the Helpers Prayer Book. This prayer book is divided into three segments of one hour of which you can choose. Again, this prayer book is available if you do not have one by contacting me. I can be reached at the e-mail address hogpi303@gmail.com. The Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen used to say that if you believe the impossible you can do the incredible. The Helpers in a very particular way do believe the impossible and are doing the incredible every day, witnessing and offering help to those in the most desperate of circumstances. I have been told many times that I was crazy for thinking that I could stand in front of abortion facilities and talk anyone out of taking the life of their child. However, that did not deter me, and God was able to use me to convince thousands of women and men to yes to life for their children. There are countless men and women alive today who would be otherwise thanks to faithful Helpers around the world who let God use them to do the same. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do to promote the Culture of Life.

JOSEPH M. SCHEIDLER, R. I. P.

On January 18, 2021, the day America celebrated Martin Luther King Day, Joseph M. Scheidler of Chicago, Illinois passed away surrounded by his loving family at the age of 93. Joe was an outstanding pro-life activist, leading thousands of protests and pickets throughout his life and founding the Pro-Life Action League. He was known as the “Godfather of Pro-Life Activism” for his ability to draw large crowds of activists to picket abortion facilities across the country. He trained countless sidewalk counsellors and other pro-life activists. He appeared on countless radio and television programs always defending life, and never backing down. He is credited with developing the “Chicago Method” of sidewalk counselling, which attempted to point out to women entering abortion businesses of any violations of law or health department regulations or injuries of women that the facility had. It is very unlikely that such facilities had no violations as these businesses are routinely not in compliance but almost never held to account. He felt that if women had this information concerning the danger to themselves as well as their child, they might be persuaded to leave. He was an extremely effective advocate for life, travelling all over the country giving speeches and authoring the book “Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion”. He was so effective that he was sued under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act by the National Organization for Women (NOW), for supposedly running a criminal organization and blocking women from entering abortion facilities. He lost his case in lower courts and eventually appealed to the Supreme Court. Here he was vindicated, as he had never used or advocated violence. NOW was not content with this decision, eventually bringing him before the Court twice more. The Supreme Court dismissed the case each time. However, Joe was forced to put his house on the line to pursue his appeals and would have lost everything had he lost the case. His case was important for the pro-life movement in that it allowed sidewalk counselling to continue. In his memoir, “Racketeer for Life”, Joe wrote that as a young man he had visited Germany and had gone to see the Dachau death camp. After this visit he returned to the Munich hotel where he was staying. He proceeded to look up his last name in the local phone book. He found 18 Scheidlers listed there. He was unaware of any of them having spoken out against that horrible crime against humanity. From that moment on he determined that if anything like Dachau happened in the United States, he would not only speak out but become actively involved in ending it. Joe had a very keen sense of injustice. In the years before Roe vs. Wade was handed down, he had marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in Alabama. Joe had come to visit me many times at the Monastery of the Precious Blood when I resided there. Whenever I was in the Chicago area, he very often joined my large prayer vigils. Near the end of his life Joe called in to a few of my weekly Zoom calls, once to congratulate me on my 60th anniversary of my Ordination. I, and the entire pro-life movement will miss him very much.

SMALL SEEDS

In the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Mark we find Jesus telling His disciples the parable of the mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest of seeds but when it sown in the ground it grows up and becomes the largest of shrubs in which the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. This is the way God tends to work. He works behind the scenes, from the small to the very great, a slow gradual process. God usually operates under the radar, quietly not drawing attention to Himself. How did God enter history? Not in a palace in Rome but in a manger in Bethlehem. How was Christianity established in Europe? Not by a large preaching crusade but by a handful of people listening to St. Paul in Philippi

and Athens. Do not be afraid to do small things at the prompting of God. Remember the Helpers started with six people: three grandmothers, a grandfather, a young working woman, and myself. From there the Helpers have grown and have chapters in 40 states of the USA and in over 40 countries of the world on 6 continents. You have been given a great gift from God, use it! Even if you are prevented from going to the chambers of death, pray and talk to others about the value of life. I recall that several years ago my niece Susan telling me of a young woman in her office that was contemplating an abortion. Susan sat down with her and when the woman said that there was no money to have this child as her husband was unemployed, Susan told her of her own mother who raised 7 children as a widow with little money. Susan asked her to trust in God's Providence as her own mother had done. Susan then asked her which of her children, (she had three other children) would she be willing to give up if there was no money when they were born. By patiently sitting down talking and more importantly listening to her, Susan was able convince that woman to choose life for her child. As recounted in the book "Now We Begin to Fight", Steve Karlen never expected to find himself involved with the Pro-Life movement. He considered himself pro-life but never had been involved in the pro-life movement. However, when a friend of his wife told them that she was considering abortion, they offered to adopt the child. Karlen and his wife had thought they had convinced her to accept this plan. When the young woman rejected their offer and aborted her child, the Karlens got deeply involved with 40 Days for Life and eventually, through prayer, fasting, and protests prevented a late term abortion facility from opening in their hometown of Madison, Wisconsin. Steve Karlen is now the Campaign Director for 40 Days for Life. God can do amazing things with the smallest of seeds, of which I am one of the smallest.

Schedule of Vigil Masses from April 2021 to December 2021

<i>Date</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Abortion Site</i>
April 17, 2021	Saint James Cathedral 250 Cathedral Place, Brooklyn	Brooklyn Abortion Clinic 14 DeKalb Avenue
May 22, 2021	Saint Paul and Saint Agnes 234 Congress Street, Brooklyn	Planned Parenthood 44 Court Street
June 26, 2021	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 88-19 Parsons Boulevard, Queens	Choices 147-32 Jamaica Avenue
July 2021	No Vigil	
August 28, 2021	Our Lady of the Cenacle Richmond Hill, Queens	Jamaica Hospital
September 18, 2021	St. Joan of Arc Jackson Heights, Queens	Women's Care
October 30, 2021	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 88-19 Parsons Boulevard, Queens	Choices 147-32 Jamaica Avenue
November 20, 2021	St. Mary's LIC, 10-08 49 th Avenue, Queens	Planned Parenthood 21-41 45 th Road, Queens
December 18, 2021	Saint James Cathedral 250 Cathedral Place, Brooklyn	Brooklyn Abortion Clinic 14 DeKalb Avenue

NEWS AND NOTES

Speaking of 40 Days for Life, I am quite happy to relate that 40 Days for Life has decided to expand to 365 Days for Life in several selected cities across the United States. This is something I had advised them when the organizers came to meet with me several years ago. I hope this will encourage them to expand to more cities. In another great development for life, the State of Missouri has become abortion free recently. Missouri still has a Planned Parenthood operating in St. Louis, but they no longer perform abortions there due to pro-life laws passed by the Missouri legislature with which they refuse to comply. They are still referring for abortion however to a nearby facility in Illinois. My old friend Dr. Jerome Lejeune, who died in 1994 was declared Venerable by Pope Francis recently. As many of you know Dr. Lejeune discovered the cause of children being born with Down's Syndrome namely being born with one extra chromosome. Dr. Lejeune felt that the medical community could proceed to work on a cure as now they had the cause. To his horror, tests were developed to find out if the unborn baby had Down's, and if the test indicated that the child had it, the parents were encouraged to abort. Dr. Lejeune was very pro- life and continued his own research. One might have expected him to win a Nobel Prize for his discovery, but it never happened, his outspokenness for life prevented it and teaching appointments to prestigious universities were never forthcoming. He went from hero to pariah in a short span of time. He preferred to be a doctor, healing the sick as he was able and advocating for those less able. I hope to see the day that he is beatified and eventually canonized. I was recently informed by one of the Helpers here in New York that one of the women he had convinced to choose life for her child some years ago that she had met a wonderful man who was delighted that she had a child and wished to marry her. Not only will they be married, but she and her husband took pre-marriage instruction and will be married in the Catholic Church. This is another example of the way God uses the Helpers to fulfill His plans. Please keep this young couple in your prayers as they embark on their new life together. Please also pray for long time Helper Denis O'Shea, who after a fall, had to be moved to a nursing home. Due to COVID-19 restrictions he is allowed no visitors. I had asked for prayers for Dr. Majlinda Thompson for her difficult pregnancy, I am delighted to announce that she gave birth to a little girl, Sophia Raphela, on January 6, 2021. Congratulations to Majlinda and her husband, Peter and thank all of you for your prayers. I would like to thank Fr. Johannes Siegart and Fr. Eamon Murray for stepping in and offering Mass for the Helpers in Brooklyn and Queens since the pandemic. They are both dedicated pro-lifers and I appreciate their witness and devotion to the cause of life. May the blessings of the Easter season be with you and your families.

Until We Meet at Calvary,

Msgr. Philip J. Reilly