



# Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Msgr. Philip J. Reilly  
5300 Fort Hamilton Parkway  
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Tel: (718) 853-2789  
Fax: (718) 853-0599

<http://www.helpersbrooklyn.org>  
Email: Frhgpi@aol.com



October 2018

Greetings from The Home Office in Brooklyn, New York,

I would like to begin this newsletter with a reflection on the life and death of St. Gianna Berretta Molla, one of the last saints to be canonized by St. John Paul II in 2004. St. Gianna was born in Magnetta, Italy in 1922. She was raised in a devout Catholic home; both of her parents were Third Order Franciscans. Gianna, while still in school, wished to determine God's plan for her life. Should she become a religious sister like her own sister or was marriage and family her true vocation? Gianna always enjoyed skiing and mountaineering and went in search of her answer while enjoying the beauty of God's creation. She determined that she was called to vocation of marriage and children. She completed her studies in medicine and soon afterwards started a medical clinic for mostly poor patients. Throughout her time in school and afterwards she was involved with Catholic Action and the St. Vincent DePaul Society, evangelizing the young (Catholic Action) and caring for the poor and the ill (St. Vincent DePaul). She met Pietro Molla after opening her clinic and knew that this was the man she would marry. Pietro was also very devout and came from a devout family. They became engaged and were married in 1955. Within the space of four years she had three children, balancing the roles of wife, mother and doctor; she continued to operate her clinic until she could no longer do so. In 1961 she became pregnant with her fourth child, a daughter, Gianna Emanuela, and a fibroma developed on her uterus. Her physicians gave her three options: abortion, a complete hysterectomy (which would also kill her child), and removal of the fibroma itself which would risk her life. St. Gianna opted for the removal of the fibroma; she insisted that her child's life was more important than hers. Little Gianna Emanuela was born via Caesarean on April 20, 1962. St. Gianna had severe pain following the birth and died of septic peritonitis one week later. In choosing life for her child and denying her own St. Gianna's life recalled that of her Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life so that all could have life in Him. Her life of heroic virtue was confirmed by the Church when two miracles, both involving unborn children who were not expected to live, were accepted by the Church's Congregation for the Causes for the Saints. She was both beatified and canonized by Pope St. John Paul II. In one of my travels to Italy many years ago I was privileged to meet St. Gianna's sister who told me of her life of service and devotion to her family and to God. Her daughter Gianna Emanuela became a practicing physician herself until she left her position to care for her aging father, Pietro, who died in 2010. She now travels the world spreading the message of both her mother and father that each of us is called to carry our crosses in life in imitation of Jesus. St. Gianna's life of self-sacrificing love for God, family and neighbor should serve as an inspiration to all the Helpers.

## ORIGINS OF THE HELPERS

Since the publication of "Pro-life Champion" by Frederick W. Marks many people have asked me about the founding of the Helpers. As many of you know, I was involved with Operation Rescue and many other pro-life organizations before starting the Helpers. After being arrested (again) for protesting outside

an abortion business in the late 1980s with Operation Rescue, I knew that the time for active measures such as blocking doorways and disrupting operations against the clinics was over. Not nearly enough people were upset that we were being hauled off to jail for trying to save babies' lives. I decided to consult one of my old friends and a fellow arrestee, Fr. Benedict Groeschel. He agreed with me that the time of Operation Rescue had passed. He suggested we both pray on this and try to come up with a new solution. As I knelt before the Blessed Sacrament, I was given an inspiration. We would henceforth engage only in peaceful, prayerful witness in front of abortion facilities. We would solicit parade permits to have the police come with us to protect us from pro-choice protestors and escorts from the clinics. The police would be with us instead of arresting us. As I spoke with God in prayer, I said to Him, if you want me to change the current Culture of Death to a Culture of Life I will need an army. Well, God did give me an army consisting of three grandmothers, a grandfather, and a young lady who had just begun her career in the business world. What an army they turned out to be. From that small group was launched an apostolate that now has chapters in forty states in the United States and has a presence in over forty countries throughout the world. Countless numbers of babies have been saved and mothers have been prevented from being exploited by the abortion industry due to the efforts of the Helpers. In all kinds of weather, often times with the curses of the escorts ringing in their ears, the Helpers continue in their efforts to bring souls to Christ. That and not necessarily saving the child's life is our main focus. Thank you for all that you do to bring the Culture of Life to the streets of your city.

### ***NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING***

In the course of a young couple's lives financial or other considerations may weigh heavily on their consciences when it comes to the birth of a child. Neither God, nor the Church, is asking all couples to have as many children as possible. There may be very valid reasons for not having a child at a certain point in a couple's marriage. Science, with the full backing of the Church, has developed several methods of Natural Family Planning that do not resort to artificial means to get the desired result. Most involve charting the woman's menstrual cycle in order to determine the time of the month when she is fertile and to avoid conjugal relations during that time. Recently, NaPro Technology has been developed to not only help women who do not want to conceive but also help those that do want to conceive and have had difficulties in doing so. NaPro Technology looks after a woman's reproductive and gynecological health. This is a far cry from the artificial contraceptives and abortion on offer from the likes of Planned Parenthood. The vast majority of contraceptives are in fact abortifacients which either prevent the child from implanting in the womb or prevent nutrients the child needs from reaching the child. Either way the child dies. In the 1990s the Clinton Administration approved the "abortion pill", RU-486, which they hoped would end the larger debate about abortion. With this method, the woman takes two pills; the first kills the child by preventing it from getting the nourishment it needs, and the second causes the woman to expel the child, two or three days later. I cannot imagine the physical and psychological pain involved in birthing a dead child. Abortion advocates are pushing this method with increasing frequency, and some abortion providers are now selling these pills as a mail order business, or over the internet. The advantages for the abortion businesses are palpable; no need for the woman to come for an appointment, no need to pay an abortionist for his services, and this can be done with a minimum of staff. The State of California has recently passed a bill, not as yet signed by the governor, which would require these pills to be dispensed at all public universities by the year 2022. There has even been talk of the use of vending machines for these pills. The potential for abuse if enacted is incalculable.

## ***REALITY***

Here in New York under the law if one “identifies” oneself as a woman although born a man, it is illegal to discriminate against that person including the mandatory accommodating of said person’s desire to use the rest room of his/her choice. This applies even at the level of junior high school. There are now many different gender classifications one can “identify” as. Same sex “marriage” was legalized here before the US Supreme Court made it the law of the land. The Governor of New York is seeking to expand abortion access in a State that already houses the “abortion capital of the world” and is being paid for with public funds. All of this flies in the face of the reality of God’s creation. God created the universe and all that is in it. He created all the animals and plants, and they give glory to Him just by being what they are. When He created man, however, He created him in His own image and likeness. He gave to man a spiritual dimension, and a free will. Man can choose to worship God and obey His commandments or not. However, when man chooses to reject God, he rejects reality. Many reject the reality of their own bodies, and wish to modify them to their own desires. There are not many genders but two, for “God made them male and female”. Marriage can only be between one man and one woman. The intentional killing of the child in the womb is the destruction of life. Is there any wonder that there is an opioid crisis in this country when so many people are in denial of reality? Same sex marriage and gender confusion are incapable of reproduction unless by surrogates. This contributes to the anti-life mindset. Denial of reality on these issues is tearing our country apart.

### ***Schedule of Vigil Masses from Nov. 2018 to July 2019***

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Church</i></b>	<b><i>Abortion Site</i></b>
Nov. 17, 2018	St. Paul and St. Agnes Congress and Court Streets, Brooklyn	Planned Parenthood, 44 Court Street, Brooklyn
Dec. 15, 2018	Planned Parenthood 44 Court Street, Brooklyn	Professional Gynecological Services, 14 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn
January 12, 2019	St. Catherine of Genoa 520 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn	Kings County Hospital Brooklyn
February 16, 2019	St. Paul and St. Agnes Congress and Court Streets, Brooklyn	Planned Parenthood, 44 Court Street, Brooklyn
March 16, 2019	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs 110-06 Queens Boulevard, Queens	All Women’s Medical 124-10 Queens Boulevard, Queens
April 13, 2019	St. Mary’s LIC, 10-08 49 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Queens	Planned Parenthood 21-41 45 <sup>th</sup> Road, Queens
May, 2019	<b>No Large Vigil – Please go to your own clinics and pray.</b>	
June 15, 2019	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 88-19 Parsons Boulevard, Queens	Choices 147-32 Jamaica Avenue
July, 2019	<b>No Large Vigil – Please go to your own clinics and pray.</b>	

## *NEWS AND NOTES*

In July I was very pleased to receive an e-mail from the Helpers group in Zurich, Switzerland informing me that they were celebrating 20 years of monthly prayer vigils there. I traveled there in 1998 to give talks and introduce the Helpers approach. I am very happy that the people in Zurich, led by Fr. Roland Graf, are continuing to conduct vigils and the Helpers have expanded to two other cities in Switzerland. As I was putting this newsletter together, I received another e-mail from Albury, Australia informing me that The Fertility Control Clinic has closed permanently. The Helpers of Albury have been praying and witnessing for 15 years there, and their prayers have been answered. Praise the Lord. I read recently on LifeNews.com about Mr. Gene Dub, a real estate developer in Canada who donated 18 apartments to homeless unwed mothers. This is the kind of altruism one sees all the time with those involved with the pro-life movement. It is not just the babies we care about, as is so often heard in the media. I am delighted to report that the harassment case against The Rock Church of Brooklyn was thrown out of court. Members of this church pray and counsel in front of Choices in Jamaica, New York on Saturdays alongside of the Helpers stationed there. Although they do not use the Helpers approach and are somewhat more aggressive in tone, their right to be on the sidewalk was upheld. Judge Carol Bagley Amon upheld the First Amendment rights of the Rock Church and was a victory for life. The case was originally brought by New York State Attorney General Eric Schniederman, who was forced to resign in disgrace earlier this year after he was credibly accused of assaulting several of his girlfriends. In other news concerning the pro-life cause in New York, Dr. Robert Rho, an abortionist who operated Liberty Medical Clinic in Flushing, New York, pled guilty to criminally negligent homicide while performing an abortion on Jamie Lee Morales who died shortly after the procedure. Dr. Rho had perforated her uterus and then released her without calling an ambulance when his patient was visibly unstable. Her sister, who had accompanied her to Liberty Medical, immediately drove her to a hospital but it was too late. Dr. Rho received a sentence of 1 and 1/3 to 4 years in prison, a much longer sentence than was expected, especially by Dr. Rho and his legal team. The Helpers had maintained a presence outside Dr. Rho's clinic for many years, and large vigils were organized from nearby St. John Vianney Church. I am very happy to report we will never have to go there again, as Dr. Rho surrendered his license and closed his clinic permanently. Praise God. In another LifeNews.com story I read about Fr. Tony Van Hee, a Jesuit priest who has prayed and held up pro-life signs every day that the Canadian Parliament has been in session for the past 30 years since Canada legalized abortion. No Canadian legislator can enter Parliament without passing by Fr. Van Hee. When asked the reason that Father does this every day he replied "We are going to be defeated in this world, so get used to that. You fight and remain until that point comes. It's like when Jesus began His Passion, He did not resist anymore. He gave Himself up to His enemies. In so doing He conquered His adversary." I can think of no better attitude for the Helpers to have. Keep fighting the good fight, and persevere. Even when there are no turnarounds, or it is snowing or raining or unbelievably hot stay with it. God will hear your prayers. In a final note I would like to relate the story of 16-year-old Sidewalk counselor and prayer Jeremiah Thomas of Texas. Jeremiah had terminal bone cancer that would eventually lead to his death, but before he died the Make a Wish Foundation asked him if there was anything they could do for him. Jeremiah asked for a phone call with the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, and when the phone call was placed he asked Governor Abbott to outlaw abortion in Texas. Governor Abbott was very receptive to young Jeremiah's plea and told him he would be willing to sign a bill to that effect. May Jeremiah's dying wish come true and spare the lives of countless children and end the exploitation of countless women by the abortion industry. In closing I would like to wish all helpers a Holy and Blessed Christmas Season.

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