



Dedicated to: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn

St. Juan Diego Women's Center NEWSLETTER

Website: <http://jdswwomenscenter.org>

We welcome any comments or suggestions that will improve this newsletter.

Juan Diego Society

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AWAKENING THE SLEEPER by Patsy Gonzalez, JDS volunteer

NATIONWIDE 40-DAY PRAYER VIGILS

Standing outside Planned Parenthood in San Mateo one early spring morning, one couldn't help but reflect on the sinister activity going on inside the mill. For many of the participants who stood outside an abortion clinic for the first time, abortion became a shocking reality. Expectant mothers and their companions, as many as 30 on a Saturday morning, parked in the lot behind the clinic and were hurried into their appointments behind a temporary canvas tarp to serve as a visual shield in front of praying protesters and sidewalk counselors. For many during this past Lent who committed their time for the 40-Day Prayer Vigil, that experience began their journey to answer a call to defend life. With close to 450 people attending the event over a period of 40 days, very few had ever done anything tangible for the pro-life cause. It was electrifying.

In 2004, Shawn Carney, executive director of the Texas-based Coalition for Life launched a campaign in College Station, Texas, to lay siege on their local Planned Parenthood for 40 days and 40 nights through a peaceful prayer vigil. More than 60 churches and 1000 people participated. Not only did abortions drop by 28% locally, other communities felt inspired to hold their own campaigns. The present year, 2009, continues to prove the fruitfulness of the 40 Days for Life campaign---137 communities participated; 129 in the US, 5 in Canada, 2 in Northern Ireland and 1 in Australia. In all, more than 41,000 people participated---and 433 lives were spared from abortions.

(continued on page2)



*40 Days for Life Vigil
San Mateo, CA*

Serbian Abortionist Who Aborted 48,000 Babies Becomes Pro-Life

Editor's note: *In the light of pro-choice legislation in this country that is beginning to overwhelm the faithful who have been stalwart supporters of life, there are miracles of faith that remind them that the Lord answers their prayers in unexpected ways. It is important to remember that God changes hearts of even the most hardened sinner. Praying for abortionists can do more to end abortion than changing laws. When Poland legalized abortion, no doctor would perform them. When the bishops stood up against abortion laws in Croatia, abortions were reduced by a staggering 90%. It is hearts that must be changed. The change of hearts precede the change of laws.*

MADRID, November 13, 2008 (CNA) - The Spanish daily "La Razon" has published an article on the pro-life conversion of a former "champion of abortion." Stojan Adasevic, who performed 48,000 abortions, sometimes up to 35 per day, is now the most important pro-life leader in Serbia, after spending 26 years as the most renowned abortion doctor in the country.

"The medical textbooks of the Communist regime said abortion was simply the removal of a blob of tissue," the newspaper reported. "Ultrasounds allowing the fetus to be seen did not arrive until the 80s, but they did not change his opinion. Nevertheless, he began to have nightmares."

In describing his conversion, Adasevic said he "dreamed about a beautiful field full of children and young people who were playing and laughing, from 4 to 24 years of age, but who ran away from him in fear. A man dressed in a black and white habit stared at him in silence. The dream was repeated each night and he would wake up in a cold sweat. One night he asked the man in black and white who he was. 'My name is Thomas Aquinas,' the man in his dream responded. Adasevic, educated in communist schools, had never heard of the Dominican genius saint. He didn't recognize the name."

"Why don't you ask me who these children are?" St. Thomas asked Adasevic in his dream.

"They are the ones you killed with your abortions," the Dominican saint told him. (continued on page 2)



Dr. Stojan Adasevic

"The medical textbooks of the Communist regime said abortion was simply the removal of a blob of tissue,"

AWAKENING THE SLEEPER (continued from page 1)

The tally obviously did not include dozens of turn aways at the clinics that never kept their appointments or those driving by who may have been considering an abortion. The plight of the helpless unborn for a few brief seconds came to the forefront of countless motorists' minds as they drove past the silent, praying witnesses outside the mills on busy streets holding their signs. *Abortion hurts women. Take my hand, not my life. I regret my abortion.* Most were testimonies to abortion's tragic aftermath.

A precious baby was saved through the efforts of the San Mateo participants in a surprising way. Laura, a woman who prayed regularly outside the mill in San Mateo throughout the prayer vigil, found out her niece, Christy, was abortion bound. She was scheduled to abort her child at a Planned Parenthood facility in San Jose. Through the intervention of the St. Juan Diego counselors and prayers from countless people nationwide, Christy had a change of heart on the very day she was to abort her baby. Jessica Munn, coordinator for the 40 Days, requested prayers through an urgent email that rippled throughout the country.

The real fruits of the 40 day vigils lay in the awakening of souls to get involved...and stay involved in the prolife battle. Coordinators from San Mateo and San Jose are organizing to keep the fires going in response to the clamor to keep up the activism. In 1986, the Filipino people showed the world through their prayerful, bloodless revolution that it was possible to take back their democracy from strongman dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled for 20 years. They faced tanks armed only with rosaries, statues, crucifixes, flowers (for the soldiers) and yes, even guitars. Poland followed suit in 1989. They called it "People Power".

Are we seeing sprouts of a new "People Power" in America? We may not be fighting for democracy, but we struggle for the very basic right of every human person—the right to life. Without it, there is no true democracy. When the people of God, led by the Holy Spirit and Our Lady, leave their comfort zones and put themselves in "harm's way" for a godly cause, they *can* expect miracles.

Eph. 5:14 "Awake, O sleeper and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light."

An Urgent Appeal to all the Friends of the St. Juan Diego Women's Center

Once again we are facing a financial crisis. Our funds will allow us to operate for only a few more weeks. Please consider giving something extra to help us. Together, we can continue to save more babies.
No amount, accompanied with love and prayers, is too small. Thank you.

All donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to the Juan Diego Society.
Website: <http://jdsomenscenter.org>

Serbian Abortionist (continued from page 1)

"Adasevic awoke in amazement and decided not to perform any more abortions," the article stated.

That same day a cousin came to the hospital with his four months-pregnant girlfriend, who wanted to get her ninth abortion - something quite frequent in the countries of the Soviet bloc. The doctor agreed. Instead of removing the fetus piece by piece, he decided to chop it up and remove it as a mass. However, the baby's heart came out still beating. Adasevic realized then that he had killed a human being.

After this experience, Adasevic told the hospital he would no longer perform abortions. Never before had a doctor in Communist Yugoslavia refused to do so. They cut his salary in half, fired his daughter from her job, and did not allow his son to enter the university.

After years of pressure and on the verge of giving up, he had another dream about St. Thomas. "You are my good friend, keep going," the man in black and white told him. Adasevic became involved in the pro-life movement and was able to get Yugoslav television to air the film, *The Silent Scream*, by Doctor Bernard Nathanson two times.

Adasevic has told his story in magazines and newspapers throughout Eastern Europe. He has returned to the Orthodox faith of his childhood and has studied the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"Influenced by Aristotle, Thomas wrote that human life begins forty days after fertilization," Adasevic wrote in one article. Scientific advancements since Thomas' time, however, have revealed that human life begins at the moment of conception. La Razon commented that Adasevic "suggests that perhaps the saint wanted to make amends for that error." Today the Serbian doctor continues to fight for the lives of the unborn.

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Fatherhood and Abortion

Most people believe that abortion is solely a woman's issue. True, a woman can decide to legally kill her unborn child without the consent of the father. Yet from our experience, the fate of the unborn child is determined to a great extent by the attitude and action of the father.

Acceptance of the responsibility of fatherhood is often the key element on whether the child will live or die. In many cases, a woman will decide to keep or abort her baby based on the reaction of the father to her pregnancy. The last two mothers we counseled had decided to keep their babies but reconsidered their decision when their boyfriends refused to accept the child.

Sadly, women are facing the dilemma of either keeping their baby or keeping their partner. In our experience, the main reason why many women choose to kill their unborn child is the lack of support from their partners who are unwilling to accept their responsibility for the child they have fathered. Too often, women feel that abortion is the only solution because their partner has abandoned them when they became pregnant.

Men have been cowardly, running away from their responsibility since the beginning of time. In the Garden of Eden, Adam stood by timidly as the serpent deceived Eve. Not only did he fail to protect her, but he also tried to put the blame on the woman, "The woman you placed at my side gave me fruit from the tree..." (Genesis 3:12) As Fr. Stephen Imbarrato said, "Adam's fall preceded Eve's." He failed to defend her.

Not much has changed. When men say "I will support you in whatever you decide." The message they convey is, "I do not love you enough to have our child... you are on your own." With those words they wash their hands of any obligation. They take no responsibility for the unborn child, "It is her body...it is her choice."

Men can be complicit to the abortion in several different ways: Active participation: by agreeing with his partner or by pressuring the woman to have the abortion. Passive Participation: by leaving the decision to the woman: "I will support you in what ever you decide" or by abandoning the partner. In some instances, the man will not even know about the abortion until after the baby has been terminated or he will unsuccessfully try to convince his partner to keep their baby.

In all of the above cases, the man's fatherhood has been abruptly and prematurely terminated. This goes against man's instinctive role to protect and to provide. He feels inadequate and a failure. The post abortive father goes through the same psychological problems as the mother.

While the psychological effects of abortion on women have been widely known, it is only now that the effects on men are coming to light. In her article: *Can Relationships Survive After Abortion?* Theresa Karminski Burke, PhD writes:

"Men can be affected by abortion in many of the same ways as women. Many men have reported post-abortion problems such as feelings of grief, helplessness and guilt; sexual dysfunction; substance abuse; self-hatred; fear of relationships; risk-taking and suicidal behavior; depression; greater tendencies toward becoming angry and violent; and a sense of loss of manhood."

Now that men are able to openly express their grief over their lost fatherhood, they are joining *Silent No More*, an organization of women and men speaking out about the devastating effects of abortion in their lives. This sorrowful lamentation, written by a grieving father, says it all.

I Still Cry *

Sometimes I look at my two children,
And I know there should be three.
I still cry.
Sometimes I see a family with two sons close in age with a daughter,
And then I look at mine.
I still cry.
I know, Father, you have forgiven me because I took my pain to Christ,
But how do I explain to him why I did this and why he had no life.
The ball games lost, hunting, camping and all the long talks,
Father-son times we never had.
I still cry. I try not to think about it .
I would give my life a hundred times over, to give him his.
Oh, God, how I wish I could have held you as a baby and in your teens.
I still cry. The pain I held so deep inside was way too much to bear,
Through Jesus Christ and Reconciliation, inner -peace was there.
But...
I still cry. I know one day I'll hold you tight and look into your eyes,
'Till then, my son, I love you.
I still cry.

To my son, Christian...love, Dad

* Reprinted with permission from Men and Abortion website, Reclaiming Fatherhood, Sept 8-9, 2008.



Pentecost-Outpouring of the Holy spirit

Adam's fall preceded Eve's
Fr. Stephen Imbarrato

Without God I can't, but
without me, He won't.
St. Augustine

We cannot survive as a free
nation when some men
decide that others are not fit
to live and should be
abandoned to abortion or
infanticide.
Ronald Reagan



Happy Father's Day

Juan Diego Society
(*St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center Newsletter*)
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The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the Rector of the Basilica will be visiting the St. Juan Diego Women's Center, various parishes, hospitals and other places starting Aug. 27th to Sept. 15th 2009. More details in the next issue.

Please give her a warm loving welcome.



***THE ST. JUAN DIEGO SOCIETY WOMEN'S CENTER
IS SUPPORTED ONLY BY YOU!***

The center relies *solely* on the generosity of individuals. We do not receive any subsidy from private, federal, state or local agencies. The St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center can continue to help women in crisis pregnancies *only with your support.*

Please be generous. Together we shall save another baby.

No amount, accompanied with love and prayers, is too small.

All donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to the Juan Diego Society.

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