



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

St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center NEWSLETTER

Website: <http://www.jdswomenscenter.org>

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

Published by:

Juan Diego Society

12 North White Road # 5
San Jose, CA 95127

Editor: Patricia Gonzalez
Phone: (408) 258-2008

January-February
2010

The Twilight Zone by Patsy Gonzalez, JDS volunteer

The *Twilight Zone* was a popular TV series years ago that showcased the unexplainable, the bone chilling, the supernatural, albeit with a moral punch line. For those who walk in the faith, the unexplainable happens from time to time when a soul least expects it. The 18th of December last year was such a day.

On my last day at the center before the Christmas holidays, Willie and I were "closing the books" –tallying up the number of saved babies for the year and discussing the follow up of their mothers and other projects for the coming year. It was a very fruitful year for the St. Juan Diego center that saw its number of babies saved from the average 15 to 22. The center's outreach to the San Mateo Planned Parenthood had brought the numbers up. In a society that loses 1.5 million babies to an abortion a year, that is a pitifully small number... but even one baby saved is a priceless treasure for Heaven.

The phone rang in the other room and Willie disappeared to answer the call. Within moments he reappeared in the counseling looking very grim. The caller was looking for a woman counselor and asking to make an appointment for an abortion. Telephone counseling is extremely difficult as any crisis counselor will testify. The caller is usually in a very agitated or depressed state and may have already come to the conclusion that an abortion is her only way out.

(continued on page 2)



Patsy Gonzalez

40 Days for Lent...40 Days for Life! By Elizabeth Shearer, JDS volunteer

The 40 day time period, as seen in the Bible, is very significant. It shows how great transformations can take place in individuals and even whole communities in a little under six weeks' time. From the Old Testament accounts of Noah and the 40 days of rain that flooded the world, to the story of Moses fasting on the mountain with God for 40 days while writing the Ten Commandments, to Jesus' prayer and fasting in the desert, which helped Him overcome the temptations of the devil, it's easy to see that 40 days is a perfect amount of time for renewal, refreshment and to accomplish big things. So what can 40 days mean in the changing and renewal of *our* lives today?

As Catholics, we have the annual opportunity to spend 40 days preparing our hearts for Easter during the Lenten season (not counting Sundays). During this time of prayer, fasting and abstinence, we practice self-sacrifice by giving up something we enjoy. These acts of self-mortification, in some small way, unite us to Christ's suffering on Calvary, allowing us to share in the redemptive work of Christ.

In addition to giving up something for Lent, we can also consider doing something "extra" as part of our Lenten practice this year. While this may take the form of attending daily Mass, saying additional prayers, or making other sacrifices, something to consider *doing* for Lent this year is joining the 40 Days for Life Campaign in San Jose. The 2010 campaign will run from Ash Wednesday, February 17 to Palm Sunday, March 28th. 40 Days for Life is a peaceful, prayerful way to get the most out of Lent through three key components of prayer with fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach. It is a loving action carried out on behalf of our unborn brothers and sisters and their mothers who have no one to stand up and speak out in their defense.

This remarkable campaign has already reaped many fruits by changing hearts and saving lives. Last year 40 Days for Life was instrumental in saving babies from abortion all over the country, including six babies saved in the Bay Area! 40 Days for Life was also one of the chief catalysts cited by former Texas Planned Parenthood director, Abby Johnson, for her resignation from Planned Parenthood and for her joining the Pro-life cause! Please prayerfully consider joining us this Lent in saving lives and transforming hearts right here in the Bay area...all in just 40 days!

For more information on 40 Days for Life, please call Pat Bradley at 408-497-7270 or go to the web site: www.40daysforlife.com/sanjose



Elizabeth Shearer



Lent Starts February 17th

The Twilight Zone (continued from page 1)

It is not possible to show her visuals of fetal development or other brochures nor is it possible to see her face to face to watch her body cues which helps a counselor know she is on the right track. She is unable to sit in a counseling room where she feels secure and safe, which very often moves her to open her heart. Chances of convincing her are slim. She can hang up the phone at any time if just one wrong remark unsettles her.

Willie handed me the phone like it was a live grenade and I settled into a chair after a hurried prayer to the Holy Spirit. My first prayer was that she wouldn't hang up. Her response to my question about who referred her to us or where she found our number shocked both of us. She had called the toll free number for the Choice Medical group, a chain of abortion clinics that specialize in late term abortions, for an appointment to one of their facilities closer to where she lived. Esperanza was 3 months along, going into her 2nd trimester. Now, logically speaking, it wasn't possible that the Choice Medical Clinic would ever refer a young woman to a center that counsels a woman to keep her child. We were bad for their business.

We were both so astonished at the strange way she reached our center, we spoke for nearly an hour. We explored her reasons for wanting this abortion after her previous one a year before and we spoke of her fears that kept her from making a different decision this time around. At one point, I overheard her comment to someone who enquired about who she was speaking on the telephone to for so long, "I'm talking to this lady that is telling me the complete opposite of what I was looking for. I thought I was calling an abortion clinic!"

By the time we hung up, enough had been said and it was time for grace to take over. She had left me her number and I would call her sometime soon; she had shifted her decision from "resolute" to "undecided". Willie's quiet prayer support in the next room was bearing fruit. Though we had made some progress, she was still unwilling to come to the center.

When will I ever learn that losing sleep over trying to figure out how miracles happen is futile? All night long, I mulled over my head the possibilities and impossibilities of Juan Diego receiving a call meant for an abortion clinic. I only had to be grateful for the "God moment" and continue with the job He called me to do.

It was distressing to discover the following morning that the number she gave us had been disconnected. To my utter despair, Willie simply suggested, "Why don't we wait until after Christmas and try to call her again before we file her paperwork away? Who knows? Maybe her phone will be reactivated by then". That didn't bring me much consolation, but it was worth a try.

Christmas came and went, the center reopened for the new year. Making good on his suggestion, Willie called Esperanza's number before filing her paperwork away. To his amazement, she answered the call. Willie is rarely at a loss for words, but this time, he could barely get his question out, "Did you make a decision about your baby?" She replied, "Yes, I've decided to keep my baby."

As her new journey to motherhood begins with Juan Diego's support, I no longer ponder over the Heavenly "Twilight Zone" that brought us together. I pray many more such moments will continue to occur, proving to us without a doubt, that the natural and the supernatural exist side by side if only we have the eyes and faith to see it.

Editor's Note: Esperanza came to the center on Jan. 19th. While at the center she prayed for another mother considering abortion. The St. Juan Diego Women's Center is now providing Esperanza help in getting pre-natal care and material aid.

Help the St. Juan Diego Women's Center by participating in the **Lucky** Supermarket S.H.A.R.E.S. Program.

Participants will receive a *Lucky* S.H.A.R.E.S. Card to be presented when purchasing groceries at any Lucky Supermarket. The center will receive a quarterly check for 3% of the qualified purchases.

It's that easy! Help the St. Juan Diego Women's Center with no additional cost while buying your groceries.

Please contact Willie at (408) 258-2008 or e-mail at willielapus@yahoo.com to get your Lucky S.H.A.R.E.S. Card.

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

We urgently need your help to continue our mission.

The survival of the St. Juan Diego Women's Center rests solely on your generosity.

Your gift will enable us to save another baby.

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

Make checks payable to: Juan Diego Society,

12 North White Road # 5, San Jose CA 95127

All donations are tax-deductible. Website: www.jdswomenscenter.org

The Year In Review

January 2009 started with great anxiety for us. A new “pro-abortion” administration would be taking over and the economy was in shambles. In our own little corner of the world, the St. Juan Diego Women’s Center was in danger of closing its doors (again).

Due to the prevailing economic climate, most of our generous donors and benefactors we relied on in the past, could not respond to our appeal for help. Even before the year started, we anticipated that 2009 would be very challenging and that the survival of the Center would be in jeopardy. Having faced similar crises many times in our 23 years of existence, we knew what to do- go to Our Lady of Guadalupe, (who we at the Center, lovingly refer to as our “Directress”) and to St. Joseph, our patron and provider.

We asked Our Lady, as she did in Cana, to tell her Son that our “wine “ was running out. We also gently reminded St. Joseph that, he would have to explain to the Blessed Mother if her enterprise (the JDS Center) failed due to lack of funds!

As you can see, the Center is still open. Our Lady once again pled our case to her Son to make the impossible, possible. Our immediate needs were met; thus JDS Women’s Center survived for another year of life-saving work.

Though we had many trials and tribulations this year, it was also marked with numerous graces which manifested Our Lady’s tender care for the Center, such as:

- The joy and privilege of being an instrument to save 22 babies this year.
- Having new volunteers, board members, benefactors and friends.
- Hosting the two week visit of The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Receiving a new computer system.
- Establishing links with the Peninsula-San Jose-San Francisco Pro-Life Groups and the Salinas-Santa Cruz Pro Life Groups.
- Participating in the successful 2009 Walk for Life.
- Having our center mentioned on Immaculate Heart Radio.
- Having new parishes welcome and assist the center.
- Surviving the most difficult year-2009.
- Having the grace and will to keep fighting the good fight for Life in 2010.

I would like to thank Our Directress, her husband and her Son for their care and intercessions on our behalf. I would also like to express my appreciation to the friends and benefactors of the St. Juan Diego Women’s Center most particularly to the tireless volunteers who generously gave of themselves to help save babies and comfort their mothers. *Gratias tibi Deus.*



WE NEED HELP in 2010 to make JDS even more welcoming!
If you can help with any of these needs, please contact us!
 *New Carpet
 *Paint/Painting Help
 *Monetary Donations



An Encounter with Angels
 Tips on Sidewalk Counseling
 By Patsy Gonzalez

St. Juan Diego Women’s Center Client Statistics for 2009					
Month	Clients Aided*	Pregnancy Tests	Total Clients	Abortion Bound	Babies Saved
Jan	24	19	43	2	2
Feb	27	7	34	2	2
Mar	23	11	34	2	2
April	19	6	25	3	1
May	25	11	36	2	2
June	19	7	26	2	2
July	18	12	30	3	3
Aug	19	9	28	1	1
Sept	19	17	36	2	2
Oct	25	10	35	1	1
Nov	25	14	39	3	2
Dec	26	7	33	3	2
Year 2009	269	130	399	26	22
Grand Total Since 1986	3009	6534	9543	928	654

Based on 17 years experience of saving babies; Patsy Gonzalez has written this handbook to help in forming more effective sidewalk counselors.

Now Available
 for more information call:
 St. Juan Diego Women’s Center
 (408) 258-2008

* People assisted with cribs, strollers, diapers, milk, baby clothes and other material needs.

Juan Diego Society
(St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center Newsletter)
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San Jose, CA 95127

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FEBRUARY 17-
MARCH 28, 2010


40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign that has **saved the lives** of thousands of babies in hundreds of cities throughout the United States. The next 40 Days for Life campaign, running from Feb. 17—March 28, is a campaign made up of three key components: **Prayer and Fasting, Peaceful Vigil** and **Community Outreach**. People of faith are praying that, with God's help, this effort will help bring an end to the tragedy of abortion. We encourage you to make this a part of your Lenten devotion. **“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves”** as a volunteer in our third 40 Days for Life grassroots campaign in San Jose sponsored by Holy Family Church. For more information on Vigil dates and community activities,

Visit www.40daysforlife.com/sanjose or call Pat Bradley at **408-497-7270**.