



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

St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center NEWSLETTER

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

Providing help and alternative solutions to mothers in crisis-pregnancy since 1986

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Polly's Turn by Patsy Gonzalez, JDS volunteer

We at the St. Juan Diego center call them the “Carmelite Corps”---referring to the spiritual green berets of sidewalk counselors that have adopted the abortion clinic next door to our center to intercept abortion bound mothers. Bro. Peter, a Carmelite brother, felt the call some months ago to stand outside the mill to pray and offer information to women and couples walking in for services. He has become a familiar figure on the driveway in his brown robe in a prayerful attitude, hoping to assist anyone who might be willing to stop and talk. His brown habit, no doubt, has provided a stirring witness to the value of unborn babies. He has already been successful at diverting young men and women into our center to receive life affirming information.

Before long, others were also inspired to stand outside that abortion mill to pray and counsel. It was a happy occasion for Beth, a Carmelite supporter, the day Gloria changed her mind about her abortion. Things were starting to heat up next-door and we could all feel the level of enthusiasm starting to rise. Escorts started to appear to thwart their efforts to approach the women and the San Jose Police Department was called out several times in a futile effort to discourage their activity. After all, it is the pro-lifers' constitutional right to express their strong belief in the sanctity of life.

We shall never forget seeing Polly standing outside on the driveway with her other committed companions, her hair and jacket damp from the rain, hoping to assist a pregnant woman that was making a tragic decision. The cold and rain didn't dampen her determination to get her message across. She was also anxious to “learn the ropes” on sidewalk counseling so she could be more effective. The 40-Day vigil outside Planned Parenthood in San Jose became her training ground.

Sidewalk counselors are not born overnight. They are moved first by prayer, then a persistent interior call to become more active in the intervention of women walking into the mill. (continued on Page 2)



Pauline T. Watson

*All that is required is showing
up at the killing places.
Heaven will do the rest.*

The Remedy For Health-Care ‘Reform’ by Fr. Frank Pavone, National director, Priests for Life

Abortion emerged as a momentous and defining issue in the early days of the health-reform debate and yet, at the end, it was deemed hardly worth mentioning.

The Monday-morning quarterbacks can chalk it up to politics as usual, but for those of us whose lives revolve around overturning *Roe v. Wade*, this morning after opened a dark day indeed.

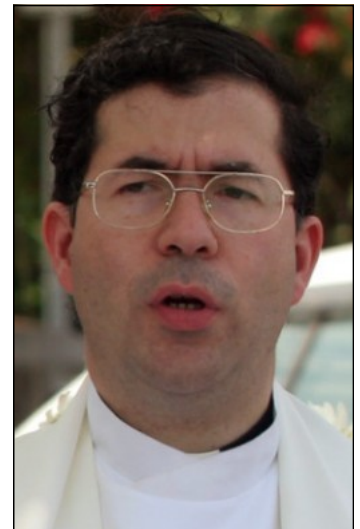
But no one should celebrate: Even with the passage of this abortion-friendly bill, reform is far from certain, and certainly a long way off.

The abortion debate is bigger and more important than the health-care reform debate, and the apparent inability of our nation to avoid wrestling with the abortion issue is another sign that until we resolve it the right way, we will not be able to make the progress we need to make on health care or any other matter of social justice or human rights.

Despite the views of some in political office, abortion is not an aspect of health care. In fact, this destructive and violent act does not even deserve the name “medical procedure.”

As I told members of Congress during a prayer service prior to Sunday's vote, a medical procedure is supposed to help the body to do what it is trying to do but is having trouble doing. Abortion is just the opposite: It stops the body from doing what it is supposed to do and is doing very well. And in stopping the life of the child within by an unnatural and cruel method, it introduces numerous complications for the health of the mother.

Last year, the World Economic Forum's “Global Gender Gap Report” found that nations with the most restrictive abortion laws have the lowest rates of maternal mortality. (continued on Page 2)



*Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director
Priests for Life*

Polly's Turn (continued from page 1)

Many have a special devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, who stirs up their desire to actively intervene. Fear is often the deterrent that prevents one from taking the first step. A pro-life leader once remarked, "Courage is not the absence of fear but doing what one has to do *in spite* of his fear". Sidewalk counseling, as one quickly discovers, is the Holy Spirit's work. He provides the courage and inspirations. Polly is deeply devoted to Our Lady, has taught the faith to children in CCD classes and has felt a strong impulse to stand outside abortion mills since the start of the 40-Day Vigils last year in San Jose. This year, she felt ready to use her voice.

On a Saturday morning outside the mill at the Alameda, she got her chance. She can't explain why she approached a young man walking alone into the clinic, but she handed him some pamphlets and began to explain to him the terrible consequences that a mother would face after having an abortion. He rushed into the clinic and brought out his girlfriend, Brianna, just as she heard her name being called into the procedure room. (She describes to us later the oppressive atmosphere in the waiting room where many young teenagers were waiting their turn, filled with fear and anxiety. Several were crying and a couple of them were on their cell phones begging their mothers not to let them go through with their abortions.) After a brief conversation with the couple, she called the St. Juan Diego Center in the hope she could secure an appointment for the young woman on the following Monday. She knew enough to exchange phone numbers with the couple.

Polly would soon learn the anxiety and strain of unreturned phone calls. Brianna was silent. Polly started to worry that perhaps she had once again changed her mind from pressures that don't always disappear when a mother has a change of heart. It is very critical at this time for a counselor to stay connected because transitioning from a decision to abort to a decision to have the baby can be very emotionally turbulent for a mother. This is the time when only prayer can pour down the grace to continue a decision to choose life. Brianna finally did call and told Polly that her mother was adamant about her making another appointment at the abortion mill.

Providentially, Brianna's grandmother who was very supportive of her having the baby, lived just two short blocks away from the abortion clinic. Her second appointment was scheduled on a Thursday afternoon. This time, Polly was waiting outside her grandmother's home to divert them to our center. Brianna walked the short distance from the abortion clinic where she was dropped off to her grandmother's home, abandoning her appointment that would have altered her life forever.

(continued on page 3)

The Remedy For Health-Care 'Reform' (continued from page 1)

While the report itself did not make that connection, Samantha Singson of [the Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute](#) did, and her analysis held up as she hop-scotched around the globe. Abortion hurts women.

If it is our goal as Americans to make abortion safe, legal and rare, we are failing catastrophically on two fronts. Thousands of babies are murdered in the womb every day, adding up to more than a million a year. No one can argue that this procedure is rare; in fact, it is one of the most frequently performed elective surgeries.

And safe? Ask the patients of Dr. Kermit Gosnell in Philadelphia, whose license to operate his house of horrors was suspended last month and whose résumé includes the death of at least two women.

Ask the four children of Alexandra Nunez who thought their mother was having a cyst removed in January, when instead she made an appointment with death at a Queens, N.Y., abortion facility.

Ask the woman in Englewood, N.J., who in December was left in a coma and later required a hysterectomy following an abortion in a clinic where dirty forceps and a quarter inch of dirt and debris were found under an examining table.

Ask the 9,000 women who have registered their regret with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Abortion hurts women.

Because the "right to choose" has been elevated to a sacrament in our prevailing culture of death, abortion is allowed to remain the most unregulated of medical procedures, particularly in low-income neighborhoods. How many physicians have become millionaires with the blood of the unborn forever staining their hands — and their souls? Too many to count.

Abortion is not health care, it is not respectable, and it deserves the same kind of rejection by society as slavery, segregation and terrorism. And yet, 219 U.S. representatives have bought into the lie that abortion is a vital aspect of health care for women. But now the ball is back in our court.

This law due to be signed with much fanfare by the most pro-abortion president this nation has ever elected will be challenged in many ways. Officials in three states already are planning to sue on the grounds that it is unconstitutional.

Perhaps more importantly, Republicans have vowed to repeal the bill once they are back in the majority. That means every pro-life voter, and everyone still sitting on the fence, must go to the polls to ensure that November's elections will bring about the changes the American people want to see.

At Sunday's prayer service in the Capitol, I spoke about the fact that authority and power mean service and that the people whom the legislators serve are not their people, but God's people.

We govern ourselves; our voices matter. Thank God that, when legislators take public policy the wrong way, there are ways to remedy that. Let's get started.

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission from the "National Catholic Register". For more information visit: www.ncregister.com

An Appeal Letter

Dear Friends of the St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center,

A thought came to me last year that if our St. Juan Diego Center could weather the worst year of the economic downturn, we could weather anything. Non -profit organizations were badly affected by the loss of support from ailing companies and financially distressed benefactors.

Then it occurred to me that it has never been any different since the center opened its doors almost 25 years ago. Being in a non-politically correct ministry puts us in a position where we can not depend on company grants. Our support comes from generous private benefactors, organizations, few supportive pastors and Divine Providence. Among the many miracles that the center has had the privilege to see is the miracle of its existence.

Last year was a phenomenal year for our center. Various outreaches to abortion clinics through sidewalk counselors and collaboration with the Project Gabriel of the San Francisco Diocese nearly doubled the number of confirmed babies saved from 12 to 22. We have come to consider our center a "center without borders" that will go the distance to rescue a pregnant mother and her child. One board member fondly calls it the "Little Center That Could".

Because you cared, 659 babies are alive today.

The same economic and political climate that pressures a pregnant mother to abort her child is the same pressure that drives the St. Juan Diego Center to stay open more than ever at this critical time.

Today we ask for extra support to keep our doors open and to continue our mission. *We have enough funds to keep the center open for **only** another 6 weeks.* Your gift will allow us to continue to assist women in crisis pregnancy to choose life instead of abortion.

Help us. We receive no regular funding from any private, federal, state or local agencies. Our survival rests **solely** on your generosity.

Emergency Funds are needed **now** to keep our doors open.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe keep you and your loved ones under her mantle of love.

Yours in Christ,

Willie V. Lapus
Director



*Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary.
For the Lord is truly risen. Alleluia*



An Encounter with Angels

Tips on Sidewalk Counseling
By Patsy Gonzalez

Based on her 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*

Polly's Turn (continued from page 2)

Disappointing her mother was weighing very heavily on Brianna's heart, but after being informed about the resources available to see her through her pregnancy and the support from Polly, the Juan Diego Center and her grandmother, she found the courage to face her mother with her decision to keep her child. A pregnancy center that was located closer to where she lived was contacted to provide all the services she needed to begin her prenatal care.

Though she was initially reticent, discouraged and afraid; she finally warmed up after seeing fetal models that showed her the stage of her baby's development. Slowly, with a new hope that started to grow in her heart, she began to see her future that included her baby. She became very animated, seeking out short-term solutions she needed to see her pregnancy through. There was a new light in her eyes when she finally realized it was possible for her to bring this new life growing in her womb into this world. Brianna's decision to choose life happened on the Feast of the Annunciation, the day that Mary gave her assent to bring Our Savior into the world. On this day, the Mother of God inspired this young mother to give her assent to life.

Polly, now initiated into the world of a sidewalk counselor, has come to realize that all the handbooks on sidewalk counseling pale next to "learning on the job". All that is required is a loving desire to intervene on behalf of the mothers and their babies; all that is required is showing up at the killing places. Heaven will do the rest.

Editor's Note: The 40-Day Vigil for Life Program has been instrumental in bringing out thousands of people nationwide to pray outside the abortion mills.

Juan Diego Society
(*St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center Newsletter*)
12 North White Road #5
San Jose, CA 95127

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**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, Inc.
12 North White Road # 5 San Jose, CA 95127
Visit our website at <http://www.jdswomenscenter.org>