



*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.*

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## Journey of a Pro-Life Activist by: Beth Maddatu, JDS volunteer

The horrors of ABORTION have been prominent in my life all the way back to my NY/NJ days where I lived nearly 23 yrs until my move to the West Coast 13 years ago.

Thanks to my affiliation with the Carmelite Fathers as a member of the Third Order since 2004, I've had the opportunity of getting involved in my first pro-life activity beginning with the yearly ritual Good Friday Rosary Walk for Life. This beautiful and spiritual 9-mile walk began about 35 yrs ago and is attended by approximately a hundred devotees. The walk begins at St. Martin of Tours Church (by O'Connor Hospital) and ends at Our Lady of Peace Church (OLOP) and takes about 4-½ hrs long.

Over the years, I've gotten to know some of the people and have run into them in various other pro-life functions such as the Life-Chain rally that takes place during the fall season and that provided me an opportunity to get involved in a second activity to promote life. The Life-Chain group meets right by the cross-intersection of the Stevens Creek Blvd and Kiely. Some of my fond Life-Chain memories in the beginning years revolved around a group of IVE Sisters from OLOP, singing mass songs in the midst of pouring rain. I was even leading the singing, a lay person, and just thinking about it now brings a smile to my face.... Many of us invited others to join and both events have since multiplied in number of participants. (continued on page 2)



Beth Maddatu

## Update on Evelina by Patsy Gonzalez, JDS volunteer

Some of you followed the saga of a young girl, Evelina (14), who we intercepted outside PP last July. It was a roller coaster of emotions for most of us--looking for good prenatal care, praying for the family when a prognosis of gastroschisis (a medical condition where the baby's digestive organs develop *outside* the baby) was made and the anxiety we felt seeing such a young mother assume the herculean responsibility of caring for a baby recovering from delicate surgery.

It has been five months since little Janelle was born. Evelina turned 15 at the hospital and impressed all the nurses who watched her keep vigil, day after day, by her baby's bedside for a month until the infant was released. Evelina grew up very quickly--and I might add, she displays a maternal instinct that equals some of the finest mothers I have known.

Janelle was at the neonatal ICU at Stanford for a month, one of the shortest confinements I believe an infant with that condition stays at the hospital. (The doctors told Evelina to prepare for three). She slept under the watchful care of Our Lady of Guadalupe whose image sat in her bassinet. She was baptized on the feast of St. Juan Diego and was operated to correct her condition on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She was discharged on the 1st of January, the feast of Mary, Mother of God

I truly believe this little baby delivered a very powerful message to all of us who defend life. God is with us, God provides and God is pleased with our efforts to save mothers from the heartbreak of abortion no matter how insignificant it may seem.

Without saying much more, I'd love to share these photos of Janelle-- the first taken when the baby was a week in the hospital waiting for surgery, the second when she had been home a couple of weeks and the third was taken four days ago.

Evelina continues to be a part of my pro-life family. She is now helping me mentor two other mothers -to-be who are close to her age. In my eyes, she is a very good role model-- not because she got pregnant at 14, but because she chose life and embraces her responsibility as mother with great dedication no matter how difficult it may seem.

When you get a bit discouraged, just have a look at these pictures. Think of what Evelina's life would have been like without her precious child, what things may have been like for her if we hadn't been there for her.



One Week Old



Six Weeks Old



Five Months Old

## Journey of a Pro-Life Activist (continued from page 1)

Since then, I've joined my 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Pro-Life activities, the 40-Days for Life thru the flyer announcements at OLOP and the major event "Walk for Life" in San Francisco on its 5<sup>th</sup> year of celebration. My 2<sup>nd</sup> year of participation was in January of this year. Bro. Peter, a Carmelite aspiring for priesthood and I, traveled together this year to join at least 40,000 other attendees who walked through rain and shine. The event was exhilarating and was a great success with wonderful pro-life speakers from around the US and one special guest speaker who came all the way from Paris. It was a true testimony of the importance of promoting the Culture of Life around the world.

My 5<sup>th</sup> involvement led me to "sidewalk counseling" through the support and mentoring of both Willie Lopus, Director to Juan Diego Women's Center and Patsy Gonzales, long time volunteer and also a sidewalk counselor. This wonderful center primarily reaches out to the needs of women in crisis-pregnancy. I believe all these years of my pro-life involvement ultimately prepared me for this most uplifting, moving and touching ministry – intervening on behalf of the unborn babies outside of the abortion centers.

My pro-life commitment intensified after the birth of my daughter's first child, a beautiful son named Ethan. Every child is a testimony of God's awesome, miraculous creation. My sisters and other close friends who had experienced such a wonderful event in their lives would find it difficult to describe this awesome feeling of a "special" love when a new generation begins with the birth of a grandchild, a new addition to the family. Words cannot explain this glorious feeling... which brings me back to the great importance of promoting deeply the Culture of Life.

For two years, unaware of Juan Diego's location, I found myself often alone praying the rosary at the Planned Parenthood facing the street of Alum Rock long before my little Ethan was born. At that time, I was also involved with the 40-days for Life, which primarily focuses on the Alameda facility where the surgical abortions take place. I remember oftentimes crying while praying to Mother Mary to help protect the unborn and talking to her saying, "You all up there can't be needing these many little angels"-- but the horrific culture of death continues to "loom" darkly over this very materialistic sinful society that we live in. I thank God for our awesome Faith knowing He is in control.

After the Walk for Life in San Francisco, Bro. Peter sought out the St. Juan Diego Center that he knew was located very close to PP on Alum Rock. He was amazed to discover that both places shared the same parking lot. He became a lone figure outside the abortion facility in his brown robes, praying his rosary silently and offering pamphlets to people walking to PP. He inspired me to join his efforts and before long, we joined forces to sidewalk counsel at the same time. After communicating with others, more pro-lifers joined our "team", covering other days.

I split my days and times between the PP in Alum Rock and the Alameda whenever I could and even helped to organize a Mass celebrated by our Carmelite priest, Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD.

One day in February, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of activities going on outside the Alum Rock Planned Parenthood, Bro. Peter and I met Katherine, a beautiful and very friendly 19- year old of Samoan background. Bro. Peter actually remembered giving her a pamphlet the month before.

While patiently awaiting for her ride, Bro. Peter, Katherine and I huddled together in the rain talking about Katherine's plans for the baby as she was attending college and understandably would not want to consider disrupting that part of her life. Through the course of our conversation, I was able to lead her to the Juan Diego Center. Fortunately, both Willie and Patsy were present that day and we continued our discussion on the future of her baby. Katherine talked about the loving support of her big family and considered allowing her childless aunt to adopt her unborn baby. That way, Katherine would always be present in the child's future upbringing. The center gave her a list of good pre-natal resources that would affirm her decision so that PP would not be able to subtly encourage a choice for abortion.

In the weeks following, I kept in contact with Katherine who let me know by text that "she and the baby, 2 mos then, were doing just fine". Suddenly, the texts stop coming and she fell silent. The excruciating SILENCE ended with the long-awaited text message I received from her on Mother's Day, wishing me a "Happy Mother's Day".

One cannot imagine the overwhelming joy that leapt from my heart at hearing from her after 2 months of silence. At Patsy's consoling suggestion, I just lifted her up in prayer, offered my Communion for her and invoked the angels and saints, our Mother Mary and Her Son to assist her. I was tremendously overwhelmed that all other greetings and messages including that of my own daughter, celebrating her First Mother's Day, were overshadowed by that one text message... Yes! That it was her, Katherine, wishing me a Happy Mother's Day, the best gift ever!

On May 21st, I hosted a small lunch at the center to welcome Katherine's visit and what a joy to hear her share some of her future plans. She and her boyfriend, Donald, have decided to keep the baby letting us know how attached she has become to her unborn and that after the baby comes in September she plans to continue with her studies. Katherine and Donald are also considering getting married in the spring of next year and after that Donald will be joining the Marines to provide for a better future for their family. Both Katherine and Donald come from a family with military background. What a wonderful visit that was.

I thank our merciful loving God for the Gift of Life and this incredible ministry, that although Carmelites, supporting Brothers in Priest formation, is my primary ministry for quite a long time now, the pro-life ministry has brought new meaning and joyous fulfillment to my existence here on earth.

God bless everyone in all your "Works of Mercy". I greatly appreciate you all and thank you for your hard work, sacrifices, love and dedication to promoting the Culture of Life because without new life there can be no future....

I specially want to extend my most heartfelt thank you to some of my pro-life friends, as I would be amiss, if I do not mention them—Emma, Peggy, Jerry, Faustina, Maureen, Polly, MaryAnn, Patsy, Sheila and, of course, Willie who graciously allowed me to share my "Katherine" story with all of you and to many others and of course, lest I forget, our beloved Bro. Peter who tirelessly kept up and put up his share of time outside the Planned Parenthood in the hopes of touching one more life.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron for the Unborn, save and protect the voiceless little ones! St. Juan Diego, Pray for us and St. Joseph bless all families especially the less fortunate.

## My Birthday for a Birthday (B4B) Program

Offer a gift to celebrate life on your birthday or the birthday of a loved one. This is the idea behind our new "My Birthday for a Birthday" program. Your gift goes to cover the rental payment of \$2,500 per month to keep the St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center open to save babies from abortion and to provide services to their pregnant mothers. A gift of \$80 represents rental for a full 8-hour workday. A \$10 gift to cover one-hour rental payment is appreciated as well.

You may also give a memorial gift on the birthday of your beloved departed. Any size of gift accompanied by prayer will be welcomed.

Participants will have their name placed under the loving care of Our Lady of Fatima (a gift from Msgr. John Sweeny) and included in our prayers.

### Program Coordination

With the approval of JDS, the program is implemented by a committee that solicits and also receives My B4B gifts, reports them for posting on the B4B Chart and immediately sends them to JDS.

This committee is named *Guadalupe Fund*. Mail checks to St. Juan Diego Women's Center. Please make check payable to **Juan Diego Society** and write on the Memo "My B4B" and your birthday. If donating for birthday celebrants other than yourself, please list their names and birthdays on a separate piece of paper. If more convenient for donor, contributions can be made through PayPal at our website: [www.jdswomenscenter.org](http://www.jdswomenscenter.org).

Please fill out the form below and send it to: St. Juan Diego Women's Center  
12 North White Road # 5  
San Jose, CA 95127

Please enroll me in the "My Birthday for a Birthday (My B4B)" program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

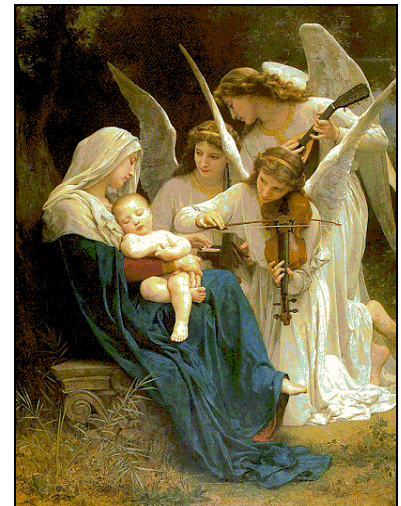
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Family members to be included:

Name:	Birthday:	Gift
_____	____/____	\$ _____
_____	____/____	\$ _____
_____	____/____	\$ _____
_____	____/____	\$ _____



**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

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

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*12 North White Road #5*  
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*To All the Friends of the St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center*  
*Thank you for your generous response to our urgent appeal.*

*Please continue to support us with your prayers and donations.*  
*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](http://www.jdswomenscenter.org)