

Juan Diego  
Society, Inc.



Silver Anniversary  
1986-2011

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

## St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center NEWSLETTER

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

*Celebrating 25 Years of Caring: 1986 - 2011*

Published by:

**Juan Diego Society**  
12 North White Road # 5  
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### To My Grandchild

*Editor's note: A pro-life grandmother shares with us a poignant letter that she writes her grandchild painfully lost to a miscarriage at 12 weeks. Her reflections on the infinite value and meaning of life in the womb helps her process the loss. (Her son's response follows.)*

Dear Little One,

When your Daddy called to tell me that your heart had stopped beating, for some brief moments, my heart stopped beating, too. We waited for you with such eager anticipation and this Christmas was going to bring us our best Christmas present ever. You were unseen but already so loved by your family. As the tears flowed freely, I asked the question so many ask when faced with the loss of a loved one---"Why"? There were no words I could say to console your father other than, "I am so sorry, I love you". Mothers always seem to have a way explaining things to their children when they are faced with painful events to help them through tough times; this time I was at a total loss for words and I could only cry with him.

There are so many truths that we hold deeply in our hearts such as *God brings good out of adversity, God has a plan for every human soul* and *Suffering can have great meaning*—but I realize that only the cross will affirm them to be true. It is the cross that provides the true test of those beliefs.

Your earthly plan was so brief and yet your life had so much meaning. Your wonderful parents already loved you so dearly and were mapping out their plans for your future. They even had names picked out for you. With you, they were able to give witness to others that large families have great value, they were generously open to receiving as many children as God would send them. That is very significant in a world that puts value in having two children only, a world that puts material things and pleasure above all else. They didn't mind the sacrifice of directing their large brood like a command center and they truly understood that their real goal for their children was to get them to heaven. United, their chances for that are higher.

Your going home also turned our thoughts towards heavenly matters, it makes us think about what must truly matter to us on earth, that all we must do here should be in preparation for reaching our final home. You are in the tender arms of the One who loved you first and most perfectly. It gives us so much consolation that we have a heavenly intercessor that will help us with our earthly needs. For one, you and I will have a mission together--inspiring mothers to choose life for their unborn babies.

(continued to page 2)



Ultrasound - 12 weeks

Silver Anniversary  
1986-2011



Juan Diego  
Women's Center  
San Jose, California

Join us on Oct. 1st for the  
25th Anniversary Banquet

### Father's Reply

*(Editor's note: The father responds to his mother with his own reflections on the loss of his unborn child. Through his grief, he also examines the infinite value of life and sees beyond his pain to a wonderful reunion with his babies that were lost to a miscarriage. He and his wife currently have 4 children. Their 2nd child, Sandro, is autistic and their 4th child, Joanna, was adopted from a 3rd world country after she was abandoned in a paper bag in a taxi cab. Little Guadalupe would have been their 5th living child.)*

Dear Mom,

Lia and I got to read your letter separately, so I'll leave her to respond with her thoughts. Your letter was beautifully written. It brought out deep sadness, which is in my heart, that I have been feeling over the last few days--often crying on my own, and often spacing out. It came to realize that loss of a child, whether 3 months or 6 months or more is very painful. I don't know how it compares to losing one that you are able to see and interact with, but nonetheless, it is very painful.

Life begins at conception. Even if the baby is the size of a pea, at eight weeks, its heart beats like a lion. Its heart beat per minute is stronger than mine at 41 years old. That's a life in full color. When that heartbeat stopped at 12 weeks, I thought I might collapse from the news. I had to hold on to a table in the doctors office and try to remain

(continued to page 2)



Defender of Children

To My Grandchild (continued from page 1)

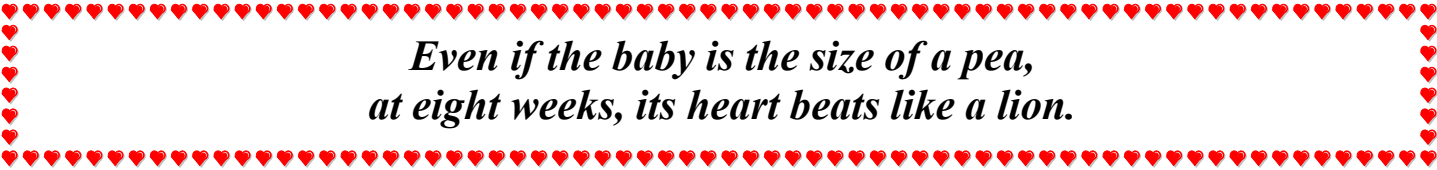
You will be my partner in this life saving work. I guess God's plan for you is working out better than we had expected. It makes me want to fight harder for these unwanted babies.

Suffering has brought us closer to one another. We have been praying a novena for your mom's and dad's recovery from their loss so we can be with them in a way that is possible.

It was so wonderful saying the rosary for them the other night with your cousins, aunts and I alternating the prayers. I can't remember the last time we prayed together like that. It made us better understand that prayer is the best way to handle a situation when we are helpless, the best way to cope with pain and disappointment is to pray. I know your dad and mom have also grown closer together and to God through their pain.

Writing this letter has made me feel better, perhaps because it has helped me reflect on the thought that it is not in understanding why God permits these things to happen but in surrendering to His will that brings us peace. If I am really good, my precious one, I may most probably be the first one to meet you face to face. What a joy it will be to share an eternity with all the ones I have loved on earth and we will never have to feel the loss of separation again. It is my prayer that when our loved ones cross the threshold into the next life, the first sight they will see is a grandmother standing hand in hand with her grandchild waiting to welcome them home. Until then, I will always remain

*Your Loving Grandmother*



***Even if the baby is the size of a pea,  
at eight weeks, its heart beats like a lion.***

Father's Reply (continued from page 1)

composed because I was also worried my blood pressure would rise too high, which it did. I felt all the energy drained out of me and I'm sure Lia felt the same way because we looked at each other with a total helpless look of loss.

I am deeply grateful to the mother of Joanna, our most precious gift, for making the choice of keeping her child till childbirth, whether she left her in a brown paper bag in the taxi cab, or on a doorstep or wherever. Only now, can I imagine the loss her mother felt when she left her child in the taxicab, which she probably feels to this day. It takes grace to do that, not selfishness, nor necessarily lack of money or ability to raise a child. It was Joanna's role as a newborn to come into our arms, to bless our marriage, and to bring joy into so many peoples lives. I keep telling Lia she will either be the doctor who takes care of us when were old and dying, or the devoted sister who will take care of our angel, Sandro, when we are gone. I am eternally grateful to her mother for making this possible for us as this instrument of her journey.

Guadalupe was to be our new queen of the home. Already propped up in a gold chariot as a two month old unborn child with a powerful heartbeat. We had a full name for her, and even knew where she was going to school with her older sisters. The world stopped to await her arrival, and she had a huge doting family waiting for her majestic arrival. She really would have been the queen, though her mom and I would never spoil her.

You are right. We have accepted the role as a deeply spiritual couple who's only responsibility is to turn their children into very responsible citizens who love their faith, have good manners and pleasant dispositions. Our role is to bring them to heaven.

We were all present last night when we dug up a small grave for our unborn baby inside our grotto in the front of our home with our priest in attendance. Her siblings will pray to her daily as they also pray to her namesake and Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has her in her arms in heaven.

We have two crosses in the grave, for her and her brother, Pio, who went to heaven two years before her. I know for certain that they will welcome all of us in heaven when its our time and help us get there too.

I don't know how long I will be spacing out during the day remembering them, but I pray to them to keep me strong for our other family members. We will share your letter with our other children today and loved ones. Our faith has gotten stronger with this with much eagerness to get to the day that I will see my two unborn children in heaven when my mission in earth is accomplished. We will continue to fight for the plight of the unborn babies. I know this has strengthened your fight, too to have those, like Joanna, who have a mission on this earth to live through the pregnancy and get adopted by a loving family, or those who naturally belong in the arms of our Lady before they are born.

Thank you for your beautiful letter. We love you dearly.

*Anthony*

## St. Juan Diego Women's Center Turns 25 This Year

For a quarter of a century, the St. Juan Diego Women's Center has been a beacon of hope, compassion and love for women in crisis pregnancy. This year the center celebrates its Silver Anniversary.

In the wake of the disastrous wave of abortions, several parishioners of Our Lady of Peace Parish together with the late Msgr. John Sweeny established the Juan Diego Society in April of 1986. The Juan Diego Society also known as the St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to aid "pregnant women without respect to race, national origin, economic status or religion to comprehend and work through the alternatives so that they make an informed decision concerning their pregnancy". The center provides these women with options that will preserve the life of the unborn child.

The founders believed that there was an urgent need for a truly Catholic crisis pregnancy center where the power and richness of the Faith could be applied to fight the scourge of abortion. The fullness of truth as embodied in the Magisterium of the Church is the most powerful weapon to combat the lies concerning the sanctity of life. Our experience has shown that the truth given in a compassionate and loving manner resonates in the hearts of these anxious women. As Pope John Paul II said, "the truth is planted in every heart." We tell them what they *need* to know, not what they want to hear. All appreciate that we care enough to be straightforward and understanding of their problem. With great affection and sincerity, we listen and offer alternatives to abortion.

Our walk-in center is ideally located directly across from James Lick High School and adjacent to Planned Parenthood. We have counseled scores of students some as young as 14. In the 25 years of the center's existence, more than 10,000 women have come to the center for help. Out of 962 abortion bound women counseled, 679 have chosen to give life to their babies.

Among the crisis pregnancy centers in the Bay Area, the St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center is the only one that proudly proclaims our Catholic heritage. Women who come to us are greeted by an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn; with these consoling words spoken by her to St. Juan Diego on Dec. 12, 1531.

***"Do not be troubled ... Do not fear... Am I not here who am your Mother?"***

To celebrate our silver anniversary several events were held and many more are scheduled for this year. Since December 2010 to May, 2011 the following events have been held.

Dec. 15, 2010 to Jan. 15, 2011— Renovation of the St. Juan Diego Women's Center  
Jan. 15/16, 2011: Juan Diego Sunday at Sacred Heart Parish, Saratoga, CA  
Feb. 19/20, 2011: Juan Diego Sunday at St. Victor Church, San Jose, CA  
March 19, 2011: Walk for Babies at the Almaden Lake Park, San Jose, CA  
May 7/8, 2011: Juan Diego Sunday at Nativity Church, Menlo Park CA

The following events are scheduled:

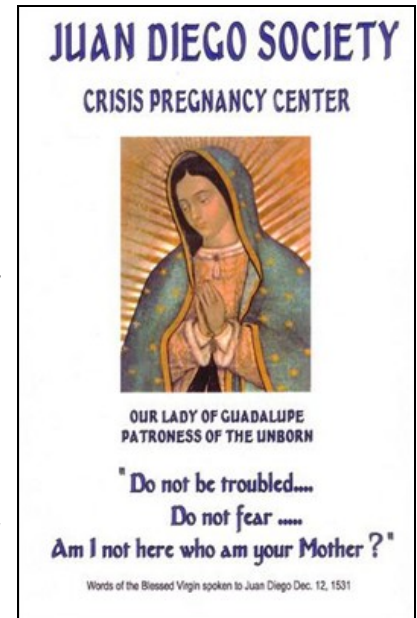
Sept. 17/18, 2011: Juan Diego Sunday at Our Lady of Peace, Santa Clara CA  
Oct. 1, 2011: 25th Anniversary Banquet at the Biltmore Hotel, Santa Clara CA  
Oct. 8/9, 2011: Baby Bottle Drive at St. Elizabeth Parish, Milpitas, CA

Events like the bi-weekly Catechism Class, which started last February are ongoing and will continue for the rest of the year. Other events or seminars: NFP Seminar, Sidewalk Counselors Seminar, Chastity Seminar for young adults and JDS Volunteers & Friends BBQ are being planned.

Of course, the main event this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet and fund raising dinner. We hope to share the joy we experience when a baby is saved with all our friends and supporters. We wish to show the marvelous love and care our patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe, has showered the St. Juan Diego Women's Center for the past 25 years. We also would like to pay tribute to our spiritual mentor and friend, the late Msgr. John Sweeny.

The banquet will feature the following noted pro-life speakers: Fr. Kevin Joyce (St. Lucy Parish, Campbell), Fr. Michael Pintacura (Our Lady of Peace Parish, Santa Clara) and Lila Rose (Live Action Group). Entertainment will be provided by pro-life singer/composer and radio host, Elizabeth Campisi.

The date for the banquet is October 1st at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Clara. Please save the date! Visit our website [jdsomenscenter.org](http://jdsomenscenter.org) for ticket information.



***Pentecost Sunday***  
***June 12th***

*V. Emitte Spirit tuum et creabuntur*  
*R. Et renovabis faciem terrae.*

*V. Send forth thy Spirit, and they*  
*shall be created.*  
*R. And thou shalt renew the face of*  
*the earth.*

*Juan Diego Society*  
(St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center Newsletter)  
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## *Silver Anniversary Banquet*

St. Juan Diego Women's Center cordially invites you to their  
**Silver Anniversary Banquet and Fundraiser.**  
25 years of service and hundreds of babies saved  
are great reasons to celebrate!



Special Musical Guest:  
**Elizabeth Campisi**



**Lila Rose**

### **Guest Speakers:**

**Lila Rose**  
**Rev. Kevin Joyce**  
**Rev. Michael Pintacura**

***Let's Share the Joy!***

**Saturday, October 1, 2011**

**Registration/Dinner 5:00 PM**

**Venue: Biltmore Hotel**

(Saratoga Ballroom)  
2151 Laurelwood Road  
Santa Clara, CA 95054

**Seating is Limited**

**Send in your reservations early**

For more information please contact us or go  
to our website: [www.jdswomenscenter.org](http://www.jdswomenscenter.org)

### **Banquet Features:**

- **Dynamic Speakers**
- **Silent Auction**
- **Raffle**
- **Music and Fellowship**
- **Special Awards!**