

Juan Diego Society, Inc.



*27 Years of Caring
1986 - 2012*

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

St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center NEWSLETTER

Website: <http://www.jdwcenter.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

May / June
2013

San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida by Perla Carrasco, JDS volunteer

In times of hardship a friendly hand is always needed, specially during a crisis pregnancy this idea resonates. It is a fact that everyday women find themselves facing a unplanned pregnancy. The false reasons not to choose life for their babies are many, but the truth is that the consequences of opting to kill their babies are devastating. During this crisis, mothers, at times, do not know where to seek help and that is when places like Planned Parenthood take advantage of the situation to make more money by killing a precious baby that is a gift of God, not just simple tissue.

The truth is abortion hurts everyone tremendously. It affects women physically and at times can be fatal. Doubtlessly, everyone, men and women involved suffer mental and spiritual consequences. There is a gulf between good and evil. When a woman decides to have an abortion, that she unwittingly crosses over to the side of evil. She commits a horrible act that only repentance and sorrow can repair. She will never be told this sad fact at the abortion mills. There is a lack of love, understanding and support in those places where women are seen as objects that bring profitability to the industry.

It is true that evil never stops looking to destroy more souls, but it is also true that our Heavenly Father is all powerful and has conquered death and that Our Heavenly Mother is always ready to intercede for us and give us her love. The battle for life continues, but we are not afraid. There is hope and we can see the hand of God at work. He continues to call good souls to serve Him in a special way. Ernesto and Marcela and other parishioners from St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo have heard the call to serve women in crisis pregnancies and have joyfully responded to it.

They were inspired by the work done at **St. Juan Diego Women's Center** and are confident that many women in East Palo Alto and surrounding areas will also be able to see a ray of hope when receiving the help, support and love that the members will provide them through this challenging, but rewarding pro-life ministry. This inspiration has given life to a new ministry at their St. Francis of Assisi parish called **San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida**. Women will be well informed about their pregnancy and be made aware of resources to help them. More fathers and mothers will be able to see the precious smiling faces of their babies and everyone in their extended families will be able to tenderly hold God's precious gift to them.

(Continued on page 2)



Perla Carrasco



May 18, 2013
Murphy Park, Milpitas

Light from the Tunnel by Alice, JDS guest writer

"Alice, how are you doing, how can I help you?" This was the first call I received from the senior counselor, Patsy Gonzalez of Juan Diego —the prolife center for pregnant women in crisis. That was about two months ago, when my life suddenly turned into a complete disaster when I had just come into my third trimester. I was left all alone by my boyfriend after I relocated to California from the East Coast. I knew no one in the area, had no car, had no income and had little savings left. When I received the call, it was in the evening as I sat in front of my dinner table, trying to sort out some papers and also trying to sort out my life. The big question was what to do next?

At the outset of this conversation, I was in fact moving from San Mateo to Santa Clara at 28 weeks of pregnancy, and for the first time in my life, I felt so stuck. I was left with nothing — and a baby was coming very soon.

Two days later, I met with Patsy for the first time. That was the evening I needed to move myself from my apartment to a smaller one in Santa Clara. I took a few items and left with Patsy in the dark. On my way to Santa Clara, the road seemed so unknown to me and my future was unknown as well. Patsy encouraged me all the way along and told me if I needed anything, just call her.

(Continued on page 2)

San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida (continued from page 1)

After hearing the call to serve women facing crisis pregnancies, they received advice and support from the St. Juan Diego Center. Their new center will be open initially every Wednesday from 10:30am-1:30pm and 5pm-7:30pm. In addition to the outreach to pregnant mothers, other pro-life activities are in the pipeline that hope to generate interest in starting prayer and sidewalk counseling outside a local abortion mill, a bible study program for post-aborted women, pro-life prayer groups and chastity programs for the youth.

This wonderful new ministry has not begun without the inspiration and approval of Fr. Lawrence Goode, pastor of St. Francis. Fr. Goode is a longtime pro-life activist that was given the St. Gianna Molla Award at the Walk for Life, San Francisco in 2011 in recognition for his activism that started at the beginning of the pro-life movement. If one ever wishes to seek out the large contingent of marchers from St Francis of Assisi at the Walk for Life, follow the drumbeats and joyful singing coming from a happy crowd led by their pastor. When the pro abortion protesters got particularly vulgar and rowdy with their chants, Fr Goode told his drummers to drown them out! This year, the parish organized two bus loads of enthusiastic parishioners.

In 1986, the late Fr. John Sweeny inspired the foundation of the St. Juan Diego Center along with a handful of faithful parishioners from Our Lady of Peace. Both priests have been good friends from the early days of the movement, bonded by their fidelity to the sanctity of life. It is fitting that the St. Juan Diego Women's Center now plays a pivotal role in the formation of **San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida**. Fr. Larry looks forward to announcing during Mass the number of babies saved through this life saving ministry and we look forward to meeting if not during this life, but in heaven, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ spared from an abortion.

More important than the material support given by the St. Juan Diego Women's Center, the **San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida** is modeling itself after the hallmark attribute of the St. Juan Diego Women's Center: total trust in Our Blessed Mother, the spirit of service and faithfulness to the teachings of the Church. With deep devotion in Our Lady of Guadalupe, the **San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida** will bring Our Blessed Mother's love and compassion to all these women in most need of help.

Light from the Tunnel (continued from page 1)

The next day, my little studio was filled with about 40 big boxes that was delivered by the movers. I tried to unpack just a few, then I felt exhausted. It really seemed like an impossible task in my emotional condition. It was not an option to put off preparing a place for my baby. I called up Patsy and asked her if she could help me and she came right away with a friend to help. One, two, three, they cleaned up all the boxes, put everything in place. I think that was the first time I smiled in a long time.

Two days later I met with Willie, the director of Juan Diego Center when they came to take me to dinner. As Willie arrived, I had three large big suitcases that needed to put on the top shelf of my closet. In spite of his recent heart by-pass surgery, he rolled up his sleeves, held his breath and helped me put the bags in place. There is nothing he wouldn't do to help.

Oh, what a group of wonderful people! I really had so much interest in learning more about Juan Diego and what do they do.

There after, knowing that I had nothing prepared for the baby, Juan Diego delivered baby clothes, a stroller, bassinet and all kinds of baby necessities to my apartment. My concerns of how I was going to find all these things were resolved. My apartment is filled with life and joy and the kind of readiness that any other happy mother would enjoy. I began to feel I had a right arm and right hand helping me finish the task.

Since I moved to Santa Clara, I have had to change all my doctors and the hospital where I was to give birth. Without a car, I could go literally nowhere, but once again, whenever I needed it, Willie and Patsy drove me to my doctor's appointments, to buy groceries and take me to places I needed to go without any hesitation. Through them, I also learned a lot about Catholicism, about why they are who they are, about the gifts they received from God. They now genuinely wanted to give God's gifts to me. Willie even introduced me to his daughter, Christine, who provided me with the wisdom of a mother that has delivered six children. He brought me to Church and to his home to share many happy events with his family.

In my once pitch dark tunnel that would lead me down a lonely single mother's road (I had felt so alone in this world), I found a home in Juan Diego and all the people that are part of it because they genuinely cared about me. My new family gave me a helping hand, shed light through that pitch dark tunnel and gave me a sense of warmth and confidence to see a bright future as a single mother. My baby is due on April 28th, and could arrive any day now. If it were not for Juan Diego, I would have still been left in that pitch dark tunnel, I would still be worried and afraid. I have Juan Diego with me and my baby to walk my journey!

Editor's note: We share a special testimony from one of our mothers with our readers. Our ministry is not only about saving babies but also about restoring to a young, single mother her dignity, her worth, her confidence and her faith that she may look to a brighter future for her and her child. Our ministry is about restoring the culture of life to our society one mother at a time.

Mother of God and Our Mother

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's Will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!" Blessed Pope John Paul II

Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the Philippines, in her many titles affectionately held by Filipinos worldwide, the most popular is "Mama Mary". The relationship between the Filipinos and the Mother of God is very deep and personal. This bond of love and trust between mother and child has been passed on from generations.

It has been our custom to give as the first name to every daughter, "Maria". Thus, almost every Filipina would be named, e.g., Ma. Cecilia, Ma. Theresa or Ma. Josefina. ("Ma." short for Maria.) Even sons would be named after Our blessed Mother, i.e., Mariano and Josemari.

Because Mary always points to Jesus, love for Mary has lead to the love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Almost every church in the Philippines has a 24 hour adoration chapel attached to it. Holy Mass is celebrated in public places, even in shopping malls.

The love and confidence Filipinos have for Mama Mary has been amply returned.

In 1646, a fleet of 18 Dutch Warships was sent to invade the Philippines. Under the protection of Our Blessed Mother, two Spanish galleons defended Manila. A series of five battles were fought and won by The outnumbered Filipino and Spanish forces against the Dutch. These five victorious battles were proclaimed miraculous and are still celebrated yearly as the *La Naval de Manila*.

In 1986, at the culmination of the Marian Year proclaimed by Cardinal Sin of Manila, more than one million people participated. The whole world watched as the 20-year dictatorship of Marcos peacefully ended through the people power barricades where the people were armed with only rosaries, statues, crucifixes and flowers. Thus, "People Power" was born and the movement spread worldwide freeing millions who were under the yoke of communism and tyrants.

In my own life, Mama Mary has saved me countless times from my own disastrous decisions which I was determined to carry out. A few years ago, after being saved from another of my foolish adventures, I said to myself, "At least, now I know that when I get myself into a fix, I run instinctively to Our Blessed Mother". The thought was quickly replaced by "No, she ran to you".

On this Mother's Day, let us not forget to greet the Mother of God and our mother, Mama Mary.



Mother's Day, May 12th



Father's Day, June 16th

Happy
Mother's Day



Mother of God
Mother of Christ
Mother most pure
Mother most chaste
And Our Mother.

MAGNIFICAT
A concert in Honor of Our Blessed Virgin Mary
 Bernadette Arnold, Music Director *** Our Lady of Peace Choirs
 with Guest Vocalists and Musicians

For the benefit of the St. Juan Diego Women's Center
 Help save a baby while enjoying an evening of culture and music

7:30 PM, Friday, June 14, 2013 at Our Lady of Peace Church
 2800 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054



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

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***THE ST. JUAN DIEGO 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 a baby.
No amount, accompanied with love and prayers, is too small.*

All donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to the Juan Diego Society.
Donate on line. Visit Website: <http://www.jdwcenter.org>