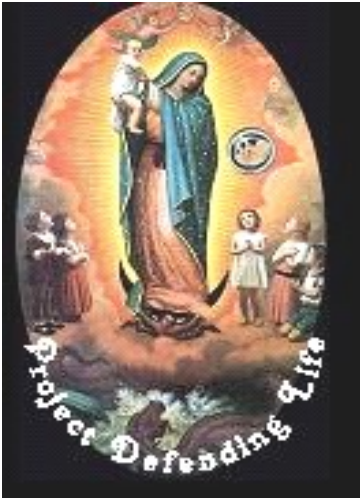


Project Defending Life

Catholic Pro-Life Ministry

His work – Our hands



Volume 3, Issue 11

Voice For Life

Nov-Dec 2008



A Blessed and Merry Christmas to our PDL Family



Looking Back on 2008

Project Defending Life's Board and staff members are grateful for the many blessings bestowed by the Almighty on our work in service to the many mothers in crisis who've needed help at PDL and their babies threatened by abortion. We thank our benefactors and volunteers for giving so much of themselves to advance this ministry this year.

2008 represented the third year of ministry from the time **Fr. Stephen Imbarrato** founded Project Defending Life in January of 2006. We especially thank Fr. Stephen for his sacrifices and dedication to all those who have touched our lives at Project Defending Life. As we close the year, we reflect on the many things we've done together to further the cause of life. Let us review the highlights of the year we leave behind this month.

Last January the first Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity event sponsored by PDL and the New Mexico bishops was attended by over 1,500 at the Masses at the Cathedral, the pro-life conference, procession and rally at the capitol.



In February, PDL sponsored the Albuquerque 40 Days for Life campaign that introduced many newcomers to sidewalk prayer and our work at PDL. In April the 40 Days prayer campaign culminated in the Good Friday Jericho Walk prayer vigil around the Planned Parenthood site attended by 400. **Fr. Conrad Osterhout** and the CFRs led the devotions. **Fr. Millan Garcia** heard confessions at the vigil.

There were twelve God's Precious Infants monthly Saturday vigils in 2008 with Masses, prayer vigils at the Curtis Boyd abortion mill. Thanks to **Yolanda Castro** and **Maura Jans** for their dedication to this ministry and all the priests who celebrated the Helpers Masses. In July we moved to a new building next to Planned Parenthood with the Holy Innocents chapel fifty feet away from the abortion chamber. Many hands made light work but we thank especially **Juan Lovato** for doing much of the handyman work.

Over 150 Holy Masses were celebrated throughout the year at the Holy Innocents chapel. Countless moms and babies were saved from the horror of abortion by the presence of our loving counselors (of course the indefatigable **Phillip Leahy** almost always present at the abortion mills.)

Inside this issue:

Looking Back on 2008	1
Updates from Gabriel Project	2
Remember the Aborted	2
I Will Give You Words	2
Looking to 2009	3
Calendar of Events	4

We Need You Help!

Donate to Project Defending Life
Credit Card or Paypal
online @ www.defendinglife.org
or by phone 505-266-4100
or mail your check to:
**625 San Mateo Blvd. NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87108**



Laura Bowman who heads the Gabriel Project ministry has overseen the assistance and support given to over 100 mothers with emergency financial support exceeding \$15,000 in 2008. The Ultrasound Ministry, Books for Life, and Holy Innocents Religious Gift Shop were added in 2008. Through the generous assistance of key benefactors, PDL acquired a new mobile ultrasound machine in August and volunteers started training immediately. Professional sonographer, **Steve Hedval**, donated countless hours of his services to help train and conduct ultrasounds for pregnant mothers at PDL. In September, the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign got underway and many parish groups participated to cover prayer time and witness on the sidewalks, seven days a week. The campaign ended on November 2nd with a pro-life prayer rally especially for the national elections (Nov. 4th) in front of PDL. PDL's large "Vote Pro-Life" banner was stolen and graffiti sprayed on the building which was removed by the city the next day. The stolen banner was immediately replaced.

Two youth groups visited PDL to get a taste of pro-life work during the Fall— St. Michael's Indian School in Arizona and St. Helen's Parish, Portales. In October Life Chains, sponsored by PDL, were held in Albuquerque in front of Planned Parenthood and PDL on San Mateo, in Rio Rancho, and Valencia County. New Board members were added in the Fall— **Robert Singer, Dr. Mike Johnsen, Dennis Baca, Eileen Racca and Michael Herrick**.

In December we hosted the joyful Las Posadas Christmas vigil at the Holy Innocents chapel organized by the CFR (Franciscan Friars of the Renewal) Fathers and Brothers leading the singing, litanies, and adoration. We capped the year with the commemoration of the Holy Innocents Feast Day at the Holy Innocents chapel with **Archbishop Michael Sheehan** celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and leading the procession around Planned Parenthood with the Blessed Sacrament on December 27th. Finally we could not have accomplished this work and service in the Lord's vineyard without the inspiration and direction of Fr. Stephen Imbarrato and our dedicated office manager, **Sally Govea**. Thanks be to God!

By Phil Sevilla, Exec. Director



Project Defending Life

Catholic Pro-Life Ministry

- *Holy Innocents Chapel*
- *Helpers of God's Precious Infants*
- *Gabriel Project*
- *Ultrasound Counseling*
- *Intercessors for Life*
- *Public Witness & Education*
- *Parish Liaison*
- *Books for Life*
- *Holy Innocents Religious Gifts Shop*



Teens from St. Helen's Parish, Portales visited PDL in October 2008.



Updates from the Gabriel Project

The Gabriel Project at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Albuquerque announced the birth of identical twin boys, David and Ezekiel, who were born Tuesday, December 9th. Teresa Chavez is the mentoring 'angel' at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish who assisted Blanca, the boys' mother, through the pregnancy.

Natasha gave birth to baby Emmanuel who was born November 24th. He was 12 lbs, 3ozs, and 23 in. long. According to Laura Bowman, ministry coordinator for the Gabriel Project, "We call him our new little man, our biggest baby to date!" The Gabriel Project at Project Defending Life assisted Natasha.

In 2008, PDL, through the Gabriel Project ministry, supported mothers in crisis with over \$15,000 in emergency support services. Currently, parishes in the archdiocese which have implemented Gabriel Projects are San Clemente in Los Lunas, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Albuquerque, St. Anne's in Santa Fe, St. Bernadette's in Albuquerque and at PDL. More Gabriel Project information Sundays are planned in 2009 to introduce other parishes to the Gabriel Project. If you're interested in your parish sponsoring a Gabriel Project Sunday to inform parishioners about this vital ministry, please contact Laura Bowman at PDL, 266-4100.

This Christmas—Remember the Aborted

Light a candle for all the aborted children who never saw the light of day.
Place an ornament on the Christmas tree in memory of all those who died from abortion.
Wrap a box with nothing in it to symbolize the unborn who never will have the joy of Christmas.
Vow to tell at least one person about the millions of aborted children that never got to open one present, never heard a Christmas song, or never learned the story of baby Jesus in the manger.
Pray for all of the women and men who have gone through abortion and are hurting. May they advise others not to go through the same pain that they have endured.
Pray for everyone fighting for the unborn. Pray that because of their efforts, babies will see their first Christmas next year who otherwise will not.
Pray that all those involved with abortion repent of their evil work and leave the field.
Pray for all in 2009 who will be contemplating the "choice" of killing their unborn child.
By Monte Harms
(You can view Monte Harm's articles and videos at www.standforlife.net)



I Will Give You Words to Speak

One sunny morning outside Planned Parenthood at San Mateo, a young lady came for her appointment to have an abortion. Phillip Leahy was at his usual "station" facing the office entrance from the back alley, counseling and praying. He called her over and said, "Don't go in there. If you have a little boy you could call him Michael, and if you have a girl you could name her Rachel."

The woman hesitated and came over to Phillip and said, "You know, I was thinking that if I had a boy I would call him Michael and if I was carrying a girl I would name her Rachel."

Phil continued to converse with her saying, "Every child conceived has an infinite dignity in the eyes of God; after all, God doesn't make junk. Handicapped children are the most precious in the sight of God. It doesn't matter to Him if they are retarded. He loves them all." She responded, "You know, you're right. I have a brother who is handicapped and retarded. All that you said was on my mind and in my heart. I understand now that God wants me to keep this baby inside of me."

The young mother left with her child inside her and a conviction that she would keep and love this gift from God.

Saving mothers and their unborn children from the horrible fate of abortion is central to Project Defending Life's mission. But Father Stephen Imbarrato, our ministry's founder and President, often reminds all of us who participate in this ministry promoting love and life, it's not just about ending the destruction of innocent human lives. It's about the conversion of hearts and minds. It's about "saving souls". Our nation will not turn away from abortion, legal or otherwise, until our brothers and sisters in America come to know the love of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. He offers us all faith and hope. Abortion results, as many faithful followers of Christ in the pro-life movement have witnessed, when those who are abortion-bound and experiencing crisis pregnancies lose hope and feel abandoned and alone. Come join us Project Defending Life in answer to our Lord's call to us ALL. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me." (Mt. 25:45)

By Sally Govea and Phil Sevilla



Looking Forward to 2009

The Project Defending Life Board met in early December to review the year we're leaving behind and the new year before us. While much has been accomplished in 2008, we can do more. The Board discussed goals for 2009. We are publishing them here at the close of the year so our PDL family of volunteers and supporters will continue to participate in our life-saving ministry. We look forward to your active participation and badly needed financial support this month and during 2009. Through your sacrificial giving of yourself and your donations, there is much we can accomplish together next year. Here are the goals for 2009:

Goals for 2009

Expand Gabriel projects – goal is to add 6 additional parishes in 2009; Fr. Imbarrato will present a comprehensive plan to (3) Bishops install Gabriel Project ministries in all parishes; Continue collaboration with Birthright and developing parenting/mentoring programs for Moms; Establish Helpers ministry in Santa Fe; Secure Helpers parish sponsorship for every monthly vigil.; Complete and finalize Ultrasound service process, expand mobile capabilities; WEB Development – automate donation processing, pledge admin, Quickbooks integration, text messaging, resource directory, ultrasound intake forms; Launch Youth Ministry in 2009; Launch Speakers Bureau – Education Ministry; Expand outdoor ministry—sidewalk counseling, prayer presence at abortion mills, special public events; Daily Mass and perpetual adoration – Monday to Saturday. Currently Mass services are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and during special feasts and occasions; Promote Books for Life; Intercessors – Provide special intentions to intercessors on behalf of PDL ministry; Parish Liaisons - Promote parish-based fundraising; Office staffing goal – two volunteers, five days a week (9am - 6pm); Newsletter – reduce snail mail newsletters and conduct cost/benefit analysis of producing and mailing paper copies; Recruit new volunteers committed to the ministry; Attain commitment from parishes to cover office overhead. (current monthly O/H \$4,500; Plan major pro-life conference in 2009; Recruit Fundraising committee; Remodel PDL Pro Life center.

Please Remember Project Defending Life In Your Christmas Giving — An Appeal by Fr. Stephen Imbarrato

We at PDL have had a great year and we thank you for your prayers and support. We have been able to move our facilities even closer to Planned Parenthood, build a new Holy Innocents Chapel placing Our Lord mere feet from the killing center, and we have bought a portable ultrasound. We ministered to dozens of pregnant moms in the last year and sponsored countless events throughout the year including two *40 Days Campaigns* and over 100 Masses at the chapel.

We added 3 ministries (Ultrasound Counseling, Books For Life, and our Holy Innocents Religious Gift Shop) and after the first of the year, we are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day (January 21st - 22nd) in Santa Fe in cooperation with the Catholic Bishops Conference of New Mexico. We will also be remodeling as we expand our facilities into a third unit which we hope to use to expand our education ministries and youth outreach. *Thank you for your continued support and all you do for life, the babies, and our moms in need. To donate to PDL: Please mail your check to PDL, 625 San Mateo Blvd, NE, ABO 87108 or or go online to www.defendinglife.org to donate by PayPal or credit card or Payroll Deduction through United Way of CNM, call 505-247-3671 Our ID is PRDELF*



Missionary Image of Our Lady Of Guadalupe Coming in January

According to Joe Scheidler, founder of the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago and well-respected pro-life leader, in the aftermath of the 2008 national elections in November: "The election results are a call to action. Many pro-life Americans are waking up to the realization that they cannot sit and wait for the politicians and judges to restore legal protection to unborn babies. If we want to save babies from abortion, we've got to save them ourselves. What's always been needed is pro-life evangelism—conversion of our fellow Americans. It's our duty as citizens and as Christians to changes hearts on abortion, one by one. And that's just what we're going to do during the Obama presidency."

We have invited our Blessed Mother, our patroness, Protectress of the unborn and Empress of the Americas, to lead us in the battle to convert hearts and minds. Over 470 years ago in 1531 A.D., Our Lady of Guadalupe came to Mexico to convert 9,000,000 to the faith in nine years. Human sacrifice ceased all over the Americas! PDL is sponsoring the visit of the missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, an exact digital duplicate of the original tilma displayed at the Basilica shrine in Mexico City. The missionary image was commissioned by the Mexican bishops to travel throughout the United States to convert souls and to end abortion. It has been reported that twenty abortion centers have closed during or after the visit of the image and many supernatural prodigies have been associated with this traveling image. She will be here between January 15th and 25th and we will celebrate and enjoy her presence at the Holy Masses, procession, and rally during the Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day in Santa Fe on January 22nd. For more information concerning the visit of the Missionary Image of our Lady of Guadalupe, contact Phil Sevilla, at 353-1773.



**Please help us! Donate to Project Defending Life
Credit Card or PayPal online @ www.defendinglife.org
or Credit Card by phone 505-266-4100
or by check to: PDL - 625 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM**

Upcoming Albuquerque Events

Mass every Monday & Tuesday at 12:10 p.m. at the Holy Innocents Chapel (see website for directions and information)

Traditional Latin Mass every Thursday at 9:30 am at the Holy Innocents Chapel

2nd Saturday of every Month: Helpers of God's Precious Infants Mass and Procession at San Ignacio Church 8:00 am
**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL PROJECT DEFENDING LIFE AND OTHER PRO-LIFE EVENTS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE OR
CALL 505-266-4100**

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, January 10th Saturday, 8:00 Mass, will be the next HELPERS MASS AND PROCESSION at San Ignacio Church, 1300 Walter off Mountain just west of I-25. We will process to the abortion mill of Curtis Boyd located at 522 Lomas, on the West side of I-25, on the south side of Lomas. Social afterwards. For more information, call 266-4100.

Current and Upcoming Events

- ✦ Holy Innocents Mass, Archbishop Michael Sheehan, Celebrant, December 27th, 10:30 A.M. Holy Innocents Chapel, 625 San Mateo
- ✦ Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day, January 22nd, in Santa Fe (youth activities start Jan. 21st) See PDL website for details
- ✦ Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, New Mexico visit, January 15th-25th, At various parishes, abortion locations, and special events.. See PDL website for details.



Project Defending Life
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Albuquerque, NM 87108