



# Helpers of Gods Precious Infants

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Greetings to all Helpers of God's Precious Infants throughout the world,

We know that many of you are concerned about our founder and Executive Director, Msgr. Philip Reilly. Msgr. is still residing in a Catholic facility where he is receiving excellent care. His condition has not changed very much, and he continues to pray daily for all Helpers. He is able to watch the Mass on EWTN and receives Holy Communion daily. His spirits are good, and he has retained his sense of humor. He wishes he could still be out on the streets, praying and sidewalk counselling, but that is impossible for him now. He is visited by his family very often, and Susan had a very good visit with him the day before this newsletter was written. He is very appreciative of the cards and letters he receives and would like to thank all who have written to him. If anyone would like to send him a card or letter, please address it to: Msgr. Philip Reilly, c/o Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Moore, 57-20 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Maspeth, New York 11378. We will be sure he receives any correspondence sent to us.

## *Historical Parallels*

In the First Book of Kings in the Old Testament we read of the great prosperity and accomplishments of Israel under the leadership of King Solomon. God greatly blessed Solomon and Israel because at the beginning of his reign, Solomon asked God for an understanding heart rather than for riches or the lives of his enemies. God was pleased with Solomon's request and granted Solomon a wisdom that no one had ever had before. Along with this wisdom granted to Solomon, He blessed the nation of Israel with great prosperity. Everything was going beautifully for Solomon and Israel for many years, but as Solomon aged and began taking many, many wives, he turned his heart to the gods of his wives and his heart was not entirely with the one true God. We read that Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. He was, no doubt, a very busy man. Although his foreign wives had been required to convert to Judaism, most still retained their traditional religious practices. Solomon often joined in the worship of pagan gods. Solomon adored Astarte, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, the idol of the Ammonites. He built a high place to Chemosh, the idol of Moab, and to Molech, another idol of the Ammonites. Among the ways of offering service to Molech was child sacrifice, which greatly displeased God. God then appeared to Solomon and told him that the kingdom of Israel would be removed from Solomon's son, excepting only the tribe of Judah, which would be retained for the sake of David, Solomon's father. Here we see parallels with the Culture of Death of today. Due to the pattern of sexual excess in Solomon's time and certainly today, children are sacrificed. Although in modern times there are contraceptive devices unknown in Solomon's time, the result is the same. The vast majority of contraceptives are actually abortifacients, preventing the child from implanting in the mother's womb, and thus killing the child. When contraception fails, as it often does, the must be recourse to induced abortion. Child sacrifice was not limited to ancient Israel. In ancient Rome, unwanted children were often abandoned. In many other cultures and civilizations child sacrifice was routine. Is the Culture of Death we are living through today considered progress? Unfortunately, in many circles the wholesale slaughter of innocent children is the very sine qua non of progress. The ability to rid oneself of an unborn child must never be taken away. Any attempt to legislate against abortion is evidence of misogyny. There is somewhere in the neighborhood of 55 million children destroyed by abortion throughout the world every year. Most of these abortions take place in the wealthiest countries in the world. Are we to measure progress by the destruction of unborn children? The Helpers are committed to eradicating the crime of abortion from our cities and nations. As we all know this has been an uphill fight from the beginning, and Msgr. Reilly has given us the tools and inspiration to carry on in this the most important battle in this or any other lifetime. Thank you all for doing all that you do to protect life and to promote a Culture of Life. Thomas Jefferson once wrote: "Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect

that God is just and that His justice cannot sleep forever.” We also tremble at the thought of God’s justice and greatly fear it over the deliberate killing of His precious infants.

## **Euphemisms or Lies?**

In reading or listening to “pro-choice” authors, we often find them using terms for unborn children such as “clump of cells”, “reproductive health care”, or even “forced pregnancy” for those jurisdictions in which unborn life is protected. The term most commonly used for an unborn baby, even by pro-life commentators is fetus. The word fetus is a Latin word meaning offspring. The pro-choice movement adopted this term in the late 1960s and early 1970s to hide what the movement was advocating, namely the killing of unborn children. Abortion activists knew that going around the country talking about killing babies would never achieve the result they desired, full legal protection for abortion up until the time of birth. Indeed, in the Supreme Court’s two landmark decisions on abortion, Roe vs. Wade, and its companion case Doe vs. Bolton, the term fetus is used exclusively throughout. Dr. Bernard Nathanson, one of the founders of the National Abortion Rights Action League, (now known as Reproductive Freedom for All) before becoming a vocal proponent for life, wrote in the books he authored about the deception used in convincing politicians and others to support abortion “rights”. He routinely portrayed unborn children as parasites and greatly exaggerated the number of maternal deaths due to illegal abortions. As a doctor he knew that his advocacy for abortion was deceitful and unscientific, but he did it anyway believing in the “greater good” of women’s rights. He discovered later, much to his chagrin, that life indeed begins at conception, and left to its own devices, the vast majority of embryos will develop and be born as babies. Even the siren song of women’s rights was a convenient rallying point for many men so that they could avoid the responsibility for the children they had begotten. A recent study found that up to 40% of women felt they had been coerced into aborting their children, often by their partner. It is very sad indeed that as Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: “It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish”. This is something Msgr. Reilly recognized even in the early 1960s, that what was being proposed was the killing of babies. He once told us of delivering a homily in the early 1960s warning about the advancing cause of legalizing abortion. After Mass was completed, some parishioners came up to him and said, “No Father, this is America, nothing like that could ever happen here.” In the 1970s he regularly delivered homilies denouncing abortion and advocating the legislative protection of unborn life. The parishioners of the 1970s said the same thing to him as they did in the 1960s, “No Father, this is America, nothing like protecting unborn life could ever happen here.”

## ***Positive Developments***

As we have been writing about in the last few newsletters, Fr. Peter Hesse of Ghana has greatly expanded his mission. With the help of the Helpers here in America, Fr. Hesse has opened a trade school for some of the women he has helped turn away from abortion. Fr. Hesse has purchased 18 sewing machines for these women to learn on and to become self-sufficient. He has also set up a school to teach young women how to become hair stylists. These women are very grateful to Fr. Hesse for giving them help in keeping their babies and giving them a new start in life. Fr. Hesse has told these women of the help he received from Msgr. Reilly and one of the mothers even named her son Philip after Msgr. In our last newsletter, we wrote of the death of Christopher Slattery, a pro-life dynamo here in New York City. Mr. Slattery operated three pro-life pregnancy centers here in New York, one in the Bronx, one in Brooklyn, and one in Queens. Due to financial struggles, the center in Brooklyn was in disrepair, and the one in Queens had closed. Before his death Christopher arranged for Compass Care, a ministry run by the Rev. Jim Harden to take over his operation. Compass Care had crisis pregnancy offices in Rochester, Buffalo, and Albany, New York prior to this merger. Rev. Harden, a Protestant minister, has infused new life into the life centers here in New York. He completely renovated the Brooklyn office and has already saved a child there. He plans on reopening the Queens center soon. We congratulate and welcome Compass Care and wish it much success. As Msgr. never tired of reminding us, there has to be some place for these young

women to go if they decide for life. Don Magnotta, a sidewalk counselor in Queens, recently had been given the number of a young woman who had made an appointment for an abortion but was denied due to being too far along in her pregnancy. After Don had met with her, he realized that he had seen this young woman and her mother as they came to the abortion facility where Don counsels. The young woman, although in a methadone program, did wish to keep and love her child. She needed help with housing, and ongoing support while she is completing her transition from drug abuse. Don was able to find both for her with a placing with the Missionaries of Charity convent in Brooklyn. The Sisters welcomed her, and gave the daily love and discipline she needs. Her child, a son, was born shortly after she arrived at the Sister's convent. She is well on her way to becoming independent of drugs and Don is now looking for more permanent housing for her and her child. He is also looking at employment opportunities for her after she has had time bonding with her child. On February 16, 2024, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that three sets of parents had the right to sue a hospital in Alabama which had accidentally destroyed their frozen embryos. These parents had used In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) techniques to conceive these children. When IVF is used many eggs are fertilized artificially, hoping that one egg will "take" and be accepted by the birth mother's system. The many other embryos that are not implanted are frozen, with some used for illegitimate research or willing destroyed. The Alabama court recognized these embryos as persons, and not property has been assumed all along since IVF was introduced many years ago. The Catholic church has always condemned IVF as immoral for creating life artificially and the numerous ethical problems associated with it as mentioned above. The court's ruling, for now, has paused all IVF procedures in Alabama, but the legislature there has begun to act proposing a bill to declare these frozen embryos as the property of the parents and not as persons which is what they are. Life is indeed life no matter how it has been conceived.

### ***Schedule of Vigil Masses from April 2024 to December 2024***

April 27, 2024 8:00 AM Mass	Our Lady of Sorrows 104-11 37 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Queens	Women's Health Care 8922 Roosevelt Ave, Queens
May 25, 2024 8:00 AM Mass	Our Lady of Sorrows 104-11 37 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Queens	Women's Health Care 8922 Roosevelt Ave, Queens
June 29, 2024 7:30 AM Mass	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 88-19 Parsons Boulevard, Queens	Choices 147-32 Jamaica Avenue
July 2024	No Vigil	
August 31, 2024 8:00 AM Mass	Our Lady of Sorrows 104-11 37 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Queens	Women's Health Care 8922 Roosevelt Ave, Queens
September 21, 2024 7:30 AM Mass	St. Joan of Arc Jackson Heights, Queens	Women's Care
October 26, 2024 7:30 AM Mass	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 88-19 Parsons Boulevard, Queens	Choices 147-32 Jamaica Avenue
November 16, 2024 7:30 AM Mass	St. Mary's LIC, 10-08 49 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Queens	Planned Parenthood 21-41 45 <sup>th</sup> Road, Queens
December 28, 2024 8:00 AM Mass	Our Lady of Sorrows 104-11 37 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Queens	Women's Health Care 8922 Roosevelt Ave, Queens

## *News and Notes*

The New York area Helpers were saddened by the deaths of three of our long-term prayers over the last two months. In early January Denis O'Shea died from complications from a fall. Denis had been a prayer warrior at All Women's Medical Pavilion when it was located on Austin Street in Queens for over 20 years. Denis had many physical difficulties in his life but was consistently at his post on Austin Street nearly every Saturday morning. He was completely focused on prayer, often reminding those with him to get back to the Helpers Prayer Book rather than chitchatting. He was a gentle soul who will be greatly missed. Only a couple of weeks later, we were informed that Gerry Hillenbrand had passed away. Gerry was a presence at the large prayer vigils conducted in Queens, and a member to the Joint Parish Respect Life Committee. He and his son Richard could be seen praying at All Women's as well. We attended Gerry's wake and saw several Helpers there. At the end of January, word came that Florence Maloney died. Florence was with Msgr. Reilly from the beginning of the Helpers. She, along with Msgr. developed the program for Rachel's Helpers, a post abortion ministry that continues to this day. Florence was also instrumental in the founding of the Joint Parish Respect Life Committee, which for many years hosted talks by many pro-life speakers, including, of course, Msgr. Reilly. Florence was also very active with the new York State Right to Life Committee and organized busses from Queens to lobby state legislators in Albany on pro-life issues. Florence was entered into the Brooklyn Diocese Pro-Life Hall of Fame some years ago. Florence had been residing in a nursing home for several years before she passed. We last saw her in 2018 at a dinner dance for the Life Center of New York which honored Msgr. She gave much support to the Life Center of New York, and to Bridge to Life, another crisis pregnancy center. As if these losses were not enough, a week after Florence Maloney's funeral, we learned that Sr. Eileen Bruton, APB died. Sr. Eileen was a Sister Adorer of the Precious Blood, a contemplative order for which Msgr. Reilly had been chaplain for many years. Sr. Eileen was the last of the Sister Adorers at the Monastery of the Precious Blood in Brooklyn. She prayed consistently for the success of Msgr.'s endeavors and made sure that the Sister Adorers supported him financially as well. We attended her funeral, and the priest presiding told us that Sr. Eileen was "crazy in love with God". Indeed she was, often writing religious poetry. She will be missed particularly by the Helpers and the entire Diocese of Brooklyn. At our last large prayer vigil we saw Richard Harris, a long time prayer warrior from Brooklyn who asked us to mention that he prays at Kings County Hospital every Wednesday morning and invite anyone in the area to come and join him. He also prays at 44 Court Street in Brooklyn on Saturdays. We ask that you continue to pray for Margaret Driscoll, a long time sidewalk counselor of the Helpers who is still battling cancer. She reports that some of her tumors have shrunk, and her doctors are pleased with her progress, but she is still in need of prayer. Thank you. In closing Msgr. Reilly and we would like to wish you many blessings this Easter season. Please be assured of Msgr.'s prayers for all Helpers.

Susan and Kevin Moore