
Good Counsel News

Christmas 2009

A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

Please join our Christmas Novena, anytime over the Christmas Season, praying for our work and your own intentions.

Hail and Blessed be the hour and the moment in which the Son of God was born of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, at Midnight in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear our prayer and grant our petitions, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.



SOME OF THE BABIES BORN IN 2009 TO WOMEN ASSISTED BY THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK.

Malcolm 02/01/09
Sekoll 06/01/09
Bethany 22/01/09
Isiah 23/01/09
Bebo 31/01/09
Elizabeth 30/02/09
Naomi 20/03/09
Callina 11/04/09
Mario 21/04/09
Katharina 21/04/09
Julio 30/04/09
Caris 02/05/09
Lambert 14/05/09
Claudio 16/05/09
Elaine and Simon 01/06/09
(Twins)

Sarah 14/06/09
Rafael 21/06/09
Dan 29/06/09
Khristoff 30/06/09
Rebecca 02/07/09
Imando 11/07/09
Noreen 25/07/09
Kelly 28/07/09
Leyton 30/07/09
Patienta 03/08/09
Heidi 21/08/09
Zea 21/08/09
Samuel 26/08/09
Yasna 03/09/09
Sarunia 07/09/09
Diana 08/09/09

Leon 10/09/09
Amy 21/09/09
Samuel 29/09/09
Maria 02/10/09
Angela 06/10/09
Godfrey 13/10/09
Fatima 14/10/09
Yan 15/10/09
Daniel 26/10/09
Jude 28/10/09
Jack 30/10/09
Sohan 22/11/09
Saranka 12/11/09
Joanna 18/11/09
Brigida 22/11/09

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO? NEED HELP? WANT TO DONATE? CALL US ON 020 7723 1740

Tales from the Trenches

FOUR HOURS OF SOWING THE SEED BEARS FRUIT!

'It's only alive because the thing is living off me!' exclaimed Margaret with a disgusted look. When asked if 'the thing' was human, she responded off-hand that 'That's a philosophical, scientific question and I am not qualified to say whether it is human. At this stage? Eleven weeks? No, it's not human.' She resisted learning the baby's characteristics; that all his body systems were working, that he had fingernails and that he swallowed and sucked his thumb. 'The pregnancy is dependent on me to stay alive. If I don't want it – it is unwanted – then it's my responsibility not to bring an unwanted baby into this world.'

Oh boy, was I nervous talking to Margaret. Every time I tried to initiate discussion on the baby, she would rebut my question with a sophisticated sentence. She was a manager in a firm, and used to giving orders to twenty-somethings like me.

It kept coming back to the issue of the baby being 'unwanted'. I couldn't help but feel an enormous ache in my heart for the baby, whose death was being organised because his mother didn't 'want' him. Margaret spoke for an hour about the relationship with the baby's father. He had forced two previous girlfriends to have abortions. He was adamant that Margaret should have the abortion. That Margaret was being 'irresponsible' and 'selfish' by keeping the baby. The second that she told him that she was pregnant; he had literally run from her life and would have no contact with her until she had had 'a termination'. I asked her if the wound left by the father's actions would magically go away if she had the abortion? 'I'd have less problems after the abortion'.

Ironically, while it was Margaret who would not look at baby pictures, she had been sending him You-Tube videos of babies in the womb in order to elicit a response of caring towards his child. I invited her to describe the You-Tube videos. Finally, the baby was the main focus! Margaret named the baby, and she did concede that she was fortunate to conceive given that she was in her forties.

Four hours later and still talking, Margaret was a lot more at ease with being pregnant, but said 'I am still considering abortion'. I told her about the practical help and moral support we could give. 'That's very kind' she said. She left, we kept in contact, and slowly over the coming weeks Margaret went from saying 'I haven't made up my mind to keep it' to 'Yes, I'm 22 weeks and must find a midwife. Know of anyone?'

Mary O'Regan

HARDENED HEART STIRRED BY A GLIMPSE OF THE TRUTH

Vicky came to us in the autumn when she was 11 weeks pregnant. She was a "very strong" Catholic but did not go to Mass most Sundays because she was working. Her boyfriend, it transpired, was in fact married with two children. Vicky said

that when he found out that she was pregnant, he told her to get an abortion. He would leave his wife in a year's time, they could then settle down together and have children. Fortunately, Vicky could see that none of this was true and that he was just desperate to avoid the difficult situation becoming more complicated with the arrival of her baby. Midway through the advice session, it was clear that Vicky felt that abortion was totally immoral but as she was not in what she would call ideal circumstances she could see no alternative. We offered her the help and support that she would need to continue the pregnancy and she finally said that if he would agree to her continuing the pregnancy that she would do so. At this point I invited John to come in and join us. Whilst he was



Peter, whose Mum Jen we helped some years ago, is now loved and wanted.

not happy with the idea of abortion, he was adamant that it was the only solution. After a lengthy discussion, I decided to show him a film of an actual abortion*. Vicky was quite determined that he would see this as she was 39 years old and therefore not really sure, in her words, if she would have another opportunity to have a child. John did watch the video and the next time we spoke to Vicky, she informed us that she was keeping the baby and it was this video which had won the day, as he said it gave him nightmares. Vicky asks your prayers to end the relationship. **Stuart McCullough**

*Editor's note: Every pregnancy advisor in our Centre uses their experience and discretion to decide when it is or is not appropriate to use graphic abortion videos. It has been noted that men in particular are frequently touched by these videos in a way that no other information about abortion can affect them.

THE WAY TO END ABORTION

PART TWELVE: CONVERSION OF YOUR NATION

Everyone knows an atheist who has really pro-life views. Sometimes they will put Christians to shame by their good living and general kindness. But can we then decide that belief in Christ is not necessary to be a good person and particularly to be a pro-life person? At a time when the struggle to defend life at the beginning, the end and in all the most vulnerable stages, this is a really important question.

Experienced volunteers in our centre agree that faith is the key factor in whether or not a person will respect their child's life. Years of advising pregnant women in the most awful situations have shown us that having a faith in God, particularly a Christian faith, is a huge advantage. Why is that so? Well think about it, if you respect life because it is life and you do not want to see a living thing hurt that is a great principle to hold to. But life does involve much pain and suffering, so there will be times when objectively one could say "this person would be better off dead".

Many of our clients say "If I have this baby that nobody wants he or she will have a terrible life and will suffer." If there is no other motivation for respecting her baby's life, many people with no religious belief will say "Well, if the life of the child can be ended painlessly, maybe it is for the best." We could argue that an abortion will cause the baby extreme pain, but of course many pro-abortionists would deny this.

Now let's imagine that a woman considering abortion is a believer. Firstly she has to accept that God created her baby. Now she is not just concerned with ending a life, but is refusing to accept a child that God, knowing her situation has created and placed under her care. Furthermore, she knows that this life has an immortal soul and is created in God's image, with a purpose; to know, love and serve God in this life and to be happy with Him



'When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England!' – Pope Leo XIII. Pray the prayer for the Conversion of England and work for it' too.

forever in the next. Even if the Mother can look at her child's future and see sorrow, most women of faith will admit that God knows better than them what is around the corner. They also cannot claim to see into eternity and pretend to know that their child would have been better off not being born. It is a fact that even the most abortion-minded clients who have faith will admit that for all their fears and worries "A child is always a blessing from God".

The atheist can respect life indeed, but the Christian can revere it as something received from God. They know too that God gives each person exactly the amount of time on earth they need to work out their Salvation. There is no "greater good" to be achieved by ending someone's earthly life before God decides to end it.

As a Catholic, I have to add that Catholic girls have a particular asset here in the strength of the Church's teaching on life. The solid stance on why contraception is always wrong provides the strongest witness to the Sanctity of Life, as does the Church's courage in proclaiming the indissolubility of Marriage at a time when many find the idea ridiculous.

It is precisely *not* that Catholics or Christians generally are better people than atheists that causes them to be more open to the truth about life. (To our shame, although the Gospel calls us to a higher standard, many of us would have to admit that we know people of the highest calibre and of the greatest virtue who are not Christian.) No, it is the incredible depth of meaning, which the Knowledge of the True God gives to life, that causes us to tremble in awe at the thought of erasing it, despite the sinfulness and poverty of our own pathetic weakness.

So if you want to defend life, pray and work for the conversion of your nation. This is the calling of all baptised persons and the only route to spreading the Gospel of Life and ending the practises of abortion and euthanasia.

By Clare McCullough

Carol Singing for Good Counsel December 2009

Enjoy singing? Want to help us raise funds? Want to remind Londoners that "Jesus is the reason for the season"? Join us in Carol Singing in Central London Tube Stations leading up to Christmas week. Join us between **5pm and 8pm** on the following dates: **Monday 14th December,** **Friday 18th December,** **Monday 21st December,** **Tuesday 22nd December and** **Wednesday 23rd December.**

Call Conor for locations and details. A prepared carol sheet with a selection of well-known carols and advent hymns (with the words, not the music) will be available. If you play an instrument and want to come along please speak to Conor on 020 7723 1740.



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Wednesday Vigil at Central London Abortuary

Every **Wednesday** from **11am** there is a peaceful, prayerful vigil outside **Bedford Square** abortuary in Central London for approximately 2 hours. Sr Chinedum of the Holy Family Sisters of the Needy runs this vigil, and sadly she is sometimes there alone. Sister really needs some peaceful pray-ers to accompany her each week to pray while she reaches out to women who are entering the abortuary. Many, many babies have already been saved via this vigil. To join please call to confirm that the vigil is on that day. For information about other weekday prayer vigils in Central London call us: 020 7723 1740

Mass and Adoration at Good Counsel Chapel

In Central London. We are **urgently** in need of lay people to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. If you are available to come for Adoration on any weekday during office hours please call Gabrielle. Mass and Adoration times vary so do call first. **First Saturday Masses** are said in the centre wherever possible, and **All Night Adoration Vigils** happen occasionally in our Chapel. If you would like to attend, call Gabrielle to register: 020 7723 1740

Monthly Mass for the Good Counsel Network at Corpus Christi Church, Maiden Lane, London

Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Old Rite) at **Corpus Christi Church** on the **2nd Friday of the month** at **6.30pm**. Please attend this Mass to support our work, which is kindly arranged by the Latin Mass Society. *Please attend if you can.*

Days of Prayer and Fasting 7th December 2009, vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception **and 12th January 2010**, eve of the twelfth anniversary of the founding of The Good Counsel Network in the UK. We fast on bread and water or **whatever you can fast from** and pray a Rosary or any extra prayers, in reparation for sins against the sanctity of human life, and to intercede for assistance in overturning pro-death laws and defeating proposals for further attacks on human life. We hold a **Day of Prayer and Fasting each month**. Send us a mobile number or an email address where we can SMS or email you details of each day as they come up. Or call us.

CDs of Pro-life Talks from the Family Life International Conference Held in London in May 2009 now available from FLI on tel: **0208 857 9950** or email: conference@flionline.org. Speakers included Bishop Patrick O'Donohue

Contact Us: The Good Counsel Network 020 7723 1740

**THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK,
PO Box 46679, LONDON NW9 8ZT**

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK

Please tick the box(es) that apply to you.

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 £100 £350 £1000 Other amount) £_____

at this time when you are urgently in need of funds.

(Cheques should be made payable to The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel).

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Address: _____
_____ Postcode _____

Many thanks. Please return to The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel, P.O. Box 46679,
LONDON, NW9 8ZT Telephone: 020 7723 1740

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