

Behold Your Mother

Newsletter of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

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Moderator: Fr. George T. Montague, S.M., Assistant Moderator: Fr. Robert Hogan, BBD

Rev. Joseph Mary Marshall, S.M. (Pastor). Rev Will Combs, BBD, Parochial Vicar

1701 Alamosas, San Antonio, TX 78201

(210) 734-6727 www.BrothersOfTheBelovedDisciple.org

E-mail: gmontague@stmarytx.edu

Episcopal Advisor: Most Rev. Thomas J. Flanagan, D.D.

*To all our Friends Relatives and Benefactors
We wish you a Very Blessed Christmas
Filled with God's Love and Peace
Thank You for your Love Prayers
And Generous Support*

PEOPLE YOU WANT TO KNOW.
NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW.

SERVING THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF SAN ANTONIO SINCE 1892

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1 DOLLAR

TODAY'S CATHOLIC



Pro-life volunteers pray 24/7 at clinic

SAN ANTONIO • "This is a dream come true for me," said Father Will Combs, BBD, as he addressed, at left, the kickoff rally for the 40 Days for Life campaign Sept. 26, standing across from the Planned Parenthood abortuary clinic on Babcock Road. "I've been living and praying in this area for the past 10 years that this clinic will close. With this campaign for the first time in our city, we will have people from all faiths coming together to pray and fast for 40 days for an end to abortion," the parochial vicar from St. Mary Magdalen Church added. "The number 40 is a sacred number as God used it over and over again in the history of our salvation.

San Antonio joins with 89 other cities in the country starting today, until Nov. 4, to pray and stand in the gap, and that word 'gap' can also remind us that God answers prayer," he continued.

San Antonio coordinator Amy Voorhees, at right, announced several parishes in the archdiocese have 'adopted' a day or more and will provide volunteers to pray peacefully at the clinic. She outlined the campaign's policy that this will be a prayerful, peaceful vigil. More volunteers are still needed to ensure that prayers will be offered around the clock at the clinic through Nov. 4. Parishes and volunteers are encouraged to sign up for a prayer shift on line at www.40daysforlife.com/sanantonio. Check the Web site also for a rally to be held during the mid-point of the prayer campaign on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

During "40 Days for Life" our Community and Parish participated in 24/7 prayer vigil at an Abortion Clinic. Read More →

“I have come that they may have Life” (John 10:10)

The Meaning of Christmas: A Newborn Baby Tells it All

Amid the tinsels and the toys, the lights and the laughter, the food and the fellowship, we cannot forget the WHY. God chose to reveal himself in the face of a child. If God did it that way, he must have had a reason, a reason as valid today as two millennia ago. Human life is sacred. God said so in Genesis when the first blood was spilled, that of Abel at the hand of his brother Cain. “Your brother’s blood cries to me from the soil” (Gen 4:10), Today, in a world where terrorists think life is so cheap, there is a war going on here at home as well, for there are those who think human life is expendable and make millions destroying it. The victims? Not merely the millions of babies deprived of life by the unfeeling instruments of abortionists, but the women, many of whom are kept in the dark about the nature of abortion and its life-long effects on the mother.

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is a reminder. If God decided to become one of us, human life is sacred.

A few years ago a handful of students at A. & M. University decided to do something about it. They started a 40-day program of prayer and fasting for the end of abortion and the close of a local abortion clinic. The word spread, and on last September 26 in 89 cities of the United States began a campaign of prayer and fasting and witnessing outside abortion clinics for 40 consecutive days, some 20 of those groups committing themselves to 24-hour vigils for the forty days. San Antonio was one of them, and the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple and St. Mary Magdalen Parish were among the major participants. Father Will Combs, BBD, was the principal speaker at the kick-off rally near the targeted clinic a few blocks from the church (pictured on the front page of Today’s Catholic). Yes, there were prayer warrior volunteers there through the night as well for 40 nights.

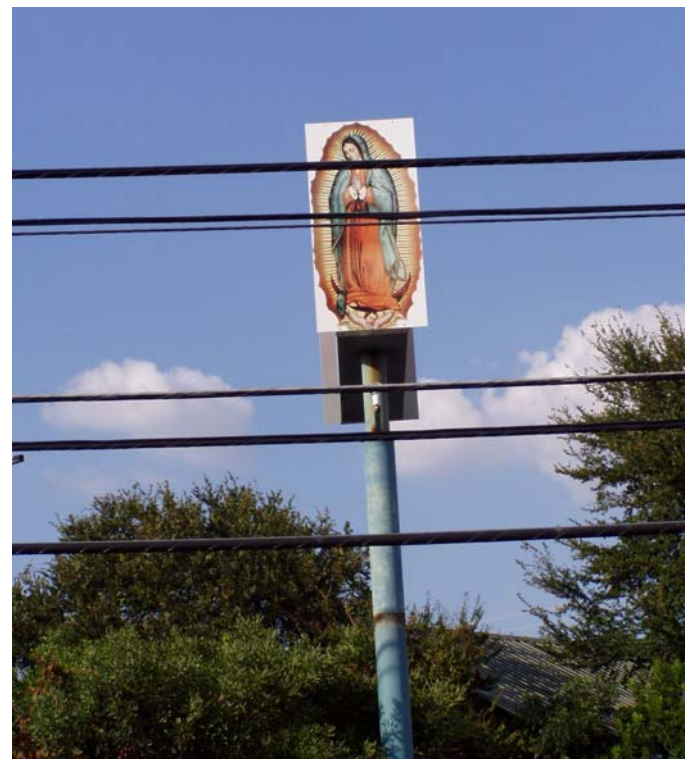
During that period e-mails sped from one city to another telling of amazing events and the saving of babies at the last minute.

After the forty days were over, St. Mary Magdalen Parish hosted a pot-luck dinner for all those who volunteered. Amy Lynn Vorhees, who is pictured with Father Will on the front page, was the local organizer. She was one of the founding members of the 40 Days for Life at A. & M., and she and her husband and five boys have just moved to San Antonio, where they hope to continue their efforts. The whole family was often at the clinic, as were other families with children. Children seem to have a special impact on those tempted to abort their babies, since children give a special witness to what

life could be if allowed to live. So it was with the Babe of Bethlehem.



St. Mary’s University students participated regularly in the 40 Days for Life, several of them regularly at five o’clock in the morning. Who says college students like to sleep in? Not when life is at stake!



Facing the clinic from across the street Our Lady of Guadalupe, pregnant and expecting the birth of Jesus, bears her own 24/7 witness to Life.

Retreats Give Life to Parish



It seems that almost every weekend there is some unusual activity going on in the parish. Retreats like the one Father Will is conducting for the Guadalupanas above are commonplace. Beside the yearly ACTS retreats for men and for women, there are day retreats put on by the *Hombres en Cristo (Men in Christ)* and the *Mujeres en Cristo (Women in Christ)*. These spiritual “booster shots” have proved to be a key to the vitalization of the parish.

Use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation has grown. Our Spanish and English prayer groups come together periodically for a bilingual praise and worship followed occasionally, as at Thanksgiving, with a pot-luck meal together. (Below)



Every Thursday night the “Community of My Beloved” gathers for praise, worship, witnessing and teaching. Here they are joined by the Spanish-speaking prayer group.

Young Adult Visitors



St. Mary’s University Students Craig Kinneberg, Philip Couture and Sean Stilson visited us for dinner, some sharing, and the pot-luck meal at the parish celebrating the conclusion of the 40-days for Life, in which they participated, often at 5:00 a.m. Please pray for vocations.



Fr. Bob makes his Canonical Year (Novitiate) commitment to the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple.

Visit our Website:

www.BrothersOfTheBelovedDisciple.org