



STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

September 24 - November 2, 2008

Our daily Journal from the Front Lines....

The following pages are daily writings from our Fall 2008 40 Days for Life campaign in Sterling Heights outside of the WomanCare Clinic on 15 Mile and Dodge Park Roads. The last page of this document begins our story . . . September 24, 2008 (with a little note from September 8) and works its way up to our End Celebration on November 6, 2008.

A lot of emotion and passion for the unborn and their moms has been shared in these pages. May you be blessed and find encouragement to fight the FIGHT FOR LIFE!

REFLECTIONS ...

Recap of our End Gathering on 11/6:

From Maribeth: Wonderful! Awesome! Joyful! Overwhelming! Splendid! Refreshing! Inspirational! Words can hardly describe the gathering last night (11/6) at the Dodge Park Coney Island. What a true blessing to be surrounded by so many faithful prayer warriors and share their heart stories and encouraging words. Defeat was not even a “feeling” last night – no, we are now more determined than ever to protect the most precious gift ever given to us on earth...LIFE – created in the image of our merciful God, Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Paul, the owner of the Coney Island, was most gracious to us and allowed us to “take over” most of his business. After a few minutes of switching and rearranging tables, our energetic group was seated together, ready to “break bread with on another” and share a most delicious meal. We gave thanks to God for His blessings and for the nourishment for our bodies; enabling us to fight the good fight. After the meal, we began to tell of our experiences during these 40 Days. Many talked about how being at the clinic has changed their lives...bring them a new focus and into a deeper prayer life. Many friendships were made – and since they have been rooted in Christ, they will always remain. Hearts were bursting with joy over the story of our “save” on the last open clinic day of the campaign. Some of the testimonies: Carol talked about how she had this constant pull in her heart to be out there as much as she could (many agreed—there was a certain ‘drawing’ of ones soul to this place of witness); Jill H shared her story about the blessing of her daughter—and the wonderful ways God is using Allison, and how she will be starting a pro-life group at her church; Deanna was most appreciative of sharing prayer time with other prayer warriors and has many grand ideas for the next campaign; Barney was awed by the vigil gatherings; George was thankful to be a part of this campaign; Tom shared his “start it off right” story; and many, many others expressed similar thoughts and heartfelt feelings.

We ended the evening with a little picture video I put together of our times outside the clinic – still hard to believe that 40 days has come and gone!

By the way...the official count of babies saved for this campaign is 543!! That brings the total of little lives saved over the past four years to 1,000+ These past 40 Days were the best ever in protecting the gift of life. Thank you God for being with us, encouraging us, and protecting us -- without YOU we would have not accomplished a thing!!

And to continue the thanking.... A big thank you to Nick, the President of my RTL group – he picked up the tab for all of us!! Thank you to Margaret and all the fellow prayer warriors for the beautiful roses! Thank you to Margaret and Tom for the use of the Van! Thank you to Gayle M and her family for letting us use the front of their house! And, because a couple of police officers were dining at the restaurant, we were able to thank the Sterling Heights Police Department personally for their friendly, professional ways when they stopped by the clinic or were “called” to come out. Another big thank you to the wait staff at Dodge Park Coney Island – they were AWESOME!

Finally, again, I thank all of you for signing up and joining the 40 Days for Life campaign and spreading the word. I am in awe of how many people signed up and came out to pray (and also faithfully prayed from home). Like I have said before, when I signed up the Sterling Heights location, I felt like I was on a runaway train – with no direction – feeling nervous and doubting my decision. God showed me what a little bit of faith and a lot of prayer can do – I learned a HUGE lesson and I pray that it will always be in the forefront of my mind!! So, with that said ... as we look at our plight for the pro-life movement since the election – we have the faith and a lot of prayer so we WILL BE OVERCOMERS!!!

Looking forward to our next “official” adventure in February – and for all the in-between gatherings to keep our fire burning!!

And, just a reminder, I will be sending out a survey to everyone shortly (using SurveyMonkey--so if you see that in your in-box, it's from me) please respond and be brutally honest (it all comes back with no names attached -- so no worries!).

So happy, happy to have Sue K be a co-coordinator for the next campaign -- we will be brainstorming ideas to make our next adventure even more fruitful! All ideas are welcomed -- and thanks Deanna and Diane for your thoughts.

Hugs, peace and blessings my friends,
Maribeth

Comments from our Awesome Prayer Warriors (11/6):

From Jill H: Thank you and God bless you. It was great to work side-by-side with you and the others in the Lord's vineyard. There is no other place that I would rather be. Wow! Just think a little over 40 days ago I did not know what wonderful people Our Lord has working for Him. He has truly blessed me with the new friendships I made through 40 Days for Life. I don't want them to ever end; I am sure that all of us will be friends for eternity. My heart is filled to overflowing for all the prayer warriors that gathered to pray for the end to abortion. We are united in prayer. There is a certain type of bonding that goes on when you are willing to put yourself out there for God. We are all part of something very powerful and really wonderful. I will do my best to make it out as many Saturday mornings as I can these 41+ days. One of these days I will bring some others along with me. However, many are called but few are chosen. It may take a while. Please keep me posted on the next campaign. God bless.

From Roger F: The passionate appeal for volunteers at St. Martin got my attention and the continued encouraging e-mails provided the reinforcement to keep the fire burning. So, thank you also for being the motivating force in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. My intention is to continue praying at the clinic on Saturdays from 7:00 until 8:00 a.m. Blessings.

From Joe L: I was tremendously blessed to have been able to take part in such a wonderful endeavor. For many years I have tried to do little things for the pro-life movement but by participating in this 40 Days for Life campaign I felt that I was finally doing something very meaningful for the unborn. I had never heard of the 40 Days for Life campaign until shortly before it commenced this year and it was because you coordinated this local Sterling Heights campaign that I was able to participate. I received many blessings from my early morning prayers and rosaries at the Sterling Heights abortion facility by knowing that I was united with many others all across the country in trying to stop such a terrible abomination in our country. It is always wonderful to actually see or hear about an actual life being saved as a result of the prayer vigils. The stories from the national campaign of the lives being saved, provides us tremendous encouragement. However, we have to have faith and truly believe that God sees our prayers and efforts and that our prayers are always answered whether or not we actually see someone changing their mind at a clinic. God can use our prayers to save babies any place in the world and, since God is not limited by time, use our prayers to save babies in the past, present and future, or in any other way He chooses. I have realized for many years that God sees our efforts and that we leave the results up to Him. Again, I can't thank you, Dave Bereit, all those that helped coordinate the 40 Days for Life campaign, and all those who participated in the campaign, for all of your hard work and efforts which allowed me to participate and receive such wonderful blessings. As an added bonus, I was able to spend some time “walking the prayer line” in the early morning hours with Tom, a terrific gentleman, who shared with me some very inspirational stories. Keep up the good work and may God Bless everyone abundantly.

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 2 Front Line Happenings

The following are recaps from October 26 - November 2

November 2, 2008 -- Day 40

From Maribeth: It sure was heartwarming to have so many prayer warriors come for the closing hour of our 40 Days for Life campaign. This campaign has been tremendously blessed by the dedication, prayers and presence of all the prayer warriors. I thank each one of you from the inner depths of my heart. We started gathering around 10:45 p.m. – lighting candles, sharing some tidbits of our 40 Days together and then praying the rain would stop. (It did lighten up a bit – thank You God!) We circled up and prayed for the abortionist/nurses—that they would have a change in heart and God would come to them in their dreams; for the women who were contemplating abortion this coming week—that they, too, would feel God's Presence in their sleep and know how much their baby loves them; for all of us being witnesses to life—that God protects us and blesses our efforts; for this community—that they would realize what kind of facility is in their backyard and do all they can do to close its doors; for this world—that we realize what a gift life is and that we become a culture that promotes life in all ways and that morality is a forethought, not an afterthought; and, for this election—that God, through His Divine Intervention, has mercy on all of us and we have pro-life leaders elected. We sang songs – Amazing Grace, Prayer of Peace, We Shall Overcome, God Bless America, American the Beautiful, etc. We recited scripture and prayed for God's blessings. (Thank you, Tom, for being the wonderful leader in our litanies and psalms!) Our candles glowed, our hearts took in the Presence of God and our lips praised His Holiness and Might. It was such a beautiful ending to our official 40 Days campaign. As we finished hugging and saying goodnight, we had another wonderful surprise. Nia...(remember she came by the first night, 9/24, to thank us for being their and that she was told to get an abortion, but refused!)...she stopped by to say she was doing well – her son, Jaden, would be born in a couple months and that she appreciated all the information and encouragement she was given by our very own prayer warrior, Sue K. Thank you God for the way You touch our lives through others....for the way You let us know You are with us....for the way You love each one of us. (And...thank you for easing the rain....it poured just as we got in our cars to go home! Oh yes, God is good....and all the time...GOD IS GOOD!)

I will continue to pray each day for all of you and your families. Thank you again for being the public witnesses that this and all communities need.

November 1, 2008

From Jenny P: (7:00 p.m.) When I got to the clinic this evening there was no one there, so I put my crystal Cross in the window of my car, lit my two gardenia candles and started my rosary, with song of course. In a little bit, my girlfriend Cindy, who holds the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, was standing at my window with her rosary so I told her to hop in and we continued the rosary. A little bit later a young man was standing at her window with a rosary in his hand (Michael was his name... how cool is that -- my step-son who just passed away is named Michael). I told hubby Tom that Mike sent me a "hello" by sending this young man to pray with Cindy and me this evening. Anyways, he said let's pray outside so we bundled up and prayed with our signs, candles and cross for the rest of the hour. It turns out that he is 28, from Grand Rapids and saw a 40 Days for Life info sheet in his church and has been traveling all over to the different abortion clinics, praying at each one of them. I gave him your info sheet for our clinic. Such a sweet guy....these are the kind of young men and women that we should see on the news programs. It sure was a great evening. I left at 8 p.m. (still had 5 hours of transcription to do). Cindy and Michael went right over in front of the clinic and were going to pray another hour there.

From Jenny P: (10:00 a.m.) After the clinic this morning, I went to our Cursillo first Saturday prayer/grouping. The first thing I saw when I walked in the door was one of our leaders holding a little baby boy. He belongs to a young woman who just made her Cursillo weekend last Thursday through Sunday. I knelt down and softly talked to that sweet baby boy, saying...with tears in my eyes... "I just prayed for moms and dads to keep their babies and one baby was saved." I talked in "happy talk" to that little baby boy and he was smiling and grinning at me. His mom and her prayer partner got tears in their eyes because I was crying. The leader of our prayer group said, "Jenny, please tell the whole group why you were late and what happened just now at the abortion clinic." I told everyone the story. The young mother of that little baby boy told me at the end of our prayer grouping/meeting that the father of her son wanted her to abort the baby. We are all so glad that she chose life for him. Little by little this 40 Days for Life is spreading all over this area!!!

From Jill H: The Lord allowed us to experience a great miracle on All Saints Day, November 1. I arrived later than usually to the abortion clinic since I went to Mass in Richmond at 8:00 a.m. I felt a great sense of joy and peace after Mass and thanked God for His providence and for all His beautiful saints that intercede for us. While leaving church, a fellow parishioner asked me if I was on my way to work. I said in a very casual way, "No, I am going outside the abortion clinic to pray." I didn't wait to see her expression. I was out the door and on my way. These past 40 Days I have looked forward to doing this on Saturday mornings. God has given me an opportunity to make a difference. I pray that others will be inspired to do the same.

I was overjoyed when I saw many people praying outside the clinic when I arrived at 9:45 a.m. I asked Marie if she wanted to say the Rosary. She said she left it at home. I brought an extra and gave it to her so that we could pray. We began to pray while holding our signs. While praying at the curb and holding a sign, I made eye contact with a young girl who pulled into the clinic. As she and the young man who sat beside her drove by, I felt in my heart that this was not something they wanted to do. Therefore, I walked to the edge of the sidewalk, to see what they were doing. They seemed hesitant about going in, but still they proceeded up the stairs to the clinic; then stood outside the door. I called to Marie and told her to bring her sign and stand with me since the young couple was not going in the clinic. They kept looking at us to see what we were doing. We waved to them to come back down from that place and other prayer warriors started to join us in prayer. All I could say was "Hail Mary's" over and over again and beg Jesus not to let them make this mistake. We were relieved when we saw them exit the clinic and go back to their car. Several of us shouted out to them that we wanted to help them. When they were leaving, they let us know that they decided to keep their baby. They were given literature to help them with the baby. We were overjoyed. I told them that they would never regret keeping the baby and that God would bless them with this child. The Lord has opened up every door for me and my daughter since I trusted in Him for her life. She is a beautiful fourteen year old and the Lord has blessed me with her. Not only that, she and other children are God's gifts to the world. I thanked the young couple and told them God bless them.

Oh Lord, we give you thanks and praise for your many blessings. Thank you for touching the hearts of those faced with an unexpected pregnancy. Thank you for giving them the grace, strength, and courage to choose life. Thank you for allowing us through the intercession of All Your Saints to witness your miracles. Many lives were changed by this great grace you allowed us to experience. We praise you, adore you, and honor you, Our Most Loving Father, Brother, Friend, Redeemer, and Giver of Life. Thank you, Jesus! AMEN.

From Maribeth: (8:00 a.m.) Glory to God in the Highest—and Peace to His People on Earth! Today was the official last day of the campaign when the clinic would be open and we were given such a huge blessing—which was totally orchestrated by God for His devoted prayer warriors! A few of us gathered this chilly morning around 8:00 a.m. We noticed that the parking lot was empty (very unusual for a Saturday morning). We held our signs and gave thanks for no action. As more prayer warriors arrived, we noticed the office manager pull into the parking lot in her new vehicle. She saw all of us determined prayer warriors and made her way up the stairs into the clinic. We continued to pray and witness to the public. A little while later (after more prayer warriors arrived), we noticed a young couple standing upstairs at the door of the clinic. We held our sign that reads "Let's Talk, We Can Help You" – hoping they would see this and come over. They were on the phone and knocking on the door of the clinic. No one was answering the door! Praise Jesus! After a long while they came down the stairs – we called to them that we have information and would be able to direct them to places for whatever help they needed. They sat in their car for a long time. Meanwhile, another young woman went up to the clinic...with the same actions – talking on the phone and knocking on the door. She, too, eventually came down and went right to her car and left. The young couple pulled out of their parking space and came by us...they told us they were going to keep their baby!! Amen! They had an appointment here this morning but no one would let them in. She didn't know how far along she was but it didn't matter – she was keeping her child. We were so happy—tears of joy streaking our faces. God, in His Divine Way, kept that door locked and that office manager busy and distracted that she did not hear the phone or the knocking!! We gave them a lot of information, blessed them and told them we would be holding them up in prayer—we hold their names in our hearts. Now, here is how we *know* that this was God's plan... Just as soon as their back wheels left the parking lot, the office manager RAN down the stairs and out the door....glared at us and then called the police. She got in her car, drove down the strip mall and circled back—went back up the stairs and watched. Sure enough, within five minutes a young police officer comes up and tells us a report was filed that we were blocking the driveway and harassing the clinic's clients. We told him all we did was offer information which the young couple wanted...they chose to keep their baby; not the appointment. We were blessed again by the godly disposition of the officer. He reviewed our rights as public prayer warriors (and we are all doing what is allowed) and it all ended peacefully – with a little baby leaping in his/her mommy's womb – LIFE was chosen today. God knew how hard all of us have been praying these past 40 days...He gave us many blessings starting on Day One...and here, on Day 39 – the last day the clinic would be open during this campaign, He blessed us tremendously, once again. I am humbled and reminded that our God wants to bless us extremely and abundantly and that He is bigger than any worry or anxiety or poll or ANYTHING! Oh gracious God....we thank You, we praise You, we LOVE You!!

October 31, 2008

From Marcy P: I was at the clinic with my three kids (ages 17, 15 and 9) and we demonstrated from about 1:00 p.m. to around 2:15 p.m.. While we were there a gentleman pulled up in a pickup and asked me if I could clear up a few things for him. It felt like I was in a pro-life commercial! He was not clear on stem cell research and he had a lot of questions. He was really surprised to find out there was a difference between adult and embryonic stem cells and was under the impression that the embryos used were "deceased." He was truly surprised by the truth and continued to ask a lot of questions. By the time he had to leave, he had decided to vote no on proposal 2! While I was speaking with this gentleman, I

was startled by another man tapping my shoulder from behind. I jumped nearly out of my skin! Was I surprised when he introduced himself as the congressional district leader of RTL, stopping by to make sure my family and I were not being harassed. After sharing a prayer together and assuring him everything was fine, he was able to answer any questions the other man had that I may have missed. What a wonderful, productive, blessed time!

From Jenny P: This evening Tim, another lady and myself prayed the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy in front of the abortion clinic. No negative comments this evening... just many, many "happy toots" from drivers passing by and peace signs and thumbs up! WOW... that's pretty neat!!!

From Maribeth: I joined Marie and Sue K at lunch today. We said the Rosary and prayed for the doctors/nurses, the babies, and this election. School was letting out early and a lot of young people were yelling negative comments. So sad that they are being misled...I pray that they find the truth in their heart.

From Sue K: At the close of last night's prayer vigil, Maribeth said that there seem to be changes in the operation of the clinic. This morning, Friday, when the place is usually showing signs of activity by 7:30 a.m., no one arrived until 8:00 am. The white SUV arrived; but did not park. When the red convertible arrived then both vehicles were parked and the clinic workers walked in together. There was no office manager. There were NO CLIENTS. This was a very different scene than previous Fridays. Let us hope and pray that this is a positive sign. May all who cooperate in the abortion industry experience a change of heart.

October 30, 2008

From Sue K: Tonight was a huge grace for me!

From Jenny P: It was awesome singing the Chaplet at our Vigil tonight with all those other prayer warriors. I just loved it and I know Our Lord loved it also. May He grant this country with MANY, MANY elected pro-life men and women next week. We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer. Amen.

From Maribeth: My heart was filled with joy in seeing so many prayer warriors gather for our final 40 Days vigil this evening. We were so blessed with such a wonderful weather. Our candles gave us a warm glow as we sang the Chaplet, Here I Am Lord, and This Little Light of Mine. We recited scripture and prayed for conversion of doctors/nurses who are in the abortion industry, for women choosing abortion, that our country would wise up and elect a pro-life president, and that all prayer warriors and their families would be blessed abundantly. Our evening together was truly filled with God's Presence as our hearts and voices gave Him praise!! A huge thank you to all of you dedicated prayer warriors!!

From Maribeth: I joined Marie and Ellen at lunchtime. Sad to say there were more angry people driving by than encouragers. One driver intensely showed us his feelings with his hand motion -- right in front of his young daughter's face, who was sitting in the passenger seat. How sad that she has that as an example -- a father who does not cherish life. We were blessed by a couple of lovely ladies who brought us hot chocolate and thanked us for being out there to bring awareness to this horrible tragedy.

October 29, 2008

From Maribeth: Another very windy and cold day -- with a few snowshowers. Not much action at the clinic, which is a very good thing. Hard to believe that only four more days are left in the official campaign. People are still coming by to share their support and ask questions. I joined Matt and Marie -- Ellen and George just left. Richard and his son from Colorado stopped by to lend support.

October 28, 2008

From Jenny P: When I got to the abortion clinic today I met a young woman who had a sign that said "I regret my abortion." What an inspiration to us all! Her prayers were for other parents not to make the same mistake she made. Our 7:00 p.m. Thursday night vigils are for all the parents who are about to abort their babies on Friday and Saturday mornings...that they will have a conversion of heart and chose life for their babies. Please stop by and join us in prayer at the clinic if you are available to do so. You'll feel blessed I assure you!

From Maribeth: Oh my, is that wind powerful -- we almost were parasailing at lunch! Ellen, Marie, Richard and I were there; Catherine and Barb just left. The clinic was open, with women coming and going. We prayed no one was abortion-minded. Ellen shared the story of another post-abortive woman, Betsy, who came yesterday. She is now pro-life and wants to help promote life whenever she can.

October 27, 2008

From Jenny P: Tonight from 7-8 p.m. it was Tim and I praying in front of the abortion clinic. It was pretty chilly and windy but we were dressed warm so it wasn't too awful. A lady stopped by to thank us for praying and to give us encouragement. She let us know that she sure wished we were praying in front of an abortion clinic 38 years ago when she had an abortion. I just felt so sad for her and gave her a big hug as did Tim. I asked her if she had named her baby and she said she did not even know if it was a boy or girl. I said no problem -- we stopped right there and said this is for Barb G's precious little one in heaven and prayed the Hail Mary for her baby. Such a blessing that was for Tim and myself --- to get a hug of thanks from a woman who regrets her abortion...and to be asked to never stop praying. WOW!!! What a gift to us!!!

From Maribeth: It was windy, chilly and a bit drizzly at lunch today. When I got to the clinic Ellen was just leaving and Marie and Richard were there. Jenny P joined us after a while. There wasn't any "action" at the clinic -- praise God! Before leaving to get back to work, Jenny and I sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy...it was nice huddling under the umbrella and calling upon the Lord -- praying one day this place is a place for LIFE!

October 26, 2008

From Maribeth: Oh what a blessing it was to meet the American Heritage group from St. Anastasia early in the afternoon (3:00 p.m.)! There were about 30+ people gathered -- children and adults -- holding homemade signs, praying the Rosary and singing songs. I was so happy to be a part of those prayers! Later (5:00 p.m.), some of the teens from our F.A.M. teen group at St. Martin de Porres came out to "take a stand" -- thank you Julia, Tom, John, Nicholas, Sarah, Kara, Paul, Chris, Lauren.....and Brian, Rocky, Joanne....for giving of your time. We prayed the Rosary and encouraged public support with the "honk if you are pro-life" signs. We did get lots of thumbs up and honks! A wonderful lady brought the gang hot chocolate and coffee. She said she sees us out here all the time and wants to do something for the cause...because she couldn't be out here in person. Then Tim and Cindy came by (diligent prayer warriors)...and Bill stopped by to give us more encouragement. A very busy four hours! Thank You Jesus!

From Sue K: During my Sunday morning vigil, I prayed with all my might. Then a lady approached me, pregnant with twins! She said, I see you people out here all the time. Do you offer help to pregnant mothers? You know my answer. YES!, We do have several pregnancy centers that will be of help. Not having a brochure with me she promised to return in a few minutes for the information. Well, I waited patiently at first for her return, and then less patiently, wondering what had happened. Praying fervently, this lady returned. She accepted all of the materials and the offer of our prayerful support. I also gave her Darlene's name and number (Jaden House). So many people think that maybe all that we do is say NO to abortion, they are surprised that we say YES to life! Even when we are unaware that someone is watching, someone is watching. This lady saw faithful warriors day after day, now on Day 33, she asked an important question. Those warriors who witnessed prior to today may not have the satisfaction of making a difference, but they did make a difference. Remain faithful. God will send blessings. In God we TRUST!

OCTOBER 21-25 Front Line Happenings

October 25, 2008

From Jenny P: I got to the clinic about 11:50, Ellen was the only one still there, but she had to leave at noon. I stayed and prayed until 1:00 p.m. Also, I came back in the evening and prayed in my car from 7-8 p.m. There were two young women there when I got there at 6:50 or so. I only saw the one sign... it said I regret my abortion.

From Maribeth: We had a nice gathering of people this morning to take the stand for life. There will several women already inside the clinic when I arrived. Many grouped together for prayer and public witness. I found out that during the week the dentist approached one of our prayer warriors and said "his patients are feeling harassed by us." It is obvious they are being convicted by our presence... I was also told that after I left, a man came in his car, very hostile...grabbed all the Vote No on 2 signs...when asked for his credentials and why he was taking these...he produced the universal one finger sign. We are making a difference...stirring up those that KNOW they believe a lie. Thank you fellow prayer warriors!

NOTE: I found out from one of our prayer warrior's (Carol) that her niece's boss had an abortion at this clinic this week and almost died -- she hemorrhaged. Her niece tried very hard to talk her out of taking her baby's life, but the woman insisted on going through with the abortion. I pray this is a wake up call to this woman and she seeks the Lord and that she never goes down this path again.

October 24, 2008

From Jenny P: It was around 7:00 p.m. and I thought I was going to be alone. It was rainy and chilly out so I sat in my car. Tim, another prayer warrior, came over and asked if I was there for the prayer vigil, I said yes and that he could sit with me in my car. I had a crystal Cross to put in the front window and two candles to light. We said a rosary, "singing Ave, Ave, Ave Maria" after each decade. And, of course, we also sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. PLUS...a van pulled up next to my car... they had seen my Cross & candles and asked if we were praying for the abortion clinic, I said yes. They were Richard & Fran and had been saying the rosary in their van. They did not have the website information so I gave them an info sheet. (Just a wonderful Drive-In Prayer Vigil!)

From Maribeth: It was very wet and windy when I arrived around 5:00 p.m. Just me, my sign and my umbrella. The blinds to the clinic were wide open and there was one worker inside. She came by the window, stood there and watched me for the longest time. I stood still, facing her with my sign. She abruptly shut the blinds and turned the lights off. I stayed till around 6:00 p.m. and never saw her leave the building....but it was darker than dark inside that office.

From Jenny P: It was 11:30 a.m. and I stopped by the clinic to say a quick Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory be for healing of those moms and dads who had their babies killed that morning and for a change of heart of those who were thinking of going through with it on Saturday morning. Man, it sure seemed like Our Lord wanted me there at that particular moment! I was standing on the sidewalk facing the clinic and a young woman started walking down the stairs very slowly, like she was in pain. Before she got into her van she looked at me, our eyes met and I could see the complete anguish, pain, sadness etc. in her eyes. It made me all choked up and brought tears to my eyes. I gave her a gentle, loving smile and a nod of my head and kept praying softly out loud. When she drove by us (there were three ladies praying on the lawn), she had her seat tilted back a bit. She was just such a sad looking young woman --- but the man driving her had a harsh, hateful look to his face. There were such sad, lost souls. I'm sure my prayers will work in God's way for the both of them. And I know she knew that we four ladies were praying for her. I sure do wish I could have run over to that van and just hugged her and said, "please know that God loves you and your baby -- I will pray for your healing." But I don't know how the "males" will act toward me doing such a thing... so I just hope that my eyes let her know my heart ached for her and her baby.

October 23, 2008

From Sue K: It is said that singing is praying twice. So we were blessed by the musical contribution of Brianna leading us in song and accompanied by Chris on the guitar. Brianna and Chris are college students committed to defending LIFE. The colder temperatures did not diminish their enthusiasm to sing praise to Our Creator. There were at least thirty prayer warriors participating tonight. As the weather is colder we are no doubt an even stronger witness to the sacredness of LIFE. We witnessed that LIFE is an inalienable right from conception to natural death. There also was a group from St. Sharbel's--an Adult Bible Study group. Our 40 Days Campaign is getting better known. Continue to talk about 40 Days and recruit! There is always room for more warriors; our army can never be too large. If every warrior would recruit one or two more warriors, we could meet our goal of constant vigil. We have an ambitious goal, let us be ever faithful! In God we TRUST!

From Jenny P: Good crowd tonight! I most certainly was not alone! During my prayer vigil time 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. there was a large group at the end, next to the drive in front of the abortion clinic and about six of us spread out along the street. We said our own rosary and chaplet. We were unable to really hear the music and prayers from the large group.. but that was OK.

From Ellen M: When I arrived at the clinic the fellow that keeps his vow of silence was there. He left at 10:00 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. Catherine as always for her devotion and left at 11:30. She cannot be there tomorrow but she is going to ask her sister to come. She came before (a very sweet lady). Maria came at noon. Her son is having another operation, this time his surgery on his shoulder. He had a motor cycle accident. It was really windy and no life at the clinic. The nurse (different red car) was there. I notice that they are all driving a different car. I got all the fingers and honks and the sayings as the public drove by. It sure makes you feel good to hear that good honk. The Lord is giving all a message that He wants this slaughter stopped. I pray that after 40 Days of Life is over we will be having a new beginning. Maybe some can go to Hoover. Do not know why no customers today (but that is GOOD thing!). The dentist was open for business and the painters started work at 11 o'clock.

October 22, 2008

From Jenny P: Just me, a solitary prayer warrior, parked in front of the abortion clinic tonight. I could see WomanCare in my side view mirror the whole hour. I had my crystal Cross in front of me in the front winder, a gardenia candle lit on either side and I sang the Holy Rosary and sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. The complete hour was in prayer for one intention: that the moms/dads who are planning to have their babies killed this Friday/Saturday will have a change of heart from pro-abortion to PRO-LIFE! I asked all the little babies who have been killed and are in heaven, as well as all my family and friends who have passed on, to pray along with me this evening. I know I won't be alone tomorrow night... Thursday... Yeah!!!

From Maribeth: As I arrived at the clinic for my lunchtime prayer, our trooper Ellen (with her bandaged hand) was leaving. I walked up and down the sidewalk, praying Psalm 139, holding my sign. I was then joined by Matt and Richard...we said the Rosary together and waved at many supportive drivers who passed by. Odd how the building is getting a refurbishing...to make it look more pleasant to the eye....but God knows the horror and silent screams that happen almost daily behind those walls.

From Connie K: I prayed at the Sterling Heights clinic this morning and am so glad that I began. This is something that has been on my heart for a long time and, very strongly, since I found out about the 40 days for Life Vigil and the location. I will do it as much as I can for the duration of this Vigil and beyond. Keep up the great work and I will do as much as I can to participate. God Bless You all!

From Sue K: This morning just as the day was breaking, I approached a dedicated prayer warrior. As I introduced myself he indicated that he was going to remain silent. He was not hostile but prayerfully quiet. Later he wrote a note indicating that he had taken a vow of silence at the Women's Care Clinic. He gave me a copy of Fr. Corapi's A Call for a Rosary Novena: www.fathercorapi.com Defeat of evil will come with prayer and sacrifice. Be steadfast. Pick up the pace.

October 21, 2008

From Maribeth: Ellen, one of our very dedicated prayer warriors, received the Rose of Life Award tonight at our Right to Life of Macomb Affiliates' Dinner. Hoot Hoot for you Ellen! A little story of Ellen's dedication.... Earlier this morning Ellen came to the clinic to do her three hour shift...as she was getting her stroller ready, she cut her finger (quite deep)...but refused to leave until her time on the front lines was over. After her shift, she went to the hospital where she received several stitches (and a shot)!! What a trooper!!

From Jenny P: Diana will most likely be home all week with the flu (and we pray she gets well soon). When I got to the abortion clinic last night though, there were two prayer warriors -- George and his young son, Daniel -- Yeah! I lit my three candles around my crystal Cross on the ground in front of us, lit my handheld candle, and we three held our pro-life signs and said the Holy Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and ended our prayer vigil praying again for this particular WomanCare Abortion Clinic --- that all involved would have a change of heart and become pro-life people of God --- and that this clinic would reopen as A TRULY CARING FOR WOMEN PRO-LIFE CLINIC... not the WomanCare abortion clinic that it is now. While I was lighting my candles, a young man drove by and yelled "go home, a__h___. " We said a prayer for him of course, sad soul!!! To yell out something like that at adults is one thing but with a young child sitting there --- such disrespect for that young child!!! This type of hardened heart needs LOTS of prayers for conversion from us pro-life prayer warriors. From the sound of David B's daily updates, our prayers are working and God is granting conversion to LOTS of formerly pro-abortion people. Thank you, Lord!!! Our God is so great... for this one "sad, lost, soul" who yelled such a terrible thing at us--our Lord gave us many, many people driving by with "happy toots" AND a woman drove over and stopped by to tell us she was proud of what we were doing and asked how could she support our work. I told her pray, pray, pray of course... but I also gave her one of our info sheets.

OCTOBER 16-20 Front Line Happenings

October 20, 2008

From Jenny P: Diana called to let me know she had a touch of the flu and could not come out to pray last night, so I said prayers all day Monday that I would not be the "lone prayer warrior" in front of the abortion clinic. And, of course, Our Dear, Sweet Lord answered my prayers as He always does...even in the rain ---- sorry, I mean even while "the darling, little angles were sprinkling us with holy water...pretty heavily I must say, he, he, he ---- there they were!!! Three prayer warriors!!! Yeah!!!! I wouldn't be alone in my car praying...I could be out in the night air. It was Barbara who I had met earlier Monday, a gal named Donna and another man. Anyway, they were holding their signs in the rain, so I gave my smaller umbrella to the man who didn't have one and I grabbed my large golf umbrella, my sign and my rosary so I could pray my rosary out loud and sing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy without disturbing their conversation. Barbara had to leave about 7:30 and Donna and the man had to leave about 7:50, so I sat in my car looking at the abortion clinic and prayed for another ten minutes for all involved with this abortion clinic, that they will have a change of heart and that it would close and reopen as A TRULY CARING PRO-LIFE CLINIC... not the WomanCare abortion clinic that it is now.

Dearest Lord and Savior, please hear my prayers and all the prayers of pro-life people all over the world, as we beg You to end abortion in this world of ours. Little angle babies who have been discarded by your parents and killed at these abortion clinics, please continue to join all of us pro-life people in prayer for an end of abortion which took your young, sweet lives before you were even able to see this world. We ask the through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Virgin Mary. Amen.

From Jenny P: This morning after 9:30 Mass I had decided to finish my daily prayers in front of the abortion clinic. When I arrived, a gal named Catherine was there in silent prayer, so I joined her in my own silent prayers. A bit later, Barbara joined us in her silent prayer, and then a bit after that Mike joined us in his silent prayers. We received LOTS of "happy toots" from people who were driving by. I'm sure lots of folks know what we are all about and what our cause is all about....so we are definitely making a difference. I guess I stayed about 1/2 hour then had to get home to get to work around here on "to do" things... so far behind... but that doesn't matter at all. The precious babies who are being killed matter!!! A man, Indian I think, and a lady in Indian garb, came out of the clinic. When they drove by I smiled at her and she smiled back... Hopefully this simple gesture of kindness will work on her heart and turn it toward pro-life. Not sure who those two were, but they definitely came down the stairs from the clinic. God knows and that's all that matters. Like Jill's email said... we may not see results... but God knows what our prayers are doing... so WE MUST CONTINUE TO PRAY ALWAYS!!! And, you know I will do so...

From Maribeth: I arrived shortly after noon. Ellen, Marie and Dr. Barkay were already there and in prayer. Ellen said an ambulance was called to the place and pulled up along the side door. No siren or huge commotion. Ellen, our super sleuth, asked one of the girls coming out of the clinic if there was anything going on inside. The girl said she wasn't aware of anything. We received good feedback from the public. A lady on her bike stopped to tell us thank you for being there and to keep up the good work. Thank You Jesus for the encouragement You sent today.

October 19, 2008

From Eleanor B: Sitting in my car in the parking lot every day, I've seen lots of people come and go. I always pray when I see them walk into the building that they are going to the dental clinic (and some do). One day I saw three couples come out--two of the women were crying and one was angry. I was angry, too, because those women were probably forced by their boyfriends to have an abortion they didn't want! Another day a young man carried a young woman to their car. She laid down with the seat back and he ran into Subway to get himself a sandwich and drink! We will never know how many hearts are changed by our prayers at the abortion clinic. Mother Teresa said we don't have to be "successful" but only "faithful." God will take care of the rest.

From Amy K: I got the opportunity to meet a new prayer warrior, Tim. What an awesome passion for God. Our hour together was a great time of encouragement for me. I needed to see that kind of passion to remind me that it's not all about the sorrow and mourning of the deaths that are happening in that horrible clinic -- but that it's about CHRIST and His amazing grace that changes us. Yesterday helped me to refocus -- God can change the hearts and lives of the doctors and nurses -- along with the confused, frightened couples that come to that place. Our prayers are pushing people close to God. Praise God for His transforming GRACE!

October 18, 2008

From Jenny P: Tonight from 7-8 p.m. it was just me and my Guardian Angel praying. I sat in my car, put my crystal Cross in the front window with a candle lit on either side (gardenia scent... smelled really nice in my car!) I said the rosary using the prayer booklet with songs in between each decade then sang the chaplet of divine mercy.

I offered up tonight's prayer vigil for all the innocent babies who may be killed in the future, that their parents have a change of heart and seek help with pro-life organizations; for doctors, nurses and all involved in abortion that they would have a change of heart and join the pro-life movement; for healing of women/men who have aborted their babies; for Our Lord to bless us with the closing of the WomanCare abortion clinic and that a pro-life clinic be opened up at that site... which I would happily volunteer an hour a day at!!! It will be so great when that happens!!! Amen!

From Jenni J: I was able to go out Saturday from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm and another person was there. Another young person arrived as I was leaving. We had quite a few drivers honking give the THUMBS up which is encouraging and three different people stopped to ask various questions. One young woman wanted to know if abortion was legal in MI and if the clinic behind did this... Another person wanted brochures on Proposal 2 to share with friends and another wanted to know if the clinic did abortions and thanked us for being there.

From Jill H: On Saturday, October 18, 2008, I arrived at the abortion clinic around 7:00 a.m. When I drove by there was one prayer warrior out there holding a sign. I parked the car, put on my gloves, grabbed my Rosary, and started walking in the chill and dark down the street to the abortion clinic. It was a different experience because I could actually see the abortion workers sitting at a desk watching television. There were a few cars already at the abortion clinic when I arrived. I introduced myself to Roger the other prayer warrior.

As I stood there, I saw a young man come out, light up a cigarette, and start talking on his cell phone. I thought who is in there that he knows? Next, I saw a young woman pull up with a man. They parked their car and entered the clinic. I could clearly see the woman while I stood in the dark outside. She was speaking to women at the front desk. One woman handed her papers and as she took the papers, I could see by her expressions she was clearly distressed. She was looking down and holding her head. I kept praying to the Lord and begging Him to let her see she does not have to do this. The abortion worker who gave her the papers looked as if she was talking the uncertain woman into having the abortion. It was very sad and the woman never did come out. About this time another prayer warrior Tom arrived. Then Roger, Tom, and I started to say the Rosary together until Roger had to go to work. Then it was Tom and I praying. Next, the abortionist arrived, parked his car in front of us, and walked about a block to the seven-eleven to get a doughnut or something. Tom and I prayed really hard then. Later, when Maribeth arrived the abortionist walked back to the clinic and entered in. More prayer warriors started to arrive as the sun came up.

The young man I saw earlier smoking and talking on his cell came out of the building. He shouted something to us as he went into his car. "I chose life once!" This did not make sense. He paced back and forth and finally he started to walk toward us. We were unsure what his intentions were so we prayed the "Hail Mary." He stood before us and said, "We chose life once." We asked him what he meant. He said he has a son but his girlfriend is pregnant again. They decided to end the pregnancy. He kept telling us that he does not believe in abortion. However, he is incredibly ignorant to what abortion is because him and his girlfriend were going through with it. We begged him to stop it, we prayed for him, and witness the truth to him. He finally went back into the clinic. It was very sad. My heart was broken since I have relatives who would want to adopt that baby that is now in the arms of our Blessed Mother Mary. When I had my daughter, Allison, I was the same age as this man, 22.

I was very hurt, sad, and angry when I left the clinic. I felt defeated. I walked to my car and brokedown in tears. What can I do? I felt so helpless. Then I went to St. Rene's to pray for the Lord's help. It was very quiet in the chapel. I spoke to the Lord and begged him for the strength to continue. After St. Rene's I drove to St. Cyril and Methodis. They had adoration, too. They had confessions going on and I really needed to talk to a priest. What the priest told me was exactly what I needed to hear to continue on. I told him I have a problem with anger. I was extremely angry at the young man for the bad choice he made. I brokedown and told the priest the events of that morning. He told me there are too kinds of anger. One anger is really the sin of pride and it means you think you are always right. Therefore, you get angry when someone disagrees with you. He said the other kind of anger is justified anger. He said, "You aren't angry at that young man. You are angry at the sin he committed. That is good anger because you hate the sin. Our Lord wants you to hate sin but love the sinner." The old, wise priest told me to keep praying and never stop. The devil is trying to discourage me by tempting me into wanting to see the results of my prayers. He says, "God just wants us to pray and to be obedient. It is God that does the saving. We cannot change other people. You leave that young man to God and keep praying without focusing on results. You saw the person who chose badly but you did not see all the people that chose correctly today because of your prayers. God sees. He knows. Keep praying"

Anyways, I think this priest has changed my life. We cannot help but be sad about sin. That is what it means to be a Christian and that is exactly why God has called us to do this. We are witnesses to the truth. I thank God that He has revealed to me how very ignorant the world is about the sin of abortion. This makes me want to fight even harder for the end to it. I love you all and I thank God for all of you everyday and pray that He gives you strength and courage. AMEN

From Maribeth: A painful morning for my heart... As we gathered at the clinic around 8:00 a.m. (there were about 15 of us), a young man (Bryce) came out and approached us. He told us that he didn't believe in abortion and he didn't choose "this" before – he had a son who he loved very much; but this time, they just couldn't afford another child. We tried so hard to "convince" him otherwise. That is where the heaviness started in my heart. I did not have the right words to cause him to drop everything and run as fast as he could into that clinic and save his child (who we named Anna). I tried to take ownership of this issue – not giving it to God; where it belonged. My emotions run so deep. I let the evil one "convince" me that I failed, that I let everyone down, especially Bryce and his little Anna. In my mind's eye all that was playing was the demise and killing of that little baby. How easily I was led down that path of self-pity. I apologize, once again, to all of my fellow prayer warriors for being the sobbing mess I was. Long ago, someone asked me "do you ever get used to the sadness?" Well, my answer is the same today as it was then...NO. Our work to bring the truth to women and men about the evil and horror of abortion is going to be one tough battle. I pray that all people of God feel the conviction in their heart to protect life at all stages and WANT to come be a part of a campaign that does make a difference. Yes, it was too late to save "Anna" – Bryce and his girlfriend left with no parting words...but then again, what would they say? I do pray that his heart remembers all that was said to him from many of the pray warriors and that he and girlfriend never come back to this path in life.

October 17, 2008

From Maribeth: Thank you, Tom, for leading us in prayer at our Vigil tonight. It was so heartwarming to see so many prayer warriors come out to take the stand for LIFE! We had many encouraging remarks/signs from passersby...and the few comments that were negative just confirm that we are making a difference to people - they are being forced to see the truth -- and sometimes that can be uncomfortable. Again...if we didn't have all of you faithful prayer warriors who give so much of yourselves, we would not be standing as strong as we are. Thank you, thank you!

From Sue K: About twenty-five faithful prayer warriors attended the candle light prayer vigil. Warrior Tom led us in prayer, song and powerful readings. His voice was as strong as his commitment to restoring a culture of life. We included a prayer for Faithful Citizenship since this campaign coincides with the final days before an extremely important national election. Sustained by faith and prayer may we be persistent in vigil and witness.

October 16, 2008

From Jenny P: When I pulled out at the clinic just before 7:00 p.m., it looked like 10 or more prayer warriors out there... wonderful!!! After a bit some had to leave and then it was Diana, Deanna and I for the next hour. We prayed the rosary... sang a little ... sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and, of course, said a Hail Mary for the two sad souls who yelled "not-nice" things at us as they drove by. They just don't have a clue how evil abortion is. I feel so very sorry for them. However--again lots of "happy toots" at us from lots of passing cars and thumbs up signs. We three praised Our Lord in prayer and song for the precious little ones whose parents are planning abortion for them tomorrow morning and Saturday morning.

Dearest Lord, Please accept our prayers and grant a change in heart of those parents planning abortion for their babies this Friday/Saturday. Amen.

From Maribeth: Wow...pulling up to the site at 5:30 and seeing so many prayer warriors brought tears of joy to my eyes—about 15 people. I kept saying "thank You Jesus!" We had a new group join us from Lakeside Assembly of God...Deacon Tom and his wife, Neely (who is expecting their first child shortly), Rocky, Denise, and Kim....thank you so much for coming out and standing up for LIFE! As usual, we had many cars stop and inquire what our purpose was....not knowing an abortion clinic was right behind them.

From Sue K: Lunchtime....picture six prayer warriors keeping vigil and an actual traffic jam of people stopping their cars and asking questions about our presence and purpose! Also, there was a stream of Sterling Heights' finest patrolling and waving a friendly wave of support. God seems to bring blessing to faithfulness. Renew your commitment to LIFE, come pray and witness. God will work the miracles of changed hearts, if we do the time. Sacrificial time brings rich blessings.

OCTOBER 10-15 Front Line Happenings

October 15, 2008

From Jenny P: Our Lord answered my prayers for my night prayer vigil!!! I did not have to be alone in my car praying at the abortion site... I pulled up and there was my friend Cindy (who holds the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe) and George and his young Downs syndrome son, a totally sweet boy. George, his wife & son usually pray at the Gratiot abortion clinics but decided to pray at the 15/Dodge Park last night. I told him I had been praying during the day that I would not be alone this evening, stuck praying in my car instead of outside with my sign and candles and we all agreed that our Lord planned it for them to decide to pray on this night also. George said he, his wife and son have been praying for the end of abortion for a long time. I noted that it rained pretty hard going there and stopped or slightly drizzled during our prayer vigil hour then picked up just past 8:00 pm when we were leaving to go home. A young man rode his bike past us shaking his head at the very beginning of our prayer vigil, but no other negative, sad soul people last night...guess it was because of the rainy night. HOWEVER... there were many "happy toots" from those who drove by. It was a truly blessed evening for the four of us prayer warriors. We were gently "sprinkled with holy water by the angels" as we prayed/sang for the end of abortion in our world.

From Maribeth: I joined Marie and Tim in the Rosary at lunch -- so wonderful and it filled our souls with peace. A couple guys pulled up and asked "so, is this an abortion clinic?" They were very disgusted when we told them yes, it was. We are opening the eyes to many in the community. Thank You Jesus for all of our prayer warriors!

October 14, 2008

From Jenny P: Diane, myself (and of course our Guardian Angels) prayed in words and song tonight during our prayer vigil from 7-8 p.m. in front of WomanCare abortion clinic. We had a few "not too nice" words yelled at us and a young guy and gal who had walked passed us, on the way back the girl asked us if that was the abortion clinic and we said yes and she said "good, cuz I have to get one"... They laughed and walked away. I just said, 'I'm sorry, remember God loves you.' We always stop and say a Hail Mary for these sad souls who are so hateful and just don't get it. HOWEVER -- sooooo many positive people gave us "happy toots" on their horns as they drove by, others stopped by to talk to us, others drove by with the thumbs up signs, yelling "God bless you" and "thanks for being here" to us. That shows us our prayers are really working to touch hearts!!! One man stopped by, he said he was an Albanian Catholic, he saw our signs "choose life, pray to stop abortion" and my crystal Cross on the ground with all the candles around it and decided to stop by to see what we were doing... he was with another man who had no idea that WomanCare was an abortion clinic. I gave him an info sheet and he said he will pray for our efforts daily and will also try to join us in prayer. Another gal stopped by and she also did not realize that WomanCare was an abortion clinic and she will join in praying for to end abortion (and maybe join us when she can).

From Catherine C: I had the opportunity to pray with Barbara and Ellen. I had the sense of being with the "holy women" and Mary at the foot of the Cross. Of course, I can't see Mary, but I think she is really with us. This must be so much like Calvary where there are people coming and going. Some there to participate in the death of the innocents and some to pray and mourn.

We talked about being surrounded by angels and moments later the police bravely stopped a drunk(?) driver by running into his car. He was coming down the road in an erratic manner and would not stop. I guess the man had been totally out of control driving down 15 Mile. The policeman, just before he was near us, turned in front of him, stopping him in the road and really causing damage to the police car. He could have been injured - God bless our policemen! To be clear - he was not near us, but I couldn't help but think he might have veered over to us at the last minute. There was a lady who pulled over out of total fear that he would hit her new car. (Thank You Jesus for your protection!)

From Anonymous: Between 6:55am and 8:15 am two events at the clinic urged me on to stay with the race until we overcome. First a family drove up to the deserted clinic, a man left the car and tried to open the locked clinic door. He returned to the family car while I stood at prayerful vigil facing the clinic with the sign "Adoption" is a loving option. I stormed heaven with pleading prayers that the employees would not arrive. The restless man emerged from his family car again and tried to open the front and side doors of the clinic- still locked. Finally after a half hour of waiting this family decided to drive away. Thank you, God. We have more time to pray that this family will have a change of heart. Secondly, a father of four children stopped and asked, What kind of clinic is this? He was not happy [when he heard the answer]. He said that he has observed us out front but not all of the time. Let us remind ourselves that our presence and prayer is working on hearts. My goal is to spend 21 hours a week in witness and prayer at the clinic. We have only 21 Days to go, let us step up the pace if possible. Also recruit, invite family or friends to keep vigil with you. If we are faithful, God will bring success! A member of the Faith Community for Life -- Anonymous

October 13, 2008

From Jenny P: Diane D and I prayed, sang religious and America songs for an hour... several "nice toots" from cars passing by. A guy on his bike rode by shaking his head back and forth then on the way back after he passed us... he yelled out "heresy"... don't know what he was so angry about. Diane and I stopped right then and there and prayed the Hail Mary for him.... sooo many sad souls who just DONT GET IT!!! That all we are doing is praying for moms and dads to choose life for their little unborn babies. Lord, please help them to understand the evil they are doing by aborting their babies. Amen.

From Maribeth: It was a quiet again at the clinic around 5:30 p.m. Then the office manager lady at the clinic did her thing again...took out garbage, placed it in her car, drove around the back (and stayed forever) and then drove off hastily. This time, though, she stopped for a few seconds to stare me down...I broke the stare -- my heart was enraged and my thoughts not so nice. I failed the peaceful, loving witness test. I'm so disheartened with myself.

From Maribeth: Lunchtime was quiet at the clinic. I prayed my Rosary and then was joined by Cindy. It was so nice to pray and praise together.

October 12, 2008

From Amy: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. shift. It was very nice that NOBODY yelled anything nasty -- only encouraging honks. I'm SURE it was because little kids were out there! I told the Sue that there are usually not-so-nice responses from drivers -- but that her kids were most likely the reason that didn't happen yesterday. She was very cool. Her little girl gave me a cup of water before they left. SO cute!

From Maribeth: Thank you to Gary H who brought his religious education class out to the clinic to pray. It was so refreshing and heartwarming to see the young people proudly hold their signs and speak up for the unborn! Gayle M was also there teaching the group some wonderful songs. Another young lady, Rebecca, stopped by because she saw all the young people and joined in for a while. Thank You God for bringing us the vibrant young hearts who cherish Your gift of LIFE!

October 11, 2008

From Jenny P: It was just myself (and my guardian angel) at the 7:00 p.m. prayer vigil tonight. I said part of the rosary on the lawn facing traffic with my sign and my candle but then it got dark so I sat in my car looking at the sign for Woman-Care in my rear view mirror. Wouldn't it be great if the abortion clinic closed and a pregnancy help center opened there... I'd be happy to volunteer at a place like that a little bit each day. Only our dear Lord know what will happen to that place.

From Maribeth: We had another nice gathering of people this morning at the clinic -- praying, singing and standing up for LIFE. AND....a huge thank you to the sweet gentleman who brought us yummy hot chocolate again this week!

October 10, 2008

From Maribeth: How glorious it was to have such a large crowd for Father Peter West's visit. He was truly touched to see so many prayer warriors gathered for LIFE. The prayers, songs, and words of encouragement from that evening will remain in our hearts and keep the fire burning in us as we fight this battle. Again, thank you to all of you who came out for this beautiful two-hour prayer vigil. (And, thank you God for the wonderful weather!)

From Sue K: The prayer vigil that Fr. West led was deeply inspiring. For those who were not with us you may want to know that there were about one hundred prayer warriors participating. The vigil proceeded by candlelight with songs, scriptural readings, rosary, reflections and chaplet of Divine Mercy. Fr. West demonstrated, by example and comments, the absolute importance of prayer in this battle to defeat the culture of death and become a culture of life and Resurrection. One and a half hours of prayer is strenuous. We persevered because we have been in 40 Days for Life boot camp seventeen days! In spite of the late hour, Fr. West did not refuse a request to give a blessing to a very special family. This family is very special because of its members: two adopted children and a mother with a most generous heart. Darlene is a devoted mother and committed to an ambitious project of making a home for eight homeless pregnant mothers! She was most appreciative of Father's blessing. In all honesty, when I asked Father for the blessing I suspect that he too was tired, as Jesus was after being with the crowds. Father responded very graciously. The future of our country depends on restoring the dignity of life from conception to natural death. We are indebted to Fr. West and Priests for Life for all that they do to remind our citizens that we are made in His Image!

From Jenny P: I'm so thankful to my family and friends who have continued to pray for our 40 Days For Life efforts for the unborn. There were 85 to 100 of us at the prayer vigil tonight from 7:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. A large group of us were led in prayer by Fr. West (from Priests for Life), in front of the WomanCare abortion clinic. And there were about 15 of us lined along the street who also prayed the rosary, prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song and sang various religious/America songs. We received mostly positive remarks this evening from the public!!! (There were a few negative remarks made by people... I feel so sorry for them and pray for them to have a change of heart against the unborn. I just do not understand where all their rage comes from...)

From Catherine C: Boy, I meet the greatest prayer warriors for Christ and His unborn at this vigil! Today we talked about St. Stephen and how his prayer was instrumental in the conversion of St. Paul - we think. It seemed like a great quick prayer in honor of the 50,000,000+ lives lost when we get those verbal assaults, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Acts 7:58-60

But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

From Sue K: Seven O'clock in the morning has been a lonely hour of vigil. But, this morning I was overwhelmed by the prayerful presence of FOUR other warriors. Our presence spoke volumes to the passersby who observe this growing presence. May the sacrifice of time and the prayer be instrumental in bringing about a radical transformation of heart. Let us reclaim a Culture of LIFE one step, one prayer at a time. May we build our society on a firm foundation, a rock. The rock of truth is that we are created in God's image. The rock of truth is that we must protect LIFE from conception to natural death. No human is ever a vegetable. No human no matter how vulnerable is less than totally human. Let us live life knowing that there is LIFE ETERNAL. The sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come. Prayer warriors are building the Kingdom!

OCTOBER 1-9 Front Line Happenings...

October 9, 2008

From Ellen M: A man stopped by and offered to get me and the fellow I was with some hamburgers and coffee from McDonald's. He said he appreciated what we were doing. A lady in a car with a small child in the car wanted to know what we were doing here. She mentioned that she seen a group of people with signs every day here. She wanted to know who told me to do this and I told here no one and explained what it was 40 Days for Life and we are here every Saturday morning.

From Jenny P: Another good turnout for tonight's prayer vigil from 7-8:00 p.m. As you know, when I pulled up there were you and Diane. Then you had to leave and there were the two of us, Diane & myself. We said the rosary and we were on the last decade when Cindy joined us. So there were the three of us. Then shortly thereafter, two more gals joined us... So there were five of us. We sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and a few other prayers then ended with God Bless America!

October 8, 2008

From Jenny P: Our God is so great!!! I pulled up to the clinic, knowing that my friend Diane would not be there due to her prayer meeting, but guess what? There were THREE PRAYER WARRIORS OUT THERE!! YEAH!!! I would not be alone! We prayed the rosary, sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and said every prayer we could think of and then sang every religious song we could think of and then sang "America" songs... really great. A lady stopped by when I got out of my car when I first arrived and asked for info so I gave her an info sheet... that's someone new getting involved pretty much every night... great!!!

From Maribeth: This morning one of the sweet people that joined our 40 Days family (Tom L) was coming over from St. Cyril's church to pray in front of the clinic and was rear-ended in front of the clinic and taken to the hospital. His wife (Marge) came a few minutes later and the prayer warriors who were there (around 10 people) told her the news. I understand she is doing okay. One of the prayer warriors took her to the hospital.

I pray, Heavenly Father, that You watch over Tom and Marge. Please bring Your healing and peace and blessings. You know the intent of their hearts...to help the unborn and to be a witness to all those that have drifted from You. Hold them close in Your loving arms and let them feel your Presence and goodness. I pray for abundant blessings upon them as they are Your humble servants. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

I'm so thankful that there were many people out there at this time (in the rain)...to be a comfort to Tom and then his wife, Marge. God, You are so gracious to us -- please continue to protect the area where we stand and pray. Keep the evil one at bay and do not let him intimidate all of those who have heard Your call. Thank You, God.

October 7, 2008

From Maribeth: I was at the clinic on my lunch hour...it was nice to do my Rosary for the unborn--there was such peace and beauty in that hour. I was telling God my sadness over this place being here and asking if this 40 Days for Life campaign is really making a difference. About a minute later a gentleman pulled up in a car...started thanking me for being there and taking a stand. Okay, God...I got the picture--and thank You for answering a prayer so quickly!! As I was leaving, another couple came to take their stand....THANK YOU!

October 6, 2008

From Maribeth: I was at the clinic on my lunch hour. It was nice to drive up and see several prayer warriors standing together. There was a group from Waterford/Clawson--how wonderful. They mentioned that the grandson/son of the office manager was yelling at them for being there and, one again, making light of the situation. They just prayed on through the devil's attempts to stop them. Amen! Just before Sue K and I were leaving a lady pulled up and asked how long this clinic was here. I said about 20 or so years. She asked, point-blank: "well were have you been? why weren't you here back then?" I told her that was a very fair question. Why wasn't I, or others, here back then? I'm pondering that question which is truly convicting my heart.

October 5, 2008

From Maribeth: Several of us were there early afternoon. A lady on a bike came by and was very much opposed to our being there. She told us we were wasting our time and that this place will never close down. Women have this right and no one will ever take it away. Roe vs. Wade will always be law. Then she told us that men have no right to be out here protesting abortion and taking a side on what a woman can choose to do. She suggested we put our time to better use in helping people. How sad that she cannot see the value of life in its most vulnerable state. She kept telling us that we were making this a "religion" thing and we were wrong for being out there.

October 4, 2008

From Deanna W: An update on what happened during my vigil time today. I got there around 6 a.m. (was a few minutes late - I hadn't counted on needing to scrape ice off of my car!) I started praying, at first in my car for a few minutes (it was only 35 degrees outside and so dark) but then I got enough courage to face the cold and got out to pray. It was pretty uneventful. As it became a little lighter outside, more people started noticing, I think. Around 6:40, a clinic worker got there and unlocked the door and went inside. Around 6:50, the first victim arrived. It was so sad. She looked about 15, maybe 16, years old. She arrived with what I would guess to be her mother and father and a young man. Not sure if it was her boyfriend, her brother, or what. A few minutes later, 2 others arrived. Another one of them was so young looking - I would guess 15. It was still pretty dark. And she was SO hesitant. Her mom (I think) was with her, and while the daughter got out of the car first, the daughter kept looking back at me, and very slowly walking, until finally the mom was like "Come on." and in they went. I started crying once they were inside. Three other small groups like that arrived, I believe for abortions. Around 7, two other prayer warriors arrived. Around 7:45 or so, the most heartbreaking part - the first girl who went in (who really looked so young) came out with her family. She looked so incredibly distraught. Her father was practically supporting her as she walked to the car. She looked like she wouldn't even be able to make it on her own. They got in their car, and quickly drove away. We started praying for her, because she looked so young and vulnerable. It just broke our hearts to know that her body and mind and emotions have now all been violated by abortion. :(She's been in my heart and my prayers ever since.

From Jenny P: Today, being the first Saturday, as always, I picked up my "elder friend" Lillian and we went to confession at St. R's, then to Mass at St. M's then I asked her if she wanted to see the abortion clinic where I prayed for the babies... she said yes... when we got there, my girlfriend Cindy was there so the three of us said a rosary outside the clinic. When Lillian & I got back into my car to go home, Lillian was so excited and said that she enjoyed that rosary so much and --- it just so happened that for the first time in her life (ever!!!) Father asked her to say a rosary for her penance --- so when I asked her if she wanted to say a rosary in front of the abortion clinic she couldn't believe it --- she figures our Lord was sending His blessings and that the three of us will be especially blessed for the rosary we said tonight for our precious babies. Isn't that great how Our Lord works!!! (40 Days is bringing about so many blessings for so many people! Thank You Jesus!)

From Maribeth: Thank you to the gentleman who dropped off eight hot chocolates this morning...a thank you to us for taking a stand. God is good and keeps us warm on very chilly mornings!!

October 3, 2008

From Sue K: Tonight a 5 and 1/2 months pregnant lady approached me with a hot chocolate to say thank you for being there. Her name is Nea and she is two weeks from eviction. I told her about Darlene, the lady who is opening a home.... She gave me her name and phone number to give to Darlene. Then I wanted her to promise that she would never give in to the temptation of abortion. She said never, I already named my baby. His name is Jaden. The name of the home is The Jaden House! That is truly SO GOD! What do you think? (Nea is from one of the stories on 9/24 -- our kick-off night!)

From Maribeth: A quiet evening. I arrived around 5:30 p.m. and Cindy G was there praying. We started walking back and forth in front of the clinic when Rita pulled up in her car and asked if she could join us. OF COURSE! We praised the Lord and talked about our families and blessings. It was about 6:30 p.m. when the office manager from the abortion clinic pulled into the parking lot and quickly went up to the office. After only a few minutes she came down with five or six large black garbage bags and stuffed them into the back of her brown van. She got in the car and drove around to the back of the strip mall. We were curious... it was almost 15 minutes before she came around the backside of the clinic and proceeded to exit the parking lot—with no garbage bags in the back/middle of her van. The three of us closed in prayer and left about 7:15 p.m. Cindy and I went around the back of the building wondering what the office manager did with those bags. We saw them all stuffed into a dumpster behind a different doctor's building...way on the other side of the clinic from where she works. (And, just so you know, there are plenty of dumpsters behind the abortion clinic.) I took pictures -- why, I don't know. We were saddened because we knew what this doctor's office threw out last year in the trash at his Southfield Office...innocent aborted babies and women's personal records. We said some prayers and left. My heart is

praying that no little babies were left there...discarded with ordinary trash. I know they did abortions on Friday. My heart hurts.

October 2, 2008

From Jill H: Here's a prayer for the Feast of Guardian Angels. *Oh Angel of God my guardian dear, talk to the angels of all the mothers and families to be that are contemplating abortion. Encourage them to choose life. Encourage them to accept the Divine will of God. Then they will know great joy because joy is found in doing the will of the Father. AMEN*

October 1, 2008

From Catherine C: It was chilly and overcast. I prayed and talked with a man named Richard. When he had to leave he put an arm around my shoulder and gave me one of those "dad hugs." Well, my father passed away in August and I guess I didn't mind standing there alone with the remembrance of that. I went and got my bible and as I stood there I read the 4th chapter of Esther - Esther's Prayer. As I read, I felt suddenly warmer and realized a little hole in the clouds allowed the sun to shine on me. I wondered if at that moment a girl laying on a table might look out the window and realize there is hope, even now.

From Maribeth: Quiet evening. The nights are getting chilly and the sky is giving us a little drizzle. I am so grateful for all the prayer warriors who come out to brave the elements. It is truly inspiring. People are being inquisitive and wanting to know "what in the world are you doing out here?" and that is just the kind of response we are hoping for. There is shock on some people's faces when they learn they are in the parking lot of an abortion clinic. We are making a difference in our fight here in Sterling Heights. God sees our efforts and hears our hearts. Thank you to everyone who is participating in person and from afar. Blessings always to you and your family.

SEPTEMBER Front Line Happenings

September 30, 2008

From Catherine C: A senior priest at my parish tells of a dream he had as a young man about being in NY and yelling at the people, "You're crucifying Jesus, again." It was from that dream that he realized his vocation to the priesthood. That really struck me at the time I heard it and it stuck with me. This week as I stood praying in front of the abortion mill I had the sense of being at Calvary and I was at the foot of the Cross. With my eyes closed I had the sense of the Cross being planted right there in front of me and that Jesus was indeed there being crucified again. Tonight I looked up the site for *Helpers of God's Precious Infants* because I wanted to find a way to get some training. I found this letter written by the founder and thought I would share it:

<http://te-deum.blogspot.com/2008/09/reminder-helpers-of-gods-precious.html>

Msgr. Philip J. Reilly, the priest who founded *Helpers of God's Precious Infants*, which began in New York, was praying out side of a clinic on that fateful morning of September 11, 2001. Here, he recounts his experience:

"On that morning the wind was blowing from lower Manhattan across New York Harbor to Brooklyn, namely in the direction where we were counseling. As a result all the soot and debris and dust from the fallen towers came over our heads to the point that it became midnight, at midday... Outside as things kept falling out of the heavens on our heads, inside abortion mill at 43rd and 3rd, they kept killing the unborn babies throughout the morning...I was unable to go to the (bombing) sight during that day because the killing at the clinic continued..."

I eventually got to 'Ground Zero'. I arrived at Midnight..And then something happened to me at 'Ground Zero'. (while praying the rosary) With my eyes still closed, I saw something different. What I saw was this:

I didn't see a building. I saw a womb and in the womb I saw an unborn child, so safe, so secure, so contended and at peace. And suddenly I saw in that womb an object coming in and invading the privacy of the womb, the instrument of the Terrorist, of the abortionist, and the child being frightened with no place to go, no where to hide was being destroyed. And it was then I realized 'Ground Zero' is 'On Going'. 'On Going Ground Zero', modern day Golgotha is anywhere peoples lives are being unjustly taken; where innocent lives are being taken and they need rescuers to come and help them.

They need ordinary people doing ordinary things with extraordinary results. 'On going Ground Zero' is not far from where most of us live. It is where Golgotha is. It is the place where Christ would go today. It is the place where John and Mary are at the foot of cross with the suffering Christ and it is where we must be.

Today I say to you: "Be not afraid to be rescuers for life at "On Going Ground Zero'. We are called to be rescuers of Christ to the unborn children and their mothers. We are called to Golgotha, to Calvary. Be not afraid to go to Golgotha. If not you, then who? If not now, than when? Go with Mary and John and be the presence of Christ to the people in darkness and despair.

They have been waiting too long. Let us not keep them waiting any longer. God bless you."

- Monsignor Philip J. Reilly

September 29, 2008

From Jill H: (She shared her first experience outside an abortion clinic--this was last Saturday and I didn't want it to be overlooked.) On Saturday I drove to the abortion place. I prayed and cried, again. Lord, You have asked me to do this but You know what a coward I am. Please give me Your strength and courage. Then I prayed for the help of the saints like Joan of Arc and the protection of the angels. I had no idea where I was going nor what I was doing but I trusted in the Holy Spirit to lead me. I arrived around 8:00 a.m. and I was relieved because I saw a few people out there with signs. When I arrived at the site, there were about five us. However, within minutes more and more faithful warriors started showing up. We began chanting the Rosary together. Then one woman stopped on her way to a funeral and she brought song books. We sang praises to God and recited the Rosary. Everyone shined with the light and grace of God. I felt like we were surrounded by a magnificent light. Although I couldn't see them, I am certain the angels were circling us and protecting us from all evil. As I stood there, all I could think of is what a dirty looking place this is. It did not look comforting or inviting. It looked dingy and dark and horrible. I felt like I was standing at the gates of hell. The only thing that broke the silence and coldness that permeated this place was the sound of the pigeons and the cars rushing by. As I looked up at the beautiful blue autumn sky, I was reminded of God's grace, His goodness, and the fact that He never fails. I thanked God for hearing my prayers and I

knew Our Lady would intercede for us and my angel would take my prayers up to the Lord's throne. I felt completely confident in the power of God that morning. When I left, everyone thanked me for coming out. The prayer warriors grew from five to at least twelve. I didn't want to leave because I wanted to do more. However, I told everyone I would be back.

September 28, 2008

From Sue K: (Follow up on the woman who is donating her home for mothers-to-be.) This generous woman is a nurse and explained that she has donated a wonderful house to be a home for pregnant mothers who have made the choice to place their babies up for adoption. She invited me to come and see the house. It is fully furnished, lacking a TV. Some one has generously offered to stock it with a regular supply of food. There are eight twin size beds that each have one set of sheets, so I offered some reinforcements. She has clothes, etc. to meet the needs of the mothers. There are so many good, kind, generous people who care in such a quiet manner that they go unnoticed, but they are truly making this a better place, creating a welcoming environment. [And because of our efforts in being out there in front of the clinic these 40 Days, God is sending us the encouragement and increasing our knowledge in how to help these women who think they have no other choice!]

September 28, 2008 -- 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

From Maribeth: There were about six of us at one point -- braving the chilly wind. We received the usual mix of "yeas" and "nays" from the public. I like that the "yeas" always, always win. We had a couple people stop in to find out more information about the 40 Days and they wanted to also become a part of the movement to help end abortion. One lady came to tell us that she is donating her house and turning it into a place for young mothers-to-be who have no place to go. They can live there and receive counseling on their next steps after having their baby. What a generous woman! One of the treasures that I know I am receiving from being a part of the 40 Days campaign is the enriching relationships that are forming with other prayer warriors and sharing the many blessings that are happening at the clinic. I'm so thankful that God asked for this campaign in Sterling Heights and we listened by signing up. To think I would have missed out on meeting so many extraordinary people and growing in my faith from listening to their wisdom and knowledge if this campaign wasn't here, drives home the fact that we all are missing out big time by having had 55,000,000 fellow brothers and sisters killed by abortion. This makes the desire in my heart to fight even stronger. I admit it, yesterday at the RTL State Conference I was feeling a bit overwhelmed hearing all the issues in this world that reduce the gift of life to nothing. My heart was so heavy. A couple of our fellow prayer warriors, Sue K and Susan V, were there also. I'm thankful for their encouraging words. This is what we need to be to each other...pillars of strength and hope. And we need to do all we can to stop the destruction of life...all those future precious babies whose lives could be been so glorious on this earth. Psalms 102:18 tells us "*Write these things for the future so that people who are not yet born will praise the Lord.*" America has silenced 55 million voices. Thank you all for standing with me in being the voice for those who might never have one. May God bless and protect each one of you and your families.

September 27, 2008 -- 8:00 a.m. -- 10:00 a.m.

From Maribeth: All was quiet at lunch time when I went to do my rosary. After a while Cindy joined me and we prayed together. I came back after work and it was very still at the clinic. No patients, just the workers beginning to leave. The office manager lady again came out with garbage bags, stuffed them in her car, drove around the back of the building...stayed for a very long time...then hastily drove away. This time she stopped to stare at me for a bit...I broke the stare down. My heart was saddened and my thoughts were not what Jesus would be thinking. I just don't know how to get the love that so many of the prayer warriors have...but I keep on trying. Just before I was leaving, Carol and her niece, Margaret, Barb, and Nick came to pray. Thank You Jesus for the glorious evening weather.

From Jenny P: 13 people showed up! We used the prayer/song booklets that the Helpers of Gods Precious Infants of Michigan gave me. It was nice. We sang Amazing Grace when the "doctor" came out and when those who had abortions came out with their man... sooo sad. On a positive note... a man came over to ask what we were doing... we filled him in... I gave him our info sheet.. he said a Hail Mary with the other gals and talked to others for a while. I guess he is going to join us in prayer.

September 26, 2008 -- evening

From Jenny P: We had a couple "not-so-nice phrases" yelled at us as people drove by: however, a young couple out walking with their little one in a stroller said "God bless you for being out here" as they walked by and another gal drove up and asked for information because she and her mother want to join us in prayer to end abortion. I gave her a copy of

40 Days For Life info sheet... so that definitely made up for the "sad souls" who yell at us as they drive by. Lots of "thumbs up" also from people who drove by.

September 26, 2008 -- 7:00 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m.

From Sue K: This morning 3 employees entered the clinic. Later, 3 young women entered the clinic accompanied by friends. Then a companion returned to her car and so I approached her wanting to give her a post abortion support folder, her response was "I don't want to talk about it", as she raised the window. My heart was so heavy this morning. Also there was a man in a pick-up truck who said he was pro-life but asked, "why weren't you in front of an abortion clinic?" When we responded that we were in front of an abortion clinic, he responded something has to change and this is horrible. The clinic is there unbeknownst to the majority of people. We are bringing attention to the reality of its dark presence.

This afternoon, a man on a bike went by admitting that he didn't know which presidential candidate was the most pro-life. So we had a conversation, gave him much to think about the candidates. He said he only votes for president, not proposals, so here was an opportunity to explain the importance of voting on Proposal 2. Pray that he votes in support of respect for life, by voting NO on Proposal 2, because 2 Goes 2 Far!

Then a lady had a conversation with Maribeth, about being uncomfortable about going to the dental office downstairs from the "clinic." She said that she would express this to the dentist, but unfortunately the door was locked. This lady was not to be deterred; she said that she would call the office and relate her concerns. She has testified before our state legislature in the past on moral issues. She has the courage to speak the truth! We were also joined in vigil by a grandmother and infant grandchild. She is a member of a most powerful "Intercessory Prayer Group". The invitation has been extended to the group members to join us. Our army is growing, thank you Loving Creator. Oh the power of prayer, fasting and vigil!

September 25, 2008 -- 7:00 p.m.

From Deanna W: Last night I was so encouraged that there were so many there. I think we had about 12 people including children. I was amazed. One lady (who I've met before when she visited my church) stopped and asked "Are you guys picketing something? Why? What?" I told her "We're not picketing exactly; we're praying." And she asked why and I told her about the abortion clinic in the complex. She lives very close to the clinic and had **NO IDEA** that there was an abortion clinic there! I personally have driven by 100s of times and didn't know it was there either! So we talked for a few minutes, and she might be joining us. She said she'll definitely be praying, but Carol gave her the website so she can sign up. Amazing story - she almost aborted her son (not there) 30 years ago. She called a pastor from the abortion clinic, and he told her "Whatever you do, God will still forgive you. It's your choice." She said when he said that, she knew in her spirit that it was wrong, and she left. (Amen!)

September 24, 2008 -- 5:30 p.m.

From Maribeth: Tonight's official group Kick-Off gathering was so blessed! I don't even know where to start with the miracles. First, I want to say THANK YOU to everyone who gathered at the Sterling Heights 40 Days for Life campaign clinic site. I was praying all day, asking God what He wanted of me to begin the night since I didn't have any clergy to start us off. At lunch I was bemoaning that here it was, the official day, and I was standing by myself. God rebuked my selfish, prideful thoughts and comforted me with His words of "don't be like Elijah, I have thousands set aside. All is good." (well, not sure if he told Elijah all is good, but He told me!) AND...boy, was the evening GOOD!

After our opening prayer and a recap of the 40 Days and how over 500 lives have been saved and that some women have come back to the clinics and showed the prayer warriors their child, we did a quick going over of the rules/regulations. Then we began our individual / group prayers.

About an hour later the miracles began....

1). Out of the blue, a van pulls up and a young, pregnant African-American girl jumps out so happy. Her enthusiasm for life was so contagious. She named her baby-to-be Jadin. One of our faithful prayer warriors sums it up with:

From Jenny P: That darling Nea was such a wonderful blessing for us all to see. "I would not do that to my baby." Man, she gets it!!! So cool!!! Even though it's going to be tough, she would not do what her family is telling her to do---to have her baby killed. This truly showed all of us there that our "being there in person" praying really does make a difference. We "prayer warriors" made the difference and gave Nea (and others like her) the strength to save her baby's life. Wow, how beautiful is that!!!

2). Then, two young boys (12ish) riding their bikes around the area were intrigued and came over to ask what is abortion. A couple prayer warriors informed them and they were so excited to join us for a little bit in holding signs and smiling for life!

3). But wait...there is more! I'll let another faithful prayer warrior tell the story:

From Sue K: On our first evening of 40 Days in Sterling Heights, Michigan a young lady in a car approached the prayer warriors keeping vigil at the abortion clinic. She had the smile of a joyful, peaceful person. Her heart was filled with gratitude for the counseling she had received here a little over 17 months ago. You see, she had been considering abortion because her life was in turmoil, but a sidewalk counselor had given her the information and encouragement that she needed to choose life. Her adorable child was in the back in a car seat – a very sleepy baby boy who was the joy of her life and her husband's life and that of the entire family. This happy young mother said that her son had brought blessings to her entire family. The family relationships have grown stronger and deeper since this wonderful child's birth. We could not help but share her joy and admire this very precious work of God's hand. There was a time when this young mother needed encouragement and today her testimony was giving us encouragement. Prayer, fasting and vigils imploring God's grace to respect life are a small investment with a great return. May we remain steadfast for these 40 Days. If we should waver, let us recall this joyful, grateful young mother and her wonderful little son whose presence has brought so much love and peace to her family. (Her beloved grandma passed away earlier in the day, but she wanted to come tell us--show us--her story. We are lifting her up in prayer.)

4.) After that experience (and combined with the others) we were pretty pumped up. It was now around 10:00 p.m. and several of us were left and just finishing up our prayers. A couple friends stopped by and said that a police car was parked in front of my car for a while. Hm...I thought this would be trouble with a capital T. My friends and I chatted for a bit then hugged and said good bye. As I approached my car, the officer asked me to come over. (Yep...just a few hairs on my neck were rising!) He asked what we were doing and I explained, in my quick panicky voice, that I told the Police Department and City Hall and what we were doing was legal.... He said, don't worry, I'm pro-life and I am behind your cause 100%. I just want to get some details because this is my route some nights and I will be on special alert for all of you. I was so delighted (and yes, relieved, too). God has been so good to us.

I thank all of you again for being a part of something so important...so amazing and so GOD! Especially after yesterday's lunchtime episode, I'm thankful that God puts me in my place and I learn to become more of a humble servant each day. Just so you know, each one of you is such an inspiration to me; whether you have come out to the clinic or are still waiting for an opportunity. You have signed up and took your stand. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless all of you and put a hedge of protection around you and your families. God Bless!

September 24, 2008 -- 12:00 a.m. – DAY 1

From Maribeth: I will be joining Tom D in kicking off the first official hour of the 40 Days for Life vigil for Sterling Heights. Part of me is anxious to begin, yet another is apprehensive because I have no clue as to how this will all fall into place. Thanks be to God that He sees the big picture!! I'm a bit melancholy in going out at midnight -- not for safety reasons, but because of the silence. My heart feels heavy knowing that this is a killing center. While we are there, the shadows will dance on the building, making it seem like such an ordinary fixture in our city. But God knows the truth...He hears the silent screams. As we are told at other Vigils, this really is like going to Calvary. I'm thankful my Lord will be there with us...to hold our hands and hearts as we listen to the silence. It was a blessing to be there in prayer. There is peace in doing God's Will. We are ready for the fight for LIFE. ~~Shalom~~

September 8, 2008

From Margaret: On Saturday, the dentist came up to us and asked us if she could share something with us. We said yes, and she proceeded to tell us that there is a co-worker that has been trying to get pregnant for eleven years now and has recently succeeded. Also one woman has been trying for five years and has also had success since working there. The dentist has also had two pregnancies since she's been there. She believes that God is giving them the babies that are being aborted upstairs to them!!!! She believes also in the efforts that we make each week (us being there outside the clinic as a witness) has something to do with it. We simply said it is our Mother at work for you! She said that anyone that comes to work at her office and is trying to have a baby is successful. I believe that Jesus sent the dentist to us to reaffirm our efforts. It was really a good feeling that she took the time to share that with us!!!!

Thank you for recapping a glorious moment!