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Praised Be The Incarnate Word

PRAYER BY SISTER AMATA HOLLAS

Dear Mother Mary, be with us on our journey. Help us to adore the Incarnate Word, your Son, and to become living reminders of *His Love* through our lives, our prayers, and our apostolic work in the Church as we reach out to those in need through the Gabriel Project.

Mary, you carried your Son, Jesus, within you. Be with us as we keep our hearts open to His plans for us today, take another step on our journey, and discern how He is calling us to come together to prepare to open a *Maternity Home* – a short-term residence for pregnant mothers in crisis.

Come, Holy Spirit, continue to guide all those in our churches and missions in the Diocese of Victoria who, through their dedication, serve our Lord through The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads by helping moms in a crisis pregnancy, spreading the news of being the Good Samaritan.

Help us to proclaim that Jesus Christ, the Word sent by the Father as humanity's Savior, became incarnate in the fullness of time to reveal the *Father's Love* to the world. As we continue to be faithful to reveal this fathomless mystery of the *Father's Love*, we seek ever more fully to remember and re-live the presence of Christ in the world today. Amen.

Spring 2022 Newsletter

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SISTER AMATA HOLLAS (1937-2021)

Reflections

BY BARBARA MCCAIN WILLIAMS, CO-FOUNDER/BOARD MEMBER

In 2022 the Gabriel Project will celebrate its 20-year anniversary. Such a milestone seems like the perfect occasion to reflect back for a moment.

First, we want to remember someone who meant so much to the Gabriel Project, Sister Amata Hollas, who passed away in December of 2021. Sister served on the Board of Directors since 2018 and actually gave the Bethlehem Maternity Home (BMH) its name. (Article continued on page 4)

Staying Grounded in God

BY LAURA REYES

Although we live in a world filled with noise, work, and responsibilities, finding peace and joy is attainable. The world provides temporary pleasures, which ultimately leave us exhausted, empty, and doubtful. True joy, which comes from God, can fill our hearts with grace, goodness, and confidence.

As a wife and mother of four little children, it is not easy to set aside a huge chunk of my day to spend in quiet contemplative prayer. Long gone are the days when I could spend time each day before the Blessed Sacrament. My days are now filled with giggles, loudness, stomping, cries, spills, messes, yelling, diaper changes, and other "little" distractions. Truthfully, I would not have it any other way. Besides Jesus and my husband, no one makes me happier than my beautiful children.

So how do I stay grounded in God? These practices humble me and show me how much I need God's mercy and friendship.

1. After rising, I pray the morning offering, offering my thoughts, words, and actions of the day to God. I pray for His will to be done and for whatever grace I will need that day.
2. Before breakfast, we read the Bible as a family (the Gospel of the day) and discuss it briefly. If time allows, I read a little more throughout the day or at night before bed.
3. Attending Mass is THE most important thing our family does. We go to Mass almost daily, not because we feel special or holy, but because God is holy, and He deserves all our love and attention. The graces received from the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist are so many that, although invisible, I could not imagine my life without them nor could I afford to lose them.
4. Confiding the victories and struggles of my life to a good spiritual director with a holy and Christ-like perspective has truly been one of the biggest blessings for my spiritual progress and confidence.
5. Asking what Mary would do in a certain situation is very freeing, especially for family decisions. The world spews so much information on what it means to be a good parent, spouse, and person that it sometimes can be difficult to make decisions. Mary was the perfect human, mother, and wife. Jesus was obedient to her, even performing a miracle at her request when it was not yet His time to do so.

I hope these practices help you ponder your relationship with our Lord and inspire you to want to do more to have a thriving relationship with your Creator, who is desperate to embrace you and fill you with His love.



"True joy, which comes from God, can fill our hearts with grace, goodness, and confidence."

-LAURA REYES

Update
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Update on our Outreach Program

BY STACEY ONTAI, DIRECTOR OF THE OUTREACH MOTHER & BABY SERVICES

We had a great year. The Outreach Mother & Baby Services Ministry served 100 pregnant women and their families in Victoria and the surrounding counties of Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Jackson, Wharton and Matagorda. (Article continued on page 4)

Bingo!

BINGO! |'BINGGO| DEFINITION:

EXCLAMATION, USED TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION OR SURPRISE AT A SUDDEN POSITIVE EVENT OR OUTCOME.

“Bingo!” just so happens to be the exact feeling we have about our First Annual Bingo Night, “Let’s Taco ‘Bout Babies,” which was held February 17, 2022. The amount of generosity and support we received from the community and volunteers was the best surprise. It was a fun night raising funds for the Gabriel Project and exceeded our expectations. We even witnessed a few entertaining purse models, dance moves, creative table decor, corny jokes, and nice live auction participation. We are not able to thank every gracious person involved in making the fundraiser a success in this article, but we do hope you know how much we appreciate any support given, in any fashion, to make this event possible. As committee members with very little Bingo experience beyond elementary school, we know we were given a lot of grace from God. Also, we know our dearly departed board president Russell Janecka and member Sister Amata must have put in a good word for us. It all started with our co-founder Barbara Williams’ wish to have an annual in-person, well-attended fundraising event. It began to come together with Debbie Ramirez’ creative idea for this year’s theme. It was a very successful night. After all the numbers are finalized, it looks like it will end up being our most profitable fundraiser to date. This ensures stability for The Bethlehem Home as well as Mother-Baby services across ten counties. We would like to thank Katie Greer of Atzenhoffer’s Velocity Powersports for co-emceeing the event; Sam Navarro for DJing; Ventura’s for catering the delicious taco bar; Glenn Villafranca and his family for the generous support and hospitality at the Club Westerner. Special thanks to our VIP table sponsors:

Patti and Frosty Hanley
The Pet Resort (Table Decor Winners)
Main Street Animal Hospital
The Lauger Family
Noche de los Ochos Amigos
Atzenhoffer’s Velocity Powersports
Paul and Cathy Reinermann
Janecka Insurance Agency
Joe and Cindy Adams
Cheryl and John Draper
Kim Smith
Dodson Schaar
Susan and Jim Neumann
Zoom Physical Therapy
Julie and Pete Rojas
Civil Corp



We also appreciate the additional monetary and in-kind donations received. We feel blessed beyond measure. All glory to God. We are looking forward to next year’s event.

Michele Rohde, Fundraising Event Chair
Robbie Lauger and Toni Schaar, Co-chairs
Committee: Glenn Villafranca, Barbara Williams, Cheryl Thompson-Draper, Diana Galvan, and Clara Crutchfield

Reflections article continued....

Opening the Bethlehem Maternity Home was definitely the highlight of 2021 thanks to the donations, love, and commitment to LIFE of our donors. The home came with a lot of love and history as it was once owned by the Poor Claire Nuns. The former minister and his wife who sold it to the Gabriel Project wanted the home to go to a Christian organization. Being an older home, it required a facelift. The home was repainted, minor repairs were completed, and a pergola was built. Recently, Cheyenne Parks chose us for her Girl Scout community service project. She is building a backyard play set. We are so grateful for the generosity of so many wonderful people.



The BMH has served three moms. Our first mom, Momma Jane, came with two of her children. Shortly thereafter, two more moms were led to the BMH. One of those moms, Momma Rose, asked for counseling about putting her baby girl up for adoption. While at BMH, she was accepted into nursing school. Upon leaving our Home, she wrote our BMH Director Lisa Howard a letter: "I am writing you this letter because I wanted to thank you for bringing me here to this beautiful and amazing home that I call HOME." Momma Rose actually said her baby, which she placed for adoption, was saved from abortion because of the help, love, and support she received while she was at the BMH. Our third mom, Momma Jones, had her baby girl and kept her baby. She plans to stay at the BMH until she can secure housing (with the assistance of our director), finish her GED, and find employment.

As we follow God's calling and move forward as "Christian soldiers" for LIFE, we know the BMH will be filled to capacity with his "little ones" as the community realizes we are here to stay. With your continued love and support, that will happen!

In October of 2021, we had a very successful raffle fundraiser. Many thanks to all our supporters. We look forward to having another raffle next fall.

Last, but not least, please let everyone know about this awesome ministry! To have someone come and talk about Gabriel Project/Bethlehem Maternity Home, contact myself, Barbara Williams, or Lisa Howard at (361) 576-1156.

Update on our Outreach Program continued...

Thanks to the efforts of coordinators Linda Venghaus and Joan Hill in Colorado County and Virginia Thomas Brewer and Mary Kay Lauher in Fayette County, we were able to expand our services. We now have a chapter in each of the counties located in the Diocese of Victoria.

We continue to offer online classes on childcare, parenting and life skills through the subscription based BrightCourse program. This program is used by many pregnancy resource centers and is called the "Netflix" of parenting videos. Mothers earn points for the classes completed and can redeem them for baby items.



We ended the year with our Helping Hands Christmas Project. We provided twenty-two gift baskets to families who we helped in 2021. Each family had a baby who was celebrating his or her first Christmas. The outpouring from the community was tremendous. Special thanks to the ladies in the "Quilting Bee" for the handmade stockings and pillowcases they provided. We also want to thank Prairie Street 4H Club, Jill Crain & friends, Tracy Trevino's Sunday School Class at St. Michael's in Cuero, Encounter Youth Group in Schulenburg, Nazareth Academy's sixth grade class, Our Lady of Victory School's third grade class, Our Lady of Lourdes Giving Tree, and The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads board members. One mom expressed that the kids would not have gotten anything for Christmas if it weren't for us! Another expressed thanks for the household items we gave and the customized gifts we provided for their kids.

We begin the year with hearts full of joy as we see God working in the hearts of the moms, and we thank God for the opportunity to serve Him through The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads.



Experience feel-good shopping!! Shop at smile.amazon.com and choose The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads as your charitable organization to support.

Hello to The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads.

Just a shout out to say thank you for all your support at our 35th Pro Life Candlelight March held on January 27th! What a great turn out, with over 400 people in attendance! Your presence and donating the prayer cards to “End Abortion” all made a difference! Our speaker Jason Jones was amazing. Jason is president of the “Human Rights Education Organization” and a film producer, working with women in crisis pregnancies. Jason is just part of what is making a difference in the Pro Life movement.

Also, here is a quick update on the Heartbeat Bill SB 8 signed into law by Governor Greg Abbot on May 19, 2021. We are saving about 100 babies’ lives each day. This new law requires physicians to check for a baby’s heartbeat. Physicians must inform the mother if the presence of a heartbeat is detected. Once a heartbeat is detected, the doctor must take all necessary steps to protect the life of the child. What great timing! The Gabriel Project is right there ready to help, with our new Bethlehem Maternity Home and all the wonderful angels assisting these new mothers! Let’s all continue to pray that the Supreme Court will make the right decision this summer to end abortion completely. May God bless us and lead us as we defend human lives.

Bernie and Robert Seale
St. Gianna Pro Life Ministry

Thank You To Our 2022 Board Members

ELENA TORRES
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CLARA O'BRIEN
CRUTCHFIELD
BONNIE HERMES
CHUCK HASDORFF
VANESSA HICKS-
CALLOWAY



Gilda Miller, Director of Education, is now a Certified Breastfeeding Counselor!



Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads!! Please visit our website to learn more, to donate, and to complete our volunteer form.
www.victoriagabrielproject.org

