



THE Gabriel Project OF THE CROSSROADS

P.O. BOX 345 VICTORIA, TX 77902 | 866.627.9243 | WWW.VICTORIAGABRIELPROJECT.ORG

In 2019, we served 180 mothers in Victoria and around the Crossroads (Calhoun, DeWitt, Jackson, Goliad, Lavaca, Matagorda and Wharton).



Happy New Year 2020

Prayer Opens the Heart of God

By: Laura Reyes

St. Padre Pio said, "Prayer is the best weapon we possess. It is the key that opens the heart of God." In His infinite mercy, the Lord hears the prayers of those who battle in the valley of tears. Our valley, the world, is filled with the pain and sadness caused by abortion.

We might not think so, but we are all victims of this tragic sin. Every life that is lost affects the future – our future and the future of our children. Our prayers, however, can open God's heart and bring healing to all the victims of abortion: the unborn, their mothers, and everyone else involved in this sad industry of death.

The enemy will not prevail my friends, he will not! Through our prayers and the intercessory assistance of the saints, especially our blessed Mother, we must hope and believe with confidence that abortion will end, that its victims will turn to the Lord, and that with great mercy He will bring healing and restoration to each one of them.

Thankfully, there are four great opportunities for us to "open the heart of God" with our presence and prayers. First is the 2020 March for Life in Washington, DC, with the theme "Life Empowers" – a theme of healing for all those who have been wounded by abortion. It will be held on January 24th, 2020. Second, there will also be a March for Life in Austin on January 25, 2020, held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Capitol in Austin. (Continued on page 5)

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Calendar

January 25- 9:30am-11:30am- Rise Up For Life- Lavaca County Courthouse

January 30- 6:30pm- Candlelight March for Life- De Leon Plaza

February 8, 9:30am-1:00pm- New Volunteer Training | Contact Lisa Kainer 361-676-3264

February 11- 6:30pm-8:00pm- General Meeting | Topic: Bethlehem Maternity Home Update

All meetings, unless noted, are located at 101 W Convent Street, Victoria.

PLEASE DONATE

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
- 2 Corinthians 9:7*



OUR CURRENT NEED:
Newborn & 0-3 Month summer
and winter boy clothes

Contact Michelle Babb (210) 251-1282

From Abortion to Conversion

By Stacey Ontai

Laura Reyes was the special speaker at our January meeting. Laura is a new volunteer who recently moved to Victoria from Florida.

Laura grew up in Columbia, South America. She was a studious girl who didn't give her parents any trouble. But when she was 15 years old, she began dating a man who was nine years older. Her parents disapproved of the relationship, and her mother told her, "Men only want one thing." Laura continued to date him, and at the age of 17, she lost her virginity to him.

Eventually, Laura became pregnant. When her parents found out, they told her that having a baby would ruin her life and that "we don't want the responsibility of raising a child at our age" and "you can't afford to take care of a child right now." They wanted her to have an abortion, and out of duty she did what her parents asked.

Since abortion was illegal in the country, Laura was taken to a "clinic" where a supposed doctor performed the abortion. The clinic was really a room with an old rusty table and a bathroom.

As she lay on the table, she knew in her heart that what she was doing was wrong. The nurse tried to comfort her and told her it was going to be ok. The abortion was performed with no anesthesia. After the abortion, Laura heard the toilet flush, and she realized that her baby had been washed away.

Laura felt numb afterwards, as if something had been taken from her soul. She blocked these feelings, however, and continued with her life. Her parents sent her to Florida to finish high school. In Florida, she experienced a freedom that she didn't have under her parents' roof. She stayed in Florida, went to college, and got a good job. She met another man from Colombia and was in a relationship with him for five years. But something inside her told her it wasn't right, and she asked God for a sign about their relationship. The answer came when he was refused citizenship and had to return to Colombia.

In the meantime, Laura's mother had a renewal of faith. Laura had not seen her mother in five years, and when she picked her up at the airport, she could tell that her mother had changed. There was a glow about her. Her mother wanted to take her daughter with her to church. As Laura entered the church, praise and worship music could be heard. The Holy Spirit touched her strongly, and she fell to her knees and felt a fire in her chest. She heard God telling her that He loved her and forgave her. Laura knew it was a time for a change. She started attending daily Mass and spent hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament. She came to love her Catholic faith and developed a deep reverence for the Eucharist. She prayed for a Godly man who was holy and loved Jesus. Laura met Justin at a young adult ministry where he was one of the leaders. They have been married for five years and have three boys.

"The conversion I experienced was a miracle of grace. The Lord in His great mercy granted me the gift of a new life, a life filled with His love and guidance. Even though the pain of abortion is immense, I learned that God's love and mercy are even greater." Laura Reyes, January, 2020



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[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEGABRIELPROJECTOFTHECROSSROADS](https://www.facebook.com/thegabrielprojectofthecrossroads)

A Letter To The Editor

The Bethlehem Maternity Home would like to thank the community for a successful raffle ticket fundraiser. The success of the raffle rounded out the first year of fundraising efforts nicely and has set a positive tone for starting out the new decade. The Bethlehem Maternity Home is an extended ministry of the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads that needs your help to get off to a successful and meaningful start. The Gabriel Project ministers to women in crisis pregnancies by providing physical and spiritual support in Victoria and eight surrounding counties. Unfortunately in the year 2018, 25% of the women that were ministered to were in unstable housing situations. This is why the Gabriel Project is now fundraising to open a home for these women. Having just come out of the Christmas season, maybe it won't be too hard to recall the stress that Mary and Joseph must have been under to find a place to bring their precious baby into the world. It's rewarding to be able to support a mother that is expecting a child. Can you imagine how horrible it must have felt for the Inn Keeper that had to turn Mary and Joseph away because there was no more room? I invite you to be the Inn Keeper all year long and consciously make room for those that are in need of rest and a home to usher their most precious gift into the world. If you feel strongly about the pro-life movement, I ask that you join us in our fundraising efforts of the Bethlehem Maternity Home. We are gathering up all "Inn Keepers" to join our mission of opening a home for His little ones.

Contact me, Stephanie Yeary Spears at 361-210-7191, stephanieyspears@hotmail.com or Barbara McCain at barbaramwilliams85@gmail.com to join the cause.

Stephanie Spears, Inez

Thank you to Bishop Cabill for drawing the winner's names for the raffle.



Thank you also to our Sponsors and Congratulations to the Winners!

1. 7-night stay in Cabo San Lucas with roundtrip air fare----MALLORY SCHAAR (Sponsored by: Dr. and Mrs. Travis Schaar)
2. Beretta Over/Under 686 12 gauge shotgun-----KENNY ONDREAS (Sponsored by: Hunter Supply and Friends of The BMH)
3. 4 Man guided quail hunt at Walton Ranch-----JUSTIN HARKEY (Sponsored by: John & Stef Spears and Aaron & Stephanie Spears)
4. Remington 700 SP 6.5 Creedmoor----MADELINE DODSON (Sponsored by: Craig and Robbie Lauger)
5. 3-night stay near downtown Fredericksburg with a wine tasting----CAROLYN STRNADEL (Sponsored by: Chris and Sheri Danze)
6. Sig Sauer P938 9mm pistol-----JEFFERY BARTON (Sponsored by: David and Meredith Steves)
7. Cast and Blast all day duck hunt and fishing trip in POC-----JAMIE JOOST (Sponsored by: Captain Thomas Mikes of Nervous Water Fishing)
8. KODI all terrain 50 qt. wheeled cooler-----CINDY DOYLE (Sponsored by: HEB Plus Victoria)
9. \$300. Visa card-----CINDY DELAGARZA (Sponsored by: Zoom Physical Therapy)
10. \$300. Visa card----KEN STOLTE (Sponsored by: Richter Custom Homes)
11. \$250. Visa card----ROBERT AND BERNIE SEALE (Sponsored by: Jamie Valdivia and Irene Valdivia)
12. \$250. Visa card-----GAIL HILL (Sponsored by: K&T Construction Company)
13. \$200. Visa card-----ROBERT AND BERNIE SEALE (Sponsored by: Carlos Chapa of Cornerstone Properties)
14. \$200. Visa card----BRUCE CHAPPEL (Sponsored by: RCR Construction)
15. \$200. Visa card----LESLIE BOOK (Sponsored by: Blue Quail Taxidermy and Wildlife Productions)
16. \$200. Gift card to Waterloo Rod Co.----ROBERT AND BERNIE SEALE (Sponsored by: Gail Hill)
17. \$200. Gift card to Waterloo Rod Co.----GREG WITCHER (Sponsored by: Barbara McCain Williams)
18. 7'6" Salinity Casting Rod-----DENISE POZZI (Sponsored by: Waterloo Rod Company)
19. 7" Salinity Casting Fishing Rod----BRUCE CHAPPELL (Sponsored by: Waterloo Rod Company)
20. 7" Pink Salinity Casting Fishing Rod----STEF WILLIAM (Sponsored by: Waterloo Rod Company)

They Showed Us Extraordinary Kindness

By Stacey Ontai

I recently heard this term in reference to the natives on the island of Malta who welcomed Paul and his fellow prisoners after they were shipwrecked. "The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all." Acts 28:2 NASB

This reminded me of our angels (mentors) who reach out to pregnant women in a loving and non-judgmental manner. This puts the mother at ease and she shares her story with us. She may be coming out of an abusive relationship, already have other children, struggling financially as a single parent, in an unstable housing situation and/or in a high-risk pregnancy. We listen to their story and guide them towards available community resources, educate them on baby care and provide baby items. It takes a special woman to be an angel (mentor) and we don't have enough of them.

Please pray that the Lord sends us ten special angels.

You're Invited



TO OUR VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

101 W CONVENT STREET | VICTORIA, TX

9:30AM-1:00PM

RSVP TO LISA KAINER (361) 676-3264

Lunch and Materials Provided



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to journey with the mothers, pick up and deliver items, maintain inventory, answer phones, provide administrative assistance, assist with fundraising, or plan events? We need you!

Serving Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Jackson, Wharton, Matagorda, Lavaca, and Victoria counties.

(Prayer Opens the Heart of God continued...)

Third, on a more local level, the Lavaca Pro-Life rally, "Rise Up for Life" will be held on January 25th starting at 9:30 a.m., beginning with a gathering at the Hallettsville Post Office (206 S. La Grange St.). The march to the Lavaca County Courthouse (109 N. La Grange St.) will begin at 9:45. Gabriel Project will do a short presentation and also have a display table.

Finally, the 33rd annual March for Life in Victoria will be held on January 30th. The gathering will commence at 6:30 p.m. in downtown DeLeon Plaza. The march will begin at 7:00 pm with the rosary and proceed to Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. The march will be followed by a presentation by guest speaker Claire Culwell, who is a surviving hidden twin from an abortion, as she was undetected in her mother's womb.

Together, let us make our voices heard before our loving God; that He may answer our prayers and bring healing to all those affected by abortion!



PRAYER TO END ABORTION

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know that there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son.

I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself

*Never to be silent, Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.*

I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our nation once again becomes a nation with liberty and justice, not just for some, but for all.

Through Christ Our Lord. Amen!

Thank You to our 2020 Board Members

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I support the ministry of The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads

My Donation: \$25 \$50 \$75 Other:

Donate To: Mother/Baby Services Bethlehem Maternity Home

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Please make your tax deductible gift to GPOC and mail to:
The Gabriel Project of The Crossroads
P.O. Box 345
Victoria, TX 77902

