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**Mission Statement**

St. Juan Diego Women's Center helps young women in unplanned pregnancies and their unborn babies. We uphold the sacredness of life through our caring counselors, who provide education, emotional, and material support in a safe and loving Catholic environment. At St. Juan Diego Women's Center, everyone who walks through our door is always welcomed and treated like family. As such, we offer continued support to help mothers not only during, but also after their pregnancy.

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**A Center Without Borders**

As we enter our summer season and the long, warm nights, our thoughts and hearts turn to spending time with family and friends. Weekend barbecues, trips to the beach and amusement parks, camping & fishing. God is always where we are, even on vacation! Our ministry here at Juan Diego Center continues, even in the heat of the summer, with our counselors and volunteer Prayer Warriors praying outside the Planned Parenthood clinic next door to us. We always have a cool drink of water, refreshments, a quiet place to pray and collect our selves inside our Center. If you are available any weekday or even on Saturday, we invite you to come in to our Center for a visit and prayer, and join us solemnly praying the Rosary or handing out flyers to young women and their partners who are in our own parking lot.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*  (Hebrews 10:24-25)

As I round up my first few weeks at the Center, my thoughts and heart are with the young ladies we have saved, and those who are already turning to help us and become Pro-Life advocates and continue to expand the ministries around the world.

Our Banquet theme in 2014 was *A Center Without Borders*, and this entire issue of our newsletter is dedicated to exactly that theme.

- A young mother bravely gives birth, and chooses a Christian couple in the Bay Area, California to become adoptive parents—there is no border or limitation to our services, we helped all those involved to help this be a loving, God-filled creation of an extended family and.
- Our ministry in Africa is expanding daily, many lives are saved, and we’ve helped in unique ways—providing housing assistance to a new mother and her newborn in a community of university students, so she can go back to work in service within her new community and earn a living—there is no border to our services worldwide.
- Our very own Director Emeritus, Willie Lapus, finds himself reviving the Pro-Life movement in Baguio, a city north of Manila, Philippines, and our outreach to help Lifeline, a small center needing our help and support to bring a stop to underground abortions in the university town of Baguio—there is no border geographically to our efforts to bring a stop to abortions, and educate young university students with the Pro-Life message and support.

Join us by reading of our expanding outreach, lives saved, and the Grace of God working through our eyes and ears.

God Bless,

Christine Ibanez
Executive Director
At our last successful banquet, two video testimonials particularly impressed our guests. They were done by two African priests—Fr Maurice Igboerika who was an abortion survivor himself raised by his grandmother in Nigeria and Fr John Ngbapia, rector of the seminary in S Sudan of the Yambio-Tombura diocese and pro-life organizer. How Juan Diego met both priests was nothing short of remarkable. Father John was featured three years ago on Lifesite News and Fr Maurice celebrated the Mass of Reparation to benefit Juan Diego. He has completed his Master's degree in Theology and working in San Jose.

What started as a casual friendship between our center and the two priests became a true to life collaboration between their pro-life efforts and ours. After mobilizing to save a few mothers from an abortion in their countries, both priests have formally established their own pro-life organizations in their countries, the Juan Diego Pro-life Society in Nigeria and the “St Josephine Bakhita Pregnancy Life Support Services” in war-ravaged South Sudan.

How could we have imagined that even as we labeled ourselves a "Center without Borders" because we ventured out to other counties outside California to help pregnant mothers, that we would go way beyond our borders across the ocean to Africa? South Sudan, in particular, is significant because it is a landlocked Christian nation surrounded by Muslim countries and is the last stronghold for Christianity in that continent. Both Nigeria and S Sudan are fertile ground to evangelize as well as to impart the pro-life message. These nations are particularly under attack by western organizations that seek to destroy their culture of life through abortion, often clandestinely subverting their pro-life laws. It is an awesome prospect to be virtual missionaries in these countries through our outreach.

We'd like to share a few stories of mothers that have benefitted by our support:

Patricia was marginalized by her village after having her baby out of wedlock and was rejected by her own family. Through our financial and emotional support, she came out of her depression and found her worth as a single mother. She now reaches out to other mothers that are afraid to choose life in her culture where such mothers are shunned. Her search for them has taken her to prisons, hospitals and the community. Just recently, the birth of a little baby to a pregnant mother Grace, has brought Patricia such joy over seeing her efforts bear fruit. Grace's infant son is named appropriately "Ebube", which means "God is victorious".

Mary, a young teenage mother brought to Fr Maurice's stepmother because she had no place to go, was lovingly nurtured and was cared for until she delivered her baby. Her parents welcomed Mary home after her baby was saved.

In S Sudan, Christine Natale, saved by the St Josephine Bakhita Pregnancy Life Support Center led by Fr John Ngabia delivered Joshua Alex last month.

Julia, whose husband was lost in the war and was thinking to have an abortion to better care for her two other children, chose life after talking to our counselor, Monica. We are supporting her though this difficult time. She is 7 months pregnant.

Wilma, a student and scholar, courageously chose life even as she may lose her college scholarship, after speaking to our counselor, Monica.

Martha, who was separated from her husband during clashes between armed groups and government soldiers, was 9 weeks pregnant when she lost sight of her husband. He never returned. With our support, she chose life after considering an abortion. She has three other children.

These are but a few stories that we share with you. Through our small efforts, these wonderful women have found the courage to have their babies through the most difficult circumstances. In the midst of a senseless war, poverty and civil strife, these little babies emerge as signs of hope and light. This is the sure sign that God's grace abounds in the midst of chaos.

In the last month, 4 babies have been reported saved in Nigeria and 11 in S Sudan. It is a rare privilege for us to be an instrument to show that we are truly members of one family, that the babies in Africa are as valuable as babies in California.

In His Service,

Patsy Gonzalez
Lead Counselor
The Sweetest Noise...

Is the sound of a newborn’s cry...

Our mothers who chose LIFE are holding their new babies, drinking in the love of God, embracing them tenderly, looking through their eyes deep into their little souls. Ten little toes, button noses and wrinkled brows, the baby sees Jesus in its mothers eyes. The miracle of birth!

We are so thrilled and blessed to welcome SIX new lives during the month of May, 2017 to the worldwide Juan Diego family, and that FIFTEEN more young women have been saved through our ministry and work in Africa.

A woman’s journey into motherhood can be fraught with fear and uncertainty. But fears turn to unimaginable joy when she holds her baby in her arms for the first time ... and her doubts turn into dreams for a future filled with new possibilities.  We are delighted to announce the arrival of three precious little girls and a little boy to our Juan Diego family. Their mothers, once in turmoil, have welcomed their babies that are gifts to us all.

We welcome: Florence and Fortune. Beautiful twin girls! We have provided their mother with diapers, baby swings, crib, layette, double stroller and car seats (we purchase these new ourselves for the mothers, one of our many ministries).

We welcome: Jimena. A lovely girl with sparkling eyes! We have provided her mother with baby clothes, rental assistance, formula, grocery gift cards and crib.

We welcome: From our ministry in South Sudan, we announce the arrival of a little boy, Ebube (meaning "God is victorious").

We welcome: From our ministry in Africa, we welcome a little girl, Grace John, born to Lydia.

We welcome: From our ministry in Africa, we welcome a little boy, Nakoyego, born to Rosetta Emmanuel.

It is heroic for an unwed woman in Nigeria to choose to have her baby as she faces isolation and rejection through the stigma in their society. These mothers are in great need of living expenses until they are able to go back to work, or move into a new village, learn a new skill, craft, trade or have a small shop in order to earn a living. Our ministry in the African region helps provide her living assistance, connect her with the Catholic Church and help teach her a trade so these young ladies can support themselves and their babies.

"Teach a man to fish".... Our mothers are courageous and brave women.

In Nigeria and South Sudan, it is a dire situation indeed. Entire communities will shun and outcast who is single and has a child. Even if the father would be willing to help, unmarried women or widows are not accepted by the village. For them to choose life for them means a life of an outcast. We are working hard to change this! We have priests and women who are helping others by sharing their housing, food, clothes and all they have. Teaching them new trades and skills, to make a living and provide for their tiny families.

All of these women faced tough decisions early on in their pregnancies. Here in the USA abortionists try to lure these young women in to their clinics, promising them an easy "out" of their situation. Deceptively, they used tactics that never include the words baby or life. But we know better! Through the grace of God, we were able to counsel these women into choosing life for their babies, and receiving so much through that precious little life.

Before I said YES to becoming the new Exec Director here at Juan Diego, I had been a long supporter of the pro-life movement, and watching the video that was made for us by our new mother who we helped in South Sudan, just brought me to tears. Choking on my tears, I sobbed with her as she held her belly, stroking her soon-to-be-born son, praising Jesus and our Center for helping her. Directly speaking with our lovely woman in Nigeria who is single-handedly helping all the single pregnant woman in her Village brings it smack-dab home to reality. I've also met one young lady in person right here at our Center who we saved for the first time many years ago, literally a week before she had her fifth baby, hugging her and silently staring at our portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

We know our prayers to Mary, for her intercession with Jesus in these dire cases, have been ANSWERED.

Keep the faith, pray for the unborn, and your assistance with our Center is always gratefully acknowledged.

Humblly and in His Service,

Christine Ibanez
Executive Director
Announcing our upcoming Banquet!

Life: the Gift that Keeps on Giving

Saturday, October 21st, 2017

David's Restaurant, Santa Clara, CA
A Center Without Borders: Philippines

Once again, in a remarkable chance encounter with a visiting member of a pro-life ministry in Baguio, Philippines, our center is initiating an outreach to their fledgling center that is hungry for resources and support. Our St Juan Diego Center is now also starting efforts to collaborate with Lifeline in the Philippines to save babies in the nation's abortion capital, Baguio City. Being one of the largest university towns in the country, Baguio is home to 5 universities which makes it a hotbed for abortions in spite of abortions being illegal in that overwhelmingly Catholic country. The local bishop is so supportive, he has already donated space to provide a counseling office for their life-saving work.

We are working on getting funding to purchase the equipment in Manila that is desperately needed, to get more aggressive in seeking out abortion minded women.

Sadly, but with grace, already the bodies of 70 innocent babies have been turned over to our little pro-life group in Baguio, and they have given these poor little babies proper burials in a city-donated corner in the local cemetery. Our workers and volunteers in Baguio have gotten calls from hospitals, police stations, churches and the local morgue to pick up the babies surreptitiously abandoned in their areas. At least, there's respect for the proper interment in that Catholic country for these little ones.

*Spearheading efforts there is our very own Director Emeritus, Willie Lapus, and his brother, Jaime. Willie considered himself retired but now stepping up to do his part while in the Philippines.*

He may have retired from Juan Diego but not retired from the pro-life mission. He may have to consider taking a vacation at a later time. Thank you, Willie, for answering the call!

Abortion is illegal in the country but there are countless going on through homegrown abortifacient herbs dispensed by "erbolaryos" (herbalists), "hilots" (self-styled chiropractors) that induce early labor before a baby can survive outside the womb and other surgical means when a pregnant mother can afford it. We are preparing to send pro-life literature, fetal models, training manuals, rosaries and other materials necessary to assist in their mission to expose those abortionists and to attract pregnant women that are afraid to carry their babies to term. We also plan to assist them with strategies to develop their ministry in the spirit of our very own St Juan Diego Center. Please join us in prayer that our center may be fruitful in our efforts to protect that Catholic nation from the culture of death.

Lovingly,

Patsy Gonzalez

Fulfilling a Dream– Adopting Magdalena

We are happy to announce the successful adoption of Magdalena Mary by her delighted parents, Chris and Polly Rewa. Several years ago, one of our mothers kept her baby after being emotionally supported by our center. Magdalena Mary came along at a very difficult time once again for her birth mother. Remembering the message she received years ago, our birth mother decided to give her baby up for adoption. Difficult as it was, it was the greatest act of love and generosity she could offer her child.

Polly and Chris Rewa have been long time pro-life volunteers, organizing 40 Days for Life campaigns in Michigan where they live after moving from California. Polly was a sidewalk counselor for Juan Diego outside the PP Alum Rock next door for a time and was so excited to turn an abortion minded mother around. Unable to conceive their own, Polly and Chris longed to have a baby – and Magdalena has been the fulfillment of that dream. Today, it's a common sight to see all three outside the abortion mill with the couple carrying their youngest volunteer for the 40 Days for Life Campaign.

Congratulations, Polly and Chris!!

Chris & Polly Rewa, Judge Skyes and baby Magdalena
Help for Pregnant Women and their Babies

• The services of the Women’s Center are available to all regardless of age, political affiliation, marital status, race, creed, residence or economic state.
• The Women’s Center exists to aid women who may not be aware of the alternatives to abortion.
• All services are offered free and are strictly confidential.
• We offer the following services:
  ♥ Free Pregnancy Tests
  ♥ Education on pregnancy, abortion and alternatives
  ♥ Counseling for parents
  ♥ Referrals for medical care and community services

St. Juan Diego Society, Inc.
(St. Juan Diego Society Women’s Center Newsletter)
12 North White Road #5
San Jose, CA 95127

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED