

## Milam Park – January 29, 2017

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today.

I would like to start with some wonderful news. Through the help of many, on March 10th, A Woman's Haven pregnancy crisis center here in San Antonio will receive a mobile ultrasound van that will offer FREE counseling, pregnancy tests, and ultrasounds. With this van, they expect to be able to serve close to 2,000 pregnant women in crisis annually. This van will save many babies from being aborted and save many mothers from a lifetime of regret. Please continue to pray for A Woman's Haven and all of our wonderful San Antonio pregnancy care centers.

Last Thursday, the daily scripture readings for mass included this passage from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

“For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but **bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God.**”

I emphasize this line because in the pro-life movement, we all need to “bear our share.” Why do we hesitate? Why aren't we all out there on the sidewalk an hour a week praying? The Devil doesn't try to trick us into thinking that protecting life is unimportant. We know this in our hearts. It is not apathy, because we do care. What the Devil does is to entice us to be lazy and to introduce fear and a diminished sense of urgency to actually go out and stand for Life.

Yes, we have other commitments and other needs that we need to take care of. But let us never forget that approximately 3,500 children will die today. And the next day. Every day. Until we put a stop to this insanity called abortion.

We have 3 abortion facilities in San Antonio doing business as usual. We need to be out there – taking up our part in this fight. Anyone can go stand – or sit - on the public sidewalk and hold a sign. I urge you to volunteer in one of our pregnancy care centers. Write letters to our officials. And pray, pray, pray every day for the protection of the unborn. Sincere prayer stirs us to action. 40 DFL starts Ash Wednesday and continues through Lent, but don't wait for 40 DFL. We need to have 365 days for life.

Two years ago at the Catholic Women's Conference, Archbishop Gustavo ended his mass homily by saying, "The world needs to hear your voice, even if it costs you your life." As both a singer and a Sidewalk Advocate, these words rang in my heart. We are the voice of the voiceless.

When it all comes down and Roe v. Wade is overturned – and it WILL be overturned – we must be ready to take care of all the women, men and children who do not abort. It is critical that we have the safety net ready. We need to put our prayers and money where our heart is.

It is easy to be here among those who agree with us. It is harder to stand and be challenged by that neighbor, co-worker, family member who do not agree. Be loving. See Jesus in every face. Don't be afraid to tell the truth. The Holy Spirit will do the rest. We will meet our brothers and sisters where they are with generosity, not judgment. As Vice-President Pence said Friday, "Let this movement be known for love, not anger." I'll see you on the sidewalk.

## Heartbeat Bill

If you are considered medically dead when your heart stops beating, why aren't you considered medically alive when your heart starts beating? Heart beat at 4 weeks.