



Rally for Life Milam Park-January 22, 2012 @ 2 p.m.

Good Afternoon My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It's an honor to participate in this life giving gathering here at Milam Park once again this year. Our mission to restore a culture of life in the hearts of Americans throughout this land has seen another year of prayer, hard work, disappointments and notable hard-fought victories.

It was not quite 2 weeks ago when we welcomed the news that Judge Edith Jones had handed down her opinion unblocking a Texas law that will truly save lives of untold numbers of unborn children. The "Sonogram Bill" will reveal the truth that lies in the womb of a mother, that a human heart beats in rhythm with her every breath. The abortionist will no longer be able to obscure the delicate outline of a baby, eager to feel the kiss of his mother, the firm-embrace of a loving father, providing an undeniable witness to the miracle of life, shaped in the image of our heavenly Father, the author of all life.

In her opinion Judge Jones wrote: "The required disclosures of a sonogram, the fetal heartbeat, and their medical descriptions are the epitome of truthful, non-misleading information....Denying the patient up-to-date medical information is more an abuse to her ability to decide than providing the information." The wisdom of this decision is based on a fundamental act of moral decency, "Tell the truth" and the truth will truly set a person free to choose the undeniable reality of life that waits in anticipation of each mother's ascent.

Throughout the year there are other victories for life that don't make headlines, but do save lives. A New Woman's Choice Center, where women choose life, choose love, and, when given the truth in a loving and prayerful context, they are able to celebrate the baby in their womb as a gift from God. According to their statistics, they have a 95% success rate in saving the babies of the mothers they serve, a testimony to the transforming power of God's truth in their lives. Their ministry provides a profound example of how hearts are softened by the personal touch of love and compassion, but most especially the power of prayer.

Today, we are able to celebrate the person-to-person victories that occur when faithful prayer partners courageously knelt in front of Planned Parenthood locations here in San Antonio and across the country during 40 Days for Life. According to their accounting, this past fall's event of unity in prayer softened the hearts of 465 women whose minds were changed and their babies were saved. These are great triumphs for truth and the great power of prayer as a force for life fueled by God's infinite love, compassion and mercy.

Sadly, though we still live in a society and at a time when many find the truth inconvenient and uncomfortable. There are those who would silence the voices of people of faith in this

passionate public debate over life and death. They would extinguish the light of truth in order to satisfy their own wants and needs, even at the cost of humanity itself.

This past week America recalled the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he spoke of freedom and liberty and individual rights. Dr. King also spoke of truth and individual responsibility when he said, "The day we see the truth and cease to speak is the day we begin to die." In order to sustain life in our hearts we must fight for life without fear and with relentless dedication to stop the attack on defenseless and innocent life by the deception of relativism and materialism.

There are other battles that still need to be waged. Some who consider themselves people of faith, say they believe abortion is morally unacceptable, but support making abortion available in their local community. This disconnect between faith and action masquerades as logic, but is the most illogical position one can take. We cannot be against abortion, but somehow feel the compulsion to be fair-minded, by passively acknowledging or even endorsing the wholesale killing of our children. We hear some say, "I'm not in favor of abortion for myself, but I can't keep someone who believes differently about it from getting one." The value of life is absolute and the right to live must not be violated.

God's truth cannot be negotiated away by personal feelings, pleasure, selfish demands, or interpretation. His truth must be recognized, understood, and proclaimed as the unalterable foundation of our very human existence.

Blessed Pope John Paul II wrote, "No one can escape from the fundamental questions: *What must I do? How do I distinguish good from evil?* The answer is only possible thanks to the splendor of the truth which shines forth deep within the human spirit. The Psalmist bears witness: "There are many who say: 'O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord'" It is God who is the source of all truth and it is God who gives us the strength to answer the most vital of life's questions with the truth that will save us from the world's fraud that would attempt to darken the light of the world.

The work is not completed and will not be finished until the hearts of Americans are changed and the laws of this land reflect that transformation. Our laws should reflect the morals and priorities of the people. One law at a time we are seeing a mosaic of life take form in this country. With each action that shows our love and care for the pregnant woman and our concern for children after they are born, we continue to provide compelling evidence that we are a people of life. All of society, all people of good will, all people who advocate for human rights must come together to support the right to life, the most fundamental human right of all. Without that guarantee, none of the ideals of this great nation have meaning.

Each one of us is called to be light and truth in the world ignited and animated by faith and prayer. The truth of God must burn brightly in our hearts. Let us continue the fight to protect the greatest gift that each child gives us, the opportunity to love. For the power and reality of love is God's supreme truth.