



# Pro-Life Waco 2009 Year in Review

The tragic backdrop for this review is that Planned Parenthood in Waco committed 1,289 abortions in 2008.



## Recurring Pro-Life Events



- Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Life Chain
- Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Pro-life Gathering
- Tuesdays: Rosary for Life @ Abortuary
- Thursdays: Witness @ Abortuary

The first Sunday of each month is **Life Chain Sunday** from 2 to 3 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Mills Drive and Waco Drive. We hold “G-rated” signs to present the reality of abortion to our community. One sign reads, “Honk if you’re pro-life.” We hear a lot of honking and see many “thumbs up” from the thousands of cars passing by. The first Sunday



in October is international Life Chain Sunday with over 1,500 communities in the U.S. participating. Together with Bellevue/Redmond (WA), Waco is one of only two communities in the nation that holds a monthly Life Chain. Hopefully, there will be more in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

For our **Second Sunday Pro-Life Gatherings**, 60-80 pro-lifers come together at St. Mary’s Parish Hall for a noon-hour meal, fellowship, and a meeting from 1 to 2 p.m. for education and action planning. The typical meal features Italian pasta and meatballs from Chef Giovanni Pisciotta.

With the exception of June, July, and August, we pray a **Rosary for Life** each Tuesday evening at 5:30 in the public right-of-way in front of the Planned Parenthood Waco abortuary. The address is 1927 Columbus Avenue. We have had from 3 to 20 come out on Tuesday evenings to pray for the unborn babies,



women scheduled for abortions, for conversion of those who work for Planned Parenthood, and for the closing of this abortion facility in our community.

**Witness on abortion day** is each Thursday morning while Planned Parenthood Waco administers surgical abortions at its Columbus Avenue abortuary. Christians stand and pray outside the abortuary and attempt to persuade women to flee their tragic appointments. Rev. Ronnie Holmes of Church of the Open Door

takes the lead in this vital ministry. Our hope is to guide women away from their appointments with death and heartbreak.

## The big story of 2009: “Carolyn” the pro-life truck

We began the year with a wild idea and abundant hope. Our dream was to have a “box truck” that Pro-Life Waco could use as a mobile billboard and for storage of our increasing inventory of signs, billboards, and crosses. We put the word out that we wanted a truck, could not afford a truck and were praying that somehow a truck would be donated to us.

One person who received the word was Allan Wichkoski of Waco Knights of Columbus Council #1358. Allan is the owner of the Heart of Texas Auto Auction. Through Allan’s influence and persuasion, by the end of February a truck had been donated to Pro-Life Waco!! The next step was the need to paint the truck to cover up business lettering. Jennie Kunkel went to work on this and arranged for the truck to be painted at no cost by Alvin’s Paint and Body Shop in West, Texas.

The truck was first displayed at the March Second Sunday at St. Mary’s Parish Hall. On this festive occasion, everyone at exited the hall to take the picture shown below.



The truck has been named “Carolyn” after Carolyn Knowles, the grandmother of pro-life movement in Waco. Carolyn has protested at the Planned Parenthood abortuary from its tragic beginning in 1994. Thank be to God, Carolyn participates in just about all Central Texas pro-life activities to this day. We love you, Carolyn (the person and the truck).



Carolyn Knowles is pictured at the left. Liz DeLaRosa is on the right proudly holding our youngest Waco pro-lifer, Benedict DeLaRosa.

Before getting to the many uses of “Carolyn”, two more thank yous are in order. Andy Littrell of Imprint Anything helped us design vinyl banners for the truck. Next, James Fabbre has been more than gracious to allow to park “Carolyn” on a continuing basis in his drive way.

## “Carolyn” Goes on Offense at Nobody’s Fool

July 15 was the date for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Nobody’s Fool sex promotion conference of Planned Parenthood. As in past years, dozens of pro-lifers demonstrated against the event in which Planned Parenthood plants seeds of the anything-goes sex approach with Central Texas children going into grades 5 through 9. This year, we had something new. Carolyn with billboard messages on both sides of the truck was parked strategically so the all the adults and children going into Nobody’s Fool could not miss her messages.



The “Take the high road!” message on one side of the truck was also the message on our fixed billboard on Franklin Ave. and on numerous yard signs displayed around the city.

On the evening before Nobody’s Fool, News10 in Waco featured a live interaction (mini-debate) between PLW’s John Pisciotta and the CEO of Planned Parenthood, Pam Smallwood. The news segment was short but very lively.

Participation was great at Nobody’s Fool including friends that drove in from Temple, Round Rock and Austin. The Central Texas pro-life, pro-family community will continue to stand against Planned Parenthood promotion of promiscuity and its first cousin—abortion on demand.



## “Carolyn” on the go!!

“Carolyn” is driven out to send powerful pro-life message at each monthly Second Sunday gathering, to each monthly Life Chain, and each Thursday morning when Planned Parenthood inflicts surgical abortions at its 1927 Columbus Avenue abortuary.



“Carolyn” at the abortuary. In the billboard message actress Jennifer O’Neill proclaims “I regret my abortion.”

On the very first morning Carolyn was parked on Thursday directly across from the abortuary driveway, two moms who entered this ominous building had a change of heart and chose life for their babies. One mom called her father to come and pick her up and take her home. About 9 a.m. the father drove to Planned Parenthood and stopped briefly to talk to us. With tears in his eyes, he thanked us for "just being there" and told us that his daughter had turned away from abortion and that his grandson would now live!!!

## Terrific Speakers at our Second Sunday Events

We continue to have outstanding speakers at our Second Sunday Pro-Life Gatherings at St. Mary's Parish Hall.



Our speaker in July was Marie Seale, the new Director of the Office of Pro-Life and Chaste Living for the Catholic Diocese of Austin. She spoke on the role of chastity in advancing the Culture of Life. Marie offered us helpful insights drawing on "The Theology of the Body"

developed by John Paul II. We look forward to working with Marie in the coming years and watching her ministry develop throughout the Diocese of Austin.

In August we were fortunate to have Rita Diller of Amarillo speak at Second Sunday before she moved to Stafford, Virginia to begin her work as National Director of Stop Planned Parenthood International. STOPP International is a division of the American Life League. Rita spoke on "**How we shut down Planned Parenthood in Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle**" As Director of Respect Life Activities in the Catholic Diocese of Amarillo, Rita Diller was a key player in engineering the departure of Planned Parenthood in the Texas Panhandle.



In December we had a return visit from Molly White of Redeemed for Life Ministries in Belton. Among her diverse pro-life initiatives, Molly has spoken to and lobbied political organizations in Europe as well as the United Nations. Molly's topic was "**Defending the Unborn and Their Moms on the World Stage.**"



## John Pisciotta presentation on PP and child promiscuity

The title of this hard-hitting, adults-only presentation is "The Planned Parenthood Sexual Agenda and Vision for Children" The content is Planned Parenthood's own materials: MTV commercials, vile and disgusting web sites for children, the children's book **It's Perfectly Normal**, condom key chains, and more.

If you would be interested in a presentation to an adult group, please contact John at 254-644-0407. There is no charge if you are in reasonable driving distance from Waco.

## "Super-Sized" pro-life booth at Heart of Texas Fair

Pro-Life Waco joined forces with Doel Garcia and Waco Right to Life for another great booth at the Heart of Texas Fair, October 9-17.



Like last year, we were able to double our booth size from 10'x10' to 10'x20'. The larger size made a huge difference, giving more display space and offering fair visitors the opportunity to take their time and browse our variety of materials.

The booth featured large pictures of life in the womb, pro-life and chastity flyers, pre-natal models and the ever-popular yellow balloons with the message "Smile, your mom chose life!" Nearly 4,000 balloons were given to children and had quite an impact on the midway.

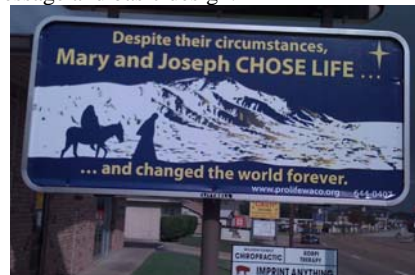
On the final day, Ruby McCray and Rick Ellis delivered a sing-along concert that was the hit of the day in the General Exhibits Building. Over two dozen pro-lifers volunteered to work at the booth. Thanks to all the workers and to Doel for organizing this huge outreach.

## A Big Year for Pro-Life Billboards

Thanks to a generous donor, we have a new junior billboard on display. The neat thing about this billboard is that the message is moved from one location to another every two month. This really multiplies the impact.



This is the first year for Pro-Life Waco to have a special Christmas billboard. Thanks to Mitch DeLaRosa for coming up with the message and basic design.



We have two new junior billboards with the Christmas message. Plus our current billboard on 17<sup>th</sup> Street and the railroad overpass was change to display the Christmas message

## Baylor's Bears for Life

Pro-Life Waco has worked closely with the student organization Bears for Life. John Pisciotta is one of the faculty sponsors. Bears for Life received the top-tier honor from Students for Life in America.

Here are some of the 2009 activities of Bears for Life:

1. Movie screening of *Demographic Winter*.
2. Flag display to commemorate *Roe v. Wade*. (Over 1,000 pink and blue flags displayed for two days to honor the unborn lost to abortion in Waco each year.)
3. Organized and hosted the annual Texas Students for Life Conference on February 21. Ten Texas universities and college sent representatives.
4. Assisted in Waco CareNet Walk for Life fundraiser.
5. Bear Necessities Drive (Sought donations of supplies for distribution by Waco CareNet.)
6. Fetal development display in the Student Union. (Weeklong display of beautiful pictures of life in the womb.)

## Pro-Life Super Bowl Party



In addition to praying and working for the Gospel of Life, pro-lifers also enjoy a good time. John Pisciotta hosted our second annual Pro-Life Super Bowl Party on February 1. John served meatball sandwiches and others brought a variety of delicious food.

The evening was not all about football. Many just enjoyed visiting and singing under the musical direction of Ruby McCray and Rick Ellis. The large number of beautiful children added joy and energy to the evening.

30 to 9



Pro-lifers continued their dominance in letters to the editor of the *Waco Tribune Herald* and the *Baylor Lariat*. So many of you gave of your time and talent to carry our messages to this widely-read forum.

Let's keep writing for life!

**Thank you** to all who have

- prayed
- worked
- and financially supported the Gospel of Life in the Waco in 2009.

**On to 2010!!**

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