



Aid for Women

Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978

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Aid for Grandmother

Rosie was devastated. She felt angry and betrayed. The home pregnancy test given to her 15-year-old daughter yielded a positive result. How could it be that her daughter was sexually active for what must have been at least five months? Why had she not known? How could she ever trust her daughter again?

Rosie called Aid for Women and explained to the hotline volunteer that she was extremely disappointed in her daughter. She was completely frustrated and confused about what to do. The volunteer convinced Rosie that the best plan would be to bring Maria to Aid for Women to speak to a counselor.

Rosie and Maria came to Aid for Women in mid-May to confirm Maria's pregnancy and to receive counseling. Maria sat quietly next to her mother in the waiting area. Although she was 15, Maria had a genuine look of innocence about her which seemed more fitting for a girl several years younger.

Rosie accompanied her daughter in the counseling session with Sharnina. It wasn't long before Sharnina realized that her counseling efforts would be directed to the young pregnant girl's mother. Rosie told Sharnina that she was a divorced mother of two children, Maria and a 13-year old son. She held a fulltime job and was very involved in her children's lives. Rosie lamented how hard it is to raise

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ULTRASOUND UPDATE Aid for Women Welcomes Medical Consultant

The board of directors is pleased to introduce our new medical consultant, Robert LaPata, MD. Dr. LaPata is a prominent OB/Gyn physician at Evanston Hospital. "I am delighted and honored to be a member of the board of directors," said Bob. "Having ultrasound capability on site is eminently essential to the quality and effectiveness of our mission."

Bob and his wife, Nanda, reside in Glenview and are parishioners at St. Joseph Church in Wilmette. Thank you, Bob, for all you do to protect the dignity of life at every stage.

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Coordinator*

Robert J. Castagna Joins Team as General Counsel and Executive Director

Our new General Counsel and Executive Director, Robert J. Castagna, is a dedicated, insightful and compassionate public policy advocate with a strong record of leadership in promoting life issues, most notably, the fight against physician-assisted suicide. As General Counsel and Executive Director of the Oregon Catholic Conference for more than 21 years, Bob represented the Catholic bishops of Oregon on public policy issues before the Oregon Legislature and Oregon's Congressional delegation. Bob was elected President of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors and has served as consultant to the USCCB. A New York native and 31-year Oregon resident, Bob and his wife, Sue, come to Chicago where their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren reside. Welcome, Bob, to the Aid for Women family!

Auxiliary's Spring Luncheon



Mari Heavey, Pat Daily & Diane Philbin

Women from all over Chicagoland gathered at the elegant Women's Athletic Club one sunny spring afternoon for inspiration from author Susan Conroy.

Auxiliary president, Laima Braune, exclaimed, "Susan Conroy was truly inspiring! She spoke with genuine love when describing her work with the dying in Calcutta and caring for the orphaned children. Her message from Mother Teresa was to do everything in the name of Jesus with love. What an inspiration for our auxiliary, which is growing and enjoying its ability to provide prayers and financial support to Aid for Women!"



Elizabeth Burke & Julia Gasparly



Rep. Patricia Bellock, Vicki Grossestreuer & Mary Ellen Cooney-Higgins

Katie Bredemann, treasurer, agreed. "Susan Conroy helped everyone better understand how Mother Teresa lived every moment for Jesus. She gave us all so much to think about, pray on and aspire to. This year's Spring Luncheon helped confirm that there is great momentum at Aid for Women right now. There is a very positive sense of urgency to spread the word about all that

Aid for Women is doing to help its clients and promote a culture of life in Chicago."

Our very special thanks to the many members of the auxiliary who worked to make the event a tremendous success, and thanks to all those who attended!



Rev. Ramil Fajardo, Margie Manczko Breen & Peter Breen



Susan Conroy signs the book of a guest

Special Thanks to Our Donors

So much credit for the success of Aid for Women events, such as the Spring Luncheon and Bonanza Boutique, goes to our very generous donors. Throughout the history of our ministry, we have depended on the benevolence of supporters who understand well the importance of our mission.

The help we have been able to provide for tens of thousands of women in the past twenty-eight years, has been possible because of countless, valuable contributions. Contributions have included prayers, service and gifts, both monetary and material.

We acknowledge and offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have joined in this labor of love for LIFE!



Historical Church Tour

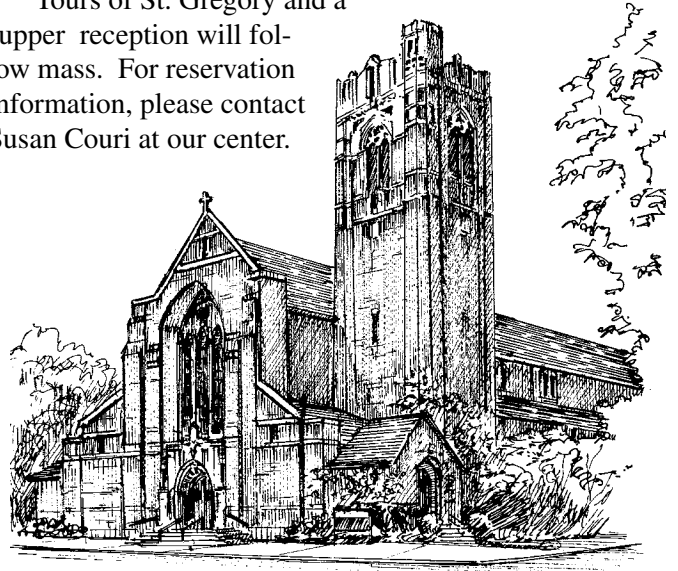
The board of directors will host the first of what will become an annual tour of Chicago's greatest churches and cathedrals. Board member and longtime professional event planner, Kathy Shinkle, chose St. Gregory in the Andersonville neighborhood as the site for the event. Kathy says, "I haven't been this excited about planning an event in years! The thought of introducing others to the heritage and legacy of our great Catholic churches in Chicago is thrilling."

The Eucharistic Liturgy and reception will be held the evening of October 14th. The Most Reverend Francis J. Kane will celebrate mass along with concelebrant Reverend Michael M. Boland, Administrator of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

St. Gregory was chosen as the site of the event because of its rich history and unique architecture. The community of the parish explains, "St. Gregory the Great Church is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the Archdiocese of Chicago (if not the finest) and as such acts as a complete spatial instruction in the truths of the Christian faith. Everything, from the paintings and sculptures to the

architectural elements themselves, not only tells a story but invites deeper into the heart of the mystery that is Christ's Church. The journey into St. Gregory's Church is a journey into life, death and re-birth, from Alpha to Omega, from darkness to light."

Tours of St. Gregory and a supper reception will follow mass. For reservation information, please contact Susan Couri at our center.



Memorial and Honor Gifts

A special gift is a meaningful way to remember a friend or a loved one at the time of his or her death – or in life by honoring that person's accomplishments and character.

In Memory Of:

Rev. Francis C. Lewis

Margaret T. Lewis

John T. Gelderman

Mary Ann Goldberg

Arthur Grams

Mr. and Mrs. Rob Mauser

John Staton Rushing

Jo and Terry Noetzel

Arthur Grams

Melanie Mauser

In Honor Of:

Ralph Papaleo

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Louis Mordini

Mary W. Wangler

Kevin and Mary FioRito

Dan Reid

Mrs. Janet Reid

Patricia Daily

Mike and Mary Kupper

Patricia Daily Resigns as Board Chairman

Our most heartfelt and sincere thanks to Pat Daily who has served as chairman of the board for the last 6 years. Pat has truly given her all to protect the sanctity of life and help our organization better serve its clients.

Pat first joined Aid for Women as a volunteer in 1982. She assumed the bookkeeping responsibilities at the center which was then located in Deerfield, Illinois. In 1997, Pat joined Aid for Women's board of directors as treasurer, and within a few years, became the chairman of the board.

Pat says of her service, "For me, it has always been a labor of love. I feel I have received so many blessings, and this is a wonderful way for me to give back to the community."

Under Pat's direction, our organization has truly prospered. Pat will continue to serve on the board of directors, and for this, we are truly grateful!

ProLifeSearch.com

Help support Aid for Women by setting your internet home page to www.prolifesearch.com

BONANZA BOUTIQUE 2006

Shopping in preparation for a baby's arrival can be a lot of fun, and that's exactly what it was for the Aid for Women clients who came to our Bonanza Boutique 2006.



The clients who participate in our Client Bonus Program made their selections from a generous variety of items: "Pack n Plays," umbrella strollers, soft baby carriers, diaper bags, exceptional baby clothes, beautiful blankets and quilts (many handmade), great toys and special accessories.

Purchases made at the boutique totaled "\$760" in "bonus bucks." One client has been earning bonuses for most of her pregnancy and was able to spend "\$140" in "bucks." She and so many other clients fully appreciate the benefits that are theirs by participating in the program.

The Aid for Women staff, board members and volunteers had the opportunity to attend the boutique. Some client family members and friends came to assist with carrying purchases home. It truly was fun for all!



Aid to Grandmother *continued from page 1*

children as a single mother. The challenges are overwhelming for an adult, she explained, not to mention what it would be like for Maria. Rosie expressed her hurt because her daughter betrayed her and stated that she no longer trusted Maria. Maria sat quietly with a sad look on her face. Rosie stated that although she was against abortion, she did not know what else to do given her daughter's age.

Maria explained that she and her 14-year-old boyfriend did not want to abort the child.

In assessing that Rosie and Maria were abortion-vulnerable, Sharnina discussed the risks and side effects of the abortion procedures as well as the emotional effects. In addition to showing a video and giving them pamphlets, Sharnina encouraged Maria to receive an ultrasound exam which Sharnina was able to schedule for that very same day.

Rosie took Maria for the ultra sound exam which determined that Maria was 22 weeks pregnant. From there, Rosie brought Maria to an abortion clinic. Once at the clinic, Rosie insisted that Maria have an abortion, but Maria refused by yelling and screaming. The two were so disruptive they were asked to leave the clinic. Rosie became furious. Just after the episode, Sharnina happened to call Rosie to fol-

low-up. Rosie asked if Aid for Women could find a shelter for her daughter who would not be allowed to live at home while pregnant.

Sharnina asked Rosie and Maria to meet with her again at which time she provided Rosie with phone numbers to access more intense professional counseling to help cope with her difficulty in accepting her daughter's pregnancy and the upcoming arrival of her grandchild. Sharnina pleaded with Rosie that she support her daughter in this difficult situation and promised that Aid for Women would continue to help in every way possible.

With the assistance and encouragement of Sharnina, Rosie is gradually accepting her daughter's pregnancy. Rosie scheduled prenatal appointments for Maria, however Maria commutes to the hospital by train with her younger brother, as Rosie is not yet willing to accompany her daughter. In addition, Rosie has set up home schooling for Maria during the six weeks following the birth of her baby this fall. Maria participates in the client bonus program and continues to communicate with Sharnina on a regular basis. Aid for Women supports the entire family because abortion affects the entire family!