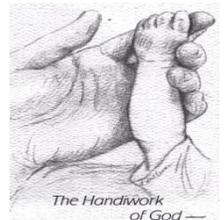




St. Gerard Campus

"The really ignored and abused woman of this world today is one that has been abandoned by the father of the baby that she is carrying." – Caroline Wolff



Spring 2016

*"There are two victims in every abortion:
a dead baby and a dead conscience." - Mother Teresa*

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Dear Friends of St. Gerard Campus and the Unborn Child,

Each time I sit down to write one of our newsletters, I am always perplexed on what news or stories I should share with you....but not this time. A short time ago I lost my beloved husband Al. We had been married 64 years, raised 5 children, worked in missions across the United States and, very importantly, he became the rock that held me together when we came to St. Augustine and were chosen by the Blessed Mother to raise the consciousness of people everywhere as to the plight of single pregnant woman, pregnant teens, new mothers and the unborn. Al was instrumental in the display of the 4,000 crosses St. Gerard Campus installs each year at what was the Prince of Peace Church at the Mission of Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine. This year we celebrate the renaming of this church to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in honor of the blessed Mother, the first shrine dedicated to Our Lady in the United States. Here is the story of how those crosses came to be placed on these sacred grounds and I know Al will be watching from above as we keep his memory alive, honor Our Blessed Mother and continue to fight the good and blessed fight to save the unborn.

THE STORY OF THE 4,000 CROSSES

Twenty-six years ago my husband, Al Wolff, was very sad because no one wanted to address the issue of abortions in America. He read in the newspaper about a city in South Florida which placed 4,000 crosses in front of a church. Al called the church and asked if we could rent those crosses. 'Yes' was the answer, and he was also offered a huge billboard showing a sad-faced baby. Al rented a truck, drove to South Florida, and brought back to St. Augustine the crosses and the billboard. We planned to set up at the Prince of Peace Church on San Marco Avenue. The students from St. Joseph's Academy lined the field in a very "high-school way" without precision and in crooked rows, but between all of us working on the project, we got it done with laughter and prayers.

All seemed to go well until I received a call from the St. Augustine Police Department. The officer said the sign was too big. He asked how long it would be up on the church grounds. When I said that we planned to leave the crosses and the sign up for two weeks, I thought we had hit our first major stumbling block. The officer, however, said nicely, "Okay, as long as it's only for 2 weeks."

Soon we faced another challenge. The sign was sprayed with black paint. We painted over it in time for the 365-mile Run for Life marathon beginning in Homestead, Florida and ending in St. Augustine.

My husband decided the next year we should build our own sign and crosses. The first load of wood was dumped in the backyard of St. Gerard Campus. Al had no idea how to cut wood on a table saw. The Order of the Knights of Columbus, of which Al was a long-time member, heard of our plight. Their group came to the campus, sawed and assembled the crosses. I closed my eyes to the mess!

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Having met the construction project head on, we then put out a request for more help. Late one afternoon after school was over, Father Rene showed up with a crew of blind students from The Florida School for The Deaf and The Blind. There was about a half-acre of wood spread around the backyard, and it looked like they covered the entire backyard with white paint! But, they got the job done. We could not believe what a blessing these students were to help us!

With all the wonderful help, we met the deadline of having the sign and the crosses in place when the marathon runners reached St. Augustine, although we were still hammering the crosses into the ground late Saturday night.

We stored the wooden crosses and the sign in a shed on the St. Gerard Campus property. Throughout the years of annual use, some of the crosses were broken, and the sign needed fresh paint every so often. Different groups always volunteered to help repair and replace whatever was needed. There were times when the crosses were vandalized, torn up, and thrown in the intracoastal waterway. After that Al would sleep in our van to “guard” the crosses and the sign. While he was on the church grounds during the night time hours, he’d always talk to the people and answer questions. The vandalism continued for several years, but with Al guarding the crosses, it became less and less of an issue. As he was getting older, he was getting tired of spending all those nights trying to get some sleep in the van! A young man named “A.J.” from the Knights of Columbus took over Al’s watch, and with the help of the local police department, the crosses are now protected and understood to be the approximate number of abortions performed every day in America.

I was always so very proud of Al, for all those years dedicated to making this important statement about abortion. Rain and frozen ground, much adversity and tears never dimmed the fire in his eyes as he steadfastly defied all odds and kept true to his spiritual mission.

Saturday, March 5, 2016 is the day the crosses and sign will be placed on the grounds of the recently rededicated Our Lady of La Leche Shrine on San Marco Avenue. Many young couples with their children and teenage groups come to hammer in the crosses. For example, a man in his 40s from St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Elkton wrote a donation check. When I asked him why, he told his story. When he was young, he took part in hammering in the crosses. He never forgot what an impression it made on him when he was in the 8th grade.

We invite all people – young, older, with children, single, grandparents – to join us on Saturday, March 5, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m. on San Marco Avenue at Our lady of La Leche. So many will be touched by this sight without a single word being said.

Rightly so, this sacred ground is called the “Cemetery of the Innocent.” Please join us and please remember in your prayers Al, our pregnant and new teen mothers and the unborn, facing abortion right now.

On Sunday, March 6th, we will be celebrating Respect Life with a Mass at The Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at 12 noon. At 2 pm that afternoon St. Gerard Campus will be hosting a banquet at Bishop Baker Hall in St. Augustine. The Knights of Columbus Council 611 are generously providing a sumptuous buffet. Please see the flyer in this newsletter. On the final page of our newsletter is an opportunity for you to personally “adopt” one or some of the crosses we will be installing. The adoptions will be presented at the Shrine on March 6th. Thank you all and God bless each and every one of you that helps support our mission.

With love, in Christ, *Caroline Wolff*



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Adopt a Cross at the Cemetery of the Innocent, Our Lady of La Leche Shrine

The installation of the crosses will take place on March 5, 2016 at 9 am at the Cemetery of Innocent at the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche on San Marco Avenue in St. Augustine. This is a wonderful family event as we install the 4,000 crosses commemorating the deaths of the babies from abortion. We invite all church youth groups to join in the companionship with our fellow Christians. Bring some hammers and friends to join in this unforgettable spiritual experience. Community service hours will be awarded.

If you or your family would like to “adopt” a cross or crosses, we are asking for a donation of \$5.00 per cross. Your “adoption” entitles you to “name” your cross or crosses in honor of a baby that was never born or dedicate your cross or crosses to your very own loved ones, thanking our Lord for His gift of life. Maybe your dedication can be for a little life that was cut short because of disease or an accident. If you would like to sponsor a cross or crosses please fill out the form below and send your payment in the enclosed envelope to St. Gerard Campus. All dedications will be presented to Our Lady at the Mass on March 6th. We thank you from our hearts for your continued support.

Yes, I believe in the mission of St. Gerard Campus and I want to sponsor a cross or crosses!

Number of Crosses: _____ Each Cross is \$5.00

Please dedicate my crosses to: _____

Enclosed is my payment to St. Gerard Campus for \$ _____

Please charge my credit card: MC _____ VISA _____ AmExp _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

(After your credit is processed, credit card information will be destroyed and not kept on file.)

Authorized Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Your donation to St. Gerard Campus is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

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