



Lifers

Issue 19

March 2011

Real Life Salvation in a Clinic Parking Lot

This is a true story. The names of the individuals have been changed to protect their identities.

A silent tear ran down Lauren’s wind-burnt cheek as she approached the hulking escort outside the clinic fences. She was scared and alone. When she had left her apartment dressed in a full-length pea coat and a massive black beret, she told her reflection that she was dressed like a Hollywood spy. But now that Lauren was actually here and approaching her bodyguard, she felt exactly how she looked – like a little girl hiding behind oversized sunglasses, unable to face the shame and guilt of her decision head on.

As she approached the herculean security guard she began to shudder, not from the lashing cold of the January wind, but from the pleading cries of the numerous protesters gathered outside the clinic’s towering fences. The guard’s hurried words of encouragement and strong arms offered her little comfort as her escort ushered her hurriedly up the sidewalk. She was almost to the door when she heard someone scream her

name.
“Lauren, what the heck are you doing! Oh my gosh! I’m begging you, please don’t do it!” her boyfriend Marcus screamed. She had never expected to see him there and she almost collapsed with the shock



of recognizing his face. He had come with some of the members from his parish and a group of Catholic nuns (the sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) to pray outside the abortion clinic. She just stared open-mouthed while silent sobs rocked her body as they fought violently to escape her

chest. The security guard was slowly ushering her forward as a thirty-something nurse held the front door open and told her not to listen and that everything was going to be okay.

Regaining her composure and reminding herself why she was there, Lauren found the nerve to enter and was about to cross the threshold when she felt something brush up against her coat sleeve. Slowly, she turned to look at what had been thrown. But as she did so, her eyes were drawn to the commotion at the gate. A very small, very fragile, and very old nun was being dragged back out onto the sidewalk as she was wailing and crying, begging Lauren not to go inside. Her face was familiar; her zeal was passionate and heartfelt. Lauren knew her instantly. Sister Teresa had been her spiritual director at the local university’s busy students’ retreat.

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Winning Pro-Life T-Shirt Design
by Andrew Williams.

Ordering details coming soon!

(continuation of “Real Life Salvation...”)

Shocked by this realization, Lauren scooped up the tiny silver ring (a finger rosary) from the sidewalk and sprinted back through the crowd to her car. She sped away as fast as she could, trying not to crash as she swerved in and out of traffic, all the while wiping at her tears. She was still weeping when she pulled into her apartment complex and threw her car into park. Lauren was furious, embarrassed, ashamed, but most of all scared. What was she going to do now? How could she have been so stupid? She cursed and raged at God. She screamed and cried over her suffering.

Still clutching the tiny rosary with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lauren called out to God to help her and asked Jesus what she was going to do. And finally when she was done, she asked her Blessed Mother to let her know if she had done the right thing. Just then, Lauren felt a tiny kick inside her belly — and then another. Her car was suddenly filled with the scent of roses, and her heart, with a great, joyful peace.

Epilogue

Lauren and Marcus were married soon after graduating from college, and they have been married for almost three years now. Sister Teresa was lucky enough to attend their wedding, and their new little family is doing quite well. I am blessed enough to know not only the couple but also both of their beautiful twin girls, Rosario and Maria. Never stop believing in prayer and never doubt the power of the Rosary. Our Lady’s intercessory prayers have great power both in Heaven and on earth. I believe that one day we will see the end of one of the greatest American tragedies. When they ask us what it was that ended abortion, we will not answer by pointing to the authority of our government or the power of the people, but instead to the might and majesty of heaven and the loving intercession of Our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

-Matt Pommier, Diocese of Wichita



Catholic Corner

This Lent “Pray, Fast, Give” for LIFE

These 40 days are a blessed time to stand up for life.

Every Lent we are encouraged to take part in some sort of “Pray, Fast, Give” campaign — some may elect to pray an extra rosary, to give up eating between meals, or to donate to the poor. This Lent, the CSC Pro-life group has opportunities for everyone to participate in their very own “Pray, Fast, Give” campaign, benefiting the larger Pro-life movement.

To Pray. We are promoting the “Lenten Pro-life Prayer” put out by the Priests For Life, as well as praying the Our Lady of Guadalupe prayer for the unborn and/or the prayer to St. Maximilian Kolbe.

To Fast. Every Tuesday and Thursday during Lent we are promoting “Fasting to End Abortion.” In this endeavor, students sign up for a day to fast and pray through the intercession of Our Lady and St. Maximilian with the prayer cards provided.

To Give. Our “Give” campaign will be a unique chance to help the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) in St. Joseph, MO, in a program called “Change for Life.” We have been given six baby bottles that we hope to fill with spare change or cash by the end of Lent. This endeavor is particularly important in the cause for life because the need for PRC has increased as more mothers choose life. The PRC facility in St. Joseph has tripled the number of clients they serve and quadrupled the number of client visits they have, just in the past three years. Because this valuable service is purely not-for-profit and because they offer free services, they rely on the generosity of those who feel like this is a worthy cause to support.

We ask for your participation in this “Pray, Fast, Give” campaign so that together we can all make advancements in the cause for life!

-Josh Duncan, Diocese of Jefferson City