Alhambra Abortuary Rescued

"Write down for the coming generation what the Lord has done, so that the people not yet born will praise Him."
Psalm 102:18 (Good News Bible)

On Friday, January 12, 1990, through a mighty downpour of rain, many experienced and new rescuers met at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elk Grove, California. An estimated 400-500 men, women, and children gathered together for worship, testimony, fellowship, and pre-rescue instructions. As the sky flooded the earth with the blessing of needed rain, so the Lord poured out upon His people the blessing of His Word and Spirit.

Saturday morning at about 6:30 a.m., through a gentle shower, rescuers descended upon the abortuary (alias: the Pregnancy Consultation Center) at 616 Alhambra Boulevard in Sacramento, California, and found the police and a handful of pro-abortionists waiting there in anticipation of a rescue. After two people slipped through the front door, all the doors were secured and the rescue had begun.

Half an hour later, as the morning dawned on the gray and drizzly day, about 200 rescuers, 30 pro-abortionists, and a dozen or more police officers had effectively closed down the abortion mill. The rescuers prayed and worshiped under a vehement tongue lashing by the pro-abortionists as police officers watched and kept order. After a while, the pro-abortionists retreated across the street to McKinley Park where they chanted, screamed and watched for mothers seeking abortions. Operation Rescue sidewalk counselors intercepted about a half-dozen women who had appointments for the execution of their unborn. The sidewalk counselors believed that none of the other women kept their appointments for the day. The Alhambra abortuary, which has had up to 40 clients per Saturday six months ago, has been averaging about 15 clients on Saturday.

Photo: Jed White

Bullied by the pro-abortionists, the police began making arrests at 10:00 a.m. After 14 rescuers had been arrested—the latter half being treated to pain compliance for no apparent reason—the pro-abortionists, led by the police, made an attack down the alleyway and to the back door. The pro-abortionists had surrounded about six shrouded figures whom they claimed were clients, and since they were able, with the help of the police, to break through the rescuers, they claimed victory for the day. However, Operation Rescue intelligence reported that the two abortionists who service the mill, Dr. Ben Majors and Dr. Deryl Wong, had come and gone. Also, many rescuers recognized the shrouded "clients" as clinic personnel and other pro-abortion workers. The assault ended with the escorts at the back door, the rescuers massed together in the alley, and a line of about 20 police officers who separated the two groups and faced the rescuers. An hour and a half of singing, prayer, and testimony followed as rescuers ministered the truth about abortion and the love of God to the tight-lipped police officers and the strangely silent pro-abortionists.

At noon, rescuers gathered together at the park across the street to thank God for the broken appointments and the saved lives. ■

Operation Rescue, Central Valley, January, 1990

Pro-Life Attorneys Face Jail

by Paul deParrie

San Diego, CA—Attorneys, Cyrus Zal and Collette Gonzalez, have been sentenced to 290 days and 45 days, respectively, for their attempts to defend the moral positions of rescuers (see story on pages 16 & 17). Zal asked nine questions considered "inflammatory" by Judge Larrie R. Brainard, a Municipal Court judge. Among those questions were, "Were you an unborn baby at some time in your life?" and "Are your paychecks bloodstained?"

San Diego judges who are trying the rescue cases have accepted a Motion in Limine from the plaintiff's attorneys to bar the defenses of Necessity, Free speech, "Good motive", Defense of others, and Compliance with International law, Treaties, or Declarations. Also prohibited are the use of the words: kill, killer, baby killer(s), killing centers, murder or murderer, fetus, holocaust, abortion, "rights of the unborn", and reference to God or Deity, or "religious beliefs" in any manner or form. Dozens of other words were included and accepted in the Motion in Limine.

"The question here is whether killing unborn babies is a crime," Zal said. "Legality was the same excuse Nazi war criminals had."

"Nazi" is also on the forbidden words list. ■

Bishops, Aborted Women Ignored

by John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe

The media blackout of prolife action was pierced by Operation Rescue in 1988, but was back in force in 1990, when the sacrificial work of bishops and aborted women was totally suppressed. Bishop Austin Vaughan was jailed in Albany, New York, for two weeks. Although Vaughan was the first bishop in the history of the United States to go to jail, his repeated incarceration was not reported by any of the major newspapers of the nation. While he was in jail, Bishop George Lynch joined the parents of aborted children in a rescue in Washington; the event was ignored.

The rescue in Washington was the second time "Rachel's Rescue" during the annual march for Life, on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. There have been rescues all over the city on January 22 each year since 1985, closing the entire abortion industry in the city on several occasions; in 1989 and 1990, the rescues were led by women who have had abortions. Kathy Kelly, whose child was killed at Bill Baird's abortion mill on Long Island 11 years ago, worked to bring together post-abortion women (and men) and rescuers; her work opened the eyes of many people throughout the prolife movement.

This year, the rescue was sponsored by Bishops Vaughan and Lynch, and by parents—including fathers—of aborted children. During a pre-rescue prayer rally the night before the rescue, Bishop Lynch noted that when post-abortion women witness at the abortion mills, the supercilious smiles of the staff disappear, because they know that these women speak the truth.

In her talk, Kathy Kelly spoke to the pro-abortion infiltrators in the church. "To the pro-abortion folks who are here, my word to you is: Welcome. You are in the right place. You are amongst other parents just like yourselves who are at a different stage of dealing with their pain, the pain of taking part in the bloody death of a blood relative. If a time comes for you when you begin to be aware of hurting from your abortions, please know that you can turn to us. As a former member of NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League), I can assure you, I know how you feel right now. If you ever come to us in need of healing in the future, there will be no 'I told you so.' There will only be a welcome, and a desire to help you know the Lord's healing love."

Kelly explained why women who are hurt or threatened by abortion ultimately appreciate the efforts of rescuers. "Once when I was praying," she said, "I had an image of Jesus' presence in the abortion mill with me while I was on the table. He was standing back, arms folded, waiting for me to wake up and return to Him. I knew then, as I never knew before, that the Lord hates the sin but loves the sinner, does not abandon these abandoned women even when they are on the table.

"At first I was awe-struck: a God who would wait for me, even during my gravest sin.

"So, I beg you, on behalf of women threatened by abortion, who are abandoned, who feel it's not freedom of choice but their only choice: Please rescue, please be faithful to the abandoned women whom the Lord never abandons. Please make His presence at the killing centers visible to them."

The following day, the rescuers met at the Washington Hospital Center, where the latest abortions in the city are done. The late abortion specialist recently lost a four million dollar lawsuit to Julie Surland, a woman who became sterile as a result of an abortion he botched. Although the issue raised by the prolifers at the hospital was "safe" (for the mother) abortion, pro-abortion activists harassed the prolifers, and would not join them even to denounce slipshod practices.

There was no rescue at the hospital. The rescuers moved from the hospital to the Hillcrest abortion mill, where most of the "dumpster babies of Washington" were found in 1986 and 1987.

While the rescuers were blocking the doors of the mill, several fathers of aborted children told their stories. Dick Bernhart, a rescuer from Morgantown, West Virginia, said he was the father of two aborted children.

One of the most moving details of the day was the decision by Leda Freire and her daughter Diana to risk arrest together blocking the door of the mill. Leda aborted her first child, and almost aborted Diana, because of threats from her husband. After praying "for perhaps the first time in my life," she felt that Jesus answered her prayers, and assured her that if she followed the kingdom of God, all things would be taken care of. The survivor, Diana, is an honor student and a vocal prolife advocate. ■

Priest Found Not Guilty of Trespassing

by Gloria Padilla

The head of anti-abortion activities for the San Antonio Roman Catholic Archdiocese was acquitted Friday of trespassing charges stemming from his arrest at a clinic where abortions are performed.

It took the jury two hours to return the verdict in the case of Monsignor Sherill Smith, 68.

It was the first not-guilty verdict rendered in Bexar County by a jury in a case involving a defendant charged with trespassing at a clinic where abortions are performed.

A juror interviewed after the trial said the panel questioned whether the administrator of the clinic was the owner of the property and if she had the authority to order Smith to leave the premises.

Smith, jubilant after the verdict, said he plans to continue protests at a San Antonio clinic starting Saturday.

Smith, pastor at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, was tried before County Court-at-law No. 4 Judge Sarah Garrahan on a charge of criminal trespass at A Woman's Choice clinic at 920 San Pedro Ave. on March 10.

Criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor, is punishable by a six-month jail sentence and a $1,000 fine.

A courtroom full of Smith supporters broke into applause and cheers as the verdict was read.

"It feels great for myself and all the movement, those who have spent time in jail and have been arrested," Smith said outside the courtroom.

Although he admitted on the witness stand he had been on private property, had been ordered to leave and remained, Smith said he did not feel what he had done was civil disobedience.

Smith, who was released from jail Monday after serving 10 days on another trespassing conviction, said he plans to go back to A Woman's Choice on Saturday to protest abortions being performed there.

"With this finding of me not guilty puts another dimension to this (movement)," Smith said.

Please see **Not Guilty**
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