Mother Climbs Off Operating Table—Saves Her Unborn Child

by Mary O'Neill

New Zealand—It's never too late to say "No", and one little boy in Australia is living testimony to his mother's courage at the last minute.

"Sara" was lying on the operating table, with monitors and anesthetic tubes in her thumb and chest and arm, when she started to scream: "I don't want this, I want to have my baby!"

One of the medics said: "They all get upset at this point—we usually knock them out".

"That made me scream all the more," Sara recalls. "I drew my legs up and said No, No, and finally the doctor said, oh well, that's all right, we'll help you have your baby."

How did Sara and her baby have such a close call?

"Everyone told me I was too old (36) and too fat to have a baby. All my friends and the doctors said the same thing—so I thought they must be right."

Early in the pregnancy Sara was bleeding, and she went to bed for a few days to prevent a miscarriage. Yet, with the pressure to abort the baby, only a week later she was outside an operating theatre in a public hospital.

Photo: Mary O'Neill

Nine-month old baby boy crawls in front of photos of an unborn child at eight weeks. He was about that age when his mother "rescued" him.

"I was lying on the trolley outside the theatre thinking, how do I get out of this? What can I do?"

As they wheeled her in, Sara was desperate. "At one point I thought, oh well, I could have the abortion and then have another baby. But immediately I thought—No, I want this baby!"

"It makes me cry to remember it," Sara says. "The day he was born I looked at him and I thought how near it was."

I met Sara and her handsome, blond-haired son when he was nine-months old. The baby breast-fed contentedly while his mother listened to speeches at a right to life convention. Later, he kept crawling in front of the posters showing the baby in the womb. ■

Not Guilty: Jury appears to grasp the real issues of case

■ Continued from Page 7

Tom Rocha, Smith's attorney, said he was disappointed Garrahan did not allow him to use a "necessity defense" to show his client's actions were caused by a need to save a life.

Garrahan ruled that such a defense was not within the scope of Texas law.

"I feel the jury would have had a difficult time sentencing him even if they had come back with a guilty verdict," Rocha said. "I felt the jury knew what the real issue was. The issue is saving life."

Assistant District Attorney Bert Richardson expressed surprise at the verdict.

He said under the law he is not required to show ownership of a building to prove a trespassing case.

Richardson said there are no plans to dismiss another trespassing case pending against Smith in Garrahan's court.

Dan Gilligan, one of the six jurors who found Smith not guilty, said he was dismayed at the amount of time and money the District Attorney's Office appears to have spent to prosecute Smith for what appeared to be a minor charge.

Gilligan said some of the jurors felt Smith was singled out by the District Attorney's Office for prosecution as some sort of test case.

When jurors began their deliberation, Gilligan said, only one felt Smith was guilty.

The abortion issue was not discussed, he said.

The majority of the deliberation time was spent arguing the question of who had control over the property, he said.

"It is located in a strip center. We were not sure if she (the administrator) had control of the parking lot," he said.

Gilligan said he did not think the jury would have been able to punish Smith, even if they had found him guilty. ■

Express-News, San Antonio, Texas, February 3, 1990.

Backlash Fears Follow Protest

Liverpool, UK—The controversial pro-life tactics of RESCUE came to Liverpool last week when a blockade outside an abortion clinic ended with the police arresting 26 people, including Fr Cyril Thomas the parish priest of Holy Family, Halewood.

Archbishop Derek Worlock distanced himself from the action while other pro-life groups feared that the protest would harm the cause of the unborn. But the protesters said they were just following their consciences.

The 26, who included Scottish priests Fr James Morrow, Fr James Birrell and Fr Gerald Dunne, were charged with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace and their trial was adjourned until February 12 at Liverpool Magistrates Court.

Early last Wednesday the protestors tried to block the Merseyside Nursing Home in Aigburth.

As a police van brought in several women to the home two protestors climbed under, forcing it to stop.

The protestors had challenged Archbishop Derek Worlock and Bishop David Sheppard to join.

But the call brought this response from Fr Paul Thompson, the diocese press officer, on behalf of the Archbishop, 'We must try to change the law on abortion not break the law.

'Other ways of persuasion should be used rather than this.'

He added, 'We will use the parliamentary process, we will use persuasion and we will use prayer'.

Mr. Chris Walsh the chairman of Merseyside SPUC said he respected the right of

people to act in accord with their conscience.

Dr Peggy Norris, of Huyton, who took part in the protests, said 'No one knows what goes on in that building, we are putting ourselves between the babies and those who would kill them'.

'This is an immoral law. I would never dream of breaking the law in the ordinary course of events but our country is becoming morally bankrupt,' she commented.

Fr Morrow, who is one of the prominent campaigners in RESCUE, said the protestors would give women the telephone numbers of counseling and caring groups like LIFE and Lifeline.

He was obeying the higher law of conscience, and said abortion rubbished creation.

'God has been rubbished,' he commented.

Rescue operations have come over from the United States where Christians and pro-life campaigners have taken the lines from Proverbs to heart, 'Rescue those being led away to death.

The civil disobedience campaign snowballed when a campaigner Joan Andrews was jailed for five years in 1985.

Catholic Pictorial, Jan. 7, 1990

Sheriff's Pro-life Stance Draws Support, Backlash

by John Mies and Mark Horvit

Sheriff James T. Hickey's stance against policing abortion protests drew accolades and denunciations yesterday—a bouquet of roses from anti-abortion activists and a call for his resignation from a pro-choice group.

Meanwhile, Hickey appeared on two live local television programs that featured call-in questions regarding his assertion that he would not enforce the law if it meant opening up abortion clinics blocked by protesters.

Hickey also said yesterday that he would attend two anti-abortion events today.

Later, he greeted a group of anti-abortion activists who visited his office to show their support.

"We know what is symbolized here," Hickey said, holding a vase full of roses presented to him by the activists. "The red rose is the symbol of the child who is killed."

Last night, during a broadcast of KEDT's "South Texas '90," he learned that South Texans for Choice is calling for his resignation.

"If he won't uphold the law, I feel he should resign," said Amanda Stukenberg, a South Texans for Choice board member.

"I'm not going to resign," was Hickey's response.

Earlier in the day, Hickey said he would participate in a march sponsored by South Texans for Life this morning.

Eli Valenzuela Jr., founder of South Texans for Life, said earlier this week that he expected about 200 marchers, but yesterday he boosted his estimate to 500.

"People are calling from all over," he said.

Valenzuela said the event would be a peaceful "march for life," rather than a protest, followed by a rally in the park.

The sheriff took several opportunities to defend his stance on abortion yesterday.

Please see **Sheriff**
Continued on Page 10