



STANDING IN TRUTH AND LOVE

By MaryEllen Love

"This is the spirit of the antichrist that, as you have heard, is to come, but in fact is already in the world. You belong to God, children, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 3-4

The Church throughout history has adjusted in order to be relevant to the times and needs of the people. However, it has never changed what it was founded in and what it is grounded in – Jesus Christ and his teachings.

Today's world moves at high speed and is in the mode of constant connectivity everywhere, whether it be via television, iPad, iPhones or computers. No time for rest -- lest the latest news is missed! If the Church was to change with everyone's beliefs throughout its 2000-year existence, it wouldn't be grounded in truth, rather it would be grounded in terms of the people. With millions of people walking this earth there are quite a lot of terms, and with millions of terms settling into their beds of complacency, a spiritual gangrene is most certainly pervading, meaning souls are dying to the things of this world.

Let me explain. As humans beings go, we are made in the image and likeness of God, thus we are both human and spirit. We are made of God's love and saved by God's love. Both our exterior person AND our interior person need to be tended to. Our exterior is quite easy to get a handle on, and in a world where millions upon millions of dollars are spent in the care and advertisement of the body, the requirements of care are widely known and met.

But what about our souls, our interior? Our soul is not so easy to grasp, especially when we live in a world where we spend our days making sure we are rightly ordering our lives according to our external worldly needs. How much time are we investing in rightly ordering that which we take with us after our time here is over? Yes, much attention is required!! St. Augustine said "take care of your body as if you are going to live forever; and take care of your soul as if you are going to die tomorrow." Our soul is the eternal part of us, it is the most valuable part and it needs to be worked on and strengthened.

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The key to the soul is love – love of God, self and others and the gateway to the soul is prayer. So many today know not of love and know not of God because their lives are clouded and crowded with keeping up with life here on earth and surviving. Truth be told, we live our lives in relationship with self, God and others. If we take a quick look at the state of relationships in this post-modern day of technology, what do we see? We see the lack of importance put upon face-to-face, heart-to-heart human transactions that invoke the use of our senses. People today do not find it the least bit disconcerting that sustaining relationships via texts expressed in acronyms is the primary and preferred way of relating. Friends and family sit

with each other and are more invested in and consumed with being connected with the happenings on their phones rather than the hearts that beat before them. It is heartbreaking to see a mother mechanically fill her child's plate or pull a trick out of her bag so that she can continue investing her time and energy on the little device positioned between her two thumbs. What does that little life sitting across from her learn from this interaction day after day about relationship and love? Technology has most certainly advanced our relationship with the world, but it what has it done to the most important relationship in our lives?

Complacency in the ways of the world is a funny thing. It is so promising, so non-committal and very easy to get comfortable with. Do you stand in this illusion? Do you value the ways of the world and dismiss what is most valuable to the life of the soul? The tragic cost of the stance of complacency is the fullness of life, both in heaven and on earth.

The truth is our Church was born out of the relationship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I was born out of the overflowing abundant love that God has and desires for each and every one of us by sending forth his only Son to teach us and to show us how to truly love and live. In choosing to be complacent in the ways of the world, we choose blindness. In choosing blindness, we don't choose truth. To stand in the truth means we need to courageously take off the blinders that we are wearing and see where we stand in our relationships with self, God and the world. I encourage you, stand in the truth and in love, for to do that is to stand in God. There is no better way.

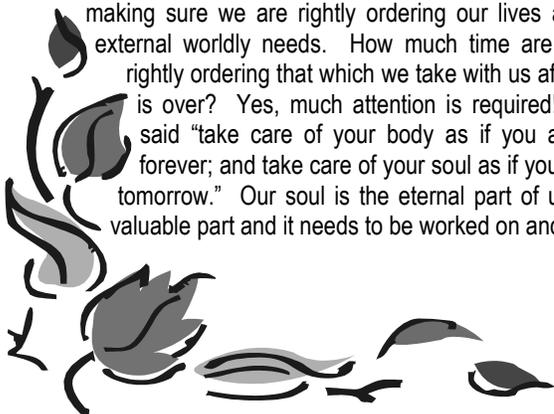
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40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

By Maria Brockmeier

40 Days. Forty days in the bible is mentioned with regard to Noah's Ark, Moses on Mt. Sinai, and Jesus' 40 days in the desert. That was what inspired four people sitting around a table in 2004 to come up with the "40 Days for Life" Campaign. They were looking for something tangible they could do to change our culture to a Culture of Life—a culture where everyone allows for life to flourish and be respected. A culture that looks for alternatives—adoption, pregnancy crisis centers, financial assistance—instead of terminating life.

Founders David Bereit and Shawn Carney began a pro-life campaign in order to "access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion." They called upon volunteers to pray across the street from abortion clinics. There are no raised voices. There is no physical intervention. There is simply prayer and fasting. The focus is on a "positive, prayerful presence outside abortion facilities to show God's love and mercy to those who visit and work at the abortion centers."

Since that day in Texas in 2004, the non-political movement of prayer and fasting has mobilized more than half a million volunteers in 481 cities around the world. There have been 11 campaigns since 2007. Local leaders have reported 8,973 lives saved from abortion and 101 abortion workers quitting their jobs. Fifty-four abortion facilities have closed.

The closest "40 Days" site to St. Peter's is in Hackensack (Women's Choice Abortion Clinic, 10 Zabriskie St.), where volunteers take an hour a week to pray from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 7 days a week. Rain or shine...or snow. Although 40 Days for Life is not solely a Catholic campaign, most of those who come are Catholics praying the rosary. You can pray all four sets of mysteries of the Rosary in an hour. Do not worry if you are unaccustomed to praying the rosary, someone else can lead it. It can be deeply meditative and it leaves you free to focus on the beauty of human life as you recite the rosary. (If you would like to join the St. Peter's contingent that already goes to Hackensack you can contact me at 201-225-0858.)

**The next 40-day campaign will be
February 8-March 30th.**

**If you would like to learn more or sign up
for an hour you can contact:**

Margaret: 201-805-0937 scullyfam@yahoo.com or
Mary: 201-723-5356, doctorted2@verizon.net.

You can read more on the website:

<http://40daysforlife.com>

(you can receive a daily update e-mail and meditation during the 40 days)

or in the book:

"40 Days for Life: Discover What God Has Done...

Imagine What He Can Do"

by David Bereit and Shawn Carney.

"It is must be therefore reiterated the strongest opposition to any direct attack on life, especially innocent and defenseless life, and the unborn child in the womb is the most concrete example of innocence," "Let us remember the words of the Second Vatican Council: From the moment of its conception, life must be guarded with the greatest care while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes."

Pope Francis, 4/11/14

*Let us come
before him with
thanksgiving.*

Psalm 95:2, NIV



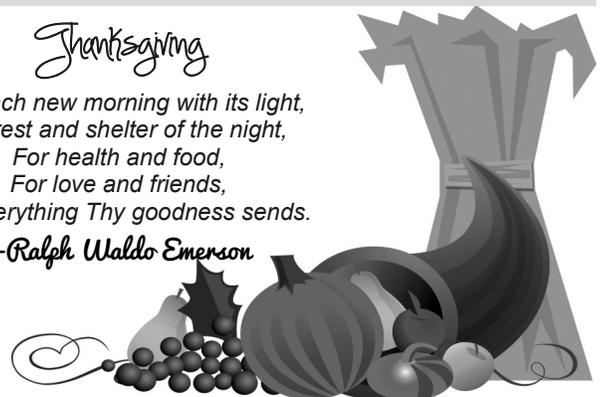
17th ANNUAL TURKEY DRIVE

On **Saturday, November 22**, the 17th annual Turkey Drive will be held in the church parking lot from 9 AM to 3 PM at 445 Fifth Avenue in River Edge. Bring frozen turkeys or non-perishable food items to the St. Peter's parking lot and people will be there to collect them. Your generosity has provided turkey dinners for thousands of our neighbors over the years and we are extremely grateful for your support.

Thanksgiving

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

--Ralph Waldo Emerson



Happy Thanksgiving from the staff of The Net Worker!