

A Time for Mercy Rachel's Vineyard

Christmas 2022



May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path.

FATHER BARRY'S CORNER

"We've Only Just Begun" was a pop lyric of the 1970s by the Carpenters but it appropriately describes the whole abortion issue of today and also the ministry of Rachel's Vineyard retreats within the Catholic Church. Once Roe was overturned, people thought it was the right solution, since abortion is wrong and sinful. However, because of pushback against the prospect of abortion being banned not just in red state America, but Democratic strongholds from California to New York many states are trying to amend their constitutions to include abortion on demand.

As a ministry of post-abortion syndrome, we are even more committed to Rachel's Vineyard retreats. There is an obvious fact and reality that most people ignore and that is that women and men never get over the pain and guilt of an abortion, unfortunately once an abortion takes place, so often it is followed by multiple abortions. It is a known fact that women and men are psychologically and emotionally damaged by abortion. Our ministry conducts such healing through our annual Rachel's Vineyard retreat. Speaking from experience, the transformation that takes place is miraculous and so often we hear, "why did I wait so long?"

To be able to continue to offer such healing, you can help us in three ways. First, prayer is absolutely necessary and essential. Second, we need people in the ministry who share the vision and lastly, we need financial contributions. Remember, that God may call upon you to motivate others in the completion of goals that will ultimately serve Christ. Wouldn't it be a great blessing for you to use your gifts to glorify God to keep this ministry going?

Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas,
Father Michael Barry, SS.CC.

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You can help bring God's mercy, hope and healing to someone who has experienced an abortion by sponsoring him or her on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for \$260 or by contributing any amount to keep the retreats going. A Time for Mercy/Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c)3 public benefit organization, and your gift is tax deductible.

Thank you and may God bless you.

A CHRISTMAS POEM

By Helen Steiner Rice

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book
And every year when Christmas comes, I go and take a look,
And that is when I realize that these names are a part
Not of the book they are written in, but really of my heart

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path
sometime
And while you may not be aware of any special link
Just meeting you has changed my life a lot more than you think
For once I've met somebody, the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word, of a friendly face

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between,
For when I send a Christmas card that is address to you,
It is because you're on the list that I'm indebted to.

For I am but a total of the many folks I've met,
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget
And whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some ways you have a part in shaping things I do.

And every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,
The best gifts life can offer is meeting folks like you.
And may the Spirit of Christmas that forever endures
Leave its richest blessing in the heart of you and yours.

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*Each one of us is an
Innkeeper
who decides if
there is room for
Jesus*

*Rachael's Vineyard Retreat Date
March 10th-12th, 2023
In English*

SAINT JOSEPH

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him.

We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” (Matthew 13:55). He wasn’t rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph’s genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed, the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as “son of David,” a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins,” he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25).

When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple, we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, “Is this not the son of Joseph?” (Luke 4:22)

We know Joseph respected God. He followed God’s commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus’ birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus’ public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the Apocryphal Date for Joseph’s birth is 90 BC in Bethlehem and the Apocryphal Date of his death is July 20, AD 18 in Nazareth.

Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus’ public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker. March 19 has been the most commonly celebrated feast day for Joseph, and it wasn’t until 1955 that Pope Pius XII established the Feast of “St. Joseph the Worker” to be celebrated on May 1. This is also May Day (International Workers’ Day) and believed to reflect Joseph’s status as the patron of workers.

Many places and churches all over the world are named after St. Joseph, including the Spanish form, San Jose, which is the most commonly named place in the world. Joseph is considered by many to also be the patron saint of the New World; of the countries China, Canada, Korea, Mexico, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Peru, Vietnam; of the regions Carinthia, Styria, Tyrol, Sicily; and of several main cities and dioceses.

In art, Joseph is typically portrayed as an older man, with grey hair and a beard, often balding, sometimes appearing frail and a marginal figure next to Mary and Jesus, if not entirely in the background. Some statues of Joseph show his staff topped with flowers. St. Joseph is shown with the attributes of a carpenter’s square or tools, the infant Jesus, his lily blossomed staff, two turtle doves, or a spikenard.

There is much we still wish we could know about Joseph -- exactly where and when he was born, how he spent his days, exactly when and how he died. But Scripture has left us with the most important knowledge: who he was -- “a righteous man” (Matthew 1:18).

In His Footsteps:

Joseph was foster father to Jesus. There are many children separated from families and parents who need foster parents. Please consider contacting your local Catholic Charities or Division of Family Services about becoming a foster parent.

Prayer:

Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus, help protect it and guide it as you did with your adopted son. Amen



PLANNED PARENTHOOD CULTURE

Disturbing. That is the word that describes Planned Parenthood and its culture of death. Planned Parenthood has been exposed for selling the body parts of the children they kill on the abortion table.

These body parts include the brain, limbs, and organs. They have placed price tags on them, and currently, sell them for thousands of dollars. They claim that these parts are used for research and science, but these sales violate several U.S. laws on fetal tissue use, including 42 U.S. Code § 289g-2. This is why it has been kept a secret. Since they are violating these codes, the sale of these body parts has been excluded from their official expense reports and covered up. They have lied in court, and have written the sales off as business expenses. They don't want people to see what they have been doing, and what the body parts of these children are actually used for. God only knows what is happening in the darkness.

This story has the potential to nationally expose planned parenthood for what they are, and stop the sale of these body parts. Have you ever wondered why it is that Planned Parenthood and the left have fought for abortion so hard? They are benefiting financially from abortion. For each baby they kill, they know that they can sell them and make thousands. Recently, they have sold body parts to a research company known as ABR (Advanced Bioscience Resources). This company was exposed for this sale, and the details are appalling. ABR reportedly bought body parts from Planned Parenthood, most likely from those innocent babies that they killed on the abortion table that same week. "ABR charged as much as \$6,000 for tissue samples that cost only about \$60 per baby, a few hours of work at \$15 an hour, and the cost of a FedEx shipment." (WNG.org) ADF legal has evidence that proves that Abortion is a big business, capable of big profits.

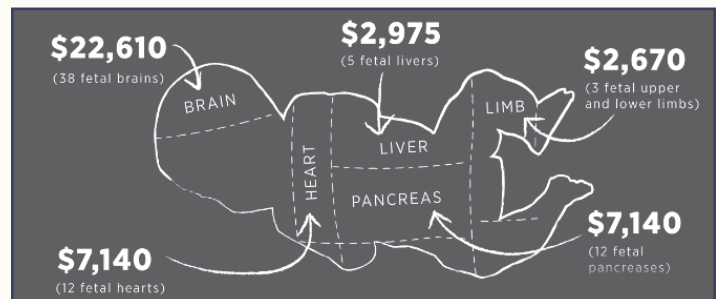
"What's interesting is that abortion clinics are being paid to allow procurement companies to take the babies' remains and re-sell them. This saves the abortion clinics additional costs of having to dispose of the remains themselves, a point raised by ADF Allied Attorney Catherine Glenn Foster. If that's not win-win for the abortion clinic, I don't know what is." (ADF Legal).

This is a growing industry based on profit that is not slowing down. "Sadly, there is an extensive market for baby body parts. At the time of the release of the undercover videos, Stem Express had partnered with nearly 100 abortion clinics to meet the crazy demand for the body parts of dead babies. And they were expecting to continue this extensive growth up until the undercover videos were released. The record also shows that as a result of their growing number of partnerships with abortion clinics, their revenue also increased exponentially. Based on payments from researchers to procurement companies like StemExpress, and payments from StemExpress to abortion clinics, registering in the thousands of dollars per payment, we know there is a lot of money changing hands during these transactions. The profitability of this horrific industry is undeniable."

Watch THIS video that exposes their agenda.
<https://youtu.be/H4UjIM9B9KQ>

This is a business. A business whose export is death, and suffering. But they don't care. They are making their money. What's worse is that the DOJ cares more about stopping the sale of bald eagle parts, rather than babies. We need the DOJ to prosecute these people and hold them accountable. Planned Parenthood and these research companies must answer to the American people for these crimes. There are those who will be too uncomfortable to acknowledge what is going on right in front of them and those who will call this just a conspiracy. The facts and evidence are right before us. There is even a lawsuit right now against planned parenthood, as well as several indictments against them, all because of the sale of body parts. The University of Pittsburgh has just spent millions of dollars to become a "tissue hub" for the sale and distribution and research of these parts. This industry is not slowing down. If we let this go unchecked then it will become harder and harder to stop in the future. We cannot allow this to become normalized.

Planned Parenthood among others are selling the body parts from the innocent children they kill in the womb. They have placed price tags on these babies' bodies for research, and are selling to the highest bidder.



This is pure evil, and must be stopped. These children had no say in life, and were aborted. The least we can do is make sure their remains are buried with dignity, and honor. They received no love in life, so we must do everything we can to show them love and respect, in death.

*ADF (Alliance Defending Freedom) Legal is a "is a non-profit legal organization committed to protecting religious freedom, free speech, parental rights, and the sanctity of life."

Owen Stevens

