



CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

Restore All Things in Christ ~ Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking

January-February 2019

A Message from the President

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Happy New Year! It is the octave of Epiphany as I am writing this, and in church this morning I was thinking about how the mystery of Epiphany coincides with National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in the United States, which is also the month in which we sadly commemorate the anniversary of the passing of Roe v. Wade on January 22 when abortion was made legal in the United States. I was thinking of all of these things because they have a common thread – the dignity of the human person that Christ shows us in the mystery of His holy infancy in which He was revealed as true God and true man to the wise men from the East.

The Second Vatican Council taught in its Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*, that Christ fully reveals man to himself and makes his “supreme calling” of love clear. The document is worth quoting at length:

The truth is that only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. For Adam, the first man, was a figure of Him Who was to come, namely Christ the Lord. Christ, the final Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear...He Who is “the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15), is Himself the perfect man. To the sons of Adam He restores the divine likeness which had been disfigured from the first sin onward. Since human nature as He assumed it was not annulled, by that very fact it has been raised up to a divine dignity in our respect too. For by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every man. He worked with human hands, He thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, He has truly been made one of us, like us in all things except sin (*Gaudium et Spes*, Paragraph 22).

These words were significant in my own personal journey to the Catholic Church and in my draw to this work with trafficking survivors. Why is trafficking wrong? Some say it is because the victim is not free, but it becomes obvious fairly quickly that there is more going on than a material question of freedom. A trafficked person would not be “free” if she were living the same life by her own act of the will. The deeper root of the



The Magi by Henry Siddons Mowbray, 1915

problem lies in the fact that “the life,” as it is called, is not worthy of the divine likeness with which we were created and which Christ restored. Being a trafficker is also below such dignity, as is being a purchaser of commercial sex. Christ revealed the Father and His love and calls us to participate in that, and that is exactly what we desire to bring our clients into contact with at Children of the Immaculate Heart – the love of the Father and the gift of the Son which is the only true source of

profound freedom.

This brings us to my final thought about the legalization of abortion that will be marked by pro-life marches across the country this month. In his final book published before his election to the See of St. Peter, *Christianity and the Crisis of Cultures*, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger wrote that when abortion becomes legalized, the “law of the jungle” becomes “the rule of law.” It is obvious that in situations where a woman considers having an abortion, the rights of two persons come into conflict – certainly the mother has a right to pursue her career or her education, or to provide for the children she already has. But the child also has a right to life. When abortion is legalized, the law of the bigger person becomes the rule of law – the person who is most physically capable, who is strongest and least dependent, has the greater rights, hence the “law of the jungle” becomes the “rule of law.” From this principle comes assisted suicide, selective abortions to not bring disabled children into the world, and yes, even the phenomenon of human trafficking in which the physically and psychologically stronger trafficker takes advantage of victims who are often already traumatized by a history of abuse, neglect, homelessness, a lack of family structure and support, and most of all, of love. Trafficking and prostitution are still illegal in our country and let us pray that it stays that way. But let us all work in whatever way we are called and in whatever state of life we find ourselves, to ensure that the dignity of the human person – elevated by Christ to the divine – is respected in all its forms, no matter how vulnerable or dependent. May God reward you for all that you do for our clients and for your ongoing support! May He grant us all a blessed and happy 2019!

Yours in Christ,

Grace Williams, President/Executive Director



Thank you for all your support during the Christmas Season!



The generosity of those who contributed to our Christmas gift collections was an overwhelming witness of the capacity the human heart contains to surpass itself in order to reach out to others. Truly it is in giving that we discover the true meaning of this season! With deep gratitude we ask the Lord to grant to everyone who participated the hundredfold He promised to those who would give even a glass of water to his disciples. "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you..." May joy in abundance be yours in this New Year 2019!

-Anne- Marie Reichenberger, CIH



I want to thank each of you who donated gifts for our clients this Christmas time! It was truly overwhelming the amount of love poured out on them and their children. We had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas with them and their children! There were lots of dinner parties and gift exchanges in honor of the birth of our Lord. We even got to have a Midnight Mass at The Refuge to bring in the new year with Jesus in the house on New Year's Day! May God reward you all, for it is truly, "It is more blessed to give than to receive!"

- Grace Williams, CIH President





Children of the Immaculate Heart's 6th Annual Gala

February 23, 2019

Please join us on February 23rd for our 6th Annual Gala! We are so happy and thankful to God for this opportunity to celebrate with our friends and benefactors once again for all that God has done for us.

Purchase tickets at
www.cihgala.eventbrite.com
or call (619) 431- 5537

The evening will include...

appetizers, dinner, dessert, refreshments, and a silent auction.

Dinner will be catered by Ranch Catering.

You won't want to miss our Monterey Vacation Package, Padre's Condo, gift baskets, and more at our silent auction!

from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
3131 Governor Drive
San Diego, CA 92122

Special Guests Include...

Cy Kellet

Talk show host of Catholic Answers Live, will be our MC for the event..



Summer Stephan

District Attorney of San Diego, will speak on the growing local crime of sex trafficking in San Diego.



Grace Williams

President of Children of the Immaculate Heart, will share about the growth of CIH over the past year and our plans for 2019.



Kim Williams

Case manager of our women's program will speak on her role at CIH.



CIH is Hiring!

Positions available:

The Refuge Teacher

And

The Refuge Child Care Workers

Please go to our website childrenoftheimmaculateheart.com for more details.

Grief to Grace Retreats

By Margaret Boharic, Bookkeeper and Secretary



Last summer I was privileged to meet Dr. Theresa Burke while taking classes at Christendom College with the Vita Consecrata Institute. Dr. Burke gave a presentation on a retreat program she developed for healing the wounds of trauma and abuse called Grief to Grace. For the past 30 years, Dr. Burke has worked especially with women seeking healing after abortion. She founded Rachel's Vineyard Ministries in 1995 and created a weekend retreat specifically designed for their healing. The retreat incorporates both sound psychology and theology, using especially a form of healing trauma known as integrated sensory treatment, as opposed to talk therapy alone - all in light of the Paschal Mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the true healing and peace that come only in Him. From this grew her desire to develop a similar program for a wider audience, focused on healing the wounds of abuse, including any form of abuse, and Grief to Grace Ministries was founded in 2005. In 2006 the Grief to Grace retreat received an *imprimatur* of the Church. The retreat is now offered in several countries and cities throughout the United States, and work is being done currently to bring it to Southern California. All of the therapists, priests and volunteers who lead the retreat are required to make the retreat themselves.



Dr. Theresa Burke and CIH Secretary, Margaret Boharic

For more information about Grief to Grace and to read some of the beautiful testimonies from retreatants, visit their website at www.griegtograce.org. Friends and benefactors of Children of the Immaculate Heart have made the retreat as well, and testify to the level of healing and peace it brought to their lives. A local organization, The Seraphim Project (www.theseraphimproject.org), offers full scholarships to victims of sexual abuse to attend the Grief to Grace retreat, and they have graciously offered this to any of our clients! Praise God for this generous offer and for the gifts and inspiration He gave Dr. Theresa Burke to develop this program and the many good fruits it has borne in the lives of His children!



Children of the Immaculate Heart has a meal train for our weekly women's group. We hold a support/development group for our clients every week, giving them the opportunity to be together, support each other, and grow in their personal human development. If you are interested in cooking for our ladies, please visit this link!

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/q3nk7l>

CIH Wish List

- Alarm clocks
- Microfiber towels
- Gift cards to Office Depot & STAPLES
- All-in-one microphone/amplifier system for events
- Microwave
- Gift cards to grocery stores
- 2X - 3X women's clothing
- Dry and canned food
- PowerPoint projector
- Duffle bags (5)
- Comforter (2)

CIH has a Car Donation Program!

Please consider donating your vehicle to CIH! *Car Easy* will come pick up your car, boat, or trailer whether it is running or not! Cars can be donated from anywhere in the country. To start the process just call 855-500-7433 or type <http://careasy.org/details?4567> into your web browser. Proceeds go to support our programs!



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