



My Excellent Adventure: the DC Life March Blizzard

by Mary Ann McNeil

Would you like to board a bus with about 35 other people you don't know, ride for 10 hours, arrive in another city where a blizzard is predicted; march outside with thousands of others for a great cause, pray, laugh, eat and sleep; then return home a few days later following another 10 hour bus ride? If so, you might be an excellent candidate for the annual January 22 Right to Life March in Washington DC.

On Thursday, January 20, my husband and I, with our friend MJ Ingebredsten, arrived at St. Michael's in Gainesville at 4:30 am to make that trip with some St. Michael's parishioners, a couple from St. Pius Catholic Church in Conyers, and a group from the American Heritage Girls hailing from several different parishes. The young people from the parish and the Heritage girls kept up a lively banter the whole way.

We arrived at our hotel with about 15 minutes to get out the door again and attend Mass at the Basilica in DC. There would be a Mass there with hundreds of priests and many, many pro-life pilgrims. Unfortunately, a stomach bug stopped me from going! I was SO disappointed.

On Friday we bundled up and headed out to the march. The throngs of marchers were upbeat and even joyful, carrying upbeat signs, singing hymns to Mary, and praying the rosary. The singing and chanting were new for us since the Georgia March is a silent prayerful march.

There were some disturbing graphic images on display on a big screen, but notices posted on the street nearby warned the marchers to avert their eyes if desired.

The DC march was quite a contrast to the Atlanta march. No narrow streets lined with pizza joints, tattoo parlors, wig stores, and street vendors. No Georgia State students looking down from their dorm windows yelling at marchers, "Get a job!" The wide boulevard lined with empty buildings in the just-falling snow was stately and quiet, except for us!

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Pictured above: Sisters brave the cold to join the DC March for Life. At right: Bundled up for blizzard conditions are five marchers from Atlanta: CJ Clarke, John McNeil, MJ Ingebredsten, Mary Ann McNeil, and Tony Maturo.





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From Our Director

Mary Ann McNeil

Letting go often involves a mixed bag of emotions and thoughts....sadness, excitement, looking back, looking forward. All of us at one time or another find that we have come to the end of a chapter in our lives. We know that it's time to turn the page and enter a new chapter. For me, that time has come and I am officially turning the reigns of Director of PATH over to my good friend and colleague Jody Duffy as of March 31st, 2016.

Those of you who were able to attend the PATH fundraising dinner in November heard me say that I consider PATH my 5th child. At the dinner I shared how, when making this decision, I kept having a mysterious dream. I kept dreaming that I was frantically searching for my lost child. I did a little research and discovered that dreaming of a child could mean that you are beginning a new project, or simply starting something new. Later I had another dream where I found my little one in the arms of a woman sitting in a circle, surrounded by friends. It occurred to me...my child...my work...could be left in the hands of my wonderful colleagues, and I could embark on a new journey, knowing PATH would be safe.

Jody later wrote me a card, saying she, with the help of our PATH staff and volunteers, would take good care of my "baby." I am certain that is true, and am proud and happy to have such wonderful women and men to help PATH continue to grow and flourish.

So now I hope to explore my new role as a grandmother! I was blessed with a new grand baby daughter just this week, so now I have 3 precious grands to enjoy.

Thank you to all of you who have encouraged me, prayed for the ministry, guided me, donated, and volunteered. You have all played a part in this beautiful organization. I will continue to be involved as a board member, and look forward to all of the wonderful ways Jody and her team will help PATH grow and bear even more fruit. Thank you again and may God bless you.



Please Welcome Jody Duffy, new Director of PATH



Jody Duffy, incoming Director of PATH, Inc., has served as a Bible study leader and Rachel's Vineyard retreat leader since 2000. Like so many PATH volunteers, Jody has experienced firsthand the emotional and spiritual suffering of abortion. She also serves the Silent No More Awareness Campaign as Regional Coordinator for the state of Georgia and as military and Veteran's liaison, and she does Military and Veterans outreach for PATH.

Jody graduated from Southern Illinois University BS in Environmental Science and received a commission as a second Lieutenant in the US Army Intelligence Branch. Jody met her husband, Major General Bill Duffy (Retired), when the two were stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Later, Jody attended nursing school in St. Louis and has worked as a Health Educator, School Nurse, Staff Nurse, and most recently as a Hospice Nurse. She and Bill have been married for 35 years. They have three sons and three granddaughters. Her interests are landscaping, golf, politics, and geography.



PATH to Share Office Space with Pregnancy Aid Clinic

PATH has moved! Our new address is 281 South Atlanta Street, Roswell, 30075! We are sharing space with the Pregnancy Aid Clinic! We are thrilled to be sharing space with this wonderful organization, which serves women in crisis pregnancies, and helps them choose life for their babies.

Each organization---PATH and Pregnancy Aid Clinic--will retain its own identity and ministry, but we will share spaces such as the board room, classroom, and counseling rooms (there are three).

It might seem odd to some that a post-abortion ministry and a crisis pregnancy center would be in the same building. But the truth is that *it was those working in crisis pregnancy centers back in the 80's who first saw the need for post abortion ministry!* Many of the women who sought out these centers did so precisely because they had already experienced an abortion and did not want to go that route again. The crisis pregnancy counselors saw that these women needed healing from the past as well as services for the present.

We see this move as a win-win, and are pleased to offer women and men a range of services under one roof.



MAKE A NOTE OF IT:
281 South Atlanta Street, Roswell, 30075

Thank You to Our Generous Donors for 2016

Churches and Groups

- o Adage Capital Mgmt., L.P.
- o (for Robert Heroman/matching gift)
- o Cathedral of Christ the King
- o Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta
- o Mary Our Queen Catholic Church
- o OLPH/Dominican Sisters
- o (Congregation of St. Rose of Lima)
- o Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church
- o Prince of Peace Catholic Church
- o St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church
- o St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
- o St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
- o St. John Neumann Catholic Church
- o St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church
- o St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
- o St. Monica's Catholic Church
- o St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church
- o Transfiguration Catholic Church
- o St. Thomas More Church School

- o Sisters of the Visitation Monastery, Snellville

Grantors

- o Catholic Foundation of North Georgia
- o Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta
- o National Christian Foundation

Fundraisers

- o Golf Tournament hosted by St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus Council 14122
- o Artsy Market hosted by the Women of St. Jude
- o Valentine Tea hosted by Mary Lou Konsin
- o Chili Cook Off hosted by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Transfiguration Knights of Columbus
- o Jewelry Sale hosted by Kathryn Siegel
- o Fundraising Dinner supported by individual donors (our own Simons of Cyrene!)



Pictured at top: Liz Youngs, Jody Duffy, and Mary Ann McNeil putting things in order at PATH's new quarters. Not pictured Richard Farnsworth and Trinnie Siegel. Above: classroom space set up for training session. Below: Major General Bill Duffy assembles storage units.



Mary Ann's Excellent Adventure Continues (continued from page 1)

There is something very spiritual about these marches, even if you are not consciously praying. The gravity of millions of babies lost to abortion, the walking wounded of thousands of women and men. The willful blindness of our society in so many segments--our families, our friends, our politicians, churches, journalists, academics, medical professionals. We have so much work to do. It feels overwhelming. So we pray.

Where We're Going and Where We've Been

December 2015

- ❖ Open House for local crisis pregnancy centers

January 2016

- ❖ 8-10: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat
- ❖ Bible Study Group continues, Transfiguration
- ❖ Captivating aftercare group continues
- ❖ 20: Lunch & Learn for Staff, Transfiguration
- ❖ 22: March for Life in Washington DC and Atlanta

February 2016

- ❖ 6-7: Speaker at Masses, St. Stephen the Martyr

March 2016

- ❖ 2: Presentation to youth group, Prince of Peace
- ❖ 13: Presentation to confirmation class, St. Michael's
- ❖ 19: Day of Reflection for volunteers, Visitation Monastery

April 2016

- ❖ 2: Training Day for volunteers (with Dr. Martha Shuping)
- ❖ 14-15: Artsy Market, St. Jude the Apostle
- ❖ New Bible Study begins, Transfiguration

May 2016

- ❖ 1: Fundraiser golf tournament hosted by Knights of Columbus, St. Stephen's

The march ended in front of the Supreme Court building where members of Silent No More came forward to share their stories, hoping to warn others about the devastating effects of abortion. MJ was there, holding a sign declaring, "I regret my abortion." She and fellow PATH volunteer Jody Duffy are members of Silent No More.

One man told how he passively stood by and said "whatever you want to do" when his girlfriend told him she was pregnant. Many years later, this man became a Catholic priest!

It wasn't long until the snow began to fall in earnest, so we then hustled off to catch the Metro back to our hotel. The next day, Saturday, all DC services and attractions were closed, so we gathered to share our experiences. I shared PATH's mission with the American Heritage Girls, and they shared their mission with us. Three young seminarians were present, along with the youth minister from St. Michael's church. Energetic, bright young people who love God and care about life!

On Sunday, following morning Mass, our bus was able to leave DC. Another 10 hours on the bus...but this time watching the movies *Padre Pio* and *Bella* and playing a few games of "Heads Up" made the ride a little shorter.

I hope to attend the march again next year. My husband John wants to go back, too. A small miracle took place. He suffers from chronic back pain. I had predicted that a long ride on a bus would do him in. Praise God, he had no pain the whole time!! However, when I get to heaven, I will ask God what was up with my stomach virus. *I really wanted to see the Basilica.*



Deacon Mike Mobley, PATH retreat director and board member, pictured in front of the Planned Parenthood in Lawrenceville, prays silently and reverently for an end to abortion. Sign donated by Gail and John Conley, owners of Signarama in Decatur.

Many thanks to Joe Carr at BuckBlue Printing for donation of printing services for this newsletter. Joe is a St. Jude parishioner and all-round great guy!

It's not too late to give to PATH! No gift is too small! Send your generous donations to: PATH, PO Box 80809, Atlanta, Ga. 30366