

# **A CLASH OF CULTURES: THE APOSTOLATE OF DIVINE MERCY OPPOSES PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

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## **The Apostolate sponsors Michiana's 17<sup>th</sup> campaign of 40 Days for Life**

*Nick Kezei, Correspondent Writer covering pro-life scene in Michiana*

The Apostolate of Divine Mercy in Service of Life, Marriage, and the Family (located at The Life Center in South Bend), is in the midst of its 17<sup>th</sup> campaign of "40 Days for Life" and plans on crashing Planned Parenthood's Birthday party on October 15, 2016, at the Planned Parenthood in Mishawaka, IN. It's actually part of nationwide effort to witness -- to witness against the culture of death when Planned Parenthood turns 100. According to the Director of the Apostolate, Shawn Sullivan, "there are 6.7 million children who won't be attending Planned Parenthood's birthday due to their abortion." And perhaps more importantly, Director Sullivan lamented that "Planned Parenthood has fully implemented the original vision of its founder, eugenicist Margaret Sanger, and, as atrocious and discriminating as her vision was, it has found a strong foothold in American culture."

On Saturday, October 15, at noon, in front of the Planned Parenthood on Grape Road in Mishawaka, Fred Carrico of the Apostolate will head-up an America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally. The participants will receive, and hand out to passers-by, the video "MAAFA 21" showing what Planned Parenthood's opponents call "black genocide" and documenting the racist ideas of Margaret Sanger who was once a special speaker at a KKK gathering. This special event put on by the Apostolate is in addition to the ongoing prayer witnessing at the Planned Parenthood: Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"We have been taking to the streets more and more," said Sullivan when speaking about the Apostolate's witnessing activities. "Since the Bishop

endorsed our evangelization initiatives and entrusted the Apostolate to the Saint of Mercy, Saint Mother Teresa (reported on in Today's Catholic, 9-18-16), we have made even more of an effort to go face-to-face with the culture in the streets. And right before the 40 Days for Life campaign began, we teamed-up with the Franciscans Minor to mirror the activity of another saint, Saint Francis that is, who was not shy about walking his faith into hostile territory." Sullivan was referring to an abortion rally, put on by an amalgam of pro-abortion groups, including Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky. The "Pro-Choice Fest Michiana," held in downtown South Bend, was countered with adoration at nearby St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, and prayers and witnessing outside of the event the event. A number of Apostolate participants attended over 6 hours and 11 of Franciscan Brothers participated to evangelize and give witness to God's mercy.



Franciscan Novitiate Friars based in Mishawaka, IN, and members of the Apotolate of Divine Mercy begin a six hour vigil at a pro-abortion celebration in South Bend, IN.

These off-site activities are almost always tied to Mass and adoration, "which is the basis of their success," says Sullivan. At a minimum. At a minimum, adoration is held in the Chapel of Divine Mercy at The Life Center every Tuesday and Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and every Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Adoration is preceded by Mass every Tuesday (at 8:00 a.m.), and every Wednesday (at 1:30 p.m.). The most recent "40 Days for Life" campaign was initiated with the Mass pictured herein. "We often feature motivating speakers as part of our 40 Days for Life campaigns, but our bread and butter – especially our bread – comes from the Eucharist.



Apostolate participants kick-off the 17<sup>th</sup> 40 Days for Life campaign with Mass.

The Apostolate has done so well with its campaigns that it has been visited four times by the founders of the “40 Days for Life” program – Davide Bereit and Shawn Carney. “We have a pretty active group and every year we get a few more people from the Michiana area to sign on, but we need more if we are going to make a bigger dent in the culture of death.” Interested persons in joining one of the ministries at The Life Center, participating in the “40 Days for Life” campaign, attending the Masses or adoration, or engaging in the trip that the Apostolate takes to the Merrillville (on Wednesdays) should go to their website, [DivineMercyForLife.com](http://DivineMercyForLife.com) or call the director at (574) 286-7860.



40 Days for Life participants take to the streets with their signs.