

PRO-LIFE Report - February 2012

On November 12, Divine Mercy Care (DMC) and its affiliate, the Tepeyac Family Center, held its annual fund-raising gala. Divine Mercy Care's purpose is to return a culture of life and love to medicine. DMC has become a national model for excellence in returning healthcare to its original focus: using the medical technology while promising the patient never to harm, especially to the least to God's children.

This year, Dr. John Bruchalski, DMC's Chairman of the Board and founder of the Tepeyac Family Center, tried something novel. In partnership with Medical Students for Life, he completed a two-week, fifteen-state speaking tour about conscience protection at twenty-three medical schools. One goal of this campaign was to reach out to those who are facing political pressure and professional scorn for not wanting to perform abortions and let them know that they are not alone. During his inspiring talk, Dr. Bruchalski said that it was energizing for him to meet future doctors who will one day raise their voice against abortion.

I had met Dr. Bruchalski two years ago when I attended the blessing of a sonogram machine donated to the Tepeyac Center by the Virginia Knights of Columbus through our Ultrasound Initiative. I exchanged greetings with him again on November 12, identifying myself as a Knight; he was quick to express his sincerest thanks for our support. I also had a chance during the evening to speak with SK Steve Burnley, a St. Lawrence parishioner and the K of C Virginia State Advocate. Mr. Burnley told me that the State Knights has donated another sonogram, this time in the Richmond area. A third donation is planned for the Tidewater area.

During the evening, I had a chance to speak with a number of attendees and volunteers. One lady, Patty Whelpley, told me that she volunteers her time for Tepeyac so that the Center will be available for her children and grandchildren; she explained with sorrow that today the first question asked by some pro-choice gynecologists when a patient tests positive for pregnancy is "Do you want to keep your baby?"

While looking at the auction items, I struck up a conversation with a diminutive lady who could not have been more than five feet tall. I found out later that I had been talking with Dr. Lorna Cvetkovick,

who is on the Tepeyac staff. Staffed with five physicians, the Tepeyac Family Center was founded in 1991 and remains the largest PRO-LIFE ob-gyn practice in the country with almost 30% of its patients uninsured or underinsured. Servicing the needs of the uninsured costs \$400,000 a year. Hence, the fundraiser. Among the benefactors for the evening were the parishes of St. Leo the Great, St. Mary's, St. Timothy's, Blessed Sacrament, St. Raymond of Penafort, St. Theresa, Queen of Apostles, St. John the Apostle, Bishop Paul Loverde and Christendom College. Perhaps we can persuade the churches we attend to be benefactors also.

I always feel at home at these kinds of PRO-LIFE events and with increasing frequency bump into PRO-LIFERS I know. On November 12, I ran into Jacinta Whittaker who had organized the most recent *Forty Days for Life* campaign. There were also a number of priests in attendance and the formal part of the evening began with a prayer. Hopefully I will meet some of you at this event next year. Please visit the websites www.divinemercycare.org and www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com for more information about Divine Mercy Care and the Tepeyac Family Center and learn about ways that supporters can make donations and help raise money for the wonderful work of the center. The highest compliment that can be paid is referrals to their practice. The Tepeyac number is (703) 273-9440.



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