



Defending the Human Person, From Conception to Natural Death



A Photo that Made a Difference

How one photo of a preborn baby helped to make future generations pro-life

by Carole Novielli (Live Action News)

Many of us have worn it, and others have surely seen it — the iconic pro-life “Precious Feet” pin. But what’s the story behind this symbol?

In the early 1970’s, Dr. Russell Sacco, a urologist from Oregon at the time, was aware of abortion prior to *Roe v. Wade* because of those who were speaking out on the topic. “I knew as a doctor that abortion kills children; they kill human beings,” he stated in an interview published on Vimeo.

Dr. Sacco said he began reading “anatomical books,” and when the Supreme Court ruled that murdering the preborn was “legal,” the doctor became, in his words, “furious.”

It was shortly after this that Sacco met a pathologist who was also anti-abortion. This pathologist “...was supposed to take the children that had been killed and destroy the bodies. But he told me that he didn’t do that; he just didn’t like to do that.”

Dr. Sacco said that this pathologist had preserved the babies’ bodies in a bucket of formaldehyde, which he showed Sacco. “... [I]n the bucket were about seven or eight infant bodies. It was a little bit shocking for me to see that but, there they were.”

Dr. Sacco asked the pathologist if he could photograph the babies “so that I could put it on slides and I could go around and give talks on how we should save and protect the prenatal children.”

Dr. Sacco said he took out “one body at a time” to photograph them. Then, he catalogued each child and their estimated ages.



A Photo that Made a Difference (cntd.)

“Then, one of the ones I decided to take was one that I would hold just the child’s feet between my fingers,” which Sacco says he did for scale. “So, I put my fingers on that so that you could identify the size of my hand – then you could identify the feet of the children.”

After developing the film, he discovered that the images of the feet were “better than I had thought. I really thought that... maybe God did that one for me.”

The image, which Dr. Sacco refused to copyright so it could be used worldwide, has been referred to as “Tiny Feet,” “Little Feet,” and “Precious Feet.”

But it was in Dr. Sacco’s meeting with Dr. John Willke that this photograph became famous.

Willke has been described by some as the father of the pro-life movement; he founded Cincinnati Right to Life in 1970, and later joined National Right to Life’s board. In 1991, he founded the Life Issues Institute and served there until his death in 2014. A tribute published by National Right to Life says Willke, a devout Catholic, “helped form the foundation of right-to-life educational efforts through the development of the ‘Willke slides’ on fetal development and abortion...”

In 1971, Dr. Sacco attended a speech given by Dr. Willke to the California Pro-life Council. After the event, several attendees and organizers were sitting and chatting in the hotel. Dr. Willke sat on the floor next to the couch due to a lack of seating in the room, and directly behind him was Dr.

Sacco. Dr. and Mrs. Willke recounted what happened next in their book, *Abortion and the Pro-life Movement, an Inside View*:

Almost casually he [Dr. Sacco] said to Jack [Dr. Willke], “You might be interested in a few slides I’ve taken.” He fished into his briefcase and came out with a few Kodachrome slides.

One by one, Jack held them up to the light of the lamp. One of them was “Tiny Feet.” Jack was fascinated. Could he have a copy? Could he use it? Dr. Sacco generously agreed.

Dr. Willke used that image in his *Handbook on Abortion*. Following that, the picture was printed in early pro-life brochures such as “Life and Death” and “Did you Know?” The photo soon “went viral,” as they say, and was published in countless flyers, books and pamphlets.

That photo then inspired an Arizona couple, Ellis and Virginia Evers, the founders of Heritage House, which now offers the pins for purchase:

On January 22, 1974 Virginia and Ellis Evers ran across a full page ad in their local newspaper in San Diego, California. Prominent in the ad was a picture of the tiny feet of a ten week old unborn baby held between a man’s fingers and thumb. Inspired by the remarkable photo, Virginia Evers felt these little feet would be the ideal Pro-Life symbol. With love and dedication for the unborn, Virginia designed the “Precious Feet” lapel pin.

...And so the “Precious Feet” impacted future generations, bringing to light the truth: that abortion kills very real human beings. “This remarkable little pin has been responsible for countless people changing their minds on abortion,” the Willkes wrote of the pin, created by the Evers family — an iconic symbol of the pro-life movement and what we are fighting for.

Rape and pregnancy: A Testimony

(Taken from *mamanpourlavie.com* in May 19, 2010)

When I was 18, a university student, I was raped. It was absolutely the most terrible experience of my life. I was beaten and raped by two men in an alley in Montreal as I returned to my apartment after an evening class. Of course I went to see the police and also consulted a psychologist several times. The week that followed was a nightmare, I kept thinking about the crime...

I did not have a boyfriend at the time and so was not taking any contraception. I learned three weeks later that I was pregnant. It was huge news for me. Ever since I was a little girl, I knew that I wanted to become a mother someday, but not in such a context... It only took a few days for me to start feeling the symptoms of being pregnant. I knew well that as I was pregnant, I was carrying the life of a very small baby. For me it was clear that I was going to carry the child to term. I told myself that I would decide during the pregnancy if I would give it up for adoption.

From the moment I made the decision to carry the child, the whole planet turned against me. My parents, my friends, wanted me to abort. They all thought that I was crazy to want to keep the child, that I would regret it. When I saw the doctor for the first time, he tried for an hour to convince me to abort, and again at each subsequent appointment. I was forced to go see a psychologist and two social workers: these had but one goal in mind; to convince me to have an abortion. One even made an

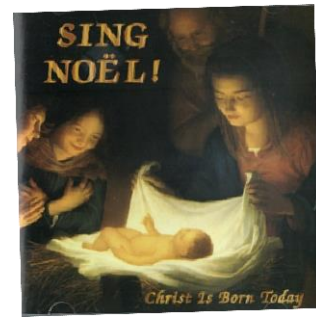
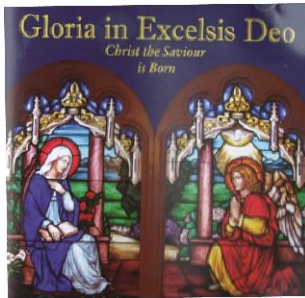
appointment for me at an abortion clinic and matter-of-factly said to me, "on Thursday we will abort at such-and such time, I will accompany you, etc.!" People were looking at me with disgust because I wanted to keep the child. I was told that I would give him a bad life, that it would be better if he did not exist, that I would be condemning myself to living on welfare for the rest of my life, that my child and I would be burdens to society, that I was pushing back the cause of women, and so on. It was so difficult ... Many times I almost gave in to all of their pressure!

At the end of my rope, I went to knock on the door of a rectory. I wasn't a Catholic, let alone a practitioner, but thought maybe these people would help me. And that's what happened. A priest helped me financially but mostly listened to me when others didn't or told me the same old thing: "Have an abortion, that's the only solution." Then a family in his parish opened their home to me. I lived with them from the sixth month of my pregnancy and for close to a year. They helped me through all my hardships and were my second family while my own denied me on account of the choice I made to keep my baby. Yes, I kept my baby, Thomas. I'm so proud of him; he is my greatest joy. He is now 4 years old. Time passes so quickly. After his birth, I never regretted this the greatest and most beautiful decision I made in my life - to give birth to my child. I love him so much.

My story continues. I met an extraordinary man who married me and legally adopted Thomas. Thomas has a mother and a father who loves him. At times I forget that Thomas is not "biologically" both of ours as we are a closely knit family. We have had another child, Étienne, and are impatiently expecting the delivery of our third.

Stocking Stuffers?

Rev. Di Rocco in Song



The initial response to our Christmas season stocking stuffers is tepid. After last months' notice in our French and English monthly bulletins, we have sold several CDs.

We re repeating the offer.

Our friend and pro-life priest Rev. Louis Di Rocco, the same one who accompanied QLC founder, Mr. Gilles Grondin, to many UN conferences, has Compiled three different Christmas CDs.

These are: 1. "Sing Noel: Christ is Born Today", 2. "Gloria in Excelsis Deo: Christ the Saviour is Born", and 3. "O Come Let us Adore Him."

Each CD contains between 18 and 22 favorite Christmas time tunes, in a variety of languages: English, French, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and Latin.

For any donation of \$ 35 or more, you can receive a free Christmas music CD. Simply check the box on our reply coupon.

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