

"A Picture is worth a Thousand words" ... Every woman should have the right to Know and See Poster saves a life

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Ultrasound image displayed at Jan. 22 cathedral prayer service; archbishop says pro-life witness needed 24/7

By Dave Hrbacek
 The Catholic Spirit

Bobbie Hallman was attempting to carry out a simple task — making a poster from an ultrasound image.

She ended up saving the life of an unborn child.

The drama unfolded at a local print shop. She had agreed to make several posters for use in the Prayer Service for Life at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Jan. 22, the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand in the United States.

About three weeks before the event, Hallman brought in a handful of small ultrasound pictures that she received from the clinic where her husband, Dr. Kevin Hallman, works in River Falls, Wis.

She showed them to a woman working behind the counter and asked for help making the poster. As she would soon discover, the woman was struggling with an unplanned pregnancy.

"I could see her eyes well up with tears, and she walked away," said Hallman, a former member of St. Joseph parish in West St. Paul who now lives in River Falls with her husband and children. "The other lady [behind the counter] said, 'Oh, you'll have to forgive her. She's 12 weeks along right now and she's not sure if she's going to keep the baby.'"

Just like that, Hallman was thrust to the front lines of the abortion debate. She chose not to try to talk the woman into having her baby. Instead, she kept her focus on the poster.

Rethinking her decision

The woman eventually returned to the counter and the two continued looking at the ultrasound pictures Hallman had brought to pick for the posters. One stood out — a picture of a fetus at 12 weeks.

"She said, 'I think you have to use the 12-week one,'" Hallman said. "And, I said, 'I think I do, too.' And so, we worked it out and we blew it up [into a poster]."

In the meantime, people standing in line nearby began to look at the ultrasound pictures, too. Eventually, the pictures found their way back into the hands of the pregnant employee.

"She looked at them individually again and she said, 'I can't abort this baby,'" Hallman said. "She said: 'I was thinking about aborting this baby. I thought it was



Dave Hrbacek / The Catholic Spirit

Bobbie Hallman, left, and her daughter, Annie, hold a poster of an unborn child in the womb that was displayed at the Prayer Service for Life at the Cathedral of St. Paul Jan. 22. The image caused an employee of the print shop who made the poster to choose not to abort her unborn child. Archbishop John Nienstedt spoke at the prayer service. He told those in attendance that "in a world full of abuses and injustices, it is my belief that none stand so in need of our attention and prayerful opposition as the grave evil of abortion."

Read more

- For the text of Archbishop Nienstedt's address at the Prayer Service for Life Jan. 22 at the Cathedral of St. Paul, go to www.THECATHOLICSPIRIT.COM.
- Turn to page 5 for a story about the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

just a tissue. And, look at this.' She was pointing to the fingers and the eyes."

Then the woman began to cry and the print shop fell silent. In this unpredicted, uncontrolled, unbelievable encounter, a frightened pregnant woman saw the truth about abortion and the truth about life. And without any type of a sermon being uttered.

"I just think it's an absolute miracle that this happened. This picture saved a soul."

BOBBIE HALLMAN

"It was touching for me; it was a miracle for her," Hallman said. "I remember once Mother Teresa said that she was nothing but a pencil in the hand of God. And sometimes we forget that, I think — that we are his instruments and we have to listen and serve each other and help each other."