Lauren Steinkoenig Benedictine College Justice For All Reflection September 2008

My experience with volunteering at the JFA exhibit not only impacted my outlook on abortion but, perhaps even larger my vocation. I went to the training because our chaplain had asked me too. To be honest I didn't really think I would get anything out of it and was upset to have to sacrifice so much of my time. Pretty selfish huh? Little did I know that this two-day event would be so far-reaching.

JFA's training taught me that I don't have to be afraid that I am not going to be good enough, that God takes what I offer and expands and multiplies it. This fear of not being good enough to help out was what I was most apprehensive about concerning going to the KU campus. I thought that I wouldn't have the right words, that I would offend someone, that I couldn't help someone, that I would be useless and not good at it. This relates in a large manner to my discernment of the religious life. I've always desired to give myself completely to God in the form of the religious life, but through all my discernment I've always been held back by a fear that I couldn't do it, that I would somehow fail, let God down, and waste everything He gave me. I now know that I don't have to be afraid anymore.

What JFA taught me, through this beautiful message of life, was that God is enough. Or in the words of St. Teresa, "God alone suffices." I always thought that I had to do it, that I was going to fall short. Now, I've learned the hard lesson that I can't do anything through God, that He is the one that does it all. I couldn't have done what I did at KU on my own. I am not that strong.

I am happy to share the news that I will be going on the March for Life in DC this January and that I am currently entering deeper into serious discernment. I was thinking that I would love to make a visit to the Sisters of Life in NY. I now have a passion that I never knew existed within me for life and the unborn and I thank you for revealing that to me and giving it an opportunity to come forth.