

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

In this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois. The following is by Rev. Mark J. Henninger, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown, IL. All of the pastor's articles from past issues are available on our web site at <http://www.cirtl.org>. If you are a member of the clergy seeking an additional forum to speak out for Life, this column is open to you. Contact us at CIRTl.

HOW TO BE PRO-LIFE AND KEEP A SMILE ON YOUR FACE

How does a person retain strong and bold convictions that abortion and euthanasia are wrong, and yet keep a cheery disposition through life, even while dwelling in a death-oriented society? This is a profoundly good question, largely because the very victory the pro-life forces are going to (eventually) achieve hinges completely on it.

In short, a pro-life person may keep a smile on his or her face because he or she knows that GOD is in charge of EVERYTHING in the entire universe. As a matter of fact, we see where, in the Bible, God himself "Smiles" at His foes.

Here are the words of Ps. 2:1-4: "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall LAUGH; the Lord shall hold them in derision."

The bottom line is simply this: if God is NOT in control of everything in His universe, then He is not God. (this article is continued on page 3)



Coming Events

During coming months, the following Pro Life events are scheduled in the Peoria area:

Walk For Life: The Women's Pregnancy Center is having a fund raising walk on Saturday, September 30, 2000. There are three locations for walkers to choose from: Call the WPC at 688-0202 for more information.

Annual Peoria Area Life Chain: Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 1, 2000. Participants will stand in witness to the Sanctity of Human Life along University and Glen in Peoria. Don't miss this chance to show your support for the unborn. Call Dan at 691-3611 for more details.

The Feminist Case Against Abortion: An address by Serrin Foster, President of Feminists For Life, is scheduled for October 4, 2000 in the Marty Theater at the Student Center of Bradley University at 7:00 PM. Call Kevin Heffren at 677-2163 for details.

Walk for Life, Coming in January of 2001, on or near the 28th anniversary of the notorious Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade, which put millions of unborn children at risk. After prayer we will walk together to a rally, carrying signs proclaiming our support for the sanctity of all innocent human life.

Sanctity of Human Life Rally, Also coming in January of 2001. The rally will feature special music and prayer along with reports

NOW Lawsuit Against Pro Life Action League Continues

On September 14, 2000 - an Appellate Court hearing is scheduled in the lawsuit brought against the Pro Life Action League by the National Organization For Women. The League and many others see a loss in this case as the end of the free speech rights of Pro Life Protesters, and a severe crisis for the First Amendment rights of all Americans!

Please watch and pray!

If this is the case, we are all in trouble, and nothing matters anyway: whether children are slaughtered, or whether or not we are happy or sad. But, of course, we know that we DO indeed live in a moral universe; and we know that God will hold everyone accountable.

This is also why the regenerated believer in Jesus Christ may have a big smile on his or her face, even when there is so much evil in the world--their sins have been accounted to Jesus Christ, when He hung on the cross for them; and His (Jesus') righteousness has been accounted to the believer's account, so that God sees him or her as completely righteous in Jesus Christ. (You may read about this in 2 Cor. 5:21.)

We are not to be smug, nonchalant, or cavalier in the face of the great evils we see taking place all around us. We are to call these atrocities just what they are: abominations in the eyes of God. Yet, at the same time, we would be wrong to so warp and wrangle under the evils of men, so as to lose our hope, our faith, our perspective, and our sober and sound judgment about world around us.

So, what it comes right down to, for pro-life believers, is this: we are to believe in, and trust a good, sovereign, righteous, gracious, merciful, yet just God--One who will, and does, exact the perfect penalty for all sin, namely death. For the believers in Jesus, the death He (the Messiah) bore is sufficient to pay their penalty. For the unbelievers, their own eternal death will suffice before God to pay their penalty.

If we believe in, and trust this good and holy God then we have all the reason in the world to have smiles on our faces, but ONLY if one other condition is being met: we are walking in the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit, and, by grace, we are keeping the law of God, (all of which is summed up in love for God and for our neighbors--see Mk. 12:28-31).

Love for God and our neighbor means, among other things, that we will fight for the truth of God--especially as it impinges on the issues of life and death.

Will our pro-life forces do well this November in the elections? We don't really know. Will we (eventually) prevail over the enemies of life? There's no doubt about this--we will.

What about you? Are you a glum pro-lifer? Are you a glowing pro-lifer? Only glowing pro-lifers will have any significant impact in the world, because only those filled with the life of Jesus will be able to affect the world around them.

Our Lord Jesus Christ's followers marveled over their power over Satan; but the Savior Himself gloried even more over the salvation of sinners (see Lk. 10:17-21). We are to rejoice in Jesus' victory over the devil because of the Redeemer's resurrection from the dead. We also celebrate that, even now, Christ is gaining the upper hand over all the evil one's minions.

It's easy to be discouraged; it takes genuine faith to be upbeat. Keep your heads up, you regenerate pro-lifers, you will celebrate a great victory!

In the Nineteenth Century, multiplied thousands of Americans gave their all during the Civil War - in large part to end the barbarous practice of slavery which held some 4 million human beings in degradation, often including physical mistreatment, and sometimes death. America, in the waning of the Twentieth Century, (and sadly now in the Twenty-First,) is in the clutches of another barbarity, abortion, which always leads to the death of its defenseless victims. Already some 40 million are irrevocably lost. How can we not give at least a little of ourselves, our time and our resources - in defense of that additional multitude who will surely die if we fail to stand?

HELP!!! Single? Children Grown? Semi-retired? WE NEED YOU!!! Do you have an hour or two now & then to help Central Illinois Right to Life's board members with a project? Can we put you on a list of prospective volunteers to contact in the future. Remember, the "Pro-Choice" i.e. the pro-abortion crowd

has countless workers and millions of dollars. We operate on a bare-bones budget and are dependent on willing volunteers. If you could help a little in any way, it would be greatly appreciated and immensely gratifying. Please fill out the coupon below and mark

Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... Deserves Protection!*

On the third Monday of each month, the Outreach Committee of persons interested in bringing the Pro Life message into their churches meets at the upstairs conference room of the Christian Center at 4100 War Memorial Drive at 7:30 p.m. We come together to share ideas, pray, and to renew our efforts to reach people with the Pro-Life message.

Past topics discussed have included presentations of The Hard Truth video to church groups, other Pro Life videos, how to stop Planned Parenthood, how to be an effective Pro Life advocate, and other Pro Life activities. At recent meetings we have also worked on organizing the annual 5K Run/Walk for Life have put together mailings and newsletters like this one. Special Thanks to the young people who helped assemble the summer issue of Central Illinois Life News at our July meeting. Anyone interested in joining this effort should come to our meetings or call Dan Smith at 691-3611.

Central Illinois Right to Life: Membership and Volunteer Drive

If you would like to help defend life in Central Illinois, become a member of Central Illinois Right to Life and continue receiving our quarterly newsletter by returning this form and enclosing the annual dues of \$10.00.

Name : _____
 Address : _____
 City : _____
 State : _____
 Zip Code : _____
 Telephone : _____

- MEMBER DUES : \$10__ Date _____
- DONATION : \$5__ \$10__ \$15__ \$25__ Other _____ Thank You!
- VOLUNTEER HELP : Please put my name on your list of volunteers.

Central Illinois Right To Life will be making the Greater Peoria Dining Tour coupons available again this year. Good News - There is a price roll-back to \$25. The packet includes 41 coupons, many new for this year. CIRTL earns \$10 on each packet to fund Pro Life work, and you save lots of \$\$\$ on meals in local restaurants. What A Deal !!! Call 685-3034 for more information or to order

Nineteenth Annual RESPECT LIFE DINNER
At Jumers Castle Lodge, Date - October 1, 2000, Time - 6:30 PM
Presented by the Family Resources Center of Peoria
Keynote Speaker : Dave Andrusko - Editor of National Right To Life News

Annual 5K Run/Walk Report

This year our race was held on August 26th at Bradley Park in Peoria at 8:00 AM. Thanks to the sponsorship of WPEO Radio AM 1020 and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, and to the many participants and volunteers, the race was once again a great success. There were over 100 runners and walkers in the race. Trophies were awarded to male and female winning runners in several age divisions.

Congratulations to the winners. The overall female winner was Peggy Shadid @ 19:00. The overall male winner was Chris Friedman @ 17:14.

Additional age category trophies were awarded to the following runners: Michael Shekleton @ 19:08; Gillian O'Shea @ 19:09; Dean Johnson @ 20:18; Doug Fehr @ 22:58; Diana Houlihan @ 23:02; Jessica Yoches @ 23:06; Dorothy Venturi @ 27:51; Jan Nelson @ 28:25; Bill Kennedy @ 28:40; Stephanie Meyer @ 35:03; and Christopher Meyer @ 45:46.

WPEO provided live coverage of the race, interviewing the winners, several members of CIRTL, and a very special participant - the Honorable Ray Lahood, United States Congressman from the 18th District.

All funds raised go directly into the operating budget of CIRTL to be used to get out the Pro Life message in the coming months. Special Thanks to Greg McCoy who masterfully organized the race again this year!

Garage Sale Update

As we mentioned last issue: Holy Family Parish has hosted our fundraising sale for several years. We have been able to save lives in Peoria in part because of their generosity and we are deeply grateful. However, due to conflict in summer schedule next year, we must find a new location for our sale.

Please think about this. We can have the sale at any time and location next year. Please call Sondra McEnroe at 673-4833 with ideas for a new location. THIS IS Important!

And thanks again to those of you who make Central Illinois Right To Life a regular part of your giving throughout the year.

Coming Events Sponsored by the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Canton

Fall Banquet - October 27th with Curt Young - formally of Christian Action Council

All Day Adoption Seminar - October 28th with Curt Young

As our mailing list grows and we establish a presence on the internet, the Central Illinois Right To Life office staff needs an IBM compatible, Pentium computer, a laser printer, and a fax machine. Can you help by donating or purchasing these items? Call Dennis at (309)565-7133 or CIRTL at (309)685-3034.

Do You Know The Hard Facts About Abortion In America?

Do You Know?

That the taking of a human life by abortion is legal in the USA at any time throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy... FOR ANY REASON!

Do You Know?

At 18 days after conception, a baby has a heartbeat.

Do You Know?

At 6 weeks following conception, the babies brain waves can be measured. At 8 weeks after conception, the stomach, liver, and kidneys of the baby are functioning, and fingerprints have formed. At 9 weeks, the unborn child can feel pain.

Do You Know?

That 700,000 abortions are performed each year in America after 9 weeks into the pregnancy.

Do You Know?

The overwhelming majority of all abortions, (95%), are done as a means of birth control. Only 1% are performed because of rape or incest; 1% because of fetal abnormalities; 3% due to the mother's health problems.

Do You Know?

**For every two babies born another baby dies in an abortion.
That's 1.5 million babies each year;
That's 4,000 babies every day;
That's 1 baby every 20 seconds;
That's Approximately 40 million babies since 1973
And that's just here in America.**

Now You Know...

Sources --- Abortion: Facts at a Glance - Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Abortion in the United States, Facts in Brief - Alan Guttmacher Institute; Pro Life Answers to Pro Choice Arguments - Randy Alcorn.

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“ Pro Life Billboard Campaign Continues With 24 Hour Hotline ”

Four billboards with Pro Life and crisis pregnancy help messages have now been up for 6 months in the Peoria area. These boards are strategically located on S. Adams, N.E. Jefferson, and Willow Knolls in Peoria, and on Main Street in Creve Coeur. We need additional funds, in order to maintain these boards and hopefully to put up more.

The phone number on each board is manned 24 hours a day so that anyone needing help can talk to someone without delay and without cost. The message on each board reaches hundreds of motorists each day with a clear and simple truth - a much needed message which, once seen, is hard to deny and harder to forget.

The donations that you send are reaching your community with the truth about the Sanctity of Human Life in many ways, including these boards, and our rallies, newsletters, and web site. Thanks to all who work and give



Unity on the essentials of the Sanctity of Human Life is our objective. We are not seeking uniformity of opinion on all matters.. Therefore, some ideas advocated by the authors of articles in Central Illinois Life News or on the Central Illinois Right To Life website may not necessarily reflect the the personal views of all the members and officers of Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc.

Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

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