

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

In this column, we usually share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois and beyond. This newsletter we feature the third and final installment of an article by CIRTL board member Dan Smith.



Coming Events

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

BEATITUDES, BABIES AND BASEBALL
(part 3)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke the last three of the nine beatitudes:

- 7 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 8 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 9 Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matt. 5:10-12.

These three essays here conclude a three part series that examines whether abortion is consistent with or opposed to the beatitudes at the core of Christian faith and action. Each examines a beatitude in three relationships: our relationship with God, with His laws and with others, particularly the least favored of humanity. Each begins with mention of a famous baseball player who demonstrated some characteristics of the beatitude. Which ball players can you recognize before hearing their names?

7. Peace flies out of left field. He missed almost five seasons sacrificed to service of our country in two wars, including the Korean war where he flew (continued on page 2)

Walk For Life: The Women's Pregnancy Center is having a fund raising walk on Saturday, September 28, 2002. 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 6, 2002. Participants will stand in witness to their commitment to the Sanctity of Human Life along University Street and Glen Avenue in Peoria. Don't miss this chance to show your support for the unborn. Call Dan at 691-3611 for more details. Organizational help and church coordinators are also needed.

Walk for Life, Coming in January of 2003, on or near the 30th anniversary of the notorious Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade, which put millions of unborn children at risk.

Sanctity of Human Life Rally, Also coming in January of 2003. The rally will feature special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts.

Sanctity Of Human Life Sunday, January 19, 2003 is the Sunday on which many Churches in our nation will make a special effort to remember unborn children and women in difficult pregnancies. Encourage the leadership of your church to boldly speak the truth this year.

On Sunday, September 8, 2002 and Wednesday, September 11, 2002 many local churches held special services to remember the thousands of victims of September 11, 2001. (As well they should have.) How many of these churches will do the same on Sunday, January 19, 2003 and Wednesday, January 22, 2003 for the thousands of victims of abortion who continue to be killed at the rate of as many as 60 a week right here in Peoria? Or, for the 45,000,000 victims in the USA since 1973?

missions with John Glenn. Still, he slugged 521 home runs in his career. Back in 1941, the year our country joined the fight against world tyranny, he was the last major league player to hit .400. For stopping the spread of totalitarian forces across the world, we owe a debt of gratitude to the generation of men who served our country with this left fielder, Ted Williams.

When evil powers invade peaceful countries, making peace requires armies to cast the aggressors out. When evil powers take control of the reigns of government, making peace requires people to cast the usurpers out. When evil powers take control of the hearts of men and women, making peace requires us to cast the demons out. Clearly, peacemaking is not for wimps. It is risky business, and without aid from above, doomed to failure. To be successful, peacemakers must listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit, stand firm for Gods law, and protect the weak from strong forces intent on their destruction.

The prochoice position, by contrast, surrenders to the forces of evil at work in our culture. There is no peace between parents and children where parents kill one child before birth for every three born. Why are we surprised that child abuse to born children has increased 20 fold since abortion was legalized? There is no peace between parents who kill their offspring before birth. Their marriages end up on the rocks, driving up the divorce rate and all its problems for the rest of society. There is no peace in the hearts of those parents who know the results of their deadly choices. They frequently suffer from depression and resort to drugs, alcohol and self-destructive behavior to deaden the impact.

The prochoice voice claims that peace would reign if only prolife people would not make mothers and fathers of aborted children feel guilty about difficult decisions made in crisis. Yet even if all of us were silent, they would hear in their conscience the small, still voice reminding them of their lost children. Warfare would still rage in each of them. A house divided against itself is not a peaceful abode.

Peacemaking demands first that we begin by listening in our own hearts to the directions given to us by the Holy Spirit. When we are not at peace at heart, demons drum incessantly attempting to drown out the still, small voice we need to hear to remain human. That voice directs that we stand firm by His law, as only humans can, and protect the weak, even when we have nothing to gain ourselves. By the power of the Spirit, we can, in turn, help others cast out those demons to bring peace to the hearts of our fellow human beings.

Second, peacemaking demands that we throw the usurpers out of our government. To make peace requires us to remember that no majority vote of the people decided to permit abortion in our society. Instead, it was the undemocratic decision of seven unelected men on the Supreme Court who rewrote the Constitution to throw out the laws proscribing abortion in all fifty states, leaving our country with the worlds least protections for the unborn until China started forcing their mothers to have abortions. Peace requires us to throw the usurpers out! That can only be done by continually electing presidents who will appoint prolife justices to the United States Supreme Court and United States Senators who will confirm their appointments.

Third, peacemaking demands that when evil powers invade peaceful countries, armies must cast the aggressors out. Worldwide abortion is making this task more and more difficult each year. A case in point is the one child policy in communist China which has resulted in forced abortions, abandoned
(continued on page 4)

Annual 5K Run/Walk Report

This year our race was held on August 24th 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. CIRTL extends our special appreciation to Greg McCoy who organized and ran the event again this year.

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 and have put together mailings and newsletters like this one. Special Thanks to those who helped assemble the summer issue of Central Illinois Life News at our July meeting and the Fall issue at our September 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 coupon books available again this year. The price is \$30. Each book includes 250 coupons to 75 eating establishments, good till November, 2003. CIRTL earns \$10 on each book to fund Pro Life work, and you save lots of \$\$\$ on meals. What A Deal !!! Call 685-3034 for more information or to order.

children (mostly baby girls) and an excess male population of military age approaching 15 million. If communist China turns its army toward one of its neighbors, such as nationalist China on the island of Taiwan, how are we to stop this aggression by one of our largest trading partners against one of our allies? Will we put at risk the remainder of that generation of Americans whose numbers have been decimated by abortion already? If so, who will take care of their parents, the baby boomers, who first made abortion commonplace in America, but who are now aging and moving toward retirement? Truly, as stated by Mother Teresa, "The greatest destroyer of peace in the world is abortion."

8. The center fielder who bucked systemic persecution. When his team traded him, he wrote to the commissioner of baseball: "After 12 years in the major leagues I do not feel that I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes. I believe that any system that produces that result violates my basic right as a citizen and is inconsistent with the laws of the United States." White or black, ballplayers could only bargain with one team. Seven months before the Roe v. Wade decision, Supreme Court Justice Blackmun wrote the majority opinion in this ballplayers appeal, ruling against him. Only 3 years later, however, free agency began, but too late for this seven time Gold Glove Award winning center fielder, Curt Flood.

In the real world, persecution for the sake of righteousness can be a far greater sacrifice than giving up a baseball career. Likewise, frequently more is at stake than the principle of contract freedom. In any event, to voluntarily accept persecution, people must have faith in God who is in control over even the persecutors. Accepting persecution also requires total commitment to Gods law, even to the point of sacrifice to follow it. The hardest part about persecution, however, is the powerlessness one feels when persecuted. This powerlessness transforms a person into one less favored, and perhaps even one of the least favored of humanity.

The prochoice position, by contrast, follows from unrighteous conduct and leads to the avoidance of persecution. When they become pregnant, unmarried women are five times more likely to abort their unborn children than married women are. Unmarried women have four out of five abortions. Those who have rejected Gods law by their sexual conduct have more difficulty turning in faith toward God, trusting Him, recommitting to His law, and taking up the cross of personal sacrifice necessary to accept the relative powerlessness of the persecuted.

Clearly, unless we can stem the tide of sexual activity among the unmarried, the pressures they have to abort their unborn children will remain overwhelmingly high. To reduce substantially the pressures to abort, we must work to reduce the pressures unmarried persons have toward sexual activity. Those pressures are in a real sense persecution against those who resist them. Rather than avoiding persecution by running from it, Christ teaches us to accept it. To accept this persecution requires unmarried persons to have faith that God is in control of their lives. That faith gives them the fortitude to withstand pressure. They must be totally committed to Gods law so that they can sacrifice to follow it, even when that means accepting a position of less power. Whatever we can do to aid the unmarried in accepting persecution for righteousness will help drive down abortion.

9. The Persecuted, but Appreciated Right Fielder. After he was traded to his third major league team in his first four years in the major leagues, he won the Leagues Most Valuable Player Award twice in his first two years there, edging out the established hometown hero. Sadly, many people criticized him as (continued on page 5)

Thanks to your generous donations, the CIRTL office staff has been able to purchase a computer in order to better serve our growing membership. We also need 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.

an unworthy upstart when he passed the home run record then held by Americas greatest sports hero. Instead of being rewarding for this accomplishment, he faced a lot of hostility from the baseball public. "They acted as though I was doing something wrong, poisoning the record books or something," he said. As they had done for their other superstars who preceded him, though, the Yankees accorded him honor and retired the jersey number of this right fielder, Roger Maris.

Christ calls us in the last Beatitude to accept persecution not to pursue excellence, but to pursue Him. The characteristic of this Beatitude is fellowship with Christ, His law, and those least fortunate among us because He is with them also. The beatitude reminds us that this fellowship embraces also those who have gone before us in His name.

The prochoice side, however, calls for the destruction of the least fortunate among us. It persecutes those who would protect them. Its laws stand in opposition to Gods laws and disregard those giants, the prophets and saints who suffered persecution themselves for the sake of Christ.

We must choose which team we will be on. Let it be His team and let us strive to be the best teammates of those closest to Him, the unborn who are presently least among us. Then, they will grow in size and stature and become the teammates we will need in our declining years. Let us recognize the sacrifice made by those mothers in crisis pregnancy who maintain the lives of their unborn children. They are truly heroes whether they raised those children themselves or placed them with others to do so. Let us remember too the sacrifice made by the men and women daily who have stood on the front line of the abortion holocaust for the sake of the unborn, and ultimately for their mothers and families, especially when they have been persecuted for doing so. Finally, when we pass from this earth, may we be part of that victorious celebration with Him, the prophets and saints, and all those millions of people who were not permitted to walk this earth.

Its Time To Vote On November 12, 2002

If you believe that the Sanctity of Human Life is the bedrock issue of our times, then clear differences between opposing candidates for public office on this issue will define your choice regardless of party affiliation and stands on issues of lesser importance.

The voting history on Human Life issues of the candidates could not be more clear than of those running for the offices of Governor of the State of Illinois and United States Senator from Illinois. In each race, one candidate supports abortion through out all nine months of pregnancy with little or no restriction. The other opposes abortion except for exceptions in some rare circumstances including to save the life of the mother. In both races, one candidate supports parental notification before an abortion could be performed on a minor, while the other has voted to block such legislation. One in each race supports a ban on partial birth abortion while the other opposes such a ban.

Check out the positions of Richard Durbin and James Durkin who are running against each other for the US Senate. Review the record of Rod Blagojevich and Jim Ryan, candidates for Governor of Illinois. Know which one is for life and which is not - and vote your conscience. For more information contact Illinois Federation for Right to Life at 618-4657655

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“ Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe) To Speak In Galesburg ”

On Sunday, October 20, 2002, Norma McCorvey will be speaking in Galesburg, IL. McCorvey, was the Jane Roe in the infamous Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in the United States in 1973.

Norma McCorvey will speak at 7:00 p.m., at Bethel Baptist Church, which is located at 1196 N. Academy in Galesburg. MIME for LIFE will give a presentation at 6:30 p.m. MIME for LIFE is a group of young people who present, in mime form, the tragedy of abortion and Christ's redeeming love. Apple pie and ice cream will be served after McCorvey's talk.

The public is invited to this free event which is being sponsored by Knox County right To Life.

For further information, please contact Pat Conklin at 309-343-2852.

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
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