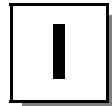


Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out



n this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central

Illinois. The following is by Pastor Richard Schwartz, Assistant Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church of Peoria, 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.

"A RIGHT RESPONSE TO ABORTION" PSALM 139:19-24

Psalm 139 has often been noted as a beautiful expression of the value of human life. Taken as a whole, it is a prayer reflecting on God's intimate knowledge of who we are – a knowledge stretching to the moment we were conceived in the womb and before. The theme of continuity is striking. Notice how the author uses personal pronouns with reference to himself both before and after his birth. Past (v.1), present (vv.2-3), future (v.10), and the pre-natal stage as well (v.13). The psalmist is clearly aware of no discontinuity in his existence. He was, is, and will be the same person...again both during his pre-natal and post-natal life.

Recognizing this, how should we respond to those who would advocate aborting such a life? It's at this point we need to read a little further through Psalm 139 and take a look at vv.19-24. As always, God's Word tells us not only what is right, but also how to do the right thing in the right way. Reflecting on what we've seen so far, the psalmist finds himself filled anew with a zeal for this God who knows him so completely. And he then turns this zeal both to those around him as well as towards himself.

As the psalmist looks at others around him, he recognizes that not everyone responds to God with faith and love. (continued on page 2)



Coming Events

During coming months, the following pro life events are scheduled in the Peoria area:

Central Illinois Right To Life Fundraising Garage Sale Begins Thursday, June 15, 1999 and goes through Saturday, June 17, 1999. The sale will be at the Holy Family School in Peoria. See the enclosed flyers for more information.

July Fourth Parade: Members and friends of Central Illinois Right To Life will walk together in the July 4th Parade in West Peoria. Meet at 9:30 AM on the 4th at the West Peoria fire station. Call Sondra McEnroe at 673-4833 for more information.

Annual 5K Run/Walk: This year the race will be on August 26th. It will be at Bradley Park in Peoria and will start at 8:00 AM. Trophies are awarded to male and female winners in several age divisions. Contributions are needed to help purchase the trophies for the run. Call Dan at 691-3611 or CIRTl at 685-3034 for additional 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 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.

Pro Life Events Remembered - Forty Hour Prayer Vigil

In January 2000, members and friends of Central Illinois Right To Life held a Prayer Vigil for forty hours over three days on the sidewalk in front of Peoria's abortion clinic. People from many area churches stood in prayer at this vigil. This was the third consecutive year that a Prayer Vigil has been held in conjunction with the Sanctity of Human Life Rally. Our silent prayerful presence focused on divine intervention to prevent the death of more children and for the mothers who will suffer from the loss of those children.

Some respond with blasphemy and hate. And this leads him to use some strikingly harsh language...words that really take us back (READ v.22). How ought we to understand such words? And is it ever appropriate for us to say the same thing? Well, in order to answer these questions, we need to clear some things up...

Who are the people being cursed? (READ v.19a and b) How are they characterized? (READ v.20a and b, v.21a and b)

So what then are the curses? We need to recognize that in Hebrew poetry, we often find the usage of vivid and graphic language. Used here, it is not intended to be expressions of a desire for personal vengeance. Rather, the psalmist is filled with moral indignation and a desire for God to exercise justice.

So in terms of application, we need to remember that these words are the prayer of the psalmist, not actions he carries out. We need to remember that these words are not "personal." They do not reflect unrestrained anger or malice. The concern is for God's honor and glory with a view even beyond the human behavior to the opposition being expressed in the situation by the Prince of Darkness.

And so, as we think about all of this with respect to the pro-life movement, we can look at the abortionist and pray with good conscience not that his life would be taken, but that his livelihood would fail. We can look at those on the forefront actually promoting and encouraging abortion and pray that God, in His mercy, would allow them to suffer a foretaste in this life of His eternal punishment and that perhaps He might then bring them to repentance.

And that then takes us to the second expression of the psalmist's zeal – that is, towards himself. In vv.23-24, we see that even with the strong language of what he's just said, he recognizes that he is not above reproach. And so he prays and with boldness and humility, he asks God not to allow him to be self-deluded and instead to open up the dark recesses of his soul. We would do well to follow his example – recognizing both that we all stand before the God of Psalm 139 with certain obligations and that we have fallen short in meeting those obligations. Some have sacrificed their children. Some have advocated for the freedom to make such sacrifices. And yet others – especially in the Christian community – have responded with hate, complacency, and ignorance.

The point is that we all stand guilty before God and in need of His cleansing forgiveness. I personally have never been the direct cause of an abortion. But I have to ask myself as a member of the human race and as a Christian, "What have I done to stop it?" Too little.

And it's there that I take comfort in the reality that just as surely as we stand guilty, there is hope of the cleansing of our guilt. (*"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."* Isaiah 1:18).

We can start anew – every one of us – both with the calling before us to protect the defenseless and the assurance of forgiveness.

No matter how we have failed. No matter what we've done.

Eighth Annual Right To Life **Benefit Garage Sale**



Thursday, June 15, 9 am to 5 pm

Friday, June 16, 9 am to 5 pm

Saturday, June 17, 8 am to 10 am - Half Price Sale

Saturday, June 17, 10 am to 12 pm - \$2 Bag Sale



Holy Family School Gym **Corner of Sterling & Gale, In Peoria**

- *Nice, usable, clean clothing for all sizes
- *Clean household items
- *Nice, clean linens
- *Kitchen items
- *Appliances in working condition
- *Lawn & garden items
- *Craft items
- *Exercise equipment
- *Nice books
- *CDs, tapes and music
- *Antiques

Donation Drop Off Dates

Monday, June 12, 8 am to 8 pm

Tuesday, June 13, 8 am to 8 pm



Sorry, we cannot accept baked goods or large appliances, (refrigerators, washers, etc.), unless in working order and of good appearance.



Also needed, workers for each of the above days, especially someone with a pickup truck to pick up donations. Call Sondra at 673-4833 or 309-645-8000. Please post this notice.

January 2000 Sanctity of Human Life Walk Rally

This year's Walk for Life in Peoria was held on Thursday, January 20, 2000, at 6:30 P.M. Participants met at the Peoria County courthouse at that time and after prayer and singing walked to the 7:00 P.M. Sanctity of Human Life Rally at Sacred Heart Church (next to the Peoria Civic Center). The rally featured special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts. Elizabeth Verchio, Exec. Dir. of Victims Of Choice, a post abortion recovery ministry, gave the keynote address. She spoke of her personal experience with abortion and of the work that she now does helping other women who have been damaged by abortion.

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 fund raising garage sale and have put together mailings and newsletters like this one. Members have also helped organize and contribute to our new internet site. 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.

2000 BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE 8TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE SALE



Thursday, June 15, 9 am - 5 pm, Full Price Sale
Friday, June 16, 9 am - 5 pm, Full Price Sale
Saturday, June 17, 8 am - 10 am, Half Price Sale
Saturday, June 17, 10 am - 12 pm, \$2 A Bag Sale
Holy Family School Gym; Sterling @ Gale Ave, Peoria, IL

We need donations of :

***Nice, usable, clean clothing for all sizes *Clean household items in working condition *Nice, clean linens *Kitchen items *Appliances in working condition *Lawn & garden items *Craft items *Exercise equipment *Nice books *CDs, tapes and music *Antiques.**

****Please, No Torn, Broken, Or Soiled Items. We Cannot Accept Baked Goods or Large Appliances, (Refrigerators, Washers, Etc.), unless in working order and of good appearance.***

DONATION DROP OFF DATES:

Monday, June 12, 8 am - 8 pm

Tuesday, June 13, 8 am - 8 pm



Volunteer Help Is Desperately Needed Monday, Tuesday, And Wednesday Before The Sale, As Well As Thursday, Friday, And Saturday During The Sale, And Immediately After For Clean-Up And Agency Pick-Up. Perhaps Your Church Group Could Sponsor Time Slot At Your Convenience. Remember, We Are A Volunteer Organization. Senior Citizens & Teens Are Welcomed & Encouraged. Also If You Are An Experienced Garage Saler Or Have Organizational Skills Or A Talent For Arranging Displays, We need You!!! If you have a pickup truck and would be willing to pick up donations for us, please call Sondra at 673-4833 or 309-645-8000.

Please Fill Out And Return To CIRTL At 4100 N War Memorial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614,
Or Call Sondra @ 673-4833 or Dennis @ 565-7133

[Please Circle Preferred Day(s) And Indicate Time(s) You Can Help.] Thank You !!!

I Can Help Monday, Tuesday, And/Or Wednesday, June 12,13,14.
Time(s) From When To When _____

I Can Help Thursday, Friday, And/Or Saturday, June 15, 16, 17.
Time(s) From When To When _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

“If I know anything about the character of God, I know, that God hates abortion; and nothing is more foreign to His character than to maintain that God Almighty grants an inalienable right ... to have an abortion.”

Dr. R. C. Sproul (In his tape series - Abortion: A Rational Look At An Emotional Issue)

If Roe Is Overturned Will Illegal Abortion Skyrocket?

In his article *Clear Evidence: If Forbidden, Abortion Will Not Return To The Back Alley*, Dr. John C. Wilke presents convincing evidence that it will not! To make the case, Dr. Wilke sites statistics from Poland. During the years 1960 to 1985 when abortion was a state funded right, Poland averaged about 140,000 abortions a year. By 1990 with the advent of Solidarity and the influence of Pope John Paul, the number of abortions had declined to 60,000.

In 1993, the government restricted abortion to life of the mother, and rape and incest exceptions. There were 777 abortions in 1993, 559 in 1996, and 253 in 1998. In addition the number of reported miscarriages dropped by 25%, indicating that the fear of increase in botched illegal abortions did not materialize. Also the number of maternal deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, and confinement dropped from 70 in 1990 to 21 in 1996 and the infant death rate decreased from 19 per 1000 in 1990 to 9.6 per 1000 in 1998.

Dr. Wilke concludes, “These are firm statistics. The facts above have been annually reported and heatedly discussed by the Polish parliament, its ministries of health, labor, social welfare and education, as well as by mass media, non-governmental organizations, and anyone else interested in the problem. If abortions are again illegal, will illegal abortions, with all of their tragic consequences, take their place? Certainly in Poland the answer is a resounding NO. In fact, the women in Poland are clearly healthier now, from a gynecological and obstetric standpoint, than when abortions were legal.”

“In balance, it (Poland) would seem to be a good prototype of what can and will happen if and when other western nations once again protect their pre-born children from abortion by law.”

Statistics and quotes taken from the April 2000 issue of Life Issues Connector.

Year 2000 Events Sponsored by Crisis Pregnancy Center of Canton

Post-Abortion Counseling Seminar - September 9th

“Beauty for ashes, that He might be glorified”

conducted by Karen Campbell of the CPC

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.

Teens for Life at Peoria Notre Dame High School

Teens for Life at Notre Dame has grown tremendously. It started out as a small club-of about-twenty members, but gained many members when Mrs. Krone, teacher of a Child Development class, became a leader of it and encouraged her students to join. It has since evolved into an active group of over 200 members, about twenty percent of our school .

In the first two months alone of this school year, we have held three meetings (a difficult task for a group of this size), held two Masses in the chapel (a monthly activity), and participated in the Life Chain (even though we got a little wet!).

Teens for Life is a very structured, planned organization. It now consists of two co-presidents and committee chairpersons and officers for several committees, including a Baby Food Drive Committee, a Locker Signs Committee, a Writing Committee, a Poster Committee. Each member is required to participate in at least one committee.

Signs of the organization are present everywhere. Visible signs hang on the lockers of each member. Posters advocating the pro-life movement are posted on the walls throughout each hall and most of the classrooms.

We stand in the Life chain every year and do other activities such as caroling. In the community, signs are seen at St. Joseph's Home at Christmas time, among many others.

We're even represented nationally: each year in January, students from our organization travel to Washington, D.C. for the Pro Life March.

Teens for Life tries to be a positive influence in a destructive world. We try to be a light in a dark tunnel so that others will begin to care about the issues that concern us. It is our hope to change this pro-choice country into a pro-life one.

1999/2000 Mission Statement

Teens for Life at Peoria Notre Dame High School accepts the challenge of educating high school teens about family values, chastity, abortion and the Sanctity of Life. These goals will be met through prayer, presentations from experts, teens educating each other, and the group's involvement in the community. Through God's grace, Teens for Life strives to bring God's will and love to the community of Notre Dame and the city of Peoria, Illinois.

Teens For Life.
Peoria Notre Dame High School
5105 N Sheridan Road
Peoria, IL 61614

Central Illinois Life News

Pro Life Billboards Go Up In Central Illinois Area!

Funds donated to Central Illinois Right To Life have enabled us to erect four billboards with Pro Life and crisis pregnancy help messages 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. With additional funds, we will be able to maintain these boards and even put up more.

We were especially thrilled when Chillicothe Right To Life erected the billboard pictured here on Route 29 between Peoria and Chillicothe. They have fully funded it for the next year!!!

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 and pray!



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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