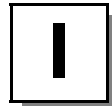


Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out



In this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois and beyond. This newsletter we feature an article by Fr. Frank Pavone, of Priests for Life.

The Bishop and the Atheist

Bishop William Weigand of Sacramento has something to say to pro-abortion politicians who claim to be Catholic. So does Doris Gordon, an atheist and the founder of Libertarians for Life."

On January 22, 2003, Bishop Weigand preached the following words:

"As your bishop, I have to say clearly that anyone - politician or otherwise - who thinks it is acceptable for a Catholic to be pro-abortion is in very great error, puts his or her soul at risk, and is not in good standing with the Church. Such a person should have the integrity to acknowledge this and choose of his own volition to abstain from receiving Holy Communion until he has a change of heart."

He made explicit that fact that his words have direct application to Gray Davis, the Governor of California, who is pro-abortion and says he is Catholic. The bishop's homily made national news. And many of the faithful are saying It's about time. Yet to speak this way is the duty of a bishop.

More surprising to many is that an atheist
(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 19, 2003 and goes through Saturday, June 21, 2003.

Collection dates are June 16 and 17. 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 23th. It will be at Bradley Park in Peoria and will start at 7:30 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 5, 2003. 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 2003, members and friends of Central Illinois Right To Life held a Prayer Vigil for forty hours over four 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 sixth 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.

would say the same. My friend, Doris Gordon, founded "Libertarians for Life" (www.L4L.org) and recently wrote an article, "A Libertarian Atheist Answers 'Pro-Choice Catholics.'" She issues this challenge: "The Church holds that such children are human persons with rights, yet the "personally opposed" hold that it should be a woman's choice to destroy them. If there is a credible reason for such a position, what is it?"

Opposition to legal abortion cuts across the religious and political spectrum. I'm an atheist. I was born and raised Jewish. Catholicism had nothing to do with my coming to understand why abortion is a wrong, not a right, and why it should not be legal."

Both Bishop Weigand and Doris Gordon are calling for consistency. If one claims to be Catholic, he/she should accept the teachings of Catholicism. It's as simple as that.

Holy Communion, moreover, reinforces the need for consistency. Communion means "union with." To receive Communion is not magic. It is, rather, the summit and source of all our efforts to think, desire, choose, and live in union with Jesus Christ. When one knows the definitive teaching of Jesus as expressed in the Church, and deliberately refuses to accept it, he/she rejects "communion" at that moment. It no longer makes sense to receive physically the One whom you have rejected by clinging to your own conflicting doctrine.

Moreover, both the bishop and the atheist are saying that abortion is wrong not because the Church says so, but because of what abortion is. The taking of a child's life is simply not a civilized act. Nor is stealing. The Church teaches against stealing, but we don't hear people complain that laws against stealing are an imposition of religious doctrine. They realize that stealing does not only violate religious doctrine; it violates basic human rights.

So does abortion. That truth isn't so hard to understand. But if we forget, then fortunately, we have both bishops and atheists to help us.

Contact Priests for Life at:

PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314

Tel: 888-PFL-3448, 718-980-4400; Fax: 718-980-6515

email: mail@priestsforlife.org;
website: www.priestsforlife.org

Central Illinois Life News

Triumph of Evil

Tonight marked the final episode of the CBS mini series "Hitler – The Rise Of Evil." The 1000 year Reich he fathered was responsible for the deaths of an estimated fifty million people. The show's epilog pointed out that this number included 20 million military deaths and 6 million Jews along with communists, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and millions of other civilians, (predictably omitting mention of the multitudes of orthodox Christians - Catholic, Lutheran, and otherwise - who suffered and died because their faith compelled them to resist this mass murderer.)

50 million – sound familiar? The death toll of legalized abortion in these United States is fast approaching that count.

The epilog ended with that famous quote from Edmund Burke. **"All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."** I have always accepted this quote as a Truth statement, but tonight I began to question its validity.

My friends (*though we are not good, for as Christ said, "there is none good but God"*) we have not done nothing. To my shame, I have done precious little. But I know many of you who have done a lot. Babies have been saved who would have been lost without your efforts. Women in crisis have been helped. Some who suffer from post abortion guilt have been comforted. People have been educated about the evil of abortion. **Yes, we have not done nothing, but the evil of our time goose-steps ever onward.**

We are like the hero of the mini series – the newspaperman – who with many others did his best to warn his nation of the danger posed by Nazism, but his warning was not heeded. His nation sank into darkness and he lost his life. We are like Corrie Ten Boom and others who were able to save a few from the death camps. But the camps consumed an almost innumerable host, devouring victims even to the last hours of the war.

In the mini series, there came a point of no return, a 'triumph of evil.' Before that point, Hitler could have been relegated to a blip on the screen of German history. After that point, resistance while still morally imperative was futile, (and often deadly.) After that point, the doom of the German nation was sure.

Did we pass our point of no return with Roe v Wade in 1973? Or have we passed it somewhere along the corpse-littered roads of retreat in the ensuing 30 years? Or in spite of the carnage of those 30 years, does that point, somehow and only by the Grace of God, still lie ahead of us – a 'triumph of evil' that can still be thwarted?

Will this current evil consume 50 million? Will it continue until 75 or 100 million have died? Will the final end of this evil resemble the end of the Nazi reign of terror? Will that end also bring with it the destruction of the nation that has allowed this evil to take hold, to grow to these proportions, to wreck this havoc, to take this toll in innocent human lives?

Perhaps we can paraphrase Burke: Evil will triumph when Gods people do not stand in mass and oppose it with all the spiritual, political, and moral means at their disposal.

...thoughts of a CIRTL member

Central Illinois Right to Life welcomes Jeanne Donahue to the Board of Directors. Jean has been involved with pro life work, both with CIRTIL and elsewhere, for many years. Jeanne is a much needed and appreciated addition to the CIRTIL team.

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



Thursday, June 19, 9 am to 5 pm

Friday, June 20, 9 am to 5 pm

Saturday, June 21, 8 am to 10 am - Half Price Sale

Saturday, June 21, 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 16, 8 am to 8 pm

Tuesday, June 17, 8 am to 8 pm



Sorry, we cannot accept baked goods . Large appliances, (refrigerators, washers, etc.), must be in working order and of good appearance.



Also needed, workers for each of the above days along with Wed. June 18 for setup and pricing. Also we need helpers with a pickup truck or van to pick up and move donations. We have a small storage area for those who must drop off items early. Call Sondra at 673-4833 or 309-645-8000. Please post this notice.

January 2003 Sanctity of Human Life Walk Rally

This year's Walk for Life in Peoria was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2003, 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. Bishop Daniel Jenky, the new Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria was the keynote speaker. The 40 hour Prayer Vigil sponsored by Central Illinois Right To Life was conducted from January 20 -23 at the abortion center in Peoria.

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.

2003 BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE 11TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE SALE



Thursday, June 19, 9 am - 5 pm, Full Price Sale
Friday, June 20, 9 am - 5 pm, Full Price Sale
Saturday, June 21, 8 am - 10 am, Half Price Sale
Saturday, June 21, 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. Large Appliances, (Refrigerators, Washers, Etc.), must be in working order and of good appearance. We have a small storage are for those who must drop off items early.**

DONATION DROP OFF DATES:

Monday, June 16 8 am - 8 pm
Tuesday, June 17, 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 A 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 or van and would be willing to pick up or move 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 16,17,18.
Time(s) From When To When _____

I Can Help Thursday, Friday, And/Or Saturday, June 19, 20, 21.
Time(s) From When To When _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Central Illinois Life News

“All that is needed for evil to triumph
is for good men to do nothing.”

Edmund Burke

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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