

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out



Coming Events

The following is by Pastor James McDonald of Providence Church in Peoria. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of CIRTL.

Quality of Life: A Hellish Formula

Psalm 139:13-16: For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

A paraphrase of a quote from Pastor Luke J. Robinson during the 2008 Sanctity of Human Life Rally in Peoria, Illinois:

'Some people say that life begins at birth. Others say that it begins at conception. But my God is so pro-life that He said "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb."'

January 22, 1973 brought a sinister welcome to abortion on demand in America. The Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade was a wakeup call for the church. Demonstrations and organizations sprung up like the spring grass. But, in the 35 years that have passed, it seems many don't bother themselves with the disturbing fact that children are being murdered in our backyards. Protests take time. And it's cold in January. As I reported a few months back, the Life Chain in Peoria this past summer (continued on page 2)

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

Central Illinois Right To Life Fundraising Garage Sale Begins Friday, May 2nd, 2008 and goes through Saturday, May 3rd, 2008. Collection dates are April 30th and May 1st. The sale will be at Saint Bernard's 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 9th. 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 645-8000 for additional information.

Annual Peoria Area Life Chain: Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 5, 2008. Participants will stand in witness to their commitment to the Sanctity of Human Life 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.

stirred only a couple hundred Believers. To me, the apathy is appalling. Human life is precious. We must prove by our actions that we believe and remember it!

If we forget, there may come a day when doctors evaluate even live births to assess if they are worthy to live. They may come up with a quantitative way to assess a child's home life (HL), potential contribution to society (CS), and physical "natural endowment," a child's physical condition at birth (NE). They may combine these factors into some mathematical equation and come up with a Quality of Life Index (QL). If a child scores above this mark, they are worthy to live. Fall below, and they are left to die.

Science fiction? No indeed. Such a formula $[(HL + CS) * NE = QL]$ was used by [Children's Hospital of Oklahoma](#), in Oklahoma City from 1977 to 1982 to evaluate children born with Spina Bifida. During this period, 24 children were determined to be better off dead and left to die.

This story is important to me. You see, my wife, Stacy, was born with Spina Bifida in the 60's, the day after her birthmother turned sixteen. Ginger, her birthmother, was one of eight children—the oldest in the household. No doubt being brought up in a home full of little ones helped develop in this young mother an understanding and appreciation for the life growing within her womb—because when faced with that crisis pregnancy, what she chose for Stacy was life.

Stacy was placed into the family of her adoptive parents when she was eighteen months old. By God's grace, they chose to take on a child who was past infancy, loaded with hefty medical bills, and facing future difficult surgeries. Yet despite all that, they brought Stacy home and called her their own. Years later, when God captured the heart of my wife, He revealed to her the providential Hand that had protected and guided her throughout her life.

By a series of incredible events, Stacy was introduced to her birth grandparents and all of her birthmother's siblings, nieces and nephews, and aunts and uncles, soon after her twenty-first birthday. She even had the opportunity to know her great grandmother. Ginger was allowed to hold and rock Stacy during brief visits to the hospital during her infancy. She was even baptized in her birthmother's Christening gown. Sadly, because Stacy was so young, she has no recollection of these short meetings. Ironically, Ginger was twenty-one years old when she died in a tragic automobile accident – the same age Stacy was when she was reunited with the family.

Since that time, not only has Stacy grown to appreciate her adoptive parents in new ways, she has also grown close to her birth family—especially her grandparents. When asked about her thoughts on God's providential hand in her life, she says this: "I stand amazed and humbled that God spared my life and, by His grace, given me the chance to raise ten beautiful children for His glory." When I gaze upon my children, I marvel at the way God weaved His thread of Providence throughout the intricate fabric of Stacy's life. And yes, I am thankful for the precious gift of that life—a gift that is continuing into future generations.

This gift of life—given by God—is denied to so many. In our human deception, we are too often convinced by the enemy that some precious souls are not deemed fit to live. Some may be conceived during an "inconvenient" time of life; or somehow we are persuaded to believe that the life of the mother is more important than the life of the child. In other cases the child is not even considered human while in the protective confines of the womb—thus murder is treated as a form of "birth control," without any thought at all to the precious life being snuffed out.

May we continue to fight for the sanctity of all life. May we view it in the preborn, the handicapped, the elderly, the helpless, and the infirmed as a gift from the Lord. It is the God-breathed spirit of our Heavenly Father (Genesis 2:7) that gives quality to life. Such worth is not determined by a doctor or by the state.

Rev. James McDonald and his wife Stacy reside in the Peoria area. They are parents to ten children, and have recently been blessed with one grandchild. Rev. McDonald is the pastor of Providence Church in Peoria, IL.

16th Annual Right To Life **Benefit Garage Sale**



Friday, May 2, 8 am to 5 pm

Saturday, May 3, 8 am to 10 am

Saturday, May 3, 10 am to 12 pm - \$2 Bag Sale

Saint Bernard School

510 E. Kansas, In Peoria

Corner of Nebraska & New York



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

Donation Drop Off Dates

Wednesday, April 30, 8 am to 8 pm

Thursday, May 1, 8 am to 5 pm



Sorry, we cannot accept baked goods . Please No Large appliances, (refrigerators, washers, etc.)

Also needed, workers for each of the above days for setup and pricing. Workers can sign up for two hour segments or more. Also we need helpers with a pickup truck or van to pick up and move donations.

Call Sondra at 673-4833 or 309-645-8000.

Please post this notice.



January 2008 Sanctity of Human Life Walk Rally

This year's Walk for Life in Peoria was held on Thursday, January 17, 2008, 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 in downtown Peoria, IL. The rally featured special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts. Pastor Luke J. Robinson, nationally known Pro Life speaker and activist, was the Keynote speaker.

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 the box next to volunteer help. Thank you and have a blessed year in 2008!

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 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.

2008 BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE 16TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE SALE



Friday, May 2, 8 am - 5 pm,
Saturday, May 3, 8 am - 10 am,
Saturday, May 3, 10 am - 12 pm, \$2 A Bag Sale
Saint Bernard's School; 510 E. Kansas, Peoria, IL

We need donations of :

*Nice, usable, clean clothing for all sizes *Clean household items in working condition *Nice, clean linens *Kitchen items *Small Appliances *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. Please No Large Appliances, (Refrigerators, Washers, Etc.) Small appliances must be in working order.

DONATION DROP OFF DATES:
Wednesday, April 30 , 8 am - 8 pm
Thursday, May 1, 8 am - 5 pm



Volunteer Help Is Desperately Needed Wednesday And Thursday Before The Sale, As Well As 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 Brandywine Dr STE 6 , Peoria, IL 61614, Or Call Sondra @ 673-4833 or 309-645-8000
[Please Circle Preferred Day(s) And Indicate Time(s) You Can Help.] Thank You !!!
.....

I Can Help Wednesday And/Or Thursday, April 30 And/Or May 1.
Time(s) From When To When _____

I Can Help Friday And/Or Saturday, May 2 And/Or May 3.
Time(s) From When To When _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Central Illinois Life News

Pro Life Events Remembered - Washington DC Bus Trip

On January 21, 2008, Peoria Charter Coach buses left Central Illinois carrying local Pro-Life supporters to the annual March for Life in Washington. Notable events included hearing our local rally speaker, Pastor Luke J. Robinson, on the mall, and the march to the Supreme Court. Marchers returned to Peoria on January 23rd, very tired but excited about their contribution to the cause.

Make plans now to go to the March for Life with us in January 2009. Call CIRTL at 309-645-8000 for more details.

Peoria Dining Tour Coupon Books Are Still Available

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. Brandywine Dr STE 6
Peoria, IL 61614

Presorted
 Standard
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit 1095
 Peoria, IL

**ADDRESS SERVICE
 REQUESTED**



Visit Our Web Site At <http://www.cirtl.org>

Support Your Local Pro-Life Group