

# Central Illinois Life News

## Pastors Speak Out

**I**n this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois. The following was submitted by Father William Miller I.C., Rector of Rosmini House in West Peoria.

"Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?" (Is. 49:15) It has been my experience that she cannot. Even the mother of an aborted baby cannot forget. Oh, she may for a time block out her child but sooner or later her little one comes back to her and then what sorrow, guilt, regret, emptiness, disgust with herself and with everyone who had anything to do with her abortion. The "what might have been" falls down on her like a ton of bricks. In my eleven years as a priest, I have encountered a wide variety of human suffering but I don't know if any has been as heartbreaking as the suffering of women who have had abortions. I have seen for myself that abortion is not only a crime against unborn babies but also against women. No women should have to go through such terrible and unnecessary pain.

In the midst of the darkness and ugliness of abortion, I have also witnessed the brightness and beauty of God's mercy. The evil of abortion and its consequences are horrors that only the Lord can deliver a person from - and He does! What a joy and sign of hope are those women who have accepted God's forgiveness for their abortion and now walk the path of repentance and reconciliation. They are walking testimonies to Christ's victory over death and the

forces of evil. They are a witness that Satan, the "father of lies" and "murderer from the beginning" (Jn. 8:44), can be put down.

That great champion for the sanctity of human life, Pope John Paul II, has a message that we need to pass on and pray it reaches those most in need of hearing it. Towards the close of his most recent encyclical, "The Gospel of Life," are these words: "I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not have yet healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give into discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourself over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the sacrament of reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost, and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living with the Lord. With friendly and expert help and advice of other people and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by

## Coming Events

### Annual Garage Sale

**C**entral Illinois Right to Life will hold its annual Benefit Garage Sale June 8, 9, & 10 at the Holy Family School Gym at Sterling & Gale in Peoria. The sale will open at 9 am each day. Donations and volunteers are needed. See enclosed flyer for details.

### July 4th Parade

**M**embers of Central Illinois Right to Life will march in the West Peoria July 4th Parade. This is an event which provides a great opportunity to witness for the Unborn. Call Sondra at 673-4833 for details.

### Run / Walk for Life

**T**he annual Run / Walk for Life will be held Saturday, August 26, 1995. Please plan to participate. Call Dan at 263-2086 for additional information.

accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life." [E.V.99]

*There is a "holy hour" of prayer for the unborn on the first Monday of every month at 7 pm, at Rosmini House, 2327 W Heading in West Peoria.*

*need graphic*

*Fourth Annual*  
**Benefit Garage Sale**  
**Thursday and Friday**  
**June 20 and 21, from 9 am to 6 pm**

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**Saturday, June 22, 1995**  
**Half Price Sale, 9 am to 12 pm**  
**12 pm to 2 pm, \$2 Bag**

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

**Quality New And Used Clothing, Household Items, Antiques, Toys,  
Furniture, Rugs, Jewelry, Baby Things, Pet Supplies, Working  
Appliances, Books, Collector's Items, Draperies, Bedding, Holiday  
Decorations, Tools, Sporting Goods, Camping Equipment,  
Many Miscellaneous Items. Something For Everyone!**

**Absolutely No Junk!**

***Don't Miss This Sale To Beat All Sales!***

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

*The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 4th. It will be commemorated from Noon till 12:30 pm at the Peoria County Courthouse. "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14)*

**"Abortion is an act of violence that kills a baby...," Greg Cunningham**

**Outreach Committee News: Former NRLC Speaker Addresses Group**

**O**n March 20, 1995, the Outreach Committee (formerly CRM Committee) was privileged to hear a presentation by Nancy Piccione. Nancy had been the Communications Director for the National Right to Life Committee until 1993. She now lives with her husband in Metamora.

Nancy spoke about the media's biased coverage of abortion, especially regarding the recent shootings at abortion clinics. She pointed out that the media willingly participates in changing the meaning of words. They are trying to say that our language like "Abortion kills children," is creating a hostile environment and causing killing to occur. They want people to believe that pro-lifers are crazy, nutty people that kill others. The good news is that more people have a growing skepticism about the media. We can help others to understand the truth, as well as promote alternative media such as Christian TV and radio stations and newspapers.

Nancy also spoke about some issues of national importance for Pro-lifers. These include:

1. The decision by the Accreditation Group requiring residents in OB/GYN to be trained in abortion and requiring hospitals to do the training or to provide to have it done elsewhere. This is truly not "pro-choice," because it forces people to participate in abortion. It may also discourage young Pro-Life people from choosing an OB/GYN career.
2. The nomination of Henry Foster as Surgeon General. He has performed many abortions and lied about it.
3. The impact of welfare reform on abortion. NRLC wants to ensure that whatever reforms take place do not cause the abortion rate to increase. The focus should be on reducing the teen pregnancy rate, not the teen birth rate.

So what can we do? Nancy suggested:

1. Write letters to Senators regarding Henry Foster.
2. Write in on welfare reform concerns.
3. Write to Congressmen regarding the Accreditation Group policy, (and ask them who else could be contacted.)
4. Continue to witness for Pro-Life in our daily conversations and actions, as well as through bumper stickers, etc.
5. Keep praying.

We really appreciated Nancy speaking to our group and hope to have others share their knowledge and ideas with us in the future. The Outreach Committee meets every third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Christian Center in the upper-level conference room. Come join us!

## *Parental Notice of Abortion Act*

**T**his bill requires that a physician give notice at least 48 hours in advance of performing an abortion on a minor to that minor's parent, grandparent, step-parent living in the household, or legal guardian. This bill has passed the Illinois House as HB-955 and is now in committee in the Illinois Senate. Senate bill 836, also a parental notification bill, has passed the Senate and gone to the House.

Pro-Life organizations are requesting that people call or write their state Senator and Representative in Springfield, asking him or her to work for final passage of a tough parental

**PRO-LIFE BOOK REVIEW**

*Have you read a good book lately? I certainly have. "DEADLINE," by Randy Alcorn, is a wonderful mystery wrapped around all of today's social ills. I am sure all of you reading this are concerned with the breakup of the family structure, the decline in morality, the absence of God in our everyday lives, and the awful crime of abortion that is tearing our world apart. Randy Alcorn covers all of these issues in an interesting, thought provoking way, in a manner that leaves one with a sense of hope -- a hope that we can reverse these destructive trends in our*

**Work/Share Day** at Cabrini Hall Maternity Home, 2900 W Heading Ave. in Peoria on Saturday, May 6 at 9 am (untill ?) Please come for an hour or two. Whatever your gift, we have a "hands on" opportunity for you.

**TRUTH DOESN'T KILL.  
ABORTION DOES.  
ABORTION POLICY MUST BE DEBATED.  
WITHOUT VIOLENCE.  
BUT WITH TRUTH.**

Do you wish you could accomplish something for the Pro-Life cause, but are not sure what to do? Every third Monday at 7:30 p.m., we have a meeting at the Christian Center in Peoria to share ideas and efforts being made to reach people with the Pro-Life message. Anyone is welcome. For more information, call Dan Smith at (309)263-2086.

**Do we love our unborn neighbors as much as we love ourselves?**

***Can You Volunteer ?***

We need people to spread the Pro-Life message by helping with events throughout the year. To be a Special Activities Member (SAM), call Central

***Need a Pro-Life Speaker ?***

We have trained speakers who can present the message of life to your church or organization through video and the spoken word. There is no

**An Observation**

Some months ago after reading an article by Pro-Life activist Greg Cunningham about the effectiveness of simple tools like bumper stickers, we ended years of procrastination and placed one on our car. It displays a simple, rather non-controversial, statement of truth; "ABORTION STOPS A BEATING HEART."

On a recent trip I started thinking about the number of people who might see this message during the 2500 miles we would be driving. To this end, we counted the cars that passed us or that we passed for about an hour and were surprised to estimate that the occupants of approximately 7500 cars would be confronted by the Pro-Life statement on our bumper during our time away from home. Just imagine the potential impact of millions of Pro-Lifers displaying the truth about abortion on their cars throughout the entire year!

*Incidentally, during a week on the road we saw only 2 other Pro-Life bumper stickers.*

(Pro-Life Bumpers Stickers are available at your religious bookstore or from Central Illinois Right to Life.)

***Central Illinois Right to Life: Membership 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. 1995 may be the year that God rids our country of the evil of abortion. Let us all pray, and work, and give to that end.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_

State : \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_

Member Dues : \$10\_\_

# 1995 BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

**PRO-LIFERS, "DO YOU CARE ENOUGH TO HELP?"  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE  
3RD ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE SALE**

Thursday, June 8, 9 am - 6 pm; Friday, June 9, 9 am - 6 pm  
Saturday, June 10, 9 am - Noon 1/2 Price; Noon -3 pm \$2 A Bag  
Holy Family School Gym; Sterling @ Gale Ave, Peoria, IL

*Donations Of New & Used Good Quality Clothing, Toys, Antiques & Collector's Items, (Please Mark As Such,) Furniture, Working Appliances, Household Items, Tools, Sporting Goods, Linens, Pet Supplies & Baby Things. Paper Sacks And Hangers Are Also Needed.*

**\*Think Quality\*** *Our Reputation Is Being Built On Quality. Please No Junk, Or Torn, Broken, Or Soiled Items.*

**DONATION DROP OFF DATES:**  
**Monday, June 17, 5 pm - 9 pm**  
**Tuesday, June 18, 9 am - 9 pm**

*Volunteer Help Is Desperately Needed Tuesday Or 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 2 Hour Time Slot At Your Convenience. Remember, We Are A 100% Volunteer Organization, (We Have No Paid Staff!) "Working For God Pays Very Little But The Retirement Benefits Are Out Of This World. If You Don't Help, Who Will?" 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!**

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Please Fill Out And Return To CIRTL At 4100 N War Memorial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614, or  
Call Patty @ 446-3057, Diane @ 692-6340, Dennis @ 689-5473, or Lori @ 686-2456.  
[Please State Preferred Day(s) and Time(s).] Thank You!

I Can Help Tuesday and/or Wednesday, June 18 and 19, Sorting And Pricing Items.  
Day(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Time(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I Can Help Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday, June 20, 21, and 22, During The Sale.  
Day(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Time(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Central Illinois Life News

**Life : Who knows where you stand ?**

### **Standing Up for the Unborn**

Prayer & Picketing continue at Peoria's abortion facility, located across from Candletree Shopping Center at 7501 N University. Every Wednesday and Thursday morning abortions are being committed. Join us in there for prayer from 8 am -10 am. (Please do not park near the abortuary)

### **March for Jesus**

*The Annual March for Jesus takes place in Peoria on Saturday, May 27 at 9 AM. Marchers will meet at Constitution Ave. near Eckwood Park, (Sears area.) Car pooling is encouraged because no parking is available at Eckwood Park.*

### **The Second Saturday Series**

Our Second Saturday Series is being discontinued. Those interested in group discussion of Pro-Life issues are encouraged to attend the monthly Outreach Committee Meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM.

**Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.**

4100 N. War Memorial

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and  
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