

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

In this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois. The following was submitted by Rev. Richard Roseman, Chaplain at St Joseph Home and Judicial Vicar at The Tribunal of the Diocese of Peoria.

Sometimes, when we look at the path ahead, we might think that it would be easy to fall into discouragement. We realize that respect for life in all its forms, and respect for a Christian view of human sexuality, is not always supported by all people, even by good people. We must not lose hope, however, that God is with us, and that the truth will prevail.

Recently I was reminded of the cause to hope, by some chance encounters with people who are trying to make a difference in the area of respect for human life, and who are volunteering their lives to advance this understanding. A few weeks ago I met two young people who have given a year of their lives to the Pro-life cause. An organization called Collegians Activated to Liberate Life (The CALL Network), encourages young people who have just graduated college to delay their careers for a year. Instead these dedicated young

people spend the year traveling to college campuses making the Pro-life message known. This seems like an ominous task, but one that must be very rewarding. I met a couple of members of the organization when they were traveling from Madison, Wisconsin, to visit some of the universities in the St. Louis area. They have also been to Bradley University this Spring, where they assisted the Pro-life group there in erecting crosses in memory of the unborn lost to abortion.

Last week I spoke with a friend in Connecticut. She is involved with a group of women who take the Pro-life message to heart, and who volunteer their time to support those who have made choices in support of life. These ladies make a special commitment to visit the homes of mothers with

newborns. They may scrub the floor, or do the dishes, or watch the other siblings so that the new mother can have some time alone with her newborn. They see their work as a practical activity in support of life, and also offer as penance the time they are involved in helping these mothers.

We know that we may offer our time in support of life in many ways, in prayer, in action, for the preborn, for the newborn, and for the aged and the infirm. We should not become discouraged if we feel that others do not understand. Let us have great confidence as we pray that through our actions and efforts the cause of life may be advanced, and that many hearts may be moved to be open to the truth.

Each Year, Central Illinois Right to Life Sponsors These Signs on GP Transit Buses



Fifth Annual Right To Life
Benefit Garage Sale

Thursday, June 19, from 8 am to 4 pm

Full Price Sale

Friday, June 20, from 8 am to 4 pm

Half Price Sale

Saturday, June 21, from 8 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 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

Donation Drop Off Dates

Monday, June 16, 8 am to 8 pm

Tuesday, June 17, 8 am to 8 pm

Sorry, we cannot accept magazines or baked goods or large appliances, (refrigerators, washers, etc.)

Please, No Junk!

Don't Miss This Sale To Beat All Sales!

**“A NATION THAT KILLS ITS OWN CHILDREN,
IS A NATION WITHOUT HOPE.”**

Pope John Paul II

From the President's Desk

Sometimes the broken arm of wickedness (Psalm 10:15) can nonetheless reach beyond its usual realm of evil, and impact us in the most peculiar ways. Such is the case with what I am about to describe.

When we think about the sin of abortion, our minds usually swirl around the vast realm of deceit and sadness that accompanies such an abandonment of natural affections. At other times, however, our thoughts focus on the grim and grisly business of the abortionists--and this can cause us to become almost overwhelmed: spiritually, emotionally, and (sometimes) even physically. After the March board meeting of Central Illinois Right To Life, many of the board members, and others, viewed a relatively innocuous video describing the abominable procedure we commonly refer to as "Partial Birth Abortion." As I watched this video, and heard the testimonies of congressmen debating the issue, I was appalled by our President's hard-hearted, and arrogant attitude. As I pictured him biting his lower lip, urging on us his own brand of "Moral superiority and authority," my anger level climbed to new heights. All night long, all I could think of was Bill Clinton figuratively standing in the abortuary, plunging scissors into the backs of the heads of little children struggling for survival, and then sucking out their brains. Even as I went to bed that night, these thoughts remained with me.

In the middle of the night, (~3:30 a.m.), I got up to go to the bathroom. As I was standing there, once again the grisly procedure traversed through my

consciousness. The next thing I knew, I was crawling out of our bathtub, (for I had fainted there in the bathroom!) Upon investigation, I discovered that I had split open my back (by hitting the porcelain bar in the bathtub), and that I would need to go to the emergency room.

Once there, of course, I was able to tell my story. Most of the nurses and doctors readily acknowledged as well the gory reality of partial birth abortion, (which is, of course, just a more vivid and disgusting depiction of all abortion). The doctor sewed 3 or 4 inches of stitches into my back, and sent me on my way. Now, when I look at my back in the mirror, I am reminded, in a very small way, of the pain and injustice done those children who are murdered every day, largely through the gross abuse and perversion of power, as so clearly displayed by our President.

Still, in spite of all this, there is plenty of room for hope and optimism. The verse I cited above reads in the following way, (and it is as true today as ever): "Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; seek out his wickedness until You find none." Let us fervently and faithfully pray toward that end!

Mark Henninger

Rev. Mark Henninger was elected President of the Board of Directors of Central Illinois Right to Life earlier this Year. He replaced out-going President and retiring board member, Diane Conner. Diane now works part time in

1997 BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

**PRO-LIFERS, "DO YOU CARE ENOUGH TO HELP?"
CENTRAL ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE
5TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE SALE**

Thursday, June 19, 8 am - 4 pm, Full Price Sale
Friday, June 20, 8 am - 4 pm, Half Price Sale
Saturday, June 21, 8 am - Noon, \$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 Magazines Or Baked Goods or Large Appliances, (Refrigerators, Washers, Etc.)*

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 Time Slot At Your Convenience. Remember, We Are A Volunteer Organization. "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!

Please Fill Out And Return To CIRTL At 4100 N War Memorial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614,
Or Call Diane @ 685-3034.

[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: _____

Wanted: Committed Pro-life Men and Women who will call or write their representatives in Congress and urge them to override the veto that President Clinton is again threatening of the bill to ban Partial Birth Abortions. (Of course, if you believe that it should be legal to kill viable babies moments before birth... well... write or call, too.)

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His Glory!"

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

Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... An Immortal Soul*

Do you wish you could accomplish something for the Pro-Life cause, but are not sure what to do? The third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., we have a meeting at the Christian Center in Peoria. We come together to share ideas, pray, and to renew our efforts to reach people with the Pro-Life message.

At recent meetings we have viewed several videos dealing with the aftermath of abortion and its detrimental effects on women. We also serve the membership of CIRTIL by assembling for mailing the various newsletters that CIRTIL publishes each year.

If you are looking for a place to learn and to serve, we welcome you to join us. We also ask that you pray for us that God may use our humble efforts to protect the unborn and thereby to increase His Kingdom! We will pray for you in the same manner.

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__

DONATION : \$5__ \$10__ \$15__ \$25__ Other_____ Thank You!

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Please Plan For These Coming Events

July 4th Parade

Members of Central Illinois Right to Life will march in the West Peoria July 4th Parade again this year. This is an event which provides a great opportunity to witness for the unborn.. Marchers usually wear red, white, and blue colors and/or Prolife t-shirts. Call Sondra at 673-4833 for additional details.

1997 Run/ Walk for Life

The annual Run / Walk for Life will be held Saturday, August 23th at 8:00 am at Bradley Park in Peoria. 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 263-2086 or CIRTL AT 685-3034 for additional information.

1997 Life Chain

Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 5, 1997. 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 263-2086 for more details. Organizational help is also needed.

Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

Bulk Rate
U.S.
Postage
PAID
Permit 1095

ADDRESS CORRECTION and
FORWARDING REQUESTED