

# Central Illinois Life News

## Pastors Speak Out

**I**n this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois. The following is by Father Jerome Pilon, pastor of St. Anthony's Parish in Hoopston and was first published in the Catholic Post.

What do you get when you focus on the wrong issues and take a poll asking all the wrong questions? Would you believe the real truth about the real issue? That's exactly what has accidentally happened these last two months. It's ironic that it took a sex scandal in the White House breaking in the fourth week of January to do this. Please let me explain.

As you know, there has been a constant debate about the approval ratings for the president in the midst of this scandal. At times the ratings are higher than ever. The one thing everybody agrees on is the fact that these high ratings are linked to our present strong economy.

Herein lies the truth. The true answer is our strong economy but the real issue isn't sex scandals, it is abortion. After all, our present strong economy hasn't been built on presidential scandals, but on abortion. The real fear right now is the possibility of ending abortion, and the champions of abortion happen to be President Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party.

My teachers in high school would always point out that the economy of the pre-Civil War South was built on the backs of slaves. They feared abolition, even to the point of going to war, because their whole economy would collapse without slavery. They certainly would not be able to keep the same standard of living.

Today we have a similar situation. The present economy has been built on the backs of dead babies and

those who support abortion fear that its abolition will mean that they will not be able to keep the same standard of living that they have grown accustomed to. Is it fair for me to make this dramatic claim? Consider the following and decide for yourself. Imagine a family with two children, one in 7th grade and one in 10th. Mom and Dad both work, he earns 60% of their income and she earns 40%. Mom becomes pregnant. The first issue is whether she can or will continue to work after the baby is born. If she quits, this means a 40% cut in income right off the top. Even if she can continue to work, now there are five people to support instead of four; three to send to college instead of two; and a child living at home for eighteen more years instead of five.

Now consider the nation as a whole. In the last 25 years we have killed one-third of all babies before they were born. Without abortion, whatever resources and income we have as a nation would have to be spread around over 35 million more citizens not to mention the babies the 16- to 25-year-old women would have had by now. Think of the added cost for the programs being touted now by the president in education, day care, health care, energy usage, etc.

Plug in these extra dependents over the years and add to it a slower economy and you get even less tax dollars in government hands. Can you really deny that legal abortion has played a major role in the present standard of living in the US, both for in families that have killed a child or two and for all of us as a whole?

What of my claim that there is a fear today of the possible demise of legalized abortion? The people in the South knew that there was trouble coming when states in the North abolished slavery. It was just a matter of time if one part of the nation ended slavery that it would be ended throughout the country. In other

words, once the humanity and rights of Negroes were recognized in one part of the country they would eventually be recognized for the whole country. That's why the South fought a war of secession. They needed their own nation that was completely slave oriented.

The same thing is happening today with abortion. The country has been on the verge of ending one type of abortion, partial-birth abortion. In fact, Congress has twice passed bills to criminalize this procedure. Only the president's veto and the Democratic minority in the Senate have kept this from becoming law. Pro-abortion people have rightly understood that such a law would mark the beginning of the end of legalized abortion in this country. In other words, once the humanity and rights of unborn babies are recognized during birth, it is just a matter of time before they are recognized before birth.

Jan. 22 marked the 25th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in our country. With the media circus over the presidential sex scandals the rallies, marches, and prayer vigils that week in January went almost completely unreported. The subsequent touting of the strong economy as a reason to overlook the personal scandals of our president has in fact unmasked the true motivation behind the real scandal in this country: legal abortion.

How much longer will we as a people be able to accept the fact that our high standard of living in the United States today is not due only to the many valiant soldiers who have died in our many wars and the great genius and industry of a hard working people, but also is due to the 35 million babies we have sacrificed to the god of money these past 25 years? May the true God in heaven have mercy on us all.

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

**Thursday, June 18, 9 am to 5 pm**

**Friday, June 19, 9 am to 5 pm**

**Saturday, June 20, 8 am to 10 am - Half Price Sale**

**Saturday, June 20, 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 15, 8 am to 8 pm***  
***Tuesday, June 16, 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!***

*Woe unto you Pharisees and you other religious leaders—hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things—**justice, mercy, and faith**. Yes, you should tithe, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone. Blind guides! .*  
Matthew 23:23,24a (Living Bible)

...the Contemporary American Church no longer has either the character or the courage required to take a stand...  
*Mark Crutcher (Life Dynamics)*

## 100 HOUR PRAYER FIRST IN PEORIA

Over 150 people braved the winter cold, keeping watch for an hour at a time in prayer outside of Peoria's abortion center as part of a continuous 100 hour prayer vigil, solemnly marking and mourning the 25th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. Representing over 50 different churches, they stood in prayer for the millions of children killed by abortion since that infamous decision. They prayed also for the mothers of those children, whose lives have been damaged spiritually, emotionally, and often physically. Spanning the 100 hours between the January 18th Concert of Prayer sponsored by the Women's Pregnancy Center and the January 22nd Sanctity of Human Life Rally sponsored by Central Illinois Right to Life, the 100 Hour Prayer was a first of its kind in Peoria and perhaps in the nation. People of all ages came around the clock to pray close to where lives are ruined and lost. Central Illinois Right to Life extends gratitude for everyone who made this event succeed. May they and the churches they represent be blest.

People who heard of the event were moved by the sacrifices made. Whether it meant getting up in the middle of the night or standing outside during the day, everyone who prayed showed a peaceful determination to pray for abortion's victims. All of the media coverage was also positive.

The only negative point was the lack of courtesy and hospitality by the management at Carl's Jr. Restaurant next to the abortion center. After their employees at first welcomed the prayer participants and even sent coffee and hot chocolate out to several, the management started calling the police on people in prayer if they parked in their parking lot. Once early in the morning before opening for business, the manager arrived and called the police so that a father who had brought his children to pray before school had to move their car from the Carl's Jr. parking lot. They had intended to have breakfast there after prayer. Carl's Jr. lost many sales due to its management rudeness.

Since the 100 Hour Prayer Vigil ended, peaceful prayer continues in front of the abortion center weekly on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00 - 10:00 when babies are brought there for killing. Anyone is encouraged to come stand for a while, whether it be five minutes, a half hour, or an hour. Join in prayer for the mothers and their children there. Park across the street on the side road rather than stop at Carl's Jr. Restaurant.

## DOES THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL CAUSE ABORTIONS?

Randy Alcorn, the author of **Prolife Answers to Prochoice Arguments**, one of the most comprehensive books on abortion, and **Deadline** and **Dominion**, two best selling Christian novels, has written an in-depth study of abortions resulting from the birth control pill. His booklet, titled **Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions**, is must reading for anyone serious about abortion in America. Extensively researched, this 87 page booklet examines the medical evidence, what pill manufacturers say, and the arguments surrounding this topic.

Mr. Alcorn concludes: It is a tragic irony that we who are Christians try to persuade people not to have a single surgical abortion, while as a result of our choice to take the Pill we may be having two, three, a half dozen or more chemical abortions ourselves. My intention is not to fingerpoint. ... If we'd had the information then that we do now, I am convinced Nanci and I would have stopped using the Pill. In the face of the overwhelming evidence, I think many others will make the same decision.

The booklet is available from the Central Illinois Right to Life office or may be ordered from Eternal Perspective Ministries, 2229 East Burnside, #23, Gresham, OR 97080. The cost, including postage is \$3.00 per copy, \$2.25 for two to ten,

# 1998 BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

**PRO-LIFERS, "DO YOU CARE ENOUGH TO HELP?"  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE  
6TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE SALE**

Thursday, June 18, 9 am - 5 pm, Full Price Sale  
Friday, June 19, 9 am - 5 pm, Full Price Sale  
Saturday, June 20, 8 am - 10 am, Half Price Sale  
Saturday, June 20, 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 Magazines Or Baked Goods or Large Appliances, (Refrigerators, Washers, Etc.)*

**DONATION DROP OFF DATES:**

**Monday, June 15, 8 am - 8 pm**  
**Tuesday, June 16, 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!!!*

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Please Fill Out And Return To CIRTL At 4100 N War Memorial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614,  
Or Call Lori @ 686-2456 or Dennis @ 565-7133  
[Please Circle Preferred Day(s) And Indicate Time(s) You Can Help.] Thank You !!!  
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I Can Help Monday, Tuesday, And/Or Wednesday, June 15,16,17.  
Time(s) From When To When \_\_\_\_\_

I Can Help Thursday, Friday, And/Or Saturday, June 18, 19, 20.  
Time(s) From When To When \_\_\_\_\_

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

**"Vigil of Prayer At The Clinic"**

It was 5:37 am. It was very cold. Where was this place? I looked around. I was standing near a family restaurant. Across the street was a child-care center and a bridal shop. Down the way I saw the brightly colored playground of Ronald McDonald. In the distance, a steeple touched the sky. These sights suggested love and children. They should have warmed me, at least inside, yet I was very cold. Then I remembered where I was, and turned to look at the monstrous building behind me, and thought of the evil deeds done inside, and I knew it was not the morning frost of January that made me now so cold, but the almost unopposed breath of death that emanated from that place ... and I could not

**Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... A Gift From God***

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 meet 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 videos from Life Dynamics dealing with efforts of some Pro-Life Organizations to identify those doctors in their community who perform abortions, and to enlist community and peer pressure to convince them to stop. We also had a guest speaker, Cathleen McKusker, who talked about her Pro-life Radio program on WPEO.

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!

# Central Illinois Life News

## Please Plan For These Coming Events

### July 4th Parade

**M**embers 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.

### 1998 Run/ Walk for Life

**T**he annual Run / Walk for Life will be held August 22, 1998 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 691-3611 or CIRTl AT 685-3034 for additional information.

### 1998 Life Chain

**C**entral Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 4, 1998. 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 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

*Bulletin Insert And Flyer Enclosed For Right To Life Garage Sale Which Will Be Held Thursday, June 18 Through Saturday, June 20. Please Copy And Distribute The Flyer And Contact Your Church About Putting The Insert In Your*

*Support Your Local Pro-Life Group*