

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

In this column, we usually share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois and beyond. This newsletter we want instead to follow-up on the Key States Initiative and the related seminar with Greg Cunningham.

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform which produced the pro-life video, *The Hard Truth*, rolled three enormous "box trucks" through Peoria and the Heart of Illinois the week of June 21 - 25. The trucks educate voters on the horrors of abortion, displaying aborted baby photos on their sides and backs. The trucks can be viewed on the web at www.abortioNNO.org. These trucks are part of a fleet of six truck and a plane traveling around the country to dramatize the injustice of abortion with images which make abortion impossible to ignore or trivialize.

Gregg Cunningham, the Executive Director of the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, spoke to the Central Illinois Right to Life group on June 14. His articles have appeared in *National Review*, *American Spectator*, *World Magazine* and other publications. He is a former two-term member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, during which time he was a prime sponsor of the bill which ended public funding for abortion.

He was also a prime sponsor of the Abortion Control Act which was litigated before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Thornburgh vs. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. The Act was later amended and re-litigated in the (continued on page 2)



Coming Events

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

Annual 5K Run/Walk: This year the race will be on Saturday, August 28th. 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 3, 2004. 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.

Walk for Life, Coming in January of 2005, on or near the 32nd anniversary of the notorious Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, which put millions of unborn children at risk. After prayer we will walk together to a rally, carrying signs proclaiming our support for the sanctity of all innocent human life.

Sanctity of Human Life Rally, Also coming in January of 2005. The rally will feature special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts.

Supreme Court case of *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*. Gregg also helped direct the campaign to enact a ballot initiative which ended tax financed abortion in Colorado. He served during both the Reagan and Bush administrations in legislative affairs with the U.S. Department of Justice. He later served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney (Special, Los Angeles). Gregg is a retired Air Force Reserve Colonel, and is also a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War.

In his remarks, Gregg demonstrated why it is necessary to show people the horrors of first trimester abortion because every successful social movement in America has had to expose to the people the evil which they oppose. There is a virtually complete media blackout, however, of the violent nature of abortion. The media avoids even the word "abortion" itself, naming its supporters as "pro-choice" who promise to "protect a woman's right to choose." As a result, many who "choose" abortion have no clear understanding of the nature of their "choice" until it is too late. Everywhere that the violent nature of abortion is shown, however, the numbers of abortions decline.

To concerns that young children inevitably will see these images, Gregg said that we must have as much concern for the babies in the womb whom abortion kills as for the children already born. He also showed how the media routinely displays violence where children will inevitably see it: on television and videos and on magazine covers in checkout lanes at the supermarket. To be persuasive, pro-lifers cannot be held to a double standard.

For my part, as a parent of two young children, I think that while we should not intentionally show young children violence, at the same time we can answer their questions in an age appropriate manner when they see it. We can assure them first that they are safe; abortion does not happen to children already born. Second, we can praise their sympathy; that is a most honorable trait. Third, we can educate them that Jesus especially comforts those so wrongly mistreated; he makes all things new for them, just as he will for us. The evils of abortion cannot be summarized in a picture, but a picture does speak a thousand words. Unless we believe ourselves to be such prodigious speakers that our audience will hang onto every word we say, we would be foolish not to use the persuasiveness of visual images in our pro-life efforts.

By: Dan Smith
Vice President for Outreach
Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc

“Let me say plainly that no man’s blood can be laid at my door, for I did not shrink from declaring all God’s message to you. And now beware! Be sure that you feed and shepherd God’s flock— His church— purchased with His blood— for the Holy Spirit is holding you responsible as overseers.”

The Apostle Paul to The elders of Ephesus in Acts 20:26-28 (Living Bible)

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 2004!

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 conference room of the Christian Center at 4100 North Brandywine Drive in Peoria 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.

Central Illinois Right To Life has lots of prolife booklets, brochures, and bumper stickers available. By purchasing through CIRTL, you save ordering hassles and help to spread the prolife message. Call 685-3034 for more information or to order your materials.

Pro Life Events Remembered

July Fourth Parade

Members and friends of Central Illinois Right To Life walked together in the July 4th Parade in West Peoria again this year. Call Sondra McEnroe at 685-3034 for information on next year's parade and on other upcoming Pro Life events in the Central Illinois area.

Garage Sale Report

Central Illinois Right To Life held its annual fund-raising garage sale in July at the Saint Mark School in Peoria. Thank You! Thank You! to all who participated in this years event. We depend on the generous workers and on the donation of quality items as well as the many customers. This money helps fund the billboards, mailings, and other local prolife efforts. This years sale was a great success .

This is the first year that Saint Mark School has hosted our sale. We hope to be able to save more lives in Peoria in part because of their generosity and we are deeply grateful. Finally, thanks to those who have made CIRTL part of their regular giving throughout the year. Your contributions enable CIRTL to continue to stand for life in Central Illinois.

Life Chain Coordinators Needed!

Each Church in Central Illinois should have a Life Chain Coordinator. The LCC seeks to involve the membership of their own church in the annual Life Chain in October, thereby increasing the impact of the Pro-Life message on the community. Many churches still do not have a coordinator. If yours does not and you can serve in this capacity, please call Dan Smith at 691-3611 or Dennis Dillard at 565-7133.

As our mailing list grows and we establish a presence on the internet, the Central Illinois Right To Life office staff needs a laser printer, and a fax machine. Can you help by donating or purchasing these items? Call Dennis at (309)565-7133 or CIRTL at (309)685-3034.

“Holy Communion Must Not Be Used As A Weapon” - written By John F. Kinney Bishop of Saint Cloud and dated May 27, 2004, expressed the idea that Catholic clergy should not withhold Holy Communion from those politicians and other Church members who openly and publicly support abortion.

The Following was written in response to Bishop Kinney by a concerned Church member

I would have to strongly disagree with this position and agree instead with Cardinal George in Chicago and the bishops in St Louis, Sacramento and many others. When someone takes an open or public and unrepentant position in disagreement with the Church, that person has made his or her own choice and made it clearly. While we may not know their conscience, we can only look at their public position.

On Pentecost Sunday members of the Rainbow Movement presented themselves in their rainbow sashes at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago for their annual demonstration against the Church teaching on homosexuality. There is no question where they stood and their interviews in the media reinforced their stated purpose. Cardinal George's instruction to his priests, to deny them the Holy Eucharist, was what had to be done.

The bishop in St Louis was also correct regarding Senator Kerry and anyone else publicly supporting abortion. Note that Senator Kerry, who claims to be a Catholic in good standing while continually supporting and voting for abortion, instead of attending a Catholic Mass while he was in St Louis on a Sunday, instead went to a Baptist Church. He didn't show the courage of his "convictions".

A staffer for former California Governor Grey Davis had the temerity to tell his bishop that he, the bishop of Sacramento, didn't have the authority to say that the then governor couldn't make his own interpretation of what are authentic Catholic teachings. The governor had been upset when a monsignor had denied him a public forum and the bishop supported his monsignor. Gov. Davis reiterated his disagreement with the Church after the bishop spoke out. There is no room for doubt in that kind of situation.

Obviously a citizen can hold whatever opinion they want to. But, just as obviously, a leader of our Catholic Church is charged with teaching and defending his flock. If someone publicly and continuously disagrees with Church teaching, a bishop or priest is duty-bound to uphold the Church teaching and, while hoping for the person's conversion or reversion and repentance, must avoid allowing that person to give scandal to his flock. A person's private thoughts and actions would not cause that response.

Whether it is an election year or not is not the real issue. The unchanged teaching of Christ's Church IS. I believe that many of our Catholic clergy in the US and Europe have been silent and forbearing for far too long - and through too many elections. This is a welcome development and the answer to prayer for many of us. Perhaps now we can see progress in ending the horrible scourge of "legal" abortion.

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Visit our Web Site

When you visit <http://www.cirtl.org> you will find 150 pages of Pro Life news and perspective and announcements of coming Pro Life events. Most of the previous *Pastors Speak Out* essays are available as well as Pro Life sermon outlines, past newsletter articles, and updated position papers addressing Pro Life Issues. There are personal stories on subjects like adoption that will touch your heart. Our site has descriptions of, and contact information for, many of our fellow Pro Life groups in Central Illinois. There are also links to important local, state, national, and international Pro Life organizations. Facts and statistics about abortion and euthanasia and information about current law affecting these issues are on our Abortion Faqs page. Original, unedited letters to the editor of local newspapers make for interesting reading.

We are especially interested in new material for our site. Your school research paper or speech on abortion, or your Pro Life opinion piece or letter to the editor would be very useful. Your personal story about abortion or other sanctity of life issues can be posted anonymously. on our site to help others, literally around the world, who are facing similar difficult circumstances.

Remember To Visit Us At <http://www.cirtl.org> - and tell others to visit too!

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.

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