

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 share the thoughts of one of our board members on our **TRUE NATIONAL TREASURE**.

The premise of the movie **National Treasure** is that clues to find a great ancient treasure are hidden on the Declaration of Independence. Despite the treasure Disney pulled into its coffers from this tale, the company left its movie audience totally clueless to the real treasure on the face of the Declaration of Independence.

At the 2004 National Democratic Convention future U.S. Senator Barack Obama quoted 35 words from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Despite the fame Senator Obama gained from this speech, he too left unmined treasure contained in the 20 words following the ones he quoted: "--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Our founding fathers lived and died for the treasure within these 55 words, the treasure passage of the Declaration of Independence: that the purpose of government is to secure the God- (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 27th. 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 2, 2005. 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 2006, on or near the 33rd 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 2006. The rally will feature special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts.

given inalienable rights of everyone created equal. As creation, not birth, is the basis of these rights, we recognize that the heirs of the spirit of '76 include the unborn as well as us who are already born.

One key to this treasure is the “consent of the governed.” Our founding fathers placed their trust in the good sense of the people, not some future judges who would concoct what they thought would be good ingredients to spice up our Constitution, like cooks adding seasoning to stew to suit their own tastes.

Sadly, despite all the justice which it has dispensed in countless cases, the United States Supreme Court is the institution which has most buried the true national treasure of the Declaration of Independence. Its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision placed the protection of human life beyond the control of the people. Future Chief Justice Rehnquist wisely noted in dissent: “I find nothing in the language or history of the Constitution to support the Court's judgment. The Court simply fashions and announces a new constitutional right for pregnant mothers and, with scarcely any reason or authority for its action, invests that right with sufficient substance to override most existing state abortion statutes. The upshot is that the people and the legislatures of the 50 States are constitutionally disentitled to weigh the relative importance of the continued existence and development of the fetus, on the one hand, against a spectrum of possible impacts on the mother, on the other hand.” Calling this decision “an exercise of raw judicial power,” Justice Rehnquist recognized that such power is better exercised by the people.

The other key contained in the treasure passage from the Declaration of Independence is that the government must act with just powers. Placing trust in the people does not mean that they will always be right. Majorities sometimes act unjustly, too. When they do, however, so long as the people can change the course of the ship of state, they may correct its path, like a sailing ship tacking into the wind to avoid crashing into dangerous rocks. When those at the helm of one branch of government steer directly toward the rocks, however, the entire ship will sink unless the people, in the spirit of '76, takes back control of the ship – before it is too late. True freedom includes the right of the people to change course.

Space does not permit many more words here about the treasure passage in the Declaration of Independence. Let me offer a final 21 word salute to it. If this salute strikes a chord in your heart, then you will find what Disney, Senator Obama and the Supreme Court missed, the true treasure within the Declaration of Independence.

We Hold Truth

The people's consented just powers secure
life, liberty, happiness – inalienable rights endowed
all created equal by the Creator.

By: Dan Smith

Vice President for Outreach

Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc

At the Shops of Grand Prairie Mall recently, I saw the Holocaust Memorial for the first time. (If you have not seen, it consists of a multitude of huge glass cases full of buttons - some 6 million buttons in fact , each representing a life taken by the Nazis.) Standing there, looking back and forth from one individual button to the massive cases of buttons, I realized I was at a loss to grasp the reality, the magnitude, of the death of that many human beings. Then - in my mind's eye - I tried to multiply this Incomprehensible by 7, but I did not know how.....

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 2005!

Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... A Wanted Child !*

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.

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Recent Events And Other News

Garage Sale Report

Central Illinois Right To Life held its annual fund-raising garage sale in June 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 mailings, rallies, and many other local prolife efforts. This years sale was a great success. This is the second 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.

Thank you Paul

The Board and members of Central Illinois Right to Life wish to thank Paul Gillham for his years of service as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of CIRTL. He is continuing to serve as an at-large board member. Stephen McEnroe is the new Treasurer and we welcome him to our Board of Directors.

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.

Matching Funds Offered

Central Illinois Right To Life is working on plans for informational pro-life spots to be shown in movie theaters in the Peoria area. A local donor has offered matching funds for gifts made to fund this project. If you are interested in contributing to this project, contact the CIRTL office at (309) 685-3034 .

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

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