

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out



Coming Events

The following is by Pastor Mark Henninger of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Pottstown, IL. He is also President of the Board of Directors of CIRTL.

How The Battle For The Right To Life Will Finally Be Won

First of all, it must be said that the Lord Jesus Christ, in His death and resurrection, has already secured the victory of life over death. (That war is over. It has been won by the Redeemer.)

The conflict I am referring to, in the title of this article, is the provisional battle that we are waging, even in our own country, for the right to life (particularly, of the pre-born).

Before we get to the punch line of how this will be accomplished, let me first state what will NOT (ultimately) achieve the goal. Our efforts to secure life primarily through government will NOT serve the purpose. (We have already seen this to be true, after 35 years of trying.) Secondly, a focus on family life, (continued on page 2)

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

July Fourth Parade: Members and friends of Central Illinois Right To Life will walk together in the July 4th Parade in West Peoria. Meet at 9:30 AM on the 4th at the West Peoria fire station. Call Sondra McEnroe at 673-4833 for more information.

Annual 5K Run/Walk: This year the race will be on August 9th. 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 645-8000 for additional information.

Annual Peoria Area Life Chain: Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 5, 2008. Participants will stand in witness to their commitment to the Sanctity of Human Life 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.

home, and personal morality will also NOT serve the turn, (as we have also very vividly witnessed, after so many years and so much effort).

Before I get to the positive answer, I do not want to be misunderstood. I am not suggesting that we should stop seeking to elect pro-life government officials; and I am not saying that we should cease writing letters, making calls, and doing what we can—as good citizens—to effect change. On top of that, I am certainly not advocating a cessation of healthy teaching within families; and the advocacy of responsible lifestyles.

But none of these things are the solution. The answer to the right to life crisis in our country—as is the answer to all other problems facing us—is to be found first and foremost in the church, and her ministry. (That ministry is primarily one of gospel preaching, proper administration of the sacraments, and the keeping of good order and discipline in the congregations [parishes].)

When our church lives finally match our baptismal (covenantal) vows—we will be in a position to make an impact on society, to set and establish the culture, and to both demand and receive the due respect that our arguments (for life, in this case) deserve.

With the church—(and by “church,” I mean all the confessional ecclesiastical bodies that stand by and believe in the ancient statements found, for instance, in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds)—taking its rightful (first) place in culture and society, there is hope for the rest of the world.

Not all churches are “created equal.” Some do a better job than others, of preaching the gospel of free grace in the Lord Jesus Christ, with the apprehension of His righteousness by faith alone.

But, nonetheless, all the churches and pastors that are even mostly faithful—and that as a result minister the ordinances of preaching and the sacraments properly, (with church discipline)—will form an unbeatable army, that the world will not and cannot defeat.

Therefore, if we are serious about winning the battle for life in our culture, let us look first, not to the state, nor to the home—but to the Christ of His church. (After all, the Lord Jesus and His bride can never be separated.)

Good churchmanship is the only avenue to wholesome family life, and God-honoring commonwealths. The Lord did not give His sacraments to the state, nor to the home—but to the church alone.

January 2009 Bus Trip To March For Life In Washington DC

Make your plans now to participate in next year's bus trip, sponsored by Central Illinois Right To Life, going to the National March for Life in Washington DC on January 22, 2009. Tentative plans are to leave Peoria on January 21, 2009, and return on January 23rd. Call CIRTL at 645-8000 for more information.

Look for more details in the Fall edition of our newsletter.

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 2008!

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 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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Pro Life Events Remembered

Garage Sale Report

Central Illinois Right To Life held its annual fund-raising garage sale in May at the Saint Bernard 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 third year that Saint Bernard School has hosted our sale and our thanks go to them for the use of their facilities. We hope to be able to save more lives in Peoria in part because of their generosity and we are deeply grateful.

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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