

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

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n this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from

Central Illinois. The following is by Pastor Mark Henninger, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown, IL. All of the pastor's articles from past issues are available on our web site at <http://www.cirtl.org>. If you are a member of the clergy seeking an additional forum to speak out for Life, this column is open to you. Contact us at CIRTl.

Why Do We Do This?

Why do God's people fight abortion? Why don't we sit on our hands and do nothing, hoping that Jesus will come and save us from the evil world we live in? When the tide of culture and society is so much against us, why do we even put up a fight at all? These are all very good questions, and every pro-life Christian ought to ask him or herself questions like this. It will be my goal to answer these queries in this article; and by so doing to both encourage you, and spur you on to yet even *more* action.

The reason we are pro-life, and oppose abortion, is because GOD is pro-life, and opposes abortion. Scriptural evidence of this is abundant; consider the words of Ps. 139:13-14: *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."*

God then forbids the taking of innocent life [viz. a life not guilty of a capital crime, according to the law of God]. This is evident from verses such as Ex. 23:7, which says *this: "Keep yourself far from a false matter; DO NOT KILL THE INNOCENT and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked"*

Next, we ought to address our second question: Why not sit on our hands, and wait for the Lord to take us out (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 August 28th. It will be at Bradley Park in Peoria and will start at 8:00 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. A registration form is enclosed.

Annual Peoria Area Life Chain: Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 3, 1999. 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.

1999 Garage Sale Report

The Annual Central Illinois Right To Life Fund Raising Garage Sale was held From June 17 to 19 at Holy Family School in Peoria. Revenues generated exceeded the 1998 sale by over 25%. We wish to thank all who donated items and those volunteers who worked so hard to raise funds to spread the Pro Life Message in Central Illinois. Special thanks to Holy Family for making their facilities available again this year.

On July 4th, along with other songs, we sing the anthem, **America the Beautiful**

... for patriot dream that sees beyond the years , Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears...

But there are still tears in America, in part because our cities are home to abortion mills, chambers of death
And the dream that was born so many years ago will never be fulfilled, long as they continue their ghastly work.

Oh God, shed your grace and mercy on America; lead us to repentance and mend our every flaw.

“HE will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces”. Isaiah 25:8

(Pastors Speak Out -continued from page 1)

of the wicked world? This is a very pertinent question today, and it directly affects a large percentage of evangelical Christians in America. Many are silent on abortion (and other abominations) because they believe that they can do nothing, and that the darker the days become the closer the coming of the Lord. In other words, "Why shine the rails on a sinking ship?" This view, though prominent, is perverse and anti-Scriptural. Christ our Lord commanded that we go into the world and spread the Gospel of grace, and in so doing bring about real change, and the extension of the kingdom of Jesus, our Risen Sovereign. Here are Christ's words to us, from Matt. 28:19-20: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Our third query is related to what we just observed, but it has its own nuance to it: "With the whole world against us, why put up a fight at all?" This is a faithless point of view, and it denies the ultimate power of God over the universe. On top of that, how would we have liked it if God took an attitude and approach like this to our salvation: "Since they're such wicked sinners--I'll just send them all to Hell!?" Our Lord did NOT leave us in our sin, but sent His Son to redeem all of God's people (Matt. 1:21). If you are actively pro-life, you are doing the right thing--and your efforts will someday be rewarded. You may, or may not, live long enough to see abortion be considered unthinkable in America--but that day is sure to come. On top of this, though you will never be saved by your works; and though your works are not meritorious, nor do they obligate God to you in any way--nevertheless, if you are a believer who exercises your pro-life convictions out of a heart that has known the salvation of God, you will someday hear your Savior say to you, *"Well done, good and faithful servant, "* (Matt. 25:21a).
Mark Henninger is also president of Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc. You can find other articles he has written and outlines of Pro Life sermons he has preached on our web site at <http://www.cirtl.org>.

If 25,000 American soldiers were dying each week on some battlefield, every pastor and congregation in America would be on bended knee in constant prayer to Almighty God for help from Heaven to end the carnage. 25,000 babies die by abortion in the USA from Sunday to Sunday. What is the difference? Why are we silent?

If pastors do not take a strong, outspoken, and continuous stand between the smallest of those made in the image of God and the servants of the evil one who would prey upon them, can the laity be expected to? Central Illinois Right To Life is providing essays and sermons for your use as Pastors, from other Pro Life Pastors via our newsletter - and on our web site at www.cirtl.org/pastors.htm and www.cirtl.org/sermons.htm. All these resources are yours to use without obligation.

In addition, we urge Pro Life Pastors to share your sermons and thoughts with the world outside your own congregations. To this end, we ask pastors to contribute sermons and thoughts to the growing library of pro life materials on our web site. Your pro life message on the internet has the potential to reach thousands. Send your pro life essays and sermons to Central Illinois Right To Life at the email or mailing address below. **(We made this same plea in our last newsletter ...WITH NO**

Please Write Pro Life Letters To The Editor Of Your Local Newspaper - But Be Ready For The Response Laced With Personal Attack That Will Surely Follow From Supporters Of Abortion - And Do Not Be Surprised If Your Local Paper Gives The Final Word To The Personal Attack Artist!

The week of Memorial Day, the Forum of the Peoria Journal Star published the following pro-life letter.

Graduation and Memorial Day came on the same weekend this year. At church on Sunday, the high school graduates marched in and sat in front. The minister spoke to them, and us, about the veterans who were missing because they had given their lives to preserve liberty. He reminded us of the 576,000 men and women who died in America's wars this century, as well as those from our earlier history who paid the same, ultimate price. Observing the graduates and listening to the sermon, I thought of my graduation in 1972 - during one of those wars. I remembered the 50,000 plus who are missing from my generation because of Vietnam.

Because of another war, there are also multiplied thousands of grads missing from the class of 1999. One year after my graduation, the Supreme Court declared this war, the war against the unborn child. In every year since, this war has claimed an average of 1,500,000 human lives. At any commencement you attend, look around - there are many unseen, empty chairs. At our Church, we honored over thirty graduates. Yet, each and every week right here in Peoria, an equal number of living human beings, created in God's image, are lost in this war against the unborn. There will be no graduation for them.

The veterans who died in the battles for our freedom should be remembered not only on Memorial Day, but every day. They are honored for the worth of their life and of their death. One wonders if many of them would have considered this so called "right to choose," with its nearly 40,000,000 victims, the type of freedom for which they gave their lives.

Mr. Pro Life (Name omitted)

You will notice that this letter was a rather original and personal perspective, that it uses no inflated statistics, and that it names no individuals. The Star forthrightly published the following "response," (there is always an immediate response from regulars in the pro-choice community to any pro-life sentiment in the Forum.)

Letter writer Mr. Pro Life (name omitted) believes the Supreme Court declared a "war on the unborn" when abortion was made legal. What he doesn't comprehend is that before that and since then, there has been a war

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.

"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." (Mother Teresa addressing The National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C., February 3, 1994.)

The Hippocratic Oath AD 1995 Restatement of the Oath of Hippocrates (Circa 400 BC)

I SWEAR in the presence of the Almighty and before my family, my teachers and my peers that according to my ability and judgment I will keep this Oath and Stipulation:

TO RECKON all who have taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents and in the same spirit and dedication to impart a knowledge of the art of medicine to others. I will continue with diligence to keep abreast of advances in medicine. I will treat without exception all who seek my ministrations, so long as the treatment of others is not compromised thereby, and I will seek the counsel of particularly skilled physicians where indicated for the benefit of my patient.

I WILL FOLLOW that method of treatment which according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patient and abstain from whatever is harmful or mischievous. ***I will neither prescribe nor administer a lethal dose of medicine to any patient even if asked nor counsel any such thing nor perform act or omission with direct intent deliberately to end a human life. I will maintain the utmost respect for every human life from fertilization to natural death and reject abortion that deliberately takes a unique human life.***

WITH PURITY, HOLINESS AND BENEFICENCE I will pass my life and practice my art. Except for the prudent correction of an imminent danger, I will neither treat any patient nor carry out any research on any human being without the valid informed consent of the subject or the appropriate legal protector thereof, understanding that research must have as its purpose the furtherance of the health of that individual. Into whatever patient setting I enter, I will go for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief or corruption and further from the seduction of any patient.

WHATEVER IN CONNECTION with my professional practice or not in connection with it I may see or hear in the lives of my patients which ought not be spoken abroad I will not divulge, reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

WHILE I CONTINUE to keep this Oath unviolated may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art and science of medicine with the blessing of the Almighty and respected by my peers and society, but should I trespass and violate this Oath, may the reverse be my lot.

Adapted and endorsed by 35 inter-faith ethicists and physicians.
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Central Illinois Right To Life believes that if at all possible, it is essential for us and our families to seek medical care from doctors who are clearly Pro Life. Consider for example, the potential harm risked by sending a teenage daughter to a pro-abortion pediatrician or ob-gyn!!

The Pro Life physician is a doctor who will do no harm, a believer in the true meaning and spirit of the Hippocratic Oath which has protected patients including the unborn child for centuries until the pro abortion crowd gained their current power and influence over many members of the medical profession.

Pro Life people everywhere are thankful to those many physicians and other health care professionals who refuse to be compromised by the spirit of the age, who stand unashamedly for the sanctity of all innocent human life from conception to natural death, who do so both in their private practice and in their public persona.

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 on page 3 and

against women, and Mr. Pro Life is apparently one of those unholy crusaders. (continued on page 5)

(Beware When Writing Letters To The Editor - continued from page 3)

In a society that actually valued female life, there never would have been laws in the first place to stop a woman from protecting her life and her future from unwanted pregnancy. If Mr. Pro Life wants to imagine empty chairs at graduation and lost lives on Memorial Days, he ought to think about the millions of women's lives lost to illegal and butcherous abortions.

He ought to think about the humiliated and degraded women who have had no protection from the consequences of their male relatives' incestuous lust. He ought to think about the hungry and disadvantaged children who also might not make it to graduation, because accidental pregnancy - even in a rich country like the United States results in too many mouths for parents to feed and care for.

Mr. Pro Life doubts that our noble veterans fought for the type of freedom that resulted in women's rights? Then he's indicating that wars have been fought for men's freedom only, that women are forever less valuable and less important than men. **Talk about disrespect for human life.** And so the unconscionable war against women goes on.

Mr. Pro Choice (Name omitted)

This purported response talks of millions of deaths from illegal abortion, a figure made up out of whole cloth. Furthermore it accuses those who oppose abortion of disrespecting women. This particular response goes even further with a highly pejorative and directly personal slander using the emotionally charged label "**UNHOLY CRUSADER.**"

Here is the letter submitted to the Forum to clarify Mr. Pro Life's perspectives on this issue and to reply to the obvious falsehoods and innuendoes which were printed in Mr. Pro Choice's "response." The Star refused to print this letter stating "Our Forum policy allows for one letter, one response by the same individuals" and that both the original letter and the personal attack response "merited printing." (Merit possibly colored by a consistent pro-choice editorial position.)

*Pro Life writers to the forum have long since ceased to be surprised by the retort which inevitably sounds from somewhere in Canton, IL. Notable, however is the shrillness and animosity of a personal nature that increasingly permeates these tirades. * In light of the nature of his response to my letter of June 2, 1999, please permit this "unholy crusader" to defend my position by addressing the assertions of Mr. Pro Choice.*

1. *It is self evident that few, if any American soldiers have died to preserve the "right" to abortion - there was no such expressly stated right for most of our history!*
2. *It is rank elitism to claim that disadvantaged children are better off having never been born.*
3. *It is a blatant falsehood to assert that opposing abortion degrades women, especially since a large proportion of the female population are themselves opposed to some or all abortions.*
4. *It is degrading to women to imply that the "right" to abortion is the most important measure of the status of women in a society.*
5. *It is insulting to women to suggest that restricting abortion in any way would leave them unable to think of no better option than committing hara-kiri with a coat hanger!*
6. *It is not pro-life people but rather abortion that truly degrades females. Abortion kills over 1/2 million female humans every year and leaves many of their mothers with physical and emotional scars. Rather, it is the sexually irresponsible male who benefits most from abortion, for abortion makes it easier for him to continue to ply his libertine trade, while avoiding fatherhood with all its attendant financial and social demands. Indeed one wonders how many women are manipulated or battered into their supposed free choice to abort - by such a man.*

Individual pro-life people may be unholy in many ways, but those who seek to provide protection for all innocent human life are nevertheless, participants in a holy and just cause. The obvious truth, (except to him who will not see,) is that the intentional ripping of an innocent human being from the sanctity of her mother's womb is one of the more unholy, unjust, and unnatural actions ever devised by human kind! This, all the demagoguery in the world cannot obscure.

Mr. Pro Life (name omitted)

The extremely frustrating thing for this writer, and for other pro life writers in the past, is that the Star has been willing to publish a personal attack letter targeted by name at one of their readers, but will not publish a defense of name and character by the one who was personally maligned. No paper is under any obligation to print derogatory statements directed at others in the first place, but once done, the Star should give the opportunity to respond to public personal slander, or apologize for being a party to the publication of what amounts to hate speech, and for the impression, left by the censorship of silence the Star imposes, that the pro-abortion propaganda is so correct the pro life person could think of nothing to say!

Please continue to write letters to the editor of your local newspaper -and be sure to respond to any pro-abortion letter you see in the Journal Star, for if they follow their stated policy, you will get the last word! And send us any pro life letter

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The Central Illinois Right To Life Web Site Is Growing

Yes, the Central Illinois Right To Life web site continues to grow. 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. All 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. If you have written any Pro Life music, we want to publish your lyrics on the site to inspire others.. 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!

Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

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