

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out



Coming Events

This issue we devote this column to the thoughts of Rev. Mark Henninger, Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Peoria, IL. He is also the President of the Board of Directors of Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

What will it take for the Pro-Life position to finally prevail in our land? Actually, much more profound changes will need to occur first, that set the stage and foundation for sanity in the basic issues of life. These are areas on which professing Christians need to focus. First of all, our nation's church needs a genuine Holy Spirit-inspired revival. Once Jesus Christ, the Author of Life, is believed in, loved, and obeyed in the context of the visible church, then we are ready to see genuine transformation in society.

The reason we have not yet seen substantive alterations of behavior, laws, and hearts in our land is because these more primary and preliminary dynamics have not yet come to be. Therefore, what should Christian Pro-Life people do? Number one: we need to be sure we ourselves are in Christ. What do we believe saves us? Do we think works can get the job done? Do we believe the law can be kept by us (in such a way as to merit God's pardon)? Do we think we ourselves are strong enough to save our own souls? All of these answers fail. *(Continued on page 4)*

The following Pro Life events are scheduled in 2011:

Family Resources Center Open House, Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM, 321 Main Street, Peoria, before the Walk and Sanctity of Human Life Rally.

Walk for Life, 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at the Peoria County Courthouse. After prayer we will walk together to the Rally carrying signs showing our support for the sanctity of all innocent human life.

Sanctity of Human Life Rally, 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 20 2011 at Sacred Heart Church in downtown Peoria by the Civic Center. The rally will feature special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Eric Scheidler, Executive Director of the Pro-Life Action League.

Washington, D.C. Bus Trip to the annual March for Life, This year, the bus trip is being organized by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. For more information call (309) 671-1550

Little Shop of Horrors

What do we call the place where abortions take place? The media tends to call these places abortion clinics. The people who do abortions list what they do in the phone book under the heading "abortion services." They rarely put what they do in their name, as other businesses do. The place where abortions are done in Peoria calls itself "National Health Care Services." Whatever they call themselves, however, is just a mask for what they do. They put on a name, like children today put on masks and go out trick or treating.

The word abortion is another mask. They don't like to even call the person who performs the abortion an abortionist! They prefer the title doctor. Sometimes they call what the abortionist does a "termination of a pregnancy" as if the only person affected is the mother. They don't like calling the woman a mother. That is another mask.

They think that if we all just accept their terms, we forget what they really are and what they really do. But we will not forget. We remember what they do, who they harm, and who they kill, even if we do not know the names of their victims.

Sometimes we call their businesses "abortion mills" to emphasize the difference from real doctor offices where real doctors treat patients for real illnesses in a personal way and no one gets killed. At least that is not the plan. Abortion mill, however, still is a mask for what goes on inside. The term still accepts that what is aborted is a pregnancy. Is this adequate? Suppose a terrorist detonated a bomb on a plane. Would we say that he or she just terminated a flight? No! All flights terminate, just as all pregnancies terminate, but on most of the flights, the passengers get out alive, just as in most pregnancies, the baby comes out alive. We would not let the terrorists or their sympathizers get away with such a cover-up. Why do we let the people who kill children before birth get away with it?

Can we take off the masks? Why not call those places what they really are: little shops of horror. They are places where the most innocent among us are torn to shreds. They are places where the mothers come out knowing their lives will never be the same again. They are places where even the profiteers know that they must hide what they do. Without our help, they cannot go outside without their masks. Let us help them do so.

Dan Smith, Vice President of CIRTL

Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc.

Presents

The Annual Sanctity of Human Life

Walk and Rally

Thursday, January 20, 2011

with the following events included

Open House at the Family Resources Center

321 Main Street in Peoria, IL

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Walk for Life

Peoria County Courthouse

6:30 pm

Prayer, singing, and walk to the Church for the Rally to follow

Sanctity of Human Life Rally

Sacred Heart Church

By the Civic Center

7:00 pm

Keynote speaker: Eric Scheidler

Executive Director of the Pro-Life Action League

Keynote Speaker for Sanctity of Life Rally in Peoria, January 20, 2011

Eric Scheidler

Eric Scheidler is the Executive Director of the Pro-Life Action League, founded in 1980 by his father, veteran pro-life leader Joe Scheidler, to fight abortion through non-violent direct action. He is the oldest of the seven Scheidler children.

Eric holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in English studies from the University of Georgia. From 1998 to 2002, he served as assistant director of The GIFT Foundation, an organization devoted to enriching Christian marriage.

Since August 2007, Eric has headed the grassroots pro-life group Fox Valley Families Against Planned Parenthood, which is dedicated to shutting down the nation's largest abortion facility, opened in Aurora, Illinois under a cloud of deception and controversy. Eric speaks frequently on pro-life issues to audiences around the country. He lives in Aurora, Illinois with his wife April and their eight children.

Bus Trip to March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Here's something that we hope you are all interested in. This year the bus trip in January to Washington, D.C., in order to take part in the March for Life in our nation's capital is being organized by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. This amazing event takes place on the anniversary of the awful day in 1973 when the Supreme Court legalized abortion. It is amazing because hundreds of thousands of people will gather on the National Mall and march up the street to the Capitol Building. Several of us have gone in the past, and were very impressed. Contact the Diocese at (309) 671-1550 for more information.

(Pastors Letter continued from page 1)

We must believe that Jesus Christ alone redeems us, and that His atoning benefits are apprehended by us through faith.

Then, we need to be consistent with this profession by being joined to Christ in His (local) church. From there, real and palpable change may take place, as believers have honor and credibility in the eyes of God, ourselves, and the world around us.

In this Advent Season, let all of us once again hear the message of the angels and the shepherds, and may we be drawn anew and afresh to Bethlehem's Babe--who grew to be a Man, and who brought salvation to all His elect. Let us place all our faith in Him; let us love Him; and let us obey Him. May our obedience be seasoned with grace; and may our influence and leadership of the world God created be savory, sweet, and effectual. -

2010 Life Chain Report

The annual Life Chain was held in Peoria on Sunday, October 3, 2010. Participants stood in witness to their commitment to the Sanctity of Human Life in Peoria. Attendance was estimated at approximately 400 persons. This year's route was organized with most participants spreading out along University from Northmoor in both directions. This made for a unified presentation to the public. Make plans now to participate in next year's event on October 2, 2011. Church coordinators are also needed to inform and organize their Church members for participation. Call Dan Smith at 691-3611 for more information.

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 2011!

Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... Deserves Protection!*

On the second Monday of each month, the Outreach Committee of persons interested in bringing the Pro Life message into their churches meets at 6:30 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 fundraising garage sale and have put together mailings and newsletters like this one. Members have also helped organize and contribute to our new Facebook group. 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 work with us to defend Right to Life in Central Illinois, fill out and mail this form to receive our quarterly newsletter and/or to let us know that you are available to help with Pro-Life activities and events in the Peoria area. Donations are appreciated but we need YOU much more than we need money!

Name : _____

Address : _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Telephone : _____

Email : _____

- SIGN ME UP FOR CIRTL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- I AM VOLUNTEERING TO HELP : Please put me on your list of volunteers
- ACCEPT MY DONATION : \$5__ \$10__ \$15__ \$25__ Other_____

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Sanctity Of Human Life Sunday, January 23, 2011 is the Sunday on which Churches in our nation make a special effort to remember unborn children and women in difficult pregnancies. Let each of us encourage the leadership of our church not to “shrink from boldly declaring all of God’s message” on this special Sunday and throughout the year.

Peoria Dining Tour coupon books are available again this year from Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc. The cost is \$30. The book contains over 250, two for one coupons for use at local restaurants and other businesses. The coupons are good till November 2010. Contact CIRTL at 645-8000 for more information. All net proceeds will go to support Pro Life work. Books are also available at the Christian Center Office in Peoria.

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.