

# Central Illinois Life News

## Pastors Speak Out

**I**n this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois. The following was submitted by Rev. J. Mark Williams, Pastor of Saint Peter Church in Peoria, and director of Evangelism for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria.

Preparation for Christmas is a time for us to prepare for the entrance of divine life into the human condition. As we look forward to the celebration of Christ's nativity we prepare spiritually by acts of penance that allow us to renew our love for God so that we may freshly adore Him in the manger of Bethlehem. His humility requires our humility to receive His love into our lives.

But Christmas is also a time to renew our appreciation for the value of human life—life so precious to God that He assumed human nature to redeem that same nature. Certainly, anyone who possesses a simple reverence for Christ will see in His Incarnation a resounding affirmation of the goodness and value of each human life. Created in the image and likeness of God, each human life deserves a reverence that even God sees fit to serve.

Each human life is a

gift that God gives to the world. Do we believe this? The first mother cried out joyfully, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord," (Gen 4:1), yet so many mothers and fathers are afraid of that same gift. Is it not possible that we do not appreciate the value of each new life because the darkness of our sins and weakness of our faith has blinded us to the significance of our own lives? If we find our own lives miserable and meaningless, we will conclude that parenting is cruel, burdening the world with yet another life to serve, and consigning the new life to the ungratefulness of others.

Without knowledge of the great light that has dawned upon all men of good will, the world will seem a cursed darkness. All we need do is open our eyes and hearts to the God made man to see the love that makes all life lovable. Let us prepare well, then, to receive Him!

O, like a tiny cradle,  
 Could thy heart become,  
 God would on earth again  
 Be born an infant son.

(Angelus Silesius, 1624-1677)

## Coming Events

### Sanctity of Human Life Rally and Walk

**T**he 1996 Sanctity of Human Life Rally, "Calling the Church to Affirm Life," will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 2:30 p.m. at the Peoria Civic Center. The annual Walk for Life will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Peoria County Courthouse and will proceed to the Civic Center for the Rally. The Rally speaker is Gary Thomas, founder and director of the Center for Evangelical Spirituality. In conjunction, The Family Resources Center will have an OPEN HOUSE from 1:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m. at 321 Main Street in

### Donations Needed!

**L**ooking for other practical ways to help the unborn? Donate Maternity & baby clothing and equipment for mothers in crisis pregnancies. Contact Patty @ (309) 446-3057, Jane at (309) 682-9687, or Sondra @ (309)

### 1995 Life Chain Report

**T**his years Life Chain was held on October 1st. Peoria's attendance was estimated at approximately 1000 persons. There were members from approx. 100 churches in the Central Illinois area giving witness in the cause of Right to Life.

## STUDENT HONORED

Alyssa Endres, a 1995 graduate of Richwoods High School, placed second in a Professional Women's Network national essay contest. Her entry addressing how "Abortion Hurts Women" earned her a \$500 scholarship toward her college education. (The Observer)

## Abortion Hurts Women

Abortion is the knowing destruction of the life of an unborn child. But this is only part of the story as abortion also hurts the woman involved. Abortion affects women physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

When an abortion is performed on a woman, she becomes subject to many physical complications. Blood loss during the procedure causes diversion of blood flow to various organs and can result in shock. When the canal of the cervix is dilated, the insides of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and the abdominal cavity are exposed to invasion by bacteria. Abdominal infection can cause peritonitis and abscess formation. Severe hemorrhage often follows an abortion. Instruments can perforate the uterus causing injury, infection, and bleeding to internal organs. Deaths from abortions, although rare, are usually from heavy bleeding from complications with anesthesia. Women who have abortions increase their risk of breast cancer by fifty percent, according to a new study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. Abortion of a first pregnancy interrupts the natural growth process of the breast, leaving millions of cells at a high risk. It has been found that future pregnancy failure is increased by forty-five percent with just one previous abortion. Other complications are a greater risk of premature births, tubal pregnancy, sterility, and damage to the cervix. As a result of abortion, women suffer many physical injuries.

Not only do these women bear physical side effects, but they also suffer many emotional side effects. Among these are depression, long-term grief reactions, anger, sexual dysfunction, guilt, flashbacks, memory repression, suicidal ideas, and difficulty keeping close relationships. In a new study by post-abortion researcher David Reardon, who operates the Elliot Institute for Social Sciences Research in Springfield, Illinois, it was found that twenty-eight percent of women who had abortions later attempted suicide, and over half of these women did so more than once. Drug and alcohol abuse increased four times among women who aborted compared to those who carried to term. Ninety-eight percent of women regretted having had an abortion. Seventy-two percent of women said their abortion did not improve their life. Twenty percent of post-abortive women reported a nervous breakdown, and ten percent

were hospitalized for psychiatric care. Of the two hundred and sixty women surveyed, over sixty percent said their abortion made their life worse.

In addition, abortion hurts women spiritually because it is not simply a process of evacuating the contents of a uterus, but the ending of a human life. God states in the sixth commandment, "Thou shall not murder." Each baby is created by God and is part of His plan as stated in Psalms 139:13-14, "You made all the delicate inner parts of my body and knit them together in my mother's womb... you saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe..." Human life does not begin when the baby breathes, or when its heart begins to beat, but its life is continuous and inherited. Life is passed from family to family and recorded in the Bible back to the first human beings created by God, Adam and Eve. Professor Garret Hardin, Department of Biological Sciences, University of California, Santa Barbara, stated "Life ends often, but it never begins. It is just passed from one cell to another. All biologists...are in agreement with that..." When a woman interrupts God's plan of life through abortion, she may suffer spiritual void and separation from God.

Not only do abortions end the life of a baby, but they also have harmful physical, emotional, and spiritual effects of the women involved. We need to protect and value all human life from the moment of conception to natural death. The future of America and our world rest on that.

*I read about the Professional Women's Network Scholarship Contest in your newsletter. After writing a five-hundred word essay on "How Abortion Hurts Women" and submitting it to the Professional Women's Network of Chicago, Illinois, I won second place. I received a five-hundred dollar scholarship for Taylor University. I would like to thank Central Illinois Life News for making this possible.*

**CENTRAL ILLINOIS LIFE NEWS**

**NEEDED:** Storage or Store Front or Warehouse Space is needed for garage sale items. Do you have or do you know of someone that has extra storage space or a store front that we could use for our annual benefit garage sale fund-raiser? If so please contact Patty @ (309) 446-3057 or call the CIRTL office @ (309) 685-3034. Leave a message and we will return your call. Thank you.

**The most dangerous place for an American child... *her mother's womb!***

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 8 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 100% 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

**Outreach Committee News: *Unto Us a Child Is Born !***

Do you wish you could accomplish something for the Pro-Life cause, but are not sure what to do? The third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., we have a meeting at the Christian Center in Peoria. We come together to share ideas and to renew our efforts to reach people with the Pro-Life message.

*At our October and November meetings we viewed the first two videos in a series documenting the history and agenda of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. In the coming months we plan additional videos in this series. Also, at our December meeting we put together gift stockings for girls currently involved in crisis pregnancy. This is an annual project of our group and we especially want to thank Jane Berfield and Patty Craig for their diligent work in organizing this endeavor*

Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings. We need you and your thoughts and ideas. For more information, call Dan Smith at (309)263-2086.

***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\_\_

DONATION : \$5\_\_ \$10\_\_ \$15\_\_ \$25\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_ Thank You!

# Central Illinois Life News

## CANDIDATES VIE FOR PAUL SIMON'S U.S. SENATE

The following candidates are running in the Republican and Democratic primaries for the seat of retiring U.S. Senator Paul Simon. Do You Know the Position That Each Candidate Takes On The Issue of Abortion ?

1. *Lt. Gov. Robert Kustra* (Republican) — He is PRO-CHOICE.
2. *Dick Durbin* (Democrat) — His Record & Speeches in Congress are PRO-ABORTION.
3. *Pat Quinn* (Democrat) — He has long been on record as FAVORING LEGALIZED ABORTION.
4. *Al Salvi* (Republican) — He is PRO-LIFE. He supports protection of the right of States to limit taxpayer funding and regulate abortion.

**Central Illinois Right to Life,  
Inc.**

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

ADDRESS CORRECTION

and

FORWARDING REQUESTED

Bulk Rate  
U.S.  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 1095

