

# 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 Father Joseph Mary of the Community of St. John at the Neuman Center at Bradley University.

With great regret we shall soon "celebrate" the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous decision to grant mothers the "right" to choose life or death for their child. Ironically, in a land which defines individual rights as supremely sacred, the most basic right to life is being systematically denied 1,500,000 persons each year. In the name of what? In the name of God? No! In the name of "choice," "freedom," and "conscience."

Admittedly, too many young mothers find themselves in unwanted situations which carry with them very difficult and painful decisions. This we cannot overlook. They deserve our mercy, compassion, and love rather than harsh words and uncharitable judgment. Nonetheless, their difficult plight can never warrant an unwarranted solution; the extermination of their defenseless baby. Eliminating the "problem" resolves nothing, but instead often triggers a long path of guilt and depression. In a haste to solve the "problem", we ignore the long term consequences for both mother and child. Both will inevitably suffer. Ours has

become a culture of death for the child.....and the mother. One dies physically, the other begins dying spiritually and emotionally. Thus under the banner of freedom we enslave souls. In a thirst for "rights" we respect no one's rights. And in a frenzy to respect a woman's choice, we impede her from making a choice according to the truth which would free her from a false sense of liberty, from the lies of propoganda, convenience, and our "me first" generation.

Most especially, however, the "rights" of the Creator are snubbed. The child who exists in the womb - as well as the parents of the child - were created by God in a pure act of love. He responded in love to the union of a couple by giving them the gift of an infant. You see, it takes three to have a baby; the mother, the father, and Almighty God. They give the material element, while He gives the spiritual. They co-create with Him. He unites a soul to the matter which they have given. So when parents decide to abort their newly conceived child, it is a horrible infringement on the "rights" of God. He alone is Master of life and death, not we. We have no inalienable right to choose when someone will come into existence (we can do all in our power to bring about a child, but if our Lord does not respond, then nothing happens.) Nor do we have the right to decide when someone will cease to exist on this world. God alone possesses this right. And when we begin to play God, tragic - very tragic - consequences follow. We see this today as man tries more and more to dictate how, when, and who will

live and die. The culture of death is tragic indeed and will turn on itself like the inventor of the guillotine who was himself guillotined.

Let us, instead, during 1998 and beyond, do all we can to promote a culture of life. Let us stand for life and the inalienable right of life of each person created in the image and likeness of God. For only when we begin to recognize that human life is a gift from God and not a commodity to be dispensed with, will we begin to see a change in individuals and in our nation. True peace and happiness comes from God alone. Thus, as long as we continue to reject the gift of life, individuals, our nation, and the world will never experience a lasting peace. The inevitable result will be war, for if we have no qualms of conscience in attacking an innocent baby, what is to prevent us from attacking our other brothers and sisters? Let us, therefore, pray and do what we can to assure an awakening in minds and hearts-before it is too late.

**The Baby Prayer**

Dear Jesus, in your great love and mercy, touch the hearts of expectant mothers who are planning to have abortions.

Give them the grace and strength to change their minds and with Your loving help they will give birth to



## WHY WARREN ?



In November I received an introductory offer for four issues of a Dow Jones Business and Financial News weekly called Barron's. The first issue's cover story (December 8) was titled Why, Warren? Warren Buffett is one of America's most wealthy from his successful ventures as an investor. I remember a camping trip where one of my friends told of how investors climb on board paying as much as \$30,000 per share for Berkshire Hathaway Inc. voting stock. Berkshire which is controlled by Warren, invests in other companies and outperforms most mutual funds. His annual reports are famous for their "plain English" and easy to understand language...much of which has now been adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Besides being a very successful investor, Warren has a social agenda. He considers overpopulation to be a serious threat to the future of the world. In fact the Buffet Foundation established by he and his wife has spent nearly 10 million dollars this year alone on "family planning causes and other population control efforts". Shocked! So was I and that's not the worst of it. The foundation is currently small; however the foundation is heir to the estimated \$20 billion once Warren passes on. The foundation has spent \$2 million to fund RU-486 research.

The Buffett foundation is not alone. Established years ago, the Rockefeller foundation continues to expand its worldwide efforts through the Population Council, Planned Parenthood, and other organizations to promote and encourage abortions and birth control/contraceptives. The Ford and Rockefeller foundations used to work through the State Department's Agency for International Development. Today, they work through the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

You may have heard recently of Ted Turner's \$1 billion donation to the UN. It's expected that \$30 million will be annually contributed by Turner to the UN foundation. Turner was recently quoted, "if everybody voluntarily had one child for 100 years we would go back to \$2 billion people." Recently Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, has developed ties with Buffett and is spending money for teenage pregnancy studies. In fact Bill Gate's father was involved with Planned Parenthood in the sixties. Hewlett Packard's foundation is expected to contribute more to population control activities than

all of the above.

The list goes on like a who's who list of the wealthiest, who are dedicating resources to population planning. Why? Their goal is to reduce the worldwide birth rate to a stable ( or as they call it replacement level) level which for them is estimated at 2.1 children per family.

We have all heard stories of doom and gloom from overpopulation, the gas crisis, global warming etc. I remember in 1977 we had a visitor to our class that claimed we would run out of gas by the year 2000. I remember reading a Wall Street Journal article last month that tackled the myth of global warming stating the mean average temperature over the last 30 years is actually declining and the overriding dominant factor to warming is the sun. Scientists know solar activity dramatically impacts climate and communications and the gradual warming since the ice age is "natural".

What about the myth of overpopulation? Most of Europe and America are already have declining birth rates. China's barbaric one child policy certainly has had an impact to the world's most populous nation. Most of the food shortages in many African countries, India, and North Korea, are do to ineffective governments and/or a loss of social order. UN studies predict fertility rates will drop below replacement level by 2015. In fact UN studies also state 44% of the world's population is already at replacement level. If UN studies suggest we are nearly there why do these powerful people persist? Besides does anyone know how many people the earth can reasonably feed? Is it 6 billion, 12 billion or 20 billion...What about the untapped reaches of the oceans or space or new technologies?

No, it all comes down to FEAR. Fear of a loss of power, loss of resources, fear of the unknown. Fear that if we don't kill our young children today, they will be killed in the future. Ultimately, fear from the lack of faith in God, his teachings and promises!!!!

Have these wealthy men forgotten God's teachings? What is the logic that demands abortion today to abort the unlikely scenario of starving in the future? I used to admire these men, now I pity them, for to be without God must indeed be fearful. Please pray for these influential people that they may become followers of Christ, and in so doing help God's special little people...the children!

*By Mark Lang, Treasurer, CIRTL*

***Sanctity of Human Life Rally***

The Annual Sanctity of Human Life Rally will be held at Sacred Heart Church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, 1998. Father Bernard M. Geiger will speak. The Rally will be preceded by Family Resources Center Open House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the Walk for Life from the Courthouse to the Church at 6:30 p.m.

**“For unto us a Son is Given...” “The Prince of Peace!”**

A “Concert of Prayer,” including prayer for God’s care of the unborn and their mothers, will be held at Bethany Baptist Church in Peoria at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 18, 1998. This event is sponsored by the Women’s Pregnancy Center of Peoria.

Sanctity of Human Life Week is January 18th through January 24th. What is your Church doing at this 25th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade? After 25 years and 35 million deaths, silence is an obscenity; it is an insult to the unborn and the God who created them.

**Outreach Committee News: “He knit me together in my mother’s womb!”**

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.

This January, we will be participating in the 100 hour prayer vigil at the abortion clinic in Peoria. The vigil begins on Sunday January 18 at 3:30 pm and will go continuously, 24 hours a day, until 6:00 pm on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, January 22. If you can stand for one hour and pray for the unborn and the end of abortion, please contact Dan Smith at 691-3611 or Central Illinois Right to Life at 685-3034.

***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!

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Please Plan For These Coming Events in 1998

## CIRTL Garage Sale

**P**lease begin to collect good used items to donate to our annual fund-raising sale which will be held this Spring. A definite date will be announced as soon as plans are completed. If you can help organize this event, or can give of your time to work at the sale, please call

## Run / Walk for Life

**T**he annual Run / Walk for Life will be held in August at Bradley Park in Peoria. Please plan to participate. Trophies are awarded to male and female winners in several age divisions. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Call us at CIRTL at 685-3034 for additional information.

## Annual Life Chain

**C**entral Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain in October 1998. Participants will stand in witness to their commitment to the Sanctity of Human Life along University Street and Glen Avenue in Peoria. **Church Coordinators are needed to help organize this event.** If you can assist, call Dan at 691-3611.

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

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

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