



Kenrick Pro-Life

Newsletter of the Kenrick Pro-Life Committee

Winter 2004

GOSPEL OF LIFE

Greetings in Christ,

It seems like we've already had a year's worth of activities this semester. I want to pause and express my thanks to all those involved in pro-life efforts. You've been wonderfully generous in your service to the community and the cause of life. We've had presentations by Janet Smith (response from visitors has been very positive), our new prayer initiative on behalf of couples, prayer at abortion facilities, the sidewalk counseling video series (just beginning), the website, this newsletter, collection of baby items, and, of course, the pilgrimage to Washington D.C. for the pro-life march – over 40 seminarians along with a thousand teenagers. Sure, the trip was long and hard, but through it all, we witnessed these teenagers becoming pro-life evangelizers – exited about life, about their faith, and their future. We were privileged to touch their lives, and we learned something about being apostles for life.

The day of the march began with a gathering of thousands of youth and seminarians at the MCI center. Hundreds of seminarians sat together on the arena floor. Thousands of youth were all around us. They applauded and

encouraged us. We did the same for them. Many stood to indicate they were discerning a call to priesthood or religious life. Hope was in the air. Some of us then went to pray at the Planned Parenthood abortion mill, with police watching our every move. A short walk to the south around the White House brought us to the beginning of the march, where people were gathered as far as we could see, with signs and banners in abundance. In the afternoon, we attended the "Silent no More Awareness Campaign" in front of the Supreme Court. Dozens of post-abortive women testified. They had been told abortion was their best solution, but they now suffer terrible consequences. They are ready to speak out in public as part of their own healing process.

May we continue our training as apostles for the cause of life, that God might use us to form communities immersed in the culture of life wherever He sends us.

Yours for life,
Jeff Goettemoeller
KPLC president

SIDEWALK-COUNSELING VIDEO TAPE VIEWING

by Stephen Hansen

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, from 8:30 pm-9:30 pm, I will be leading the viewing of a video made here at the Seminary in the summer of 2002, on how to sidewalk-counsel at abortion clinics. This taping was done with the support of the St. Louis Archdiocesan Pro-Life Committee, the Kenrick-Glennon Pro-Life group, and other student donors. It has been reviewed and supported by the head of Pro-Life of the Diocese of Jefferson City. Please consider coming to one all the viewings. There will be discussion throughout, where thought helpful. At the end of the

series we will watch "At the Foot of the Cross" by Msgr. Philip Reilly. Msgr.'s method, which is, so to speak, the standard in sidewalk-counseling, was the base from which the two sidewalk counselors, Rose DeCaro and Kara Crawford, worked. Rose and Kara studied at Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Catholic University of America, respectively, and they both have hundreds of hours of experience. Both walked the Crossroads Pro-Life Walk in the Jubilee Year, 2000 and sidewalk -counseled in Saint Louis. We will meet in room 123.

CHOOSE LIFE

The "Jericho" Must Fall Project

February 21 will be the first of seven consecutive Saturdays for this new pro-life initiative based on the victory experience of the Israelites in Joshua 6. We will match circling the Planned Parenthood abortion facility with prayer and procession each Saturday morning.

We will leave from the foyer (tower exit) at 7:00 a.m. and return by 8:10 a.m. Please bring your rosary. All are invited to offer private acts of penance, prayers and sacrifices, Masses and Holy Communion throughout these weeks, interceding for the victims of the culture of death – especially the mothers, fathers, families, doctors, and staff touched by the evil of abortion. May God bring down the walls of the culture of death! May His Holy name be glorified.

Please contact Br. Christopher for more information.

“PUBLIC ORDER”¹

by Seth Jansen

Conversation has commenced, especially at the breakfast table, around the morning paper. Is it the less agreeableness of the morning which allows election-year editorial to fall from our lips?

We find ourselves troubled by abortion, starvation, euthanasia, war, the death penalty, and a host of other life-and-death issues. It is difficult to estimate the death toll. In 2001 the United Nations said that approximately fifty million children die each year worldwide from surgical abortion.² Estimated starvation deaths reported by world hunger organizations range from over eight million to sixteen million.³

In *Christifideles Laici*, Pope John Paul II states, “Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture— is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”⁴ Those who feel that statements like this muffle their outcry against issues such as starvation, war, and death penalty might switch this around to say, “Above all, the common outcry, which

is justly made on behalf of the... [right to life]...is false and illusory if [human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture]...is not defended with maximum determination.” How can we emphasize abortion without underemphasizing starvation, war, and other life-and-death issues? How can we give appropriate emphasis to starvation and war without sweeping abortion under the rug?

Gaudium et Spes highlights an important area of pastoral responsibility, “at all times and in all places, the Church should have true freedom to preach the faith, to teach her social doctrine, to exercise her role freely among men, and also to pass moral judgment in those matters which regard public order when the fundamental rights of a person or the salvation of souls require it.”⁵ As we make preparations to vote, we keep in mind that, although much is at stake on Tuesday, November 2, 2004, political responsibility does not end with Election Day. Whether the candidates we vote for win or lose, we persist in encouraging our elected officials, through letters, visits, and telephone calls, to make decisions, which recognize the dignity of the human person.

NOTES:

¹ Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*. Promulgated by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI on December 7, 1965.

² National Right to Life Committee: <http://www.nrlc.org/news/2003/NRL02/laura.html>.

“Apparently the United Nations does not mind tacking on a few million abortions here and there: its latest publication on abortion policies (2001) says that “approximately 50 million abortions” take place worldwide. That source is a 1994 WHO [World Health Organization] report.”

³ Think Quest: http://www.thinkquest.org/library/site_sum.html?name=C002291&url=C002291/high/present/stats.htm.

⁴ Christian Ethics Today:

http://www.christianethicstoday.com/Issue/008/Overview%20of%20World%20Hunger%20By%20Marc%20J%20Cohen%20and%20Jashinta%20D'Costa_008_11.htm#Hunger%20Deaths

⁵ Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation: *Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World*, *Christifideles Laici*. His Holiness John Paul II. *Gaudium et Spes*, 76.



Washington March for Life

UPPER LEFT: Msgr. Wojcicki among the crowd in support of life.

ABOVE: Thousands gather at the Washington Monument prior to the march.

LOWER LEFT: KPLC Treasurer, Dennis Morrissy joins many in the march.

KENRICK PRO-LIFE

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Jack Gardner
SECRETARY: Matt Cushing
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