



# Kenrick Pro-Life

Newsletter of the Kenrick Pro-Life Committee

Fall 2003

## GOSPEL OF LIFE

Greetings in Christ,

necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart...

Welcome to the first issue of the KPCL Newsletter. As future spiritual fathers, we are called to be defenders of life and human dignity. Now is the time to become engaged in this work. I must say I am impressed with the pro-life energy I've found here. I pray we keep this momentum alive.

A review process by faculty and experts in human life issues and social justice is being developed that will challenge seminarians to write quality articles, provide feedback and guidance on how to improve manuscripts. The GOSPEL OF LIFE FORUM will be distributed in seminaries as well as to diocesan and religious bodies, pro-life groups, and other interested parties. The educational value of the FORUM's content will include: priestly formation with respect to life issues, material for homilies, and a greater appreciation for the Catholic understanding of the sanctity of human life.

Our main task is encouraging and activating the faithful, by word and example, in bringing about the culture of life. Soon, there will be another means of preparation for this mission. The GOSPEL OF LIFE FORUM will be a publication by and for seminarians studying for the Catholic priesthood affirming the intrinsic dignity of each human being and the sanctity of human life.

I am the associate editor of the FORUM. Adam Hildebrand of Holy Apostles Seminary is the editor. This publication will consist of essays (1,500 to 4,000 words) and full-length articles (4,000 to 15,000 words). Two or three essays and two or three articles will be published per issue. We expect the first issue to be published in the summer of 2004. Articles should be submitted for review by January 31, 2004. I can give you a prospectus and detailed guidelines for authors if you are interested in writing an article.

The GOSPEL OF LIFE FORUM will feature essays and articles, written primarily by seminarians, on a wide range of topics, with a distinct focus on human life issues. Topics will include, but are not limited to: abortion, euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, beginning of life and end of life issues, human sexuality, medical ethics, capital punishment, war, and all threats to human life. Special attention will be given to the Gospel of Life as articulated by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, and to other magisterial documents which affirm the sanctity of human life, with particular focus on their application to priestly formation. In the introduction to this encyclical (N. 3), our Holy Father gives a clear perspective on the range and depth of human life issues:

Please pray for this initiative in the defense of human life. We are presently recruiting scholars, theologians and others who are active in the defense of human life to serve as reviewers. We need people to work on layout, distribution, editing and checking source material. This publication has the potential to be a valuable tool for the culture of life.

Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must

Yours for life,  
Jeff Goettemoeller  
KPLC President

## PREPARE TO BOARD THE BUSES!

By Steve Fowler

Prepare to board the buses! On January 20, 2004, Fathers Tom Molini and Timothy Cronin as well as 45 Kenrick-Glennon students will be joining hundreds of youth from the Archdiocese of St. Louis for "Life Matters," part of an annual pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

there with him to promote vocations and our love for the unborn. During this Mass we will be seated in a special section reserved for our nation's seminarians. In addition, His Eminence will ask us to pray with him for those young men at the gathering who also feel a call to the priesthood.

The purpose of this trip is threefold. (1) To witness our community's commitment to promoting human dignity, especially that of the unborn. (2) To promote priestly vocations among the young faithful. (3) To gain a pastoral experience of youth ministry and the promotion of social justice.

Lastly, with some additional time this year for sight-seeing, we hope to catch a group tour of a sight of interest in our nation's capitol. Among possible locations are the National Holocaust Museum or the John Paul II Cultural Center.

An exciting part of this year's pilgrimage is that the seminarian mass, usually held before the March for Life, has been absorbed into larger gathering of young people at the MCI Center. Up to 20,000 people are expected to gather for special programs, concerts, and a mass to be celebrated by Theodore Cardinal McCarrick. In his letter to Monsignor Wojcicki the Archbishop of Washington expressed great excitement to have us

We ask that those unable to accompany the bus trip consider ways of showing solidarity with the Kenrick-Glennon participants. A number of ways of doing so are possible. First of all, pray for us and all of those who are making their way to D.C. in January. Secondly, consider adopting a seminarian going on the trip as a spiritual prayer partner. Thirdly, we ask that you participate in a clothing-personal item drive for agencies that support women who have chosen life for their children. More details about this drive will be given soon.

### Seminary Community Collects Items for Life Choosers:

In conjunction with "Life Matters," the Kenrick-Glennon community is sponsoring a collection for Almost Home and Our Lady's Inn, agencies that assist women who have chosen life for their unborn children. We are looking for baby care items, personal items for women and children, toiletries, gift certificates for stores and restaurants, and housekeeping items. The collection will begin upon our return from Christmas Break. If possible, please ask your families to get involved. Items may be put in the boxes in the main mail room or the Glennon or Kenrick student mailrooms. Cash or gift certificates should be given to Brother Christopher Onuoha, Ernest Ogugua, or Michael Swanton. Stay tuned to emails and bulletin boards for more information about this worthwhile cause!

## SHOULD WE USE DISTURBING GRAPHIC IMAGES?<sup>1</sup>

by Seth Jansen

We are called to preach the Gospel in season and out of season, and we agree that Christianity is a not a popularity contest. The truth, however, to be true, must be shared in love and in appropriate circumstances. I propose that, after adequate research and careful analysis of results of previous projects, disturbing graphic images of the mutilated bodies of pre-born children should be used as a method for changing hearts and minds.

Several reasons for this are: the testimony of ten former abortionists on the effectiveness of using graphic images<sup>2</sup>, effective use for previous social reform movements (i.e. **Schindler's List**)<sup>3</sup>, the word abortion has lost practically all its meaning<sup>4</sup>, the prophetic role of the priest<sup>5</sup>, the "conflicted middle" who will determine the future legal status of pre-born children in the United States<sup>6</sup>, the testimony of Sr. Helen Prejean, author of the book *Dead Man Walking*<sup>7</sup>, and Pope John Paul II's "philosophy of the face," as presented in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*<sup>8</sup>.

As there is not enough space (and time) to develop all of these conclusions (information is available in "Graphic Image Notes" on the pro-life bookshelf in the second floor Kenrick commons area), we will focus on the events following the death of a "fourteen-year-old black kid from Chicago,"<sup>9</sup> named Emmett Till.

After Emmett Till was caught in a dare from his cousins to say

hello to a white woman working at a small grocery store in Mississippi in 1955, his body was found in the Tallahatchie River, stripped naked, beaten "beyond recognition," and shot in the head.

Mrs. Till's decision to encourage *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines to publish photographs of the open casket funeral "helped ignite a movement and change history."

"Some 50,000 people viewed Emmett's mutilated body over the course of three days. And *Jet* magazine ran the pictures, which, as history unfolded, were later credited with initiating the modern-day Civil Rights movement."<sup>10</sup>

Why is it that we see every other medical procedure on television except abortion? When will we decide that there are not two first amendments: one for the news media to show decaying bodies in war-torn areas of the world, and another for the pro-life movement?

Feel free to respond to my thoughts by logging-on to the Kenrick Pro-Life Committee information discussion forum from <http://www.kenrickparish.com/life>. For more information see the notes on the use of graphic images on the pro-life bookshelf in the second floor commons area. Finally, if you wish to view the photos of Emmett Till see this website: <http://www.panopt.com/photo/withers/fulewtill05.html>.

### NOTES:

1 Most of the ideas in this article are from Fr. Frank Pavone, Founder of Priests for Life and are available at <http://www.priestsforlife.org>.

2 <http://www.priestsforlife.org/resources/powerofseeingtestimonies.htm>

3 <http://www.priestsforlife.org/resources/abortionimages/photosandsocialreform.htm>

4 ibid

5 ibid

6 <http://www.priestsforlife.org/resources/abortionimages/abortiongraphics.htm>

7 "I have no doubt that we will one day abolish the death penalty in America. It will come sooner if people like me who know the truth about executions do our work well and educate the public...I am convinced that if executions were made public, the torture and violence would be unmasked, and we would be shamed into abolishing executions...And we would be humiliated to know that visitors from other countries...were watching us kill our own citizens" (p 197). "Jennings asks if I feel it would be a good thing for people to be exposed to executions, and I say yes, because then they would see the violence unmasked and this would lead them to abolish executions" (p 214).

8 Pinto, James J. Jr. *Face to Face: Reflections on the Theology of Face*. <http://www.priestsforlife.org/articles/facetoface.htm>

9 *A Case for the Use of Graphic Pictures*. Jill Stanek. Wednesday, July 03, 2002. [Note: Jill Stanek is the nurse who exposed the practice of "live-birth abortion" at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois.]

10 ibid1

### Prayer to God the Father of All Life

Eternal God, You have revealed Yourself as the Father of all Life. We praise You for the Fatherly care which You extend to all creation, ad especially to, made in Your image and likeness.

Father, extend Your hand of protection to those threatened by abortion, and save them from its destructive power. Give Your strength to all fathers, that they may never give in to the fears that may tempt them to facilitate abortions.

Bless our families and bless our land, that we may have the joy of welcoming and nurturing the life of which You are the source and the Eternal Father.

Amen.

Pavone, Frank. "In the Palm of His Hand." Staten Island, N.Y.: Priests for Life, 1998.

### KENRICK PRO-LIFE

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