

May 2005

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Dear Friends of Life:

Pope John Paul is gone and we will miss him. Remember his words, "If you want peace, work for justice. If you want justice, defend life."

One of the last anti-life scenarios witnessed by John Paul II before his death was the killing of Terri Schiavo. Did you know in 1997, six years after Terri's tragic collapse, her husband Michael first tried to have Terri's feeding tube removed? More than a year later, in May of 1998, his first Court petition to withdraw the feeding tube was filed. An attorney named Richard Pearse was appointed as Guardian ad Litem for Terri to review the request for withdrawal. This is the standard procedure under Florida law. Mr. Pearse concluded that Michael Schiavo's testimony regarding the basis for his decision to withdraw life support—a conversation he had had with his wife Terri—was not "clear and convincing" (the standard under Florida law) and that potential conflicts of interest regarding the \$700,000.00 remaining from a malpractice award were problematical. Mr. Pearse recommended that a Guardian ad Litem (i.e., someone other than Michael) continue to serve in all subsequent proceedings. Mr. Pearse was then discharged as Guardian and no new Guardian ad Litem was ever appointed to protect Terri.

You all know the rest of the story. Without anyone to protect her rights as a disabled American, by the order of the Court, and in defiance of a federal law passed to provide a de novo ("new") review of the case, Terri Schiavo was starved and dehydrated to death.

Need I say anything more about the urgent need to protect life today? From abortion to infanticide to euthanasia—the slippery slope argument that was ridiculed after Roe v. Wade, is now reality. Two hundred and ninety people at our 13th Annual Life Dinner on April 1 are prepared to defend life, as are the countless others who support our building project and our educational efforts. If you are reading this newsletter, you are or should be one of them.

Join us, support us, defend life.

Sincerely,

Arthur F. Gilloon, President

THE RIGHT TO DIE. . .LIVING WILLS. . .DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE. . .EUTHANASIA. . .LIFE SUPPORT. . . . With all the discussion surrounding the case of Terri Schiavo, questions are coming up and confusion setting in on these topics. We have knowledgeable **speakers available**. Call us to arrange for one of us to talk to your club, organization or a group of friends.

The **Fair Labeling and Informed Consent Act** (F.L.I.C.A.) is being proposed as legislation to require that pharmaceutical companies be required to provide both proper product labeling and notice of informed consent to consumers and medical professionals regarding use of aborted fetal cell lines, human embryos, human embryonic stem cells or materials derived from embryos or stem cells used in the manufacture or testing of pharmaceuticals.

It is current policy of federal and state laws of 48 states and the District of Columbia to allow religious exemptions to vaccine requirements when the use of such products would violate religious beliefs, tenets or practices. Without informed consent and truthful labeling such rights have been duly violated.

ACTION ALERT: Contact your federal legislators in the House and Senate and ask them to co-sponsor this bill. The draft of the legislation can be found at www.cogforlife.org/flica.htm or contact DCRTL for a paper copy (556-5960).

JUDICIAL NOMINEES—Frustrated with the filibusters that blocked consideration by the full Senate of 10 of Bush's first-term nominees to the powerful federal appellate courts, Republican leaders have said they are considering a change in Senate rules to prohibit the use of the filibuster, which requires 60 votes to override, on judicial appointments. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has been considering the "nuclear option" which would allow a majority vote on changing Senate rules to lowering the number of votes necessary to stop filibusters or to prevent filibusters of judicial nominees altogether. There is some concern about the loss of minority rights if the change is adopted. *However, Senators should not require support for Roe as a condition for determining a nominee's fitness for judicial office.* Abortion advocates have announced plans to spend \$10 million a year to keep Roe v. Wade the law of the land, and to block judicial nominees suspected of not supporting this goal. Contact your Senators and let them know what you think!

Our NEXT MONTHLY MEETING will be held at 7:00 P.M. on May 5th at the Midway Motor Lodge Auditorium (3100 Dodge Street, Dubuque). Karla Polaschek, M.D., pro-life OB/GYN will talk on in-vitro fertilization and the moral questions surrounding this practice. The title of her talk is, "How Far is Too Far?" You will not want to miss this enlightening discussion on the treatment of infertility. Invite your friends! NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING!

PRAYER AT THE ABORTION MILL—

There will be a group going to Iowa City to pray at the Emma Goldman Clinic on the third Saturday (**May 21**). If you can join us, please call the office (563-556-5960) to let us know.

Our **PEACEFUL PRAYER PROJECT** at the Cedar Rapids Clinic for Women continues. The clinic is open Monday & Tuesdays from 9:00 A.M.—7:00 P.M. and Wednesday through Friday from 9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. If you plan to be in that area **any weekday** and can stop by the clinic, even for just a few minutes to pray, please do so. For more information or directions, call us at 563-556-5960. If you can pray (at any location) for the closure of this clinic on a regular basis, let us know that you when are doing that. We are trying to get prayer coverage for each hour the clinic is open.

Our regular group of pray-ers goes to the Cedar Rapids Clinic for Women on the **third Tuesday** of the month. If you can go, meet the group after 7:00 A.M. Mass @ Resurrection's parking lot on Tuesday, **May 16th**. Call Bill @ 563-582-4436 to let him know you are going.

LIFE DINNER DONATIONS:

A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL WHO WORKED ON OR DONATED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR LIFE DINNER! We especially want to thank Elaine Lueken for the lovely table decorations –since we forgot to acknowledge you at the dinner (SO SORRY!). We do appreciate your hard work.

For those of you who had the misfortune of missing our annual LIFE Dinner this year, we have once again enclosed a pledge card in this newsletter so that you might have the opportunity to show your support for DCRTL. We operate strictly on donations, so please be generous. All contributions are tax deductible and will be used for educational purposes. Our speaker did a great job with a complicated subject. We're sorry you had to miss it!

P.S. We have available free of charge CDs on two of Debi's talks— "Vaccines from Abortion" & "Fetal Stem Cell Research"—for anyone interested. There will also be a videotape of our dinner available soon for you to view & return to us. Call to let us know if you would like either of these.

Our cable access shows can be seen on **cablevision Channel 16!** Watch for our **upcoming programs**, scheduled for Monday @ 10:00 A.M., Friday @ 3:00 P.M. and Saturday @ 1:00 P.M. Upcoming programs feature Debi Vinnedge on "Vaccines from Abortion" (last 2 weeks in April) & "Stem Cell Research" (first 2 weeks in May). We continue to bring Life Dynamics video magazine to you also.

If you missed the **EASTER PARADE OF HATS** Sunday (March 20), you may enjoy it in the comfort of your own home! It will be shown on Cablevision Channel 16 beginning May 9th at the following times (these are in addition to our regularly scheduled program): Mondays @ 7 P.M., Tues. @ 5 P.M., Wed. @ 10 A.M. & Th. @ 2 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP FORM: Please mail to DCRTL, 1205 Cleveland Avenue, Dubuque, Iowa 52003

_____ \$300 Lifesaver _____ \$50 Supporter _____ Other
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