

LIFE TIME

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Hours: 9 am - 1 PM
Monday - Friday

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Should we focus just on abortion?

Fr. Frank Pavone

National Director, Priests for Life

The Church is one body with many parts. The eye is not the hand, and those who focus on establishing soup kitchens are not the same as those who save babies at abortion mills. Each individual and group has a specific vocation and has a right (indeed, a duty) to focus on it. So why belabor the obvious?

Because for some, it's not so obvious. Many of us who focus on abortion are told that we can't give a pro-life talk unless we mention all the life issues, or can't hold a pro-life event if it's going to focus just on abortion.

Excuse me, but why not?

Obviously, there are many life issues, and we are all called to see the connection between them. But seeing that connection, we are still free to focus. To have an event or preach a homily today on abortion means we also have the freedom to have an event or preach a homily next week that focuses on world peace.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin is often invoked for his firm articulation of the consistent ethic of life. Yet he, too, made it clear that it is perfectly legitimate to focus on a particular issue. On one occasion he asked, "Does this mean that everyone must do everything? No! There are limits of time energy and competency. There is a shape to every individual vocation. People must specialize, groups must focus their energies. The consistent ethic does not deny this. But it does say something to the Church: It calls us to a wider witness to life than we sometimes manifest in our separate activities" (Address at Seattle University, March 2, 1986). When the US Bishops write about the consistent ethic of life, they say the following:

"Among important issues involving the dignity of human life with which the Church is concerned, abortion necessarily plays a central role. Abortion, the direct killing of an innocent human being, is always gravely immoral (The Gospel of Life, no. 57); its victims are the most vulnerable and defenseless members of the human family. It is imperative that those who are called to serve the least among us give urgent attention and priority to this issue of justice.

"This focus and the Church's commitment to a consistent ethic of life complement one another. A consistent ethic of life, which explains the Church's teaching at the level of moral principle-far from diminishing concern for abortion and euthanasia or equating all issues touching on the dignity of human life - recognizes instead the distinctive character of each issue while giving each its proper place within a coherent moral vision" (USCCB, Pastoral Plan for Pro-life Activities, 2001).

We are all called to be concerned about every life issue, and to say so. But it is the Church as a Body that is called to carry out the many works of justice, with each part of the body doing its appointed task rather than being made to feel it must do the task of everyone else.

MY SENTIMENTS, EXACTLY!

DUBUQUE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE, INC. IS A NON-PROFIT, NON-SECTARIAN, EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH. WE EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ABORTION, EUTHANASIA AND INFANTICIDE. OFTEN, WE GET CHASTIZED FOR HAVING A NARROW FOCUS REGARDING LIFE ISSUES. MY FRUSTRATED RESPONSE (TO MYSELF) IS "I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING" OR "ABORTION IS INTRINSICALLY EVIL AND THE NUMBERS FAR EXCEED THOSE LOST THROUGH WAR, THE DEATH PENALTY, ETC."

- FATHER PAVONE SAYS IT MUCH BETTER! FATHER'S FOCUS IS ON THE CHURCH'S WORK. BUT HIS EXPLANATION WORKS FOR THOSE OF US IN THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT AND FOR ANYONE CONCERNED WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL.

Our December membership meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Cathedral Center (231 Bluff Street) on **Thursday, December 1**. Once again it will be a Christmas program. This year, we are pleased to have Teresa Koch in charge. Teresa is the choir director at Key West and also gives lessons- so we are looking forward to an outstanding musical evening. Keep in mind that the first Thursday of December is the first day of the month, so you don't miss out just because you didn't flip the calendar page to December! Please join us.

(Let us know if you're able to bring treats.)



Our **visits to the abortion mill** in December will be on Saturday, **December 17th** and on Tuesday, **December 20th**. Tuesday's visit will be to the Cedar Rapids Clinic for Women, leaving from the Resurrection parking lot after **7:00 A.M. Mass.** Call Tom (563-588-1635) if you are able to go. Please call Ellen or Colleen (563-556-5960) for more information if you plan to go on Saturday.

BUILDING PROGRESS



If you haven't driven by our building (at the corner of Carter & Asbury) you need to do so! The workers are making progress daily. It is exciting to watch the transformation that is occurring. The pillars are up; the concrete poured. God is blessing us with good weather so the outside work should be finished before it gets too cold to do it. If all goes according to schedule, we should

be moving in early next year. We are delighted and thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts! Without your ongoing support, none of this would be possible.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we're still a long way from goal on this project. Therefore, I ask that you keep us in mind as you consider where your charitable dollars could be best spent. All donations are tax deductible and may be sent to us at 2205 Carter Road, Dubuque, IA 52001.

What they're saying about **Judge Samuel Alito**: "At last, President Bush has put forward the name of a Supreme Court nominee who has an established track record that we can review," said American Life League president **Judie Brown**. "That record includes one ruling in particular with which I am especially pleased, in which Judge Samuel Alito made the correct argument in a case involving abortion."



Planned Parenthood's **Karen Pearl** said, confirming Alito "would radically transform the Supreme Court and create a direct threat to the health and safety of American women." People for the American Way's **Ralph Neas** commented that Alito "would threaten Americans' rights and legal protections for decades." **Gary Bauer** reported, "Senator **Patrick Leahy**, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said - and I quote - 'This is not over competence. He [Alito] certainly is competent. This is the whole issue of ideology.' Well, there you have it, my friends. It couldn't be any clearer. Experience, qualifications and competence are irrelevant. The only thing that matters is ideology."

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE— On **December 8th** from 9P.M.—1:00 A.M. we will be joining others from around the country in prayers for life. The national hour of unity will be from midnight to 1:00 A.M. EST, which will be from 11:00—12:00 here. We will have the Blessed Sacrament exposed for Adoration at St. Mary’s Church, 1584 White Street, Dubuque. If you can join us, please call the office (563-556-5960) to sign up for (a) prayer hour(s). Thanks to Deacon Tim Lobianco for assisting us in this project.

Memorials to DCRTL:

Thanks to all who have given a gift of life:

In memory of: **Larry Lakeman & Sylvester “Lefty” Kluesner** from Theresa & Jeff Chapman; **Sylvester “Lefty” Kluesner** from Jack & Maria Smith; **Wilbur Kohn** from Dick & Jean Mescher; **Charles Herther** from Art & Penny Gilloon.

Whenever a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of \$250 or greater, their name is engraved on our memorial plaque which is displayed in our office.



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 shows feature our local programs & events and recent editions of LIFE TALK Video Magazine produced by Life Dynamics, Inc.

The Justice foundation has put together several one hour shows called **Faces Of Abortion**. They are very powerful, and professional shows. The first half hour of the show is a woman telling her story of how abortion has hurt her, then the next half hour is a host interviewing a woman who has been harmed by abortion. We have ordered these shows and will begin airing them along with our regular programming as soon as they arrive.

Our Corporate Boycott Target for this month is: The Gannett Company Inc. because they have a new man at the top: **Mr. Craig A. Dubow President & Chief Executive Officer**. Contact him @ Gannett Company Inc. 7950 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA 22107-0001. This is the perfect opportunity to let him know, from the beginning, that you don’t approve of the funding of Planned Parenthood. Operations include: newspapers—*USA Today & USA Weekend, The Des Moines Register & the Iowa City Press-Citizen* (and many other newspapers around the country); magazines (*Clipper, 101 Things to Do, Nursing Spectrum*); broadcasting (Captive Network & others); careerbuilder.com; Army Times Publishing; News Network of Central Ohio, Newsquest Media Group, & Telematch.

American Girl, headquartered in Chicago, is a company that makes dolls and accessories that reflect various periods of American History. They also produce a series of books related to each doll, telling the story of her life during a particular period in our history. Until now, everything connected with American Girl has been wholesome, educational, and all-around delightful. They have recently entered into an arrangement with Girls, Inc. to sell bracelets with the message “I Can,” so that funds raised could help girls with self-esteem and scholastic issues. According to its website, Girls, Inc. backs abortion and supports *Roe v. Wade*. In response, the Pro-Life Action League has called for a boycott of American Girl products unless the company severs its ties with the pro-abortion group. They suggest calling the customer service number **(1-800-845-0005)** to request that your name be removed from the mailing list as long as American Girl maintains its affiliation with Girls, Inc.

Our charitable organization boycott target is: I am currently researching the organizations associated with Parkinson’s Disease. I am aware that some of them promote the use of embryonic stem cells so was delighted to learn that The Thomas Hartman Foundation for Parkinson’s Research excludes any funding for human embryonic stem cell research and supports research using adult stem cells to treat Parkinson’s. For more information go to <http://www.hartmanfoundation.org> or phone 631-277-9655.

BOOK REVIEW: Fr. Pavone, National Director of Priests For Life, has endorsed HOLY INNOCENTS, a novel by Bill Kassel. “As a prolife leader I deeply appreciate this book. We do not deal simply with issues but with people who are hurt and confused and need our compassion. And we do our work with a longing for the unity of all the disciples of Christ. This book is a powerful reminder of these troubles. It is well worth reading.” —\$16.95 (Company Publications, Ann Arbor Michigan)



COMING EVENTS - Plan now to join us!

- ◆ Pro-Life Mass every **Wednesday** at 2:25 P.M. at the Power of Prayer - 75 W. 17th Street - Fr. McAndrew, celebrant.
- ◆ Two opportunities to **Visit** the abortion mills to **pray and sidewalk counsel** each month. Call 563-556-5960 for details. (more information inside this issue)
- ◆ MODERN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING -call 582-1673 for details.
- ◆ Our next **monthly meeting** will be held @ **7:00 P.M. On Thursday, December 1 @ the Cathedral Center**—details inside this issue.
- ◆ **December 8-9, 9:00 P.M.—1:00 A.M.—National Night of Prayer**
- ◆ **January 21, 2006—Walk for Life in Dubuque**
- ◆ **January 21—25, 2006 Bus Trip to March for Life**



**DUBUQUE COUNTY
RIGHT TO LIFE'S
WISH LIST:**

- ⇒ Stamps
- ⇒ Liquid hand soap
- ⇒ volunteers (for odd jobs)
- ⇒ prayers for the intentions of DCRTL
- ⇒ **S p e a k i n g** engagements
- ⇒ Coffee—decaf &/or regular
- ⇒ Printer ink cartridges Epson TO441 (black)

Moral failure is associated with decline:

In his article, "Is it possible to be both pro-life and pro-choice?: Pastoral care and public policy in the abortion issue," (Common Ground) Herbert Schlossberg, Ph.D., states, "Arnold Toynbee, perhaps the best-known historian of the twentieth century, concluded in his ten-volume study of the rise and fall of civilizations that sexual lawlessness has been for five thousand years an inescapable part of the scene when a civilization is in a state of incipient collapse."

A NATION THAT KILLS ITS OWN CHILDREN—IS A NATION WITHOUT HOPE -Pope John Paul II

Would you like to see your ad here? Call DCRTL 556-5960.

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