

March 2007

Volume 10 Issue 3

Dear Friends of Life:

When I sat down to write this letter, I was feeling discouraged about what we face in the state legislature this year. (More about that later). Then I picked up Wednesday's Telegraph Herald and read the first part of Cole Crawford's article about his trip to the March For Life. Cole and 17 of his fellow students from Mazzuchelli Middle School were part of the two-bus contingent from Dubuque County to attend the March For Life commemorating the 34th anniversary of Roe v Wade.

Cole's recounting of his trip, which he called a pilgrimage, was an excellent description of how meaningful this trip is for those who attend. I was amused at his youthful skepticism when told that the group needed to get to the Life Mass at 2 pm, six hours ahead of time. Luckily the group did get a seat, albeit on the floor, when they finally arrived at 4:30. I can imagine the chaperones in the group thinking, "I told you to hurry". I can't wait to read the second part tomorrow.

I am sure the parents and teachers of these young students are as proud of them as we are. We hope that their parents and teachers continue to encourage them along the pro-life path. After all, we need them to take our place someday.

In 2002 the legislature overwhelmingly past legislation banning ALL human cloning. Keep in mind that Iowa does not have a ban restricting any type of stem cell research. We simply have a ban on human cloning. Governor Culver has stated that he wants lawmakers to repeal the ban on cloning. He then wants to put millions of dollars into a new center at the University of Iowa that will do research work with embryonic stem cells and human cloning.

We ask that everyone take action now to contact their state representatives to ask them to oppose repealing Iowa's ban on human cloning and to oppose using state tax dollars to fund human cloning and destructive embryo research. Ask them to instead support cutting edge research using stem cells from umbilical cords and amniotic fluid--not embryos.

For more information, visit **www.iowacatholicconference.org** and click on the Take Action Now button. This will allow you to send your legislators a quick message on this issue. There are also links to action alerts, up-to-date information on this bill, and a link to the General Assembly's website, which tells you how to contact your state legislators, what committees they serve on and when they meet. To leave a message for your State Senator, call (515) 281-3371 and for your State Representative, call (515) 281-3221. For more information on embryonic research and cloning contact the following websites:

www.stemcellresearch.org , www.ncbcenter.org
www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/bioethic/stemcell/index.htm

Sincerely,

Maureen Ward, President

Speaker Training/Education Sessions

Dubuque County Right to Life is once again offering informational classes on topics pertinent to the Right To Life movement. Involvement in the pro-life movement begins with learning the truth - the facts about abortion, chastity, euthanasia, stem cell research, Planned Parenthood and more. Anyone interested in learning more about issues to become a speaker or just to be an effective advocate one-on-one is welcome to join us. Classes will be given by Connie Hardie, Educational Director. They will be held at our office, 2205 Carter Road from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. on three Sundays - March 4, 11, & 25th. One additional session will be needed for those who plan to complete the training and become a speaker. There will be an \$8.00 charge for materials. (Obtaining materials is strongly suggested, but optional.)

Our major focus as an organization is education. We are in need of more qualified speakers for our speakers' bureau. To register, or for more information call Ellen or Colleen at 556-5960.

DCRTL's monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 1st** at our office at **7:00 P.M.** We are back to our regular schedule now. But don't miss out—mark it on the end of February's calendar page because the first comes as soon as you flip the page over and if you don't do it on time—or remember to look ahead, you'll miss out. Our speaker will be Sue Stratman. The title of her talk is: ***"Embryonic Stem Cells—Not for My Brain Injured Son!"*** Come to hear her story about the treatment options she was offered for her son Daniel after medical error left him severely brain injured. Sue will share the moral implications, her faith & their selfless decisions-based on their knowledge that 'every life is precious.'

Our scheduled **visit to the abortion mill** in March will be on Tuesday, **March 20th.** We will also go on Saturday, **the 17th.** 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. Call DCRTL about the Saturday visit.



LEGISLATIVE ACTION– FEDERAL

U.S. Senate switchboard: 202-224-3121

1. The National Council of Women's Organizations is pushing the Senate to ratify CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women). Friday Fax reports that CEDAW "is not merely a 'simple declaration' that women and men have equal rights" but that CEDAW is "a binding international treaty with a compliance committee that has pressured no less than 37 sovereign nations to liberalize their abortion laws." A vote is expected in the Senate in the coming weeks. Call your senators to tell them what you think about them ratifying this treaty.
2. S. 21 Prevention First Act (Introduced in the Senate.) This bill is described as a "bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care" - read: increased contraception, 'comprehensive' sex-education, Plan B (emergency contraception) promotion, and Title X funding of family planning programs (e.g. Planned Parenthood). Call your senators about this, too.
3. Senator Sam Brownback (R-Kansas) has reintroduced the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (S. 356) which seeks to ensure women seeking abortion are fully informed of the pain experienced by their unborn child. While it is a good thing for educating people, there is concern that it may make it easier for women to choose abortion because anesthesia will make it more palatable -"at least the fetus didn't feel pain." This bill has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions.
4. Stem Cell Research Act of 2007 (S.5) passed the House (HR 3) on January 11th. A Senate vote is expected in the next several weeks. This bill provides taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research. Embryos are living human beings. Do not want your tax dollars used to fund research that is (a) unethical, (b) unsuccessful and (c) has led to the cloning of human embryos for use in research? Let your Senators know!

LEGISLATIVE ACTION-STATE

The Iowa Legislature, at the request of Governor Culver, will consider repealing the ban on human cloning in Iowa (SF115). This is often referred to as a "ban on stem cell research." However, there is NO law restricting stem cell research in Iowa. We simply have a ban on human cloning. Governor Culver wants to repeal the ban on 'therapeutic' human cloning in order to create human embryos for scientific research, destroying them in the process. Their word play distinguishes it from 'reproductive' cloning. Contact Governor Culver 515-281-5211, your state Senator 515-281-3371 & Representative 515-281-3221. Rep. Pat Murphy (as Speaker of the House) has the power to keep it off the debate floor. (For more information see our President's letter—page 1).

MEMBERSHIP FORM: Please mail to DCRTL, 2205 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

\$300 Lifesaver \$50 Supporter Other
 \$200 Defender \$35 Family
 \$100 Patron \$25 Individual

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