



Prayer is our greatest weapon against the culture of death. We must work in all kinds of ways, but PRAYER can not only move mountains, it can change hearts.

Recent Pro-Life Victories

Thanks to you, we had many victories in the recent election. If you voted, contributed, distributed information, made phone calls, sent text messages, forwarded emails, posted information on *Facebook* -- you helped make our state government more protective of the unborn and other vulnerable populations.

As you know, we elected a right-to-life Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, US Senator, and two new Congressmen. There were huge victories in the state legislature. The pro-abortion leaders of the State Senate and Assembly were defeated by candidates who support the right-to-life. These 2010 elections were major victories not only for pro-life, but also for family values. ***We now have a pro-life, pro-family majority in both houses of our state legislature!***

As supporters of life, we have made a huge difference in the lives of those we defend. Together, we can foresee a brighter future God's precious unborn, the elderly, the infirm, and those with disabilities. This is all thanks to you!

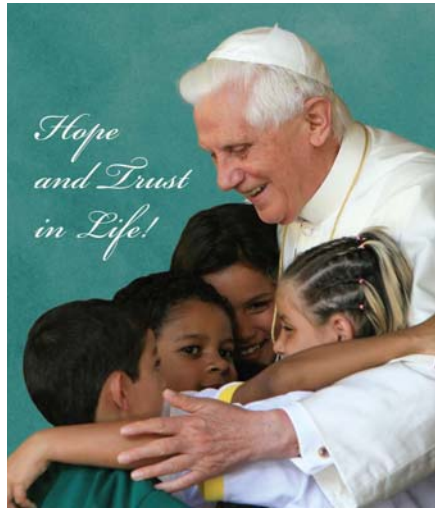
And there were pro-life victories across the country.

- There is now a pro-life woman's voice in the U.S. Senate. Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire) successfully defended parental involvement laws all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court while serving as New Hampshire's Attorney General.
- Five new pro-life women were elected to the House of Representatives, increasing the number of pro-life women in the House by an astonishing 60%. Jaime Herrera (WA), Diane Black (TN), Kristi Noem (SD), Sandy Adams (FL), Renee Ellmers (NC). The number of pro-abortion women in the House decreased by 16%.
- Three new pro-life woman governors were elected, including Susana Martinez (R-NM), Mary Fallin (R-OK), and Nikki Haley (R-SC).
- The *Votes Have Consequences* campaign by the Susan B. Anthony List claims victory by taking down 15 of 20 targeted "pro-life" Democrats. Ultimately, the people have spoken!

40 Days for Life Victories

Here are a few of the stories and victories from the recent 40 Days for Life Campaign. Prayer definitely works!

- 541 babies -- and their mothers -- were spared from abortion during this past campaign. That's at least 3,352 since the first coordinated 40 Days for Life campaign three years ago.
- In Columbia, Missouri ... the Planned Parenthood facility has stopped performing abortions.
- In Severna Park, Maryland, an abortion facility closed its doors forever at the beginning of this campaign.
- There have also been at least four abortion facility employees who have left their jobs during this 40 Days for

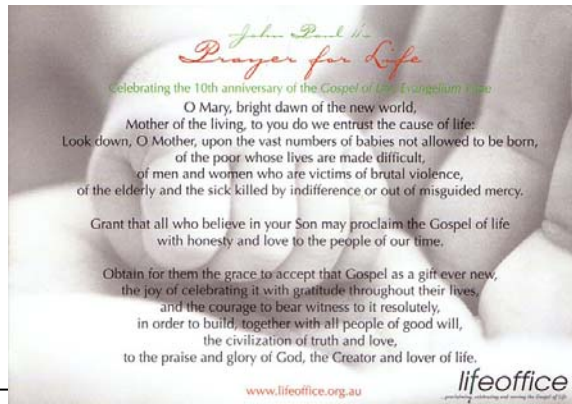


Life.

- One volunteer was able to talk to a high school girl who was entering Planned Parenthood. She was not there for an abortion, but to pick up birth control pills. The volunteer gave the young woman an information package explaining that Planned Parenthood is not the benevolent organization it pretends to be. "I think God was using this young woman to show me that the women who enter these clinics, for whatever reason, sometimes just need a friendly wave and someone to listen to them or let them know that they are loved," said the volunteer. The conversation showed her that the women who patronize these abortion clinics are people -- just like we are. "I think it is easy to forget that as we fight this battle each day. Although we most likely will not change every person's mind," she said, "we can always show them great love in the short interactions we are given."
- A 40 Days for Life coordinator received a call from a woman who was in tears. She was pregnant with her sixth child and her husband had been laid off from work. They were

struggling financially, trying to care for their five children in a two-bedroom apartment. "She felt like her only option was to have an abortion, but her husband lovingly encouraged her to call the number he found on our 40 Days for Life flier, which had been given to him at church the previous Sunday. He did not want his wife to abort their child." This woman immediately connected with the 40 Days for Life volunteer. The woman, who was strongly considering abortion, changed her mind and has chosen life, while also gaining a new friend in the 40 Days for Life volunteer

- And then there's Anita's van -- a life-saver on wheels. It has "pray to end abortion" painted on the side, along with a pregnancy help center's phone number and the 40 Days for Life web address. To see a picture of the van, please go to:
- <http://40daysforlife.com/blog/?p=1397>



laws restricting taxpayer-funded abortions in Obamacare, and more than \$300 million dollars in taxpayer funds going to our nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, Americans do care about these issues.

As good as the "Pledge to America" may sound, especially to traditional pro-life and pro-family groups, it is only with cautious optimism that we approach the new direction of the Republican leadership. There should be no compromise. Indeed, President Obama has already made it clear that he plans to fight the new Republican leadership in order to continue to implement his liberal agenda.

Recently staunch pro-life politicians have come out publicly in support of a "truce" on social issues.

Social conservatives have the same concerns about the economy that everyone else does, but to lose focus of the core issue of the basic right to life would be a glaring oversight of a main tenet of the Republican Party and one of the new mandates of the results of the election. Clearly Americans want conservative values. It bespeaks of ill judgment to suggest calling a truce on social issues, especially when we have a President in office who has shown

zero regard for the lives of the unborn.

It is possible to stand for life and liberty. Indeed, one issue cannot be separated from the other. How can America move forward if we will not step up to secure our future?

Ronald Reagan ran on a "three-legged stool" platform: social conservatism, fiscal conservatism, and foreign policy conservatism. Without these three aspects of the party united, the party abandons its base. Reagan said, "We cannot survive as a free nation when some men decide that others are not fit to live and should be abandoned to abortion or infanticide ... there is no cause more important for preserving that freedom than affirming the transcendent right to Life of all human beings, the right without which no other rights have any meaning."

While social conservatives understand the enormity of the fiscal crisis facing the United States, we cannot call a truce on what we believe to be matters of life and death. We are hopeful that the new GOP leadership and new Congress will take meaningful action on their "Pledge to America" and that they will stand for Life.

A Caution to the GOP

(Commentary by Kristan Hawkins¹)

Coming off perhaps one of the most historic election cycles in our nation's history, Americans overwhelmingly voted against the pro-abortion agenda and showed Washington insiders that the country is pro-life. The results of the election were awe-inspiring and a testament to the will of the American people.

With pro-choice Democrats returning for their last days in Washington, D.C. and Republicans preparing their agenda for the next year, the GOP needs to remember the mandate they have just been given by the American people.

Recently the GOP leadership announced their "Pledge to America" and rightly placed emphasis on economic issues. Spending has skyrocketed under the Obama Administration, and unemployment continues to rise. For the nation a solid plan must be in place not only to cut spending but also to put money back into the hands of small businesses, so that their owners can continue to grow and to hire more American workers.

Thankfully, this new pledge contains references to ban taxpayer-funded abortion, which was included in Obamacare and omitted from the 1994 "Contract for America." It was the issue of abortion that nearly brought down Obamacare.

According to Gallup, for the second year in a row, 47% of Americans identify themselves as pro-life, as do 47% of Americans aged 18-29, making our generation the most pro-life generation yet. With no

¹ reprinted with permission from *HumanEvents.com*

The Devaluation of Life

An attorney who represented persons with disabilities tells of how society's prejudice against people with disabilities can influence a person's self-image (not surprisingly). What he heard from people with disabilities was that from the time they are born with a disability or acquire a disability, they are bombarded with negative societal messages. These messages hurtfully and

continuously tell them that they are a physical or financial burden on their family or friends, that they are a burden on taxpayers and "using up precious health care dollars." That society would be better off without them. In this prejudicial environment, the nebulous "right to" die easily becomes a *duty* to die.

Does that not seem right to you? Consider this, Janet Adkins, the first woman Dr. Kevorkian assisted in suicide, had only recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Her doctor told her she had at least ten *good* years left. Ms. Adkins, worried that she might be a burden on her family, suggested to them that they might be better off without her. Apparently, her family did not disagree. Soon after, with her family's consent, she sought Dr. Kevorkian's help to end her life, and he readily agreed that she was a good candidate for death. How would you react if your family thought you'd be better off dead?

Equally lethal is the lack of compassion and support for persons with disabilities. Lack of adequate medical or mental health care, including pain management, can lead a person to suicidal despair. Many of the women Dr. Kevorkian assisted in suicide, for example, did not have an imminently fatal condition, but did have a clinical level of depression. Just as critical for persons with disabilities, is the lack of support to enable independent living in the community.

In 1983, Elizabeth Bouvia was 26-years-old, had a college degree, was working on a master's degree, and wanted to die. She admitted herself into the psychiatric ward of Riverside General Hospital in Riverside, California. She was alienated from her family and husband, and had requested hospital authorities to allow her to starve to death. When they refused and ordered her to be force-fed, she contacted the American Civil Liberties Union, which assigned her a lawyer.

The California Court of Appeal ruled on June 5, 1986 that a patient in a public hospital was entitled to make the decision to remove a nasogastric tube which was inserted and maintained against her will and without her consent. In reaching its decision, the court stated that a patient who is mentally competent and understands the risks involved has a right to refuse treatment – has a right to commit suicide – and that the state's interest in preserving life does not outweigh this right.

If Ms. Bouvia had not had a disability, the courts would never have allowed her to kill herself, and no doctor would have assisted her. The state would have intervened with suicide prevention and mental health services. But, because she had

cerebral palsy, severe degenerative arthritis, and used a wheelchair, the courts granted her the right to starve herself to death. It was only after the disability community rallied around her and helped her meet her physical and emotional needs, that she changed her mind about dying. It was revealed that prior to her request to die she

had suffered a miscarriage, separated from her husband, her brother had died, she had serious financial problems, and had withdrawn from graduate school when they told her that no one would ever hire someone like her. The story is a chilling example of how lack of family and community support can heavily influence a person's decision to end his or her life. This challenges us to reflect on what we believe in; a just society must profess and uphold the sacredness of life – all life – and must be willing to support that life.



A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized.
John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* no. 93

Catholics for Choice??

This is unbelievable. Catholic...are you kidding me? That is what I thought when I inadvertently wandered onto the website of Catholics for Choice. Ever heard of it? You need to; you need to know as much as you can about what the 'other camps' are professing so you can counter their arguments. Catholics for Choice was founded by Jon O'Brien, who describes himself as "a life-long Catholic born and raised in the Republic of Ireland, whose initial involvement in reproductive rights was sparked by his reaction to the great injustices that women especially face as a result of the Catholic hierarchy's influence over public policy in the country." He helped establish family planning clinics throughout the UK before coming to the US, where he has been honored many times by Planned Parenthood. ***Is this something a Catholic should be proud of?*** He and his group believe that they are part of the 'great majority' of Catholics who disagrees with the Vatican on matters related to sex, marriage, family life, and motherhood; they feel that they are part of the "great majority" who believes that Catholic teachings on conscience mean that every person has the right to follow his or her own conscience – not the teachings of the Church. They further state that "church hierarchy has a negative impact on sexual and reproductive health and rights." They recently started a campaign aimed at young Catholics, stating "...we are having **sex**. We are using **contraception** and **condoms**. We are having **abortions**. We are **bisexual, gay, lesbian, straight, and transgender**. And none of this makes us any less Catholic."

Catholics for Choice are targeting young people in their early 20's. They're on Facebook and Twitter and are making themselves visibly present on most

college campuses. Talk to your children, particularly before you send them off to college. Talk about your beliefs and **real** Catholic teaching. It is a matter of life and death.

Building a Culture of Life

Bishop Michael W. Warfel of the Diocese of Juneau, AK had this to say about cultivating a culture of life: *"The toleration and promotion of abortion, socially and legally, has clouded individual consciences and made it difficult for many to distinguish between good and evil, even when what is at stake is the fundamental right to life. If we reject the value and dignity of human life, our culture becomes more and more based on a lie and its structures cannot long endure. But how do we help others to understand this? By transforming our culture into one that respects and defends human life! In addition to encouraging laws that protect innocent human life, it is necessary to speak of the deeper truth behind such laws: that all human life is sacred; that God is its author; that we do not own life."*

Consistent Ethic of Life²

We know there is darkness in our lives, in our world. Violence of all kinds threatens life: in our homes, in our cities, in nations near and far. Violence has many faces: oppression of the poor, deprivation of basic human rights, economic exploitation, sexual exploitation and pornography, neglect or abuse of the aged and the helpless, and innumerable other acts of inhumanity. Abortion in particular blunts a sense of the sacredness of human life.

The term "Consistent Ethic of Life" was first used in 1983 by the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin to express an ethical, religious, and political ideology based on the premise that all human life is sacred and should be protected by law, and it has become a centerpiece of the U.S. Catholic bishops' moral teaching. This philosophy opposes legal abortion, capital punishment, assisted suicide, economic injustice, and euthanasia.

What is the consistent ethic of life? It is a comprehensive ethical system that links together many different issues by focusing attention on the basic value of **all human life**. Cardinal Bernardin joined the topics of abortion and nuclear war in an attempt to defend life. He broadened our understanding of a consistent ethic of life to include many issues from all stages of life. In a speech at Fordham University, Cardinal Bernardin stated: *"The spectrum of life cuts across the issues of genetics, abortion, capital punishment, modern warfare and the care of the terminally ill."*

Cardinal Bernardin acknowledged that some issues are distinct and different. Capital punishment, for example, is not the same as abortion; however, the issues are linked. The valuing and defense of life are central to both issues. Cardinal Bernardin told an audience in Portland, Oregon: *"When human life is considered 'cheap' or easily expendable in one area, eventually nothing is held as sacred and all lives are in jeopardy."*

Cardinal Bernardin also insisted that people must not be seen *"as insensitive to or even opposed to other moral claims on the spectrum of life."* The consistent ethic of life means we must value **all human life**. We cannot be *pro-life* on some issues and *against life* on others: it would be contradictory, for example, to be *against* abortion but *for* capital punishment; or to work *against* poverty but *support* euthanasia. In *The Gospel of Life* Blessed John Paul II urges all persons to choose life—consistently, personally, nationally, globally. This is a profound challenge: to look deeply into ourselves and to test some of our own deeply held beliefs and practices.

Abortion, human trafficking, capital punishment, racism, euthanasia, poverty...these issues are all linked at the very heart of the consistent ethic of life. This challenges us to think about issues we might have ignored in the past, but the consistent ethic of life cuts across such divisions, calling us to respect the life in the womb, the life of a criminal, the life on welfare, the life of the immigrant, and the life of the disabled and dying.

A Disciple's challenge

The consistent ethic of life provides a solid foundation and a challenge to live as faithful disciples and involved citizens. It calls us to question and reject all views that contradict the message and meaning of Jesus. We must reject the culture of death. We must create a culture of life every day, at home, at work and in society.

How do we do this? We start by the way we vote, the way we talk, the beliefs we hand on to our children, the causes we support, the business practices we use, the entertainment we attend, the way we care for the sick and elderly: in all these ordinary activities we need to be consistent in respecting life. If we don't, we become a contradiction.

If we are consistent, we have to speak and act on abortion and euthanasia, but we also have to speak and act on health care and immigration, sexism and racism, cloning and embryonic stem cell research, trade agreements and sweatshops, human trafficking, genocide and many other issues. Based on Scripture, the consistent ethic of life provides

² From The Consistent Ethic of Life (Sheed & Ward 1988)

an ethical framework to face the moral dilemmas of our world. It helps us to promote all life.

"If one contends, as we do, that the right of every fetus to be born should be protected by civil law and supported by civil consensus, then our moral, political and economic responsibilities do not stop at the moment of birth. Those who defend the right to life of the weakest among us must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us: the old and the young, the hungry and the homeless, the undocumented immigrant and the unemployed worker."

—Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

An Abortion Survivor: Sarah tells her story .

This is the story of Sarah Smith. In 1970, her mother Betty tried to abort Sarah in Los Angeles. At the time, Betty did not know she was pregnant with twins. One baby was aborted, but miraculously, Sarah survived. Sarah has forgiven her mother -- and for five years they traveled the world speaking together about the pain and suffering caused by abortion.

"In 1970, before it was legal, my mother decided to have an abortion. At the time, she was pregnant with twins, but nobody knew this, not even her doctor. My tiny brother and I were both there growing in her womb, until that dreadful day. Before the abortion, we were both alive. Moments later, I was alone.

It's frightening to think I was almost aborted when my mom had a D&C abortion. Somehow, miraculously, I survived! My twin brother wasn't so lucky. Andrew was aborted and we lost him forever.

Several weeks later, my mother was shocked to feel me kicking in her womb. She already had five children and she knew what it felt like when a baby kicked in the womb. She instantly knew that somehow she was still pregnant. She went back to the doctor and told him she was still pregnant...that she had made a big mistake and that she wanted to keep this baby.

To this day, my mother deeply regrets that abortion. I know the pain is unbearable for her at times when she looks at me and knows she aborted my twin brother. Mom says 'the protective hand of Almighty God saved my life . . . that God's hand covered and hid me in her womb, and protected me from the scalpel of death.

After surviving the abortion, I was born with bilateral, congenital dislocated hips and many other physical handicaps. Nine days after I was born, I was taken to an orthopedic surgeon who applied a cast to each of my tiny legs. My mom

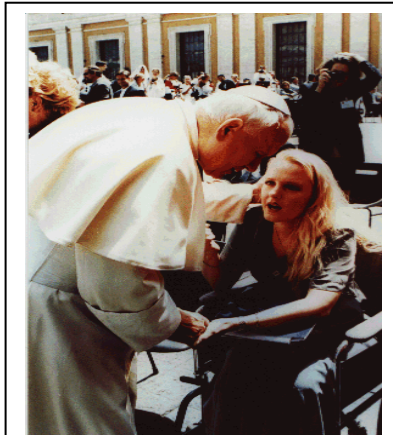
would remove these casts with pliers every Monday morning and take me to the doctor to have new casts put on.

At six weeks I was put into my first body cast. Many surgeries and body cast followed over the next few years. Unfortunately, doctors are telling me that now I'll need surgeries about every 5 years (please pray for me).

Today, I thank God I survived the abortion, but the pain continues for everyone in my family. In memory of my brother Andrew, we bought a memorial gravestone and placed it in a cemetery in Southern California. It reads:

ANDREW JAMES SMITH, TWIN BROTHER OF SARAH -
- IN OUR HEARTS YOU'LL ALWAYS BE
ALIVE -- NOVEMBER 1970

I stand here alone knowing I have my brother as a precious guardian angel who is with me always, I know my life is a gift. And I wish to give it back to you, the people and to the church, as a symbol of the consuming power of God's redemption and of His life and truth. You and I as a church represent life, and together we will extend that life into a hurting and dying world. We will give them the truth of life and we shall never be silent. " --Sarah Smith



Sarah Meeting Pope John Paul II
in April 1996 in Rome.

Supporting Pregnant Women

Tragically, each year over one million unborn children never see the day of their birth. Too many women wrongly believe abortion is their only alternative. Studies have shown that for approximately three out of four women who have an abortion, the belief that they cannot afford a child was one of the key reasons. Many pregnant women, particularly young women, need better access to information and resources so they may be encouraged to choose life and have a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.

An important step toward supporting pregnant women is to help them overcome poverty. The poverty rate for people (parent, children, etc.) living in households headed by a single parent are 30%, compared to 12% of the general population in the United States. According to the U.S. Census, a woman with a college degree has a median annual income (\$42,309) double that of a woman with only a high school diploma. Access to information and resources while attending school or working, including nutrition assistance and child care, are needed to help women overcome poverty.

A lack of access to health care and health insurance are other barriers. For example, many health insurers consider pregnancy a pre-existing condition and will deny coverage for prenatal care for new enrollees. Inadequate medical care or large medical bills can push someone living just

above poverty into poverty. Women lacking prenatal care are at much higher risk of having a baby with low birth weight, developmental delays or other medical problems. Access to affordable and quality health care is essential for all pregnant women and their children.

No teenage girl should have to drop out of school because she became pregnant. No young woman should have to face the prospect of a life of poverty. No one should feel abandoned by her family and friends. And no person should ever have to suffer the pain and anguish of abortion. Pope John Paul II said that we are called to "a radical solidarity with the woman in need." Each and every woman deserves better than abortion -- the problems she faces are ours to help solve.

Resources are available; we just need to make them more visible. **Birthright** is a great resource. Some communities have homes for unwed mothers (Marshfield has the Hannah Center), and there's a website called Feminists for Life (<http://www.feministsforlife.org/index.htm>) that is dedicated to helping pregnant women avoid abortions, as well as assisting women experiencing the aftermath of abortion.



Let us keep our eyes fixed on the New Jerusalem, where death will be no more.

Prayer intentions

That the gift of justice may transform our land, making secure the lives of the poor, the vulnerable, and the unborn.

That the Church may bring about effective repentance from the sin of abortion, and the gift healing to those wounded by it.

That our Faith may lead us to the presence of Christ in the sick, the poor, the oppressed, and the unborn.

That all who preach the Word of God may proclaim clearly that He is a God of Life who calls His people to defend the gift of all life.

That Christ the King may lead all public servants to place the dignity of human life at the center of all their policies, programs, and decisions.

Prayer for Life

Father, you are the God of hope. Your word fills us with the vision of the world to come, when every tear will be wiped away, and death will be no more.

Father, how we need that hope, how we are strengthened by that vision!

Keep our hearts focused on heaven, and diligent in the labors of earth. As we struggle against the culture of death, root our souls in the assurance of victory. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Revelation 21:4-5