



Pro-Life Network Newsletter

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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.

The Manhattan Declaration: A call of Christian Conscience

Christians share a two-thousand year-old heritage of service in the name of Jesus Christ. It is vital that Christians unite and make their convictions and resolutions known. The *Manhattan Declaration* is a covenant between believers addressed to the following issues:

- bearing witness for the Truth,
- the sanctity of human life,
- the sanctity of marriage,
- religious liberty.

The earliest draft of the statement was presented at a meeting of Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, and Evangelical Protestant religious leaders in Manhattan in late September, 2009. The document became known as the Manhattan Declaration.

Despite the differences in tradition and theological issues, the original signers do not believe they were compromising their respective positions by signing the Declaration. In fact, the drafting committee was careful to achieve complete harmony of all three traditions—Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant evangelical—on the critical issues mentioned above. The declaration is rooted in Sacred Scriptures that are shared by these groups. At the initial meeting, 150 leaders of faith signed the declaration. To date over 410,000 people have already signed the Manhattan Declaration, well on the way toward the goal of one million signers.

The purpose of the declaration is simply to speak with a united voice on the most pressing moral issues of our day. It is a statement of solidarity about specific social and moral issues. Unfortunately, there are some groups who cannot

get past their differences and refuse to sign it because it is co-authored by religious leaders of a faith with which they disagree. The focus of Christian criticism should be on the secular world rather than on each other; we are foremost followers of Jesus Christ.

Cardinal Rigali of Philadelphia, Archbishop Wuerl of Washington, DC, Archbishop Dolan of New York, and Archbishop Kurtz of Louisville reached out to all Catholic bishops asking them to spread this document throughout their dioceses and encourage their clergy and faithful to study and sign it.

Archbishop Vigneron of Detroit and Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix have planned grassroots efforts to spread the word throughout their dioceses. As with any grassroots movement, the strength and energy has to come from the people. So here's what you can do.



Week 22: My grandbaby is now 22 weeks gestation and we know he is a boy! At this stage he can dream and is recognizing his mother's voice. A fine hair called lanugo covers his body. Sex organs become more obvious. He now has fingernails. Eyebrows and eyelids are now in place. He is now a little more than 10 inches long if you stretched out his legs and he weighs about 12 ounces. He 'drinks' amniotic fluid and feels pain. His mother has begun to feel his movement inside her.

- * Pray fervently. Great movements of faith have always spread on the wings of prayer.
- * Know the issues - then you can explain and defend it to your neighbors and friends.
- * Get your own church involved. Prayer meetings and Bible studies on the Declaration are being conducted in many churches across the country.

Just think what might happen in our land if one million courageous Christians declared their uncompromising allegiance to Jesus Christ and to biblical faithfulness on

some of the most urgent moral issues of our day. For more information or to sign the declaration go to: <http://www.manhattandeclaration.org/>

Archbishop Chaput: Manhattan Declaration will 'galvanize' Christians in difficult times

In an exclusive interview with Catholic News Agency (CNA), Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver has explained his reasons for signing the Manhattan Declaration. He said the Declaration should "galvanize" Christians and others in defense

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of pro-life issues, the nature of marriage and religious freedom.

"I was glad to be invited to sign the declaration, and glad to sign because I believe in its content," Archbishop Chaput told CNA. He described it as a "straightforward" statement defending the sanctity of life, religious liberty and the definition of marriage as a union of husband and wife. "In a sensible world, none of these things would be in question. But we no longer live in a sensible world," he commented.

Archbishop Chaput commented that the originators of the Declaration did not create the political environment that "forced it to be written." "The signers didn't create the declaration's urgency or its timing. Others did that for them," he told CNA.

He said the effort was provoked by those who want to "force" religion out of the public square, to "redefine" marriage and human sexuality, or to "sacrifice" women and unborn children on the "altar of a fraudulent 'right'" to abortion.

When asked about the claim by opponents that the Manhattan Declaration neglects crucial social justice issues, such as global warming, the war in Iraq, and healthcare reform, the Archbishop pointed to the "outstanding" track record of the Catholic Church in promoting social justice. In his view, the claim that the Declaration neglects such issues is "without merit" and "designed to distract." He also pointed out that the first principle of Catholic Social teaching is the respect and dignity of human life. All other principles flow from it.

Some have argued that the Declaration violates the separation of church and state because it features Christians telling the government what to do. In response, the archbishop replied: "In the United States, citizens 'tell government what to do' all the time. It's called democracy. Nothing in the U.S. Constitution bars religious communities, religious leaders or individual believers from taking a vigorous role in public debate." He added, "In fact, the American system depends on exactly the opposite: In order to survive, our democracy requires citizens to advance their beliefs energetically and without apologies in the public square."



The archbishop concluded, "Now and always, we need to trust in God; and then we also need to act. Right here, right now, in this country, the work of organizing and struggling in the public square for what we believe belongs to us. That means all of us, and each of us."

MSNBC Poll - In God We Trust

(While this is not really a pro-life issue, it does have to do with our freedoms.)

I recently received an Email inviting me to take part in a poll on the MSNBC web site asking if the words "In God we trust" should be removed from American coin and currency. Because I view forwarded emails with some skepticism, I decided to check out whether or not this was a true poll. I went to the MSNBC site and found the poll to be real...although it was related to story from 2005 and had been in place since 2008. What the original sender of the email failed to include was that atheist Michael Newdow had been seeking to remove "In God We Trust" from U.S. coins and dollar bills, claiming in a federal lawsuit filed in November 2005 that the motto is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. His suit was rejected in June, 2006.

The poll reads, "Should the motto 'In God We Trust' be removed from US currency?" Your choices are "Yes. It's a violation of the principle of separation of church and state." Or, "No. The motto has historical and patriotic significance and does nothing to establish a state religion. Since August, 2008 nearly ten million people have taken the poll, which shows that 89% are in favor of keeping the motto. You can still find the poll at

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10103521/>.

A similar lawsuit was filed by Carlos Kidd against President Obama and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve. That lawsuit was also rejected in November 2009.

Planned Parenthood Exposed for Unethical and Illegal Activity

Many Americans believe that Planned Parenthood performs beneficial and necessary services in their communities. Recent exposures of not only alarming, but in fact illegal and unethical, practices are now alerting people to the realities of this organization.

Most Americans would be shocked to know their tax dollars subsidize the abortion industry via Planned Parenthood to the tune of \$300 million a year, totaling almost \$4 billion since 1987. We are

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contributing more than one-third of Planned Parenthood's income. Do you wonder, as I do, why is the nation's biggest chain of abortion clinics receiving taxpayer subsidies at all?

For Planned Parenthood, the abortion industry is a very lucrative business. A staggering 264,943 abortions were performed in their clinics in 2005-06, bringing an income of \$345 million. It seems contradictory that while the national abortion rate is declining, Planned Parenthood is performing more abortions than ever.

Planned Parenthood has recently come under criminal investigation due to charges of unethical practices. They have also been caught violating state abortion laws. One Planned Parenthood affiliate in Kansas is facing over 100 criminal charges after allegedly performing illegal late-term abortions. Other charges include failing to report child abuse, failing to comply with parental consent requirements, and failing to enforce the 24-hour waiting period.

Live Action, an undercover pro-life investigative group revealed deliberate failure by Planned Parenthood to report suspected sexual abuse. Lila Rose (Live Action president) called various abortion clinics, posing as a 13 year-old girl with a 22 year old boyfriend, trying to obtain an abortion. Clinic staff repeatedly warned the underage girl not to reveal her true age or the age of her boyfriend. This violates laws in every state that mandate healthcare workers to report suspected sex crimes against underage teens.

Live Action has been responsible for uncovering many other illegal practices of Planned Parenthood employees. Undercover footage from an Appleton (WI) Planned Parenthood abortion clinic shows clinic staff, including the abortion doctor, lying to two young women about fetal development and encouraging the one who is pregnant to obtain an abortion because "women die having babies."

In the video, when the two women ask a Planned Parenthood counselor if the pregnant woman's 10-week-old unborn child has a heartbeat, the counselor corrects saying, "heart **tones**," (emphasizing 'tones' rather than 'beat') and replies, "Heart **beat** is when the fetus is active in the uterus--can survive--which is about seventeen or eighteen weeks." That statement is contrary to

embryologists, who agree that the heartbeat begins around 3 weeks. Wisconsin informed consent law requires that women receive medically accurate information before undergoing an abortion. The counselor goes on to say, "A fetus is what's in the uterus right now. That is not a baby." The abortion provider also insists, "It's not a baby at this stage or anything like that"; and also states that having an abortion will be "much safer than having a baby." The doctor then goes on to say, "You know, women die having babies."

Kathy Banaszak of Waukesha, after viewing the video, had an opinion paper published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, entitled "Women have a right to the truth on abortion." To read the article, go to <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/79561242.html>. To view the Live Action video, go to <http://liveaction.org/>.

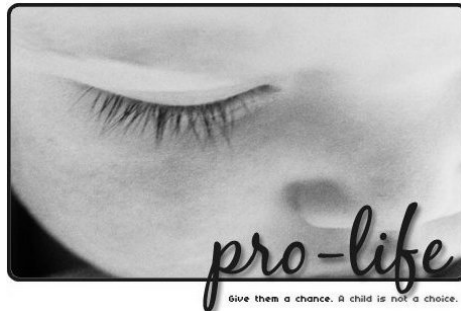
Kentucky Bishop on Denying Pelosi Communion: "We've Been Patient Enough"

After the January 22 Vigil for Life Mass, Lexington KY Bishop Ronald Gainer, in an interview with LifeSiteNews (LSN) said that the Church has been "patient enough" with outspokenly pro-abortion House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Bishop Gainer was questioned by LSN regarding

whether Pelosi should be denied communion due to her very public stance as a 'pro-choice' Catholic. Bishop Gainer acknowledged that the decision was up to her local bishop, but in his opinion "something should be done."

In a December interview with Newsweek magazine, Pelosi had this to say, "I am a practicing Catholic. I practically mourn this difference of opinion," she said regarding her conflict with the Church over abortion, "because I feel what I was raised to believe is consistent with what I profess, and that is that we are all endowed with, a free will and a responsibility to answer for our actions." She added: "And women should have that opportunity to exercise their free will."

Responding to Pelosi's comments, Bishop Gainer said, "to make these public statements is a betrayal of our Catholic faith and discipline." The bishop noted that her position was a "contradiction" and stressed that "our Church is clear on what the



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teachings are regarding the sanctity of life, on the inviolability of human life."

Bishop Gainer said he understood that the action of denying communion to someone like Pelosi often causes the secular media to vilify the Church, while making a martyr of the one to whom communion was denied, as they were being denied an 'unalienable' right. He, nevertheless, believes that "the bishops have an obligation to stand up for the Church's teaching and when we have such a broad and public consistent denial of our Church's moral position it would seem to indicate that we've been patient enough and something should be done."

Bishop Gainer expressed gratitude that it is not a decision he has to make. "I'm grateful that I'm in Kentucky where certainly our national senators have been very pro-life – we're blessed," he added.

Pelosi's bishop, Archbishop George Niederauer of San Francisco, did correct Pelosi by issuing the following public statement after her Newsweek interview. "Embodied in her [Pelosi's] statements are some fundamental misconceptions about Catholic teaching on human freedom. Sadly these misconceptions are widespread both within the Catholic community and beyond. Human freedom does not legitimate bad moral choices, nor does it justify a stance that all moral choices are good if they are free: 'The exercise of freedom does not imply a right to say or do everything'" [citing the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.] It is entirely incompatible with Catholic teaching to conclude that our freedom of will justifies choices that are radically contrary to the Gospel — racism, infidelity, abortion, theft. Freedom of will is the capacity to act with moral responsibility; it is not the ability to determine arbitrarily what constitutes moral right. While we deeply respect the freedom of our fellow citizens, we nevertheless are profoundly convinced that free will cannot be cited as justification for society to allow moral choices that strike at the most fundamental rights of others. Such a choice is abortion, which constitutes the taking of innocent human life, and cannot be justified by any Catholic notion of freedom."



March for Life Sees Pro-Life Americans Flood Nation's Capital to Oppose Abortion

Americans of all ages and races flooded the nation's capital for the annual March for Life to express their opposition to the destruction of more

than 52 million unborn children. They carried signs ranging from "Defend Life" to "Abortion is Not Health Care" to "Stop Abortion Now."

Congressman Chris Smith, as co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus has long been regarded as the nation's top pro-life advocate on Capitol Hill. He had the following to say at the opening of the March:

"For all of us, all human life is precious and sacred and in urgent need of protection. We welcome and deeply respect everyone including the weak, the vulnerable and the disenfranchised.

"We especially admire and honor the extraordinarily courageous post-abortive women who are silent no more. Their voice and witness show the path to reconciliation for all women who have been first deceived, then victimized by abortion."

In his speech, Smith called Obama "the abortion president" and addressed this comment to him; "Abortion is a serious human rights abuse, Mr President," he said.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, the head of the Catholic bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities spoke on behalf of his fellow pro-life bishops.

"Unfortunately, in our culture we have grown into the chains that bind us and hold us fast in a grip of deadly attitudes about human life, about the human person, especially in the moments of his or her beautiful but fragile beginnings and in those vulnerable times of old age and illness."

Marjorie Dannenfelser, the head of the Susan B. Anthony List, a pro-life women's group, called this year's March for Life "an impressive and visible sign of a quiet populist reality"

where more than 300,000 people are estimated to have attended.

"The numbers marching today are spillover of a movement growing exponentially that has just achieved what no other issue base can claim – helping to bring down the President's top domestic priority. The people marching today from every nook and cranny of the nation represent millions more who find 'pro-choice' rhetoric empty of meaning and abortion-friendly policies a violation of their conscience," she said.

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Tim Tebow Defends Pro-Life Super Bowl Ad

Despite vehement criticism by the National Organization for Women (NOW), Florida Gators football superstar Tim Tebow is standing behind a pro-life ad, called "Celebrate Family, Celebrate Life" developed by Focus on the Family and set to air on CBS on Super Bowl Sunday. Although the ad has not yet been released, pro-abortion groups are already demanding that it be pulled, because it features the story of how Tebow's mother chose life, despite doctors urging her to abort her now-famous son.

If you haven't already heard the story - in 1987, Tebow's mother Pam contracted amoebic dysentery while pregnant with him in the Philippines (the Tebow's were missionaries there). Doctors recommended abortion, telling her that since she already had four healthy children there was no reason to take this risk. Pam made the choice to continue the pregnancy. Had she taken the doctor's advice, fans would never have seen the football star, who won the Heisman Trophy as a freshman in 2007 and carried the Gators to two major championships.

At a recent press conference in Mobile, Alabama, Tebow had this to say to the reporters: "I know some people won't agree with [the ad], but I think they can at least respect that I stand up for what I believe, and I'm never shy about that. I don't feel like I'm very preachy about it, but I do stand up for what I believe. Unfortunately in today's society not many athletes tend to do that. So I'm just standing for something."

But Pam and Tim's stance on pro-life values has outraged pro-abortion advocates, who are afraid of how the Focus on the Family ad will affect the millions of people viewing the Super Bowl. NOW and its affiliate organizations are condemning the Super Bowl advertisement, calling it an offensive "anti-choice" ad.

Isn't that ironic? The organization that claims to support women's "choice" is trying to shut down the choice of love: the choice for life. So what could be the consequence of this ad that NOW is so afraid of? If Americans hear this message, will they choose to make sacrifices in order to have a child and bring a new life in to the world? Is that a bad thing? According to NOW, it must be.

These groups claim they are "for" women, yet they don't really want women to have a "choice." They only want women to "choose" abortion. They don't care that abortion has been shown to be destructive to women, both physically and psychologically. They don't want women to know that there are alternatives to abortion. They want to cling to the old feminist mantra that women somehow "need" abortion.

Here's the criticism of the ad by Jehmu Greene, president of the Women's Media Center (a NOW affiliate): "An ad that uses sports to divide rather than to unite has no place in the biggest national sports event of the year -- an event designed to bring Americans together." **Really?** Sporting events are designed to bring people together? Hmmm?

One pro-life group says that NOW's obsession with the content of the Tebow ad (which, to date, has not

actually been seen) has nothing to do with defending women's rights and dignity.

"In the three and a half years that I advised FCC Chairman Kevin Martin on indecency issues, I can't recall one time that NOW ever spoke out about the sexually graphic or misogynistic content on CBS," Penny Nance, CEO for Concerned Women for America told LifeSiteNews. "I find it laughable that NOW has a problem with Tim Tebow sharing his own story. If NOW really cared about women, they would stop flacking for the abortion industry and start working on behalf of women."

Focus on the Family doesn't understand the controversy over the ad. "There's nothing political and controversial about it," said a spokesman for Focus on the Family. "When ... you sit down to watch the game on TV, those who oppose it will be quite surprised at what the ad is all about."

CBS has already reviewed and approved the ad's script and has given no indication of pulling it from the air. Let's hope they stand strong.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List, says, "As a mother of five, I can only say I'd much rather have my children watch the Tebow story than the hundreds of other things they might see during the Super Bowl. Somehow I think the majority of American sports fans, women and men alike, will be able to appreciate the blessings of life expressed by the Tebow family. If this beautiful story of family unity, sacrifice and triumph is too harsh on the eyes and ears for so-called women's groups, I have two words of advice: mute button."



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Ten Reasons I want an Abortion

5. My mother is pressuring me to have an abortion.

Some parents suggest abortion because a pregnancy will impact their own lives in negative ways. Most really do put their children first, wanting what is best for them. Your mother may sincerely desire to take away your pain. She may believe the lie that abortion is an easy way out. Your mom may feel she had her own child too young, or at the cost of her own education. She may not wish the same to happen to you. She may have had an abortion herself and see it as the answer. But what your mother may not realize is that 94% of women who have had an abortion regret their decision¹. If she knew the facts about the potential physical and emotional consequences for the daughter she loves, your mother might instead choose to support you in the pregnancy. Chances are, your mother is glad she did not abort you.

6. Getting pregnant was an accident. I just want to make it go away so no one knows.

Many people can relate to the feeling of desperately wanting to turn back time, but there just is no way to reverse a pregnancy. Once conception has occurred, there is a baby who needs to come out – either in pieces from an abortion or whole and alive through a birth. A normal pregnancy lasts only 40 weeks, a relatively short amount of time in the whole of your life. Carrying your baby to term and then placing the baby for adoption could make what you now consider "an accident," a huge blessing for others. Choosing abortion over adoption because you know you would naturally become attached to your baby throughout the pregnancy means that you recognize there will be pain at separation. That pain will lessen over time and be eased by knowing you made the unselfish choice to offer your baby a wonderful life. If you fear your baby won't be brought up in a loving adoptive home, try to imagine what could be less loving than ending his or her life. {see upcoming issues for more 'reasons'.}

Another Roe Anniversary - Another One Million Lives Lost -

Friday, January 22, 2010

Madison, WI (LifeNews.com) "For 37 years, half a lifetime, our great country has participated in the destruction of over 51 million human lives with the full sanction of our courts and our government," lamented Barbara Lyons, Executive Director of Wisconsin Right to Life. "It is too painful to contemplate the immeasurable hurt experienced by individuals and society as a whole caused by the unbridled killing of unborn children through abortion. Wisconsin Right to Life longs for the day when Americans recognize the enormity of what we are doing and



Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Life Within

*O Mary, Mother of the Life Within,
all life we entrust to you;
The life of every expectant mother
and the child within her womb:
The life of every human body, the
life of every human soul;
The life of every newborn child and
the life of all grown old.
You held the Lord to your own
heart and drew Him so close in.
So draw us now in all our needs,
O Mother of the Life Within.
Amen.*

cry out in a singular massive voice -- no more, no more."

Mark Your Calendars...

Everyone Deserves a BIRTH-DAY! Come and celebrate LIFE at the **Wisconsin Right to Life and Teens 4 Life State Convention , Saturday April 17, 2010** at the new Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center in Stevens Point, at Highways 51 and 10.

Speakers:

- o **Angela Franks**, Author of "*Margaret Sanger's Eugenic Legacy: The Control of Female Fertility*"
- o **Karen Cross**, Political Director at National Right to Life
- o **Alex Schadenberg**, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
- o **Melissa Ohden**, Abortion Survivor
- o **Special college, teen and tween sessions featuring Mike Spielman from ABORT73.COM**

Go to www.wrtl.org for full details

Prayer intentions

That the leaders and members of the Church may fulfill with joy their calling to proclaim, celebrate, and serve the Gospel of Life.

That children still on their way to birth may be welcomed and protected rather than feared and rejected.

For all mothers and fathers of aborted children, that they may find the road to healing and peace.
