

NKRTL

VOL. 33, No. 2
1822 MADISON AVE., P.O. BOX 1202, COVINGTON, KY 41012
WEB PAGE ADDRESS: WWW.NKYRTL.ORG

APRIL 2004
(859) 431-6380
EMAIL ADDRESS: POSTMASTER@NKYRTL.ORG

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE JOINS PRO-ABORT GROUPS TO KILL TOTAL ABORTION BAN IN SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

“National Right to Life Committee has lost the moral authority to lead the pro-life cause,” stated Richard Thompson, President and Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Law Center of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Thompson’s organization had helped to draft a bill that would virtually ban all abortions in the state, and constitute a direct challenge to the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*. The bill passed the South Dakota House of Representatives 54 to 14, but was thwarted by **State Senator Jay Dunwald**, an officer in both the state and national right to life organizations, who led behind-the-scenes opposition, in conjunction with pro-abortion senators.

Shock and sadness was expressed by **Leslee Unruh**, a member of right to life for 25 years and director of South Dakota Alpha Health Center, whose husband helped start local right to life chapters throughout the state.

Serious Pro-Lifers remember an identical episode a few years ago in Louisiana when National Right to Life tipped the scale against a “total ban” bill that was well positioned to pass the Louisiana state legislature, making the same “prudence” and “timing” false arguments. That stellar and uncompromising Pro-Life leader, law professor **Charles Rice**, has described in detail the incredible debacle that occurred in the Louisiana legislature, as the betrayal there was led by National Right to Life Committee.

Professor Rice further noted that the Pro-Life movement has sadly degenerated into a debate not over the question as to *whether* we should kill babies, but *how* we should kill them.

The answer, as in most moral issues, is simple, but not easy — no compromise, **NO COMPROMISE, NO COMPROMISE!**

National Right to Life Committee has long since discredited itself. Its principles are indefensible, and its strategy a failure.

If you like what you’re getting, continue the same policies!

The issue will be won when enough state and local right to life organizations abandon the failed and immoral policies of NRLC and join **American Life League (P.O. Box 1350, Stafford, VA 22555-9986, phone 1-888-546-2580, fax 540-659-2586, website www.all.org)**, whose strategy is identical to its moral values: no exceptions, no compromise, no apologies!

“EUTHANASIA BY OMISSION” - THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOOD AND WATER

Cutting through all of the chaff of moral and medical obfuscation, **Pope John Paul II** last month in an address to the **World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations and the Pontifical Academy for Life** said that removing the feeding tube of a disabled patient is immoral and amounts to “**euthanasia by omission**”: “**I want to emphasize that the administration of food and water...always represents a natural means of preservation of life, not a medical treatment.**” The Pope stated that providing food and water to such patients is “**morally obligatory,**” and that removing the feeding tube of a disabled person is “**a serious violation of the law of God.**”

He condemned the euphemistic degradation of human beings by such phrases as “vegetative state”: “A man, even if seriously sick or prevented in the exercise of his higher functions, is and will always be a man. ...He will never become a ‘vegetable’ or an ‘animal’. ...The intrinsic value and personal dignity of every human being does not change depending on their circumstances.”

Various state conferences of Catholic bishops in the United States have had varying positions and statements on this issue. The best presentation has been that of the bishops of Pennsylvania (1992), with similar positions held by the bishops of New

In this issue...

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE JOINS PRO-ABORT GROUPS TO KILL TOTAL ABORTION BAN IN SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE	1
“EUTHANASIA BY OMISSION” - THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOOD AND WATER	1
WHEN IS A “PERSON” NOT A “PERSON”?	2
“TOLERANCE” - “LIBERAL” STYLE	3
NKRTL-PAC ENDORSEMENTS	4
MEDICAL TRUTH ABOUT PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION EXPOSED IN COURT	9
THE ROAD TO EASTER SUNDAY MUST PASS THROUGH GOOD FRIDAY	12

See NKRTL-PAC endorsements, *Infra*

York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Florida. The Kentucky Catholic Conference of Bishops needs to look at this matter more carefully.

Unfortunately, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops has been dramatically silent in the fight there to stop the killing of the comatose patient, **Terri Schiavo**, by her husband (who is separated from her and is her financial beneficiary) in his effort to withdraw her food and water, even though she is not dying, and even though her parents are willing to take over her care, and her financial responsibility, and release all of her (substantial) assets to the husband, who is currently living with another woman and has fathered two children in that relationship.

Local "Cafeteria Catholicism"

Reaction of local "cafeteria Catholics" (i.e., those who pick and choose which teachings of the Church they will honor) was swift and predictably dissident.

In spite of the precise and unambiguous statements of the Pope that furnishing food and water to all patients is "morally obligatory," and that removing the feeding tube of a disabled person is "a serious violation of the law of God," and constitutes "euthanasia by omission," and that food and water "always represent a natural means of preservation of life, not a medical treatment," the article in the April 3 issue of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* wondered aloud if "the Pope's declaration is merely a guide or meant to be a policy for all Catholic healthcare providers?" One wonders which words in the Pope's simple and direct pronouncement they failed to understand — "no," "never," "serious violation of the law of God" — "moral obligation"?

More incredibly, a priest/physician who teaches bioethics at **Xavier University** said that he interpreted the Pope's comments as only "a guide" for Catholic hospitals. But we must remember that that is the same university faculty that includes several members in their Theology Department (including the chairman) who state that Jesus didn't really physically rise from the dead, and that He didn't really say all of those things that are attributed to Him in the New Testament! So much for Xavier University as a "Catholic" institution!

Sadly, Catholic Healthcare Partners, which includes the two St. Elizabeth Hospitals in Northern Kentucky as well as the five Mercy Hospitals in Cincinnati, responded that it continues to honor living wills and durable powers of attorney. In the past, many of those "living wills" were the "designer death formulas," taken directly from the statute, which provide for the removal of food and water, even if the patient is not in the dying process — which of course is specifically contrary to the Pope's teaching. In fact, seminars have been held at St. Elizabeth Hospital over the past several years, by diocesan officials, approving such documents.

The article went on to say that "the nine Catholic hospitals in Greater Cincinnati say they will continue to honor end-of-life directives unless otherwise told." Of course they have just been "otherwise told" by the head of the Roman Catholic Church, the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth, Pope John Paul II. Hopefully, the local bishops will also


weigh in to direct enforcement of these rather unequivocal moral teachings of the Pope.

The Pope's declaration of food and water as "basic care," and "not a medical act," and characterizing removing of feeding tubes as "euthanasia by omission," is "at odds with the way medicine is practiced in the United States, even among Catholic physicians, said Arthur Caplan, Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Bioethics and a leading author on the subject."

Isn't there an interesting result if we simply paraphrase a few words in that released statement by Mr. Caplan: "The condemnation of medical experimentation upon live Jewish prisoners is at odds with the way medicine is practiced in Nazi Germany, even among religious physician, said Dr. Joseph Mengele, Director of the Third Reich's Center on Experimentation and a leading author on the subject." ???

Dr. Mengele, your office is calling!

WHEN IS A "PERSON" NOT A "PERSON"?

 n March 25, 2004 (the Feast of the Unborn Child, i.e., the Feast of the Annunciation to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel and her acceptance of the will of God, and thus the incarnation in her womb of the Christ child), the U.S. Senate passed the **Unborn Victims of Violence Act**, following its passage the previous month in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill states that an assailant who attacks a pregnant woman while committing a violent federal crime can be prosecuted for separate offenses against both the woman and the unborn child, "a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb."

President George W. Bush issued a statement praising this legislation: "Pregnant women who have been harmed by violence, and their families, know that there are two victims - the mother and the unborn child - and both victims should be protected by federal law. I look forward to signing this important legislation into law."

Pro-aborts presented a scam amendment that would have increased penalties on assailants but maintain that an attack on a pregnant victim was a single-victim crime, in their effort to avoid the exposure of the patent hypocrisy of *Roe v. Wade*, which of course holds that the unborn child is not a person for purposes of constitutional protection of the right to life against the predation of his mother, but now is a "person" protected against the predation of other parties. Huh?

"This would be the first time in federal law that an embryo or fetus is recognized as a separate and distinct person under the law, separate from the woman," said **National Abortion Rights Action League President Kate Michelman**. This of course is a lie, consistent with the lie upon which the entire abortion movement is founded. Years before *Roe v. Wade*, federal law recognized the unborn child as a person, for purposes of receiving Social Security

benefits even though the father upon whom the benefits were based died before the child was born. Likewise, in 1946 a U.S. district court in Washington, DC upheld the personhood of the unborn child for purposes of prenatal injury lawsuit, establishing a cause of action for the unborn child (not the mother). That principle was followed by Kentucky's highest court in 1955, and is now the majority rule by judicial decision throughout the United States. It was the retrogressive *Roe v. Wade* decision which "depersonalized" the unborn child, and then solely for the purpose of establishing the right of the woman to kill it. All of the other rights of the unborn child have proceeded and continued to be acknowledged, in this legal schizophrenia that currently masquerades as constitutional law.

Particularly relevant is the statement of **American Life League** regarding the passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act: "It is encouraging that 61 members of the U.S. Senate are willing to publicly state that a pre-born baby is a human being endowed by our Creator with the same inalienable rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution as every other American...it is the duty of these same 61 senators to now take the appropriate steps to protect the civil right to life of all pre-born children by pursuing the passage of a Human Life Amendment to our Constitution."

Similar Kentucky Legislation

A similar law, which had been advocated and lobbied by Northern Kentucky Right to Life Committee for many years, was passed in the just-concluded session of the Kentucky General Assembly, and signed by **Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher**. The same strategic "gamesmanship" was practiced in the Kentucky legislature by the pro-aborts, led largely by the Democrats in the House of Representatives, attempting to finesse the issue of "personhood" by amendments agreeing to increase penalties for the two deaths, but the bill ultimately passed, establishing the personhood of the unborn child from conception onward.

"TOLERANCE" - "LIBERAL" STYLE

For those who had any doubts, it is now crystal clear that "pro-choice" means the right to choose the choice chosen for us by pro-choicers!

The California Supreme Court last month ruled, 6 to 1, that a Roman Catholic charity must include birth control coverage (including of course the abortifacient chemicals) in its health care plan for workers even though it is morally opposed to such procedures.

Does anyone remember the Protestant clergyman **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** who described his reaction to the Nazi oppression which began in Germany almost 70 years ago?

He said that the Nazis first came for the Communists, and he was not a Communist, and so he said nothing. And then they came for the Jews, and he was not a Jew, and so he said nothing. And then they came for the trade unionists, and he was not a trade unionist, and so he said nothing.

And then they came for the Catholics, and he was not a Catholic, and so he said nothing. And when they came for him, there was no one left to stand up!

"It's later than you think" cartoon/graphic

If the Catholic Church can be forced to cover contraception (including abortifacient chemicals) for its workers, then it can be forced to pay for abortions and even homosexual relationships. And next will be the evangelical Protestant churches and other faith-based organizations.

While we continue to fight such oppressive judicial decisions, we need to explore Christian options. Our readers are recommended to contact Christian medical coverage through **Christus Medicus Foundation**, 3707 West Maple, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, (248) 594-8664 (office), 1-888-246-2107 (toll free), (248) 594-8663 (fax), mikeodea@christusmedicus.com (website).

"You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked man that he shall surely die, and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked man from his way, he [the wicked man] shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked man, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself." **Ezekiel 33:8**

MEDICAL TRUTH ABOUT PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION EXPOSED IN COURT

THE ROAD TO EASTER SUNDAY MUST PASS THROUGH GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday



When the Son of Man comes in His glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, He will sit upon His royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before Him. Then He will separate them into two groups, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep He will place in His right hand, the goats on His left. ...Then He will say to those on His left: 'Out of my sight, you condemned, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels!' ...Then they in turn will ask: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs?' He will answer them: 'I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me.' These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life." Matthew 26:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, He will sit upon His royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before Him. Then He will separate them into two groups, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep He will place in His right hand, the goats on His left. ...Then He will say to those on His left: 'Out of my sight, you condemned, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels!' ...Then they in turn will ask: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs?' He will answer them: 'I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me.' These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life." Matthew 26:31-46

Glorified Christ graphic

(Photography from the movie *The Passion of the Christ*, by Mel Gibson)

Easter Sunday