

NKRTL

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CHRISTMAS, 2004

The Volunteers of Northern Kentucky Right to Life wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with God's blessings.

God gave us His only Son — Jesus — over 2,000 years ago when He was born in a stable in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary and her spouse Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. Joseph and Mary were the first to adore the newborn Infant. Then came the humble shepherds, called down from the hills by angelic voices. Soon after, a caravan of illustrious men came, led from afar by a star. They offered the precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What a beautiful example for us are all of these holy people!

Our world is in such turmoil right now — we so much NEED to get back to God. God made all of us and we need to thank Him at the beginning of each day as a continuous daylong prayer.

As 2003 draws to a close, we wish to thank all who have faithfully supported us in a variety of ways this past year — those many parish volunteers who collect the signatures for the March for Life newspaper ad, sell Christmas cards and the Mother's Day roses, etc., and those fantastic, dedicated volunteers who keep the office running and do a thousand other jobs without which the organization simply could not exist: **Cathy Smith & her son Ed, Ralph and Joan Arnsparger, Grace Dillon, Dorothy Grothaus, Ruth Higdon, Jim Johnson, Jack Kenkel, Mark Kloeker, Jim O'Neil, Lou Poole, Rob & Paul Rohling, Kathy Ryan, Omer & Marian Scharold, plus all those who come in to work on the newsletter. YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

Many hands make light work. Behind the scenes, much work is done by our **President Bob Cetrulo, Vice President Fred Summe, Treasurer Bob Hofacre, Secretary Kathy Murphy, Corresponding Secretary Marge Huth, and Board Members Ralph Arnsparger, Stan Barczak, Dr. Art Kunath, Marian Scharold, and Tony Summe.**

Since we are run by volunteers, we can always use your help. Just call and say "I can help," and we will be glad to add you to our roster!

Give a Gift of Life

Fill out your Christmas gift list with a gift of life -- a gift that will be of incalculable value to the receiver, the giver, and the unborn babies. Office hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or by special appointment by calling **431-6380**.

In addition to Christmas cards, there are all occasion cards and thank you cards in packs of 10 (\$4 each picked up at the office or \$5 each mailed to your home), bumper stickers (both magnetic and stick-on), precious feet and hands, buttons, license plates, static cling for the windows, and a variety of Pro-Life books and tapes and materials, inspirational and teaching.

(Original Art by Ree Lester)

*May the memory of the
Christmas Rose,
which symbolizes Christ's
birth, remain with you
throughout the year,
bringing you peace and love.
-- Vera Stewart*

In addition, we now have available the marvelous inspirational and teaching book just completed by our President Robert C. Cetrulo, *That Reminds Me of a Story...Reflections of a Pro-Life Warrior* — an enthralling account of 32 years of Pro-Life activism, presenting an accurate snapshot of life at the end of the 20th century, and including a treasure trove of citations, references, and documents.

An extra "Christmas gift" donation would be extremely helpful right now to cover the costs of a new office copier and fax machine, and needed file cabinets. A complimentary inscribed copy of Mr. Cetrulo's book will be sent to anyone who donates \$50.00 or more to NKRTL Educational Fund, Inc., a charitable corporation and therefore a tax deduction. (Continued on Page 2)

The Foreword to Mr. Cetrulo's book, written by **Fr. Roger K. Arnsparger**, reads in part: *"The book is a partial record of his personal and extensive pro-life apostolate. It has been my privilege to know and work with the author during much of his apostolate in the pro-life movement. I have rarely met anyone with the organizational skills and factual mental recall of this author. His storytelling ability is famous in his often stated: 'That reminds me of a story.' You will find the stories of great advantage to seeing the flawless logic and principles conclusions which the author exposes for the reader. It is this expression of truth which is the core value of the book and the strongest weapon of the pro-life movement. We are all grateful for his contribution of this book."*

"I don't know how the Lord chooses His prophets. I only know that Bob Cetrulo is one of them.", writes author **Fr. John Powell, S.J.**

As pointed out by **Judie Brown, President of American Life League**, this book is *"a must read for every caring American..."*

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP -- NKRTL OFFICE, 1822 MADISON AVE., COVINGTON, KY

Halloween/All Saints Window Decoration: "Abortion Can Haunt Forever. Abortion is a Trick - Babies are a Treat." (Empty cradle and empty rocker)

KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT APPROVES KILLING THE INCOMPETENT

In a shocking opinion rendered on August 26 (in a case that was argued before the Court three and a half years earlier, on January 19, 2001), five of the justices of the **Kentucky Supreme Court** decided: (1) that comatose people are better off dead; (2) that someone else can make that decision for you; and (3) that food and water constitute "medical care"!

Right to die...or right to kill? Graphic

Background

The pro-death community began its "wedge" movement into euthanasia with the concept of "death with dignity." Then it urged self-determination in advance with "living wills," which were really "designed death" formulas under which the individual was induced to believe that he will be kept alive, at all costs, forever, by every artificial means possible, at great expense and suffering, and that he should therefore declare in advance that he does not wish to be furnished "extraordinary care".

After living wills were approved by statute in Kentucky some years ago, the pro-death community was back two years later (as had been predicted by Pro-Lifers) to amend the statute to authorize the withdrawal of food and water.

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(Window design by NKRTL office volunteer Joan Arnsparger)

Now food and water could be withdrawn: (1) from a patient

who is not even dying, but is just unconscious; and (2) that that decision can be made by a person other than the patient.

Based on this, Pro-Lifers began to conclude the necessity for Pro-Life living wills, called by **Pro-Life Law Professor Charles Rice at Notre Dame University** as “please don’t kill me wills,” spelling out life protections, including the fact that food and water shall not be withdrawn (thereby becoming the cause of death), and that the patient should be given all medical care appropriate to his condition (see **Robert C. Cetrulo’s** book, *That Reminds Me of a Story...Reflections of a Pro-Life Warrior*, Chapter 6, “Euthanasia: Hell’s Last Sacrament,” and the Pro-Life living will documents contained in the Appendix to the book).

The Kentucky Supreme Court has now tragically taken the horrendous, but logically predictable, next step down into this culture of death, initiated and made inescapable by the tragic abortion decision of the **U.S. Supreme Court** in *Roe v. Wade* (1973) which established the devastating standard for protection of life only if it is “meaningful.”

Current Assault on Life

The most recent victim of legalized killing is **Matthew Woods**, a 63-year-old black man who had been retarded since birth, had the intellectual capacity of an 8 to 10 year old child according to the medical evidence, and had been adjudicated many years earlier as incompetent.

The majority of the Kentucky Supreme Court then disingenuously ignored those uncontradicted facts. The Court concluded that Matthew was covered by the Kentucky Living Will Statute (even though he was incontestably incompetent to execute such a document by earlier judicial determination) and that therefore his guardian (in this instance the State of Kentucky) could make the decision to terminate not only medical treatment, but also food and water, after he had sustained cardiopulmonary arrest during a severe asthma attack.

Morally Obligatory Human Care

Even more startling was the fact that the Court, with no competent medical authority, ipsidixit equated food and water with “medical care” — even though it is obviously human care, not medical care.

Woods was not in the dying process, nor suffering pain, nor had he ever executed a document indicating a wish for the termination of any kind of medical care. Less than a month after he suffered his heart attack, his Guardian, the State of Kentucky, sought to terminate his medical care and life-sustaining food and water.

Pope John Paul

Pope John Paul II, in his March 20, 2004 Address on Life-Sustaining Treatments, reiterated the clear teaching of the Catholic Church on this point: “...the administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a *natural means* of preserving life, not a *medical act*. Its use, furthermore, should be considered, in principle, *ordinary and proportionate*, and as such morally obligatory...” (Emphasis supplied by the Pope)

A persuasive and courageous defense of the proper Pro-Life position was set forth in the Dissenting Opinion by **Justice Donald Wintersheimer** of Covington, Kentucky:

“It is deeply disappointing that this Court would decide to allow an agency of this State to end the life of a totally innocent ward of that very same State. It is even more shameful to realize that this State would seek to terminate the innocent human life of a person entrusted to its care and protection. Equally disturbing is the role of the hospital [St. Joseph Hospital of Lexington, Kentucky] and the ethics committee charged with the care and comfort of the patient inactively participating in this deplorable situation.”

Justice Wintersheimer went on to point out that a decision of this very court 11 years earlier had indicated that the patient’s constitutional right to life could not be abrogated by someone else making a “substituted judgment” for the so-called best interests of an unconscious patient (many of whom of course do in fact recover). The arguments of Justice Wintersheimer, as well as those made in a Friend of the Court Brief filed by attorney **Robert C. Cetrulo** on behalf of Northern Kentucky Right to Life Committee, failed to influence the majority of the judges.

Mixed Catholic Response

Incredibly, this decision of the Kentucky Supreme Court was praised in an editorial in the September 17, 2004 issue of *The Messenger*, the official newspaper of the **Catholic Diocese of Covington**, which pointed out also that “the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, public policy arm of the state’s bishops, welcomed the court’s ruling.”

Simultaneously, the **World Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations**, at their recent meeting in Rome, condemned the decision.

“If the trumpet give forth an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?” I Corinthians 14:8.

Tragic But Unavoidable Conclusions

Any intelligent reading of this decision leads to the following inescapable conclusions:

• For all of its pious platitudes, wherein the Court denies that it is authorizing euthanasia, one must look back at the *DeGrella* decision which made the same

assertion, and rejected the subjective “substituted judgment” test which has now been adopted by the successor Court, as the next step down this slippery slope. One must also compare the concurring pro-abortion Opinion by **Chief Justice Warren Burger** in the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* when he attempted, Pontius Pilate like, to wash the innocent blood from his hands by asserting: “Plainly, today the court does not approve abortion on demand.” Forty-five million body count later, we know that Justice Burger was naive at best or deceptive at worst.

☛The Court has held that people who are unconscious are better off dead.

☛The Court has incredibly ruled that a guardian, who is appointed to look after the best interests of a patient who is his ward, can authorize the killing of the ward, by starvation and dehydration.

☛Those who hold Judeo-Christian principles have suffered a major defeat in these ongoing truly titanic life-and-death struggles – not just for old or sick people, or for unborn children or their parents, or physicians – but for the very survival of any society that wishes to claim the title “civilized.”

The next time you decide to take a nap in a hospital, you should tie a tag to your toe indicating “I am neither comatose, nor a heart donor, but simply napping!”

We all need to recall the prophetic words of **Mahatma Gandhi** who said in his defense of the principle that the end does not justify the means: “The means are the end in the making”!

We must pray that at least the Church teach with uniformity these authentic Christian principles.

In the meantime, you had better draft and execute a Pro-Life living will, guaranteeing to yourself all appropriate medical care, including specifically that food and water not be withdrawn and thereby become the cause of your death (which is medically documented as an extravagantly painful and lengthy way to die).

JAN. 22: 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC LEGALIZATION OF THE U.S. HOLOCAUST OF ABORTION

Thirty-one years later, and after a body count in excess of 45 million surgical abortions -- 4,000 a day, 3 a minute, 1 every 20 seconds, and an even much greater death toll attributable to the increasing popularity and push for chemical abortions -- Pro-Lifers continue faithfully to remind our fellow citizens of the necessity to reverse this morally-bankrupt and

socially-tragic institution of the killing of the most innocent member of the human family.

We know the outcome — we have read the last chapter of the Book — we win! Pro-Life victory is guaranteed. The only question is the time frame.

But in the meantime, **it is our solemn duty to remain faithful, and to give active and public witness to the truth.**

Local and National Observation

As many as possible are encouraged to attend the faith-filled and battery-charging **March for Life in Washington, D.C.**, conducted now faithfully these 30 years by **Nellie Gray’s March for Life Committee**, on the anniversary of this tragic Supreme Court decision, **Jan. 21 -- this year the March will be on Monday, the 24th, since the 22nd falls on a weekend.**

Round-trip bus transportation arrangements, handled previously for many years by NKRTL, have been arranged for the past 13 years by the **Covington Diocesan Pro-Life Commission**. For specific details, telephone (859) 283-6295.

Locally, the annual **Pro-Life Procession/Rally** is sponsored again by The **Pro-Life 2004 Committee** and the **Holy Name Society**, scheduled for **Sat., Jan. 22, 2005, beginning with procession at Cincinnati City Hall, 8th & Plum Streets, at 11 a.m., and culminating in a rally at Fountain Square at 11:45 a.m.**

This is something that **everyone** can do.

For more information, please call (513) 929-2080.

Please energize your individual churches, pastors, family, and friends to support this project, and to initiate and advertise appropriate solemn memorials in your own churches, reminding all of our citizenry of the priority and urgency of this issue, “...so that these dead will not have died in vain...”

Another child killed by abortion... graphic

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Emryonic stem cell research is being hawked by movie stars and politicians as the greatest scientific promise to cure all disease, perhaps in history. Pro-Lifers who oppose this research are characterized as insensitive, and unreasonable.

Ron Reagan, Jr., son of the late **President Ronald Reagan**, was just given prime time at the **Democratic National Convention** to speak in favor of the legalization of such research. The president's widow, **Nancy Reagan**, has spoken passionately to the same effect, speculating that perhaps her husband might have been cured from Alzheimer's, had that research gone forward. Ron Jr. dealt loosely with truth when he said, "No fetal tissue is involved in this process."

What Are the Objective Facts?

All honest debate or discussion on any issue must begin with a definition of terms, if truth is to be achieved.

"Stem cells" are very primitive cells, as yet undifferentiated, from which all of the organs of the body develop. It is hoped that research on stem cells might produce cures for a variety of human maladies. Stem cells are available from adults, or from embryos.

Kill to Cure?

The above facts are objective truth. The culture of death community then begins its "spin." It argues that Pro-Lifers are opposed to stem cell research. Wrong!

Adult stem cells are widely available from a variety of sources in adult human beings, and there have been numbers of successful research projects involving the use of these adult stem cells in the treatment of disease.

"The government will won't fund..." graphic

Embryonic stem cells are obtained from five-day-old living human embryos, who must be cut open and the embryonic stem cells extracted. Thus, any claims to cure come directly from the killing of an individual human being. (Pro-aborts refer to these as "pre-embryos," although that is biologically erroneous, as this living child five days post-fertilization is properly called an embryo.)

More importantly, Dr. Seuss obviously knew a lot more biology and philosophy than the pro-death advocates: "A person is a person no matter how small!"

This unmistakable and unavoidable and essential truth was understood also by President Ronald Reagan:

"We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life — the unborn — without diminishing the value of all human life. ...Regrettably, we live in a time when some persons do not value all human life. They want to pick and choose which individuals have value. ...They insist that a member of the human race must have certain qualities before they accord him or her status as a 'human being.' ...the real question today is not when human life begins, but what is the value of human life?"

There has been no research successful enough to reach clinical trials on embryonic stem cells. They are just too unpredictable and uncontrollable. **Dr. Douglas Melton of Harvard University** says that they spontaneously morph like "popcorn" into unexpected shapes and types (*Wall Street Journal*, 8/12/04).

The Logic of Truth

Ask yourself two pointed questions:

- (1) If there were scientific proof of the successful use of embryonic stem cells, documented by research, don't you think that it would be overwhelmingly trumpeted by the pro-aborts, and the Hollywood stars who seek this relief such as **Christopher Reeve** and **Michael J. Fox**, and that it would be widely proven in the secular press?
- (2) If the scientific case could really be made, don't you suppose that the death peddlers wouldn't have to be lusting after your tax dollars, but in fact the field would be flooded with investment by drug companies which would be jumping onboard to do the necessary research, in order to reap the obvious and gigantic financial profits that would be guaranteed?

As Shakespeare said, "O what tangled webs we weave, when first we practice to deceive!"

NKRTL'S WEBMASTER

NKRTL's website, <http://www.nkyrtl.org>, has been rejuvenated by our newest Board member, **Ralph Arnsperger**. It contains, among other things, links to other Pro-Life organizations (especially those who can provide help to moms), an archive of our newsletters, the latest PAC Endorsements and Recommendations, and a Calendar of Upcoming Events.

Please visit the site and let us know what you think, and any ideas you have for making the site more valuable.

NEW GROUP OF CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE SISTERS COMES TO COVINGTON

The **Franciscan Daughters of Mary** is a new community in formation, begun in Newark, New Jersey, in 1996, as a Catholic Pro-Life Apostolate dedicated to assisting any man or woman affected by a crisis pregnancy or other crisis regardless of race or religious belief. The group has been welcomed into the Covington diocese by **Bishop Roger J. Foys**, and will occupy the convent at St. Benedict Church, 336 East 16th Street, Covington, Kentucky, formerly used by the Benedictine nuns who previously taught at the school there.

Photo of
Franciscan
Daughters of Mary

At their previous location in New Jersey, the sisters engaged in prayers outside of the abortion clinics, and furnished information to women to dissuade them from having abortions. Their group also provided Pro-Life and pro-family education, free pregnancy testing, counseling and peer group discussions, referrals for medical, social service and adoption, temporary residence for pregnant women in need of housing and support, abstinence information, baby and children items, food, furniture and supplies, as their resources permitted.

The sisters make vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, as well as to protect and defend life from conception to death, according to **Mother Teresa Marie**, the foundress.

The sisters will wear distinctive religious habits — brown tunics, gray scapulars, veils, cords, and side rosaries — in order to fully live the constitution of their order, stated **Sister Gabriel**.

They arrived in Covington on September 15 and provided an exhibit table at NKRTL's 31st Annual Celebration of Life on September 26. They are settling into the Northern Kentucky community and are looking for physicians and nurses, and others willing to donate their time and talent so that "in union with the Church, we will tear down the existing culture of death while affirming the Gospel of Life by living a life of witness to Christ."

Those in need, as well as those with talents and resources, financial and otherwise, are hereby referred to this faithful group. Telephone (859) 491-3899. They will be a welcomed and needed adjunct to the other orders of nuns in this community, actively praying and working for the defense of innocent human life — **Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker of Walton, Kentucky**, and the **Passionist Convent in Erlanger, Kentucky**.

A GRAPHIC CEMETERY FOR THE INNOCENTLY INCONVENIENT

“What are all those white crosses,” asks the passing motorist who missed the sign.

“There must be some error,” notes the observer who saw the sign asserting that each cross represents an individual baby killed daily — 4,200 victims of surgical abortion in the United States (exclusive of the millions more killed by chemical abortion).

Picture of Covington Catholic HS & crosses on lawn

God, in His love and grace, constantly sends wake-up calls. It is the duty of each and every one of us to wake up our neighbors who have been deluded and bathed in the complacency of comfort by the pro-abortion media, unfortunately facilitated by apathetic churches.

A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

Our obligation is not only to comfort the afflicted, but indeed, more importantly, to afflict the comfortable.

The above conscience wakening effort is the result of the students and faculty at **Covington Catholic High School** on Dixie Highway in Park Hills, Kentucky.

What are you doing? Do you have a church, school, or other facility that is failing in its obligation to inform the public of the ongoing medical holocaust — surgical abortions amounting to 1.5 million a year, 4,200 a day, 3 a minute, 1 every 20 seconds — in the United States alone?

We need to say to our fellow citizens:

“Is anyone there?”

Does anyone see what I see?

Does anyone care?”

Surely God, on Judgment Day, will look at each one of us and ask not “Did you succeed?”, but “Did you TRY?”

STRUGGLE AMONG U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS

A dedicated (but unfortunately minority) group of U.S. Catholic bishops have insisted upon uncompromising

evangelization of the clear Catholic teachings on abortion, and the duties of the faithful.

As pointed out in our July 2004 newsletter, **Pope John Paul II** has addressed this issue directly and unambiguously: **“The lawmaker, and the Catholic lawmaker in particular, cannot contribute to, formulate, or approve laws contrary to the first and essential norms that regulate moral life. ...those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a grave and clear obligation to oppose any law that attacks human life.”**

In that same issue, we listed a good number of bishops who are properly following that Vatican teaching, as well as the Church’s own internal Canon Law, which denies the Eucharist to “persons who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin.” (Canon 915)

And yet, the reader can see from the photocopy of the cover of the October 2004 issue of *The Catholic World Report*, **Archbishop Sean O’Malley of Boston** delivering the Sacred Eucharist to two U.S. Massachusetts senators, **Ted Kennedy (D)** and **John Kerry (D)**, each

Catholic World Report picture

of whom has a 100% pro-abortion voting record in the U.S. Senate, and each of whom is in a marriage not recognized by the Church, due to previous divorce (twice in the case of Kerry) without annulment.

The patent contradiction here is obvious, and truly inexplicable.

Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis, Missouri, was one of the first of this group of Pro-Life bishops to articulate publicly and aggressively this teaching of the Church regarding the obligation of Catholic legislators and regarding the fact that since they have separated themselves from the communion of the Catholic Church, that they should not receive the Holy Eucharist. Burke was specifically asked as to whether he would deny Communion to U.S. Senator John Kerry because of his pro-abortion voting record and public statements in support of abortion, and answered that indeed he would not administer the Holy Eucharist to Senator Kerry in his present moral state: **“No good bishop could stand by and let this happen. These public legislators are in grave sin.”**

Duty of Catholic Voters

Concerning the obligation of Catholic voters regarding pro-abortion politicians, Archbishop Burke’s October 1 article appeared in the St. Louis archdiocesan newspaper: “There is no element of the common good that could justify voting for a candidate who also endorses, without

restriction or limitation, the deliberate killing of the innocent, abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia, human cloning, or same-sex marriage.”

The Archbishop emphasized that “these elements are so fundamental to the common good that they cannot be subordinated to any other cause, no matter how good.

“One cannot justify a vote for a candidate who promotes intrinsically evil acts which erode the very foundation of the common good, such as abortion and same-sex ‘marriage,’ by appealing to that same candidate’s opposition to war or capital punishment.

“I must point out that the Catholic who chooses not to vote at all, when there is a viable candidate who will advance the common good, although not perfectly, fails to fulfill his or her moral duty, at least, in the limitation of a grave evil in society. ...The Christian who shirks his temporal duties shirks his duties toward his neighbor, neglects God Himself, and endangers his eternal salvation.”

This teaching is not new. It was taught 28 years ago in Covington, KY, by then Bishop Richard H. Ackerman: “No Catholic, with good conscience, may vote for any man or woman, who is in accord with, who supports, or who is willing to compromise issues which are contrary to the moral laws contained in the Ten Commandments of God. Before you cast this vote, consider well the position of each candidate on the moral issues of our day. For example, examine well his or her stand regarding abortion and/or the right to life. Is it fuzzy or compromising? Is it weakened by words that tend to gain confidence but are without conviction? If so, we may not support it with our vote.”

A 12-Step Program for Bishops

Bishop Rene Henry Gracida, Bishop Emeritus of Corpus Christi, Texas, just issued in October a clear and strong statement in support of the teaching of Bishop Burke and others:

“Now we have candidates for the presidency and

You Can’t Be Catholic...picture

Congress publicly professing to be practicing Catholics who, although supportive of many of the Church's teachings on social issues, on the most important issue — the inalienable right to life — are diametrically opposed to our Holy Catholic Faith. The most important issue facing the world today is the assault on the sanctity of human life.

"The highest teaching authority of the Magisterium, Pope John Paul II and his predecessors, as well as the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, have taught repeatedly that the right to life is the foundation of all other rights in civil society. The denial of this basic right leads eventually to the denial of all other rights.

"All other grave social issues, such as war, poverty, health, economic justice, immigration, etc., are of secondary importance and indeed pale in comparison to innocent human life under systematic annihilation. This is simply a matter of one's personal faith, it is a matter of reason."

Bishop Gracida's formula called for private dialogue between the bishop and the offending member of his flock, invitation to reconciliation for the moral well being of the dissident Catholic himself, leading ultimately to public excommunication of the dissident Catholic:

"The grave circumstances of the age in which we live, the obligation to proclaim the Faith in all its purity, the need to protect the Sacraments from sacrilege, and the obligation to eliminate grave scandal amongst the faithful all impel the bishop to publicly and courageously inquire among the clergy and laity of his diocese as to who amongst those Catholic politicians having a domicile in his territory are publicly supporting abortion..."

"The time for half-measures and fear or reprisal, loss of position, temporal advantage, or career opportunities is over — the time for action is now."

Other Courageous Teaching Bishops

The October issue of *Inside the Vatican*, a monthly news magazine published at New Hope, KY 40052, included excellent teaching articles by **Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver, CO**, and **Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, NJ**.

Myers appropriately castigated the "personally opposed" dodge used by many "Catholic" politicians, tracing it back to **John F. Kennedy's** Houston speech in the 1960 presidential campaign wherein he promised to set aside his faith beliefs. Such an excuse was updated and refined by **Governor Mario Cuomo of New York** in 1984 in what Archbishop Chaput calls "a *tour de force* of articulate misdirection."

Chaput explained that the meaning of the Kennedy-Cuomo legacy is that "it's OK to be Catholic in public service as long as you're willing to jettison what's inconveniently 'Catholic'. That's not a compromise. That's a deal with the devil, and it has a balloon payment no nation, no public servant and no voter can afford. If you sup with the devil, you'd better bring a long spoon."

Archbishop Myers dealt candidly with the moral issue as to whether or not a Catholic citizen could vote for a candidate who supports abortion and embryo-destruction research:

"...one of the following circumstances would have to obtain: either (a) both candidates would have to be in favor of embryo killing on roughly an equal scale or (b) the candidate with the superior position on abortion and embryo-destructive research would have to be a supporter of objective evils of a gravity and magnitude beyond that of 1.3 million yearly abortions plus the killing that would take place if public funds were made available for embryo-destructive research. ...

"Abortion and embryo-destructive research are different. They are intrinsic and grave evils; no Catholic may legitimately support them. In the context of contemporary American social life, abortion and embryo-destructive research are disproportionate evils. They are the gravest human rights abuses of our domestic politics and what slavery was to the time of Lincoln. Catholics are called by the Gospel of Life to protect the victims of these human rights abuses. They may not legitimately abandon the victims by supporting those who would further their victimization."

Effectiveness of Fortright Teaching

The clarity and forcefulness of the logic and moral teaching by this handful of Catholic bishops obviously was effective. **President Bush** captured a majority of the Catholic vote, some 9 points higher than he corralled in 2000. It was 52% of all people who describe themselves "Catholic." Of Catholics who regularly attend church at least once a week, the number jumped to 65%. Evangelical Christians gave the President even a greater measure of victory, 78%.

After you then take a small percentage who voted for the **100% Pro-Life candidate, Michael Peroutka of the Constitution Party**, it is obvious that the group pejoratively categorized by the secular press as "**the religious right**" gave its vote to Bush or Peroutka. Who then does that leave voting for Kerry? The answer is inescapable — unbelievers of "**the irreligious left**," as described by evangelical national columnist **Cal Thomas**.

Liberals "In Denial"

The liberal "talking heads" on the TV are still in denial. They are suggesting that Democratic candidates need to "learn to articulate the values of the Democratic Party." They are ignoring the simple reality that the patient is in need of radical surgery, and at death's door, and they are prescribing band aids and changing the sheets on the bed. They are actually even suggesting that Bush's reelection now furnishes him an opportunity to "correct some of his mistakes" (while simultaneously of course not admitting the profound and dramatically obvious mistake of the Democratic Party, of having abandoned the values of most Americans).

It is now up to us to make sure that both Parties, Republican and Democratic, get the message — it ain't

the economy, stupid, it isn't war — it's the most burning moral issue in the history of the United States, the sanctity of innocent human life.

Marshaling the Christian Vote

The large evangelical vote for Bush was not a great surprise, as they had voted for him four years earlier as well.

The Catholic vote was a different matter. Credit for turning around the Catholic vote from a majority support four years earlier for pro-abortion **Albert Gore** and eight years earlier for pro-abortion **Bill Clinton** to a point where this election they cast a majority vote for **George W. Bush** goes primarily to **Mother Angelica's EWTN TV station, Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life**, and a lay organization called **Catholic Answers** which publishes an excellent booklet: *Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics*.

This booklet faithfully followed the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church, as specifically delineated in the *Catholic Catechism*, and identified five "nonnegotiable issues": (1) abortion, (2) euthanasia, (3) embryonic stem-cell research, (4) cloning, and (5) so-called same-sex "marriage". It pointed out that Catholics could not vote for a candidate who failed in any one of these issues.

This teaching was in stark contradiction to the "homogenizing" of issues in the current document published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee, *Faithful Citizenship*, which dealt with those issues and also the issues of war, capital punishment, poverty, etc. — but did not make the clear moral distinction made in the *Catholic Catechism* that the latter group of issues did not involve "intrinsic evil," which the former group does, and that the latter group permits prudential differences among Catholics in how to approach them.

This hard sell for homogenization was unfortunately pushed throughout most of the Catholic dioceses in the United States, including Covington, through its official newspaper, *The Messenger*. The Diocesan **Justice and Peace Commission** posted large posters in every church in the diocese, advertising three programs at The Catholic Center, wherein this philosophy was advocated.

Several members of **Northern Kentucky Right to Life Board of Directors** attended the first of these sessions, and documented for the attendees that the Diocesan presentation did indeed obscure authentic Catholic doctrine in that it failed to make the distinction between issues which were intrinsically evil (the five mentioned above) and those other issues which they were obviously heavily pushing (anti-capital punishment, anti-war, etc.)

Chief support for the homogenization effort was carried forth by most of the attenders at this seminar, which included diocesan nuns and paid employees of the diocese. One of the chief opponents to the points NKRTL attendees made was a member of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, and was seen leaving after the

program in an automobile bearing a John Kerry for President bumper sticker.

Catholic Answers succeeded in distributing throughout the United States five million of their brochures, faithfully teaching the true doctrines of the Catholic Church regarding the issues which are indeed "intrinsically evil," and obviously were more persuasive than the moral homogenization efforts of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

When teachers exercise their authority (and obligation) to teach, "with authority" (as the Bible says), apparently a good number of people follow!

A battle has been won — the war is far from over!

ELECTIONS 2004: A NATION DIVIDED, A CULTURAL WAR

Twelve years ago at the **Republican National Convention**, **Pat Buchanan** discomfited establishment people in his own Republican Party, and indeed beyond, by stating the obvious — that we are engaged in a Cultural War in the United States. Just as the disingenuous child who told the truth that "the Emperor was naked", Buchanan was an embarrassment to the establishment's society, and to the power structure. He was pushed aside and denied even a platform to speak at the 1996 Republican Convention, even though he had won several primary elections that session as a Republican candidate for President.

Truth can be an embarrassment, and indeed those who serve it can expect to pay a penalty.

The 2004 Presidential vote, county by county (Dark-colored areas indicate counties that voted for Kerry; light-colored areas indicate counties that voted for Bush.)

"It's About Values, Stupid!"

That was the headline in the 11/4/04 *Cincinnati Post* election recapitulation, which pointed out that exit polls indicated that the most important factor which decided the largest block of voters in the entire country was not the economy, nor the war in Iraq, nor Social Security, nor healthcare, but in fact "moral

values.” Of those people who voted based upon that criteria, 80% of them voted for President Bush, and 19% for Sen. Kerry.

The majority of Democrats — and in fact many Republicans — are still in psychological denial of that statistical and demographic reality, incontestably proven on November 3.

But the toothpaste is out of the tube: You’re not crazy; you’re not radical; you are among the majority of your fellow citizens who believe that moral principles, centered around the sanctity of innocent human life, are the most important political issues of our day.

Morality Triumphed, Nationwide

★**State constitutional amendment proposals, defining marriage as a sacred union between one man and one woman**, were on the ballots in 11 states, and overwhelmingly passed in each of those 11 states (by a 3 to 1 margin in Kentucky).

★**The Republican Party picked up 4 seats in the U.S. Senate.** The “Catholic” incumbent, **Tom Daschle** of South Dakota, the strident pro-abortion Democratic leader in the Senate, was defeated by a Republican congressman who is Pro-Life, **John Thune**.

★**In Florida**, Cuban-American **Mel Martinez (R)** defeated his pro-abort Democratic opponent.

★**In South Carolina**, the victorious candidate for the vacant seat of retiring Democrat **Fritz Hollings** was **U.S. Rep. Jim DeMint (R)**, strongly Pro-Life.

★**In North Carolina**, **Rep. Richard Burr (R)**, a reliable conservative, defeated his Democratic opponent who was a former Clinton White House Chief of Staff.

★The open seat in **Oklahoma** was won by **Rep. Tom Coburn (R)**, a physician and former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who has a strong Pro-Life record, and who has publicly indicated that he supports the death penalty for abortionists.

A Battle is Over — The War Continues

As the dust of battle settles, losers rationalize, and many winners line up for personal patronage of jobs. It is not that way with Pro-Lifers — and we must not rest on the oars and assume that the war is won. It is not.

As pointed out by **American Life League**:

“...the death count has continued to rise over the years, regardless of which party has won the presidency. ...President Bush seems to be a man that could become 100% pro-life. He claims a desire to bring about a Culture of Life, where every person is welcomed and protected by law. However, the president’s current position will not lead to a true Culture of Life. Exceptions for rape, incest, so-called threat to the mother’s life and fetal deformity cannot be considered ‘pro-life.’ Babies conceived in those situations are still human beings and deserve a right to life. Those babies shouldn’t be left behind.

“Mr. Bush is educable. He could learn that all abortions are bad, not just ‘partial-birth’ abortions. He

could learn there is no reason to excuse abortions in alleged cases of rape, incest, threat to the mother’s life, or fetal deformity. He could pressure Congress to support personhood by passing the Right to Life Act. It is the responsibility of every pro-life leader to take whatever steps are needed to provide this education and cease patting Mr. Bush on the back until he adopts a true pro-life position. The babies are waiting.”

The Most Recent “Pearl Harbor”

Two days after the election, the pro-abortion **U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, Arlen Specter (R)**, publicly fired a shot across the bow of President Bush, indicating that the President should not send to the Senate for confirmation Pro-Life judicial nominations, as they would be filibustered and defeated. It must be noted that Sen. Specter has a long history of pro-abort activism, including participation in the opposition to **Pro-Life Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas**, and successful defeat of **Pro-Life judicial nominee to the Supreme Court Robert Bork**.

Sadly, it must also be noted that Specter was just reelected this year, with the public endorsement of President Bush, defeating a Pro-Life Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives. President Bush needs to be reminded of that serious sin, and of his serious obligation to see to it that Specter is not confirmed as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate, which he is in line for by seniority, and where he will effectively block the nominations of all Pro-Lifers to judicial positions.

The day after the election, President Bush publicly declared that he had a “mandate” and that the people had given him “political capital,” which he intended to spend. He needs to be reminded, by each of us, by urgent letters, emails and faxes, that the majority block which elected him expects him to see to the confirmation of judicial nominees who will respect the God-given (and **Declaration of Independence** confirmed) right to life, and that we will hold him accountable — no excuses, no exceptions, no apologies!

Similar communications need to go immediately to all Republican members of the U.S. Senate. Each Republican senator has a vote as to the committee appointments. Kentuckians need to remind **Sen. Jim Bunning** and **Sen. Mitch McConnell** that their constituents, as well as those of the President, didn’t cast their ballots to secure the blocking of Pro-Life judicial nominees by a pro-abortion member of their party, Arlen Specter — and that we will hold them, individually, accountable!

A Challenge to President Bush

As pointed out by **American Life League President Judie Brown**, “Americans made it quite clear that their major motivation for reelecting President Bush was his stance on values and morals. We know he is a man with good intention in his heart, and we encourage him to boldly lead the people

who so eagerly elected him. Encourage Mr. Bush to mark the 32nd anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision by pledging his commitment to full personhood for every human being, from the first moment of existence to natural death — an existence that starts at the single cell stage, whether the new human being's life begins through natural conception or through laboratory interventions such as in vitro fertilization and cloning." [While in vitro fertilization and cloning are always morally wrong, the child created is always a precious gift, whose life must then be nurtured and protected.]

Such a "Personhood Proclamation" was issued by **President Reagan** in 1988.

2004 Kentucky Election Wrap Up

→ In the **Presidential election**, NKRTL-PAC made no endorsement, since there was no 100% Pro-Life candidate. It issued a "**Recommendation**," in accord with its longstanding policy of recommending to the electorate one candidate who is superior to the other (Bush over Kerry), after furnishing full information about the records of each. Bush's record of course is flawed, and Kerry's is of course 100% pro-abortion. President Bush was reelected.

At the time of NKRTL-PAC's vote, **Michael Peroutka of the Constitution Party** was not on the Kentucky ballot. He subsequently obtained ballot status in Kentucky, and many Pro-Lifers voted for him, as he of course was the only 100% Pro-Life candidate.

→ In the **U.S. senatorial race**, **Jim Bunning (R)** had been reported by NKRTL as having a 100% Pro-Life voting record in the Senate, but his record was stained by his support of pro-abortion candidates for public office. His opponent had a significant pro-abort voting record in the KY State Senate, and in his public pronouncements. NKRTL-PAC **recommended** Sen. Bunning, who was reelected.

→ In the **vacant seat for U.S. Congress for the 4th Congressional District**, NKRTL-PAC **endorsed Geoff Davis (R)** who had a 100% Pro-Life position, over his Democratic opponent, **Nick Clooney (D)**, who refused to answer NKRTL's questionnaire, and whose previous newspaper columns and public statements demonstrated that he supported capital punishment for the unborn for the crimes of the father. Mr. Davis was successfully elected.

→ NKRTL-PAC's **endorsements** were successful also in the case of **reelection of Kentucky State Senator Damon Thayer (R) and State Senator Jack Westwood (R)** over their opponents who declined to answer NKRTL's questionnaire, but whose public statements would betray their "pro-choice" beliefs.

→ In the race to fill **the vacant seat of the Kentucky House of Representatives in the 67th District in Campbell County**, NKRTL-PAC **endorsed** both candidates, **Dennis Keene (D)** and **Mark Hayden (R)**, based upon their total Pro-Life responses to the questionnaire. Mr. Keene prevailed by 2 percentage points.

→ NKRTL-PAC of course **endorsed the proposed Constitutional Amendment which provides that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be a marriage in Kentucky**, and that a legal status identical to or similar to marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized. The Amendment was approved by Kentucky voters by a 3 to 1 margin.

While NKRTL-PAC's goal is not to be measured by its successes in elections, it is pleased to reflect that its nonpartisan-endorsed candidates again enjoyed a much higher success ratio than those endorsed by the secular press locally, and is pleased and grateful that it is again consistent with, and contributed substantially to, the local moral/political climate.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS EMBARRASS AGAIN

The most recent nominee announced by the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops** to their National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People is **attorney Pamela Hayes**. Hayes is a pro-abortion activist who brags about her multiple financial contributions to pro-abortion candidates like **John Kerry** and **Hillary Clinton**, and to **Emily's List**, a single-issue political action committee whose sole purpose is to elect pro-abortion politicians.

Hayes responded to the *Catholic Register*, "So what? ...If they've [the bishops] got a problem with that, you tell them they've got a problem."

Bill Ryan, Deputy Director of Communications for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said neither he nor other officials at the Conference would comment about the pro-abortion views expressed by Hayes.

One of the board members whose term has just expired was **Leon Panetta**, a former Democratic U.S. congressman with a 100% pro-abortion voting record. Another such pro-abortion politician, **former Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma**, resigned earlier in a dispute with the bishops, having nothing to do with his pro-abortion stance.

Apparently the bishops don't have a problem in appointing to their Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People, people who actively support the killing of children before birth.

All bishops who acquiesce in this abomination will simply make themselves further irrelevant to serious Catholics.

As pointed out by **Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver**, in comments he made in a *New York Times* editorial published on Oct. 22, voting for a pro-choice candidate "is morally incoherent and irresponsible...the 'choice' in abortion always involves the choice to end the life of an unborn human being. For anyone who sees this fact clearly, neutrality, silence, or private disapproval are not options. They are evils almost as grave as abortion itself."

NORTHERN KENTUCKY RIGHT TO LIFE'S ANNUAL MARCH ON PAPER

Although only some are able to go to Washington, D.C. for the magnificent March for Life, Saturday, January 22, 2005, we all can make a **public statement against abortion by placing our name in the NKRTL newspaper ad, on this 32nd anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision legalizing the killing of unborn children.**

This ad will urge the passage of a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, an amendment which will declare that all children, from the moment of fertilization, are persons entitled to the same protection against murder as the rest of us. Since copies are given to the President, each member of the U.S. Supreme Court, the six Kentucky members of the House of Representatives, and the two U.S. Senators from Kentucky, your name becomes your statement that abortion must be stopped and that after 31 years, you have not given up, and you will not give up the struggle to stop the slaughtering of innocent children.

Enclosed is an envelope in which you enclose a list of your names and donate a small sum of \$3.00 for each name or \$10.00 donation for a family (for families who would like to list the names of their children, but may be prohibited at the \$3.00 per name, we suggest simply \$10.00 donation for the entire family). **In order to cover the cost of the ad, those who are able to do so are encouraged to make a larger donation.**

In memory of the 40+ million American babies who have been destroyed in the last 32 years, please participate in this year's March for Life newspaper ad — **return the enclosed envelope today! Beat the deadline: January 10, 2005. Please send your name and check— now!!**

IF VICTIMS COULD SIGN!!

PRO-LIFE NEWSPAPER AD NEEDS YOUR NAME!

March for Life Return Envelope enclosed