

NKRTL

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NKRTL 31ST ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2004

NKRTL is excited to report that it has secured for its speaker at the **31st Annual Celebration of Life** scheduled for the **Drawbridge Inn** on **Sunday, September 26, 2004**, the exhilarating **Johnnette Benkovic**, TV and radio personality known through EWTN-TV network, and heard locally here on Sacred Heart Radio Station, AM 740. Johnnette is a dynamic and informative speaker whose most recent initiative, *Women of Grace*, addresses and highlights the incomparable beauty of true Christian feminism.

Photo of
Johnnette
Benkovic

You won't want to miss this one. Send your checks for \$10.00 for tickets and \$10.00 for patrons (**flyer enclosed**) to the NKRTL office, 1822 Madison Ave., P.O. Box 1202, Covington, KY 41012 (free soft drinks and pretzels and free babysitting provided on site).

SHOULD COMMUNION BE WITHHELD FROM THOSE WHO SUPPORT KILLING BABIES?

A current, crucial example of the mentality of "pick and choose" (the Greek definition of the word "heresy") is demonstrated in the public schizophrenia of many high

faith, on the unambiguous teaching of the Catholic Church that abortion is "intrinsically evil" (always wrong, in all circumstances), and that Roman Catholics are not permitted to participate in it, or support it in any way.

Some Roman Catholic Bishops have finally decided to publicly enforce the rather clear meaning of the Church's law, Canon 915, which requires that persons "...obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion."

Cardinal Francis Arinze, a top Vatican official ("...the highest-ranking person in the whole chain under the Pope with regard to the sacraments," said Fordham University Philosophy Department Head **Fr. Joseph Koterski**) just publicly stated that Roman Catholic lawmakers who support abortion rights "are not fit" to receive Holy Communion. He went on to say, "If they should not receive, then they should not be given."

Clear Exposition of Authentic Roman Catholic Teaching

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.*"

American Life League student/poster photo

One of the first, and strongest, of the Catholic bishops to follow the clear mandate of the Catholic Church, charitably but unapologetically, is **Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis, MO**. Just last fall, when he was Bishop of LaCrosse, WI, he

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See NKRTL-PAC endorsements, *Infra*

church leaders in the Roman Catholic

publicly admonished Catholic politicians who and publicly contemptuously giving grave scandal by the supporting of the heinous crime of the killing of the most innocent members of the human family, unborn children. First, he privately communicated with them and admonished them, and when they persisted, he publicly declared they could not receive Communion. He directed his priests to deny them Communion, for the obvious reason that they are not in communion with the Catholic Church. To continue to allow them to give that fraudulent appearance would be to give scandal to the Catholic faithful concerning the genuine seriousness of the crime of abortion.

Bishop Burke was asked as to whether he would deny Communion to U.S. Senator and Democratic presidential candidate **John Kerry** because of his pro-abortion voting record and public statements in support of abortion, stated that he would deny the sacrament to Sen. Kerry: **“No good bishop could stand by and let this happen. These public legislators are in grave sin.”**

However, Sen. Kerry is a resident of Boston, the diocese of **Archbishop Sean P. O’Malley**. O’Malley has publicly stated that political officials should not seek the sacrament if they support abortion rights, but in the next breath has said that he would not deny the sacrament to such persons!?! That position sounds like the campaign statements of many politicians!

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The newly installed **Bishop of Camden, NJ, Most Rev. Joseph Galante**, recently declared that he would not permit Communion to Democratic Governor James McGreevey because of his abortion rights stance and also because he is divorced and living in an irregular marriage.

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Another clear exposition of Roman Catholic teaching is contained in the April 14, 2004 issue of the *Denver Catholic Register*, by the **Denver Archbishop, Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput**, “How to Tell a Duck From a Fox”:

“Our actions prove who we are. If a gulf exists between what we say, how we look and what we do, we are not living in a spirit of truth. ...Sooner or later, it becomes obvious.

“I remembered this last week as I read yet another news report about candidates who claim to be Catholic and then prominently ignore their own faith on matters of public policy. We’ve come a long way from John F. Kennedy, who merely locked his faith in the closet. Now we have Catholic senators who take pride in arguing for legislation that threatens and destroys life — and who then also take Communion.

“The kindest explanation for this sort of behavior is that a lot of Catholic candidates don’t know their own faith. And that’s why, in a spirit of charity, the

Holy See offered its guidance and encouragement in a little document last year. *On Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Public Life*. Nothing in this Roman document is new. But it offers a vision of public service filled with common sense.”

Bishop Chaput rejected “appeals to a phoney definition of pluralism and tolerance as invalid excuses for inaction in the face of grave evil - including attacks on the sanctity of life.”

He quoted from the recent papal document, *On Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Public Life*: “those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a ‘grace and clear obligation to oppose’ any law that attacks human life. For them, as for every Catholic, it is impossible to promote such laws or to vote for them.”

Pointing out the priority and supremacy of the issue of the defense of innocent human life, Archbishop Chaput went on:

“Catholics have a duty to work tirelessly for human dignity at every state of life, and to demand the same of their lawmakers. But some issues are jugular. Some issues take priority. Abortion, immigration law, international trade policy, the death penalty, and housing for the poor are all vitally important issues. But no amount of calculating can make them equal in gravity.

“The right to life comes first. It precedes and undergirds every other social issue or group of issues. This is why Blessed John XXIII listed it as the first human right in his great encyclical on world peace, *Pacem in Terris*. And as the US bishops stressed in their 1998 pastoral letter *Living the Gospel of Life*, the right to life is the foundation of every other right.

“Candidates who claim to be ‘Catholic’ but who publicly ignore Catholic teaching about the sanctity of human life are offering a dishonest public witness. They may try to look Catholic and sound Catholic, but unless they act Catholic in their public service and political choices, they’re really a very different kind of creature.

“And real Catholics should vote accordingly.”

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Another equally clear teacher of Catholic doctrine is **Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz, D.D., S.T.D. of Lincoln, NE** who agrees that his diocese would deny Holy Communion to any manifest, persistent, obstinate sinner, under Canon 915: “We agree completely with Archbishop Raymond Burke in the action he has taken and we would take the same action in the Diocese of Lincoln with regard

to manifest, persistent, obstinate sinners, including politicians, regardless of which diocese they are from.”

As long ago as 1996, Bishop Bruskewitz gave notification in his diocese, that there is automatic excommunication for any Catholics who formally cooperate in abortion. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sec. 2272.)

Timid Bishops Challenged

Bishop Bruskewitz touched upon the underlying key issue here — the authority of a bishop, and the apparent unwillingness of many such apostolic successors (whom he referred to as “this baleful bank of bishops”) to exercise it — in a recent interview in *Catholic World Report* in May of this year, “Who’s in Charge?” Here, Bishop Bruskewitz was leveling another of his several criticisms of the **National Review Board**, and by clear implication of its appointor, **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President Wilton Gregory** of Belleville, IL. Bruskewitz challenges the appropriateness of having people on that board who are not in accord with dogmatic teaching of the Roman Catholic Church: “I think that it’s downright bizarre to have people who are opposed to the doctrines and moral teachings of the Catholic Church acting as advisors to the bishops.”

He names, for example, **Leon Panetta**, a former advisor to President Clinton, and former congressman with a 100 percent pro-abortion voting record who “was devoted to promoting and fostering and permitting the heinous practice of abortion. What makes him qualified to be on this Board?”

He names also **Dr. Michael Bland**, a former priest, who is not even canonically laicized, and **Alice Bourke Hayes**, former president of the University of San Diego who put a known homosexual man in charge of religious studies there at the university and also had a Gay and Lesbian Club on her campus. As to **Robert Bennett**, a Washington lawyer who was attorney for President Clinton through the time of Clinton’s partial birth abortion veto and through the episodes of sexual immorality in the Oval Office, Bruskewitz asks: “What qualifies him to be on this Board?”

He doesn’t mention, but we will mention, two other Board members who are obviously not orthodox Catholics, former Nebraska Governor **Frank Keating**, whose campaign questionnaire stated his position in favor of the killing of unborn children for the crimes of the father, i.e., rape and incest, and **Jane J. Chiles**, former Executive Director of the Kentucky Catholic Conference who, several years ago, misadvised the Kentucky State Senate that the Catholic Church approves abortion in some instances.

Is it any wonder that many claim confusion as to the state of true Church teaching when the shepherds have been so remiss? One is put in mind of the famous statement of **Pope St. Gregory the Great** who stated, “It is a dumb dog that doesn’t bark when the wolf invades the flock!”

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Another strong and faithful successor to the apostles is **Fargo, ND Bishop Samuel J. Aquila** who, in a four-page

homily delivered in May, and posted on the diocesan website, stated:

“In light of the last few days and all of the media coverage regarding John Kerry’s unambiguous support of abortion rights, his personal opposition to abortion, and his insistence on the separation of Catholic faith from his professional life, I, as a successor of the apostles, cannot remain silent.

“Jesus Christ has warned clearly within the Gospel that hell is a reality and that we are free to choose it. Catholics who separate their faith life from their professional and social activities are putting the salvation of their souls in jeopardy. They risk the possibility of hell!

“The grave error that has come about, the grave error that the Father of Lies has planed in the hearts of many is the lie of thinking that we can have one foot with God and one foot with the world. ...We must always put the law of God above the law of man, especially as it concerns the dignity of the human person and the life of the unborn.”

On the point of the reception of Communion, Bishop Aquila said:

“In regard to the question of sanctions for Catholics who are ‘pro-choice’, who say that they are personally opposed to abortion but whose words and actions speak otherwise in their support of abortion rights, I would share with them the words from St. Justin Martyr in today’s Office of Readings. This was in 165 A.D. They shared the same problems we do today. ‘No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.’”

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Bishop Michael Sheridan of the diocese of Colorado Springs, CO, has extended his prohibition of Communion beyond politicians indeed to voters who back politicians who support abortion rights, stem cell research, euthanasia, and gay marriage. Bishop Sheridan noted that while no sin is unforgivable, public sin requires a public recantation, and the support of politicians who are advancing such abhorrent policies “is a serious or mortal sin.”

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The newly appointed **Archbishop of Phoenix, AZ, Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted**, addressed in his Lenten message those who say “I am a Catholic politician but I

don't let my Catholicism impact on how I vote or what legislation I promote." He likewise took issue with priests whose actions encourage those politicians when such priests say in effect, "I am a Catholic priest, but I don't let Magisterial teaching keep me from dissenting from moral or doctrinal points nor let it limit my own 'pastoral solutions'."

"Lent is the time to kick the 'Catholic but...' out of our daily lives. Lent is the time to say a determined 'no' to the temptation to water down our faith for personal gain."

Archbishop Olmsted took over the diocese last December from **Archbishop O'Brien**, disgraced by multiple scandals, and ultimately convicted in a hit-and-run vehicular death. Olmsted's first action the day after his installation as Archbishop of Phoenix was to join the longtime faithful prayer witnesses in front of the local abortion clinic. He has now promptly cleaned out the mess of his predecessor's administration, dismissing two vicars general, the diocesan attorney, the diocesan newspaper editor, and the previous bishop's secretary who was an active member of Planned Parenthood.

Serious and decisive actions seem to be the hallmark of the new breed of serious bishops intent upon being faithful successors to the apostles by aggressively following Peter's successor and the unambiguous and unchanging definitive dogmas of the Church.

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Another clarion voice demonstrating the obvious logical and theological supremacy of some issues over others is that of **Archbishop John Myers of Newark, NJ**, whose recent pastoral statement to the Catholics of his diocese stated:

"There is no right more fundamental than the right to be born and reared with all the dignity the human person deserves. ...On this grave issue, public officials cannot hold themselves excused from their duties, especially if they claim to be Catholic. Every faithful Catholic must be not only 'personally opposed' to abortion, but also must live that opposition in his or her actions."

Archbishop Myers made it clear that life concerns are paramount and eclipse any other considerations when voting, or carrying out political duties as a politician:

"As voters, Catholics are under an obligation to avoid implicating themselves in abortion, which is one of the gravest of injustices. Certainly, there are other injustices, which must be addressed, but the unjust killing of the innocent is foremost among them."

Myers noted that the "Church's social teaching is a diverse and rich tradition of moral truths and biblical insights applied to the political, economic, and cultural aspects of our society." He added, however, that "reasonable Catholics

can (and do) disagree about how to apply these teachings in various situations."

He gave the example of the preferential option for the poor and how Catholics can legitimately differ on methods to assist the poor — "both those who propose welfare increases and those who propose tax cuts to stimulate the economy may in all sincerity believe that their way is the best method really to help the poor."

The archbishop made a pointed distinction between such social justice concerns and matters of life:

"But with abortion (and for example slavery, racism, euthanasia and trafficking in human persons) there can be no legitimate diversity of opinion. The direct killing of the innocent is always a grave injustice. One should not permit unjust killing any more than one should permit slave-holding, racist actions, or other grave injustices. From the perspective of justice, to say 'I am personally opposed to abortion but...' is like saying 'I personally am against slavery, but I cannot impose my personal beliefs on my neighbor.'

"Obviously, recognizing the grave injustice of slavery requires one to ensure that no one suffers such degradation. Similarly recognizing that abortion is unjust killing requires one — in love and justice — to work to overcome the injustice."

Archbishop Myers also admonished Catholics who support abortion, stating that their reception of Communion, despite this state of separation from the Catholic Church, is "a grave scandal."

He concluded by stating that "we have a most grave obligation to defend all human life from the moment of conception until natural death. God help us if we fail in this most fundamental obligation."

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Orlando, FL, Coadjutor Bishop Thomas Winski published an unambiguous teaching in the diocesan Catholic newspaper:

"A practicing Catholic cannot invoke 'conscience' to defy or disregard what the Church definitely holds as true — for a practicing Catholic doesn't create his own truth but forms his conscience according to the truth.

"Those pro-abortion politicians who insist on calling themselves Catholics without seeing the contradiction between what they say they believe and their anti-life stance have to do a lot more 'practicing.' They need to get it right before they approach the eucharistic table.

"Bishops as teachers of the faith have no special competencies in the world of business or politics — and in those worlds we have no regulatory or legal powers.

But precisely as teachers of the Catholic faith we do have competence to tell businessmen or politicians or anyone else for that matter what is required to be a Catholic. It is totally within our competence to say that one cannot be complicit in the injustice of denying the right to life of an unborn child or an invalid elder and still consider oneself a good Catholic."

Bishop Winski has published a pastoral statement in which he calls pro-abortion Catholics who demand to receive Communion "boorish and sacrilegious." He suggested that they are in a worse moral position than Pontius Pilate after his condemnation of Christ.

In a personal rebuke to passive or complicit bishops who fail to act on this issue, he compared their failure to chastise pro-abortion politicians with the failure of bishops in general to protect young people from predatory homosexuals in the priesthood: **"But to fail to rebuke when necessary is to fail in the charity we owe our brethren. (And we bishops will be apologizing for a long time for the failure to rebuke and apply sanctions to those wayward priests who criminally sinned against young people and children.)"**

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Bishop James C. Timlin, of Scranton, PA, makes the issue crystal clear:

"Abortion is the issue this year and every year in every campaign. The taking of innocent human life is so heinous, so horribly evil, and so absolutely opposite to the law of Almighty God that abortion must take precedence over every other issue. I repeat. It is the single most important issue confronting not only Catholics, but also the entire electorate."

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Rainbow Sashers Denied Communion

Ten active dissenters from the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, publicly displaying their active homosexuality, were turned away from the Communion rail at the Cathedral in Chicago, IL on directions of **Chicago Archbishop Francis Cardinal George**: "The Rainbow Sash movement wants its members to be fully accepted in the Church not on the same conditions as any Catholic but precisely as gay. ...With this comes the requirement that the Church change its moral teaching," which Archbishop George indicated would not happen.

The heart of the issue there is identical to the heart of the issue here regarding pro-abort "Catholic" politicians.

The Church has an obligation to them individually, for their individual souls, to stand firm and teach the truth, and also it has an obligation not to permit scandal to the faithful of giving its highest gift, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, to one who is publicly and obdurately in violation of a fundamental principle of God's law.

The "Not Quite Sure" Crowd

Sen. Kerry recently had a private meeting with **Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, D.C.**, who just happens to be chairing a newly appointed committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops established to examine the relationship between Catholic bishops and Catholic politicians in light of last year's papal document, cited above. This document reiterated the Pope's position that Catholic lawmakers must oppose abortion, euthanasia, and legal recognition for same sex marriages (all contrary to Sen. Kerry's public positions and voting record). Shortly after that meeting, Cardinal McCarrick issued the statement that he had **"not gotten to the stage where I am comfortable in denying the Eucharist"**!

ALL National Ad

American Life League has properly captured the indignation of serious Pro-Lifers concerning the waffling of **Cardinal McCarrick** and others in an ad which it is running in many Catholic journals, and has sent to all 294 Catholic bishops in America, featuring a picture of Jesus hanging in anguish on the cross, with the challenging language: **"Cardinal McCarrick - Are you comfortable now?"**

The ad describes:

"The passion and suffering of Christ are examples of the 'comfort' faithful Catholics should expect in this world.

"On April 17, 2003, Pope John Paul II made it clear that bishops have an obligation to deny Holy Communion to Catholics demonstrating 'outward conduct which is seriously, clearly and steadfastly contrary to the moral norm.' "

ALL's ad asserts that Cardinal McCarrick's protest of discomfort in denying the Eucharist are "comforting words for John Kerry, Nancy Pelosi, Ted Kennedy and the 68 other pro-abortion 'Catholic' politicians in Congress. But cold comfort for the 1.3 million babies surgically aborted every year."

Kerry recently marched into a Roman Catholic Mass, wearing his designer ski clothes. A campaign aide told reporters that the event was a "photo-op."

A disappointing addition to the confused commanders was **Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago**,

who responded to a pointed question by a *Wanderer* reporter (5/13/04) as to denying Communion to such pro-abortion Catholic politicians that he was "not sure."

Bishop Wilton Gregory nuanced ("ducked") the issue as to whether such pro-abort politicians should be denied the Eucharist by saying that it's hard to say what he would do: "the first thing I have to do is teach the truth...abhor the sin but love the sinner." and that "the imposition of sanctions is always the final response, not the first, nor the second, nor maybe even the tenth." (Is it the 11th, or 44th, or perhaps never, Bishop Gregory?)

A not too surprising entry into the liberal camp of bishops who would not deny the Eucharist to such pro-abortion politicians is **Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, OH**. But it must be remembered that this is the same bishop who indicated that there was no need in his diocese for enforcement of the papal encyclical, *Ex Corde Ecclesia*, which mandated teaching of orthodox Catholic dogma by theologians at Catholic colleges and universities. Archbishop Pilarczyk said there was no need for that in his diocese because he had no such unorthodox teachers in his diocese — never mind the **Xavier University Theology Department** members (including its chairman) who are publicly on record that (1) Jesus didn't physically rise from the dead and (2) those statements attributed to Him in the Bible were not really made by Him, etc. Pilarczyk also just appeared in the Hamilton Common Pleas Court last November to plead "no contest" for the archdiocese to five counts of failure to report a crime and has just reinstated a priest with a public record of sexual aberration.

Pro-Abortion Leaders on Catholic Campuses

The related scandalous issue, of course, which has been going on for many years, is the promotion of prominent pro-abortion leaders as speakers in Catholic churches and Catholic educational institutions.

For example, **Cardinal George of Chicago** refused to act when informed that **Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu** (outspoken pro-abortion advocate) would speak at St. Sabina's Catholic Church in Chicago, IL.

Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk has done nothing when **Xavier University** honored our pro-abortion **President William Jefferson Clinton**, or featured on campus pro-abortion ("Catholic") **Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating**.

Washington, D.C. Archbishop, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, was silent in the face of a scheduled **speech by leading pro-abortion advocate U.S. Sen. John Kerry at Georgetown University**.

On the other hand, a Catholic high school in Indiana just recently withdrew a speaking invitation from its alumni, Indiana **Governor Joe Kernan** (D) because of his pro-abortion views; **University of St. Francis** canceled ABC News pro-abortion reporter **Nancy Snyderman**, because of the objection of **Bishop John D'arcy of the Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana diocese**; and **Seton Hall University**, which just recently honored a pro-abortion judge, is having a policy change at the direction of **Newark Archbishop**

John Myers, who described such a practice as "profoundly offensive and contrary to the Catholic mission and identity" of the university, the law school, and the archdiocese.

Apostolic Disunity

The longest consistent Pro-Life advocate in the U.S. Congress, **Henry J. Hyde (R-Illinois)**, cited as his major disappointment the failure of most Catholic bishops to enforce sanctions on pro-abortion Catholic lawmakers: "I am greatly disappointed with the failure of much of the Church hierarchy to take an unequivocal stand on abortion. ...If the Church doesn't come out strong and condemn those who want to receive Holy Communion while not in the state of sanctifying grace, then the Church has lost its moral authority and that is tragic."

Congressman Hyde was further critical of the Bishops by their appointment of the strong pro-abortionist, **Leon Panetta**, to the Bishops' **National Review Board**, as well as its appointment of **Justice Anne Burke** who has never been heard from on the Pro-Life issues.

One hopes that the Bishops are listening to the widespread disappointment in their disunity and disingenuity.

After the traitor Judas hung himself, and was replaced by the vote of the remaining 11 by Matthias, there existed apostolic unity under the headship of Peter, for a long time. But not so today, apparently, among these successors of the apostles. For truth is indivisible, and eternal. "Not sure" is not an option.

As noted recently by well-known Catholic lecturer, **Fr. John Corapi**, immorality is in fact unpatriotic, and indeed a threat to national security. Even more importantly, what hangs in the balance is eternal salvation.

Widespread Christian Confusion

NKRTL readers should not assume that abortion is a "Catholic issue," or that the response of Catholics to the issue is the sole important consideration. In fact, there are many people of other religious persuasions active and vibrant in the Pro-Life movement — just as there are many who call themselves Catholic but incredibly support the killing of unborn babies.

Likewise, there are many non-Catholic clergy who rationalize, such as the pastor of **Bullittsburg Baptist Church**, who publicly endorsed the congressional candidacy of **Kevin Murphy**, despite being informed of Murphy's pro-abortion position. No faith has a monopoly on evasiveness.

Roman Catholic members of NKRTL are wondering why they have not been reading in their diocesan paper, *The Messenger*, any in-depth, orthodox analysis of this crucial ongoing fight for the soul of the Roman Catholic Church.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Kerry

U.S. Sen. John Kerry has a 100 percent pro-abortion voting record in Congress, including voting against the ban of the human infanticide of brain suction abortion called partial birth abortion, and even casting the extreme vote against legislation that would criminalize the killing of unborn babies by third party criminals without the consent of the mother.

Kerry has made his position crystal clear that he would nominate only Supreme Court justices who guaranteed to uphold *Roe v. Wade's* decriminalization of abortion: "If you need any motivation, let me give you three words — the Supreme Court," Kerry says at every political stop.

He has just received the first ever presidential endorsement by **Planned Parenthood Action Fund**, states its **president Gloria Feldt**, as a "consistent and passionate advocate" of abortion.

Kerry has been quoted in an interview with an Oregon newspaper last month that he supports states' decisions as to whether or not to allow assisted suicide. He appeared to disagree with the argument by President Bush to disallow federally controlled drugs to be used in assisted suicides in a state: "I think it's up to the states to decide" whether or not to legalize assisted suicide.

Last year, Kerry refused to comment in depth on the case of **Terri Schiavo**, the Florida disabled lady whose husband is trying to starve her to death and whose parents are trying to protect her life. Declining to state a position on such an issue actually tells us a good deal about one's position.

Bush

What about **President Bush**? Appearing at an awards dinner sponsored by the **National Right to Life Committee** (which, as our readers know, is a compromising organization, approving of rape and incest exceptions, approving of chemical abortion, and most recently sabotaging a total abortion ban in the North Dakota legislature — see our last newsletter issue), **Vice President Dick Cheney** defended President Bush's record as "strongly pro-life." Cheney described President Bush's position as supporting the proposition that "every child waiting to be born deserves understanding," and asserted that "all that matters is your respect for the claim of every life."

He didn't deal with the reality that President Bush's position in the last campaign and throughout his term in office has been that he opposes abortion except in the cases of rape and incest.

Cheney went on to commend the president's commitment to stop all forms of human cloning. He didn't deal with the fact that the only campaign commitment that Bush made in the last election cycle was that he would oppose all public funding for any form of human cloning or experimentation, but he took only eight months to break that pledge, by approving a compromise that allowed use of stem cell lines from already aborted babies.

He emphasized that in Bush's first days in office, he put back into place a Pro-Life foreign policy that prohibits taxpayer funding of groups that perform or promote abortion

in other countries, which policy had previously been canceled by former President Clinton. What he didn't deal with was three other pro-abortion executive orders that Clinton issued in his first day in office including approving abortions in military hospitals overseas, which Mr. Bush did not reverse.

He pointed out that Bush had signed into law three Pro-Life bills:

(1) the **Born Alive Infants Protection Act**, requiring healthcare facilities to provide adequate medical care for newborns who survived failed abortion attempts;

(2) the **Partial Birth Abortion Ban** which prohibits the gruesome infanticide procedure by which babies 80 percent delivered are stuck in the skull and the brain is evacuated before completion of delivery then of a dead baby; and

(3) the **Unborn Victims of Violence Act** which protects pregnant women and their unborn children by punishing criminals who kill or injure their babies during an assault.

Those facts are true, and to the credit of President Bush, and certainly would not have been signed into law by President Clinton, or probably by **Al Gore** had he been elected. Cheney pointed out that Kerry voted against the Partial Birth Abortion Ban and the Unborn Victims bill.

Cheney himself had a 100 percent Pro-Life voting record during his very short term as a member of Congress from Wyoming.

It has been pointed out also that President Bush has increased the funding for abstinence education programs, and that is likewise true, and to Mr. Bush's credit.

It must be pointed out also that the **Federal Drug Administration**, under Bush, has rejected the initiative by the death community to authorize the distribution over-the-counter of the so-called morning after pill, which of course is nothing but chemical abortion.

On the other hand, there have been no meaningful steps by the Bush administration to de-fund the Title X program, which mandates that condoms, abortifacient chemicals, and all other drugs and devices that in fact cause abortion be delivered free of charge to any applicant of whatever age. Under Title X Regulations, the parents of minor children are not entitled even to be notified of the distribution of these dangerous drugs and devices to their children.

Nor did Mr. Cheney deal with the proposition that Mr. Bush consistently declined, during the last presidential campaign, to issue a commitment that he would appoint only Pro-Life judges. In fact, three of Bush's appointees to the Texas Supreme Court cast pro-abortion votes there, including a case which struck down a parental notification law passed by the Texas General Assembly. One of those judges, **Al Gonzales**, is seated in the office next to the Oval Office, as Bush's Chief Counsel, awaiting a Supreme Court vacancy, according to many speculations.

In fact, one of the first Bush appointees to the U.S. Court of Appeals was the appointment of an openly pro-abortion judge, who had been named as an interim appointee by President Clinton (appointed while the Senate was out of session, which appointments expire when the next Senate comes into session). He also appointed one

other pro-abortionist, and has appointed a couple of Pro-Lifers to the federal judiciary.

There is no question but that all of Gore's appointees would have been pro-abortion, and there is no question but that all of Kerry's appointees would be pro-abortion.

The Scandalous Scam of Cover Provided to Baby Killers by the "Consistent Ethic of Life"

Pro-abort "Catholic" **U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)** has just announced that Sen. John Kerry was the "most Catholic" member of the Senate.

Before you stop laughing, consider the tragic serious deception, facilitated indeed, wittingly or not, by the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**. Durbin's argument is based upon an analysis of the voting record of 24 "Catholic" senators. For each issue upon which a senator voted in agreement with the USCCB, he was given a point. And so Senator Kerry — who voted against the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, against the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, against the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, and against the Brownback Human Cloning Prohibition Act, and with blood literally running off of his hands, was announced as the most "Catholic" member of the U.S. Senate!

This fraud is facilitated by a mindless reading of the issues. For example, a vote for the Collins Mercury Reduction Act (which limits the use of mercury fever thermometers) is treated as equal in weight, in Catholic theology according to this argument, to a vote for the Partial Birth Abortion Ban!

Undeniable proof of the clear priority in the hierarchy of moral issues of the defense of all innocent human life against abortion, euthanasia, cloning, and assisted suicide, is seen from the definitive pronouncements in the U.S. Bishops' 1998 document, *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*:

"Respect for the dignity of the human person demands a commitment to human rights across a broad spectrum. ...Yet abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others. They are committed against those who are weakest and most defenseless, those who are genuinely 'the poorest of the poor'.

"Bringing a respect for human dignity to practical politics can be a daunting task. There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt, and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: *We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how*

broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem.

"In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is always and radically incompatible with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image. Direct abortion is *never* a morally tolerable option."

Pope John Paul II stated in 1994: "The fundamental human right to life is not one right among others, but rather the basic right."

It is incumbent upon the Bishops to repudiate such political perversions by partisan politicians promptly, repeatedly, and strenuously. Very soon, the USCCB will be issuing its questionnaire to presidential candidates in this election cycle. **We are hopeful that the Bishops give clarity to this fundamental principle that these political issues have greatly dispirit moral weight, under orthodox Catholic theology.**

Sufficiently Confused?

Are you yet sufficiently confused? NKRTL doesn't have all the answers — it simply points out the principles, and gives the history, including the good, the bad, the ugly, and the ridiculous.

In the April 27, 2004 Pennsylvania Republican primary, the voters returned to office incumbent **U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (R)** who has a 100 percent pro-abortion 24-year voting record in Congress. He defeated by only 15,000 votes his opponent, Congressman **Patrick J. Toomey (R)**, who has a 100 percent Pro-Life voting record.

The difference clearly was the support by the White House, and indeed by the other incumbent U.S. senator in Pennsylvania, **Rick Santorum (R)** for Mr. Specter. Santorum has a 100 percent Pro-Life voting record in the senate, and is the darling of the **National Right to Life Committee**. However, several years ago he supported Specter in the Republican primary contests for the presidency.

The wages of compromise is defeat. Some are now trying to justify Santorum's position, saying that he was "forced to support Specter" by the White House. We would have thought that defense ("I was ordered to do it") was thoroughly discredited almost 60 years ago at Nuremberg, Germany, in the Nazi war crime trials.

Why would Bush and Santorum support a strident pro-abortion incumbent of their own party over an opposing congressman of their own party with a 100 percent Pro-Life voting record? The excuse offered was that no one believed Toomey had a chance, and they needed to retain the "Republican good will" by being "Party people" and supporting Specter. In either event, it is a rather disgusting abandonment of principle.

NKRTL-PAC

Northern Kentucky Right to Life Political Action Committee has “digested” (with considerable difficulty) these unsavory truths described above.

NKRTL-PAC’s regular policy position, stated in every one of its reports to the public, pre-election, is that it does not necessarily make **Endorsements and/or Recommendations** in every race. NKRTL-PAC never endorses a candidate unless he is 100 percent Pro-Life, with no exceptions. Sometimes, when NKRTL-PAC considers a candidate superior to the rest of the field, it will make a **Recommendation**, even though the candidate falls short of its 100 percent standard for Endorsement.

NKRTL-PAC has followed its regular policy, attempting to inform its readers of all of the known information about candidates, good and bad, and has concluded that while Mr. Bush clearly falls short of its standard for Endorsement, the consequences of a Kerry election would obviously be catastrophic. **NKRTL-PAC therefore Recommends a vote for Mr. Bush over Mr. Kerry.**

PRO-LIFERS FARE WELL IN MAY PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Contrary to the conventional wisdom (untrue) propagated by the pro-abortion media, candidates for public office who openly support the legal protection of the sanctity of all innocent human life fare quite well with the voters. This was proven again last month in the Kentucky primary elections:

• NKRTL-PAC-endorsed candidate for the **congressional seat in the 4th District of Kentucky, Geoff Davis (R)**, trounced his pro-abortion opponent **Kevin Murphy (R)** by a margin of almost 2 to 1.

Davis had made 100% Pro-Life answers to the NKRTL questionnaire.

Murphy, a former Kenton County Republican Party Chairman, who of course publicly claims to be Pro-Life (another sign that candidates recognize the importance of the issue with the voters), declined to answer NKRTL’s questionnaire. The last time he ran for office, that of Kenton County Attorney in 1993 (which he also lost), he answered NKRTL’s questionnaire, but indicated his support for the legal killing of unborn children for the crimes of the father, i.e., rape and incest. Since that time, he has been a chronic critic of NKRTL, particularly in its efforts to stop the “condoms for kids” and other abortifacient drugs and devices delivered to them by the local Health Board under Title X of the federal law, paid for by tax dollars, and without even notification to their parents.

Davis will now face in the Fall election Democratic candidate **Nick Clooney (D)** who again describes himself as “anti-abortion,” but failed to answer NKRTL’s questionnaire. In fact, in other more specific forums he has admitted that he supports the killing of unborn babies in several circumstances. Clooney in fact has a long list of liberal columns which he has written over many years as a

columnist for the *Post*, which will no doubt provide ample ammunition for the Davis camp to demonstrate that candidate Clooney is attempting the usual “campaign conversion” from the positions of columnist Clooney. Was he lying then, or is he lying now?

• NKRTL-PAC-endorsed candidate for the **66th House seat in the Kentucky Legislature, Addia Wuchner (R)**, defeated her primary opponent, attorney **Ed Massey (R)**, again almost by a margin of 2 to 1.

Again, Massey claimed to be “pro-life” (unfortunately, a nonspecific phrase which is widely abused by those who wish to avoid the “devil in the details”). Massey’s answers to NKRTL’s questionnaire were incomplete, and his comments there, as well as in the public media, made it clear that he supported the distribution of those contraceptive and abortifacient drugs and devices to teenagers through the Health Board. The voters obviously do not. Mr. Massey, Chairman of the Boone County Board of Education, had been endorsed by the *Kentucky Post*.

• NKRTL-PAC-endorsed candidate in the race for the vacant seat in Campbell County’s **67th House of Representatives District for the Kentucky Legislature, Dennis Keene (D)** pulled off a dramatic upset by defeating his highly favored opponent, **Ken Rehtin (D)**, an incumbent Campbell County Commissioner.

Keene had made 100% Pro-Life answers to NKRTL’s questionnaire, while Rehtin declined to answer the questionnaire.

• NKRTL-PAC-endorsed candidate for the **congressional seat in the 6th District of Kentucky, State Sen. Tom Buford (R)**, who has a good Pro-Life voting record in the Kentucky Legislature, prevailed in his Republican Primary election, and will now face pro-abortion incumbent **U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler (D)** in the Fall election.

Other Races

Statewide, no Pro-Life member of the Kentucky General Assembly was defeated. In an interesting race for a vacant seat in the Kentucky Legislature, former Kentucky Governor **Julian Carroll (D)** prevailed in the Democratic Primary. He had a very good Pro-Life record 25 years ago as Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky, as then as Governor of Kentucky, and prior to that as Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives. His opponent in the Fall will be **Harold Fletcher (R)** who is the brother of **Governor Ernie Fletcher**. NKRTL did not circulate questionnaires in that distant district, and is hopeful that Mr. Fletcher’s views on the sanctity of innocent human life will match those of his Pro-Life brother, Governor Fletcher, in which case RTL cannot lose.

“CAN YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?” (MATTHEW 26:40)

The next two monthly Pro-Life liturgies will be held:
 † **July 14, 2004, at St. Augustine Parish**, 215 East Fourth Street, Augusta, Kentucky. Rosary will begin at 6:45 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. Pastor Daniel J. Saner invites the public.

† **August 10, 2004, at St. Matthew Parish**, 13816 Decoursey Pike (on Route 177, 12 miles south of Latonia, just past White Villa Country Club), Kenton, Kentucky. Rosary will begin at 6:45 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. Pastor Gregory E. Osborg invites the public.

Remember also the **second Saturday of every month, Helpers of God's Precious Infants at Holy Name Church**, Auburn Avenue and Taft Road, Cincinnati, 8 a.m. Mass followed by Rosary Procession to the Planned Parenthood abortuary (two blocks away), and then Benediction at the Church, ending at 10 a.m.

Please join us there as we pray for all innocent human life from conception to natural death.

HEARTWARMING LETTERS WE RECEIVE

From time to time, God favors us with uplifting letters from our readers, and we would like to share a recent one with you:

“Dear NKRL,

“Thank you so much for your constant vigilance in protecting all life. We are finally able to contribute to let you know how much your work means to us. We and our 4 children, ages 9, 6, 4, and 1, are so grateful that we can look to you for insight on the political issues and awareness of who actually lives up to the moral standards we strive to maintain. May God continue to bless you and your efforts. You are a true reflection of Life through Christ.” Sincerely,

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is the practice of spacing pregnancies according to an informed awareness of a woman's fertility. It also refers to the practice of spacing pregnancies through ecological breast feeding. NFP is completely healthy and can be 99% effective.

The **Couple to Couple League** (CCL) teaches the full Sympto-Thermal Method of fertility awareness, i.e., the signs of cervical mucus, cervix changes and basal temperatures, and the type of breast feeding which typically provides over a year of natural infertility after childbirth.

A series of four meetings at monthly intervals and the reading of the CCL manual, *The Art of Natural Family Planning*, provide the course instruction. *CCL Family Foundations*, a magazine published six times per year, provides continuing education and support.

The next scheduled classes in Northern Kentucky are:

→ **Sunday, 7/11/04, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Medical Center South**, Edgewood, KY. Contact Joe and Renee Oka, 859-578-8112.

→ **Sunday, 8/15/04, at 2:00 p.m. at Immaculate Mary of Mary Church**, Burlington, KY. Contact Andy and Giselle Alderson, 859-689-1215.

→ **Tuesday, 9/21/04, at 6:30 p.m. at Mother of God Church**, Covington, KY. Contact Matt and Angie Stegman, 859-331-0411.

EXPOSED: GIRL SCOUT COUNCILS HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Not your mothers' Girl Scouts of America anymore, was the astonishing finding of **American Life League's STOPP International** survey which found that 26% of the Girl Scouts of America Councils who answered admitted a relationship with Planned Parenthood, and 79% of the Councils have not disclosed their position, simply failing to answer a simple question: “Do you have any relationship with Planned Parenthood?”

ALL's inquiry was sparked by a remark made by Girl Scouts of the USA CEO **Kathy Cloninger**, who told NBC News: “We have relationships with Planned Parenthood organizations across the country, to bring information-based sex education programs to girls.”

Serious Christian parents of course are shocked and scandalized that such a historically wholesome organization as the Girl Scouts of America have partnered with PPH, the largest abortion provider in the United States, and the largest purveyor of sexual promiscuity to our teenagers.

American Heritage Girls

Seriously concerned Christians are withdrawing their youngsters from such a cesspool exposure, and affiliating with a recently formed organization, **American Heritage Girls, Inc.**, 130 Tri-County Parkway, Suite 202, Cincinnati, OH, 45246, phone (513) 771-2025, fax (513) 771-2595, email ahg@ahgonline.org, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country.

EXPIATION OF UNTRACED MURDER

“ If the corpse of a slain man is found lying in the open on the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you to occupy, and it is not known who killed him, your elders and judges shall go out and measure the distances to the cities that are in the neighborhood of the corpse. When it is established which city is nearest the corpse, the elders of that city shall take a heifer that has never been put to work as a draft animal under a yoke, and bringing it down to a wadi with an ever-flowing stream at a place that has not been plowed or sown, they shall cut the heifer's throat there in the wadi. The priests, the descendants of Levi, shall also be present, for the Lord, your God, has chosen them to minister to him and to give blessings in his name, and every case of dispute or violence must be settled by their decision. Then all the elders of that city nearest the corpse shall wash their hands over the heifer whose throat was cut in the wadi, and shall declare, Our hands did not shed this blood, and our eyes did not see the deed. Absolve, O Lord, your people Israel, whom you have ransomed, and let not the guilt of shedding innocent blood remain in the midst of your people Israel. Thus they shall be absolved from the guilt of bloodshed, and you shall purge from your midst the guilt of innocent blood, that you may prosper for doing what is right in the sight of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 21:1-9

How many Americans today will pass this test on Judgment Day???

THE POWER OF COURAGEOUS WITNESS

Parishioners at **St. Joseph Parish in the Louisiana district** represented by **State Sen. Craig Romero (R)** wrote numerous letters to the senator complaining about a pending bill that would legalize “therapeutic cloning.” **Fr. Bryce Sible**, pastor of the church, had a personal

would save children's lives” and that he only wanted to help sick children. Fr. Sible explained to Romero that such research, even if it were successful, would amount to killing one life to save another, to which the senator replied, “No one explained it to me. Now I understand.”

Sen. Romero voted against the therapeutic cloning bill, which failed in the Louisiana Senate by 2 votes.

Fr. Sible observed that his own actions were a function of the teaching office entrusted to him by virtue of his ordination and his office as pastor.

In fact, we are all so charged, and held accountable if we remain silent (Ezekiel 33:8).

How will you answer on Judgment Day?

conference with Sen. Romero at which time the senator advised that he was confused on what therapeutic cloning really did. The senator advised the Pastor that “a bunch of doctors were brought in who said allowing such cloning

NKRTL'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER; OTHER BOARD MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Ralph Arnsperger, NKRTL's most recent Board member, has a rich and varied history of service and activity, like our other Board members. Trained as a printer and an operator of his own shop, service in the military working on nuclear warheads, years of service on his church parish council and his local school board, Ralph spent much of his professional career working for IBM, beginning in repairing its machines and computers, and then getting into servicing systems programs. After becoming a manager for the company, he was selected for its Resident Study Program to finish his college degree, which he completed at the University of Cincinnati in 1973.

Photo of Ralph A.

In his retirement, he enjoys computers, photography, reading, and spending time with his wife Joan and their two daughters and seven grandchildren, and being active in their church, All Saints in Walton, Kentucky.

Joan and Ralph have been longtime members of NKRTL, and volunteers, and are now even more active in all of our projects, including the newsletter, the rose project, volunteering at the office, etc. Ralph now has us on the Internet, with a website. With all of our newsletters posted, he is seeing to the dissemination of current and crucial information. Their skills — and even more so their dedication and enthusiasm — make them invaluable assets of NKRTL, for which we are deeply grateful.

God always provides!

Other Board Members' Activities

Among the ongoing regular activities of our other Board members, most recently **Stan Barczak** and **Kathy Murphy** have been serving in connection with the Pro-Life Committee of the Covington Diocesan Synod. Kathy Murphy also serves as a contributing editor to the excellent religious monthly, *My People*. Vice President **Fred H. Summe** writes an excellent column, "In Defense of Life," each month in the paper.

President **Robert C. Cetrulo** was the speaker in May at the Annual Banquet of Catholics United for the Faith at Green Bay, WI. His book, *That Reminds Me of a Story...Reflections of a Pro-Life Warrior* (which is available at the NKRTL office), has just been the subject of a very favorable review in the national magazine, *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*.



HAVE WE FORGOTTEN WHAT ABORTION IS?

Another

Child

Killed by

Abortion

HOW

MANY

MORE?