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CELEBRATION FOR LIFE - SUNDAY, SEPT. 26
SPEAKER: EWTN'S JOHNNETTE BENKOVIC
(See Page 9 for details.)

THE PROPER CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

The crucial question as to the proper relationship between church and state always receives heightened attention — and considerable misrepresentation — in a Presidential election year.

We read routinely that our Constitution mandates a separation of church and state. Wrong! We refer the reader to a marvelous book, *Christianity and the Constitution*, by **John Eidsmoe**, a Protestant who holds university degrees in political science and law, and a doctor of theology, and currently teaches at the Tulsa Seminary of Biblical Languages.

In fact, the phrase was used by **Thomas Jefferson**, in 1802, in a speech he gave to a group of Baptists, and was borrowed from an earlier Baptist leader, **Roger Williams**, who wrote: “when they have opened a gap in the hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world, God hath ever broke down the wall itself, removed the candlestick, and made His garden a wilderness, as at this day.”

According to Williams, the “wall of separation” was to protect the “garden of the church” from the “wilderness of the world.” Today, the metaphor has been stood on its head, and the wall is argued to protect the state from the church. Eidsmoe at page 242-243.

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The perversion of the true teaching began with a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions 150 years after the Constitution’s ratification, which cases constructed the government as the enemy of religion. The court was dominated by anti-Christian Masons. We refer the reader to the book, *Behind the Lodge Door*, by **Paul A. Fisher**, p. 266.

Current Application of the Perversion

The current battlefield in which the true church-state relationship doctrine is perverted by the anti-Christian secularists is the dispute currently raging by reason of the fact that several Roman Catholic bishops have decided to enforce the Church’s own internal Canon Law, which denies the Eucharist to “persons who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin.” (Canon 915)

A recent *Time* magazine poll inquired as to whether the Catholic Church should be able to tell politicians how to vote and inquired further as to whether the Catholic Church should be able to tell its members for whom to vote. The answers were overwhelmingly in the negative. These loaded questions bring to mind the most fundamental principle that any debater or advocate of any kind already knows, i.e., one can construct a question in such a way as to dictate the answer.

Instead, the fair question would be: “Should a church enjoy the same rights as any other non-governmental organization to determine its own beliefs, and its own criteria for membership?” Most non-biased listeners would immediately see that that is eminently fair. They would also see that this “church-state separation principle” is not being used, as it was designed, as a shield against governmental interference, but in fact as a sword by which government can not propose to tell the Church how to run its internal affairs. This is precisely contrary to the Constitution, and indeed to a long line of judicial decisions which have uniformly held that in matters of internal discipline and internal rules of the Church itself, secular courts will not even entertain lawsuits, much less make decisions.

This secular effort to deceive the public and to dictate the internal affairs of the Church would be ludicrous, based upon history and law and logic, were it not such a frightening threat to true freedom of religion, guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Clear Papal Teaching on the Question of Those Qualified to Receive Holy Communion

The authoritative teaching of the Roman Catholic Church is contained unambiguously in a document issued by **Pope John Paul II** on November 24, 2002, *Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics*

See NKRTL-PAC Endorsements, Infra

in Political Life: “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.*”

Catholic Bishops - Split!

It is sad, but true, that the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in America are split, even as is the public, on this most fundamental moral question of our time. They all of course proclaim opposition to abortion, but when it gets down to giving meaningful application to that principle, many go AWOL.

NKRTL digested this issue in detail in its July 2004 newsletter, with public statements and actions by Bishops around the country, pro and con.

Then came the annual meeting of the Bishops. **Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, D.C.**, who chairs the committee of Bishops studying this very question about denying Holy Communion to politicians who claim to be Catholic, but who are actually out of communion with the Church in that they support a violation of this most fundamental teaching of the Church, the sanctity of innocent human life. McCarrick delivered his committee’s report to the Bishops in a closed-door meeting, arguing strongly against denying the Eucharist to such public figures. Cardinal McCarrick told the Bishops that he had a letter from the **Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at Rome, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.**

McCarrick told the Bishops: “I would emphasize that Cardinal Ratzinger clearly leaves to us as teachers, pastors, and leaders whether to pursue this path [to deny Holy Communion to such public officials].” (Emphasis in original)

Based upon such representation, the Bishops, while they did not accept the recommendation of the McCarrick committee against the denial of Communion to such dissident politicians, did adopt, by a 183 to 6 vote, a document which stated: “...such decisions rest with the individual bishop in accord with the established canonical and pastoral principles.”

Even Bishops Have Black Tongues

The fact that McCarrick had not told the truth to his fellow Bishops, with whom he did not share the Ratzinger letter at the meeting, was made clear when the Ratzinger letter itself was fully published.

In that letter, Ratzinger clearly pointed out that abortion and euthanasia are grave sins and no one may support such laws. It went on to point out that when a Catholic politician has supported such laws, “...his Pastor should meet with him, instructing him about the Church’s teaching, informing him that he is not to present himself for Holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin, and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist.”

The Ratzinger letter continued, in quite unambiguous language, that when these precautionary measures have

not had their effect or in which they were not possible and the person in question with obstinate persistence still presents himself to receive the Holy Eucharist, “the minister of Holy Communion must refuse to distribute it.”

St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke began this whole debate last January by asserting publicly that “It is the Bishop’s duty to give pastoral care to Catholic politicians...The failure to protect the life of the unborn, a violation of the moral law, violates common good and betrays the trust given to elected officials,” and that politicians who then fail to uphold such fundamental Church teaching are to be denied the Holy Eucharist, because they are indeed not in communion with the Church. Bishop Burke spoke quite strongly after the summer meeting of the Bishops that in fact Cardinal Ratzinger’s letter had not been given to the Bishops, but only the skewered synopsis of it by Cardinal McCarrick.

Likewise joining the protesters was **Bishop Robert F. Vasa of Baker, Oregon**, who agreed with public statements previously made by Archbishop Burke, and by **Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Nebraska**, and stated, “I literally could not give Holy Communion to a professed and actively committed pro-choice politician.”

He also agreed that the Ratzinger memorandum was not given to the Bishops in Denver, and that he, Bishop Vasa, affirmed that “The June memorandum of Cardinal Ratzinger should have a greater impact on individual bishops in their own dioceses than the statement of the USCCB...I answer to the Holy See. I don’t answer to the USCCB.”

After the conclusion of the Summer meeting, three other Bishops, **Most Rev. John F. Donoghue, Archbishop of Atlanta, Georgia, Most Rev. Robert J. Baker, Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina, and Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, North Carolina**, issued a joint document, *Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and Reception of Holy Communion*, which followed the very clear teaching of the Holy Father and of the Cardinal Ratzinger document, which stated in part:

“A manifest lack of proper disposition for Holy Communion is found to be present in those who consistently support pro-abortion legislation. Because support for pro-abortion is gravely sinful, such persons should not be admitted to Holy Communion. ...Only after reconciliation with the Church has occurred, with the knowledge and consent of the local bishop, and public disavowal of former support for procured abortion, will the individual be permitted to approach the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We undertake this action to safeguard the sacred dignity of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, to reassure the faithful, and to save sinners.”

Other bishops faithfully following the true teaching of the Catholic Church in these respects include **Bishop Michael Sheridan of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Bishop Samuel Aquila of Fargo, North Dakota, Archbishop Charles Shaput of Denver, Colorado, Archbishop Thomas J.**

Olmsted of Phoenix, Arizona, Coadjutor Bishop Thomas Winski of Orlando, Florida, Bishop Ronald Gainer of Lexington, Kentucky, and New Jersey Bishops Joseph Galante and John Smith (who have said they would deny Communion to their governor, **James E. McGreevey** who has a pro-abortion record and who subsequently has resigned his office as an admitted practicing homosexual).

Other Reactions

→“I am greatly disappointed...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.” **Longtime Pro-Life leader, Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois.**

→“The hierarchy in the USA is reluctant to deny Holy Communion to politicians who support and vote for abortion. That is a clear sign that the clergy is more concerned with externals, facades, and politics, than with the salvation of souls, which in truth is the only reason by the Church exists and priests are priests. ...The priest, bishop, or cardinal who denies Holy Communion to a pro-abortion politician is doing him or her a great act of charity, and showing real pastoral concern for the salvation of the soul of that person, and those who are witnessing about it.” **Letter to the Editor, Catholic World Report, August 2004.**

→“The Church would be much better off and would be taking steps to turn the situation around, if bishops and priests began to oppose and denounce our secular culture rather than trying to accommodate Catholicism to it.” **Editorial by Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., Homiletic & Pastoral Review.**

→“Denying a Catholic in bad standing the Eucharist is an internal church matter, not a political matter. The Catholic Church has a right, indeed, a responsibility, to lead its members in following God's will and to correct them when they stray.” **Letter to the Editor, Catholic Telegraph, 8/6/04.**

“It Ain't the Economy, Stupid!”

Bill Clinton to the contrary notwithstanding, there are still many moral people in the electorate who understand that fundamental morality, and the first principle thereof, i.e., the sanctity of innocent human life, is the true litmus test for election. This continues to be true in the readership area of NKRTL's newsletter, for which we are eternally grateful.

The recent poll taken by the *Kentucky Post* demonstrated that half of all of the people who responded to their questionnaire as to the most important issue in this year's presidential race identified abortion as “the top issue not only in the election, but also in our entire culture.” Others mentioned integrity, some the economy, and not one mentioned healthcare issues. The right to life issue clearly outweighed any other single issue, and in fact all of the other issues put together.

“Would anyone vote for a candidate who supported legalizing slavery because they also liked the candidate's stand on universal health care?” **Letter to the Editor, Catholic Telegraph, 8/6/04.**

Thinking people intuitively understand that moral decay is the worst enemy we face, and that God will not bless America until America blesses God!

NKRTL CONTRIBUTES TO ANOTHER PRO-LIFE VICTORY IN KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT

On June 17, 2004, the **Kentucky Supreme Court** issued a landmark decision in the case of *Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Morris*, which reversed a tragically erroneous decision 21 years earlier in *Hollis v. Commonwealth*. The Court now held that a viable unborn child is a “person” within the meaning of the Kentucky homicide law, and that someone causing its death can be prosecuted for homicide.

In the horrible decision 21 years earlier, in *Hollis*, a man had forced his hand into the birth canal of the pregnant woman, killing the unborn baby, and practically killing the woman. He was convicted in the trial court of homicide regarding the unborn child, and of assault and battery to the woman. The Kentucky Court of Appeals affirmed, but the Supreme Court, in a split decision, held that the unborn child was not a “person” until “born alive,” and therefore there was no criminal homicide committed.

The majority of the Supreme Court in the *Morris* case reversed *Hollis*, by a 5 to 2 vote, with the two dissenting votes coming from **Justice Keller of Lexington** and **Justice Stumbo of Eastern Kentucky.**

A Concurring Opinion, concurring with the majority decision, but indicating that the Court did not go far enough, was written by **Justice Donald Wintersheimer of Covington, Ky.** He stated that the unborn child is a person from conception on, as shown by clear biology, and anyone who criminally assaults the woman resulting in the death of an unborn child should be subject to prosecution.

A Friend of the Court Brief was submitted by attorney **Robert C. Cetrulo**, NKRTL President, on behalf of NKRTL, pointing out that Kentucky has recognized the unborn child as a person for purposes of civil suit for wrongful damages resulting from the death of the unborn child in the womb due to the wrongful act of a third person, since 1955, when Cetrulo was a freshman in law school at the University of Kentucky.

In fact, that is now the majority rule by judicial decision throughout the United States, and all of the cases which have been presented to courts dealing with unborn babies even in the first few months of gestation have upheld the right to suit. As stated in the Concurring Opinion of Justice Wintersheimer:

“Except for certain superficial differences, there is no meaningful distinction between the unborn child with functioning but younger organs and another unborn child, a few days or weeks older with functioning slightly more advanced. There is no difference sufficient to justify granting greater consideration to the child in the

latter stages of development than the child in the earlier stages. There is no good reason why we should discriminate against unborn children and treat their cases any differently than those of any other human being.”

As pointed out by the **Michigan Supreme Court**: “If the mother can die and the fetus live, or the fetus die and the mother live, how can it be said that there is only one life? ...The phenomenon of birth is not the beginning of life; it is merely a change in form of life.”

Legal Significance for Abortion

“The court is slowly coming into line with biology,” said **Robert C. Cetrulo** in an interview with the *Kentucky Post*. “It’s like Dr. Seuss said, ‘A person is a person, no matter how small.’”

This recent decision of the Kentucky Supreme Court focuses the spotlight upon the legal bankruptcy and moral hypocrisy of the law which plays the “pea under the shell” game (now you see it, now you don’t), holding that the unborn child is a “person” for the purposes of suing for its prenatal injuries or death, in order to recover financial damages, and for the purpose of punishing a third person actor whose felonious assault results in its death, but not a “person” when the mother wants to kill it!


Needless to say, the pro-death community vigorously opposes these decisions.

The decision is generating nationwide interest. Cetrulo was contacted by a 50,000-watt radio station in Denver, Colorado, and given a half-hour interview regarding it. The decision, particularly Justice Wintersheimer’s brilliant Concurring Opinion, will be published on the decision law books nationwide and will undoubtedly have ongoing impact in this painful process necessary to restore the sanction of legal protection to all innocent human beings, born and unborn.

“Historically, the discipline of law has developed based upon factual knowledge derived from other disciplines,” Cetrulo said. “Aberrations like *Roe v. Wade*, denying personhood to the unborn child, will fall victim to truth, just as did the tragic decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1857 in *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, in which the Court denied personhood to our black brothers and sisters,” Cetrulo predicted.

Abortion = Definitional
Dehumanization
graphic

NKRTL AFFIRMED BY U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

 In June 18, 2004, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the formal declaration:

*“The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should **not honor** those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions.”*

This is a simple principle which NKRTL has been teaching for more than 30 years and which has been rejected by the previous two bishops of Covington, William Hughes and Robert Muench, many priests and nuns, and Catholic institutions, and many in the laity, and which has resulted in public mockery and ridicule of NKRTL for its principled stance.

Notre Dame Academy Sponsorship of Pro-Abortion Politician as Commencement Speaker

A glaring example of this deviation was the 1997 graduation ceremony of Notre Dame Academy, held in St. Agnes Church in Park Hills. The commencement speaker, invited by Notre Dame Academy principal, **Sr. Mary Rita Geoppinger, SND**, was **Ms. Roxanne Qualls**, then Mayor of Cincinnati. who was not only a fallen-away Catholic, but an active promoter of abortion with a pro-abortion voting record on the Cincinnati City Council, and whose candidacy for office had been endorsed by Stonewall, an organization which will not endorse any candidate who is anything less than 100 percent pro-abortion and 100 percent pro-homosexual.

NKRTL was contacted by several irate alumnae of Notre Dame, and advised of this scheduled horror, and wrote to **Bishop Robert Muench**, and communicated also with **Karen Riegler, Coordinator of the Covington Diocesan Pro-Life Commission**, and furnished them all of the documentation of the above facts regarding Ms. Qualls — to no avail.

A group of NDA alumnae and NKRTL members peacefully prayed on the public sidewalk in front of the church while this abomination was going on on the very altar of St. Agnes Church, presided over by **Bishop Muench** (now Bishop of Baton Rouge, Louisiana), **St. Agnes Pastor Fr. Donald Hellmann** (now retired), **Msgr. Allen Meier** (now retired, then Chaplain to Notre Dame Academy), **Fr. Gene Wolfzorn** (then Pastor of St. Stephen Church in Newport, who has since left the priesthood to attempt “marriage” with an ex nun), **Fr. Mark Witte** (then **Associate Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Ft. Mitchell**, and now **Pastor at St. Timothy Church in Union**), **Fr. Tom Sacksteder** (then Secretary to Bishop Muench, and now **Pastor of St. Paul Church in Florence**), and many of the **Sisters of Notre Dame**.

Some parents and relatives approached our prayer line to inquire of our reason for being there, and their responses to our explanation were varied. Some indicted that they did not know Qualls' position (which demonstrated considerable disinterest on their part, considering the prevalence of the issue and her posture, in the public press). Others rationalized that there were more important issues at stake, specifically the graduation of their daughters. Others thanked us for being there, and indeed were part of the letter writing process trying to persuade Sr. Rita and Bishop Muench to disavow this pro-abortionist.

The confusion of the graduating class was understandable, and sad. One girl challenged our prayer line with the accusation that we were "extremely rude" to intrude on her graduation. When we pointed out that it was very sad that the Church was approving the address by a person who is in favor of killing unborn babies, she responded that "we know that...but that is just one aspect of her personality." Another student pointed out to us that many of the students had complained of the selection of the speaker to the principal, Sr. Rita, but were overruled. It is indeed hard to hold accountable these 18-year-old young ladies, who have obviously not been fed the truth in their "Catholic" education.

If someone favored the legalization of child abuse, would they be acceptable as a speaker to graduating students in a Catholic church? Or how about anti-Semitism? Or how about racism?

Other letters from outraged alumnae to Bishop Muench as well as to Sr. Rita received the same treatment as NKRTL's letter — "stonewalling." One of the disappointed NDA alumnae letters to Sr. Rita pointed out quotes from the Catholic Catechism, including the fundamental position on innocent life in the womb, and also the sin of scandal: "Scandal is grave when given by those who by nature or office are obliged to teach and educate others." No response. And of course NKRTL was blasted in the public press as "rude."

NKRTL has been uncompromising and plain speaking, which has resulted in frequent harsh criticism, bordering on hysteria. NKRTL's response is the same as that of **William Lloyd Garrison**, leader of the slavery abolition movement in 1850:

"I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but it there no cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject I do not wish to speak or think or write with moderation. NO! NO! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present."

Bishop William Hughes'

Sponsorship of Active Abortionists in the Diocese

The radical feminist pro-abortionist theologian, **Rosemary Ruther** (who was a signatory to that false and atrocious *New York Times* advertisement indicating that the Catholic Church's position on abortion is diverse and admits of many different positions), was the invited guest in the Covington cathedral at a Lenten series program by **Bishop Hughes**.

Fr. Robert Drinan, S.J., who had a 100 percent pro-abortion voting record in Congress until compelled to resign by the active intervention of the Pope himself, was permitted by **Bishop Hughes** to speak at the **Catholic Newman Center** in Lexington, Kentucky (when Lexington was still part of the Covington Diocese).

And this policy of Bishop Hughes in the Covington Diocese, of having pro-abortion speakers at Catholic facilities, continued into the 1987 invitation to **Marlo Thomas**, active pro-abortionist and "member of the Board of the **National Women's Political Caucus**," which of course is not only pro-abortion but has raised funds for political candidates — only if they support the pro-abortion position.

Only after a public outcry did **St. Elizabeth Hospital** cancel Ms. Thomas's appearance. The pro-abortion *Kentucky Post* editor, **Judith Clabes**, editorialized against the "terrorists" in the Right to Life movement, who had caused the cancellation of Ms. Thomas's appearance and said: "Her appearance had been approved or at least not disapproved by Covington Bishop William A. Hughes who is also chairman of the hospital board."

In a separate article, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* described that "**Jackie Hurt**, Public Relations Director of the hospital, said the Bishop was aware that we were bringing her here." In the same article, it was reported that Ms. Thomas's New York publicist had stated that when the booking was made, the hospital had asked Thomas's view on abortion and that Thomas gave the following statement: "Which was given to the Bishop in Kentucky and approved: 'As a Catholic, my Church doesn't permit it (abortion), but I feel that abortion is between a woman and her doctor and the law must support that choice.'"

Kentucky Post editor **Judith Clabes** was also given, by **Bishop Hughes**, an honorary Doctorate of Law degree "in recognition of her service to education," according to *The Kentucky Post* article of 5/16/86, and was designated

Kentucky Post Editor Judy Clabes receives an honorary degree from Bishop William T. Hughes at the Thomas More College commencement.

by Bishop Hughes to deliver the commencement address to the **Thomas More College graduating class**. Among her other positions inconsistent with those of the Catholic Church is a published article of hers captioned "Health Issue Puts Sex Education on Public Agenda," where her advocacy of condoms includes the following statements:

"At last, we're steeled for the C-word: Condom. ...Looks like we might be willing to buy contraceptive-hyping on these terms. Talk Trojan soon to your stockbroker; it's hot. ...A basic fact of life is that sex is a fact of life. Not that it's also a fact of death, we seem to be willing to deal with all its consequences realistically. Maybe we're getting somewhere."

Bishop Hughes also permitted the speaking, by a **pro-abortion judge, at a Red Mass in honor of St. Thomas More, on the saint's feast day, at Thomas More College**. This judge had, years before the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, written two pro-abortion decisions.

Bishop Hughes also permitted as a major guest speaker at Notre Dame Academy an active and admitted practicing homosexual, and the leading pro-abortion advocate in the Kentucky State Senate, **Ernesto Scorsone (D)** of Lexington, Kentucky.

All of these actions, of course, by **Bishops Hughes and Muench**, and many other Catholic clergy and religious of the Covington Diocese are directly contrary to the Catholic principle enunciated above by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops this year, and indeed by the similar principles previously adopted many years ago by the **Knights of Columbus**, by **Cardinal Archbishop John O'Connor of New York City**, **Bishop James Timlin of Scranton, Pennsylvania**, and many other bishops throughout the country.

Is the Catholic community so impoverished that its churches and educational institutions cannot find competent and worthy Catholics upon whom to bestow its honors, platforms for speeches, etc?

Now that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has spoken out unambiguously on this principle, hopefully we have seen an end to such scandalous religious conduct in this diocese, and will await the appropriate confession and contrition of those who sinfully slandered NKRTL, and sinfully scandalized the faithful.

Continuing Scandals in Catholic Diocese of Covington

Unfortunately, such scandals continue in the Covington Diocese:

☛ In November of 2002, two days before the election, wherein the leading proponent of chemical abortion in Kenton County, **Barbara Black**, was standing for reelection as a Kenton County Commissioner, the **Covington Diocesan Pro-Life Commission Coordinator Karen Riegler** publicly endorsed Black for reelection in the *Kentucky Enquirer* with the statement: "I have no problem with Barb Black. She is very pro-life."

This has been called to the attention of the current Covington Bishop, **Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.**, on several occasions in the past two years, but Mrs. Riegler remains in that prestigious paid position of leading the Diocesan Pro-Life Commission, and there has been no public withdrawal of that scandal.

☛ Two of the most recently named members of the Diocesan Pro-Life Commission, **Paige Ellerman** of Newport, and **Robert Hoffer** of Covington, had their names appear in a public ad endorsement of last year's gubernatorial campaign of the stridently pro-abortion candidate, **Ben Chandler**. Also appearing in support of the pro-abortion candidate Chandler in that ad was the name of a Deacon in the Covington Diocese.

On February 2, 2004, NKRTL wrote a letter to Mr. **Mark A. Krahe**, Chairman of the Pro-Life Commission of the Diocese of Covington, with copies to Bishop Foys, and to Mrs. Riegler, pointing out this obvious inconsistency and scandal, and inquiring as to how it would be acceptable for people to sit on the PLC while simultaneously supporting for election to public office candidates who will keep the killing machine in place. There has been no response from any of the recipients of our letter, neither the Pro-Life Commission, nor its Coordinator Mrs. Riegler, nor Bishop Foys, although Mrs. Riegler has defended the appointments of these two people on the basis that they are "good Catholics." Apparently, in her terms, one can be a good Catholic and simultaneously support the institution of abortion by making direct contributions to its advancement in the support of pro-abortion politicians who thereby maintain pro-abortion laws. We have had no response from the Diocesan Shepherd to our letter now of seven months ago.

☛ On June 9, 2004, attorney **Robert E. Ruberg** was invited to give a talk on end of life issues at the **St. Charles Lodge Apartments**, operated by the Sisters of Notre Dame. NKRTL President **Robert C. Cetrulo** attended, and taped the remarks, and engaged in an exchange with Mr. Ruberg in front of the audience. Mr. Ruberg defended the standard Living Will, developed by the **Kentucky General Assembly**, which authorizes the withdrawal of food and water from comatose patients, who are not in the dying process. Mr. Cetrulo pointed out that **Pope John Paul II**, less than three months earlier, had just issued a definitive and unambiguous Papal pronouncement that it is dehumanizing to call patients

in a comatose state “persistent vegetative state” (the phrase used by Mr. Ruberg), since human beings are never vegetables.

Mr. Ruberg insisted that “the Pope did not say that you cannot discontinue nutrition and hydration. There is no duty, however, to provide unending artificial nutrition and hydration for a permanently unconscious patient.”

In fact, that statement is directly contrary to the specific and unambiguous statements of **the Pope in his address on Life-Sustaining Treatments, given on March 20, 2004**: “A man, even if seriously ill or disabled in the exercise of his highest functions, is and always will be a man, and he will never become a ‘vegetable.’...” The Pope went on to state that a person in a persistent comatose state “awaiting recovery or a natural end, still has the right to basic healthcare (nutrition, hydration, cleanliness, warmth, etc.)...” To reinforce the clarity of his message, Pope John Paul II stated: “...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)

This tragic seduction by misinformation of a Catholic population, on Catholic premises, by a lawyer who claims the Catholic faith, is further tragic evidence of the precise type of thing legislated against historically in most dioceses, and most recently by the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops** in June of 2004. This most recent outrage has likewise been called to the attention of Bishop Foys, by letter of June 17, 2004, with a copy of the transcript of Mr. Ruberg’s remarks, which were shown to be in direct contradiction of the Holy Father’s teaching.

It should be noted that Mr. Ruberg was a member of the school board of Notre Dame Academy at the time that the pro-abortionist Cincinnati Mayor Roxanne Qualls addressed the graduating class of NDA.

Mr. Ruberg has also publicly endorsed pro-abortion candidates for public office as well.

☛ **Mr. Tim Fitzgerald, editor of *The Messenger***, the Catholic diocesan newspaper, repeated this misinformation, contradicting Catholic teaching, when he published an article about **Terri Schiavo** who is being starved to death in Florida. Fitzgerald stated:

“Artificial nutrition and hydration do not reverse or improve the underlying condition, nor can it restore the patient to health. Since a feeding tube can be considered ‘extraordinary’ or disproportionate, then such medical assistance can be withdrawn, according to the principle of benefit and burden.”

On May 6, 2004, NKRTL offered an editorial to *The Messenger*, setting forth the true Catholic teaching, as shown by the papal quote above, and sent a copy to **Bishop Foys**. No article has been published, nor has our tendered editorial been acknowledged either by *The Messenger* or by Bishop Foys.

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 Newport Central 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 **Newport Central Catholic High School**, led by **Religion teacher Ron Auteri**, a longtime NKRTL member.

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?”

“POLITICAL” POLLING

A ccording to a recent survey by *Time* magazine, “Catholics” are evenly split between the two major party presidential candidates, **President George W. Bush (R)** and **U.S. Senator John F. Kerry (D)**.

The most interesting disclosure of the poll was that those who describe themselves as “very religious” favor Bush over Kerry by 59% to 35%, while respondents who consider themselves “not religious” choose Kerry over Bush by a margin of 69% to 22%.

What's In a Name?

This particular question was apparently put to all of the respondents, and not limited to Catholics. Therefore, the relevant inquiry becomes what determines the “Catholicity” of those half of the respondents who identified themselves as Catholic and support Kerry! It is obvious that they are self-determinative, calling themselves Catholic, even if they are not active in their faith, and indeed reject fundamental teachings of their faith.

People intuitively understand that Johnny Bench, the former great catcher for the Cincinnati Reds, is not “a Cincinnati Red,” but in fact is a “former Cincinnati Red.” If one were to take a poll as to training requirements, e.g., of the Cincinnati Reds organization, and publish it as representative of the views of “Cincinnati Reds,” one would laugh if the poll included Johnny Bench and other former Reds and identified them as “Cincinnati Reds.” They are obviously entitled to their opinions on the subject, but the pollster is not entitled to misrepresent to the public the results of his poll as being representative of “Cincinnati Reds.” Intellectual honesty would compel the pollster to indicate that the interrogated persons included “former Reds,” i.e., people who are no longer active members of the Cincinnati Reds organization, fulfilling the internal requirements of the organization, etc. But intellectual honesty is not a hallmark of, nor indeed the goal of, many “pollsters” today!

DIRECT COMPARISON OF BUSH VS. KERRY, VOTE BY VOTE

W hen all the rhetoric is stripped aside, it's the vote that counts, and the past record is the best predictor of future conduct. We publish herewith a direct comparison, vote for vote, on multiple specific Pro-Life issues, between **President George W. Bush** and **Senator John Kerry**, taken primarily from Right to Life of Michigan newsletter:

President George W. Bush

- a. Signed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act
- b. Signed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act
- c. Reinstated the Mexico City policy preventing tax dollars to organizations performing and promoting abortion overseas
- d. Opposes taxpayer dollars being used to pay for abortions
- e. Backs a ban on all human cloning
- f. Will not authorize federal funding for new embryonic stem cell research
- g. Ruled that federally controlled substances could not be used to assist in suicides
- h. Supports parental notification of an abortion for minors under 18
- i. Annually supports January 22nd March for Life in Washington, D.C.
- j. Has nominated Pro-Life judges to the federal bench, several of whose confirmations have been filibustered by pro-aborts in the U.S. Senate

Senator John Kerry

- a. Voted no on Partial-Birth Ban Act six times
- b. Voted against the Unborn Victims of Violence Act
- c. Says his first executive order if president would be to “reverse the Mexico City policy...”
- d. Voted numerous times to permit abortions at U.S. military facilities and at least 25 times in favor of taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions in the U.S.
- e. Opposes ban on all human cloning
- f. Supports embryonic stem cell research
- g. Supported use of federally controlled substances for assisted suicide in Oregon
- h. Opposes parental notification of an abortion for minors
- i. Attends and is featured at pro-abortion events
- j. Says he will filibuster any Supreme Court nominees who don't support abortion, and if president will only nominate pro-abortion judges

“The common outcry which is justly made on behalf of human rights, for example the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture, is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”

Exhortation on the Role of the Laity in the World, Pope John Paul II

NKRTL 31ST ANNUAL CELEBRATION FOR LIFE

2004 NKRTL CHRISTMAS CARDS

SEPTEMBER - DUES RENEWAL MONTH.

(Story continued from Page 12)

(2) the passage of a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, protecting all innocent human life, and in the interim the providing as much protection as possible to unborn children, and their mothers and fathers.

WHAT WE DO

To meet our obligation to be faithful, Northern Kentucky Right to Life volunteers continue their efforts through the following activities:

- ▶ publication of a newsletter
- ▶ maintaining an office and telephone to offer assistance and answer inquiries
- ▶ distribution of Pro-Life literature
- ▶ sponsoring speakers and films
- ▶ supplying voter information
- ▶ sponsoring rallies and picketing
- ▶ January "March for Life" newspaper ad
- ▶ Annual Celebration for Life
- ▶ scheduling monthly liturgies
- ▶ sale of Pro-Life Christmas cards
- ▶ publication of Pro-Life newspaper ads
- ▶ assisting other Pro-Life organizations, especially those involved in direct service to unwed mothers

RATING

From a pro-abortion former editor of *The Kentucky Post*, NKRTL received the rating of "terrorist."

On the other hand, from the Catholic weekly, *The Wanderer*, NKRTL was praised as "the most effective pro-life organization in the Midwest."

JOIN US

"I can't do everything," is a common excuse we tell ourselves when we wish not to do anything. Granted, no one can do everything, but there is so much for each of us to do.

First, meet your Christian obligation to educate yourself and to continue to receive and read NKRTL's Newsletter. **Your renewal of membership will guarantee that you will not only continue receiving the Newsletter, but that there will be sufficient funds to continue publishing it.**

Your generous donations will assist our volunteers in their efforts to reach out and touch the hearts and minds of those in need of the Truth.

We not only need your financial support, but also your active participation. Come join us at one of our monthly liturgies, sponsor one of our speakers at your event, help us distribute Pro-Life literature and our Newsletter, attend our Celebration for Life, rally with us at the Capitol or stand with us at Life Chain, put a bumper sticker on your car, vote Pro-Life, write your elective officials, etc., etc.

In his book, *Abortion: The Silent Holocaust*, **Father John Powell, S.J.** observes:

"I am also convinced that a handful of loyal pro-life activists will persevere and that their courage will eventually be rewarded with the victory of life over death. If we cave in, the stones will rise to accuse us of unfaithfulness to the unborn, who have no voice of protest except ours."

Please be faithful in renewing your membership — and extending it to others!

ANOTHER ADVOCATE BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

In your charity, you are requested to pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Patrick O'Donnell**, Fr. O'Donnell, of Glenmary Missionaries, was a "doer of the Word," and a self-starter who initiated Pro-Life leadership wherever he served.

Pic of Fr. O'Donnell

When he pastored in southwestern Kentucky, his parishioners could always be seen at the rallies in Frankfort with Pro-Life signs. The same was true when he pastored in northeastern Kentucky, where he also initiated ecumenical Pro-Life programs at the Protestant seminary there. When he was later sent to Idabel, Oklahoma, he initiated an ecumenical Pro-Life function with pastors of multiple faiths, and invited **NKRTL President Robert C. Cetrulo** there to speak to them on the January 22nd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* in 1994.

Fr. O'Donnell was active in a variety of social and pastoral activities, but understood well, and demonstrated, the primacy of the issue of the sanctity of all innocent human life. Surely he is being met by a chorus of cherubs following his death on July 22 in Cincinnati after a short retirement at age 85. Pro-Lifers are requested to pray for and to Fr. O'Donnell, and to the gracious God Who deigned to share Fr. O'Donnell with us for so long.

HEARTWARMING LETTERS

Your July 2004 newsletter is superb. You nailed the problem in our church perfectly. I hope and pray that every bishop in the U.S. hears those words you wrote and understands that this is how we feel as Catholics ...that there is a gulf or breach between the small parish communities and their members and the community of bishops. It is incredible to note the mass confusion between the everyday Catholic, who is trying to live the life of Christ and who needs support so desperately, and the bishops who seem to be spending an inordinate amount of time lending their ears to unethical, immoral politicians."

SEPTEMBER - DUES RENEWAL MONTH

FAITHFULNESS

A news reporter once remarked to **Mother Teresa** that all her efforts were not successful in eliminating poverty in Calcutta. To this she replied, "Jesus did not call us to be successful, but to be faithful."

For over 33 years Northern Kentucky Right to Life, as well as numerous other Pro-Life organizations, have labored to stop the American Holocaust: ABORTION.

Have Pro-Lifers eliminated abortion? No.

Have Pro-Lifers been successful? In some ways, yes. Because of the ongoing efforts (education, changes in the law, continual prayers, sidewalk counseling, pregnancy centers, public demonstrations, countless Pro-Life literature and films), a number of children's lives have been saved from the hideous crime of abortion, and many young mothers will not have to live with the painful memory of having once destroyed a child who was living within them.

But have we been totally successful? No.

But God will ask if we have been faithful, totally faithful! This is a question which each of us will have to answer when we stand before Him.

PURPOSE

For more than 33 years, Northern Kentucky Right to Life has faithfully directed its efforts to two principal areas:
(1) to educate others:

- ◆ that all human life begins at the moment of fertilization.
- ◆ that each individual person's significance or importance is that he or she was created by God and his or her value is not determined by another person or persons.
- ◆ that the unborn child's right to life is from God.
- ◆ that every life is a life worth living.
- ◆ that abortion is never morally permissible, for any reason.
- ◆ that the subsequent assaults upon innocent human life — euthanasia, cloning, human experimentation, assisted suicide — are natural consequences of the amoral secular philosophy engendered by *Roe v. Wade*, i.e., "meaningful life," and are likewise immoral and destructive of any system of orderly society.

(This story continues on Page 11, inside.)