

NKRTL

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1822 MADISON AVE., P.O. BOX 1202, COVINGTON, KY 41012
Web Page Address: www.nkryrtl.org

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(859) 431-6380
Email Address: postmaster@nkryrtl.org

NKRTL ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL MONTH

While the work of NKRTL is overwhelmingly supported by donated services, there are certain unavoidable costs that are substantial — paper, printing, postage, utilities, rent, etc. The modest annual dues of \$20.00, spread widely among many members, helps us to pay these expenses and purchase and distribute the educational literature necessary as we work towards this crucial goal of stopping the killing, and bringing you our informative newsletter. **More generous donations are needed from those who can afford it.**

Today, 4000 babies will die graphic

Those who attended the monthly liturgy sponsored by NKRTL at **St. Anthony Church** heard an excellent homily by **Fr. Thomas Robbins, pastor**, on **the most crucial**

Pope John Paul II/Fr. Marx card

defining issue in the Pro-Life movement, and indeed in the world today: individual responsibility!

As we plead for your dues renewal, and your active evangelical apostolate in what the **Holy Father** has described as **“the most important issue in the world,”** we could not improve on the challenging advocacy of Fr. Robbins, whose remarks we publish herewith:

“Abortion is a very ugly topic we don’t like to talk about. And it is, as we all know, a topic that divides people like no other. Bringing up the topic can be like playing center on a football team - as soon as the ball is snapped, there will be an inevitable collision. We know we will be challenged.

“But it is a topic that causes more harm from our silence than from speaking out. For some day history and the judgment of God, will ask of our times: ‘Who spoke up for life?’

“Mother Teresa was once asked, ‘How do you judge success in the work that you are doing?’ Mother Teresa looked puzzled for a moment and then replied, ‘I don’t remember the Lord talking about success. I only remember that He spoke of faithfulness. He asked us to love and to be faithful.’ And that is what we need to do.

“We need to be faithful to the principles that He gave us. That is the challenge that is before us. **Discipleship is costly. We must be willing to pay the price. Whatever is asked of us we must be willing to do.**

“We may not always see the immediate results of our prayers. But that is where our faith has to play a big part. We don’t know the full effects our efforts have, but we believe that it is essential for us to gather in prayer in support of the right to life of all individuals.

“Many times people don’t want to hear our message. They disguise the reality of the killing of another human being by sugar-coating the words. It’s a lot easier to talk about abortion when it is called ‘terminating a pregnancy,’ when we never discuss the tiny victim, or refer to the victim’s death.

“People do not want to hear what we have to say. That’s all the more reason that we have to say it. It is a lot easier to go on with your head in the sand when you never have to confront the real issue. It is an easy way to avoid the truth that you know is right. We cannot let them dismiss this issue as a ‘personal choice’ for each individual. There is no ‘choice’ here.

“It is sad to see the permissiveness that is running rampant through our country. The utilitarian ethic seems to be what is pervading our nation: if it is useful, keep it; if not, get rid of it. This mentality assumes that there are lives not worth living — if anyone is going to be any trouble for us, get rid of them.

“Our mission is not an easy one. That is why we must work together in this fight. We are up against strong forces. We know this when we can show that statistically the most dangerous place to be with regards to the preservation of one’s life is in the womb.

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"We cannot give up. We cannot give in. We all have our part to play through work, sacrifice and prayer. We

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 34 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 many 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.

In fact, the Helpers of God's Precious Infants semi-monthly liturgy/prayer witness at the abortuary in Cincinnati, initiated 10 years ago by NKRTL, has now been successful in shutting down that clinic on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month when we appear in prayer witness.

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 34 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*. This "meaningful life" philosophy is immoral and destructive of any system of orderly society.

(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:

know that we have the tools at our disposal. So I encourage all of you to continue to work actively for this cause."

- 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, with national speaker
- 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**

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.

there will be sufficient funds to continue publishing it.

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 in Washington, D.C., 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."

Each of us will be held accountable, not only for our actions, but according to the Bible, even more importantly, for our inactions. **Ezekiel 33:8; Matthew 26:31-46.**

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

U.S. SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENT - THE MOST IMPORTANT U.S. POLITICAL DECISION IN AT LEAST A CENTURY

President George W. Bush has nominated to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court, **Judge John G. Roberts** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The usual pro-abortion crowd — **American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, liberal Democratic senators, National Abortion Rights Action League, etc.** — are making complaints about the nomination, which is a good sign.

Judge John G. Roberts

NKRTL was among many thousands who petitioned the President immediately after the announcement of **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**, to fill that seat with a Pro-Lifer. We pointed out that while abortion and the right to life issues are frequently given a “back burner” by the secular media, and indeed by many in public life, including some who claim to be Pro-Life, the fact is that it is the most important moral/political issue in the world, as pointed out by **Pope John Paul II**.

Surgical abortion alone kills 4,000 babies a day in the United States — more than killed in the terrorist attack of 9/11. Cumulatively, more innocent unborn babies have been killed by abortion than all of the war dead suffered by the United States in every war in which it has been engaged.

There can be no doubt about the primacy of this issue, as it has now led, predictably, to further devaluation of human life not only in terms of abortion, but also in Frankenstein-like experiments on human beings by cloning and embryonic stem cell research (done by killing prenatal human beings), killing of ill people by starvation/dehydration, etc.

Republican Party Record Doesn't Match Its Rhetoric

We pointed out to him the sad history of the Republican appointments, falling short of the Pro-Life rhetoric given by the Republican Party. The *Roe v. Wade* decision itself in

1973 came about with the vote of three Republican appointees — **Brennan (Eisenhower)**, and **Burger and Blackmun (Nixon)**. Had three Pro-Lifers been appointed, the decision would have been 5 to 4 Pro-Life instead of 7 to 3 pro-abortion.

The betrayal continued under **President Ronald Reagan** who, contrary to a specific guarantee to appoint only Pro-Life justices, appointed the currently retiring justice, **Sandra Day O'Connor**, who had a pro-abortion voting record previously as a member of the state legislature in Arizona, and had strong connections with **Planned Parenthood** there.

More recent broken promises by Republican presidents include the appointment of pro-abortion justices **John Paul Stevens (Ford)**, and **Kennedy and Souter (George H.W. Bush)**. Souter even had a known pro-abortion voting record on the New Hampshire Court, and sat on the board of directors of a hospital which had a policy approving the killing of unborn babies.

These Republican pro-aborts have continued to cast decisive votes affirming *Roe v. Wade*. We pointed out to President Bush that this current appointment will truly be a litmus test of his presidency, and indeed a watershed of American history, making either a step back towards moral integrity, or a marked acceleration in our moral degeneration.

Judge Roberts

Judge Roberts, during his two-year tenure on the U.S. Court of Appeals, has not been involved in a right to life case. Some of his previous record seems favorable. He previously served as a law clerk to current **Chief Justice William Rehnquist** (one of the original two Pro-Life dissents in the *Roe* case), and while an Assistant Attorney General in the Reagan administration wrote a vigorous Pro-Life brief in the U.S. Supreme Court, asserting that “*Roe v. Wade* was wrongly decided and needs to be reversed.”

Judge Roberts is married and has two adopted children. Significantly, his wife has been active in a right to life organization.

On the other hand, it has just been disclosed that while an attorney in private practice, Judge Roberts volunteered to work on a “pro bono” (meaning without legal fee) case advocating the rights of homosexual activists who were challenging the constitutionality of a referendum passed by the voters of Colorado which would have insulated private employers from being forced to hire active homosexuals, and protected private property owners from being compelled to rent to active homosexuals. The senior member of his firm who solicited Roberts' active participation in that case on behalf of the homosexuals said that Roberts didn't hesitate and said “let's do it.”

Apathy/Abortion cartoon graphic

The resulting decision of the Supreme Court in *Romer v. Evans* struck down the 1992 Colorado referendum, by a 6 to 3 decision, with strong dissents by **Pro-Life Justices Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas**. A staff attorney for the New York-based **Lambda**, a legal service group for gays and lesbians, called the decision the “single most important positive ruling in the history of the gay rights movement.” The lead attorney for the homosexuals described her consultation with Roberts in the preparation of this case, and his contributions to its success, as “absolutely crucial.”

In addition, it has been discovered that Roberts volunteered his legal skills to assist a (successful) challenge by the woman-exploiting **Playboy** to a 1996 ruling that required TV stations broadcasting pornography to either scramble the signals or to restrict their broadcast to times when it was unlikely that children would be watching.

The homosexual movement, as well as **Playboy**, are openly and militantly pro-abortion, as well as effectively undermining the central cornerstone of civilized society, the family.

Enthusiasm Waning

It appears that the “enthusiasm” at Judge Roberts’ nomination, expressed by **Life Issues Institute (Dr. Jack Willke, Cincinnati, Ohio)** was premature.

National conservative columnist **Ann Coulter** pointed out that “Stealth nominees have never turned out to be a pleasant surprise for conservatives. Never. Not ever.” She also considered it relevant to “ponder the fact that Roberts has gone through 50 years on this planet without ever saying anything controversial. That’s just unnatural...If a smart and accomplished person goes this long without expressing an opinion, he’d better be pursuing the Miss America title.”

“We do not need another Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O’Connor, or David Souter,” said **Howard Phillips**, previous Pro-Life presidential candidate.

A Lawyer’s Duty?

Some are rushing to the defense of Mr. Roberts for his involvement in the homosexual case by pointing out that under our legal system, every person is entitled to legal representation and advocacy.

That is true, with respect to people accused of crimes. Under our system, there must be a disinterested judge and jury to determine the questions of ultimate guilt and punishment. But that same principle does not apply to people who are not accused of a crime, but who are voluntarily and gratuitously asserting principles which are indeed destructive of the very fabric of our society, i.e., same-sex marriage, sexual promiscuity, etc. Those people have available to them many lawyers who actually believe in those principles. No lawyer who does not believe in them should ally himself with them, whether pro bono or for financial remuneration.

And so in the absence in Judge Roberts’ record of any clear and outspoken positions in favor of the most fundamental right of all — the most pressing moral/political

issue at least in the past 100 years — the sanctity of innocent human life, does this additional record of his raise questions about him? Indeed it does! **Eugene Delgaudio, President of Public Advocate of the United States**, announced his group’s withdrawal of support for Judge Roberts: “‘Freedom’ is not embracing perversion.”

One wonders why President Bush could not have selected for this Supreme Court vacancy any number of the eminently qualified candidates with strong Pro-Life records — **Judge Edith Jones on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Judge Michael Loutig on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Harvard Law University Professor Mary Ann Glendon**, or others. Is he still wishing to avoid a fight with the so-called “moderate” wing of the Republican Party?

Is he really committed to the basic fundamental principle of the sanctity of all innocent human life as the first priority moral/political issue? Legitimate cause for wonder!

Future of the Supreme Court

To reverse *Roe v. Wade*, there would need to be replaced three pro-abort votes on the Court with three strong Pro-Life votes. One essential would be the first appointment, replacing the pro-abort **Sandra Day O’Connor**. It is anticipated that **Chief Justice Rehnquist** will probably retire soon, but he is a Pro-Life vote and would need to be replaced with another Pro-Life vote (and most political observers are ominously predicting Bush’s nomination of his Attorney General, **Alberto Gonzales**, who cast a pro-abort vote on the Texas Supreme Court when Bush appointed him there.

The next retirements probably anticipated are **John Paul Stevens** and **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, both pro-aborts.

The question then arises as to how *Roe v. Wade* would be reversed. Unfortunately, many, such as **Life Issues Institute** in their recent article, argued that a reversal of *Roe v. Wade* would simply mean returning the matter to the states, and we know that the legislatures of many states would not pass 100 percent Pro-Life laws. But this concession is again, unfortunately, a compromise concession which has been going on, as pointed out in a recent article by Pro-Life Law Professor **Charles Rice**, “with the establishment pro-life movement and Catholic bishops’ apparatus since the early 1980s.”

In fact, such a position is not novel, and was the holding of a federal court in Ohio, prior to *Roe v. Wade*, in 1970, in the case of *Steinberg v. Brown*: **“Once human life has commenced, the constitutional protections found in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments impose upon the state the duty of safeguarding it.”**

In fact, that opinion is consonant with the true intention of the Fourteenth Amendment, as stated by its prime sponsor, Ohio Congressman **John A. Bingham**, who noted that the amendment was “universal” and applied to “any human being.”

Readers are requested to pray that the President has privately “vetted” this nominee on his position on these crucial issues, as was certainly done by President Clinton with respect to his two pro-abort appointees, Breyer and Ginsburg, and that the U.S. Senate proceed with full and fair hearings to a prompt vote.

All Pro-Lifers are requested to write or call their U.S. senators, insisting that Judge Roberts be questioned carefully on these issues.

As pointed out by Professor Rice, “...if Jimmy the Greek were still in the odds-making business, he would say it is even money, at best, as to whether Roberts will be another Republican stealth nominee who will follow the Anthony Kennedy way rather than that of Clarence Thomas. Judge Roberts may offer some clarification in the Senate hearings. So let us pray for him. And for our country.”

Kentucky:

U.S. Senator Jim Bunning
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-4343
Web Form: [bunning.senate.gov/E-mail me](http://bunning.senate.gov/E-mail%20me)

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell
361-A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-2541
Web Form: [mccconnell.senate.gov/contact us](http://mccconnell.senate.gov/contact%20us)

Ohio:

U.S. Senator Mike DeWine
140 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-2315
Web Form: dewine.senate.gov

U.S. Senator George Voinovich
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-3353

Many, unfortunately, have accepted the core principle of *Roe v. Wade* which is **“the principle of depersonalization,”** which Professor Rice points out “is the principle that underlay the Dred Scott Case in which the Supreme Court said in 1857 that slaves were property rather than persons. It is also the principle involved in the Nazi depersonalization and extermination of the Jews and other target classes. To ‘overrule’ *Roe*, in the correct meaning of that term, would be to hold that every human being, from fertilization, is a ‘person’ entitled to the constitutional right to life. That would forbid the states and the federal government to withhold the protection of the homicide laws from the youngest persons, i.e., those in the womb. Such would be a denial of the equal protection of the laws as if a state were to forbid homicide unless the victim were under 8 years of age.”

Web Form: voinovich.senate.gov/contact

Indiana:

U.S. Senator Evan Bayh
463 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-5623
Web Form: bayh.senate.gov/WebMail

U.S. Senator Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-4814
E-mail: senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov

IMPORTANT ELECTIONS

Pro-Lifers are urged to work for the election in September of **Charles Winburn (R)**, a strong Pro-Lifer and former member of the Cincinnati City Council. His opponents in the nonpartisan mayoral primary of September 13 include pro-abortion candidates **Alicia Reece (Vice Mayor)** and **State Senator Mark Mallory**.

Congratulations are due to **Jean Schmidt (R)**, **President of Cincinnati Right to Life**, who has just been elected a vacant seat in the U.S. House of Representatives for southwestern Ohio, defeating her pro-abortion opponent.

CHECK-OUT: LIFE CHECKS

Many Pro-Lifers have been using the services of **Lifechecks** which, under the name of **The Check Gallery**, prints out personalized checks with Pro-Life messages.

Now, the excellent Pro-Life organization, **Life Dynamics** of Denton, Texas, has discovered that Lifechecks' parent company, parents another subsidiary called "**Message Products**," which prints checks for Planned Parenthood, National Organization for Women, American Civil Liberties Union, and several gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights organizations.

Although Lifechecks was originally developed by a Pro-Life couple who donated part of the proceeds to various Pro-

Sanctity of Life personal checks are now available online at **Promise Checks**, <http://promisechecks.com> (then click on Value Checks and select Sanctity of Life category). Promise Checks' customer service number is 1-800-977-6647. (Note: This website information is a correction to the information printed in our July 2005 newsletter.)

NATIONAL PRO-LIFE MEMORIAL DAY

American Life League, that marvelous uncompromising right to life organization founded by **Judie Brown** (P.O. Box 1350, Stafford, VA 22555), has decided it's time to unite America's Pro-Life movement by creating a National Pro-Life Memorial Day — a day dedicated to the 46 million aborted children who have never had a chance to experience the beauty of life...God's greatest gift.

ALL is circulating a petition (a segment of which reads: "It is right that we, as a nation, set aside one day to remember the millions of nameless young persons who have been and continue to be murdered on the altar of abortion rights.") to ask **President George W. Bush** to make a Presidential Proclamation naming the first Monday of every October, National Pro-Life Memorial Day. That day is significant because it's also the traditional day for the Supreme Court to reconvene after their summer recess.

President Bush has strongly declared — most frequently in forums to Pro-Life organizations, which forums are widely ignored by the secular media — the sanctity of innocent human life, and the priority of this issue. Now is the time to ask him to do something dramatic, in the public arena, which the secular media could hardly ignore, by naming a particular day as National Pro-Life Memorial Day, in honor of the millions of babies killed in the womb, and committed to the proposition of the sanctity of each and every individual human life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.

NKRTL joins enthusiastically with ALL and requests everyone to write the President — and your members in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives — to take this long overdue step.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY, AND THE RIDICULOUS

Life ministries, the company which took them over does not make contributions to Pro-Life groups and in fact funneled money to the above groups of about \$500,000 last year.

Informed Pro-Lifers will certainly not want to support that kind of activity.

Real Pro-Life Checks

Lifewatch, published by the **Task Force of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality**, 1564 Skyview Drive, Holts Summit, Missouri 65043, had some very interesting reports in its 6/1/05 issue. It had glowing remarks for the **recently deceased Roman Catholic Pope, John Paul II**, who "...was unafraid and unembarrassed to take moral truth seriously...By concentrating on truth, the truth about man, and moral truth, John Paul II set the moral-theological standard for the Church catholic — including the United Methodist witness of *Lifewatch*."

It also quoted a statement from **Rev. Paul T. Stallworth** of Morehead City, North Carolina, regarding abortion: "...that one issue is highly significant. It involves the destruction of the sanctity of unborn life and the undermining of the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother."

Significantly, two bishops of the United Methodist Church, **Timothy W. Whitaker** and **William H. Willimon**, have joined the board of *Lifewatch*, which is a 100% uncompromising Pro-Life organization.

Their recent newsletter contained another very salient observation: "In the eighteenth century, our country and our church had an extended argument, which became a war, over the meaning of freedom and the humanity of the African American. In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, our country and our church are having an extended argument, which involves countless political clashes, over the meaning of freedom and the humanity of the unborn child and the severely disabled. From this brief history lesson, we would be wise to be reminded that false and destructive ideas can arise in history. However, in time, such ideas can be corrected and justice sought anew. Thanks to the mysterious, yet persistent, providence of God."

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The **Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act** now pending in the U.S. Congress (**SB 809 and HR 1652**) deals with the conflict in the "right to choose," between a woman's choice to kill her unborn child, and the moral or religious conviction of pharmacists. Guess who wins?

The bill, if passed, would insist that when these issues are in conflict, i.e., when the woman asks a Pro-Life pharmacist to fill her prescription for abortifacients like the "morning after" pill, which serves no purpose except to end a human life, the woman's desire for the prescription trumps the pharmacist's right to abide by his deeply held moral or religious conviction.

Isn't it interesting that the "culture of death" gang which accuses the rest of us of imposing our morality on them have no hesitancy in imposing their immorality upon Pro-Lifers?

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U.S. Senator Bill Frist (R), Majority Leader in the U.S. Senate from Tennessee, and a physician, who has claimed Pro-Life credentials, and indeed played a leading Pro-Life role in the effort to save the life of **Terri Schiavo**, unfortunately and disturbingly has compromised. **He now announces that he will support the use of federal funds to encourage the destruction of living human embryos**

TERRI SCHIAVO AND REDEMPTION

The following article was published in Lifewatch on June 1, 2005. Lifewatch is published by the Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality, a network of United Methodist clergy, laity, and churches. It is sent, free of charge, to interested readers. The Editor is Rev. Paul T. Staffsforth. Gift checks should be made payable, and mailed, to Lifewatch, 1564 Skyview Drive, Holts Summit, MO 65043. E-mail: Lifewatch@mchsi.com/Web site: www.lifewatch.org:

Terri Schiavo was one of us and one with us. She was not only a member of the human community, but also a woman baptized into Jesus Christ and His Church. Her baptism was renewed as the drops of Communion wine touched her tongue for the last time. For the Lifewatch community and millions of others, these truths made her long, slow, painful death by starvation and dehydration horribly difficult to follow in the news media.

During the Easter weeks of celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we were profoundly reminded that suffering and death can be powerfully redemptive. After enduring suffering and death, Terri Schiavo is now redeemed. Because of God's grace established through the death and resurrection of our Lord, Terri Schiavo's soul has joined the Communion of the Saints, and her body awaits the general resurrection of the dead when the Kingdom will come in fullness and glory. Terri Schiavo's suffering and death have been redeemed, and are also being redeemed, through the intense moral debate, in American public life, that they inspired. This debate about end-of-life issues is, to be sure, simply the abortion debate in another key.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Church, in the United States and beyond, to propose her timetested wisdom about life, at the end of life, in the public arena. The Church's wisdom can be briefly stated in this way. When confronted with a severely disabled person like Terri Schiavo, this simple moral rule applies: "Always to care, never to kill" (The Ramsey Colloquium). That is, the disabled person requires care; she does not deserve to be made to die. At the same time, the Church teaches that it is morally allowable to let a dying person die, without burdening that

for their stem cells. Despite his disclaimers to the contrary, this position is not "pro-life."

Such destruction of innocent human life, even out of a desire to help others, rests upon a utilitarian view that undermines human dignity and human respect, as **Senator Sam Brownback (R)** pointed out in his response of disagreement with Senator Frist's position.

In fact, such positions, as Frist's, are not "pro-life," but simply "less pro-death" than those who advocate abortion on demand.

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person with extraordinary medical treatment that would only prolong the dying process.

Food and water, even through a simple feeding tube, are naturally required—except when they actually sicken or otherwise harm the dying person. This wisdom from the Church can help American society to move towards becoming a "culture of life," to use the phrase that John Paul II coined and that President George W. Bush employs.

On March 23, the National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC), to which Lifewatch belongs, distributed a press release. It was drafted by Lifewatch's editor and edited by Rev. Kirk vander Swaagh, a New York City pastor. Relying on the Church's wisdom outlined above and entitled "Ecumenical Group: Care for Terri Schiavo, Do Not Kill Her," NPRC's press release read in full: "The case of Terri Schiavo is complex. First, there is the medical dimension that is filled with technical vocabulary. Then there is the legal dimension and its uncommon procedures. The political dimension involves each claim being quickly met with a counterclaim. With political arguments added to the conflicted medical and ever-shifting legal challenges of the case, it is no wonder that complexity seems to be winning

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***"Terri Schiavo, disabled as she is, is a person with human dignity. As such, she is deserving of loving care, which includes food and fluid."***

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the day.

"Responding to the complex case of Terri Schiavo, the Great Tradition of the Church universal offers this simple truth: Terri Schiavo, the person, deserves care, not killing. The authoritative traditions of Evangelical and Oldline Protestantism, Orthodoxy, and Roman Catholicism declare in one strong voice that each person is created in the image of God and is invested with human dignity. This God-given human dignity is not erased by debilitating disabilities or enhanced by admirable abilities. This God-given dignity remains constant, despite the condition and the circumstance of the person. This God-given dignity demands the recognition and protection of the state.

“To be sure, Terri Schiavo is a severely braindamaged person. But her disability did not put her in a dying condition. Nor did her disability make her a ‘vegetable.’ Nor did her disability make her an animal. Rather, Terri Schiavo, disabled as she is, is a person with human dignity. As such, she is deserving of loving care, which includes food and fluid.

“While medical nuances, legalities, and politics can create a fog of complexity, the public vocation of the Church universal, on this Wednesday of Holy Week 2005, is to call judges, lawyers, politicians, and citizens to act in the simple truth: recognize and protect the human dignity, indeed the human life, of Terri Schiavo. Care for Terri Schiavo. Do not kill her.

“The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) is a Christian coalition which acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord

and Savior, and works to encourage every Christian denomination to affirm and witness to the Biblical standard of the value, dignity, and sanctity of human life, and fosters ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia. NPRC is composed of Alpha Omega Life (an Orthodox group), Black Americans for Life, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church, LEARN, Lutherans for Life, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life, National Clergy Council, NOEL (an Anglican-Episcopalian group), Presbyterians Pro-Life, Priests for Life, Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality, and United Friends for Life.”

(Women of Grace conference info box)

**Johnnette Benkovic**, Founder and Director of *Living His Life Abundantly* which is shown and heard on EWTN-TV and radio, and who was our delightful guest speaker at last year’s NKRTL Celebration of Life, apparently was impressed with our area, and is bringing her annual **Women of Grace Conference** to the Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, on **Friday, October 14 to Sunday, October 16, 2005**.

Featured dynamic speakers, in addition to Johnnette Benkovic, will include noted and accomplished lecturers who are authors, psychologists, internationally known Pro-Life experts, and ladies who singly and collectively epitomize the essence and dignity of **true Christian feminism**, i.e., what it means to be a Christian lady.

All female members of NKRTL are encouraged to attend, and bring their family members and friends. You will be glad that you did!