

November 11, 2002

620 Washington Street  
Covington, KY 41011-2314  
(859) 491-6200  
491-6201 Fax

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.  
Bishop of Covington  
422 Wallace Avenue  
Covington, KY 41014

Your Excellency:

On behalf of all the volunteers of Northern Kentucky Right to Life, we express our gratitude for your willingness and openness to meet with us.

The faithful of this diocese have been fervently praying for a Bishop who would meet the teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “the visible source and foundation of unity...to preach the Gospel of God to all men in keeping with the Lord’s command...heralds of faith...authentic teachers,” and to carry out the office entrusted “to the apostles and their successors...of teaching, sanctifying, and governing in His name and by His power.”

Recognizing the multiplicity and severity of issues facing you in your new office, we apologize for the length of our message, and indeed for its sadness. We felt obliged to set before you the unadulterated truth, choosing to rely upon documentary evidence rather than the generalizations and nonspecific assertions employed by some. We felt that by getting this information to you, with these enclosures, prior to the date of our meeting, that you would have a chance to evaluate this factual evidence and formulate relevant inquiries of your own.

It is our purpose and desire to furnish you whatever information we can, and to stand ready to assist you in any appropriate way possible as you discharge your very serious responsibilities as our shepherd.

First, we enclose a copy of our welcoming letter to you of August 7, 2002, setting forth in some detail some of our activities and history, with documentation (Attachment 1).

Next, we would like to address in this letter several burning concerns dealing with the tragic public scandals given over the past many years in this diocese by inaction of the official agencies at the diocese in the face of the culture of death, and indeed by frank pro-abortion actions on behalf of several of those agencies.

We refer specifically to the Diocesan Pro-Life Commission, the St. Elizabeth Hospital, the Catholic newspaper, *The Messenger*, and your two immediate predecessors in office.

Perhaps the most convenient approach would be chronological with the documentation of letters and exhibits.

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### **BISHOP MUENCH**

As you can see, NKRTL wrote to Bishop Muench on January 22, 1996 (Attachment 2), after the announcement of his appointment, and before his arrival in the diocese here, congratulating him and requesting a meeting, and inviting him to give the prayer at our Annual Celebration of Life. The invitation was reiterated on June 4, 1996 (Attachment 3). Both of these letters were ignored, as were all of NKRTL's other requests for a meeting; indeed our multiple other letters to him documenting egregious actions and inactions of diocesan officials and agencies likewise went unanswered during his six-year tenure.

NKRTL wrote him on August 7, 1996 (Attachment 4), acquainting him with the Helpers of God's Precious Infants project, pioneered by Msgr. Philip J. Reilly of the Brooklyn, New York Diocese, and begun here six years ago (inaugurated in the conference room of NKRTL's President, with the longtime faithful prayer witnesses at the abortuary), and requested his participation in terms of celebration of the Mass for us on the second Saturday of every month, which is concelebrated regularly by Fr. Paul Berschied, and Cincinnati priests. This letter and invitation were likewise ignored.

We pray that you will lend the weight of your office to that ministry by accepting, and announcing, at your earliest opportunity, our invitation to be the main celebrant. All Priests of the diocese would be appropriately edified — and the parishes energized.

We are enclosing a copy of our August 7, 1996 letter to Bishop Muench and all of the priests of the diocese (Attachment 5), just to give you a flavor of some of the political activities in which NKRTL engages. One was a very important legislative race which indeed turned around the General Assembly and resulted in the passage of Pro-Life legislation, by the defeating of a local Catholic state senator who made Pro-Life commitments, but voted pro-abortion. We carefully documented his entire record.

### **PRO-ABORTION SPEAKERS - QUALLS**

In the Spring of 1997 NKRTL was shocked to hear that the pro-lesbian, pro-abortion, fallen-away Catholic, Mayor of Cincinnati, Roxanne Qualls, had been invited to give the commencement address to the Notre Dame Academy students at St. Agnes Church in Ft. Wright.

NKRTL received multiple phone calls from distressed Notre Dame Academy parents, and wrote to the Academy principal on May 27 (Attachment 6). Documentation of these assertions were sent to the NDA Principal, Sr. Mary Rita, S.N.D., by letter of May 30, 1997 (Attachment 7). We are also enclosing a copy of the June 9, 1997 letter of an alumna of NDA expressing her upset (Attachment 8).

Before the event, NKRTL had many conversations with Karen Riegler, Diocesan Pro-Life Coordinator, furnishing her the documented pro-abortion record and pro-lesbian record of the guest speaker, all to no avail. Enclosed is a copy of NKRTL's June 9, 1997 letter to Mrs. Riegler transmitting those documentations, which NKRTL sent also to Bishop Muench, together with these enclosures, documenting NKRTL's assertions (Attachment 9). However, the scandal went forward. A group of about 50 NDA parents and NKRTL members prayed silently on the sidewalk in front of the church while Bishop Muench and several priests sat on the altar with this atrocious role model for our young Catholic women.

Enclosed also is NKRTL's June 13, 1997 letter to Mrs. Riegler with further documentation, a copy of which also went to the principal and the Bishop, the head of the Catholic school board, and two other SND teachers at NDA (Attachment 10).

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The August 11, 1997 letter to Bishop Muench from James H. Kempfhaus is representative of the scandal which was noted and complained of by many alumni and others (Attachment 11).

### **PRO-ABORTION SPEAKERS - PATTON**

On May 8, 1998, NKRTL wrote to Bishop Muench and the Principal of Covington Catholic High School, asking them to cancel the address of Governor Paul Patton at their Second Annual Award Program (Attachment 12). NKRTL documented in that letter the well-known and previously publicized facts of the strong pro-abortion bias of Governor Patton, who had guaranteed in his campaign for election that he would veto Pro-Life legislation, and indeed kept that promise and did so. NKRTL pointed out quotes from other prominent Catholic bishops who had taken the proper position of refusing to have on Catholic premises politicians who support the killing of unborn children. Governor Patton withdrew voluntarily.

To the list of courageous bishops who properly identified with the principle of refusing to honor or recognize or publicly associate with pro-abortionists must now be added the name of Bishop Raymond L. Burke of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, who just recently caused his diocese to withdraw its support from the annual Walk for Hunger, sponsored by Christian Rural Overseas Program, because of the discovery that CROP uses some of its money for the distribution of contraceptives: "If you participate publicly with an organization, you associate yourself with the whole philosophy."

Bishop Thomas Doran of the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois, had withdrawn his support in 2001.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

As you are aware, there has been an ongoing fight for five years now here initiated solely by NKRTL and carried almost exclusively by us, protesting the ongoing public funding with taxpayers' dollars through the Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department Board of Directors of abortifacients and contraceptives, delivered to youngsters (including preteens), without the knowledge or consent of their parents. We wrote to Bishop Muench on September 30, 1997 documenting this situation and our request for Diocesan help, pointing out the involvement on the Board of Catholic physicians who hold high positions at the St. Elizabeth Hospital, etc. — all to no avail (Attachment 13).

NKRTL's October 15, 1997 letter to Bishop Muench (Attachment 14) is a response to the non-responsive October 10 letter from his Vicar General, which did not deal at all with the merits of the controversy, or offer any help, but rather chastised NKRTL.

On June 25, 1998, NKRTL wrote to Bishop Muench and advised him of the failure of the Pro-Life effort at the NKIDHD Board meeting the night before, and of the tragic noninvolvement by the diocese and by the Pro-Life Commission, and the fact of three "Catholic" physicians voting in favor of killing unborn children through early abortion (Attachment 15).

NKRTL wrote Bishop Muench again on August 7, 1998 (Attachment 16), pointing out that Dr. James Noll, Couple To Couple League teacher, advised us that when he had confronted Bishop Muench with the question of the birth control pill, the Bishop's response was that there are physicians who dispute that it is an abortifacient. We furnished him the clear medical evidence that indeed it is, but were mystified since of course the Catholic teaching is that the birth control pill is intrinsically evil, even as a contraceptive. We inquired of him as to whether or not the St. Elizabeth Hospital was stocking or distributing these drugs, but again had no response from him.

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The more recent history is documented in detail, with specific quotes and citations, from tapes and documents, in NKRTL's newsletters of October, 2000 and May, August, and September of 2002 (Attachment 17).

In October of 1998, a member of NKRTL had scheduled our Celebration of Life guest speaker, Mrs. Judie Brown, President of American Life League, to speak after the Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Church in Cold Spring, Kentucky. Then, she advised us that her pastor, Fr. Robert Henderson, told her that if Mrs. Brown was going to speak on the subject of contraception, Mrs. Brown was not welcome in his church. NKRTL wrote him on October 8, 1998 (Attachment 18), pointing out the inconsistency of his position with the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. No response was received.

After a lapse of a reasonable time for a response from Fr. Henderson, NKRTL called the matter to the attention of Bishop Muench by our letter to him of April 26, 1999 (Attachment 19), and pointed out the fact that apparently one of his pastors was in direct violation of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, which letter was again ignored.

#### **PRO-LIFE COMMISSION**

On December 6, 1999, NKRTL wrote a letter to the Pro-Life Commission (Attachment 20), with indicated copy to Bishop Muench, again reiterating NKRTL's previously-made request for a meeting with the Pro-Life Commission, in NKRTL's efforts to energize them to take public positions and lend their assistance to these ongoing fights being carried solely by NKRTL against the culture of death in this community. After documenting NKRTL's previous requests for a meeting with them, NKRTL sought to enlist their assistance and participation in the monthly liturgy at Holy Name Church near the abortuary in Cincinnati, carried forth by the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, and suggested that they might be in a position to get a different parish in the Covington Diocese to sponsor a rosary vigil there each week at the clinic.

The enclosed note of 9/19/01 from PLC Chairman Fran Hemmer (Attachment 21) castigates NKRTL with nonspecific slander by generalization, accusing NKRTL of compromising truth, and serving ego. NKRTL responded to her by letter of October 1, 2001, requesting specifics, and of course received none.

NKRTL wrote Mrs. Hemmer again on May 21, 2002 (Attachment 22), after she had publicly defended Kenton County Judge-Executive Richard Murgatroyd in spite of his pro-abortion appointments to the Northern Kentucky Independent Health District Health Department Board (in violation specifically of his written campaign commitments) and in spite of his pro-abortion votes on the Kenton County Fiscal Court to the same effect, all of which is meticulously documented in that letter and indeed is a matter of public record on vote, and is a matter of public record in terms of videotaped meetings.

Mrs. Hemmer's response of August 9, 2002 was to accuse us of fostering disunity, to which we responded by letter of September 9 (Attachment 23), pointing out the obvious, that unity can exist only in truth, and that the Pro-Life Commission is in the inconsistent position of having in its membership people who facilitate and participate in the destruction of innocent human life, and themselves a shameful record of silence on the issue.

In fact, when Fr. Paul Berschied attempted to accomplish something on the Commission, he was advised by the members that the Catholic Church does not oppose abortion in all instances. He attempted, without much success, to refute that, and to explain the distinction involved in the principle of the double effect. He was likewise unsuccessful in getting any action from them regarding a public statement of policy concerning public funding of abortifacients.

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The Pro-Life Commission declined NKRTL's request that they issue a public position statement opposing the public funding of the distribution of these chemicals and devices. Their "silence" was used effectively against the Pro-Life movement by the point person for the pro-abortion/contraceptive position, Kenton County Commissioner Barbara Black, at the hearing on the issue before the Kenton County Fiscal Court on April 16, 2002, and on other occasions.

### **KAREN RIEGLER**

The Executive Director of the Pro-Life Commission, Mrs. Karen Riegler, testified before the Health Board in support of the Pro-Life position, but did not identify herself as Executive Director of the Pro-Life Commission, so that again there was "official silence" on the part of all diocesan agencies referable to this crucial issue. Mrs. Riegler furthers the scandal by her participation, with a broad-based group of pro-abortion politicians, in their media-facilitated effort to marginalize NKRTL, as shown in the enclosed November 3, 2002 *Cincinnati Enquirer* article by Cindy Schroeder (Attachment 24).

Riegler's ad hominem invective not only caustically criticizes NKRTL, but indicates that NKRTL does "not speak for the Church" (clearly implying of course that she does, in her official capacity with the Diocesan Pro-Life Commission, and implying that the positions of NKRTL are somehow contrary to those of the Church).

Even worse, two days before the election, she publicly defends Barbara Black who is the main leader of the pro-pill/condom faction on the Health Board and on the Kenton County Fiscal Court, calling her "very pro-life," in spite of the fact that Riegler was present at the Health Board meeting where Black led the pro-pill/condom position, to her vast cheering audience of Planned Parenthood imports from Lexington and Louisville!

As a paid representative of the diocese, Riegler's public generalizations (such as "Cetrulo eats his own..." and "ripping apart diocesan clergy and its bishops") greatly undermines NKRTL's efforts to hold public officials accountable. Her statements that Black "is very pro-life" and "I wouldn't recommend his [NKRTL-PAC] endorsements," amounts to nothing less than an endorsement of the reelection of this pro-abortion Kenton County Commissioner — which indeed happened!

Again, the efforts of NKRTL-PAC to elect those who will stop the funding of chemical abortion is stymied by the paid apparatus of the diocese. Such actions by the spokesmen of the diocese are perceived by the public, Catholic and non-Catholic, to be those of the Bishop.

We are enclosing also the fax from American Life League to us, transmitting a copy of their letter to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, responding to the specious assertions made therein, but they were advised that the paper gives preference to local letters and probably would not publish theirs (Attachment 25).

And so again, with the connivance of pro-abortion politicians, the liberal media, and the silence (and now indeed overt opposition) of the diocesan agencies, the true Pro-Life position, espoused publicly only by NKRTL, is ridiculed and marginalized.

### **THE MESSENGER**

Attachment 26 is a copy of *The Messenger's* coverage of the public hearing conducted by the Health Department, on the issue of whether Federal Title X funds should be rejected because: (1) some so-called contraceptives impede implantation of the newly-conceived child, resulting in his death; and (2) these chemicals and devices are dispensed to all who request them, regardless of age, and without even parental consent or notification.

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*The Messenger* misrepresents the position of those Pro-Life Health Board members who supported the motion to reject Title X. The only picture is of “pro-choice” (read pro-abortion) students bussed in. The only person who spoke at this public hearing whom *The Messenger* labeled as “pro-life” is Kenton County Commissioner Barbara Black, the most aggressive leader in favor of the continuance of the dispensation of “contraceptives” to teenagers. The article quotes priests of the diocese to the effect that the Church’s teaching will remain constant — but fails to take this marvelous opportunity to set forth this teaching!

### **ST. ELIZABETH - PERMITTING ABORTION**

Also in the letter of December 6, 1999 to the Pro-Life Commission, NKRTL set forth the history of the abortifacient/NKIDHD fight since 1997, and then addressed the shocking recent development that we had discovered that there was in place now for nine years a pro-abortion policy at the St. Elizabeth Hospital, permitting the abortion of anencephalic babies. We furnished the medical and moral documentation from prominent cited authorities that these procedures constituted abortion, in violation of course of the clear teachings of the Catholic Church, and showing correspondence from the Family Life Ministry of this diocese with indicated copies to Bishop Hughes and Fr. Kettler, which correspondence indicated that the policy had their approval. All of this is clearly documented in the attachments enclosed.

Fr. Paul Berschied wrote to the president of the hospital, and to Bishop Muench, attempting to secure the clear reversal of this policy, without success. There finally emanated from the Ethics Committee of the hospital a cryptic and ambiguous statement on 4/29/99 (after nine years of an approval of the killing policy in place at this Catholic hospital) that the committee “voted to place a moratorium and remove the position paper on anencephalic.” Of course, moratorium means a temporary cessation. We subsequently insisted that clearer policy be adopted, stating the Catholic position, and be published for the staff, so that they have no misunderstanding that indeed Catholic principles shall govern at that hospital, but apparently nothing further was done, which compelled NKRTL to go public in its newsletter, with this tragedy, after failing in its effort to recall the scandal by addressing it privately to a Priest of the diocese, whose efforts were unfortunately ignored by those in positions of authority who had failed to teach.

We are enclosing herewith a copy of an ad for physicians in the current Yellow Pages of the phone book (Attachment 27), wherein one can see that the OB-GYN physicians include a listing for “OB-GYN Specialists of Northern KY,” the first two physicians of which named are E. J. Burchell, M.D. and Michael Kirkwood, M.D. Dr. Kirkwood was a member of the Health Board, who was an outspoken supporter of the abortifacient pills, and indicated that he gave them in his own practice, and indeed we are so advised by a patient of that practice who has indeed now left that practice. His partner, Dr. Burchell, sits on the Pro-Life Commission, an obviously incompatible position with his support of the distribution and in fact participation in the distribution of abortifacient drugs.

The distribution of abortifacient pills by St. Elizabeth Hospital was confirmed to us by a letter of April 22, 2000 from Marciea Weaver Desborough (Attachment 28).

On June 13, 2001 we wrote to the President of St. Elizabeth Medical Center (Attachment 29) protesting an ad run in the *Kentucky Post* and *Enquirer* on March 30 and 31 which further scandalized the public (provoking protesting letters to the editor of the secular papers), in which ad the St. Elizabeth Medical Center complimented physicians who donated their services to a variety of organizations including “Planned Parenthood,” which of course is the largest destroyer of innocent human life in the United States today. The ad is likewise attached.

Again, the Pro-Life Commission would not become involved.

### **NKRTL IS EXCLUDED**

This tragic history of noninvolvement (or indeed counterproductive activities) by the Covington Diocese has a long history stretching back to 1978, the year that Bishop Richard Ackerman (one of our founding members) retired. One of the first actions of Bishop Hughes in the diocese was to issue an order, in 1980, excluding NKRTL from the Catholic Churches, where we had previously been welcomed to solicit signatures for our annual Right to Life signature ad in the secular press (about 6,000 signatures annually), sell roses for Mother's Day, sell Christmas cards, etc.

After 10 years of scandalous actions in the diocese, with prominent pro-abortion speakers being invited in to speak in the high schools, colleges, churches, etc., exclusion of our messages by the Catholic newspaper, the *Messenger*, etc., NKRTL was forced to publish this sad record for the reflection of the faithful, in an effort to recall the scandal. We are enclosing the December, 1989 issue (Attachment 30) which documents by name, date, and anti-life action those in positions of authority who were giving scandal to the Catholic faithful — primarily the Bishop.

Many faithful clergy of the diocese continued their efforts to support NKRTL, as is shown in the attached April, 1990 NKRTL newsletter (Attachment 31). In fact, 27 priests of the diocese prepared and signed a letter to the editor of *The Messenger* offering support, praise, and encouragement to NKRTL for its efforts in calling upon the *Messenger* to reverse its policies which had permitted pro-abort politicians to call themselves "pro-life," while simultaneously denying to NKRTL the right to pay for an ad pointing out their specific pro-abortion voting record. Unfortunately, the letter was never published in the *Messenger* because Bishop Hughes directed the priests to withdraw it.

Our 3/5/93 letter to Bishop Hughes and the priests and religious of the diocese protesting the invitation into the diocese of the pro-abortion Sr. Jeannine Gramick resulted in the Bishop calling us "homophobes." (Attachment 32)

Bishop Hughes had declined our previous invitations to participate in our Annual Celebration of Life, with major speakers that we presented such as Bishop Austin Vaughn, Fr. Frank Pavone, Notre Dame Law Professor Charles Rice, etc., on the explanation that we "engaged in politics." But he had no reluctance at participating in a political rally for the Democratic Party, which we documented in our letter to him of June 16, 1994 (Attachment 33).

It should be noted that the Pro-Life Commission's program for the October 8, 2002 Respect for Life Mass did not even mention as a Pro-Life organization, Kentucky's largest and oldest right to life group, NKRTL.

This unwritten practice is consistent with that of *The Messenger*. Ever since the current editor was appointed, news releases about NKRTL's events (such as the Celebration for Life) are never printed, nor are NKRTL's Letters to the Editor, the most recent one of which concerned the actions of NKIDHD's funding of so-called contraceptives to teenage girls.

### **LEGAL ACTIVITIES**

In the legal field, the sole activists have been NKRTL attorneys, Robert C. Cetrulo and Fred H. Summe. NKRTL legal activities began in 1972, with the filing of amicus curiae briefs before the Kentucky Court of Appeals in the case of *Crossen v. Breckenridge*, wherein the Lexington abortionists were challenging the constitutionality of our restrictive abortion statute in Kentucky, prior to *Roe v. Wade*. The legal efforts continued thereafter with NKRTL's involvement in other Pro-Life cases including a euthanasia case a year ago, *Commonwealth v. Woods*, where the pro-death community attempts to expand the curtailment of life supports to the "substituted judgment" doctrine.

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This legal argument, specifically rejected by our Supreme Court in 1993, claims that one person can make a decision for a retarded man that death is better than life. The most recent case whereby the culture of death seeks to advance the doctrines of wrongful birth and wrongful life is *Bogan v. Altman*. A copy of NKRTL's Amicus Curiae Brief is enclosed (Attachment 34). These services of course are all volunteered, and there has been unfortunately no participation by diocesan counsel, nor any other local Catholic entity.

In 1988, NKRTL President Robert C. Cetrulo represented Cincinnati Pro-Life attorney James J. Condit, Sr. who was unjustly fined by the federal district judge there in Cincinnati, involving his voluntary defense of Pro-Lifers unjustly arrested in front of the abortuary. On appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in the case of *Davis v. Crush*, Cetrulo prevailed on behalf of Condit in a major Pro-Life victory that upheld the rights of peaceful Pro-Life prayer witnesses. (See Attachment 35, a 12/7/88 *Cincinnati Post* description of the case.) The more shocking aspect of the case was that the lawyer activist on the pro-abortion side was Tim Black, whose Cincinnati firm represented Planned Parenthood, and also represented the Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Incredibly, the story did not end there. Mr. Black was later appointed to the local bench in Cincinnati, and, two years ago, ran for the Ohio Supreme Court. His campaign signs appeared in the yard of the woman who chaired the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Pro-Life Commission. Protesting letters from NKRTL to Archbishop Pilarczyk finally resulted in the signs coming down, but not in her firing, which had been requested and was obviously deserved. Mr. Black is running for the Supreme Court of Ohio again this year. And we wonder why the faithful are confused?

#### **OUR REQUEST**

The meticulously detailed nature of this exposition is not pleasant, but it is true, and it is necessary, considering the demonstrated willingness of our detractors to engage in unsupported and generalized slander.

NKRTL was founded upon truth, and non-compromise, and has attempted to be faithful. As pointed out by our founder, Bishop Ackerman (in his enclosed letter of 12/8/79 - Attachment 36), we "belong to a militant Church," and we are attempting to meet his perception that we "are serving it courageously."

There is obviously much to be done. You do not need us to tell you that. What would we pray that you would do? We would pray that you would preach the truth, persistently and publicly.

If there were pastoral letters from the Ordinary, required to be read by priests from the pulpit, and press releases, insisting that the Holy Father is correct, that innocent human life is "the ultimate issue," and that no form of abortion, surgical or chemical, for any reason, is ever permitted, and that the Catholic teaching on these questions is unambiguous and obligatory, and that public officers pursuant to *Castii Conubii* obliges every Catholic politician to follow the unerring teaching of the Church on these fundamental moral issues, then "Catholics," like Kenton County Judge-Executive Richard Murgatroyd, Commissioners Adam Koenig and Dan Humpert, Covington Mayor Butch Callery, and others would be publicly exposed as in violation of the mandatory and obligatory teachings of their Church. The same would be true for Catholic physicians, board members at our Catholic hospital, Catholic members on the Health Board which are funding these abortifacients and abominable seduction of our youngsters, etc.

These life issues will soon again come before the NKIDHD, and your assistance is what we seek. With your assistance, NKIDHD could be the second in the nation to reject Federal Title X funds which mandate the dispensing of so-called contraceptives to all who ask, regardless of age, and with no parental notification.

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NKRTL's militant, uncompromising positions have at least been a witness in the arid spell that we have undergone. The proof, however, of the essential ingredient being moral teaching is given by an example. In 1976, Robert C. Cetrulo was Kentucky Chairman of the Pro-Life presidential candidacy of Ellen McCormack. Two days before the Democratic primary in May of that year, Bishop Ackerman issued a Pastoral to be read from the pulpit of every church, indicating that no Catholic in good conscience can vote for a candidate who is wrong on this issue of the defense of innocent human life. Mrs. McCormack won 14% of the vote in this congressional district and, in the northern portion of the district constituting this diocese, defeated much better known and better financed candidates, including Congressman Morris Udall of Utah, Governor George Wallace of Alabama, and came within 100 votes of defeating Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia, who was endorsed by all of the local political officeholders.

When the history of these times is written, it will not be written that people refused to follow leadership — but rather that leadership abdicated its responsibility to lead.

There are a large number of people here who remain committed to the principle of objective and eternal truth. We attach a few of their communications (Attachment 37) — most of which are not published by the secular media, or by *The Messenger*.

We pray that you will be a leader, teaching Catholic principle, publicly and unequivocally, and that the Diocesan agencies, the Pro-Life Commission, St. Elizabeth Hospital, *The Messenger*, and all its priests, will so teach as well. We will proudly serve as the soldiers in your army.

We are enclosing herewith copies of the audio and videotapes of NKRTL's most recent guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Koob of One More Soul, given at NKRTL's Celebration of Life on September 29, 2002, and a copy of the audiotape that his organization produced and which was widely distributed at NKRTL's Celebration, explaining the disasters of contraception.

NKRTL's Board and members offer to you, as faithful sons and daughters of the Church, our prayers and assistance in whatever way we can help you in your crucial ministry.

Respectfully,

ROBERT C. CETRULO, J.D.  
President, NKRTL  
620 Washington Street  
Covington, KY 41011  
(859) 491-6200

FRED H. SUMME, J.D.  
Vice President, NKRTL  
4 West Fourth Street  
Newport, KY 41071  
(859) 431-6111

ARTHUR M. KUNATH, M.D.  
Board Member, NKRTL  
President, St. Francis Assisi  
Chapter, Catholics United  
For the Faith  
106 Bivouac  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41071  
(859) 781-8010

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FR. PAUL BERSCHIED  
Pastor, St. Cecilia Church  
P.O. Box 186  
Independence, KY 41051-0186

FR. DANIEL SANER  
Pastor, St. Augustine Church  
215 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Augusta, KY 41002-1117

Enclosures