



Uniting For Life

A Christian Pro-Life Newsletter

Spring 2006

National Pro-Life Religious Council, 109 2nd St. N.E., Washington, DC 20002

website: www.nprcouncil.org e-mail: mail@nprcouncil.org

National Pro-Life Religious Council

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 to foster ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia.

Member Organizations

Alpha Omega Life

Black Americans for Life

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)

International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC for Life)

Life Education and Resource Network (LEARN)
Lutherans for Life (LFL)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life
National Clergy Council (NCC)

NOEL for Life

Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)
Priests for Life (PFL)

Religious Outreach,
National Right to Life Committee

Task Force of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (TUMAS)

United Friends for Life (UFL)

Silent No More Campaign Sparks Wide Response

By Georgette Forney, Executive Director of NOEL

In January, the *Silent No More Awareness Campaign* saw a record number of women and men share their stories at Gatherings all across the U.S. Many of the women shared their testimonies for the very first time in public.

One of these was a young girl named Kelly from Virginia who talked about her abortion with such courage and conviction that the people in the audience were visibly moved. Kelly told of being transported to another state by her parents for a late term abortion at age thirteen. She shared how it felt to drive past screaming abortion clinic protestors for five consecutive days to complete her procedure. As she spoke, the audience moved closer as though to protect her. Those in the front sat on the ground while those in the back shushed anyone who dared to speak above a whisper. By the time she finished speaking, even the veterans who have given their testimonies many times wiped away tears and embraced Kelly as a sign of welcome within their sisterhood.

You can read her full testimony on-line at: www.silentnomoreawareness.org/testimonies/index.html.

Nellie Gray also invited the women of *Silent No More* and Operation Outcry to hold our "I Regret My Abortion" signs on the stage during the March for Life Rally, which was a real blessing because our message was beamed around the world through EWTN and C-Span television broadcasts. This generated tons of emails from people who wanted to encourage

us to continue our work in this area. Some confessed to having at least one abortion and wanted to thank us for providing them with information to connect them to the help and healing that is available.

This type of feedback is wonderful to receive, but it is not for us; it is for God. He was the one, after all, who held back the two inches of rain that had been predicted to fall in the D.C. area on the day of the March for Life!

Since officially launching the campaign in 2003, **2,001** participants have shared their testimonies at **138** Gatherings that have occurred in **44** states and **3** countries with more than **11,655** spectators having heard the truth about abortion's negative after-effects. Currently more than **3,300** people have registered online to be silent no more.

Silent No More Awareness is a campaign whereby Christians make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women and men. The campaign seeks to expose and heal the secrecy and silence surrounding the emotional and physical pain of abortion. The campaign is a project of NOEL and Priests for Life.

NOEL is the only Anglican/Episcopal organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia, protecting embryos from research abuse, and promoting abstinence and adoption.

For more information, visit website: www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org.



Titus 2 for Life: A Lutherans for Life Outreach

Following are excerpts from the Lutherans for Life website describing their Titus2 For Life program

Titus 2 for Life is a Biblical, pro-life mentoring ministry. It was started in 2002 by Linda Bartlett after she stepped down from the role of national president of Lutherans For Life (LFL). That year, Linda began serving as Director of Outreach for Word of Hope, the abortion healing ministry of LFL. Titus 2 for Life operates under the direction of Word of Hope.

25 years on the speaking trail gave Linda countless opportunities to listen to the stories of women. These women helped her understand that abortion is not a woman's first choice. It's a choice that changes her life (and the lives of others), but only after other choices have been made. These choices begin with the decision to trust the world and self rather than God's Word for life.

Titus 2 for Life is a mentoring model for Lutherans who are frustrated by fellow Christians who defend choices of death when situations of life become desperate. The mentoring opportunities connect women to God's Word for life through in-home "teas," campus "coffee houses," and weekend retreats. Training retreats offer encouragement, resources, and opportunities for outreach to LFL leaders, clergy wives, and pregnancy center workers.

Long experience in LFL proves that many of us are frustrated by the response of fellow Christians. So many Lutherans, for example, agree that abortion is not a good thing. However, these same people remain silent or even defensive not only about abortion, but many of the choices that come before an abortion such as sex outside of marriage. God's Word has a lot to say to modern Christians. He even provides a model for life in Titus 2.

Experience at a caring pregnancy center proves that girls know a lot about recreational sex but very little about marital love



and procreation. These girls are untrained in the ways of building healthy families and, therefore, positively influencing society. Even many Christian women have not the faintest clue about how to build a culture of life.

CHOOSING LIFE: A Titus 2 woman appreciates the protective covering and support of a godly husband's love which encourages her to choose life for her child and, therefore, build family. Families are the foundation for healthy, thriving societies.

HEALING FROM AN ABORTION: God's Word in Titus 2 encourages older women (in age, experience, or spiritual maturity) to "teach young women." Women who have been wounded by abortion but then experienced the forgiveness and merciful healing of their Savior, Jesus Christ, can steer younger women away from the choice of death. An older woman can offer hope to the younger woman who lives in denial or despair following an abortion.

BIO-ETHICS & END-OF-LIFE: God's Word in Titus 2 connects women to bio-ethical issues and end-of-life issues by telling the older generation to train the younger "to be kind" (2:5). God's kindness is sacrificial. It is true compassion in that God came to earth not to remove suffering but to suffer with us; to suffer for us! "God's saving kindness has appeared for the benefit of all people" (2:11)! When we practice His kindness, we build a culture of kindness!

A few of the resources provided by Titus 2 for Life:

- "Titus 2 "teas," retreats, and campus "coffeehouses"
 - "Men, Women, and Relationships: Building a Culture of Life Across the Generations," a 12-lesson Bible study with leader's guide for women, men, or couples in congregations and on campuses
 - "No More Weeping," devotions for those who grieve an abortion choice
 - "Assorted brochures to help build a culture of life
- For more information, see website: www.titus2-4life.org

"Terri Schiavo – One Year Later"

By Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life and President of the National Pro-life Religious Council

March 31, 2006 marked the one-year anniversary of the killing of Terri Schiavo. Fr. Frank Pavone, who was with Terri and her family in those final hours, issued a statement to the press when the family, on March 30, 2006, held a Washington DC press conference to launch their family foundation to help other families facing similar tragedies. Following are some excerpts from that statement. Fr. Pavone also urges readers to buy the book that Terri's family wrote, called "A Life that Matters." It presents the family's narrative of their personal thoughts and feelings as the whole case was unfolding. The book can be obtained through Priests for Life by calling 718-980-4400, ext. 239, or emailing orders@priestsforlife.org.

Excerpts from Statement to the Press, March 30, 2006

One year ago tonight, in a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, I kept vigil at the bedside of Terri Schindler-Schiavo, watching a death that was not at all peaceful. Our sister Terri was near death by dehydration, while a display of live flowers stood just inches away, immersed in water... One year ago tonight, the eyes of the world

were focused on that hospice room, but hardly anyone saw it. Yet, there in that room, I assured Terri of the love, concern, and prayers of each one of you.... We were surrounded by the darkness of the Culture of Death, but we were immersed in the light of the Resurrection of Christ.

That is why this special family, the Schindlers, can carry on today – not just **surviving this ordeal, but strong and eager to carry out the mission they have — to serve other families who face what they faced.**

Today, Priests for Life stands with this family and with the Terri Schindler-Schiavo Foundation. We pledge to make every priest, every parish, every activist aware of this important initiative... to keep Terri's memory alive. Terri was *not* in a coma, did *not* have a terminal illness, and was *not* on life support. Yet some deemed her life not worth living. We will proclaim with every ounce of our energy that while there may be worthless treatments, *there is no such thing as a worthless life.*

Presbyterians Will Have Crucial Choices To Make In June

By Ben Sheldon, President Emeritus, PPL

The 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), when it meets in Birmingham, Alabama in June of this year, will have some crucial choices before it regarding the protection of late-term babies still in their mothers' wombs. For several years now, past General Assemblies (the highest governing body of the denomination) have been confronted with requests to change its policy of supporting Partial Birth Abortion, but these requests have always been defeated. Once again in 2006, a strongly-worded request (overture) from a lower governing body in western Pennsylvania is asking the Assembly to declare: *"We affirm that the lives of viable, unborn babies- those well-developed enough to survive outside the womb if delivered-ought to be preserved and cared for and not aborted. In cases where problems of life or health of the mother arise in a pregnancy, the church supports efforts to protect the life and health of both the mother and the baby. When late term pregnancies must be terminated, we urge decisions intended to deliver the baby alive."*

Presbyterians ProLife has thrown its support behind the adoption of this overture, which also includes a call for churches *"to provide pastoral and tangible support to women in problem pregnancies and to surround those families with a community of care."* At the same time the overture affirms adoption and asks churches to *"assist in seeking loving Christian adoptive families."* Presbyterians ProLife, a constituent member of the NPRC, will have a team of 40-50 people at the Birmingham Assembly to lobby and work and pray for the approval of this and other prolife overtures that will be presented at the Assembly gathering.

Associate Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become an Associate Member of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.

Enclosed is my fee of \$25.00 for membership as:
_____ an individual _____ a church _____ a group

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of
\$_____ to help NPRC with its important work.

Contact Person _____

Church or Group _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Denomination _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: NPRC c/o Development Office,
PO Box 61838, Staten Island, NY 10306-9811

The Social Costs of *Roe v. Wade*

*From Lifewatch, edited by Rev. Paul Stallsworth,
United Methodist Church*

Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, American society had moved convulsively but steadily in the direction of expanding the community of human beings who enjoy the protection of law. With *Roe*, that movement was reversed, if not for the first time, then at least for the first time since the Jim Crow. For *Roe* not only invalidated hundreds of existing laws restricting abortion throughout the United States, it also declared that human beings before birth are not "persons" under the Constitution with any rights that the state is obliged to recognize or protect.

It was inevitable that this ruling would immediately call forth bitter and passionate opposition, as indeed it must so long as it stands. For *Roe*'s core finding conflicts too frontally with the general human intuition that the unborn child is indeed a member of the human family. Moreover, it stands in ever sharper conflict with the growing body of knowledge that has sharpened and deepened this intuition with scientific evidence, and which underscores our understanding of the fundamental biological continuity of every human life from conception to birth and beyond.

Roe anticipated these conflicts and attempted to soften them by endorsing the notion of a sliding scale of human worth from conception to birth, while stopping short of according the fetus legal rights at any stage of development. But this effort had to fail, and in fact it has been scuttled by subsequent US Supreme Court decisions. For the notion of a sliding scale of human worth is obviously incompatible with the proposition that "all men are created equal," and with the divine revelation that gives this proposition its truth and force. America already has a long and tragic history with the notion of a sliding scale of human worth: slaves counted as two-thirds persons for constitutional purposes in the Old South. Such experiments will always take a terrible toll on the moral and spiritual integrity of our society, and they can never be successful in the long term.

Roe has inflicted other costs on American society, costs that have only become more evident as time has passed. The ready availability of abortion has undercut our society's will to address the social and economic conditions that lead many poor and minority women to seek it...

Roe has inflicted a steady, long-term hemorrhage of moral authority on those otherwise often praiseworthy movements that have embraced it, from the feminist movement to the Democratic Party to progressive Christianity (although they have not been uniform in their embrace of *Roe*). And, of course, *Roe* has inflicted damage on the US political system and above all on the process of judicial selection and confirmation, as recent events clearly show. In view of this, it is scarcely surprising that almost no one now attempts to defend the original *Roe* decision on the merits of its legal reasoning, no matter how much they favor its general outcome.



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Black Women “Stand for Life” at National Press Conference

It was a historic gathering on the morning of February 2, 2006, when more than twenty African-American women assembled at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to Stand for Life! Sponsored by Black Americans for Life (with special support from the Peroutka & Peroutka law firm), this diverse group of Black women gathered to declare the truth that abortion kills children and hurts women. Those who were present commented on what a powerful scene it was as one woman after another stepped up to the microphone to speak out against the destruction that abortion is causing in the African-American community.

“The fact that 39% of all abortions are performed on Black women is a horrendous statistic, especially since we are only 12%, and declining, of the American population,” said Mary Craft from Forestville, Maryland. “Abortion causes us to give up our blessings, our heritage, and our future,” added Renee Wilson of Philadelphia.

“Abortion is not as safe as proponents want us to believe,” stated Rev. Janine Simpson from Detroit. She went on to point out that women and girls still die from legal abortions. “I still suffer with many complications from my abortion over 30 years ago,” said Arlene Campbell from Philadelphia. She nearly died at the age of 22 when her uterus was perforated by an abortionist.

Many of the women who spoke at the press conference are post-abortive. “Like many other African-American women, I sacrificed my child for a ‘better life’,” said Allison Johnson from Waldorf, Maryland. “Unfortunately, as an 18-year-old, I had no real idea of what I was doing and the lie I was accepting. This is an eternal tragedy that I now must live with.” Tina Asinugo from

Alexandria, Virginia, had an abortion 17 years ago. She now realizes that “abortion does not help anyone; instead, it renders lasting hurt of physical, mental, and emotional scarring for life.” Carla Ezell from Philadelphia also expressed regret over her abortion 37 years ago, saying “I’ll miss that child for the rest of my life.”



Day Gardner, Janice Hollis, Jeanine Washington

Mary Craft spoke for the entire group when she said, “Regardless of the circumstances of an unplanned pregnancy, life is a gift from God, and man has no right to end it.

“Many African-Americans espouse a pro-life stance, but our actions have not aligned with our words,” concluded Rev. Janine Simpson. “We must get back to the basics and open our eyes to the devastation that abortion has brought on our community.”

The Black Americans for Life press conference was featured for two hours on Janet Parshall’s America, a national talk show carried on 141 radio stations. BAL Director Day Gardner was interviewed for 20 minutes on the show. The talk show stimulated many women to call in their agreement and support of the pro-life position taken by the Black women who spoke at the press conference. Quite a few newspapers carried reports or a reprint of the press conference. Black Americans for Life has been encouraged by the media attention this event continues to

Your Invited!

NRLC 2006

34th Annual National Right to Life Convention

June 22-24 in Nashville, Tennessee

- ♥ Inspirational Speakers
- ♥ Family Fun and Fellowship
- ♥ Educational Presentations
- ♥ The Latest Information
- ♥ Pro-Life Exhibits
- ♥ Teen and College Sessions
- ...and so much more

To register, call 202-378-8842

On line registration: www.nrlc.org/convention

**Convention Site: Sheraton Music City Hotel
777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214
(less than 5 miles from Nashville International Airport)**

For hotel reservations, call 615-885-2200

\$119 flat room rate; only 4 persons per room allowed