



St. Joseph's Catholic Church Pro-Life News

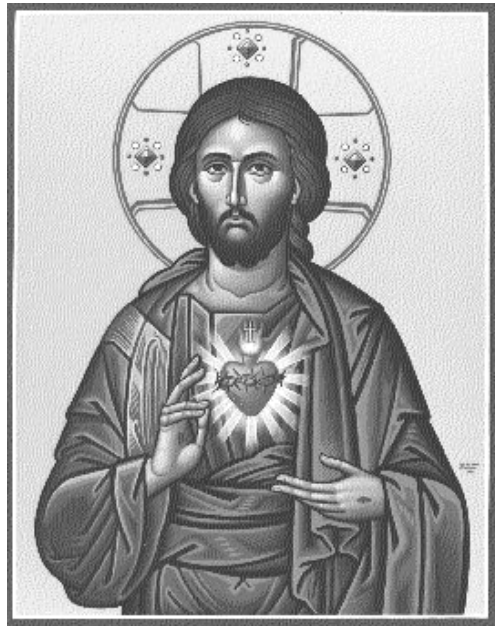
Winter 2005

Prayer for the Dignity of Human Life

Lord and giver of
all life,
Help us to value
each person created
in love by you.
In your mercy,
guide and assist our
efforts to promote
the dignity and
value of all human
life, born and
unborn.

We ask this through
Christ our Lord.

Amen.



IN THE NEWS

C-FAM 01/21/05 - New UNICEF Chief Named. US Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman was appointed as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Veneman begins her 5-year term on May 1. Pro-life groups are hoping that Veneman will carry through with badly needed reforms in the organization that she inherits, steering UNICEF away from a radical feminist agenda and returning it to a focus on child survival. Veneman replaces Carol Bellamy, who was first nominated by President Clinton in 1995. Under Bellamy, UNICEF became involved in controversial programs, including sexual education for children that encouraged sexual promiscuity, promoted the rights of women and girls from a feminist perspective, and even supported abortion. UNICEF has also been increasing its collaboration with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the world's leading public sector provider of contraceptives and abortifacients, and a provider of material support for forced abortions in China.

PRAYERS FOR LIFE

February 6 - For those who work in the pro-life movement that they may continue to be salt and light by nourishing their spiritual roots
February 13 - For all women tempted by the appealing promises of abortion that they may have the strength to say no to its destruction
February 20 - For judges and lawmakers that they may have the courage to return this nation to a life-encouraging culture
February 27 - That we may offer women with difficult pregnancies all the love and support they need
March 6 - That the People of God may exercise the love and mercy He desires us to show to the weakest members of our community, the sick and the unborn
March 13 - That the gift of life, which we have received, we may give as a gift by working to save those in danger of abortion, euthanasia, or other forms of violence
March 20 - That God, who rescues the life of the helpless, may enable us to rescue children from abortion, the sick from euthanasia, the criminal from capital punishment, and the poor from starvation
March 27 - For the strength to welcome Christ as He comes to us in the stranger, the sick, the imprisoned, and the unborn child

GEORGIA PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

The following four bills are being considered by the Georgia legislature this session; let your legislators know that you support these bills:

The Woman's Right to Know Act defines an informed consent standard for women considering an abortion. The bill requires that at least 24 hours before an abortion, a physician inform the woman of the medical risks and alternatives to abortion as well as the probable gestational age of the unborn child. The passage of the Woman's Right to Know Act will ensure that women have accurate, objective information before making a decision that will affect them for the rest of their lives.

Parental Notification for Minors Seeking Abortion: The current law in Georgia requires a parent or guardian to accompany a minor presented for an abortion or to be the person notified of the pending abortion. However, another adult can "stand in for the parent" and merely sign a statement that they have been notified of the abortion. This bypasses the parent and leads to the protection of adults who abuse minor girls. The proposed bill will strengthen the current law by requiring that a parent or guardian with proper identification to accompany the minor who is presented for an abortion or be the person who is notified by the physician of the pending abortion.

Unborn Victims of Violence Act recognizes that when a criminal attacks a pregnant woman, and injures or kills her unborn child, he has claimed two human victims. The bill would establish that if an unborn child is injured or killed during a crime of violence in Georgia, then the assailant may be charged with a second offense on behalf of the second victim, the unborn child. The sentence for murder of an unborn child would be equal to that for murder of the mother. The current law in Georgia relates to the killing of an "unborn child" after quickening as feticide. This law needs to be strengthened to include protection for the unborn child throughout pregnancy.

Choose Life License Plate Act proposes that Choose Life license plates be available for any person who wishes to demonstrate support of agencies that encourage adoption as a positive choice for women with unplanned pregnancies.

THE SILENT NO MORE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The campaign (www.silentnomoreawareness.org) is an effort to make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women, men, and their families. The emotional and physical pain of abortion will no longer be shrouded in secrecy and silence, but rather exposed and healed. The campaign, a joint project of **Priests for Life** and **NOEL**, has three main goals: Make the public aware that abortion is harmful emotionally, physically and spiritually to women and others; Reach out to women who are hurting from an abortion, let them know help is available; Invite women to join us in speaking the truth about abortion's negative consequences.

LOCAL LIFE - focus on life in our community

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is a safe, enriching, highly reliable way for married couples to space, avoid or find the best time to conceive a child. NFP promotes openness to the transmission of human life and recognizes the value of children. NFP classes teach how to identify a woman's fertile time by natural signs from her body. Then, if a couple is avoiding a pregnancy, they abstain from intercourse until the fertile time has ended. NFP uses no chemicals or devices that may have harmful side effects. It is safe for the woman and any child that may be conceived. NFP is taught at St. Joseph Church. It is also available on line and as a correspondence course. For more information contact Mary Stroupe at 994-5538.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Pro-Life Group

Father Allan J. McDonald - Pastoral Guidance

Our mission is to deliver the message of God's gift of life to all in order to bring about a renewed culture of life in our parish, our community and our country.

We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the St. Joseph Center. For more information call Virginia Hauck at 477-0887 or Mark & Connie Wyzalek at 476-0889.