



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

News Notes

El Salvador Lawmakers Unanimous in Opposition to Abortion

All 84 legislators in the Congress of El Salvador signed a petition expressing their commitment to defend unborn children and families from abortion and euthanasia.

“Every human being should be protected and respected from the moment of conception...until his natural death. **Our primary responsibility as legislators is to unconditionally defend life.** We condemn abortion as an abominable crime,” states the petition, entitled the Book for Life.

This book is to be sent to other Latin American countries that currently prohibit abortion. The purpose, according to the president of the Salvadorian foundation, Si La Vida (Yes to Life), Regina Cardenal, is to create awareness among legislative bodies in Latin America about the importance of protecting life, especially of unborn children. The next countries to consider the document will be Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, and possibly Mexico. The initiative began in Honduras.

“We believe that all of us must be faithful defenders of life and not leave room for anything else,” stated Honduran lawmaker Hugo Martinez.

Catholic Advisory Group for Obama Appears to Have Been Dissolved

According to Bill Donohue, President of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the pro-abortion Catholics forming a National Advisory Council for Barack Obama which was formerly included on Obama’s campaign web site, seem to be discontinuing their group.

The group was heavily criticized by Catholics since they supported views contrary to Catholic teaching.

“It is more than embarrassing--it is shocking--to read how these Catholics view abortion. The Catholic Church regards abortion, as well as embryonic stem cell research, as ‘intrinsicly evil,’” Donohue said in his opposition to the group. In calling on Obama to dissolve the group, he had pointed out that the members of the council had received 100% voting marks from the pro-abortion group NARAL.

Presently, the group has disappeared from Obama’s website. Donohue said his calls and e-mails to the campaign had received no response. “It would appear, then that the group no longer exists. It is not hard to understand why,” Donohue concluded.

Catholic Leaders Meet with Presidential Candidate John McCain

In Philadelphia June 11, several Catholic leaders met with Senator John McCain, Republican presidential candidate, and discussed his policies on life issues, according to Catholic journalist Deal Hudson.

Former Vatican ambassador Jim Nicholson introduced the candidate to the leaders who included Fr. Frank Pavone, Governor Frank Keating and Senator Sam Brownback.

McCain addressed the issue of abortion when he said, “the noblest words ever written” were “the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” and stated that he believes these words “apply to the unborn.”

McCain stressed his pro-life voting record which he said was a commitment he would maintain if elected president. He said there is a “stark contrast” between him and Senator Barack Obama who opposed banning partial-birth abortions or legally protecting babies born alive during an abortion procedure.

The meeting, which was held at Philadelphia’s Union League, is expected to be the first of several meetings which McCain plans to attend with Catholic leaders in other parts of the country.

Media Attempts to Downplay Obama’s Pro-Abortion Views Are Challenged

When an editorial in the Chicago Tribune, 6/16, portrayed Obama’s position on abortion as essentially pro-life, this assertion was quickly challenged by pro-lifers. Professor Douglas Kmiec, reporting on a meeting Obama had with several religious leaders, stated in the editorial that Obama earnestly wants to “discourage” abortions.

Ramesh Ponnuru of *National Review* pointed out that Obama’s support for taxpayer-funded abortion does not square with an “earnest desire to reduce the incidence of abortion.” Ponnuru suggested that the next time Obama meets with religious leaders, someone should challenge him on this contradiction.

Obama, in a meeting with Planned Parenthood Federation in 2007, promised to sign the so-called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) that would make the *Roe v. Wade* decision federal law. This would overturn every pro-life statute enacted by state legislatures and make legal abortions in all nine months of pregnancy the law of the land. The common sense limitations citizens have approved, such as parental notification, banning partial-birth abortions, and preventing taxpayer funding of abortions would no longer be possible. Removing these limitations would certainly increase the number of abortions.

The Associated Press has also come under fire for its reporting on Obama which failed to convey the radicalness of his extreme positions on abortion, such as his support for FOCA, opposition to banning partial-birth abortions, promise to only nominate federal judges who pledge to keep abortion legal for another, 35 years and refusal to protect children who survive botched abortions.

Sherry Tyree, Vice-President of Women for Faith & Family, has complained about AP’s coverage and is urging pro-life advocates to hold Associated Press accountable.

“The AP--like the rest of the press often accused of being in the pocket of the abortion industry--needs to be held accountable. Let’s put their feet to the fire,” she said.



Where Do the Candidates Stand on Life?



John McCain

Barack Obama

Roe v. Wade

**Note: The "Freedom of Choice Act" is a bill that would invalidate virtually all state and federal limitations on abortion, including partial-birth abortion.*

OPPOSES

- Voted to oppose *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.
- "...We would be better off by having *Roe v. Wade* return to the states...I don't believe the...Court should be legislating in the way that they did on *Roe v. Wade*."

SUPPORTS

- Co-sponsor of the "Freedom of Choice Act"
- "I have consistently advocated for reproductive choice and will make preserving woman's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority as President."

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

**Note: Gonzalez v. Carhart is the April 2007 Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.*

The partial-birth abortion procedure — used from the 18th week on — involves pulling a living baby feet-first out of the womb, except for the head, puncturing the skull and sucking out the brain. The great majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on healthy babies of healthy women.

SUPPORTS

- Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.
- "Today's Supreme Court ruling [in *Gonzales v. Carhart*"] is a victory for those who cherish the sanctity of life."

OPPOSES

- "I am extremely concerned that [*Gonzales v. Carhart*"] will embolden state legislatures to enact further measures to restrict a woman's right to choose, and that the conservative Supreme Court [justice] will look for other opportunities to undo *Roe v. Wade*."

Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

OPPOSES

- Voted in favor of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through the Medicaid program.
- Voted consistently against federal funding of abortion.

SUPPORTS

- Voted against legislation in the Illinois State Senate that prohibited taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for abortion.
- His campaign has stated that he "does not support" the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through the Medicaid program.

Parental Notification Law

SUPPORTS

- Voted to support a bill that would have required an abortionist to notify at least one parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state.

OPPOSES

- Voted to block a bill that would have required an abortionist to notify at least one parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state.

Protecting Abortion Survivors

SUPPORTED

- Voted for legislation that provides protection for babies who survive abortions equal to protection received by babies who are spontaneously born prematurely.

OPPOSED

- Voted three times against a bill in the Illinois State Senate that would have provided protection for babies who survive abortions equal to protection received by babies who are spontaneously born prematurely.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

SUPPORTS

- Voted in favor of funding embryonic stem cell research.
- "I believe that stem cell research has every potential very soon of making that discussion [embryonic stem cell research] academic."

SUPPORTS

- Voted in favor of funding embryonic stem cell research.
- "Embryonic stem cells can be obtained from a number of sources including in vitro fertilization. ...We should expand and accelerate research using these embryos..."

Human Cloning

OPPOSES

- His campaign website states that he "opposes the intentional creation of human embryos for research purposes."

SUPPORTS

- Co-sponsored a bill (S. 1629) in 2006 that would allow the cloning of human embryos to be used in research, but prohibit placing them in wombs.

Bulletin Inserts

September 7 – Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska knew through prenatal diagnosis that her fifth child had Down syndrome. Following the baby’s birth, the Palin family issued this statement: “Trig is beautiful and already adored by us. We knew through early testing he would face special challenges, and we feel privileged that God would entrust us with this gift and allow us unspeakable joy as he entered our life.” (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, 4/19/08)

September 14 – The right to life is like the foundation of a house. Other rights, such as the right to work, the right to health care, etc., are the walls of the house that protect the precious gift of life from attack. It is meaningless to say we are going to guarantee the rights that enhance human life yet say that human life itself has no inherent worth. (Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director of USCCB’s Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities)

September 21 – When Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty vetoed a measure that would have spent millions of state dollars on human embryonic stem cell research, he pointed out that adult stem cell research is “evolving rapidly” which “creates ample opportunity to work towards lifesaving cures without crossing core ethical and moral boundaries. We should encourage this science.” *National Right to Life News*, June 08.

September 28 – As assisted suicide laws continue to be proposed, it is well to remember that “there is no more dangerous public policy than transforming killing into a legal, and eventually a legitimate, medical treatment. In society today, we have decided that which is moral and good is that which is legal. And once you legalize assisted suicide, it will then be deemed good and moral.” (Euthanasia expert Wesley J. Smith, *Southern Cross* 5/12/05)

October 5 – As we again celebrate Respect Life Sunday, we see the attacks on innocent human life seem to become more complex and deceptive. Abortion is sold as giving a woman the “right to choose;” assisted suicide as a way to relieve the pain of the dying; embryonic stem cell research as a means of attaining marvelous cures. Yet the essential question remains for each of us: Who is our neighbor? In this age especially, it must include those not protected by law, those who have no voice.

October 12 – Government has no authority to take away an innocent person’s life. Government exists, instead, to secure the rights of all the people. Some claim they don’t know when life begins. So, if they are hunting and don’t know whether it is a bear or a man hidden from view, may they shoot? If not, then how do they justify abortion when they are not sure what it destroys? (Father Frank Pavone)

October 19 – Commenting on the political poison unleashed by *Roe v. Wade*, abortion-supporting columnist Charles Krauthammer notes that this decision disenfranchised instantly and without recourse an enormous part of the American population, preventing the proper political settlement of the issue by the people and their representatives. *Roe v. Wade* makes the U.S. the only Western nation to have legalized abortion by judicial fiat rather than by the popular will expressed democratically. *National Right to Life News*, 11/05)

October 26 – The secret weapon of the pro-life movement is teenagers, according to Joleigh Little, Director of Wisconsin Teens for Life. Among the many activities pro-life teenagers can support is education in area churches. “Get permission to set up an educational booth in friendly churches and find a few well-educated [in all things pro-life] teens to staff the booth,” Little suggests. This will enhance the pro-life youth presence in your church community and increase interest in a pro-life parish committee or local pro-life group. (See *National Right to Life News*, June 08, for more ideas for pro-life teens.)

Suggested Prayers

September 7 – That more people will have the courage to speak the truth about abortion, we pray

September 14 – For all those in the healing professions, that they may use their knowledge and skills to nurture life and not destroy it, we pray

September 21 – That all who have been hurt by abortion may turn to our merciful Lord, we pray

September 28 – That all may recognize the right to life of the unborn who are created in the image of God, we pray

October 5 – For an increase of respect for life no matter how small, aged, or challenged, we pray

October 12 – That those who work to restore legal protection for the unborn may turn to God for strength to persevere, we pray

October 19 – For all those facing an unexpected pregnancy, that they may be led to those who can help them, we pray

October 26 – That this nation may recognize the destruction that legalized abortion causes for mothers, fathers, and families, we pray

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More News

Right to Life Provides Educational Opportunities for College Students

This summer, the second National Right to Life Academy is being held in Washington, DC to train pro-life college students from across the country for leadership in the movement. It is sponsored by individuals, local pro-life groups and churches.

Following the lead of Wisconsin Right to Life, Texas Right to Life Committee, has also initiated a scholarship program for pro-life students who are freshmen or sophomores entering the fall semester at a four-year accredited college in Texas.

This year four college students were awarded scholarships which requires them to carry out pro-life projects and events within the year at their colleges, and to undertake pro-life training

at the Texas RTL headquarters in Houston where experienced pro-life advocates prepare the students to be activists on their campus in the fall.

Scholarship coordinator Melissa Castillo said the need to reach out to college students is urgent since pro-abortion groups and ideology have infiltrated the universities.

“The youth of today are more willing than past generations to stand and protect innocent human life. Thus, current pro-life leaders must accept the responsibility to train and guide the young men and women who wish to advance the culture of life,” Castillo pointed out.

National Right to Life – Outreach Department

New Educational Flyers Available!

Brand new in 2008! These full color double-sided flyers highlight how abortion has impacted various communities in American society. Each piece contains simple statistics, basic information on the dangers of abortion, the highlights of fetal development, and numbers to turn to for help. They are ideal for distributing at your church, local fairs, or any pro-life event. To order copies please fill out, detach, and mail in this order form.

Yes, I would like to order copies of NRLC’s New Educational Flyers!

Please indicate quantities:

- Abortion and the Latino Community – English
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- Abortion in America

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