



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

News Notes

Catholic Colleges Offer Internships with Pro-Abortion Groups

Contrary to the teaching of the Catholic Church, some ten or more Catholic colleges are promoting student internships with groups that are actively pro-abortion, including Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider; Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) which supports late-term abortions; the National Organization for Women (NOW) and NARAL who lobby for abortion "rights." The FMF internship training includes working in "clinic defense," opposing pro-life advocates providing help and information to women outside abortion clinics.

Boston College, Georgetown University, DePaul University, the University of San Francisco, Notre Dame, St. John's University of Minnesota, St. Edward's University in Texas and St. Norbert College in Wisconsin are among those who are offering college credit, and sometimes funding, for such internships.

The Cardinal Newman Society is writing to the presidents of these colleges to protest these internships opposed to the mission of a Catholic college.

Anti-Rationing Amendment to Health Care Bill Defeated 12-10 in Senate Committee

WASHINGTON- The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee defeated on a party-line vote an amendment offered by Senator Michael Enzi of Wyoming, the ranking Republican member, to the pending health care restructuring bill that would have prevented the use of "comparative effectiveness" research methodologies as a basis for denial of benefits to patients against their will based on their age, expected length of life, or of the patient's present or predicted disability or quality of life. Senators Enzi, Gregg, Coburn and Burr spoke in favor of the amendment.

In one example in the medical literature, an attempt was made to assess different "quality adjusted life year" scores for each of the following: "no physical disability, limp, walk with crutches, and need a wheelchair." In another, the authors wrote, "[I]t may be judged that one year of life with a moderate disability is equivalent to 0.75 years of life at optimal health."

Senator Barbara Mikulski (D/Md) lead the opposition to the amendment, claiming it was unnecessary. However, while the existing bill language says that comparative effectiveness research such as this "shall not be construed as mandates FOR payment, coverage, or treatment," **nothing in the current bill prevents it being used to DENY treatment.**

"By rejecting the Enzi amendment, the Senate HELP Committee today cleared the way for that rationing to be based on discrimination against people with disabilities, older people, and anyone considered to have a poor 'quality of life,'" charged Burke Balch, director of the National Right to Life Committee's Powell Center for Medical Ethics.

Action Alert

Please take a few minutes to send messages to your two U.S. senators and to your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, to urge them to oppose any federal "health care reform" legislation that does not explicitly exclude abortion. An easy way to do this is to go to the Legislative Action Center on the NRLC web site at www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home. There you can fill in your mailing address and have your message automatically sent by e-mail to your senators and representative. Or call **202-224-3121**, and ask to be connected to your senator's office. You can do the same for your U.S. Representative by calling **202-225-3121**. If you don't know your representative's name, give the operator your zip code and you will be connected with the correct office.

Tell Congress to Exclude Abortion from "Health Care Reform"!

Democratic congressional leaders, who are currently in control of both houses of Congress, are working with the Obama White House to fast-track sweeping "health care reform" legislation -- legislation that Barack Obama has already pledged will incorporate expansive pro-abortion provisions. Committees in the Senate and House are already working on bills that would result in mandatory insurance coverage of abortion-on-demand, and federal subsidies for abortion.

Douglas Johnson, NRLC director of federal legislation, noted that the authors of the bills hope to achieve sweeping pro-abortion effects without even mentioning the word "abortion." For example, a bill proposed by Senator Ted Kennedy (D/Mass.) would grant authority to a "Medical Advisory Council," appointed by the Secretary of the Health and Human Services, to specify what services must be included in all health insurance plans. A draft bill released by the House Democratic leadership on June 19 contains a similar provision.

"Pro-life Americans should vigorously oppose any federal 'health care reform' legislation that does not explicitly exclude abortion from the scope of any government-defined or government-mandated package of health care services," Johnson explained. "A bill that delegates authority to some government board to require abortion coverage is simply a covert, two-step method for imposing sweeping pro-abortion mandates on employers and all citizens."



Fr. John Rafael

Fr. Rafael Challenges Pro-Life and Black Communities to Build Bridges of Communication

At the National Right to Life Convention Prayer Breakfast (6/19), Keynote Speaker Fr. John Rafael, SSH, told the pro-life attendees that the pro-life community and the African-American community have much in common regarding the respect for human life but have not connected with each other sufficiently.

As a Black priest from New Orleans, and chairman of the Josephite Pro-Life Committee, Fr. Rafael has worked for nearly 20 years to raise the consciousness of Blacks regarding the plight of the unborn. He sponsors regional workshops for pro-life education. In his talks, he finds that African-Americans listening to him nod in agreement, but when it comes to voting, even the most pious pro-lifers will vote for a pro-abortion candidate because of social-cultural reasons. Fr. Rafael believes that the black population needs to be convinced that the life issue is so important that they would insist that whoever asks for their vote should be pro-life.

A dramatic focus on this issue arose May 17 when Obama was given an honorary degree at Notre Dame. This was an intense experience for Fr. Rafael who is a Notre Dame graduate. During the election, the African-American boys in the high school in New Orleans where Fr. Rafael teaches were ecstatic that an African-American man could break the racial barrier to become president. Fr. Rafael had been carrying on a pro-life information crusade with abortion statistics, parallels between abortion and slavery, comparison of the number of black deaths from abortion to total black deaths--pointing out the genocide happening when a black population of 13% has 37% of abortions--highlighting Planned Parenthood's concentration of abortion clinics in minority neighborhoods, and relating the history of Margaret Sanger's "Negro Project" to reduce births among blacks.

As we know, these facts did not change "the racial mandate" in the black community bursting with pride in a black leader who could become the U.S. president. But after Obama was elected, **Fr. Rafael pointed out that the Obama Abortion Agenda was real and had real victims.**

When it was announced that Notre Dame would honor Obama, Fr. Rafael was dismayed at the position this put him in, and the Church as well. If it was okay with Notre Dame to honor a pro-abortion president, then it must be okay with the Church. He felt he was suddenly transformed into "a quirky priest with a personal agenda."

Fr. Rafael chose to participate in the Rally for Life at Notre Dame on May 17. He shared that the religion writer for the local newspaper, in a front page article, gave a fair and balanced explanation for his participation in the pro-life rally. Yet African-Americans responded angrily, both to the article and to Fr. Rafael. Nevertheless, he felt that, after years of trying to provoke anger at abortion and getting only a yawn, the newspaper article did more to draw attention to the issue than anything else.

When the black priest from New Orleans arrived at the rally, he was welcomed with open arms by the pro-lifers. But Fr. Rafael commented that to his black brothers and sisters he was "an enigma at best and a traitor at worst." So he asked himself why these two communities have not been able to connect with each other better. He pointed out that black culture has been forged of suffering and is a world often alien to white pro-lifers. Two moral concerns seem to stand in contradiction: the racial issue and the life issues. Logically, of course, these two concerns are not in contradiction. Yet social and political history have placed them in opposition. Is it possible to overcome this divide?

Fr. Rafael urged a strong bridge of communication between the pro-life and black communities to educate the average African-American on the importance of protecting the lives of unborn black children. This needs to be done in terms meaningful within the black community, speaking about their fight for justice and relating this to the injustice to black mothers, families and unborn children in the abortion agenda. Larger resources need to be devoted to this educational work, building on those efforts already made. Better public relations also should let the public know of all the good work pro-lifers have done for years helping pregnant women of all races, before and after birth, with generous support. "Being pro-life is...a way of life that places specific burdens and responsibilities on us... But victory belongs to the children of God," Fr. Rafael emphasized.

Polls Show Majority of Americans Are Pro-Life *Opinion Is Moving in a Pro-Life Direction*

Several polls confirm that the opinion of Americans is becoming more pro-life. A pro-life attitude toward abortion is now the majority view.

The Polling Company conducted a survey for National Right to Life Committee in the days after last fall's election and found that 53% of Americans took a position of opposing all or most abortions, and only 41% favored legal abortion in either part or all of pregnancy. Only 6% took the position of President Obama allowing abortion for any reason at any time during pregnancy.

A recent Gallup Poll revealed that more Americans identify themselves as pro-life than at any time in the last 15 years. It found that 51% say they are pro-life and 42% describe themselves as "pro-choice" on abortion. The poll also found that 59% of Americans oppose Obama's decision to overturn the Mexico City Policy and allow our taxes to fund groups that promote or perform abortions in other countries.

The same Gallup Poll revealed that 60% of Americans think abortion should either be illegal in all circumstances or legal in only a few circumstances.

At the National Right to Life Committee Convention in June, Dr. David O'Steen, NRLC's executive director, said that he believes the shift in the pro-life direction is a result of Obama's extreme pro-abortion record, including using taxpayer money to fund overseas organizations that perform and promote abortion and to fund embryonic stem cell research. He pointed out that Obama's record has gotten more play in the press than some may have expected. O'Steen said he thought that "pro-choice" rhetoric is breaking down because people are seeing how those who say they are "pro-choice" are routinely promoting abortion.

Roe v. Wade will eventually be overturned, Dr. O'Steen asserted, because it stands contrary to the laws of God and the moral values of most Americans.

Bulletin Inserts

September 6 – A former worker at a Dignitas suicide clinic told the *London Daily Mail* that she began to see the clinic not as a compassionate place for ending lives but as a money-making killing machine taking advantage of the disabled and terminally ill. (*Life News*, 6/1/09)

September 13 – The logic of the modern age dictates, “Let us declare that God is dead, then we ourselves will be God. At last we no longer belong to anyone else; rather we are simply the owners of our selves and of the world. At last we can do what we please.” These words of Pope Benedict XVI clearly highlight the thinking behind acceptance of abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research. Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, 257

September 20 – When abortion claimed the lives of both her unborn grandchild and her daughter, Mrs. Eileen Smith said she and her husband Tom experienced a ‘baptism of fire’ into the pro-life movement. She vowed that she would tell Laura’s story in the hope that at least one woman would choose life after hearing it.... Since then, she has heard about several... young women who have turned away from abortion after hearing about Laura’s death. *NRL News*, May, 2008

September 27 – Despite almost losing her psychologist’s license because of her pro-life beliefs, Theresa Burke developed an effective healing process for those women whose lives are in turmoil because of abortion. Through Rachel’s Vineyard ministries, “the darkness, pain and error of abortion are shattered by the light, love and truth of Jesus Christ,” Mrs. Burke states. *Pro-life Reporter*, Scranton, Pa., Spring, 2009

October 4 – As we celebrate Respect Life Sunday, the words of the late pro-life hero, Rep. Henry Hyde, are as true today as when spoken on the floor of the House of Representatives in 2000: “We are knee deep in a culture of death...In this advanced democracy, is it our crowning achievement that we have learned to treat people as things? Our moment in history is marked by a mortal conflict between a culture of life and a culture of death.” *NRL News*, 12/07

October 11 – “This is not a debate about religious doctrine or even about public policy options. It is a debate about our understanding of human dignity, what it means to be a member of the human family, even though tiny, powerless and unwanted.” Rep. Henry Hyde during the House debate on the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2000, *NRL News*, 12/00)

October 18 - In a memorable speech challenging his fellow House members to ban the practice of Partial Birth Abortion, Rep. Henry Hyde asserted: “God put us in the world to do noble things, to love and cherish our fellow human beings, not to destroy them. Today we must choose sides.” *NRL News*, 12/07

October 25 - The day after the March for Life on January 22, 2009, President Obama overturned the Mexico City Policy begun by President Reagan and continued under both Presidents Bush. What this means is that American taxpayer dollars will be used by groups like International Planned Parenthood to promote the legalization of abortion at all stages of pregnancy in countries across the world. Paul Kengor, *National Catholic Register*, 2/8-14/09

“...The deep burden we share for others in harms way involves real pain and Godly sorrow. ...There’s rejoicing over every abortion averted—the joy of a child and his or her mother rescued, and over the years, the millions of children who have escaped the killing fields and are today at school, baking a cake with mom, playing basketball or frisbee with dad... and even having kids of their own.

“The bravest of all in this movement are the post-abortive women who are “silent no more.” Their voice and message of hope must be heard everywhere and especially by post-abortive girls and women who suffer depression and deep emotional scaring.” Rep. Chris Smith (R/NJ) in address to the National Right to Life Convention, 6-20-09.

Suggested Prayers

September 6 – That those who have been blinded to the humanity of the unborn may open their eyes to the truth, we pray

September 13 – That the Lord may stir the hearts of His people to provide for troubled women and their unborn children, we pray

September 20 - For those who speak up on behalf of the unborn, the disabled, and the frail elderly, we pray

September 27 – For an end to the killing of the unborn through abortion, we pray

October 4 – For an awakening of this nation’s conscience to the truth that respect for life must be the foundation of a just society, we pray

October 11 – For all those who make their living from abortion, that they may be converted from destroying life to protecting it, we pray

October 18 – That women tempted to abort their unborn children may turn to Christ for strength to do what is right, we pray

October 25 – That our society may value the elderly, terminally ill, and disabled by respecting and protecting their right to life, we pray

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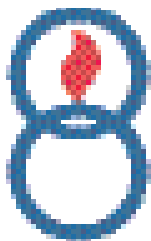
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Questions? Contact 202-378-8855 or outreach@nrlc.org.

Please mail to: **Choose Life**, National Right to Life, 512 10th St. N.W.
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Choose Life...

July/August 2009

More News

Choose Life Now Available Online!

www.nrlc.org/outreach

The Outreach Department is pleased to announce the brand new layout of its departmental web site. The web site provides a much-needed online home to the *Choose Life* newspaper. The current issue of the paper, as well as the issues from the past two years, is available for download. Just go to www.nrlc.org/outreach and click on the “Choose Life” button along the top. There you can find subscription information, headlines from the current issue, and links to download pdf versions of the latest issues.

The Spanish version of *Choose Life*, known as *Escoge La Vida*, is also available for download at the web site. Click on the “Escoge La Vida” button under the Hispanic Outreach section.

In addition to the *Choose Life* newspaper, the web site also contains basic information along with useful statistics, news stories, and materials on the different groups represented through the Outreach Department at National Right to Life. These include: Religious Outreach, Black Americans for Life, American Victims of Abortion, Indians for Life, National Pro-Life Religious Council, Hispanic Americans for Life, and National Teens for Life.

The web site will be kept up-to-date with new information on the work of the various outreach



departments so check back often to stay informed. Future plans for the web site include additions to the Black Americans for Life and Hispanic Outreach pages, as well as online educational tools on the Religious Outreach and American Victims of Abortion sections.

For further inquiries, comments, or problems regarding the new Outreach web site please contact Pam at outreach@nrlc.org or 202-378-8855.

