

Obama Misrepresents His Role in Killing Bills To Protect Infants Born Alive After Abortions

Presidential Candidate Barack Obama is desperately trying to cover up the fact that he voted repeatedly against an Illinois bill that would have provided legal protection for babies who are born alive after abortions.

As an Illinois state senator, Obama was a leading opponent in 2001, 2002, and 2003 of the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, a proposed state bill to recognize any baby who is completely expelled from the mother, and showing signs of life, as a legal person.

Since the time he ran for the U.S. Senate in 2004, Obama had claimed that the state bill he opposed had contained language to undermine legal abortion, which he strongly supports -- but he insisted that he would have voted for the federal version of the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, if he had been a member of Congress in 2002, when the bill passed both houses of Congress without a dissenting vote.

However, documents uncovered by National Right to Life and released on August 11, 2008, proved that in 2003, Obama had actually chaired an Illinois Senate committee meeting that killed a state bill that was virtually identical to the federal law. This occurred even though Obama had personally heard testimony from nurses who said they witnessed aborted babies left alone to die without even care to keep them comfortable.

Asked about the NRLC charges during an August 16 television interview with David Brody of CBN, Obama said, "I hate to say that people are lying, but here's a situation where folks are lying." But on August 25, the independent group FactCheck.org (www.factcheck.org) issued a review of this question that concluded, "Obama's claim is wrong. . . . The documents from the NRLC support the group's claims that Obama is misrepresenting the contents of SB 1082."

Obama has now shifted arguments, claiming that an old Illinois law already required medical care for infants born alive during abortions. But that law only protected babies that abortionists declared had reached the point where they could survive long term, sometimes referred to as viability, and it left the decision about this up to the abortionist.

In a "white paper" issued on August 28, National Right to Life Legislative Director Douglas Johnson and Legislative Counsel Susan Muskett concluded, "Obama's words and action support this conclusion: His commitment to defend the practice of abortion without qualification was so absolute that it led him to reflexively view the issue of babies born alive during abortions through the prism of his concept of *Roe v. Wade*, and worse, to conclude that a breathing, squirming, fully born pre-viable human baby is still covered by *Roe v. Wade*. Once he realized how difficult his position was to defend in the world outside the halls of the Illinois Senate, he began to misrepresent his record."

For more information on this issue, see www.nrlc.org.



Barack Obama Addresses Planned Parenthood
Photo courtesy of Lifeneews.com

Republican Party Platform Defends the Unborn

Faithful to the first guarantee of the Declaration of Independence, we assert the inherent dignity and sanctity of all human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion and will not fund organizations which advocate it. We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity and dignity of innocent human life.

We have made progress. The Supreme Court has upheld prohibitions against the barbaric practice of partial-birth abortion. States are now permitted to extend health-care coverage to children before birth. And the Born Alive Infants Protection Act has become law; this law ensures that infants who are born alive during an abortion receive all treatment and care that is provided to all newborn infants and are not neglected and left to die. We must protect girls from exploitation and statutory rape through a parental notification requirement. We all have a moral obligation to assist, not to penalize, women struggling with the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy. At its core, abortion is a fundamental assault on the sanctity of innocent human life. Women deserve better than abortion. Every effort should be made to work with women considering abortion to enable and empower them to choose life. We salute those who provide them alternatives, including pregnancy care centers, and we take pride in the tremendous increase in adoptions that has followed Republican legislative initiatives.

Respect for life requires efforts to include persons with disabilities in education, employment, the justice system, and civic participation. In keeping with that commitment, we oppose the non-consensual withholding of care or treatment from people with disabilities, as well as the elderly and infirm, just as we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide, which endanger especially those on the margins of society. (pp.52-53)

Democratic Party Platform Promotes Abortion

Because we believe in the privacy and equality of women, we stand proudly for a woman's right to choose, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, and regardless of her ability to pay. We stand firmly against Republican efforts to undermine that right. At the same time, we strongly support family planning and adoption incentives. Abortion should be safe, legal, and rare.



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Photo Courtesy of LifeNews.com

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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.

Anglicans for Life

Common Good

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 Pro-Life Union

National Clergy Council (NCC)

National Pro-Life Action Center

Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)

Priests for Life (PFL)

Religious Outreach, National Right to Life Committee

Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (TUMAS)/Lifewatch

United Friends for Life (UFL)

Elections: Take Practical Action!

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

The final weeks and days before an election should spur us on to practice and promote concrete action. This action is aimed at increasing the turnout of voters who support the candidate of your choice. Here are a few hints:

1. Utilize early voting. Many states allow voters to go to the polls for days or weeks before Election Day itself. Be sure you know if your state allows this, and work throughout that period of time to get people to the polls. The dates for early voting in the various states can be found at Priests for Life's election website www.PoliticalResponsibility.com.
2. Remind the homebound and those who may miss their vote because of travel to cast their vote by absentee ballot.
3. Utilize your phone list, email list, website, newsletter, blog, You Tube, MySpace, or Facebook account to remind your friends to vote.
4. Distribute voter guides so that people will know where candidates stand on the issues. See www.PoliticalResponsibility.com for some of these resources.
5. Contact the campaign of the candidate of your choice. Donate to the campaign, volunteer to make phone calls or do other tasks that the campaign needs.
6. Express your support for the candidate of your choice by means of yard signs, bumper stickers, and buttons. Such things remind others to vote, and can encourage conversations whereby you can inform other voters about the candidate of your choice.

Remember, elections aren't contests between two candidates; they are contests between two teams. Make sure you are an active part of your candidate's team, mobilizing as many votes as possible!

Next President Can Appoint Judges to Overturn or Entrench *Roe v Wade*

For 35 years the judicial fiat of the Supreme Court decisions *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton* that legalized abortion for all nine months of pregnancy for any reason has torn our country apart, killed some 50 million unborn children, left their mothers and fathers hurting and relationships broken and damaged. Now our country is faced with the possibility of ending this federal judicial fiat, or of continuing it for another generation. In the coming four years, the next president is likely to appoint one to three new Supreme Court Justices.

Last April, the Supreme Court upheld the federal ban on partial-birth abortions, but on a bare 5-to-4 vote. The four dissenting justices laid out a legal theory that would be even more sweeping than *Roe v. Wade*, and that could sweep away the pro-life gains of the recent years, if they are joined by a fifth vote.

On his website, **Barack Obama** says, "With one more vacancy on the Court, we could be looking at a majority hostile to a woman's fundamental right to choose for the first time since *Roe versus Wade*. The next president may be asked to nominate that Supreme Court justice. That is what is at stake in this election." In a July 17, 2007, speech to Planned Parenthood, Barack Obama confirmed his commitment to maintain *Roe v Wade*: "On this fundamental issue, I will not yield ..."

John McCain "believes *Roe v. Wade* is a flawed decision that must be overturned, and as president he will nominate judges who understand that courts should not be in the business of legislating from the bench." McCain also stated that "Chief Justice [John] Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito ... would serve as the model for my own nominees if that responsibility falls to me."

What I Did This Summer

by Georgette Forney, Anglicans for Life

I attended a special Anglican conference in Israel called GAFCON in late June. The Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) was an incredible event, with more than 300 bishops and their wives from the worldwide Anglican Communion and many ordained and lay leaders for a total of 1200 pilgrims, touring Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Galilee! I'm still struggling to put words together that adequately describe what it meant for me to be a part of such a historic event. As a lay person representing the most important issue in the world, life, I walked a careful line between being agenda-driven and Spirit led. Anglicans for Life was there to provide witness to the sanctity of life and seek to have it included in the foundational principles being established during the conference.

I am saddened that our goals were not achieved as I envisioned it, but I'm grateful for the following comments by Professor Stephen Noll, Secretary of the Statement Committee, that highlights the importance of Anglicans for Life being present at the conference.

"As a member of the Statement Committee, I would like to point out two articles in the Jerusalem Declaration relevant to the pro-life cause:

• **Declaration Point 8** - We acknowledge God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.

• **Declaration Point 10** - We are mindful of our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to uphold and advocate justice in society, and to seek relief and empowerment of the poor and needy.

Article #8 addresses the specific crisis issue facing the Anglican Communion over the past decade. It does not specifically address another crisis issue, the protection of unborn life. However, I think one can deduce from the logic of this article the direction that the GAFCON movement will take on the latter issue. We go back to God's creation purposes in Genesis for man and woman, and certainly by extension that would be his good will for the procreation of children and the sanctity of their lives from the very beginning.

"As a participant in GAFCON, Georgette Forney brought to our attention the issue of protection of the unborn. The Committee considered it positively but felt that at this point it would be covered by the reference to justice and relief for the poor and needy under article 10. I can only speak on my own authority, but I think the GAFCON movement as a whole is strongly pro-life and will address this issue more directly at a later time."

National Black Pro-Life Union Says: 'Barack Obama, No We Can't!'

By Day Gardner, National Black Pro-Life Union

There has been much talk about Barack Obama's vote against Illinois' Born Alive Infants Protection Act that would protect babies who survived abortion.

It's hard to believe that this man who wants to hold the highest office in this land would not only oppose legislation to protect children born alive, but would then misrepresent his actions for four years, saying that the bill he opposed in the Illinois State Senate was different from the bill that was passed by the U.S. Senate and signed into law by President Bush. However, the National Right to Life Committee has produced documents that confirm the two bills were exactly the same. (see article p. 4)

The virtually identical legislation to protect babies who survive abortion was passed by the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly (before Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate) by a vote of 98-0, which means that even the most adamant pro-abortion Senators did not oppose it. Even NARAL was neutral on this bill, which goes to say that Barack Obama is far more extreme than anyone else on this issue.

Let's understand what opposing this important legislation means. Suppose that a woman goes to an abortion facility for an abortion and by some blessing the child survives—alive. Barack Obama has voted that the abortionist, medical staff, and anyone else in the room should stand by and watch the child die a horrible death—gasping for air—without lifting a finger to help him or her. There are also cases where completely delivered living babies were suffocated or strangled to death.

Barack Obama is an extremist who would effectively allow all of us to stand idle—twiddling our thumbs as unplanned children, who are born alive, die this terrible death.



Georgette Forney introduces an African leader to resources at AFL Exhibit Booth

Anglicans for Life did accomplish two other very important goals while in Israel. The first was having the opportunity to educate attendees about efforts to legalize abortion in African and Latin American countries and introduce them to our ministry resources that can help them provide a witness for life in their churches. We handed out over 300 of our new "Life, An International Perspective" DVD that can also be viewed on our website AnglicansforLife.org

I had a lot of fun achieving the second goal; making new friends and renewing relationships. For example, on the bus ride to Bethlehem, I sat next to The Rev. Benjamin Mbago, Dean of St. Philip's Theological College in Tanzania. By the time we departed the bus, we were discussing the idea of me going to Tanzania to speak to the students and their wives on life issues.

I hope that in time I will be able to put into words all that I experienced in Israel. The only one so far that comes close to summarizing GAFCON for me is HOLY. Holy people in a Holy Land worshipping a Holy God.

National Memorial for the Preborn Jan. 22, 8:30 AM at the Senate

The National Memorial for the Pre-born and their mothers and fathers is the only event held inside the complex of the U.S. Congress. Each year, national pro-life leaders and clergy from numerous denominations take part in this prayerful remembrance of all victims of abortion and joyful celebration of God's gift of life.

This year's memorial will be held on Thursday, January 22 at 8:30 am in the U.S. Senate office buildings, exact room to be announced at the NPRC website, www.nprcouncil.org. Check the website before setting out to attend the service. **The program will end in plenty of time for you to get to the start of the annual March for Life.**

Please tell your family, friends and fellow church members about this wonderful witness to the Sanctity of Life, held right in the midst of the U.S. Congress!

U.S. Catholic Bishops United in Rebuking House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for Her Twisted Tale of Catholic Teaching on Abortion

"Anyone who dares to defend that the unborn child may be legitimately killed because another human being "chooses" to do so or for any other equally ridiculous reason should not be providing leadership in a civilized democracy worthy of the name." Cardinal Egan

On NBC's *Meet the Press* Sunday, August 23, Tom Brokaw asked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi **when human life begins**. Pelosi, whose pro-abortion activism in Congress is well known, responded that as an "ardent practicing Catholic, what I know is, over the centuries the doctors of the Church have not been able to make that definition. St. Augustine said at three months... We don't know..." Brokaw pointed out that the Catholic Church states that human life begins at conception, but Pelosi countered, "I understand. And this is like maybe 50 years or something like that. So again, over the history of the church this is an issue of controversy."

These comments stirred a chorus of Catholic bishops to denounce this misrepresentation of the Church's teaching on abortion that Pelosi made on national public television, and to clarify the historically consistent and clear teaching of the Church on the sinfulness of abortion. The bishops responding included: Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Bishop William Lori, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Doctrine; Cardinal Edward Egan, Archbishop of New York; Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington, DC; Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., of Denver and Auxiliary Bishop James Conley of Denver; Bishop Samuel Aquila of Fargo, ND-

A History of the Christian Church's Witness against Abortion: A Love for Life by Dennis DiMauro

Reviewed by Laura Echevarria

While reading Dennis DiMauro's book, *A Love for Life*, I kept thinking, "I wish I had this during the years I was director of Media Relations for National Right to Life."

Mr. DiMauro's book about Christianity and abortion would have been of great use to my department. We would often receive calls from individuals or reporters interested in the views of abortion by religious denominations. While we did have denominational statements available through National Right to Life or our friends at the National Pro-Life Religious Council, Mr. DiMauro's book is brilliant in its simplicity and would have been of great help.

Dennis DiMauro knows the issue of abortion and the positions of various denominations well. He is the secretary of the National Pro-Life Religious Council and president of Northern Virginia Lutherans for Life. He is also a doctoral student in church history at the Catholic University of America. He knows and understands the history and views of the various denominations on the abortion issue and, through his book, does a great service for anyone interested in abortion and religion.

Experts in the field sing the praises of *A Love for Life*. No higher source of praise for a book of this nature is Michael J. Gorman, author of the brilliant examination of *Abortion and the Early Church*.

"In this brief but comprehensive and well-researched book, Dennis DiMauro traces the history of the Christian church's pro-life position, born from its Scriptures and theologically consistent until the latter part of the twentieth century," Dr. Gorman writes. "DiMauro also demonstrates that the pro-life position represents the majority of the Christian world, even as he points to powerful ... voices within Christian traditions that are currently pro-choice. Christian people and churches on all sides of the abortion debate need to grapple seriously with these realities, and the first step in doing so is to read this book."

Adds Fr. Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, "Up until now, you might have thought you knew the outstanding Christian tradition in defense of children in the womb. But that was before you picked up this book."

Mr. DiMauro begins by condensing church history on the issue, the views of major theologians since the Reformation, and then explains the distorted views of pseudo-religious groups such as the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Mr. DiMauro then moves on to the background, history, and present status of the abortion issue in each of the major Christian denominations in the United States. He even helpfully provides the readers with the official statements of each denomination in the appendices.

Mr. DiMauro examines the positions held by modern denominations in the United States beginning in the 1960s—the years immediately preceding *Roe v. Wade*—and following through

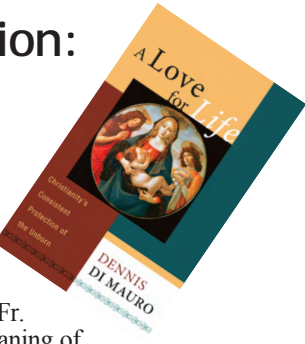
to the present. Interwoven are highlighted quotes from a variety of sources including those from individuals well known within (and without) their denominations and religious affiliations.

For example, there is this stunning quote from Fr. Pavone: "In giving His Body, Christ teaches the meaning of love. I sacrifice myself for the good of the other person. Abortion teaches the opposite of love: I sacrifice the other person for the good of myself!"

A Love for Life also includes a breakdown of the number of members in both pro-life and "pro-choice" denominations and concludes that Christianity in the United States is primarily comprised of pro-life churches and denominations. As of the year 2000, 72% of people who were members of a church were affiliated with a pro-life church or denomination.

Mr. DiMauro concludes with an appeal to "pro-choice" Christians who may read his book. He quotes Methodist theologian Stanley Hauerwas who once said, "Abortion is not about the law, but about what kind of people we are to be as the Church and as Christians."

Do yourself a big favor and purchase *A Love for Life*. It can be purchased at many book stores, at Amazon.com, or from the publisher at http://wipfandstock.com/store/A_Love_for_Life_Christianitys_Consistent_Protection_of_the_Unborn



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:
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