



Uniting for Life

A Christian Pro-Life Newsletter
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Photo Courtesy of LifeNews.com

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The 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

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)

Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of Religious Outreach, National Right to Life Committee

Family Research Council (FRC)

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

Lutherans for Life (LFL)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

National Clergy Council

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA)

Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)

Priests for Life (PFL)

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

United Friends for Life (UFL)

Recent Report Reveals Taxpayer-Funded Abortions

A report made public on September 16, 2014 by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a nonpartisan investigatory arm of Congress, provides dismaying confirmation of earlier predictions by National Right to Life that federally subsidized abortion coverage would become a widespread feature of Obamacare.

The Obamacare law was enacted in early 2010 despite objections from pro-life advocates that it contained provisions that would result in massive federal subsidies to help scores of millions of Americans buy health plans that cover elective abortion. However, President Obama repeatedly insisted that “no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions.”

The GAO report findings validate previous charges by National Right to Life that the federal taxpayer is subsidizing the purchase of abortion-covering plans on a massive scale. Coverage for abortions varies according to the laws of the state: 23 states have some restrictions, of which 17 do not permit coverage of any abortions, and six allow coverage only in limited circumstances. In the remaining 28 states with no restrictions on taxpayer-funded abortions, the GAO report found that 1,036 plans cover elective abortion while 1,062 do not.

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R- New Jersey), co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, sharply criticized the lack of good information, saying, “Americans throughout the country have raised serious concerns that they find it nearly impossible to determine whether the plan they purchased finances the killing of unborn children.”

Despite assurances that there would be plans available in each state that do not fund elective abortions, the GAO found that in five states – Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont – every insurance plan currently sold on the exchange covers elective abortion. In addition, abortion-covering plans dominated the exchanges in California (96% cover elective abortion, 86 plans out of 90), Massachusetts (98%, 109 plans of 111), New York (95%, 405 plans of 426), and Oregon (90%, 92 plans of 102).

These massive subsidies for abortion-covering plans amount to a sharp break from decades of federal policy under the Hyde Amendment. The Hyde Amendment says that no federal funds “shall be expended for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion,” but the Hyde Amendment does not apply to the Obamacare law.

National Right to Life Legislative Director Douglas Johnson stated that, “Those really responsible for this scandal are the lawmakers, such as Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Mark Begich of Alaska, and Mark Udall of Colorado, who voted against the pro-life amendment that would have prevented this massive federal funding of abortion-covering plans, as well as those who voted to enact the bill after the amendment was rejected, such as Mark Pryor of Arkansas.”

Voting with a *Clear* Conscience

See Back Cover...

*A guide to following your faith in the voting booth, with:
Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director, Priests for Life
President, National Pro-life Religious Council*



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Beheaded American Journalist took Solace in his Faith

James Foley, the American journalist who was captured and beheaded while covering the war in Syria, was a practicing Catholic who took great solace in his faith. Foley was a parishioner of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Rochester, New Hampshire. On August 19, 2014, the Islamic State released a video of Foley's beheading, and called his death retaliation for the U.S. airstrikes in Iraq. Many Catholic journalists have since speculated that Foley could be considered a martyr.

Catholic Blogger Pia de Solenni wrote in a piece on August 22, 2014 for Patheos.com, "Martyrdom is not something that happened a long time ago in ancient Rome, or more recently in the founding of the Americas a few hundred years ago. It's something that's happening a lot, most – if not all – of the time. Pope Francis is well aware of this, more so than most of us." Pope Francis called the Foley family on the phone on August 21, 2014, speaking to several members of the family about Foley's sacrifice. Michael Foley, James' younger brother, said that Pope Francis referred to James' death as martyrdom during that conversation.

Foley spoke about his Catholic faith after his release from captivity in Lybia in 2011. He was quoted in *Marquette Magazine* as saying, "I began to pray the rosary. It was what my mother and grandmother would have prayed," he wrote in a piece published in *Marquette Magazine* after his release. "I said 10 Hail Marys between each Our Father. It took a long time, almost an hour to count 100 Hail Marys off on my knuckles."

Mike Krokos of *The Critereon*, the Archdiocesan newspaper of Indianapolis, cited many examples of Foley's faith in a guest commentary in the Catholic News Service on September 3, 2014. He quoted Foley's statement made after his 2011 Lybian captivity, "If nothing else, prayer was the glue that enabled my freedom, an inner freedom first and later the miracle of being released during a war in which the regime had no real incentive to free us. It didn't make sense, but faith did."

Following his release from captivity in Lybia, Foley returned to the Middle East to continue his work, sending back pictures and information about the persecution of Christians there. As Bishop Libasci of New Hampshire said in a memorial Mass for Foley on August 24, "Jim went back again that we might open our eyes."

While martyrdom has always been defined as death because of *odium fidei* (hatred of the faith), Pia de Solenni makes the point that John Paul II also acknowledged that some suffer death because of "choices made by faith." De Solenni cites John Allen's book, *The Global War on Christians*,

"[T]he late Pope John Paul II stretched the concept of martyrdom to include not only those killed in hatred of the faith but also those who died in hatred of the church. Many theologians today are increasingly willing to include also those killed out of hatred for the virtues inspired by the faith." An example of such a martyr is Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life for the lives of a father and son in a concentration camp during World War II. Pope Francis also has recently considered the canonization cause of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, who spent his life advocating human rights in his



James Foley
Photo: Patheos.com

country.

In her August 22 piece, Pia de Solenni summarizes the state of martyrdom in today's world, saying, "With the beheading of James Foley and the increasing reports of his Catholic faith, the word "martyr" is becoming more popular. Some would caution that we shouldn't use the word too lightly. I agree. At the same time, I also think martyrdom is more common than we realize... If it takes the death of James Foley for us to realize that people are dying because of their faith every day, then that makes him even more of a witness to the truth."

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.

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

Contact Person _____
Church or Group _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Denomination _____
Phone (h) _____ (w) _____
E-mail _____

Make Your March for Life Plans NOW!

Begin your March for Life by joining pro-life Christians from across the nation by attending the National Memorial For The Pre-born and Their Mothers and Fathers. Join us for Pro-life Christians with Scripture, Prayer, Song and an Inspirational Sermon. Visit: www.nationalprayerservice.com

EWTN News Nightly Breaks Media Blackout of Pro-Life News

*By: Ernest Ohlhoff,
National Right to Life*

The Eternal Word Television Network's (EWTN) new News Nightly program is featuring pro-life stories and events on a regular basis. Pro-life leaders are frequently being interviewed on current, pro-life issues.

News Nightly producer and anchor Brian Patrick presents a wide range of pro-life issues as well as a broad spectrum of national and international stories including sporting news. Aired Monday through Friday at 6:00 pm eastern time and the show is repeated at 9:00 pm and 2:00 am. EWTN plans to expand its news programming and is currently engaged in doubling its studio space, which is located a few blocks for the U.S. Capital in the heart of Washington, DC.



Brian Patrick,
*News Nightly Producer
and Anchor, EWTN*
Photo: www.ewtn.com

EWTN is the world's largest religious media network. It transmits television programming 24 hours a day to more than 230 million homes in 140 countries and territories through cable, Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS), broadcast TV and digital media platforms. In addition, EWTN Global Catholic Network has begun construction of its first West Coast television production facility located on the campus of Christ Cathedral in the Diocese of Orange, California.

Two New Pro-Life Laws in Missouri

The Missouri Legislature recently voted to pass two pro-life legislative measures in the same day. On September 10, the Senate overrode vetoes on two bills: the first establishing a 72-hour waiting period for abortions, and the second providing a tax credit to benefit pregnancy help centers, maternity homes, and food pantries.

According to Mike Hoey, Executive Director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, "Catholics from around the state contacted their legislators, and that made a big difference... Without those calls and emails I don't think we could have passed this much pro-life legislation." A morning prayer vigil sponsored by Show Me Life Missouri preceded a rally of 300-400 outside the Missouri courthouse.

America's First Memorial to the Unborn Celebrates Anniversary

Saint Mary of the Mills Parish in Laurel recently held a prayer service commemorating the 27th Anniversary of the oldest memorial for the unborn in America.

The memorial in Laurel (pictured below) was originally dedicated on January 17th, 1987.

Congressman Robert Dornan was the keynote speaker at the original dedication and President Ronald Reagan wrote a letter that was read on that same day. It is believed that this is the first memorial for the unborn in the United States.



*Memorial to the Unborn at Saint Mary of the
Mills Parish in Laurel, MD*

Photo: *Laurel Catholic Standard*

Unborn Children Recognized at 9/11 Memorial in New York City



*9/11 Memorial
in New York, NY*
Photo: *LifeNews.com*

The words "and her unborn child," follow the names of eleven victims of the 9/11 attacks in the memorial at Ground Zero in New York City. The tribute recognizes the lives of unborn babies and mourns their loss alongside the loss of their mothers, paying homage to the smallest victims. The 13th anniversary of 9/11 brought light again to this recognition of life within the womb.

Voting with a *Clear* Conscience



Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director,
Priests for Life

President,
National Pro-life
Religious Council

There are ten easy steps to having a clear conscience in regard to how you vote on Election Day:

1. Vote!

First, make sure you actually vote. Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. Voting is a moral obligation. Take advantage of early voting if your state allows it, and if you're going to be out of state or are homebound, use an absentee ballot! Bring your voting decisions to prayer.

2. Know the Candidates.

Be sure you know where the candidates stand on the issues.

3. Reject the Disqualified.

If a candidate came forward and said, "I support terrorism," you wouldn't say, "I disagree with you on terrorism, but what's your health care plan?" Similarly, those who permit the destruction of innocent life by abortion disqualify themselves from consideration.

4. Distinguish Policy from Principle

Most disagreements between candidates and political platforms do not have to do with principle ("Is there a 'Right to Crime?'"), but rather with policy ("How do we reduce crime?"). But the dispute over whether there is a right to life does deal with principle, and is therefore more fundamental.

5. Weigh other issues properly.

Not all issues have equal weight. The Catholic Church teaches that war and capital punishment, for example, may at times be morally justified, but abortion and euthanasia never are.

6. Keep your loyalty focused on Jesus.

Your loyalty to Jesus Christ must be stronger than your loyalty to any candidate.

7. Remember, the Party Matters.

Elections do not only put individual candidates into power; they put political parties into power. Consider what the parties stand for, and how the outcome of the election affects the balance of power.

8. Distinguish "choosing evil" from "limiting evil."

If two opposing candidates both support abortion, then ask: Which of the two candidates will do less harm to unborn children? This is not "choosing the lesser of two evils," but rather choosing to limit an evil, and that is a good.

9. Support the candidate with more than your vote!

Additional activities include donating to the campaign, volunteering for the campaign, handing out literature for the candidate, making phone calls and visits on the candidate's behalf, sending emails, using yard signs and bumper stickers, and praying for the candidate.

Elections are not contests between two candidates. They are contests between two teams. The bigger and more active team will bring in the most votes.

10. Mobilize as many other voters as possible!

Each of us has one vote, but each of us can mobilize hundreds, even thousands of votes. Focus on mobilizing those who agree with you rather than convincing those who don't. If you can take the day off on Election Day, do so. Spend the day contacting people by phone and email, reminding them to vote, and helping them get to the polls.

Having done all this, rejoice in a clear conscience, and trust the Lord to bring about the victory for a Culture of Life!

Find out more about what you, your groups, and your Churches can do at www.PoliticalResponsibility.com!