



# DEFEND LIFE

*Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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## 15-year-old sues D.C. Planned Parenthood

A 15-year-old Leonardtown, Md., girl and her mother are suing Washington, D.C.'s Planned Parenthood for \$50 million, charging that they badly botched the girl's abortion, causing her to suffer severe, life-threatening injuries that left her permanently infertile.

According to their complaint, filed in D.C.'s U.S. District Court February 12, Shantese Butler was raped in 2006, when she was 13, and subsequently became pregnant.

On September 7 of that year,

**See SUIT, page 14**

## Pro-lifers decry NEA abortion support

Stop supporting abortion through your policies, resolutions and actions – that's the message pro-life leaders delivered to the National Education Association at their annual convention in Washington, D.C., on July 2.

The pro-lifers followed back-to-back press conferences with picketing outside the convention hall.

Inside the convention, pro-life delegates tried to amend NEA's long-running Family Planning Resolution, which gives abortion the 3.2 million-

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## 18 Truthers mass-arrested in Harford County

**'What am I being charged with?' cries handcuffed Face the Truth Tour Director Beth Walsh (above); below, a Bel Air police officer loads Laura Beeson into a police car (Story on page 2).**



# Face the Truthers arrested en masse in Bel Air

Maryland state troopers and Bel Air police arrested 18 pro-lifers in Harford County at the final Face the Truth Tour stop August 1, jailing them overnight and releasing them the next morning.

Sixteen of the 18 were charged with failure to obey a lawful order, loitering, and disorderly conduct. The remaining two, who were minors, were released without charges.

During last year's Truth Tour, pro-lifers had held signs without incident at the same location, Route 24 at the intersection of Route 924, just north of I-95.

But this year, as 30 to 40 pro-lifers held signs along the right-of-way, a state trooper arrived at about 4:30 p.m. and told them to take the signs down.

"He said we were disrupting traffic – that there's a county ordinance that you need a permit for a protest," said pro-lifer Joe Healy.

The trooper asked Tour Director Beth Walsh, "Where's your permit?" said Defend Life Director Jack Ames.

"Beth said, 'We don't need a permit.' She kept saying, 'What's the law? Could you at least call up your commanding officer and clarify that?' But he told her, 'You want to get arrested? Call in your signs!'"

The pro-lifers packed up their signs, drove about 2 miles north on Route 24 where, they reasoned, they would be within Bel Air town limits and out of State Police jurisdiction, and set up their signs once again.

Minutes later, State Police pulled up and arrested Beth.



**A state trooper handcuffs Jonathan Benitez while Jack Ames and Beth Walsh, already handcuffed, look on.**

"She's yelling and crying, 'What are you arresting me for?'" said Ames. "They wouldn't say, because they didn't know.

"I chimed in and said, 'Yes, officer, that's a relevant question.' So they arrested me.

"There were at least 10 State Police cruisers, all lined up, and also Bel Air police; it was massive overkill."

More arrests followed, including that of Beth's younger sister, Joan, who had been tearfully videotaping her sister's arrest.

The nine men arrested were hauled to the State Police Barracks in a paddy wagon, then put in a cell about 10 feet square.

"It was really tight," said Ames. Friends got pizza sent in.

"We had a lot of great prayers and singing: 'Ave Maria,' 'The Lord's Prayer,' 'Tantum Ergo' in English," said Ames.

They sang back and forth with

the girls, who were in a cell about 20 feet away.

As the night wore on, the men tried to make mattresses out of the empty pizza boxes on the concrete floor.

"We didn't get a lot of sleep," said Ames.

At about 3 a.m., the police began transferring the pro-lifers to the Harford County Detention Center, where they were taken, one by one, before a state commissioner.

The Maryland residents were released on their own recognizance. Three of the out-of-staters each had to post \$3,000 bail, which pro-life attorney Steve Peroutka provided.

The police refused to let the attorney in to see the pro-lifers.

"They violated all our rights," said Ames, who was the last to be released, at 10:45 a.m.

"I think the charges will be dropped," he said. "The state's attorney will see to that."

# Water balloons, thumbs-up mark Truth Tour

“What are you here for?”

A well-dressed, elderly man asked the question of Angela Swagler as she held a large poster opposite the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., on July 29.

Angela, an Erie, Pennsylvanian who will be a freshman at Christendom College in the fall, told him that she was part of Defend Life’s annual Face the Truth Tour.

At 15 stops over five days, she explained, pro-lifers were holding graphic signs of aborted babies along roadways to show Marylanders the ugly reality of abortion that has been hidden by the mainstream media.

The man listened intently.

Then, “Well done. God bless you,” he said quietly.

Angela was one of 14 college students on the Truth Tour’s 27-member “core team” who traveled together to all the stops, where local pro-lifers would join in.

The energy and dedication of the collegians, recruited by Tour Director Beth Walsh, a Mount St. Mary’s

junior, and her younger sister, Joan, helped make the core team “our best core team ever!” said Defend Life Director Jack Ames.

“It’s been great!” enthused Christendom College freshman Jessica Ward, a core team member from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

“We’ve had some bad experiences – everything from being cursed at to being told we should be aborted,” she admitted. “But most reactions are positive: thumbs-up, or ‘Great job!’”

“It’s great to do such a radical stand for life – a great way to get the message out,” she concluded.

At the Frederick stop July 28, core team members Luke Ertel and Nathan Cain took in stride getting water ballooned by a raucous carload of teenagers.

The same three boys and two girls, packed in a maroon Subaru, “were yelling profound words, calling me bad names,” said core team member Laura Beeson, 17, of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

“So I smiled at them, trying to break down the barrier of hate between us.”

It didn’t work.

“The boy in the middle of the back seat picked up a gun and started waving it at me. I was terrified!” she recalled. But they drove away too quickly for her to get their tag number.

Beeson, who will be a freshman at New Mexico State University, recovered quickly, however. By mid-week, she was engaging “pro-choicers” in articulate discussions, using the Socratic method of debate, said Ames.

Reinforcing the message on all five days, Ohioan Jim Davis circled the stop sites in his Center for Bio-Ethical Reform Truth Truck, plastered with giant pictures of aborted babies and the word “CHOICE.”

Early on the morning of August 1, the core team and “a few extras” made an unscheduled stop near Normandy Shopping Center on Route 40 in Howard County.

Twice in past tours, Howard County police had ordered pro-lifers off the right-of-way, saying they needed a permit.

But this time, Defend Life was purposely looking for a test case for the pro-life Alliance Defense Fund to take to court, said Ames.

Seven police cruisers showed up. “One car actually had canines – a classic case of overreaction,” said Ames.

One officer told the pro-lifers, “I’ve never seen anything like this before! I’m with you all the way.”

But a female officer threatened, “You keep this up a few minutes more, and you’re going to get arrested.”



Angela Swagler explains the purpose of the Truth Tour to a curious passerby in Washington, D.C.

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## NEA, from page 1

member union's stamp of approval.

"We joined the NEA to be represented on employment issues such as salaries, working conditions and medical benefits," said Bob Pawson, a teacher from Trenton, N.J., and 32-year NEA member.

"It's wrong to misuse our dues monies to subvert and contradict our personal moral values. This betrayal and breach of trust must come to a halt."

Pawson, who heads Pro-Life Educators and Students, was one of over a dozen pro-life leaders who spoke to the press at the Family Research Council's offices and later, outside the Washington Convention Center, the site of the week-long convention.

"The NEA has a long, sordid history of collaborating with Planned Parenthood to provide sex education in the schools, and abortion as an alternative," said Jim Sedlak of American Life League.

"We call on the NEA to immediately disassociate itself from Planned



**Volunteers Emily Espinola (left) and Sherly Jourdain man the Teachers Saving Children display at the NEA Convention.**

Parenthood."

Outside the convention center, picketers held signs reading, "Save Babies' Lives: Save *Your* Jobs!" "25 Abortions = 1 Dead Class" and "NEA, Be Abortion Neutral: Repeal I-15."

I-15 is this year's version of NEA's

Family Planning Resolution, which was adopted in 1985 and is reaffirmed annually at every NEA convention.

The resolution states, "The National Education Association supports family planning, including the right to reproductive freedom."

"In 1998, at my first NEA conference, I questioned the term 'reproductive freedom,'" Ohio teacher and NEA delegate Judy Bruns told the press conference.

"I was told by the chair that it meant the 'choice' to abort after the first trimester, after viability, up to and including delivery – that there are no limitations."

At last year's convention, Bruns proposed amending the Family Planning Resolution to add "with no position on abortion" after the words "reproductive freedom."

Press conference speaker Sissy Jochemmann, a second grade teacher from Pittsburgh, recalled, "When I attended my first NEA assembly in 2001, the assembly voted overwhelmingly not

**See TEACHERS, page 12**



**Defend Life Director Jack Ames heads a line of picketers outside the NEA Convention hall.**

# Pro-lifers picket Obamans at Cantina

Twenty-one feisty pro-lifers dropped in on a Maryland Democratic Party fundraiser for presidential candidate Barack Obama at Baltimore's Inner Harbor July 30 with graphic reminders that Obama is staunchly pro-abortion.

As festively dressed Democrats streamed in and out of the brightly lit Iguana Cantina, the pro-lifers stood shoulder-to-shoulder, holding large posters of aborted babies with signs attached reading "Obama Supports Abortion at 21 Weeks" and "Obama Supports Murder."

The pro-lifers energetically leafleted passersby, engaging many in spirited exchanges on abortion.

Sign holder Jonathan Benitez, a junior at Mount St. Mary's University who is majoring in theology and plans to teach, looked at the passersby and commented, "This is part of my classroom."

Reaction to the picketers was mostly a mixture of amused tolerance and dismissiveness.

As a group of men in their twenties walked by the aborted baby signs on their way into the cantina, one of them remarked, "I'd love to have that one for dinner."

But pro-lifer Angela Swagler reported that a young black man passing by looked at the posters and exclaimed, "Obama supports this?"

"I said, 'Yes, he even supports killing babies after they're born.'"

"He said, 'Well, that blankety-blank is not going to get *my* vote!'"

"I'm strongly against abortion," a woman leaving the cantina told sign holder Brian Crenwelge, "but McCain won't do anything either."

"There are greater evils and lesser evils," the Martinsburg, West Virginian replied. "McCain is



**Luke Ertel holds a sign in front of the cantina.**

the lesser evil."

On the cantina steps, pro-lifer Laura Beeson began a lengthy debate with Democrat Patrick Pannett.

"Would you make an exception for rape or incest – yes or no?" Pannett demanded testily at one point.

"I believe that . . ." Laura began. "Rape or incest, yes or no?" interrupted her young inquisitor.

"How would having an abortion begin to match the pain of rape or incest?" Laura countered.

Fifteen minutes into the earnest discussion, she was asking, "Can we decide on life or no life? If we can, will you change your view on abortion?"

Pannett paused. "Well to be honest," he admitted sheepishly, "I don't even vote. But I *will* consider this issue."



**Laura Beeson talks with Patrick Pannett (second from right) and other Democrat operatives.**

# Keep goals in mind, says Operation Rescue's Newman

Troy Newman was an engineer at Loral Aerospace in San Diego in 1991 when he saw a picture of an aborted baby.

Like pro-life leaders Joe Scheidler and Fr. Frank Pavone before him, that picture did it for him.

He quit his engineering job and set out to close down the abortion industry in San Diego.

"Over a number of years, we closed 19 San Diego abortion mills. Forty-two abortionists quit, retired, or went to jail," the president of Operation Rescue told pro-lifers at a July 29 Face the Truth Tour luncheon talk in Washington, D.C.

Conventional tactics helped them close down San Diego abortionist Phillip Milgram.

"We picketed him every day he was open for one year," said Newman. "He threw in the towel, closed his two abortion clinics, moved to Las Vegas and opened a car wash."

But for Karl Seligman, who did more abortions than anyone else in San Diego, they applied more novel methods of persuasion.

On Valentine's Day, 1995, they scattered a pound of tiny, glittering red hearts all over his front lawn, "to show him how much we loved him!" Newman explained.

"We were praying for him, asking him to stop. After three home visits, he called me up and said, 'I quit.'"

"I believe God answers prayers when you pray for a specific thing," he concluded.

That same year, his group started doing "truth tours" in California with graphic posters of aborted babies.

"We got more middle fingers – it was amazing, the vitriol we got!"

he reflected. "But you don't get so much of that now; you get more positive than negative reactions.

"These pictures you are showing today have a phenomenal effect," he assured his audience of Face the Truthers. "They do an end run around the media cover-up."



**Troy Newman describes Operation Rescue's anti-abortion campaigns in San Diego and Wichita.**

Six years ago, Newman moved his operations to Wichita, Kansas, "because it's the abortion capital of the world," he explained.

His aim was to close down Wichita's notorious late-term abortionist, George Tiller, who is currently awaiting trial on 19 criminal charges of committing illegal late-term abortions.

"I believe he is the flagship for the abortion industry," said Newman. "If he goes down, it will have

a domino effect."

In the six years that Operation Rescue has campaigned against him, Tiller has lost three abortion clinic managers.

Fifteen employees have quit, and two dozen "supportive collaborator" businesses have stopped serving him.

"His late-term abortion business is down 54 percent. Four of the doctors who support him have quit.

"And right now, today, he's in court, arguing about which day he's going to trial."

Newman's short-term goal of shutting down Tiller is part of what he calls "principled incrementalism."

"A lot of pro-life people say incrementalism is a bad thing. I disagree, because a principled incrementalist will get you where you want to go," said Newman.

He feels that many in the pro-life movement are suffering what he calls "unprincipled perpetualism": like the Israelites, they wander around in the desert, "in perpetual motion, but not with a vision or goals.

"I believe in a strong incremental approach – if you have a vision and goals in mind," he explained.

Our conferences and projects, our picketing and sidewalk counseling "should all be inching us forward to our goal."

We may be six months away from victory, or we may be four years away; we don't know, he said.

"But just like slavery, abortion is going to come crashing down, and that day is coming soon."

# 'Orphan trains' replaced by good adoption options

From the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century through the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, children's aid societies and foundling hospitals in east coast cities had a unique method of finding homes for their many abandoned or orphaned children.

They placed them on special trains, called "orphan trains," headed for the Midwest.

At towns along the route, the children would be stood up on a baggage car on the train platform – literally "put up for adoption" – so interested townsfolk could inspect them and pick the ones they wanted.

Today's adoption procedures are a far cry from those of the long-gone orphan trains, but the negative terminology still remains: we still speak of "putting a child up for adoption," said Paulette Holloway.

"Adoption is a time-honored, age-old concept," Holloway told about 20 participants at the Adop-

tion Awareness Seminar at Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns' Dundalk Center July 12.

Moses was adopted, she reminded them; so were Lot and Esther. Joseph was an adoptive father to Jesus.

"So adoption must have some merit. But if adoption is such a good thing, why does it have such a bad reputation? Because we have a way of putting a negative spin on anything we don't support."

Holloway, director of the Bethany Christian Services adoption agency and a licensed social worker, acknowledged that adoption is a difficult sell to young women facing crisis pregnancies.

Of the approximately 1.3 million babies born annually in the U.S. to single women, only about 22,000 are placed for adoption as infants, she noted.

Unfortunately, many children

raised by single mothers are neglected or mistreated, and end up in foster care.

Infant adoption is often the better choice. Studies show that unmarried teens who place their children for adoption are more likely to finish high school and obtain a higher level of education, attain better employment, and marry in the future.

Research also shows that adopted children are well-integrated into their families and schools, and that their behavior and emotional and academic adjustment are very similar to those of non-adopted children.

"This is not training to show you how to browbeat somebody," Holloway told the seminar participants, all of whom were pregnancy center volunteers or staff members.

"It is non-directive – you give them the information to make an informed choice. The message is simple: adoption is worth considering."

The common current practice is that, instead of a thorough consideration of adoption, clients and counselors enter into a sort of collusion: "They don't ask about adoption and you don't bring it up as an option, because you assume she doesn't want the information if she didn't ask for it," said Holloway.

Adoption procedures have changed enormously since the 1940s and '50s when, she noted, "Women in crisis pregnancies would be whisked off, give birth, the baby would be taken away, and she would never see the child. It was the snatch-and-run baby era."

Now, the birth mother controls the process.



At the Adoption Awareness Seminar, Toni Ambrose (left) and Amy Childs role play as a counselor and a pregnant client who is considering adoption, while Paulette Holloway looks on.

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# Mom, Dad, 19 kids thrive on faith and love

Drive way north from Baltimore on I-95, cross the mighty Susquehanna and cruise through picturesque Port Deposit; mosey along side roads through bucolic moo-cow country, and you'll finally arrive at the home of John and Donna Kurtz.

And their 19 children, all adopted.

Plus 8-month-old Nicholas, whom they are baby-sitting for a single, working mom who lives in a cottage on their property.

On a sunny Wednesday in late May, everyone's home, and the place is a proverbial beehive of activity.

Donna is winding up a morning classroom session with some of the kids in the extra-large dining room.

In the adjacent, equally large living room, baby Nicholas, lulled by a CD recording of waterfall sounds, is napping in his bassinet.

Out back, John, trailed by sons of assorted sizes, is overseeing the erection by a Mennonite crew of a pole barn – “to store machinery and clothes donations,” he explains to a visitor.

Donna, finished in the classroom, tells the visitor of their plans to help out a young woman who is being pressured by her parents to have an abortion.

“We'll meet her on Friday, and see if we can give her a place to live,” she says, smiling.

All this harmonious chaos is the product of a “chance” meeting at a wine and cheese party at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 1981.

Donna Fuselli, of Newtown



**John and Donna Kurtz and their 19 children gather in their back yard for a family photo.**

Square, Pa., was majoring in religious studies and early childhood development at the university.

A devout Catholic, she had just spent the summer caring for street children in Calcutta with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

John Kurtz was attending Catholic University as part of his training for the priesthood.

But on the day of the wine and cheese party, John had decided that he was not meant to be a priest.

And then he met Donna.

Donna went on to receive her degree at the university, and John earned a degree in religious studies at LaSalle University.

They were married in 1984. Donna got a job teaching fifth grade in suburban Philadelphia, and John was a general contractor.

“We knew early on we were infertile,” says Donna.

But both felt they could easily love a child that was not biologically theirs.

In 1987 they adopted their first

child, 18-month-old Rosa, from an orphanage in Mexico, and Donna quit her job to become a full-time mom.

Natalie, a newborn placed for adoption by her Guatemalan mother, came two years later.

Their funds depleted from the considerable costs of these adoptions, they signed up with the state of Pennsylvania to become foster parents – a far less expensive way to find children in need of homes.

David, born to a mother suffering from mental illness who was being pressured to have an abortion, was their first child adopted through foster care.

“After that, the Lord hit us on the head with pots and pans!” says John.

At a summer sponsorship program, they met Maria Elena, a 12-year-old from the same Mexico orphanage that Rosa came from.

“I think God wants that girl to be my big sister,” Rosa told her mom.

But John was hesitant. Adopt-



ing a 12-year-old would mess up the natural age order in the family, he worried.

So he prayed for a sign from God.

A few hours later, they were home watching a Lawrence Welk rerun.

"And now, our little singer from Mexico will sing 'Maria Elena,' Welk announced.

"The last line of the song is, 'Maria Elena, you're the answer to my prayer,'" John recalls. "At that line, I completely broke down!"

"God was moving our hearts to see that there's no difference" between adopting infants and adopting older children, says Donna. "The need has to be met."

But where could they get the money to pay for Maria Elena's adoption?

Donations from their prayer community, church, and a yard sale poured in. In six weeks, they had the \$12,000 they needed.

"From then on, the Lord has been always loud and clear; he's often told

us to do things that weren't conventional," says Donna.

As they adopted more older children from orphanages and foster homes, children who had suffered from severe instances of neglect and abuse, they learned about reactive attachment disorder – a term used to describe the way children cope with such mistreatment.

"It basically refers to a kid who cannot have a relationship because he can't trust another human being," Donna explains. "Incredible damage has been done to their wounded souls."

Because they can exhibit difficult, even violent, behavior, "you've got to have the eyes of the Lord and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to see where the Lord is buried within them," she says.

"You work with common sense and the Lord, and with the help of psychiatrists, therapists, and medication when needed.

"The basic key is that they learn how to feel safe – that you're not going to trash them because their be-

havior is trashy."

But, she adds, "I always recommend taking in an older child with great caution, because there can be lots of disruptions.

"If there's not help, the nice families who take them in can implode."

John and Donna have offered counseling and respite care for families involved in such crisis adoptions. They eventually adopted four of the children from those families.

By 1999, with 11 children, their home in suburban Philadelphia was bursting at the seams.

In a "leap of faith," John had already quit his job to help meet the demands of their emotionally needy children.

Now, in another leap of faith, they sold their house and moved to Bolivar, in western Pennsylvania, where a friend had donated 5 acres of land on which to build a home.

While they waited, they got permission to live in the basement of St. Mary's Church in Bolivar, partitioning the cavernous basement into rooms with the help of boxes, furniture and shelves.

That year they formed St. Joseph's House, a charitable, nonprofit organization, which allows them to receive tax-deductible donations and to apply for grants.

In its first year, St. Joseph's House received \$82,000 in unsolicited donations.

But septic problems on the donated land rendered it unfit to build on, and they had to look elsewhere.

For a short time, they lived in a large, abandoned convent in Philadelphia.

"At one point, we were staying in my parents' home in Newtown Square with 15 kids," recalls Donna.

"No one will rent to you with 15 kids," John observes with a wry smile.



**The Kurtzes live in this sprawling, 8,000-square-foot house on 7½ acres in rural Pennsylvania.**

“While we were making her parents suffer, a friend called. She said, ‘Whenever I pray for you, I hear the name Alexandra Bennett. I think you should call her.’”

Ms. Bennett, they learned, had a property for sale in Chester County. On it was an 8,000-square-foot dormitory-style building, built expressly to house pregnant women whom Ms. Bennett took care of for Children’s Services in Philadelphia.

“It had a walk-in refrigerator and a huge dining room!” recalls Donna. “But property is not cheap around here.”

The Kurtzes figured that the property was probably worth about \$600,000. They asked the good woman how much she wanted for it.

“She said, ‘How much do you have?’” says Donna. “We said, \$130,000. She said, ‘Great! That’s just what I need.’”

“She felt it always should go to something consecrated to the Lord.”

“She’s a saint!” exclaims John.

They moved into their new, present home on Christmas Eve, 2001.

On a typical day, the Kurtz household rises before 6 a.m. Most days John, Donna and the kids – all 19 of them – go to 7 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph’s Church in Downingtown.

On the way back from Mass they pick up donated bagels or day-old bread and baked desserts from generous stores and supermarkets.

“It really helps,” says Donna.

Everyone is scheduled to take turns at fixing breakfast, washing dishes or doing other household chores.

Donna has always homeschooled their kids. But in 2002 the Kurtzes established St. Philomena Academy, a two-day-a-week (this fall it will be three days a week) pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school.

St. Philomena’s, which currently

has 100 students, utilizes a classical curriculum designed to encourage critical thinking skills.

Classes are taught by Donna, John and volunteer teachers in a large stone pre-Civil War building on their 7½-acre property.

The school’s curriculum is geared for students’ independent study on the days when classes are not in session.

After the school day ends at 3 p.m., there’s outside play, such as soccer and football, and chores like weed whacking and cleaning up trash.

The family has found intriguing ways to cut corners on expenses. For example, they heat with wood, but they don’t buy it.

“We heated off dead trees from our property for four years,” John explains. “And other people donate wood when trees go down in hurricanes or storms.”

John uses a hydraulic splitter and chain saw to cut up the wood.

He also butchers and freezes deer donated by hunters. The State Game Commission gives them “crop-kill” deer – the deer farmers are allowed to kill to protect their crops.

They share their surplus venison, baked goods and donated clothing with needy area families.

“It’s kind of like the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes,” says Donna.

But the Kurtz family never cuts corners on their prayer life.

Besides daily Mass and rosary, they have consecrated themselves to



**Rosa holds Nicholas after he wakes up from his nap.**

the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The family does Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph’s every Saturday at 3 p.m., and Donna takes some of the kids to Adoration at 5 a.m. Saturday and 3 a.m. Sunday.

“Jesus has become a great friend and their help; Adoration shores up their faith, especially when they’re going through difficult times,” she says.

She recalls 15-year-old Peter’s remarking, “Whenever I come out of Adoration, I feel like, lighter.”

Is there a “down” side to their extraordinary family life?

Sometimes, John admits, he does get a lonely feeling, realizing that “most folks can’t figure out what we’re doing.”

Donna agrees. “People think we’re nuts!”

But those with a Catholic per-

# Women love Christ differently than men, says priest

Fr. Phillip Chavez has a full-time ministry to men, but to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of his priesthood, on May 30 he held a retreat for women.

"In my ministry to men, I have gained a complementary understanding of the issues of women," he explained.

In several talks at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, Md., he explored the unique ways in which women relate to Christ, a relationship they will have for all eternity.

Noting that the present day of his anniversary was also the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Father Chavez said that the heart of Christ, which has been honored throughout the history of the Church, "is more than symbolic; it's the seat of all our affections.

"This heart of Christ draws you and redeems you, and is especially significant for women."

Our Lord, because He assumed

human nature, loved us humanly, as a man, as well as God.

But, Father observed, when Christ reaches out as a man, He reaches out to men and women in a different way.

"The way you as a woman return that love is a different way than a man does," said Father.

The feminine heart is very different than the masculine heart: "You love and you think very differently than a man does," he asserted.

Conceding that women might well challenge him with, "Who are you, Father, to tell me about a woman's heart, which you don't have?" he countered, "Well, let me give it my best shot!"

A woman's heart, which is more intuitive and more sensitive, expresses itself as daughter, as spouse, and as mother, he postulated:

- As daughter – the heart wants to be accepted.
- As spouse – the heart wants to surrender.

- As mother – the heart wants to selflessly give.

Of the three, the heart of a daughter defines you the most, he said.

"What is key to your heart, ladies, is to be accepted, to be received. That process starts as a little girl. Your question is, 'Will I be received? Does anyone want me?'

"Every woman needs to know, am I beautiful? Am I captivating?"

As much as you want to serve and to give, the most elementary part of you wants to be received, said Chavez.

Turning to the Biblical story of Martha and Mary, he recalled Christ's words, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

In other words, Father explained, Jesus was saying, Mary has decided to receive me – or rather, she has decided to allow me to receive her, which is the fundamental thing.

In his relationships with women: the woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery, the women who anointed his head or his feet with oil, "He graciously receives every act of a woman; he doesn't repudiate them at all, even if it seems somewhat inappropriate," said Father.

"He defends the desire you have to be received. This is the way Christ shows His love for you ladies, by allowing you to come to Him and receiving you."

For women, it's the gentleness in Christ that attracts, the sympathy, the empathy.



**Fr. Phillip Chavez welcomes his sister, Katherine Chavez, and Elisa Sumanski to his women's retreat.**

Men, on the other hand, do not clue into the relationship to Christ as easily as women do.

"Men understand Christ in a different way," Chavez explained.

"For them, Christ is a captain: He trains them, He leads them on rough journeys. He takes the apostles into the villages and into the wilderness. For men, he's like a brother, leader, trainer, companion."

We see the fullness of masculinity in Christ – the lion and the lamb; He assumed every role perfectly that a man needs to assume, said Father.

Many men, of course, fall short of Christ's perfection.

In his men's ministry, Father Chavez tries to explain to men that, like Christ, they need to be both lion *and* lamb – it's not a case of either-or.

"Men don't understand this too well," he admitted. "The power they have they often don't know how to control."

Many women have dealt with a mate or a father who didn't exercise the courage he should have, or protect or provide for the woman they way he should have.

The way a woman has related to the men in her life will affect how she surrenders to Jesus Christ, Father noted.

"In making yourself heard and received, ladies, you have to be vulnerable; you have to take a chance and expose your heart. It's a risky business, isn't it?"

This project of trusting in God, surrendering to His will is very difficult, Father conceded – accepting that His will for you is good, perfect, will lead you to genuine happiness. It's very hard to trust, because fear erupts.

"So the spiritual journey often becomes just the following of the

commandments, doing what is right – stacking up the indulgences."

Sometimes we turn religion into a very pejorative way, and it keeps us away from the love of Christ, said Chavez.

Instead of just allowing ourselves to surrender, we feel we have to do everything in the relationship. But we need to give God the freedom to be God.

"We fear what He is going to ask of me: what is He going to transform me into? Something that is too tough, something that I won't be able to handle?"

The abandonment to His love, that's where He wants to take you, said Father.

"What you need to hear from Our Lord is those words which counter your greatest fear: 'My daughter, I will never abandon you.'

"Listen to Him, to His words, to His heart, before you take the plunge, and you will receive the peace you've always longed for."

## TEACHERS, from page 4

to consider a similar amendment."

But last year, she said, Bruns' amendment "made it to the floor for a 10- to 15-minute debate" before it went down on a close vote.

"That's progress!" said Jochmann. "I feel our persistent efforts have not been in vain."

This year Ruth Boyatt, like Bruns an Ohio delegate and member of the group, Teachers Saving Children, proposed the same amendment before the 9,000 NEA representatives.

"There was a proposal to send it to committee – that's the way they get rid of conservative amendments – but the representatives said 'no,'" said Bruns. "It did get voted down, though."

But Bruns thinks that the NEA

membership is "leaning a little more conservative. We conservatives were shocked that some of the more outlandish things did *not* pass this year."

For example, a proposal to make college scholarships available to "undocumented immigrants" was voted down.

"A few years ago, that would have passed," said Bruns.

Inside the convention's exhibit hall, at the NEA Educators for Life Caucus table, retired Buffalo, N.Y., teacher Christine Nowak recalled that when her caucus first set up their table in 1978, "They would close us down – they took our exhibit material and threw it in a barrel."

By the mid-1980s, however, the caucus got a standing rule passed allowing caucuses to disseminate information that is contrary to or advocates a change in NEA policy.

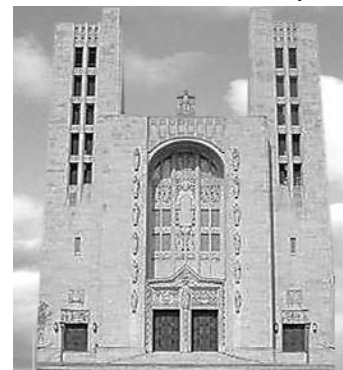
"Our policy is that the NEA should have no position on the abortion issue," said Nowak.

The AFL-CIO repealed its pro-abortion resolutions 10 years ago, and the American Federation of Teachers has no position on abortion, she pointed out.

"The AFT is wise to have no position on abortion; they don't want to lose membership over being pro-abortion," said Nowak.

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# State Sen. Bob Hooper was down-to-earth pro-lifer

By Larry Cirignano

The pro-life community lost a great friend this past year.

State Senator Bob Hooper was pro-life in every sense of the word. His faith led him to participate in the March for Life and to sponsor many pieces of family values legislation. He was a true champion for the underdog and the unborn.

Bob was elected to the Maryland Senate in 1998. He was a garbage man who beat a lawyer for the State Senate seat in Harford and Cecil counties.

He grew a family garbage business, Harford Sanitation Services, from less than 100 customers to over 100 employees and would still jump on a truck and handle garbage long after he was elected and made the "Honorable" Senator Robert J. Hooper.

He did not care much for titles, preferring to be called just "Bob," but the favorite title of this father of four and grandfather of six was "granddad."

During his eight years as a state senator he brought the common man's touch to the Annapolis State House, always giving the high-five to every-



**Bob Hooper (right) 'high-fives' a friend in the State Senate chambers.**

one he came in contact with, from the interns to his fellow senators, the shoe-shine man or security personnel.

Everybody had to learn to give the high-five. We speculated that he's been teaching the angels how to high-five since his funeral.

He was frequently at the State House late enough to see the cleaning people, and as a practicing clean-up man he let them know he really appreciated their efforts.

He hosted a picnic at his home in Street, Md., for all the people who keep the State House clean and safe. Just them, they were his kind of VIPs.

Bob, a member of the Fawn Grove Church of the Nazarene, was always thankful, saying grace before every meal.

He was proud to pray in public and grateful that as an American he had a right to do so. He believed in setting an example and that public servants had a duty as role models for the next generation.

Bob died on January 24, at the age of 71.

At his funeral, a bus load of his employees came to thank him for giving them a chance to get a job and for

teaching them how to get their Commercial Driver's License, sometimes while they were still on work release from jail.

His funeral was also attended by an honor guard of 21 Eagle Scouts because Senator Hooper made it a point to always attend their Court of Honor and pay tribute to their achievements.

He believed that they were our future leaders, and he wanted to be sure they were thanked for their public service projects and encouraged to continue to be involved in their communities.

Bob was very generous to many groups, too many to list, but whether it was in-kind garbage pick-up for a charity event or cash for someone trying to keep their head above water, or sweat equity for a Christmas in April family, or a church mission trip overseas, he was always willing to give of his time, treasure and talent.

The Knights of Columbus named him Man of the Year in 1990.

He lived life to the fullest, as an optimist who always saw the glass half full. All of us are better off for having known him. He will be sorely missed.

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***Awards Banquet***

**Michaels 8th Avenue**  
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## SUIT, from page 1

Emma Jean Butler took her daughter, who had just turned 14, to Planned Parenthood's 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW clinic.

The girl underwent a suction dilation and curettage abortion, was discharged, and told to return in two weeks for a post-operative check-up.

The following day, however, Shantese was rushed to the emergency room at Civista Medical Center in La Plata, Md., with severe abdominal pain and peritonitis.

Shantese underwent emergency surgery to evacuate the heavy abdominal bleeding. During the operation, according to the complaint, doctors discovered that Shantese had also sustained severe vaginal and cervical injuries, a significant uterine perforation, and a small bowel tear.

The plaintiffs allege that a significant portion of the unborn child was found still inside Shantese's abdomen. They charge that injuries sustained during the abortion have rendered the girl infertile for the rest of her life.

Planned Parenthood contends that the abortion was performed ac-

cording to applicable standards of care and that the Butlers' claims are barred because Shantese's mother gave informed consent.

They state that they believe the girl's injuries are "less serious or extensive than alleged."

Washington, D.C., pro-lifer Missy Smith reported that John Valente III, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, told her he knows the name of the person who performed the abortion and that he would be amending the complaint to include the abortionist's name.

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**‘They were saying,  
‘It’s not true!’  
I said, ‘It’s there  
in black and white.’”**

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However, the complaint had not been amended by late July.

Valente has not replied to phone and e-mail requests by *Defend Life* for comment on the case.

The legal firm handling the Butlers' suit is headed by Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., who, as president of the Maryland State Senate, has had a consistent pro-abortion voting record.

The case is currently in the discovery phase, during which both parties conduct depositions of witnesses and experts.

According to a joint plaintiff-defendant statement filed in court May 8, both parties believe there is a "realistic" possibility of settling the case without going to trial.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton has ordered the case to be sent to the court's Alternative Dispute Resolution program for mediation between November 1, 2008-January 7, 2009.

A pre-trial conference has been set for April 10, 2009.

In the meantime, at the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Planned Parenthood, pro-life sidewalk counselor Dick Retta has been handing out copies of the lawsuit to women going in for abortions – "the ones that will take it from me," he explained.

"When I talk to them about how dangerous abortions are, I say, 'There's a \$50 million lawsuit against this clinic. You want to read about it?'"

The lawsuit has made an impact in at least two cases, said Retta.

In one instance, the parents of a girl coming for an abortion accepted a copy of the suit. The parents came out of the clinic, but a few minutes later, the father went in and took his daughter out.

"Missy [Smith] made a big to-do when she first brought copies of the lawsuit to the clinic about six weeks ago," Retta recalled.

Smith handed out copies to the "escorts" – clinic volunteers who try to block the pro-lifers from talking to clients.

"They were reading it and saying, 'It's not true!' I said, 'It's there in black and white,' said Retta.

"Missy said to one older female 'deathscort,' 'You don't want to be here any more!'"

The woman took the copy of the suit home with her.

"So far, we haven't seen her back," said Retta.

Since then, he said, as clients approach the clinic, "I've been speaking out very loud. I say, 'You know, there's a \$50 million lawsuit against this clinic right now – they butchered a 13-year-old girl!'"

The "deathscorts," said Retta, are completely silent.



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**ADOPTION, from page 7**

She can select the adoptive parents from photos and descriptions.

"We generally have 25 families chomping at the bit to adopt a healthy Caucasian baby," said Holloway.

"For a mixed-race baby, we may have three families, and two families for a full African-American baby.

"Even if a child has a severe health problem, we have a 100 percent placement rate at Bethany; there is no baby we can't find a family for."

Holloway recalled a hydrocephalic baby born at Johns Hopkins Hospital to one of Bethany's birth mothers.

"They phoned and wanted me to give verbal 'do not resuscitate' consent, and I refused.

"They chewed me out – 'That is not a responsible decision! The child will not live, but if it does, it will be a vegetable,' etcetera, etcetera.."

He did not die. Hopkins refused to give him a shot to reduce the fluid in his cranium. He still did not die.

"We prayed. His head stopped growing," said Holloway.

Bethany found a family in Kansas who wanted to adopt him.

The boy is now 4 years old and doing well.

"A lot of mothers think, 'I've used crack cocaine; I don't know what to do.' We tell her, whatever life you give is a life that God can do something with."

The birth mother also decides what type of adoption she wants.

In an open adoption, "Everybody knows all the information on all sides," said Holloway. "There is some kind of agreement that there will be a lot of interaction."

In a semi-open adoption, an agency usually acts as an interme-

diary for visits. At a minimum, the adoptive parents must send pictures and an update for the first five years.

The birth mother can also choose a closed adoption.

The screening for adoptive parents is grueling.

They must undergo a home study that includes approval of their home by the health department, four interviews by a licensed social worker, a 7-page questionnaire about their life, a physical exam, fingerprinting and criminal check, and driving record and child support enforcement clearances.

"If the birth parent asks, 'How do I know they won't hurt my baby?' we show her all the adoptive parents went through!" said Holloway.

Counselors should not discount or discredit their clients' objections to adoption, she advised.

Instead, they should listen carefully, because the client's perception is her reality. But then the counselor should offer her new information.

"Listen for her words and then give them back: 'Tell me why you would never make an adoption plan.'"

"Give them the opportunity to talk this through, because I guarantee they've never talked this through before with anybody.

"We want the client to stop and think critically about what the options are."

And avoid negative terminology, Holloway cautioned.

"Never say 'put up your baby for adoption' or 'give away your child.' Say, 'make an adoption plan' or 'choose adoption.'"

The July 12 seminar was part of the National Council for Adoption's Infant Adoption Training Program and was federally funded under the Adoption Awareness Act.

**KURTZ, from page 10**

spective understand, says John – like Fr. Benedict Groeschel and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, who have visited the Kurtzes.

"They're great mentors, heroes for the kids," says John.

Rosa, now 22, will be spending a few weeks this summer with the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal to discern a vocation.

That is rewarding, says Donna. So is the transformation they've seen in their kids – like that of 17-year-old Ernie Garcia, whose previous dysfunctional home life had left him angry and rebellious, "completely messed up by the world.

"To see him turn around and glorify God – that's the best!" Donna exclaims.

She adds, "There's also a peace and contentedness in knowing that we're trying our best to do our part that we're supposed to play."

---

**TRUTH, from page 3**

Cooler heads prevailed.

After lengthy consultations by phone, the commanding officer told the pro-lifers, "You have a right to be here; just don't block traffic."

"Now we know we're free and clear in Howard County," Ames concluded.

That and two good new stops in Washington, D.C., and Catonsville, plus "great speakers all week long and wonderful Masses" made this year's tour "over-all terrific," said Ames.

"It's been an excruciating week, and it was excruciating getting arrested" in Bel Air, he admitted.

"But God has brought a whole lot of good out of this."

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