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Honeymoon picket leads to police lesson

Kurt and Samantha Linneman did not have your typical honeymoon.

The first thing they did after they got married at the courthouse in Bel Air on May 9, 2008, was to drive to Delaware and picket the Planned Parenthood in Wilmington.

What happened that day led to a chain of events culminating in a tough lesson for the Wilmington Police Department on free speech rights.

Kurt had Face the Truth signs on ongoing loan from Defend Life.

After propping some of them

See PICKET, page 3

Edgy baby photo changes photog's life

When Michael Clancy went on assignment to photograph an in utero surgery procedure 10 years ago, he had no idea that he would be shooting the most significant photo in the history of the pro-life movement – or that it would take him on what he considers a long-term mission from God.

In 1999 the 43-year-old Clancy was a free-lancing photojournalist for *The Tennessean* in Nashville when the newspaper recommended

See PHOTO, page 5

Pro-lifers shut down Dean at town hall

About a dozen pro-lifers were at the eye of the storm at Congressman James Moran's town hall meeting on health care in Reston, Va., August 25.

In a planned move, the small group of pro-lifers, mostly Virginia and D.C. sidewalk counselors, brought the meeting to a halt when Congressman Moran introduced his guest, former Democratic National Committee Chairman and presidential candidate Howard Dean.

Amidst a general roar of cheers and boos directed at Dean from the raucous crowd jammed into South

Lake High School's 2,500-seat gym, Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry climbed on his chair and shouted repeatedly, "Howard Dean is a baby killer! He supports the murder of babies by abortion!"

His pro-life supporters, circling him and facing outward toward the crowd, kept up a background chant of "We won't pay for murder!"

The result was pandemonium.

"People poured out from the stands toward us, very angry and aggressive – but some of them

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Shouting at Howard Dean at the Reston town hall meeting are Randall Terry, Missy Smith (left) and Ruby Nicdao.

DEAN, from page 1

were with us,” recalled D.C. pro-lifer Missy Smith. “It was absolute mayhem!”

“A lot of people chimed in with us,” agreed Virginia pro-lifer Ruby Nicdao.

The two pro-lifers estimate that just 30 to 40 percent of the crowd was with them.

“We were outnumbered,” admitted Nicdao. “But I said, ‘Don’t worry – God is with us, so *they*’re outnumbered!’”

“Moran got very testy – he grabbed the mike and said, ‘I’m right next to him and I can’t hear him!’” said Smith.

“Randall Terry announced yesterday that he was coming today precisely for the purpose of disrupting this meeting. That’s why I’m asking him to be escorted out,” Moran, clearly upset, announced.

Despite the congressman’s

words, however, the pro-lifers continued their protest chant for about 10 minutes before police finally came up to Terry and led him out.

“It’s amazing that they did not shut us down and let us go on chanting for so long,” said Nicdao.

“Actually, the police were very relaxed and friendly. They were going to get me to leave, but I just sat there and refused to go; I didn’t want to be arrested.”

The police had started to lead Smith out, “but they kind of got swallowed up in the crowd,” she said. So she saw another chair and slipped into it.

“There were so few police,” she added. “I think they were anxious because it was very contentious. I believe they had been told not to make any arrests for fear of aggravating the crowd.”

Once outside, the police did not arrest Terry, but simply told him to leave.

“I think we accomplished what we wanted to do,” said Nicdao. “We wanted to make the point, if they’re going to make abortion part of the health reform bill, we weren’t going to pay for murder.”

Although President Obama has denied that the health care proposals will pay for abortion, the Associated Press reported on August 5 that the legislation before Congress *would* allow government-funded insurance to cover abortions.

The pro-lifers had decided to focus their protest against Dean because, although Moran is also pro-abortion, Dean is a more nationally prominent politician, and they knew the meeting would make national news.

“Dean was never, ever able to speak,” said Smith. “He got one sentence out, and that was it.”

After Terry was led out by police, Dean made no further attempt to speak, and Moran went straight to the question-and-answer part of the program.

Although the town hall did not come to a complete halt again, some questioners asked angry questions that elicited cheers and applause from a large segment of the crowd.

“You said earlier that Medicare is being run by experts. This program is \$39 trillion in the red. These are experts? Who are these experts?” demanded one irate young questioner.

When Moran asked Dean to answer, the man exploded derisively, “Help from Howard! Help from Howard! I asked *you* to answer my question. Howard Dean isn’t my congressman, *you* are!”

The young man walked off in disgust.



Dick Retta, Missy Smith and George Offerman (wearing Obama mask) engage in ‘street theater’ before Jim Moran’s town hall meeting.

See MEETING, page 3

PICKET, from page 1

against his van, he began carrying a large “Baby Malachi” aborted baby sign in front of the abortion mill.

“We were there ten minutes when a police cruiser pulled up,” said Linneman.

Samantha’s small “Abortion Kills” sign with a picture of a born baby was okay, said the police officer, but Kurt’s poster had to go.

“He said my sign was objectionable – it was too graphic, and if I did not remove the signs, he would arrest me. So we packed up and left,” said the pro-lifer.

Linneman, a White Marsh resident whose job as a sales rep regularly takes him to Delaware, had picketed the Planned Parenthood on 7th and Shipley streets once before.

After the unsuccessful May 9 picket, he continued to come by himself every Friday – that was the day they did abortions – but he carried only a “live baby” sign.

But he knew his First Amendment rights had been violated. He called a Delaware attorney, who suggested he contact the American Civil Liberties Union’s state branch.

“They were very interested in my case,” said Linneman. “They said



An off-duty Wilmington police officer working as a paid security guard talks to a ‘deathscort’ (left) and an employee outside Planned Parenthood’s Wilmington clinic.

they would group it with a couple other instances of First Amendment violations by the Wilmington police.”

In the meantime, he said, Planned Parenthood was routinely calling the police on him.

“The police were very rough. They tried to intimidate me so I wouldn’t come back.”

Sometimes the two to four officers that arrived would just sit in their

cruisers and watch him.

“Other times they said I was in violation of some ordinance – that I was raising my voice and yelling, which I wasn’t doing.

“Once they said I was blocking an entrance, which I also wasn’t doing.”

In the fall of 2008 the police department’s attorney told the ACLU that although the police and the ACLU were still in negotiation, Linneman could display the aborted baby signs.

Linneman began to do so immediately.

In retaliation, Planned Parenthood started using what pro-lifers call “deathscorts” – personnel who would obstruct Linneman’s attempts to talk to women going in for abortions.

They also hired a uniformed off-duty police officer as a security guard.

A girl going into the clinic threw a bottle of soda at the pro-lifer and

MEETING, from page 2

Prior to Dean’s introduction, the town hall had begun with a one-hour presentation in which Congressman Moran addressed what he called “the top ten myths about the health care bill.”

The pro-lifers had arrived hours before the 6 p.m. meeting to be sure to get a seat. While they waited, several, led by Terry, engaged in street theater.

In one skit, Smith and Dick Ret-

ta wore placards reading “Taxpayer” and hobbled about on walkers or canes while George Offerman, wearing an Obama mask, wielded a whip, shouting, “I need more money for abortions! Give me more money!”

Smith would reply, “Don’t hit me no more, massa – I’ll give you money to kill the babies!”

“We kept that up for three hours straight, from 3 to 6 p.m., in the heat. It was exhausting!” said Smith.

her girlfriend spit on him.

"One man yelled and screamed at me, kicked me and broke my sign in half," said Linneman.

"Their hired police officer intervened, but he refused to get the name of the man so I could press charges."

Defend Life Director Jack Ames advised the harried pro-lifer to contact Delaware Right to Life and ask for help.

Delaware RTL's Moira Sheridan sent e-mails to its members in February.

"Since that time, I've been joined each Friday by from three to 12 other pro-lifers," said Linneman.

In July the ACLU notified him that they had reached a settlement with the Wilmington police.

The agreement required the police department to adopt a written policy regarding the rights and treatment of protestors exercising their rights of free expression.

Every police officer must be given a copy of the policy. In addition, the police must conduct in-service training for all police officers on the Free Speech Policy, and the training must become a regular part of routine training.

The pro-lifers have made a big

impact at the Wilmington clinic, said Linneman.

"Our first mission is to sidewalk counsel, to provide information to help clients. I can personally attest to three or four women who told me they were turnarounds.

"One boyfriend came out and said, 'Are you satisfied? Because of you, my girlfriend did not have the abortion.'

'I tell them, "This is not health care – you're killing children, you're breaking hearts."'

"I've had girls mouth the words, 'Thank-you.' Others see our presence and do not come in."

Sheridan has driven girls to the Door of Hope crisis pregnancy center in Newark for help.

Their second mission is to interrupt the business operations of Planned Parenthood.

In addition to using deathscorts and employing security guards, the clinic has installed security cameras and changed the clinic entrances to make it harder for the pro-lifers to

talk to the clients.

"They're also beginning to alter-nate the day they do abortions, just to keep us off guard – more evidence that we're having an impact," said Linneman.

A third goal is to bring awareness to the community.

"Everyone who walks by, we tell them what goes on in there," he said.

"Planned Parenthood can't keep deathscorts," he added; "we hammer them. I tell them, 'This is not health care – you're killing children, you're breaking hearts.'

"I tell them they're participating in murder. I share the Gospel with them: there's a God, there's accountability.

"Volunteers can't stand the battle, the clash between good and evil. It is the pit of hell. We plead with the young ones, 18 or 20 years old, 'This is *not* a noble cause!'"

Even the older volunteers quit, he said. The clinic is having to use paid employees as deathscorts.

"We pound the police officers too; we tell them their paycheck is tainted with the blood of the innocent."


Linneman also goes weekly to Whole Women's Health on Belair Road in Baltimore and Gynemed Surgical Center in Rosedale.

"My personal goal is to target abortion mills in Baltimore and Delaware. There are about six in Baltimore and three in Delaware – I want to have a coalition of pro-lifers at all these abortion mills," he explained.

"This is a great battle. We need to have more Christians; we need to lay siege to these places, every time an abortion mill is open.

"If people are interested in working with me, they can contact me, or support me as I leave my corporate job to work full-time in pro-life."

Kurt Linneman's e-mail address is KL1776@msn.com, or phone 410-913-3931.



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PHOTO, from page 1

him to *USA Today* to photograph a still-experimental spina bifida surgical procedure on a 21-week-old fetus in utero.

Tension was high in the operating room at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as Dr. Joseph Bruner, a pioneer in fetal surgery to correct spina bifida, began the controversial and risky operation.

A typical C-section incision was made to access the uterus, which was then lifted out of the mother.

The entire procedure would take place within the uterus, and no part of the child was to breach the surgical opening.

"I was not allowed to move around, so I changed lenses constantly to get different perspectives," Clancy told listeners at his Defend Life-sponsored talk at St. Mary's Church in Hagerstown September 17.

"I remember thinking, these pictures were way too graphic for a newspaper."

After one hour the critical part of the surgery was over. The surgical team and the photographer breathed a collective sigh of relief.

An assisting doctor asked Clancy what speed of film he was using. As he replied, out of the corner of his eye, he saw the uterus shake violently.

"But there was no one near it, so it had to be shaking from within," he recalled.

"This little fist punched its way out of the opening – the entire arm was flailing back and forth.

"Dr. Bruner reached over toward the flailing little arm and I put the camera to my face."

When the doctor reached out, the arm pulled back until just the hand was showing.



Baby Samuel Armas clutches Dr. Joseph Bruner's finger.

"As he touched the little hand, I started the first frame of a four-frame motor drive sequence, as fast as my camera would fire," said Clancy.

Dr. Bruner lifted the hand, which reacted and squeezed the doctor's finger.

As if testing for strength, Bruner shook the tiny fist. The baby held firm.

It all happened in less than 2 seconds – so fast that a nurse standing next to the photographer asked him what happened.

"The child reached out," he told her.

"Oh. They do that all the time," she said.

Outside the operating room, Clancy asked the worried father, Alex Armas, if the baby had a name.

Yes, Samuel Alexander Armas, was the reply.

USA Today required that film be submitted unprocessed. Clancy FedExed them the raw film, having no idea whether the pictures were even in focus.

The cut line that he sent with the photos stated that baby Samuel had

reached out on his own to clutch the doctor's finger.

USA Today and *The Tennessean* both published the picture on September 7, 1999.

"In the newsroom at *The Tennessean* they were talking about the Pulitzer Prize. I was walking on air!" said Clancy.

A week later he learned that *Life* magazine had taken a very similar picture with Dr. Bruner a month earlier and planned to use it for a cover story in its December 1999 issue.

But *Life's* picture was of a 24-week-old fetus, and it was admittedly posed. Clancy reasoned that the magazine would want the better picture – *his* picture.

A four-day negotiation with *Life* ensued. The magazine wanted to purchase all rights to his picture.

But the agent representing Clancy admitted to him, "They want to buy it to kill it."

"I said, 'Bad choice of words; there isn't money enough in the world that I would allow that to happen.'"

This was much more than a pic-

ture, he felt: when Samuel reached out to touch the surgeon's hand, he made history.

With negotiations at an end, Clancy raced to beat *Life* to the punch.

By mid-October the photo had gone into syndication and was published in newspapers and magazines in England, Scotland and Ireland.

The *National Enquirer* published it in November.

"Matt Drudge tried to show the picture on his Fox TV show. The Fox network censors said he couldn't show it: 'You're going to talk about abortion,' they objected.

"He walked off the set. That was the end of his TV career."

Life decided to pull their December cover story titled "Born Twice" and instead published it in the last 12 pages of that issue.

But Clancy's euphoria was short-lived.

When a *Tennessean* reporter did a follow-up story, "The Picture That Went Around the World," in January 2000, he quoted Dr. Bruner as saying, "Depending on your political point of view, this is either Samuel Armas reaching out of the uterus and touching the finger of a fellow human, or it's me pulling his hand out, which is what I did."

"A world-renowned surgeon was saying that I lied," said Clancy.

The newspaper continued to use him as a free-lancer, but he felt that Bruner had seriously damaged his credibility as a photojournalist.

Still, there remained what to Clancy was a weighty responsibility: how he should use the photo.

Since *USA Today* had hired him only three days before the photo shoot, there hadn't been time to negotiate a contract, and he owned all rights to the photo – a rare circumstance.

Adding to the mix was the photographer's personal life. As a child, Clancy had been sexually abused by his alcoholic stepfather.

He had told his mother, but she did nothing.

He ran away from home when he was 16 and worked as a construction laborer for years.

Finally, at age 28, he took a one-year certificate course in photography at a local community college, and began a career as a free-lance photographer.



MICHAEL CLANCY

As a teen, he said, "I questioned God, how can you let things like this happen to little kids? I was mad at God; I held Him responsible."

But a Pentecostal minister with whom he had become friends turned him around.

"He said, 'Not only do you have to forgive your stepfather, but you have to pray that he comes to receive Christ as his savior.'

"I found forgiveness in my heart and dedicated my life to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," said Clancy.

The morning the picture was published in *USA Today*, he received a call from a man in St. Louis.

"He said, 'Mr. Clancy, your picture is saving babies' lives.'

"I fell to my knees and cried like a baby. It was the first time I realized how powerful the picture was."

When he heard about the congressional debate on the bill to ban partial-birth abortion, he called his congressman and offered the use of his photograph.

"He had 8-by-10-inch copies printed and sent one to every congressman in Washington!" said Clancy.

Newsweek published the photo in their June 2003 cover story, "Should a Fetus Have Rights?"

That issue of *Newsweek* was held up on the floor during the congressional debates on the partial-birth abortion ban bill.

In September 2003 Clancy and little Samuel Armas both testified at a Senate subcommittee hearing on the bill.

The photographer fought back tears as he watched 3½-year-old Samuel tell the senators how the doctor had fixed his "boo-boo."

In November of that year the White House called to invite him to the presidential signing of the bill.

Over the years, Clancy has personally answered all of the thousands of e-mails he has received on his website, michaelclancy.com.

He also tries to monitor what's happening concerning abortion in different countries, and sends the picture where he thinks it will help.

"This is God's picture," said Clancy, whose voice often broke as he talked about his experiences.

"God kept His promise by using a wretch like me and opening up the windows of heaven and pouring out such blessings, there was not enough room to receive them."

Western Md. Truth Tour has poignant moment

By Tom Sheahen

The first ever Face the Truth tour in far western Maryland, on August 29, had a very touching aspect.

Taking part in the Deep Creek Lake stop were some people from Appalachian Crossroads, an organization that provides gainful employment for the developmentally disabled in the region.

It is sobering to realize that these individuals, now grown up, escaped abortion years ago, but might likely be killed today.

Because of the discovery of a pre-natal genetic marker for Down's syndrome, the majority of such persons are now aborted. If the discovery had been made earlier, the persons *holding* our signs may well have suffered the fate of the children *shown* on our signs.

The Deep Creek Lake stop was the first of two stops on this Defend Life Face the Truth tour to far western Maryland; an earlier stop was in LaVale, next to Cumberland.



Stacey Kesner (left) and Dorcas Suit hold signs along U.S. 219 near Deep Creek Lake.

For the great majority of people living in those areas, it was the first time they had seen what abortion *really* looks like.

The "core group" that made the 100-plus mile trip (each way) and traveled to both sites was a cluster of students from Christendom College in Front Royal, Va.

Local supporters of Defend Life

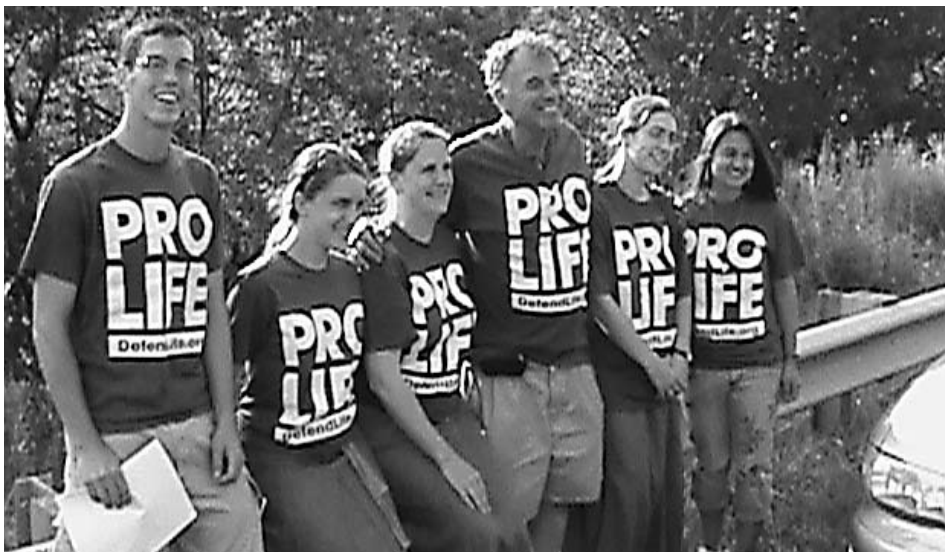
added to their numbers at both locations. We were joined by pro-lifers from Morgantown, W. Va., and even Cleveland, Ohio. About 25 individuals held up signs.

Both events went off without any hassles. At LaVale, after about an hour the police came by and asked us not to stand in the center strip of Vocke Road. (Vocke Road is the main approach to the region's busiest shopping mall.)

Our location at Deep Creek Lake provided exceptionally good visibility on both sides of U.S. 219, the one major highway that goes through the area.

The reaction of drivers was predominantly very positive, with horns beeping and people waving in support. Compared to some other sites in Maryland, it's fair to conclude that "Mountain Maryland" is a very pro-life region of the state.

At the end of the day, the Defend Life travelers from further east gathered for a picnic dinner at my home adjacent to Deep Creek Lake.



Joining Defend Life Director Jack Ames (3rd from right) for the Truth Tour in far Western Maryland are (from left) Jarred Mooney, Sarah Halbur, Julie Smith, Sarah Golden and Angela Swagler

The Fr. Norman Weslin story

An unlikely priest displays unbridled valor

Of all the well-publicized scenes at the Notre Dame University commencement protests last May, probably none was more poignant than the arrest by police of the feeble, 78-year-old priest struggling under the weight of a wooden cross.

But getting arrested at abortion protests was nothing new for Fr. Norman Weslin.

As the founder of Lambs for Christ, described by *Time* magazine in 1992 as perhaps “the most zealous and aggressive of the pro-life organizations that seek to shut down ‘killing centers,’” Weslin has been arrested and jailed over 70 times.

A more devout, dedicated, and downright feisty pro-life priest would be hard to find.

It would also be hard to find a man seemingly less likely to become a priest in the first place.

Norman Weslin was the son of Oscar and Hilma Weslin, both immigrants from Finland who met and married in Michigan, settling down in Iron City to raise 18 children.

The first ten died in infancy. Norman, baby number 16, grew up to be a little rascal in school, and came in for his share of whippings from the school principal.

“I was never a sarcastic kid or one always looking for trouble,” Weslin wrote in his book, *The Gathering of the Lambs*. “I just always happened to be there when it happened.”

In the fifth grade he met a pretty little girl named Mary Lou. The fact that she was Catholic and he was Lutheran didn’t deter him – he fell madly in love, and stayed that way until he graduated from high school



Fr. Norman Weslin is tagged during his arrest for trespassing at Notre Dame University last May.

and joined the army at age 17.

But Mary Lou said she wouldn’t marry him unless he made something of himself and became an officer.

So after getting off to a dismal start, he pulled his act together, graduating from Officer Candidate School in March of 1951.

Then it was on to artillery and missile school at Ft. Bliss, Texas. While there, the smitten young second lieutenant converted to Catholicism.

Norman and Mary Lou were married in August, 1951.

Airborne school at Ft. Benning, Georgia, followed, then paratrooper duty at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, with the 82nd Airborne Division.

It was there, Weslin relates, that he began a 20-year run as a “hopeless alcoholic.”

Stationed in Panama in 1952, he nearly killed Mary Lou while driving drunk. The doctor told him she had suffered a massive brain concussion and was going to die.

A nurse gave him a green scapular, told him to pin it on Mary Lou’s

pajamas and pray, “Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.”

Weslin did so. His wife sat up in bed and asked when she could leave the hospital. She left three days later.

During his assignment in Japan, the couple adopted two Japanese-American children, a 2½-month-old boy and an 11-month-old girl.

Then it was back to Ft. Bliss for the officers’ advanced course in their nuclear missile school. Weslin graduated second from the top of his class.

He became a missile operations officer, responsible for the army nuclear missile air defense of New York City and New Jersey against Soviet Russian air attack.

More high-level positions followed. All the while he continued to drink heavily.

In 1963, drunk after a party at his house, he accidentally set himself on fire while trying to relight the barbecue grill and nearly burned

See WESLIN, page 13

EDITORIAL

Dump Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Have you seen the notorious video of Baltimore ACORN staffers offering helpful advice to two young pro-life investigators posing as a prostitute and her pimp, trying to set up a brothel with underage girls smuggled in from El Salvador?

Even if you *have* seen it, we suggest you look at it again (it's plastered all over the Internet; try biggovernment.com).

About one minute into the Part 1 video, note the address of the ACORN Baltimore office: 16 West 25th Street.

Next, go to cchdbaltimore.org/grants08.htm.

This is the list, on the Baltimore Archdiocese's website, of grants made by the Baltimore Catholic Campaign for Human Development in 2008.

Scroll down to Local Grants: Grant No. 4 is for \$10,000 to Baltimore County ACORN. Check out the address: 16 West 25th St., Baltimore 21218.

That's right, folks. Last year, \$10,000 of the money donated by Baltimore Archdiocese Catholics in the annual CCHD collection went to help a group that cheerfully offers tips on how to get away with setting up a whore house employing 13- and 14-year-old girls trafficked in from El Salvador.

Baltimore's CCHD awarded this money to a local ACORN branch despite the national ACORN's long and sickening history of fraud, corruption and scandal.

Since its inception in the 1970s, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now has committed egregious and widespread voter registration fraud that helped elect the most pro-abortion president in our nation's history; has conspired in a union embezzlement scheme; and has flagrantly abused government programs.

Last year, ACORN founder Wayne Rathke was fired for covering up for *eight* years his brother's embezzlement of nearly \$1 million in ACORN funds.

That revelation prompted the CCHD in November 2008 to cut off all *national* funding for ACORN. But apparently, this news didn't drip down to the Baltimore



Catholics unwittingly helped fund this Baltimore ACORN office featured in the recent videotaped sting operation by James O'Keefe and Hannah Giles.

Archdiocese, which still saw fit to give the local ACORN \$10,000.

Apparently, also, the national CCHD for decades remained blissfully unaware of the corruption and scandals plaguing ACORN: Over the last 10 years prior to the fund cut-off, the CCHD gave over \$7.3 million in grants to various ACORN projects – some of which, by the way, were actively pro-abortion.

But it's not just ACORN that's the problem. A report released in September by Bel-

larmine Veritas Ministry gives concrete evidence that many groups *currently* funded by CCHD support abortion, contraception, same-sex "marriage," and legalized prostitution.

Last year the late Fr. Richard John Neuhaus said

**The CCHD has squandered
the good-faith donations of Catholics
and betrayed their trust.**

that the CCHD "has nothing to do with Catholicism, except that Catholics are asked to pay for it."

He urged that the CCHD be terminated.

Defend Life seconds Father Neuhaus.

For years, the CCHD has squandered the good-faith donations of Catholics and betrayed their trust.

It's past time to pull the plug on the CCHD.

There are many good and deserving *Catholic* charitable institutions and agencies. Let's give to them instead.

We recommend that if you put anything in the CCHD donation envelope at the annual November collection, let it be a note explaining why you're not giving.

You might also, to make your point clear, enclose an acorn.



defendlife.org

DEFEND LIFE

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

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October 13, 2009

Anniversary, Last Apparition at Fatima



Dear Friend of Defend Life,

MICHAEL CLANCY – A HUGE HIT!



Michael Clancy, who spoke for our September Lecture Tour, was a great hit. He spoke six different times including Catonsville Community College; St Paul's Damascus; St Mary's Hagerstown; St. Peter's Libertytown; Our Lady's Center Ellicott City; and Sacred Heart Bowie. Thanks to all who hosted and attended these wonderful talks.

Janet Neel arranged the talk at St. Mary's Hagerstown which had 200 persons in attendance. Thanks to Janet and acting pastor, **Father Colin Postin**, who did such a great job of getting out that crowd. Persons from at least seven parishes were present from as far away as West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

See the article about Michael Clancy's talk on page 1. Here are a few points that came through to me loud and clear in my conversations with Michael who was molested by his stepfather.

- About 1 out of every 4 girls is molested in their youth by their father, stepfather or some other male close to their family. As a result, there are a huge number of wounded women who carry these scars as adults.
- No statistics are available on boys like Michael who were molested in their youth but the number has to be huge and they are just as wounded as their female counterparts.
- Michael's natural father was off fighting to defend his country in Vietnam when Michael's mother ran off with her boyfriend and her children. When his ship docked in San Diego, he expected to see his family there to greet him. He was shocked beyond belief when they were not there. He then went to his family's apartment only to find that it was completely vacant except for a pile of empty cans. His mother divorced and married this alcoholic Navy Recruiting Officer who became Michael's sexually abusive stepfather.
- Michael was afraid to be the first one home after school, especially if he saw his stepfather's car in the driveway. **When he told his mother what was happening, she did nothing!**
- At age 17, Michael joined the Army. He narrowly avoided serving in Vietnam.
- At age 19, Michael found out that his 3 younger siblings – 1 brother and 2 sisters – **had also been sexually abused by their stepfather**. Now he despised himself because he had abandoned his younger siblings at age 17 even though he had no clue that his stepfather was abusing them just as he had abused **Michael**.
- Michael reasoned there was no way he could ever forgive his stepfather for what he had done to himself and his 3 siblings. He was bitter, never married, and was a mess spiritually. At age 43, he was working on a special assignment as a photo journalist for the *Nashville Tennessean*. That's when he found Christ in his heart and cried like a baby in the middle of the night along an interstate highway in eastern Tennessee. He forgave his stepfather and was instantly set free.
- Three months later he had the opportunity to take the miraculous picture of baby **Samuel Armas**. He decided that he would work solely on the internet to spread knowledge about the miraculous picture he had taken. Vicki, the head of a pregnancy center in Franklin County Tennessee, repeatedly invited him to speak but he kept insisting **he was not a speaker**. Finally, she convinced him to come speak from the heart for only 10 minutes with no preparation. He reluctantly agreed but then could not sleep for two days before this event. **People were so moved at this banquet that they gave him a standing ovation, which even the great Oliver North had not received the previous year.**

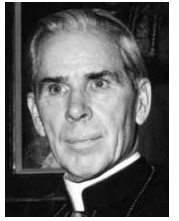


If you were not able to attend any of Michael's talks, please e-mail CDs@DefendLife.Org with your name and address and we will gladly mail you a CD of this great talk. Or you can call us at **410-296-5483** and leave a message.



FATHER ANDREW APOSTOLI, CFR – NEXT SPEAKER

Don't miss **Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR**, the Vice-Postulator for the Cause of **Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen**, who died 30 years ago on December 15, 1979. Father Apostoli will be speaking November 12 and 13 at at least four different Maryland locations. See the ad on page 20 for more details or visit us at DefendLife.Org.



JACK AMES SPEAKS IN MAINE



On September 26, I was honored to speak at the **Pro-Life Education Association of Maine's Annual Brunch** in Augusta, the state capitol. It was the first time I was invited to speak since 2002 when I spoke at the **March for Life** kickoff lecture at Annunciation Parish in Washington, DC. It was a blast to say the least. I told my audience about my pro-life journey which began way back in 1962 and especially about the **DEFEND LIFE** portion of it which began in 1987. None of this would have been possible without your great support over the years.



I told them about some of our great **DEFEND LIFE** stories these last 22 years while wearing my **PRO-LIFE** T-shirt, while strolling amidst these great **ACTIVISTS** and while speaking into a wireless microphone attached to my T-shirt. I never learned to read a speech and hope I never do!

I sat next to 95-year-old **Betty Stevens** at the head table. She is the Grand Dame of our movement in Maine. She grew up in Nyack, New York, and moved to Brooklyn as a young lady. That's where she met her future husband, **Stockman Stevens**. In 1950, they moved to Maine to set up an insurance business. In the 1970's they founded the **PRO-LIFE** movement. In the 1980's, she and her late husband set up **PLEA** which represents the numerous **PRO-LIFE** activist groups around the state.



I was the house guest of **Pat and Adele DeMers**, the proud parents of 10 adult children. Pat started out as a pharmacist working with his father and grandfather. After the family drug store was sold, Pat went back to Northeastern University in Boston and studied for a Master's Degree in Forensic Science. He has testified in cases all over America as an expert witness and is one of the most brilliant persons I have ever met. He even flew his own single engine plane so he could travel quickly to places in New England and beyond where he was needed to investigate or testify. He has also been an avid scuba diver and sailor during his fascinating life.



Incidentally, I hope I don't have to wait as long for my next speaking invitation!

SAVE ST. GEORGE CHURCH IN SHENANDOAH, PENNSYLVANIA



How would you feel if you showed up one day for **MASS** at the church where you had belonged all your life, where you were **BAPTIZED**, where you made your **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**, where you were **CONFIRMED**, where you attended your **FIRST DANCE**, where you met your **FUTURE SPOUSE**, where you were **MARRIED**; and it **WAS CLOSED**! Worse yet, it was fenced off, and you could not even get in. Even worse, it was later announced by your Bishop that **YOUR CHURCH WOULD BE DEMOLISHED**!

This is **EXACTLY** what has happened at St. George Church in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. This magnificent church which was begun in 1891 was built with the **BLOOD, SWEAT** and **TEARS** of tens of

thousands of Lithuanians who came to Pennsylvania in the late 1800's and early 1900's and worked in the coal mines for **SLAVE WAGES**. It was closed suddenly in 2006 even though there was over \$1 million in the parish coffers and even though it had been completely refurbished in the 1980's. A fence was erected and parishioners were barred from ever again entering. On Wednesday, September 23, a contract was issued by the **Diocese of Allentown** for the **DEMOLITION** of this great church which had been the **SPIRITUAL** and **SOCIAL HUB** of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania for over 100 years!

But **ALL IS NOT LOST!** A motion for an injunction to **STOP THIS DEMOLITION** was filed that same day in Schuylkill County Court. And a hearing was held on that matter after we went to press.



For more background information, visit www.LithAZ.Org and scroll to **HISTORICAL CHURCHES**. For more information about **Our Lady of Siluva** who restored Catholicism to Lithuania after her apparition there in 1608, visit www.OurLadyofSiluva.Com or www.MaryPages.Com.

Pray to Our Lady of Siluva that this beautiful historic church will not only be spared the wrecking ball but will be **DEEDED** by the **DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN** to a Lithuanian organization who will turn it into a **NATIONAL SHRINE TO OUR LADY OF SILUVA**. She appeared in that small Lithuanian town in 1608, the same year English settlers first arrived at Jamestown. It was over 200 years prior to her apparitions in France and the only time she appeared holding the Christ Child. *If Our Lady of Siluva could restore Catholicism in Lithuania, perhaps she could*

do likewise in America!

TAILGATE FOR LIFE AT COLLEGE PARK



Finally, don't forget about our **Tailgating for Life** on **Saturday, October 17** and **Saturday, November 14** at the University of Maryland in College Park. Contact us with your shirt size. We will meet in the Tailgating area 3 hours before game time. Tailgating for Life is simple! You simply wear the red and white T-shirt that we supply, walk in the tailgating area before the football game, smile, and enjoy the ambiance of the moment on a sunny fall afternoon. I know from past experience how positive the results will be. Just call or email **Diana Roccogrande** with your shirt size - medium thru 2X - Diana@DefendLife.Org 570-592-7950.



And thanks for all you do to save innocent pre-born lives from death by abortion.

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames
Jack Ames, Director

P.S. **I need your help!** I'm looking for two persons; the first would be responsible for mailing **PRO-LIFE** T-shirts. The second would be responsible for overseeing our literature storage area located in the North Baltimore - Towson area. **Each job might take 1 hour a week on the average. I am also looking for persons to transport our speakers!** Call me at 410-337-3721 or Jack@DefendLife.Org for details. Thanks!



Start FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHTS and make your parish the center of Catholic Family life once again! **Combine family holiness, family unity and family fun!**

5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Celebrate Mass, recite Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and first Friday devotions (those receiving Holy Communion on 9 successive first Fridays will be given the Grace of Final Perseverance).

6:45 - 8 p.m. Meatless Catholic Family Dinner. Everyone pitches in to bring the food and clean up afterwards.

8 - 9:30 p.m. Catholic Family Fun such as Bible & Catechism quiz games, good Catholic movies, speakers, etc.

Visit www.prayforourleaders.com or call 410-254-3919 for more information.



WESLIN, from page 8

himself to death.

Weslin retired from the army in 1968 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

That same year he came to grips with his alcoholism, joined Alcoholics Anonymous, turned his life and his will over to God, and never drank again.

In retirement, his religious faith deepened. He delved into the writings of Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and especially St. Louis de Montfort's *True Devotion to Mary*.

At age 49, he decided to see if he could abandon everything to Jesus, through Mary, as Louis de Montfort advised – literally.

He hitchhiked to Denver and hired himself out as a shepherd, ending up in the Black Mountains on the Colorado-Wyoming border with “one thousand sheep faces all looking at me,” and having no idea what to do.

A Basque shepherd from Spain appeared from nowhere and taught him the ropes, probably rescuing him from death by starvation or other mishap.

He was hooked: abandonment to Jesus through Mary worked.

After the shepherding episode he received his Master's degree in Theology at the Roman Catholic School of Applied Theology, part of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, California – but not without being utterly appalled by the often heretical and blasphemous teaching going on at the school.

His participation in the pro-life movement began in 1969 when he led a fight to defeat a bill in Colorado to legalize abortion.

Weslin and Mary Lou had been planning to teach the Indians about

Christ on the reservations in Wyoming.

All their plans came to a screeching halt on July 2, 1980, when a car rear-ended the Weslin's car – their daughter was driving – and Mary Lou was killed.

After 28 years of marriage to his beloved Mary Lou, Weslin was like a lost soul, wandering from the home of one relative after another.

But finally accepting his loss as God's will, he turned his home in Colorado Springs into The Mary Weslin Home for Pregnant, Unwed Mothers. The home would eventually house over 250 mothers.

Jail officials clapped him in solitary for offering Mass while in prison.

In 1982, at age 52, Weslin entered Sacred Heart Seminary in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, to study for the priesthood.

He estimates that at Sacred Heart, located in Bishop Rembert Weakland's diocese, about 40 percent of the seminarians were practicing homosexuals.

After two years at the seminary, the academic dean kicked him out for refusing to go to a class with heretical teachings.

Weslin continued his studies at Mater Dei Seminary in Spokane, Washington.

Following his priestly ordination at age 56, he joined a small, orthodox order called the Oblates of Wisdom.

Weslin had “rescued” – blocked the doors at abortion clinics – several times, beginning in 1976, once with Bishop Austin Vaughan,

his spiritual director.

On retired status from his order in 1988, he took part in a rescue in Atlanta and went to Key Roads prison with 260 others.

Jail officials clapped him in solitary confinement for nine days for offering Mass while in prison.

The Lambs of Christ concept came to him while he was in solitary.

Shaping his philosophy and method for fighting abortion was the theology he had found in St. Louis de Montfort's “total abandonment to Jesus through Mary,” combined with the mystical theology of the victim soul exemplified by Blessed Josefa Menendez.

He decided that the “scrawny Lambs of Christ” would confront satanic worldly authority as proxies for the helpless babies killed by abortion.

They would perform acts of civil disobedience; Weslin reasoned that this was permissible because the laws they would break were unjust and therefore, according to Catholic teaching, no laws at all.

When arrested, they would assume the helplessness of an unborn child, refusing to speak or assist in their arrest.

They would go limp when arrested, refuse to give their names or respond in court, and refuse to pay bail or any fines.

They would offer up their suffering as “victim souls” to satisfy God's justice so that He would intercede and stop the killing.

Gathering together Catholic followers of like mind, Weslin and his Lambs of Christ crisscrossed the country, staging blitzkrieg abortion mill blockades in one city after another.

Whenever possible, they actually entered the clinics. But in-

side or out, using heavy kryptonite locks, they would chain themselves to concrete blocks or inside old automobiles, making it as hard as possible for police and firemen to remove them.

Often, it would take police all day, a full day in which no baby deaths occurred. And as Weslin points out, Center for Disease Control studies show that 20 percent of mothers who are turned away from abortion mills never return to kill their babies.

The Lambs employed various methods for pumping up their esprit de corps, including humor.

They had their own lingo: their leaders were “shepherds” and “shepherdesses.” They traveled in a “Bedlamb” bus or a “Lambousine.”

Locked together in the clinic entry way, they would sing:

Paul and Silas went to jail,
Had no money for the bail.
Keep your eyes on the prize –
hold on!

Or:

Mr. Policeman, tell me why
Unborn babies got to die.
Keep your eyes on the prize –
hold on!

One of Weslin’s roughest experiences occurred in 1989 at an abortion mill blockade in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Under the direct supervision of the local police chief, police handcuffed Weslin behind his back.

Then two officers yanked him off the ground by holding a nightstick between his handcuffed wrists – a torture technique called the strapado hold.

They carried him to the paddy wagon and then up the courtroom stairs hanging by his wrists in an inverted “V,” with his head and feet

banging and dragging on the floor.

The hold caused excruciating pain, stopping the blood circulation in his wrists and pulling his arms out of their sockets. He never completely recovered the full use of his arms.

The other Lambs endured the same treatment.

CBS’s “60 Minutes” covered

The hold caused excruciating pain, pulling his arms out of their sockets.

the Lambs’ arrests in Fargo, North Dakota, in 1992 in a report highly biased against the group.

Weslin, never one to mince words, called reporter Lesley Stahl “the 60-Minute Jezebel – a barracuda feminazi of the first order.”

The Lambs spent over 100 days in North Dakota jails. Stahl won an Emmy for the story.

But Weslin’s worst jail experience came in Houston. There, a guard spotted pro-life attorney John Broderick palming a Consecrated Host to Weslin, which the priest slipped into his mouth.

Three guards jumped him, kicked him in his back and handcuffed him, trying unsuccessfully to pry the Host from his mouth.

Then they stripped him naked and left him lying on the floor for all to see.

After blockading the door of a Planned Parenthood clinic with an old car in Rochester, New York, Weslin served 4 months in McKean Federal Prison near Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1997, for violating the FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances) Act.

The food and treatment at federal prisons weren’t so bad, he found. While at McKean, he completed a 39-day water only spiritual fast and wrote almost 300 pages of his book.

Over the years, the Lambs of Christ’s ranks were thinning. Police brutality – breaking arms, beatings and torture holds took their toll. Long prison sentences did too.

Federal officials went after the property of pro-lifers using the RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act. And the FACE Act, passed in 1994, was a major factor in stopping the clinic blockades.

But Father Weslin soldiered on.

In 2002 he was back in McKean Prison again, serving a 5-month sentence – this time for criminal contempt – for praying inside a court-ordered 60-foot buffer zone at an abortion mill in Buffalo, New York.

In 2007 a federal jury in Omaha, Nebraska, found him not guilty of violating the FACE Act. He had entered an abortion clinic, knelt and prayed, and offered help to pregnant women and clinic workers.

More recently, he has traveled to Illinois, Washington, D.C., Colorado and Missouri.

When Father Weslin is not on the road, he spends hours praying at late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart’s mill in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Father currently lives in Omaha.

SAVE THESE DATES!



**10th Annual
Maryland Truth Tour**

JULY 26- 30, 2010

*Show our fellow citizens
the ugly evil truth
about abortion*

Lambs of Christ founder needs your help

By Missy Smith

I first saw Father Weslin when I was in South Bend, Indiana.

Having been arrested the week before while saying the Holy Rosary on the grounds of Notre Dame, I was there a week later, commissioned to take pictures for *Defend Life* of the peaceful presence of Dr. Alan Keyes and of Father Norman Weslin carrying a cross.

I had no idea who this beautiful priest was. But we were arrested at the same time, and when he looked across the desk in the St. Joseph County Jail, our eyes met and he said something that made my heart sing.

He said, "They are waiting for you in heaven!"

Having lost four beautiful children, all I could think of was seeing those precious children again.

It turned out that I would have the greatest honor of my life, which was to accompany Fr. Norman Weslin to Washington from South Bend and spend hours in his presence.

He had given me his book, *The Gathering of the Lambs*, and although it is a full 500 pages, I couldn't put it down.

Father wrote this most exciting book while he was in federal prison.

He wrote it to bring readers out of their comfortable lifestyle and into the street as "victim souls" – to bring you in front of the place of evil, where they are killing God's children, and there to shout the Gospel of Life from the rooftops as Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has asked *him* to do, as a missionary priest of Jesus Christ – and asked *you*, as a Roman Catholic – one of "The Remnant."

Father Weslin has been trying to do this for 25 years. He is now asking you to join him. He has found God's method of doing this by living out "The Mystical Theology of the Victim Soul" as a "Lamb of Christ."

This means total abandonment of oneself to Jesus Christ, through Mary, in the way of Divine Love.

By means of this book of "lived experiences," he shows you – the 65.1 million Roman Catholics of the United States – how to become one of the millions of ordinary people whom he is asking to come out into the streets as God's people did in Russia just a few years ago.

His writings show you that this is the ultimate method of defeating Satan. To prove this, he draws a portrait of his own life in which he was prepared by Mary to "confront satanic worldly authority" with "helplessness."

He draws this portrait of himself for you in the hope that you will look into your own life to recognize the "Divine set-ups" by Mother Mary which prepared you for your role in her army.

Father Weslin hopes that you will then be receptive to Mother Mary's interior promptings, which will cause you to recognize the inspirations of her Spouse, The Holy Spirit.

These inspirations will then cause you to want to respond to His urgings, which will move you to come into the streets and shout the Gospel of Life from the rooftops!

This is now being done using legitimate, non-violent, direct action in civil disobedience which risks arrest – or by prayerful means

which do not risk arrest – using the Rosary and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as our weapons of Divine Love to stop the killing of Jesus Christ's children while they are still in the womb, his old folks while they are silent and defenseless, and his retarded children while they are unaware of the evil being done to them.

Father Weslin says in this book that if you have assets or are raising a family, it is best that you do not risk arrest.

There are those of us who are unattached – who do not have assets, nor are we raising families. We are free to risk arrest in civil disobedience to confront the tyranny in our government and to stop the killing.

He explains that this is why they put Jesus in jail – He was civilly disobedient.

He is asking you to join him in this God-given method of defeating Satan in this colossal war between good and evil.

If you are reading this book, you are very likely a member of "The Remnant" being called by the Blessed Lady to live out your role as a "victim soul" – as a "Lamb of Christ" – to fulfill the scripture passage of Genesis 3:15.

Father Weslin needs you to join him and all the other Lambs of Christ in our efforts to stop the killing. Will you join him?

If you are not sure, read this book from beginning to end.

The devil will try to stop you. He will move the book from your bedside table. But he is a loser; Father Weslin will make that abundantly clear to you in his book.

See **HELP**, page 16

Book Review

Guadalupe's message survives bombs, acid, ignorance

By Diane Levero

During her visit to Mexico last March, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stopped at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and left a bouquet of flowers "on behalf of the American people."

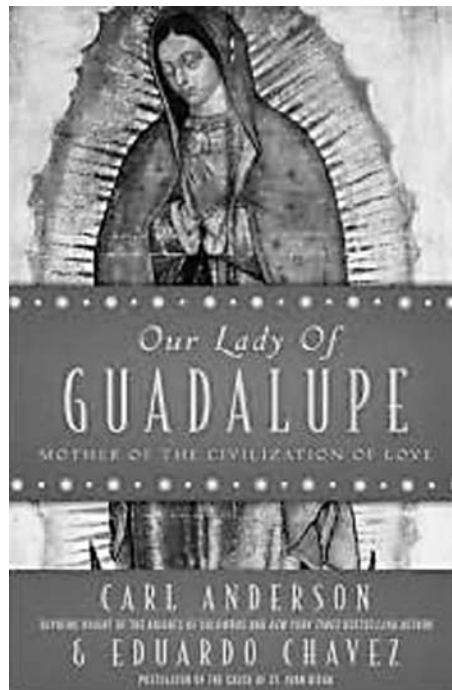
Msgr. Diego Monroy, the basilica's rector, took Clinton to the famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which had been lowered from its altar for the occasion.

After gazing at it for a while, Clinton asked, "Who painted it?"

"God!" replied the monsignor.

Poor Hillary. You would think her staffers would have briefed her a little better.

Almost every Catholic is familiar with at least the basic story of how the Blessed Virgin appeared to the humble Indian, Juan Diego, on Tepeyac hill in 1531 and asked him to tell the bishop that she wanted a chapel built there – and how, when the bishop asked for a sign, she not only provided Juan Diego with flowers in the middle of winter, but im-



printed her image on his rough tilma, or cloak.

Doubters might write off the story and the image as a fabrication designed by the missionaries and Spanish authorities to convert and pacify the Indians.

But the impressive and scholarly examination of the history of the

apparitions by Carl Anderson and Msgr. Eduardo Chavez in *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love* should put the doubts of reasonable people at rest.

Moreover, Anderson, the CEO and chairman of the board of the Knights of Columbus, and Chavez, who was postulator of St. Juan Diego's cause for sainthood, bring keen Christian insight to bear on the importance of Our Lady of Guadalupe not only to the conversion of Mexico in Juan Diego's time, but to the "new evangelization" of the Americas today.

After Cortez conquered Mexico City in 1521, things did not go all that well for the early missionaries.

In a debate with the missionaries in 1524, the Aztec priests protested vehemently that the new Christian religion would destroy their ancient traditions and with it, their Aztec civilization.

Conversions weren't helped, either, by the cruelty and rapacity of the Spanish conquistadores.

Bishop Zumarraga of Mexico City managed to smuggle a letter to King Charles V of Spain detailing the ravages of the civil rulers, called the First Audience.

The rulers in turn threatened to kill any Indian who ventured to the bishop for protection.

Additionally, Zumarraga was extremely wary of supposed visions, believing them to be superstitions akin to the Indians' pagan beliefs.

For an account of the Guadalupe event that would lead to the stunning conversion of 9 million Indians within six years, the authors rely heavily on the Nican Mopohua, written sometime before Juan Diego's death

HELP, from page 15

I couldn't recommend this book more. It is not only a wonderful read but a one of a kind book written by truly a living saint.

All donations are given to the Mary Weslin Home for Pregnant, Unwed Mothers, which was started by Father Weslin after his wife Mary Lou was killed in a car accident.

He turned their home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, into a home for unwed mothers and saved over

200 babies.

To order the book or for more information, contact Missy Smith at mreillysmith@yahoo.com or phone her at 202-337-1966.

Or contact The Mary Weslin Homes for Pregnant, Unwed Mothers, P.O. Box 241281, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, or phone 402-333-6167 or 402-697-0533.

Email: jandlthomsen@cox.net or go to www.maryweslinhomes.org.

in 1548 by the mestizo Antonio Valeriano (the oldest extant copy of it, dating from the mid-1500s, is in the New York Public Library!).

According to this source, the Virgin spoke to Juan Diego in his native Nahuatl, using many of that language's idioms and flowery figures of speech.

The result is sheer poetry.

Consider the Virgin's introduction of herself:

I am the ever-perfect holy Mary, who has the honor to be the mother of the true God, by whom we all live, the Creator of people, the Lord of the near and far, the Lord of heaven and earth.

Or how she reveals the reason for her appearance:

I want very much that they build my sacred little house here, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him upon making Him manifest, I will give Him to all people in all my personal love, Him that is my compassionate gaze, Him that is my help, Him that is my salvation.

Anderson and Chavez find deep meaning in all the Virgin's words and actions.

First, as the heavenly evangelist for the New World, Our Lady appeared neither as a Caucasian nor an Indian but as a mestiza, as a bridge and uniter between the old world and the new.

For her messenger she selected one whose Indian name was Cuauhtlatatzin, which meant "eagle that speaks."

The eagle played a central role in the Aztec culture. The Virgin, say the authors, chose the "eagle that speaks" as the messenger of a new civilization, "not one in which the lives of the gods are sustained by the

sacrifice of human lives for food, but rather one in which all people are called to the God who in Christ is life-giving food for them."

Anderson and Chavez point out that Juan Diego, who would "speak" as a lay evangelist to the New World in both his lifetime and beyond as a canonized saint, is a model of evangelism for all Catholic laymen.

The figure of 9 million conversions in less than a decade is not a guess or estimate.

The authors cite Friar Toribio de Benavente who, according to his *History of the Indians of New Spain*, written in 1537, calculated the number of baptisms from figures submitted by each missionary and province.

The chapel that the Virgin requested was completed on December 26, 1531, a mere two weeks following her final apparition – built of adobe, whitewashed, and roofed with straw.

Housed inside the chapel, the tilma with its miraculous image has undergone many studies and scientific examinations over the centuries. They have only served to deepen its mystery.

Professional artists are confounded that any artist could paint something as beautiful, clean and well-formed on a fabric as rough as the tilma's.

Chemists could not explain why the tilma had not been destroyed by the humid air, filled with corrosive saltpeter from the nearby lake, which ruined the building's stone ornamentation.

In 1785 a great deal of nitric acid was accidentally spilled on the tilma during the cleaning of the frame – enough to destroy the whole of the surface.

Nitric acid can destroy iron, but it left nothing but a slight dull mark on the tilma, and no damage to the painting.

In 1921 a government employee placed flowers with a bomb concealed inside at the base of the Virgin's image.

The detonation of the bomb ruined the basilica's altar, the candelabra and the bronze crucifix atop the altar.

But just inches away, the tilma and its glass covering were completely unharmed.

The popularity and the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe has recently increased and spread throughout North and South America, leading men and women in the Western Hemisphere to a greater encounter with Christ, say the authors.

Mary is a woman of every age, and yet how she expresses herself can be different; they say: each Marian apparition speaks to specific persons, in a specific time and place, who have unique problems, languages and preconceptions.

Yet, Anderson and Chavez assert, Our Lady of Guadalupe's message still resonates.

"We are convinced that our Lady of Guadalupe's message is *today* capable of being not only an expression but a true catalyst of hope and unity for millions more throughout North America and the world."

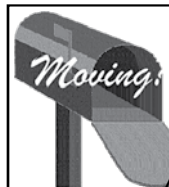
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In My Humble Opinion

Town hallers decry health bill

By Janet Baker

On August 6, I attended a town hall meeting in Oxon Hill conducted by Rep. Donna Edwards of Maryland's 4th U.S. District.

It was quite a drive for me, as Oxon Hill is in the southern end of the district while I live in the northern end. I arrived about 30 minutes before the meeting was scheduled to end. Having no feel for the proceeds of the meeting prior to my arrival, I was reluctant to ask questions. However, there were plenty of concerns voiced over the socialistic bent of the Obamacare bill.

One gentleman held up at least one ream of paper, tied together in a red, gift-wrap bow. He asked Ms. Edwards if she had read "the monstrosity."

We also heard from Mike Harris, the chair of the Prince George's Republican Party, as he told the audience why he believes the bill to be economically unfeasible. When he announced his name and his position, he was booed. To her credit, Ms. Edwards did rebuke those who booed Mr. Harris.

After the meeting ended, I began to distribute a handout I had put together that detailed exactly where in the bill one could find the myriad of anti-life provisions.

On the other side, I had placed a copy of Representative Kevin Brady's attempt at an organizational chart for the structure proposed by HR 3200. An obvious supporter of the bill took issue with me for doing so. I asked her what she supported about the bill. She stated her opinion about President Bush not doing enough for health care.

I then asked her what President Bush's alleged failures had to do with the merits (or lack thereof) of HR 3200. She kept on repeating herself like a broken record. I then thanked her, realizing this was not much more than a circular conversation.

On August 10, I attempted to attend Senator Ben Cardin's town hall meeting at Towson University. Some might recall that Senator Cardin was so soundly trounced by a constituent that Rush Limbaugh made an example of him during his program.

I said that I *attempted* to attend, because by the time I arrived after work, the doors were long since closed. However, there was still much going on outside. Both sides of the road were lined with people who clearly

opposed Obamacare. They carried many picket signs that criticized the bill from many perspectives.

Many of them clearly objected to the pro-death provisions of HR 3200, that is, the funding and promotion of abortion and euthanasia. I'd say there were a good 500 people there when I arrived (and I understand that some had already left). They were indeed loud, but still very peaceful. They were simply Americans who were beginning to wake up.

Let me say a word to some fellow pro-lifers. Some seem to imply that the defeat of this bill will not be a pro-life victory if it cannot be said that the main reason for its defeat is objection to the pro-abortion features of the bill. That is a big mistake, and for several reasons!

We pro-lifers must learn to work with other people to achieve our goals. That does not mean we compromise our principles. However, in this situation it is clear that we must work for the complete defeat of this bill in order to be true to our principles.

Yes, others may want the bill defeated for less-than-ideal motives, but they're on the right track. We're blind and arrogant if we cannot see that. This health-care sabotage is serving to wake some Americans up to the mess into which our culture has devolved. They're starting to speak out.

Mark Crutcher wrote a blog piece commenting on this awakening, wondering about their motives and where they were in the earlier years of the pro-life fight. There is certainly truth to what Mark is saying, but rather than criticize these newcomers, let's educate them to the spiritual underpinnings of the societal decline and help them rediscover Jesus Christ and their own Christianity.

That brings us to another example of pro-life myopia. Some think that we only need to remove the abortion and euthanasia provisions from the bill to render it acceptable. Well, we see that the Obama camp recognizes this concept; they are doing their level best to convince us that there are no death panels and no abortion promotion in this bill.

Some are swallowing this yarn hook, line and sinker. We need only to go to the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to see how they've been snookered – or perhaps they're using it as an excuse to continue their years-long flirtation with socialism.

The very concept of socialized medicine is itself inherently pro-death, for socialized medicine puts into the hands of civil government the authority to make decisions regarding life versus death, decisions that belong

to God alone. It is the arrogation of Divine Authority. The presence or absence of overt abortion and euthanasia provisions matters little in terms of the extreme peril to life that socialized medicine and socialism in general inherently poses.

In fact, it wouldn't surprise me much at all to learn that these are deliberate red herrings placed therein: built-in "doggie bones" to be tossed to pro-lifers at opportune times to make us think we've scored a "pro-life victory" by the (supposed) eradication of the measures, only to have them quietly slipped in later. Ladies and gentlemen, the entire concept of socialized medicine, kit and caboodle, must be roundly and completely defeated.

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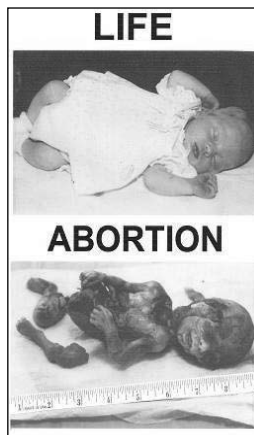
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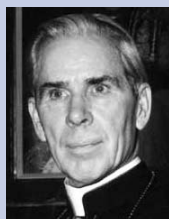
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