

# DEFEND LIFE

Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987
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## Truth Tour miffs mayor but prompts honks, serious talks

By Ellen Staniszewski

For the second year in a row, Hagerstown's Mayor Robert Bruchey had a special welcome for Defend Life's Face the Truth Tour when it came to his town.

"Bruchey put up a huge, flashing, trailer-mounted traffic sign a few blocks before our signs, reading, 'Protesters Ahead: To Avoid Graphic Images, Use Alt Route," said Defend Life Director Jack Ames.

"We're considering legal action for the violation of our civil rights; it's not his business to advise alternate routes."

The mayor also tried to persuade Fr. Collin Poston, pastor of Hagerstown's St. Mary Catholic Church, to withdraw support for the Truth Tour.

Father Poston politely declined, telling Bruchey that the Truth Tour was legal and useful in getting the truth about abortion out to the public.

"I don't think the traffic warning sign deterred anyone," said St. Mary parishioner Janet Neel.

Many local pro-lifers joined in at the stop, which attracted coverage from the local TV station, and St. Mary's parish hosted a lunch for the Truthers.

Hagerstown was the second stop in Defend Life's twelfth annual Face the Truth Tour, in which 24 traveling "core team" members met local pro-



Face the Truther Jessica Harris holds signs on the median strip of Northern Parkway in Baltimore.

life supporters at 15 stops in Maryland, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C., July 23-27, displaying graphic signs of aborted babies along streets and highways to show the public what abortion does to an unborn child.

"We had lots of positive responses," said Ames, "but our usual share of negative responses."

At the Chevy Chase stop on Connecticut Avenue, a young man, clearly very upset by the signs, "gave one sign a good kick, and knocked down [pro-lifer] Olga Fairfax's stool," said Ames.

Defend Life Communications Director Bill Simpson chased the man down and told him he was under citizen's arrest.

The police who arrived were very professional, said Ames. "They took him over. But the guy was truly sorry, so we decided to drop the charges."

Ames ended up giving the young man some pro-life literature.

At the Westminster stop, a handful of counter-protestors had rented barricades and stood behind them with small, hard-to-read signs.

One woman held a sign reading, "Give up your vagina rights. Ask these people how."

A motorist threw a bottle of water at a pro-lifer.

A man wearing an Obama t-shirt

urged police to move the Truthers out of town, but they told him the prolifers were within their free speech rights.

After pro-lifer Chris Ciaffa talked to the man for over an hour, he had a change of heart and took off his Obama shirt.

Monica Miller, author of *Abandoned: The Untold Story of the Abortion Wars* and one of the five luncheon speakers on the Truth Tour, also took part in the Westminster stop.

When a woman driver who was making an obscene gesture at the whole row of pro-life demonstrators stopped next to Miller, she asked her why she was doing that.

"People are driving and don't need to look at your s---," she replied. "I had an abortion and am okay with it."

"Explain to me – what does it mean that you are okay with it?" asked Miller.

"I wasn't ready to have a baby and this was my choice, the best choice I could make at the time," said



Truthers pause for a group photo outside the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore.

the woman.

"Do you mean you have absolutely no feelings about your abortion or the baby?"

"No, I'm not saying that!" the woman retorted. "I made a choice, and it was the choice I needed to make at the time."

Miller handed her a flyer about her book. The woman accepted it.

"God bless you," said Miller. The woman replied, "God bless you."

"Westminster was the most hostile place we visited – worse than it used to be," Ames acknowledged.

The stop in Bowie offered a sharp contrast, with pro-lifers holding signs for nearly a mile along Routes 3 and 450 West.

"It's always a good stop – a lot of commuter traffic, a lot of truckers, and a lot of honking in support – truckers love to honk!" said Ames.

But many in the core group commented that the personal interchanges between the pro-lifers and passersby were what counted most.

"We've had a lot more reactions this year from people coming and sharing their stories," said Tour Codirector Jordan Mooney, 18, of Houston, who will be entering Wyoming College this fall.

"Post-abortive women want to tell us their stories. Mostly, they're angry. We give them an outlet to vent, and we mostly just listen.

"They see we're not combative against them. The reason why we're here is not to condemn them but to



Women counter-demonstrate against the Face the Truth Tour in Westminster.

offer them help that will free their minds.

"You can't expect everyone to change their minds immediately. The pictures have an initial impact – the whole point is to think about the meaning of abortion differently."

At the Towson stop on I-695, a woman stopped her car and walked up to two male pro-lifers.

"Why are you here?" she yelled at them. "You don't even have a vagina."

I walked up to them and said, "I have a vagina, and what is your concern?"

"I am offended, and my children should not have to see this," she shot back. No children were in her car.

She admitted then that she had had an abortion at 6 weeks. "These pictures are not true; it's just tissue."

"These are real photos of aborted babies taken from the trash, and only God has the right to give or take a life," I replied.

"I'm an atheist," she retorted, and drove away.

At the stop in front of the Maryland Board of Physicians office, in a largely African-American neighborhood in northwest Baltimore, reac-

tions were generally more positive.

Many pedestrians stopped to talk to the pro-lifers.

"We're really proud of what you're doing, getting the word out, one man told Fr. Denis Wilde of Priests for Life.

"Yeah, there are three times as many abortions in black communities than in general," the priest replied.

A young black woman named Tina told the Truthers that she had had two abortions when she was young.

"No one told me the truth; I didn't know any better. I will never do it again."

When a black man driving past leaned out of his window and shouted at the pro-lifers, "Get a life!" Tina yelled back at him, "Stop killing your own children! Learn your history!"

At times, Truthers had to be quick on their feet to respond to challenges from motorists.

At the Northern Parkway stop in Baltimore, a driver in his fifties with two teenaged boys in back called out to pro-lifer Albert Stecklein, "You need to get out of our neighborhood; you don't need to be here!"

"You need to get *abortion* out of your neighborhood," replied Stecklein.

The man laughed. "Do I look like I'm going to have an abortion?" The teenaged boys were also laughing.

"I hope your sons don't have girlfriends who have abortions," said Stecklein. They stopped laughing.

Tour Co-Director Andrew Golden, 20, of Fulton County, Pa., who will be a junior at Christendom College in the fall, recalled "one fellow who drove by and – removing his expletives – said, "Your pictures are disgusting! You need to take the pictures down – you need to stop this!"

Golden replied, "Yes, they *are* disgusting. You need to stop *this*," and pointed to the pictures. "I can't stop until then."

The man drove away.

Golden, who was home-schooled and comes from a strong pro-life family, said he was inspired to become active in the pro-life movement when attending functions held by the American Society of Tradition, Family and Property.

There he learned the Ten Commandments of Chivalry. The Fourth Commandment states, "Thou shalt protect the weak and make thyself their defender."

The Tenth Commandment declares, "Thou shalt be everywhere and always a champion of good and right against injustice and evil."

"Overall, we seem to be doing very well," Golden said of the Truth Tour.

"The core group is very eager. The response by the public has been mixed, but generally for the better."

Co-director Mooney agreed. "We set up the displays well and impacted thousands of people, who could see a faithfully, well-presented message."



Pro-lifers line the median strip on Route 40 in Ellicott City.

## Don't like a law? Cut off the funding, Marshall urges

If you want to stop a bad law, cut off the funding – and you don't need to be an elected official to start the ball rolling.

That was Virginia State Delegate Bob Marshall's advice to pro-lifers at his Truth Tour luncheon talk at St. Mary Catholic Church in Hagerstown July 23.

Marshall, who was born in Takoma Park, Md., and educated in Maryland schools, has been a delegate to the Virginia General Assembly since 1991.

In 2010 he introduced a bill, which became law, exempting Virginians from Obamacare and its requirements to purchase individual health care insurance.

He also authored the "Marriage Amendment," allowing marriage only between a man and a woman, which was approved by voters and became part of the Virginia Constitution in 2006.

But in 1973, long before he held any public office, he helped achieve an important victory for the pro-life side.

"I worked at the Office of Economic Opportunity, which was supposed to be an anti-poverty agency," recalled Marshall, "but when I reviewed these grants, I was shocked to see what a lot of the money was being used for."

Marshall, a strong pro-life Catholic, drafted an amendment banning

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money from OEO to be used to fund abortion.

Because all funding bills start in the House of Representatives, he noted, "I pulled aside a member of the House, Bob Bauman, and told him we need to pick a fight against the funding of abortion."



Get your conservative congressmen to fight to cut funding for Obamacare, says Virginia State Delegate Bob Marshall.

Bauman, a Republican from Maryland's Eastern Shore, gave the amendment to Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois.

"There was a huge fight over the amendment," said Marshall.

But what became known as the "Hyde Amendment" became law in 1976, and as a "rider" to appropriations bills, bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortions.

Virginia's James Madison, Marshall recalled, declared in the Federalist Papers that "the power of the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon for obtaining a redress of every grievance."

The dissent to the recent Supreme Court decision upholding Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act pointed out that, according to the Constitution, all tax bills must start in the House of Representatives.

"Literally, the Congress did not pass this bill according to the Constitution," said Marshall. "But the only people who can sue on this are members of the House."

Marshall advised pro-lifers to contact Maryland's only two conservative representatives, Roscoe Bartlett and Andy Harris.

"You have to ask them to start a fight to cut off Obamacare funding," he urged.

Turning to Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's strident support of the state's "same-sex marriage" law, Marshall recalled an op-ed piece he wrote in the Baltimore *Sun* last year.

In it, he chastised O'Malley, a Catholic, for defying Archbishop Edwin O'Brien on this matter.

"Governor O'Malley should think twice before he checks his faith at the door of the governor's mansion," wrote Marshall.

"Perhaps he desires, like Henry VIII, to become pope of his own church.

"But the Catholic Church did not change its clear teaching on marriage for the King of England. It won't change it for the governor of Maryland"

Marshall called on his listeners to challenge O'Malley to debate him.

"Tell him, 'You need to debate the man who wrote the Marriage Amendment in Virginia.'

"If he accepts, I will chew him up and make him mincemeat! And if he refuses, it will make him look bad."

## Defend Life hosts Religious Freedom rally in D.C.

With the impressive backdrop of the U.S. Capitol building soaring behind them, an array of speakers fired up a crowd of over 600 on June 8 to protest the Obama administration's Health and Human Services contraception mandate.

The Washington, D.C., rally, organized and financed by Defend Life, was one of 160 Stand Up for Religious Freedom rallies held across the country the same day to oppose the HHS mandate requiring Catholic hospitals and other organizations to provide coverage of contraception, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations in their health insurance plans.

It was the second set of nationwide rallies begun by the Chicagobased Pro-Life Action League, the first being held March 23.

The Washington rally moved along at a swift clip, with 19 speakers making succinct points, with no punches pulled, before an enthusiastic crowd that peppered the speeches with cheers and applause.



Supporters pay rapt attention at the Religious Freedom rally.



Rep. Michelle Bachman leads off the Stand Up for Religious Freedom rally in Washington, D.C.

"President Obama has had no problem telling people that they must violate their religious beliefs," said Rep. Michelle Bachman (R-Minn.), who led off the rally.

"This is not a war against women; this is about religious liberty first and religious liberty always," said Bachman.

But don't be discouraged; be inspired, she exhorted the crowd. "God is with us today. We will prevail."

"This is tyranny – there is no other word for this," declared Kristen Hawkins of Students for Life of America.

"The HHS mandate affects every American, no matter what their religion. Who will they target next? We must stand up against tyranny! We will no longer be silent."

"On this day 230 years ago, James Madison introduced the Bill of Rights," recalled David Bereit of 40 Days for Life. "The Obama administration, at the behest of Planned Parenthood, has decided to violate the Bill of Rights.

"They were counting on you and me to be silent. They made an epic mistake: we will not be silent!

"This is not just a Catholic issue. To repress religious freedom for some is to repress religious freedom for all."

"We are fighting Obama in federal court right now," Virginia State Delegate Bob Marshall told the crowd.

"Obama wants to invade the last citadel you have: your conscience. We are citizens, we are not serfs, Mr. President."

"Our Hispanic community supports 100 percent religious freedom," said Fr. José Hoyos, director of Oficina del Apostolado Hispano of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Va.

"President Obama, you want to take away the only hope we have left; it is our faith and our religious freedom. Christ brought unity, and you have given us division. No religion is



Pastor Johnny Hunter urges the crowd to stand faithful to God, even if it means going to jail.

federal or state property!"

"Religious freedom is the foundation of all other freedoms; if we lose that, it's all gone," declared Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.).

"If Obama has the bald-faced audacity to do what he's doing with this mandate in the face of a looming election, what do you think he will do if he gets re-elected? You ain't seen nothing yet!"

Rev. Johnny Hunter of LEARN began his talk by singing the hymn, "Awesome God."

"I got news for the occupier of the White House," said the African-American pastor: "You ain't Him!"

Although we're dealing with somebody who thinks he is God, said Hunter, "People are waking up across the country. We have black and white folks on the same page," he exclaimed, holding up a Bible.

In Cumberland County, North Carolina, Hunter pointed out, "We not only passed the marriage amendment, we passed it 70 percent to 30 percent, a resounding victory! And the reason we got it passed was we were standing with God."

Stay faithful to Him, even if it means going to jail, urged the pastor, adding he wouldn't mind getting arrested for "going against" Obama.

"The fundamental issue today is not an issue of rights; it is an issue of that conscience on which the claim of rights depends," declared keynote speaker and former ambassador Alan Keyes.

"Destroy the conscience and you destroy the rights – and that is exactly what Barack Obama understands, and that is why he has declared war on the conscience of America."

We are a people slow to anger, said Keyes.

"But we shall say, 'You have struck the first blow, but we shall finish the battle.'

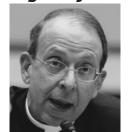
"You can pass laws as you will, Obama, but you shall not destroy our obedience to the laws that have been ordained by our Creator God, who made us free."

Defend Life, which had sponsored the Stand Up for Religious Freedom rally in Baltimore on March 23, stepped up to the plate to sponsor the June 8 Religious Freedom rally in the nation's capitol when it appeared there was not going to be one there, said Defend Life Director Jack Ames.

"How tragic would it have been had there been 160 rallies across the nation and not one in Washington, D.C., itself," he reflected.

"Had Defend Life and other prolife leaders who worked with us not have held this rally, there would have been no voice at all against Obama on his home turf."

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## Md.'s lax abortion laws attract Fla. late-term abortionist

A seven-month undercover investigation by the pro-life organization Operation Rescue has exposed yet another late-term abortionist who has taken advantage of Maryland's lax abortion laws to conduct an extremely questionable late-term abortion operation in the "Free State."

The abortionist, James S. Pendergraft IV, owns five abortion clinics in Florida, but cannot practice medicine there because his Florida medical license was suspended for the fourth time in September 2010.

He does not hold an active medical license in Maryland or any other state.

Maryland law prohibits anyone other than a physician with a Maryland medical license from performing abortions in the state.

Nevertheless, in 2010 Pendergraft began the website, LateTermAbortion.net, in which he touts himself as "a highly trained Board Certified Ob/Gyn" who has been performing "pregnancy terminations" for 25 years, including thousands of late-term abortions.

But because Florida law prohibits him from providing abortions beyond 24 weeks in his Florida offices, he states, "We perform the intracardiac injection of medication into the fetal heart in our private facility in the Washington, D.C., area."

"Intracardiac injection" is a lethal injection into the baby's heart made with a long spinal needle through the wall of the woman's abdomen, guided by ultrasound.

"Misplacement of the spinal needle and injection into the wrong area can possibly be catastrophic," Pendergraft admits on the website.

After the injection, the woman, now carrying a dead baby, can choose

to go to her own physician or to another facility to complete the labor and delivery of the dead baby: that part of the procedure won't be done at the Washington, D.C.-area facility,



The Maryland Board of Physicians is investigating dealings between Florida abortionist James Pendergraft (above) and abortionist Harold Alexander (below) at Alexander's Forestville, Md., clinic.



the website declares.

But Operation Rescue has learned that Pendergraft has expanded his services to include induction of labor and delivery after the baby's heartbeat has stopped.

Pendergraft's website boasts that he is "the first in the United States to induce labor using RU486 and Cytotec in second trimester and late-term abortions."

However, the Food and Drug Administration does not recommend the use of RU486 after 7 weeks' gestation.

At least 17 women have died from RU486 abortions.

The company that manufactures Cytotec has warned the public that the drug, which is meant to treat ulcers, is dangerous when used for abortions.

## **Clinic in Forestville**

The website does not disclose the location of the D.C.-area facility in order "to prevent harassment, intimidation, harm, and even possible physical injury" to patients, staff and physicians," it claims.

But Operation Rescue discovered that Pendergraft is working with Harold O. Alexander at Integrated OB/Gyn Services, located at 7610 Pennsylvania Avenue in Forestville, in Prince George's County, Md.

Alexander is already facing multiple charges by the Maryland State Board of Physicians that include botching a second-trimester saline abortion and then trying to deny that the woman was his patient.

Defend Life picketed a Case Resolution Conference concerning the charges against Alexander at the Board's Baltimore office on May 2, demanding that the Board revoke Alexander's medical license.

#### **Recorded calls to Pendergraft**

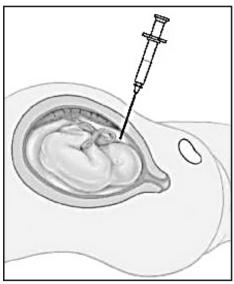
Operation Rescue began its undercover investigation in November 2011, with staff members, posing as potential late-term customers, making recorded phone calls to Pendergraft.

On November 28, 2011, Operation Rescue President Troy Newman phoned Pendergraft, posing as the husband of a woman seeking a late-term abortion because of a fetal anomaly.

Pendergraft told Newman to wire \$8,000 cash to his personal account at a Florida bank.

He said that the abortion-bound couple would be met and escorted to the D.C.-area clinic, refusing to disclose the location or the name of the physician who would be doing the abortion until he received the \$8,000 wire transfer.

On December 7, 2011, OR's Cheryl Sullenger phoned Pendergraft, posing as the mother of a 19-year-old college student who had concealed the pregnancy from her parents and



Pendergraft's website states that he does late-term abortions by intracardiac injection, a lethal injection into the unborn baby's heart.

## **REPORTERS NEEDED** for this Great Magazine!

Reporters urgently needed to cover and report on Pro-Life events in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia.

Previous writing experience desirable but not necessary.

Contact Diane Levero, Editor 410-285-5942 SLevero@HotMail.Com now wanted to abort her 28-week-old baby because she had broken up with her boyfriend.

After Sullenger balked when Pendergraft gave her a price of \$10,000, he quickly reduced it to \$8,500.

# Maryland has become 'the late-term abortion capital of America.'

When asked, he admitted that he would not be doing the abortion himself and that the entire abortion would be done at the D.C.-area clinic.

In these and additional calls, Pendergraft put forth his own medical expertise to reassure hesitant callers, saying that he would fly to Maryland on as little as one day's notice for the abortion, and yet claimed that he would not be the one doing the abortions.

#### Admitted shredding records

In December 2011 Operation Rescue filed two separate complaints against Pendergraft and Alexander with the Maryland Board of Physicians, asking for a full investigation.

OR continued to call Pendergraft occasionally to confirm that he was continuing to conduct his business. They forwarded these calls to a Board investigator on June 13.

When the Board investigator questioned Alexander about his dealings

with "unauthorized provider" Pendergraft, Alexander produced records of three patients that had been seen as a result of Pendergraft's referrals.

However, according to charging documents filed by the Maryland Board of Physicians on May 13, Alexander admitted illegally shredding the medical records of a fourth such patient.

The Board held a hearing on the matter July 3, but has not yet released the results of the hearing.

Because of its liberal abortion laws, which currently fail to regulate abortion facilities in any manner and which allow abortions at any gestational age for any reason, Maryland has become "the late-term abortion capital of America," charged Operation Rescue's Newman.

LeRoy Carhart, attracted by Maryland's loose abortion laws, came from Nebraska in 2010 to set up his still-operating late-term abortion business in Germantown, Md.

New Jersey abortionist Steven Chase Brigham set up a secret lateterm abortion clinic in Elkton, Md., to avoid New Jersey's stricter abortion regulations.

His Elkton operation, which ended after a badly botched abortion made headlines in 2010, appears similar to the Pendergraft mode of operation.

Brigham, who also had no Maryland medical license, would start abortions in New Jersey, then caravan the women down to Elkton, where he would purportedly act as a "consultant" for a Maryland-licensed abortionist, Nicola I. Riley, who lost her license after the scandal broke.

Maryland's Department of Health has adopted oversight rules for abortion clinics, similar to those regulating other outpatient surgery centers, that were scheduled to take effect July 23.

## **EMAIL ALERTS!**

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## Stealth euthanasia is 'killing us softly,' warn speakers

#### By Ellen Staniszewski

Imposed Death 2012, organized by the Human Life Alliance, was a revealing conference on stealth euthanasia and assisted suicide held June 2 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"Stealth euthanasia" is defined as the secret termination of a person without the consent of that person or their family. Its targets are pre-born babies, handicapped children, accident victims, hospice patients, the terminally ill and the aged.

Dying a natural death, surrounded by family and friends, is the normal expectation for a life well-lived.

"But in today's culture of death, it is increasingly clear that stealth euthanasia is occurring at alarming rates all over the country," said speaker Ron Panzer, founder and president of Hospice Patients Alliance.

The Euthanasia Society of America, founded in 1938, is steadily making inroads in American medical schools and institutions. Euthanasia is increasing every year. Although illegal, the methods used for stealth euthanasia are often difficult to detect by the families of loved ones.

Terminal sedation is one form of euthanasia: sedating a patient until they die. Deceitful phrases, such as mercy killing, compassionate care in dying, right to die, dignity in death, good death, terminal sedation, or futile care, are all terms referring to euthanasia, according to Panzer.

"Injecting patients with high doses of morphine or other drugs is commonly done, avoiding detection or suspicion. Hospices often send in the 'closer,' a doctor or nurse to give the injection," explained Panzer.

Withholding treatment, medica-

tions, nutrition or hydration are other ways euthanasia is stealthily accomplished, he said.

"Stealth euthanasia is pervasive, even in Catholic hospitals, with patients routinely being put to death without consulting or obtaining the consent of the patient or family," he



Withholding treatment for the handicapped is common, said speaker Mary Kellett, whose son Peter (pictured behind her) had Trisomy 18.

added.

"No one is safe from the creeping threat of euthanasia," said speaker Julie Grimstad, LPN, founder and president of Life is Worth Living.

Grimstad advised carrying a signed card stating you refuse organ donations.

Organs must be taken from live patients in order to be transplanted, and accident or cardiac arrest victims, instead of receiving lifesaving treatment, often have their organs harvested while still alive, causing death, she explained. Stealth euthanasia is happening in hospice care facilities, hospice in-home care, and hospitals. Not signing "living wills" helps protect patients from euthanasia, said Grimstad

She also advised refusing to sign a form called POLST, Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment. Hydration and nutrition are now considered medical treatment, with water and food withheld from the patient if this form is signed and items checked.

Beware of any forms you sign in a medical facility or hospice care agency authorizing permission to withhold medications, hydration and food from a loved one or yourself, cautioned Grimstad: death by dehydration, lasting nearly two weeks, is extremely slow and painful.

Speaker Mary Kellett, founder and president of Prenatal Partners for Life, shared her tragic story of how the doctors encouraged her to let her son Peter die by withholding treatment for Trisomy 18, a congenital disease.

After she had refused to abort her baby, the doctors tried to convince the family to wrap her newborn son in a blanket and leave him to die.

Living until age 6, he died in a routine operation, currently under investigation.

Withholding treatment for the handicapped is common, said Kellett. Many families are encouraged to abort their babies because of handicapping conditions.

Prenatal Partners for Life is ready to assist anyone with a baby diagnosed with a congenital disease to receive medical help and counseling.



## DEFEND LIFE

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

P.O. Box 5427 Baltimore, Maryland 21285 www.DefendLife.Org Jack Ames, Director 410-337-3721 Jack@DefendLife.Org



## August 15, 2012 Anno Domíní Feast of the Assumption



#### Dear Friend of Defend Life,

One June 7, my dear 77-year-old wife Mary Lou took a serious fall while stepping onto our lawn after parking her car. For weeks, she was confined to the second

floor of our row house. Then she was able to walk with a walker and then with a cane. She still has a long way to go, especially on steps which are a real challenge. We still do not know what caused her to fall but it may be an **inner ear problem**. During our **July 23-27 Face the Truth Tour**, I asked those attending our daily luncheons to make a **Novena for the full recovery of Mary Lou's health.** I would be extremely grateful if you would also make such a Novena (any Novena of your choice). Mary Lou is the mother of six and is a Third Order Carmelite. She is a lector at two different parishes. She has lived a very active life!

Believing that with God, all things are possible, I am also asking you to make **a second Novena**. I have been active in **PRO-LIFE** 41 years of my life, becoming an activist at age

29. If you do the math, that makes me 70. Twenty-five years ago, I co-founded **DEFEND LIFE** with the late **Eileen Bolgiano**. Before that, I founded **Richmond Right to Life** in 1974. I really believe that the time has come to hand over our **Lecture Tours** and our **Face the Truth Tours** to a much younger person who with my help can accomplish much more in the years to come. I envision a person who is a passionate **PRO-LIFE** activist, is tireless and can handle rejection. The rest can be learned. **The purpose of that second Novena is to identify this person and get them onboard immediately!** 



## God Already Knows Who This Person Is

God already knows who this person is. You might be this person! If not you, this person might be your son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, or friend. I am counting on you to help identify this person. Please call me with your ideas!

Let me make one thing clear. I am not retiring from **DEFEND LIFE**. As the late great **Marilyn Szewczyk** often said to me, **the only way one gets out of PRO-LIFE is in a box!** With God's help, here is what I see myself doing in the future:

- Raising sufficient funds for **DEFEND LIFE** so that my successor can be paid, even if only a small stipend at first. I have never taken a dollar from **DEFEND LIFE** and have depended on my Engineering and Social Security income to support Mary Lou and myself.
- Treating so many of you to lunch who have been so faithful to DEFEND LIFE over so many years!
  Visiting financially blessed persons whom you can help me identify to tell them about the great work DEFEND LIFE has been doing these past 25 years.

• Giving talks to interested groups who invite me.

• Expanding my engineering work! I am very good at what I do. Visit my website **SteamTraining.Com** to find out more about what I do professionally. If I am blessed financially in the years to come, you can be sure much of my income will go directly to grow **DEFEND LIFE**.

• Visiting pastors so they will know **firsthand** about the good work **DEFEND LIFE** does.

### How to Win the Maryland Marriage Referendum



When **Virginia Delegate Bob Marshall** spoke at our Face the Truth Luncheon on July 23, I asked him how we should be framing the upcoming **Maryland Marriage Referendum** on November 6 to maximize our chances of defeating so called "same-sex" marriage in Maryland. Without the blink of an eye, Bob Marshall said **arrange a debate between himself** and **Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley**, the great champion of "same sex" marriage who also aspires to reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Marshall, who may be America's great-

est debater since Patrick Henry, said he would decimate O'Malley in such a debate. Like O'Malley,



Bob grew up in Montgomery County and has been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates since 1991.

Bob Marshall also said that O'Malley's refusal to participate in such a public debate enabling Maryland voters to cast informed votes on November 6 **could become a major issue in itself!** If you would like to see this strategy become a reality, please contact me at **410-337-3721 (O) or 410-961-2008 (M).** 

If we win in November, we will win in two important ways –

- Traditional marriage in the State named after the Mother of our Savior will stand!
- Martin O'Malley's political ambitions will plummet into the dust bin of history.

#### June 8 Stand Up for Religion Freedom Rally

Even though America was betrayed by Chief Justice John Roberts' decisive vote affirming evil Obamacare, our **DEFEND LIFE** June 8 Capitol Hill Rally bashing Obama made every person present **ever so proud to be an American**. There we were with patriotic music playing, singing the **Star Spangled Banner** with our beautiful Capitol dome in clear view

listening to heroes like Michele Bachman, Trent Franks, Steve King, three other Congressmen, B-1 Bob Dornan, Lila Rose, former POW Guy Gruters, Ambassador Alan Keyes, and nine others. Afterwards, we sang God Bless America and then marched off to the Supreme Court singing The Battle Hymn of the Republic.

See these great talks and read commentary about our historic Capitol Hill Rally by visiting **What's New** at **DefendLife.Org**. A portion of our rally featuring **Michele Bachman** was carried nationally by **FOX**. Several of my high-school classmates recognized me on stage with these national heroes. Until late the afternoon before, it appeared that **C-Span** would carry

our rally live, but **Obama, who is evil but certainly not dumb**, decided to call a news conference in the very same time window in which our rally and 150 other **Stand Up for Religious Freedom Rallies** were being held all across America thus preempting our C-Span coverage.

#### 88-Year-Old Grandparent Starved to Death at Local Hospital

According to several reliable sources, an 88-year-old grandparent was recently starved and dehydrated to death at **Baltimore-Washington Medical Center** in **Glen Burnie, Maryland**. This is the new name for the old **North Arundel Hospital**. This person suffered a stroke on Friday, June 8; was conscious and recovering but could not yet talk because she had lost control of her throat muscles; and was being fed by an IV.



On Monday, June 11 the IV was withdrawn and the person was left to die because of a legal document presented by the next of kin stating that **the patient did not wish to receive food and water if no longer capable of making their own informed medical decisions – if death was imminent – and there was no reasonable expectation of recovery ---. This person was supposedly coaxed into signing this document several years earlier immediately after losing their spouse. By Friday, June 15, the patient was languishing badly awaiting to be transferred to a hospital to undergo the last phase of their <b>DEATH SENTENCE**.

#### What You Can Do to Avoid This!

- Avoid **Baltimore-Washington MC** like the plague and tell your friends to do likewise.
- Avoid signing any advance medical directives under duress without good advice from a third party.
- NEVER AGREE to withdrawal of food and water unless you want to DIE MOST PAINFULLY!
- Be sure to include in any such document that you are a CATHOLIC and you MUST BE SEEN by a Catholic Priest whether conscious or unconscious.

#### What Else You Can Do!

- **Contact Catholic hospitals** in your area and find out what they would do if presented with such an advance medical directive under similar circumstances.
- Contact Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, 320 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, suggesting that since Baltimore-Washington MC is owned by University of Maryland Health Systems (UMHS), he should pray LONG and HARD before approving the imminent transfer of St. Joseph's Medical Center in Towson to UMHS. Call him at 410-547-5437. Fax him at 410-727-8234.

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

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames Jack Ames, Director

## **In My Humble Opinion**

## Should you take your kids to abortion mills?

### By Janet Baker

Some of you might recall the incident last Halloween at Leroy Carhart's abortion mill in Germantown. While pro-lifers were praying there with their children, two of Carhart's staff approached the children and gave them "treat bags."

The bags were labeled "40 Days for Choice" (in obvious mockery of 40 Days for Life) and contained not candy but condoms.

Much ado has been made of the shock of the parents at the deeds of these pro-abortion workers. I was shocked too – but not by the conduct of the Carhart staffers.

I was shocked that the pro-lifers, particularly the parents, would have been so naïve as to let these abortionists approach their children, let alone give them anything without inspecting the presents first.

Granted, I have been dealing with abortion workers for over ten years as I've stood in front of various abortuaries, so I'm all too aware of the mischief that comes naturally to these people and I realize that many of the pro-lifers at the Carhart site are relatively inexperienced. However, one could have hoped for a modicum of healthy skepticism on the part of the parents, but it was totally absent. That troubles me.

A year before that, I watched two pro-life leaders on a webcast waxing breathlessly lyrical about what they dubbed to be a bold new sidewalk counseling technique. It seems that a friend of one of them was a sidewalk counselor who had just given birth herself. Her "technique" was to walk into an abortuary – with her newborn.

As she talked with the women in the waiting room, she would (I kid you not!) hand her infant to the women contemplating abortion. I've seen these abortion-bound women. Many of them are numb of mind – or actually violently unstable.

The counselor's idea was to "soften their hearts"; however, these volatile women could easily have dashed that infant to the floor.

Did it work? It doesn't matter, for we know the ends can never justify the means – particularly if that means involves risking the well-being of an innocent baby who deserved that counselor's first loyalties.

I was horrified and let them know in no uncertain terms. Other pro-life leaders were similarly concerned and spoke with the two who ballyhooed the escapades. Still other leaders didn't want to "cause disunity" (Doesn't that sound like some church leaders, when confronted with the sex abuse scandals? But I digress.).

What shocks me, though, are those who see no problem with "being bold." Well, when you relegate your own child to the status of a prop, that's a problem. I hope that method is never repeated.

These (and more) incidents cause me to question the wisdom of bringing children to the abortuaries – particularly small children. Let's face it; it can be rough in front of an abortuary. We pro-lifers are peaceful, but we cannot control the conduct of the abortion workers, the clinic escorts (the "deathscorts"), the women go-

ing in (often with belligerent boy-friends/parents) and the passersby.

It seems to be assumed that the presence of children is beneficial. In preparation for this article, I polled some pro-lifers on the matter.

For the most part, the respondents favored the presence of children at the abortuaries. The reasons given are the educational benefits for the children and witness to the pro-abortion crowd. One individual voiced concern about exposing young children to the graphic images, but several others saw no harm in that. I agree that such concerns should be weighed by the individual parent, who is the one qualified to gauge what's best for his or her child.

I do believe our children need to learn, under the watchful eyes of their parents, the realities of the world. We kid ourselves if we think that they can be shielded from reality. Either we teach them or others will from their own warped perspectives. But parents have to understand that diabolical forces are very present at these places of child-murder. All the proabortion people there operate under some diabolical influence to varying degrees. Sometimes it gets rather unpleasant. Below I offer some suggestions (born of many years in front of these places) for parents if they bring their children to pray.

- 1. Prepare your children beforehand and be specific as to why they're going out there.
- 2. Remind them of basic safety precautions such as not talking with strangers.

### **Movie Review**

## 'For Greater Glory' sheds light on Cristero War

#### By Diane Levero

Actor Eduardo Verástegui, who grew up in Mexico and went to public schools there, had never heard about the Cristero War, despite the fact that it took place in Mexico in the 1920s and resulted in the killing of over 200,000 people.

Like Verástegui, most Mexicans and Americans, myself included, had never heard of it either.

"For Greater Glory" has changed all that.

It tells the true story of how a peasant army fought the brutal repression of the Catholic Church by Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles and won – or at least died trying.

Verástegui plays Anacleto Gonzales Flores, a young lawyer who leads a peaceful resistance when Calles, an atheist and virulent anti-Catholic, strictly enforces the anticlerical provisions of the Mexican Constitution of 1917.

Protesting Catholics first try peaceful marches and a petition signed by two million Catholics, which Calles ignores.

Then they launch an economic boycott, causing Calles to ratchet up his repressive measures. Churches are ransacked and closed, priests exiled or executed.

The campesinos and rancheros have had enough of peaceful resistance. They take to the hills and form a ragtag army to battle Calles' Federales.

Their sporadic, uncoordinated attacks get nowhere until they hire a retired Mexican General, Enrique



In a scene from 'For Greater Glory,' General Gorostieta (Andy Garcia) leads the Cristeros in their fight for religious freedom in Mexico.

Gorostieta Velarde (played by Andy Garcia), to lead them.

Gorostieta is an agnostic, but believes in religious freedom. Under his leadership, the tide begins to turn for the Cristeros. So also does Gorostieta's agnosticism.

In one touching, humorous scene, Fr. José Reyes Vega, one of the few priests to actually take up arms, is giving Communion against a backdrop of the spectacular mountains of Mexico.

When Father Vega comes to Gorostieta, who has audaciously inserted himself in the line of humble Cristeros, he pauses.

"You should go to Confession first," he mutters.

"God already knows everything," the general mutters back.

"You need to go to Confession," insists Vega, and passes him by.

Garcia's acting is impressive and compelling. So is that of Peter O'Toole, who portrays the elderly, kindhearted Father Christopher, and Mauricio Kuri, as José Sánchez del Río, a handsome and appealing 14-year-old who joins the Cristeros.

There are some meaty scenes involving U.S. Ambassador Dwight Morrow, who is trying to negotiate an end to the war, primarily to protect U.S. oil interests in Mexico.

In one ironic episode, as Morrow dines in a moving railroad car with some Mexican bishops, the ambassador's efforts to persuade the bishops to come to an agreement with Calles are undermined as the train rolls by Cristero bodies hung from telephone poles along the tracks (yes, that really happened!).

The movie deserves its "R" rating for violence. There is one torture

sequence that is particularly upsetting.

But Mexican producer Pablo José Barroso and director Dean Wright did not want to soft-pedal the historical facts that have been so long suppressed and withheld from the Mexican people and the world in general by the embarrassed Mexican government.

"For Greater Glory" set box office records when it debuted (as "Cristiada") in Mexico in April.

But when it was released in the U.S. in June, the critics, almost to a man, ripped it to shreds: "the sort of lumbering, epic drama that went out of fashion in the late 1960s," they sneered; "a pious mess of a movie that falls short both as history and as storytelling"; "a stodgy, overblown and repetitive slog."

In more than one case, their anti-Catholic bias was blatantly obvious.

Critic Roger Ebert, kinder than most, conceded that "it is well-made" but complained that the movie "has such pro-Catholic tunnel vision I began to question its view of events."

Ebert looked askance, for example, at 14-year-old José's "choosing to die for his faith," adding with raised eyebrows, "the film seems to approve of his decision and includes him approvingly in a long list of Cristeros who have achieved sainthood or beatification after their deaths in the war"

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Well, Roger, it's a Catholic thing. You wouldn't understand.

As an unapologetically religious movie, is "For Greater Glory"'s dialog as pithy and incisive, its script as tight and brilliantly written as that of, say, "A Man for All Seasons"?

No. But it is an enlightening, absorbing and inspiring film.

Catholic commentators have not failed to note the timeliness of its theme for us folks north of the Rio Grande, as the firestorm over religious freedom heats up with the Obama administration's mandate that Catholic institutions include contraception and abortion-inducing drugs in their health insurance programs.

There are no firing squads here, of course. Just an attempt by our own "Federales" to take away our religious rights under the First Amendment.

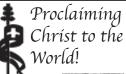
If and when push comes to shove, let's see whether we display the faith and courage of the Cristeros.

## **EUTHANASIA**, from page 9

"Providing palliative and pain medication to alleviate the suffering of handicapped and terminally ill patients, as they die a natural death, is what hospice care should be providing," asserted speaker Cristen M. Krebs, founder and executive director of Catholic Hospice in Pittsburgh.

However, for purely economic

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reasons, stealth euthanasia is happening far too often. Euthanasia deprives a person of days, months, perhaps years of life to share love and memories with family and friends, said Krebs.

Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Canada, recalled that Nazi Germany killed the handicapped, the aged, the pre-born, the infirm, the terminally ill, the Jews, political dissidents, and millions of other persons for economic and political reasons.

"America is beginning to euthanize people for economic and 'humane' reasons, like the Nazis, because it is expensive to treat diseases and care for the handicapped," said Schadenberg.

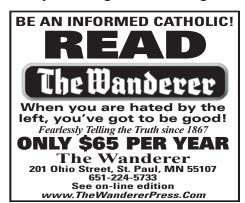
Obamacare will ration care, exacerbating the dilemma of whether to treat or euthanize a patient, he warned.

"Euthanizing a person for any reason by anyone is against God's laws and the laws in the United States," said Schadenberg.

"The Declaration of Independence protects three basic rights: the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The right to life, listed first, is the most fundamental right, from which all other rights are derived."

The key consideration is the intention to cause death, he declared.

"Consent or motive – even one of compassion – does not change the reality of killing a human being."



### **Book Review**

## Is America on its way down Hayek's Road to Serfdom?

#### By Diane Levero

Anyone who has been paying attention to the ongoing battle over the precarious future of our nation knows that central to this debate is our concept of freedom.

Pro-lifers, who have been contending with the Obama administration's audacious attacks on freedom of conscience and religion know this.

We are acutely aware that our government, which was instituted to protect the individual's rights and freedoms, has been instead increasingly encroaching on them.

This phenomenon, of course, is not new.

In 1944, Friedrich A. Hayek, a brilliant Austrian-born economist and philosopher at the London School of Economics, published *The Road to Serfdom*, first in England and then in the United States.

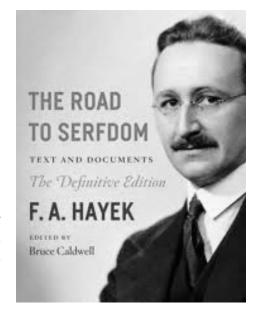
At the time, both countries were engulfed in a global war, with Nazi Germany as the primary enemy.

The Allies viewed Hitler's Germany as a brutal and tyrannical dictatorship.

It was easy and comforting to think of Germany as an anomaly – that it was "entirely different from us and that what happened there cannot happen here," wrote Hayek.

But "the unpalatable truth," he charged, "is that it is Germany whose fate we are in some danger of repeating."

One of the salient characteristics of western civilization – the respect for the individual man, which, he pointed out, grew from the foundations laid by Christianity and the Greeks and Romans – was being



challenged by the intelligentsia of both Britain and the U.S.

As World War II wore on, the British government was already laying the groundwork for a postwar socialist Britain, including nationalized health care, nationalized industries, and detailed economic planning of industry and agriculture.

In the U.S., President Roosevelt's New Deal had transformed the country through an unprecedented degree of government spending, taxing, regulations and redistribution.

Many early New Deal programs even imposed fascist-style economic controls on private industry and agriculture (most of which the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional).

In short, the intellectuals in both England and America were working to implement the same "enlightened" and "progressive" socialist ideas of the pre-World War I era that they shared in common with Germany.

"Although we have been warned by some of the greatest political thinkers of the nineteenth century, by Tocqueville and Lord Acton, that socialism means slavery, we have steadily moved in the direction of socialism," said Hayek.

The term "socialism," he said, was often used to describe merely the *ideals* of social justice, greater equality, and security, which are the ultimate aims of socialism.

But Hayek made it clear that he was speaking of the *methods* used to achieve those aims: "the abolition of private enterprise and of private ownership of the means of production, and the creation of a system of 'planned economy' in which the entrepreneur working for profit is replaced by a central planning body."

Hayek was not advocating a laissez-faire economy. Government has a legitimate role to play in a free market economy – limiting working hours and requiring certain sanitary conditions, for example – as long as the rules are applied equably to competing businesses, he said.

But centralized planning of the economy inevitably leads to tyranny, because by its very nature, the great variety of opinions, goals and wants of the individual must give way to the one centralized economic plan.

How can an ostensibly democratic government come to agree on this one plan, in which what will be produced and how it will be produced and sold is decided upon by one central planning body?

Well, it's not easy, said Hayek – because individuals, being individuals, have so many divergent opinions.

In efforts to achieve centralized control over the economy, "Parliaments come to be regarded as ineffective 'talking shops,' unable or incompetent to carry out the tasks for which they have been chosen," he observed. Sound familiar?

Witness the recent debacle of Congress passing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), a 2,700-page monstrosity designed to plan and control one-sixth of our nation's economy.

This gargantuan task was so impossibly formidable that virtually no legislator who voted on it had even read it. Instead, it was crafted by nameless bureaucratic "experts."

The fecklessness of legislative bodies to cope with the need for centralized planning inevitably leads to the need, not only that efficient planning must be placed in the hands of "experts" – permanent officials or autonomous bodies – but also the need for a strong leader with dictatorial powers, said Hayek.

"A socialist government must not allow itself to be too much fettered by democratic procedure," he noted sardonically.

KIDS, from page 12

I am reminded of President Obama declaring that, because Congress had failed to act, *he* would step into the breach and take certain matters into his own hands.

One notable instance was his recent edict that certain illegal aliens

## 'Planning leads to dictatorship because dictatorship is the most effective instrument of coercion.'

who came to the U.S. before age 16 and are not older than 30 will not be deported. Whoops! What happened to the rule of law?

Hitting closer to home for prolifers is his administration's arbitrary decree that all institutions must provide contraception, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations in their insur-

# 3. Keep close watch on your children. It's best to keep them at your side. Don't let them run around, especially on abortuary property.

- 4. Don't let strangers approach your children, particularly those associated with the abortuary. Consider that they participate in the murder of children. In light of that, why would you presume that they mean well to your own children?
- 5. If you notice inappropriate behavior towards your children, say something and don't be afraid to ask other pro-lifers for help. If necessary, take

your children away. They are your first priority.

6. Please don't ask other pro-

6. Please don't ask other prolifers to amend what they're doing to accommodate your children. Remember that their first job is to save babies. If there are graphics and they trouble your children, remember that the pictures are there because they're effective in stopping abortion. If you have to take your children away, we understand.

Your own children are your first responsibility before God. Please let that consideration be your sole guidance with regards to them coming to the abortuaries. ance plans, regardless of whether doing so violates their religious beliefs.

"Planning leads to dictatorship because dictatorship is the most effective instrument of coercion," observed Hayek.

In one of the most intriguing chapters in *Road to Serfdom*, titled "Why the Worst Get on Top," Hayek explained that socialism can only be put into practice by the worst elements in society – those who have no compunction against depriving people of their freedoms and using brutal methods to enforce the government's dictates.

Unscrupulous men will not hesitate to appeal to the lowest common denominator — to "the docile and gullible who have no strong convictions of their own," said Hayek.

Skillful demagogues find it easiest to sway the populace based on a negative program – on the hatred of an enemy, or on the envy of those better off – whether it be the "Jew" in Nazi Germany or the "kulak" in Soviet Russia, he noted.

Our current administration's demonization of "the rich who do not pay their fair share" comes to mind.

Obviously, in the 68 years since *Road to Serfdom* was published, neither England nor America has sunk to the depths of Nazi Germany.

But Hayek's prescient observations offer some striking and thoughtprovoking parallels to the current state of our nation.

Hayek's masterful elucidation of the importance of a free market economy and the dangers of socialism to individual freedom rings as true today as it did in 1944.

Road to Serfdom is the "basic reader" for all who are concerned with the welfare of their country and the protection of the rights and dignity of the individual.

## Face the Truthers are pro-life vanguard, says Wilde

They called it a miracle.

At the mass shooting in the theater in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20, 22-year-old Petra Anderson was shot in the head.

"A millimeter wrong in any direction and her brain would have been destroyed," noted Fr. Denis Wilde of Priests for Life. "But it seems as if the bullet passed through her brain without harming anything vital."

Doctors who removed the bullet found that Petra had an unknown birth defect – a tiny vein of fluid in her skull. The bullet traveled through that abnormal vein, missing the vital parts of the young woman's brain.

Petra's miraculous recovery "is just one example of God working through the darkness," Father Wilde told the pro-lifers gathered for lunch at St. Mary's Church in Baltimore during the Face the Truth Tour July 26.

The mass shootings and killings in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20 were very visible and rightly horrified the American public, said the priest.

In contrast, the city of Aurora, Illinois, has one of the largest Planned Parenthood abortion mills in the country. There, thousands of unborn babies are killed each year with little notice or interest taken by the public.

With the Face the Truth tours, pro-lifers help God work through the darkness of public ignorance about what abortion really is.

"We see things and we don't see things," said Wilde. "So much in life is about seeing. That's why what you are doing is so important. You are in the vanguard of the prolife movement." Many times in our pro-life work, we can get distressed, Father admitted.

"But I don't think this work we're doing gets us depressed; on the contrary, it enlivens us!"

Planned Parenthood has only two "P"s, Wilde noted – but the prolife movement has at least six:

1. Prayer. "We should always



Between stops on the Truth Tour, Fr. Denis Wilde treats pro-lifers to an impromptu organ recital at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

pray. But in this instance, what we're fighting against comes out of the bowels of hell." Get perpetual adoration started in your parish, he recommended. "Our prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is very powerful." And secondly, pray the Rosary.

- 2. Persuasion. "The message is simple, just two questions: 'Is it human?' and 'May I kill it?' We have to come back to these basic questions and not be diverted."
- 3. Presence. Face the Truth tours and 40 Days for Life are two ways to be present to people

- vulnerable to abortion or hurting from abortion.
- 4. Political responsibility. We have to be vocal about abortion politically, Father insisted. "We have to pray that our Church gets off their concern about tax exemption and gets back to standing up for the precepts of the Church. There's so much that we can do in this area that is legal leafleting is just one example. As Priests for Life Director Fr. Frank Pavone has said, "American will not stop abortion until it sees abortion." Father Wilde rejected the frequent complaint that showing graphic pictures of aborted babies is "traumatizing" to children He recalled that one child's response upon seeing such a picture was, "Who broke the baby?" "They know that something is wrong, but they're not traumatized," he asserted. "I know we still have a split in the pro-life community on this issue, but I don't think it's as strong as it used to be."
- 6. Perseverance. "In darkness, in times of evil, we cannot be sucked up by their words, like 'choice,' 'reproductive rights' and 'clinic,'" said Wilde: refuse to use their terminology.

"It's a dark time, but without losing sight of the sobriety and horror of abortion, it's an exciting time," said the priest.

"We are doing God's work."

## Nurse describes lucrative, deadly business of organ donation

#### By Ellen Staniszewski

Speaking at the Imposed Death 2012 conference on stealth euthanasia in Minnesota, June 2, Julie Grimstad, LPN, founder of Life is Worth Living, Inc., explained how donating organs may unintentionally result in premature death.

In today's health care industry, transplanting organs is big business, and you or a loved one may unwittingly end up dying so a doctor can harvest your organs before you are dead, said Grimstad.

In fact, after a person dies, his organs are no longer transplantable; hence, organs donated must be taken while a person is still alive.

Consenting to donate one kidney, one lobe of a liver, part of a lung, or tissue is charitable and acceptable, since the donor is still able to live a healthy life after making such a donation.

But removing the heart, lungs, or the whole liver for organ donation will always result in the death of the donor, who might have lived a normal and healthy life with lifesaving treatment.

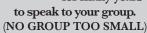
"Harvesting organs from live people is happening in the United States today," said Grimstad; "by declaring a person brain dead, doctors may begin harvesting the vital organs for the lucrative business of

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organ transplantation.

"The problem with declaring a person brain dead is that the criterion is different for each doctor, hospital, and state. Decisions may be made in less than an hour, based on the presumed lack of 'quality of life,' without even conducting tests to ascertain brain activity."

Cardiac arrest victims are often



Organs for transplantation must be taken while the donor is still alive, says Julie Grimstad.

declared dead in 75 seconds, said Grimstad. Unfortunately, cardiac and accident victims may unwittingly have their organs harvested, causing their death, unless the family intervenes and stops the harvesting.

Grimstad recommends refusing an apnea test (removing the ventilator for ten minutes), to test the patient's breathing, because many victims will recover if they have more time to heal before removing the ventilator.

Organ harvesting from the "brain dead" is a grisly business. "When the incision is made to remove organs, the donor often reacts by moving, grimacing, or squirming, unless first given a paralyzing drug," according to Paul A. Bryne,

M.D., a neonatologist who has authored many books and articles against euthanasia, abortion, and "brain death."

As a doctor wrote in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1994, "The signs of life in brain dead patients...are very real and cannot be discounted in human terms, even if we have done so in public policy."

Pope John Paul II, in *Evangelium Vitae* (n. 15), declared: "Nor can we remain silent in the face of other more furtive, but no less serious and real, forms of euthanasia. These could occur for example when, in order to increase the availability of organs for transplants, organs are removed without respecting objective and adequate criteria which verify the death of the donor."

Many countries and states now operate under the rule of "presumed consent": that everyone altruistically wants to donate their organs, unless otherwise stated.

"Every state except for New York, Illinois, Florida, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico has enacted presumed consent laws, meaning that you are presumed to be an organ donor unless you have a signed card refusing to donate your organs," said Grimstad.

The written refusal must be kept where it can be easily found by the hospital staff.

"Someone suggested tattooing it on your chest, but that might be going too far," quipped Grimstad.

She recommends carrying a signed card in your wallet or purse stating that you refuse to be an organ donor, as well as telling your family and friends of your decision.

## Massachusetts to vote on assisted suicide law in November

#### By Ellen Staniszeweski

Massachusetts voters are confronting an assisted suicide law on the ballot in November. Only two states, Washington and Oregon, have legalized assisted suicide, with doctors prescribing fatal drugs to the terminally or incurably ill who wish to die.

"The vote in Massachusetts is pivotal in stopping assisted suicide in the United States," said Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition at Imposed Death 2012, a conference held in Minnesota on June 2.

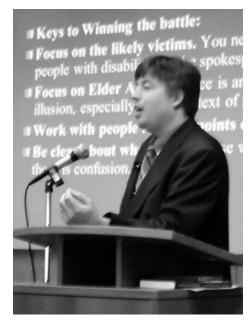
Legalization of assisted suicide adds to the prevailing culture of death, warned Schadenberg. It opens the door to killing the handicapped, terminally ill, depressed, teenagers and the elderly.

"This attempt, if successful, would leave the other New England states vulnerable to assisted suicide Assisted suicide leads to euthanasia. abuse, and early death of the elderly, as well as increases in all types of euthanasia and suicide."

Elders will be at considerable risk from their own heirs if Massachusetts votes for assisted suicide, says Margaret Dore, president of Choice Is an Illusion, a nonprofit organization opposed to assisted suicide and euthanasia.

"The proposed Massachusetts act is a recipe for elder abuse," writes Dore, an attorney licensed in Washington State, where assisted suicide is legal.

"Key provisions include that an heir, who will benefit financially from a patient's death, is allowed to participate as a witness to help sign the patient up for the lethal dose...allowing one of two witnesses on the lethal



Legalization of assisted suicide in Massachusetts would lead to euthanasia and other evils, warns Alex Schadenberg.

dose request form to be an heir."

This situation invites undue influence and coercion, says Dore.

"Once the lethal dose is issued by the pharmacy, there is no oversight. For example, there are no required witnesses when the lethal dose is administered.

"Without disinterested witnesses, an opportunity is created for an heir, or someone else who will benefit from the patient's death, to administer the lethal dose to the patient without his consent. Even if he struggled, who would know?"

Additionally, all suicides will

likely increase in Massachusetts, as happened in Oregon.

"Based on an Oregon Public Health report released in 2010, Oregon's overall suicide rate, which excludes suicide under Oregon's assisted suicide act, is 35 percent above the national average," noted William L. Toffler, MD, a physician in Oregon.

The report documents that the rate has been "increasing significantly since 2000."

Oregon enacted its assisted suicide law in 1997, leading to the dramatic increase in suicide, even among teens.

The number of suicides in Oregon keeps climbing, wrote Maxine Bernstein in The Oregonian.

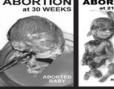
"According to the state's violent death report, there were 566 suicides in 2008, 641 in 2009, and preliminary figures show 670 in 2010. The number of calls to Oregon Partnership's Suicide Lifeline has risen from 11,303 in 2008 to 19,016 in 2010."

"Oregon's rate has been consistently higher than the rest of the country," said state epidemiologist Katrina Hedberg. "We do not have adequate resources to address the problem."

For more information on efforts to defeat the Massachusetts assisted suicide law, see the Mass Against Assisted Suicide website, massagainstassistedsuicide.org.



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