



*"Promoting Respect for All Human Life
Through Prayer, Education, Advocacy and
Compassionate Care for Everyone"
(P. E.A.C.E.)*

**RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
NEWSLETTER
ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
LINCOLN CA**



Archangel St. Michael by Guido Reni

CALIFORNIA HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT

2009 - NO. 4

Update & Commentary

By Gneal Trevethan

**MISSION STATEMENT (EXCERPT)
RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

We commit ourselves to promote respect for human dignity and the protection of all human life through prayer, education, advocacy, and pastoral care under parish and diocesan guidance.

In our last newsletter, we reported that a Constitutional Amendment initiative, the California Human Rights Amendment, has been submitted to the Attorney General's office for assignment of a Title and Summary, so that signature gathering can begin the process of putting this initiative on the Nov. 2010 ballot. The text of the initiative is: **"The term 'person' applies to all living human beings from the beginning of their biological development, regardless of the means by which they were procreated, method of reproduction, age, race, sex, gender, physical well-being, function, or condition of physical or mental dependency and/or disability."**

On November 30, a Title and Summary was issued by the Attorney General along with a deadline of collecting 694,354 valid signatures by April 29, 2010. Instead of using the title given by the author, "The California Human Rights Amendment," the official title is now: **"Changes Constitutional Definition of a Person to Include Fertilized Human**

Eggs." In my opinion, this title is inaccurate and unfair. Once a human egg is fertilized, it is no longer an egg. Scientifically, it is a unique living individual human being. Furthermore, the amendment includes ALL human beings, no matter how they began their biological development and no matter what their stage of development. Would a more accurate and fair title have been something like, "Amends Constitution to Define Persons as All Living Human Organisms from the Beginning of their Biological Development"?

The Respect Life Ministry discussed our involvement in this initiative signature gathering. We consulted the Diocese and were forwarded a response from the California Catholic Conference, stating in part that, "As an individual, you are certainly free to support the effort (which of course is laudable) but in California it is neither politically feasible or legally efficacious. The Bishops have made a prudential judgment not to support the effort." Because the Respect Life Ministry has a commitment to operate under "pastoral and diocesan guidance" in consultation with Father Eric, we decided not to gather signatures in the parish, but to offer information about the initiative, encourage everyone to find out more at www.civilrightsfoundation.org and make a decision about personal involvement in this project. If you have any questions or thoughts you want to discuss, please call me at 916-655-3940.

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PRAYER PARTNERS KEEP PRAYING

THEREFORE I TELL YOU, ALL THAT YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER, BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE IT AND IT SHALL BE YOURS. MK 11:24.



**Everyone Against Abortion
Please Raise Your Hands**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Gneal Trevethan
RLM Chairperson
916-655-3940

Good News!

As you know, some of our prayer warriors have agreed to be contacted to pray for specific women who are considering abortion. Most of these women are clients of A Woman's Friend. Sometimes we don't know the outcome. Sometimes they do choose abortion and this is so sad. We are overjoyed when they choose life for their babies! I've just reviewed this past year's requests and I want to report to all our prayer warriors the **good news** that **Kathy, Becky, Angie, Jasmine, Jan, Gloria, Mary, Mandy, Allison, Sonja, Ann, Madeline and Cheryl** (all fictitious names) who were considering abortion, decided to carry their babies! If you are not currently receiving these special prayer requests, but would like to be part of this very important part of our ministry, please just e-mail me at wrevthan@hughes.net or give me a call at 916-655-3940.

A New Year's Invitation

It's been almost **five years** since our ministry began and many of you made your first commitment as prayer warriors. **There's now 425 of you!** Thank you so much for your faithfulness in praying. Prayer for Life is needed now more than ever! During the month of January, we thought it would be a good idea to contact each of you to thank you, remind you which prayer commitments you chose when you first became a prayer warrior and give you the opportunity to change them if you want. So, be looking for a letter or e-mail about mid-January. Also, the last week-end in January, we're going to be extending an invitation to all our parishioners to sign up to join the Respect Life Prayer Ministry. Please be praying that many will accept this invitation!

Health Care Update Since our newsletter is going to press during the week between Christmas and New Year's, this latest information on the Health Care legislation in Congress should be "up to date." The House bill, approved on November 7, contained the Stupak-Pitts Amendment, which would prohibit federal subsidies from paying any part of the premium of a plan that covers elective abortions. The Senate bill was approved on Christmas Eve. Earlier, an amendment to prevent federal funding of elective abortions was "killed." According to a News Release by the USCCB www.usccb.org, "In the Senate bill, federal funds will help subsidize, and in some cases a federal agency will facilitate and promote, health plans that will cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions in a very direct and explicit way, through a separate premium payment designed solely to pay for abortion. There is no provision for individuals to opt out of this abortion payment in federally subsidized plans, so people will be required by law to pay for other people's abortions. It also includes no conscience protection allowing Catholic and other institutions to provide and purchase health coverage consistent with their moral and religious convictions on other procedures. **In all the areas of our moral concern, the Senate health care reform bill is deficient.**"

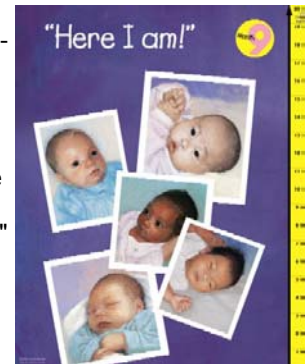
The National Right to Life Committee www.nrlc.org explains the separate abortion premium payment as a "bookkeeping gimmick," in which enrollees in an abortion-covering plan would make a separate payment (a surcharge) into an account that will pay for abortions, but that the bill contains language that is ap-

parently intended to prevent or discourage any insurer from explaining what this surcharge is to be used for. The NRLC also opposes the Senate bill as containing highly objectionable provisions that threaten the lives of older people and those with disabilities, including significant limits on Americans' right to spend their own money to save their own lives.

WHAT'S NEXT? Congressional Democratic leaders will seek to reconcile the Senate bill with the House bill. There will probably be an attempt to remove the Stupak-Pitts Amendment from the final bill. Pray for Rep. Stupak, who is under a great deal of pressure. We must keep contacting our Senators and Representatives at www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Spiritual Adoption

On March 25, we began our Spiritual Adoption project to coincide with the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation and Jesus' nine months of development before birth. Our "spiritually adopted" babies were "due" **Dec. 25**. In March, **240 parishioners** signed up to "adopt" a baby, but during these nine months over **1200 Spiritual Adoption prayer cards** and **700 Milestones of Early Life book-marks** (all we had!) have been distributed from our poster displays.



Over **200 items of baby clothing** were brought to our Spiritual Adoption baby shower and donated to the Sacramento Life Center and A Woman's Friend. We received very gracious "thank you" letters from both of these pregnancy centers. Your prayers and generosity have made a BIG differ-

ence in many lives!

Dear Spiritual Adoption Parents:

I want to pass along to you a good suggestion from one of the other "parents." She plans to continue her prayers by praying for all the women who chose abortion. Their need is great. This is so true. I have had clients at A Woman's Friend who are so hurting from past abortions. Maybe some of you saw the "National Enquirer" headline this week as you were checking out of the grocery store. It was Britney Spears saying "I Killed my Baby." I didn't want to actually buy the magazine, so I went online. The article described how she is suffering emotionally from her abortion two years ago at about this time of year. So, let us pray that she and all post-abortive women who are suffering will receive the consolation and healing that only God can give and that somehow God will bring good out of their tragic decisions.

**Excerpts from
Fr. Eric's Homily
Respect Life Sunday
(cont'd from last News-
letter)**



(Ed Note:Fr. Eric's Homily referenced Ontario Canada Msgr. Robt Latour's Homily on Respect Life Sunday 2008)

It is clear in the Gospels that Jesus had a special love and concern for the oppressed, for the poor, for the outcasts of society, for sinners. We too must have a genuine love and concern for the needy if we are to foster life and not death. Many people today have heavy burdens of various kinds to carry in life. Let us support them as best we can. Some are struggling to care for sick and aged parents. Others are caring for a severely handicapped child. Let us help them when we can. Some young women are in great spiritual and psychological pain carrying a heavy burden of guilt because they have had an abortion, or because they have been physically or sexually abused. We need to help, not condemn, young single mothers who see no way out of their situation. We must help them find positive ways to bring to birth and nurture the new life they have conceived. Making a choice for life takes a lot of courage because the young single mother's own life will not be the same, but greatly changed with this new responsibility. We need to encourage everyone and at all times to make loving choices for life, and not for death. It is not easy being in the public eye these days. Politicians and others in public office must do their best to promote life too in our society. **As Catholics elected to office it takes much courage to stand up for the truth and to defend the teachings of Jesus as we understand them. It is wrong, in my view, for someone in public life to say that he or she is personally against abortion or against same-sex unions, for example, but at the same time does not want to impose his or her moral beliefs on others. That kind of stance is wrong I believe because we are not two persons but one and we cannot turn on and off our moral values like a switch being for something at one time and when convenient be against it at another. Catholics serving in public life must do so as any other Catholic, and that is follow at all times the teachings of Jesus as we receive them from the Church."**

"May the God of Life, may Jesus His Divine Son, who conquered death for us all, strengthen us as we struggle to live life to the full and to defend and promote all human life wherever we are."

**NATIONAL RESULTS
OVER TWO YEARS**

David Bereit, Nat'l Director, reflects on how God has blessed **40 Days for Life** since it began as a national -- and then international -- movement just over two years ago:

- * 678 unique local 40 Days for Life campaigns
- * 282 cities in all 50 states and numerous other countries
- * 300,000+ participants
- * 9,500+ church congregations involved
- * 650+ news stories
- * 2,168 lives confirmed saved
- * 27 abortion workers quit
- * 5 abortion facilities closed

**ROSEVILLE GETS OFFICIAL
40 DAYS FOR LIFE SITE**

David Coit
Co-Director
916-784-0765

Jan England
Co-Director
916-749-6719

**Placer County (Roseville)
40 Days for Life
Lenten Season, 2010**

February 17th - March 27th

- + Bringing the light & love of Christ to expectant couples
- + *Nationwide time of prayer & fasting*
- + *Peaceful, prayerful presence at local abortion sites*
- + *Healing and compassion to people hurt by abortion*

Our first planning meeting is Monday, January 4th, 2010, 7:00 pm At St. Rose of Lima Cafeteria, 615 Vine Ave., Roseville, CA. Everyone is welcomed and needed ~ Please join us! See www.40daysforlife.com/roseville/ for details



Dec. 22, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I invite all Catholic men and women in the Diocese of Sacramento as well as all people of good will to join together for a day of fasting, abstinence, prayer and works of charity in observance of Friday, January 22, 2010, as a day of reparation for the sinful national scourge of abortion. We mark the day in this manner because it is the lamentable anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade.

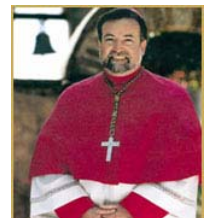
There will be a Mass celebrated at the Cathedral on that day at 12:10pm. All are invited to attend.

As a guide to those who are able to fast on that day, it is recommended that those fasting limit themselves to one full meal. Those choosing to abstain may refrain from eating meat that day or from anything that is normally consumed as part of one's daily routine. Works of charity are particularly encouraged: helping at a food distribution center, visiting the sick or imprisoned, assisting at shelters for women-in-need and families.

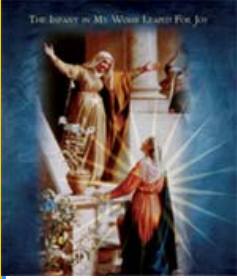
Through our acts of penance and works of charity on this day, we will express our desire to restore a culture of life and civilization of love in this country so marred by the Court decision of Roe v. Wade as well as other acts of violence against the innocent.

May the prayers as well as the practices of penance and charity bring us into fuller communion with the life-giving work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
+ Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento



ABORTION AND INCREASED RISK OF BREAST CANCER



ABORTION AND BREAST CANCER: THE LINK THAT WON'T GO AWAY

By *Angela Lanfranchi, M.D., FACS*

She has been in private practice of surgery since 1984 and specializes in the treatment of breast cancer.

(Ref: www.usccb.org/prolife, 2007)

There are many well established and well known causes of breast cancer, such as inheriting a defective gene associated with increased breast cancer risk and being exposed to oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy. There are lesser known risks of breast cancer such as cigarette smoking before a full term pregnancy and induced abortion. Women need this information.

Over fifty years ago, in April 1957, the first study reporting a link between abortion and an increased risk of breast cancer was published in a major medical journal. By 1995, after abortion was widely legalized in the West, 17 studies worldwide showed a statistically significant abortion-breast cancer link.

Over the last thirty years, 48 million abortions have been done on American women and breast cancer incidence has risen 40%. Actuary Patrick Carroll, looking at data from several countries, concluded that abortion is the greatest predictor of a country's breast cancer rate.

Over ten years ago, in 1996, Dr. Joel Brind and colleagues from Pennsylvania State University published a meta-analysis of all the known published studies to date on breast cancer that distinguished between induced and spontaneous abortions (miscarriages). That rigorous quantitative analysis demonstrated a 30% increased risk of breast cancer in women who had an induced abortion.

Biology of Pregnancy Outcomes and Breast Cancer Risk

Years of published research have shed light on the breast maturation process that accounts for the protective effect of a full term pregnancy. During pregnancy breasts enlarge, doubling in volume. Most of the breast maturation needed for resistance to breast cancer does not occur, however, until after 32 weeks of pregnancy, gaining maximum protection at 40 weeks (full term). This is why a premature delivery before 32 weeks more than doubles the risk of breast cancer.

If abortion is so clearly linked to breast cancer, why do so few physicians and women know about it?

Ideology, Breast Cancer and Abortion

Studies in the last ten years showing little or no association between breast cancer and abortion have so many flaws that they prompted Dr. Edward Furton, staff ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, to write "The Corruption of Science by Ideology" in 2004. Dr. Furton decried the "unwillingness of scientists to speak out against the shoddy research that is being advanced by those who deny the

abortion breast cancer link."

What May Cause the Denial of the Abortion-Breast-Cancer Link?

First, while we may idealize scientists as being above all personal biases and influences, the reality is that they, too, are human and can be influenced by many things other than the facts. Those influences may include cultural prejudices, sources of funding for research, and even sheer resistance to new or unwelcome ideas.

In a 2005 study "Scientists Behaving Badly," the scientific journal *Nature* revealed that, in an anonymous questionnaire, 15.5% of scientists who received grants from the National Institutes of Health admitted to changing study design, results and methodologies "in response to pressure from a funding source."

Ideology of "Safe" Abortion

This tendency to ignore or deny inconvenient information is especially strong when the subject is abortion. Documentation and public awareness of the negative effects of abortion poses a danger to Big Abortion (analogous to Big Tobacco).

The Abortion Breast Cancer Link is not likely to be disproved, because this finding rests on the biological facts about our created bodies. Pro-choice columnist Ellen Goodman in 2004 railed that research linking breast cancer to abortion "keeps reappearing no matter how many scientists drive a stake through its heart." **But the link is based on how we are made, and this reality won't ever go away.**

[Editor's Note: These Lifeneews.com Abortion-Breast Cancer are headlines and summaries on Abortion-Breast Cancer Links. Go to Lifeneews.com, search Abortion and Breast Cancer for a plethora of related news articles, linking Abortion to Breast Cancer.]



New Study Finds 66 Percent Increased Breast Cancer Risk After Abortion *LifeNews.com July 28, 2009*

Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) A new study done on women in Turkey who had abortions finds a 66 percent increased risk of contracting breast cancer as a result. The study is the latest to confirm that abortions cause significant adverse medical risks for women who have them, in addition to killing unborn children.



Research: Women in China See 17% Higher Breast Cancer Risk From Abortion *LifeNews.com November 12, 2009*

Beijing, China (LifeNews.com) -- Chinese researchers have issued a new study indicating women who have had abortions face a 17 percent higher chance of contracting breast cancer than women who carried their pregnancy to term. One leading American scientist says he believes the increased risk is even higher.