

ACTION NEWS

Spring 2006

Pro-Life Action League 6160 N. Cicero Ave. Chicago, IL 60646

Vol. XXV, No. 2

The Deception of Contraception

League Takes the Lead Exposing the Abortion-Birth Control Link

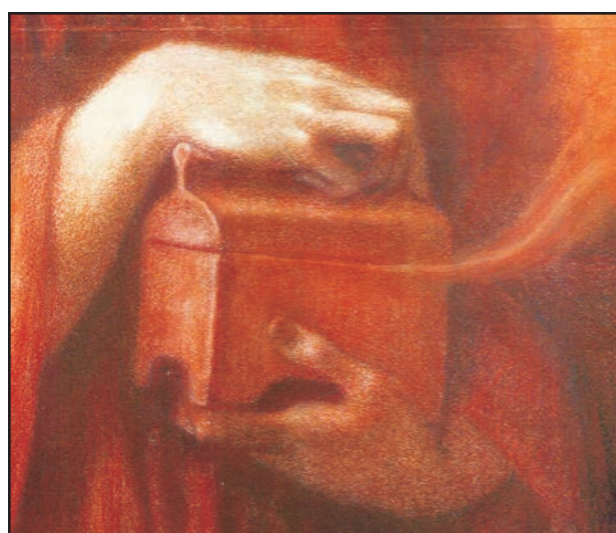
by Ann Scheidler

The Pro-Life Action League will hold the first-of-its-kind conference on the link between contraception and abortion on September 22 and 23, 2006 entitled, "Contraception Is Not the Answer." League director Joe Scheidler has long believed that we will not win the abortion battle until we acknowledge the roots of abortion in the contraceptive culture and summon the courage to confront society with the truth that contraception leads inevitably to the acceptance of abortion.

The idea for the September conference began to take shape during a lively discussion of the issue of contraception with Dr. Anthony Levatino, a former abortion provider who is now staunchly pro-life. Joe and Ann Scheidler visited Tony and his wife Ceil in Las Cruces, NM in March 2004. Joe spoke at the annual banquet of the Dona Ana County chapter of New Mexico Right to Life. Tony was speaking at a fundraising banquet for the Albuquerque CareNet centers.

National Pro-Life Leaders Consulted

On the drive from Albuquerque to Las Cruces—about two hundred miles—Joe told Tony he believed it was time for the pro-life movement to squarely confront the issue of contraception. Tony did not agree that there was necessarily a link



Study for Pandora, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (detail)
Contraception has unleashed a Pandora's Box of ills upon our society.

between birth control and abortion, but he did agree that the issue should be fully discussed.

After talking the idea over with a few other pro-life leaders, Joe decided to take the bull by the horns. He invited a group of pro-life leaders whose insight he valued, including Dr. Levatino, to come to Chicago for a closed-door discussion of how the pro-life movement could best address the topic of contraception.

The Chicago Forum Think Tank

That meeting in May 2005, dubbed the Chicago Forum, was extremely productive and led to a sec-

ond planning session in March 2006. Participants in the discussion held a wide range of views on the role of contraception in the anti-child mentality, the morality of birth control itself and the ability of the pro-life movement to effectively communicate our concerns about the impact of birth control on the culture.

After evaluating the recommendations from the Chicago Forum participants, we selected the topics we thought should be covered in the September conference—historic and religious attitudes toward contraception, the impact of contraception on women, marriage and society, the consequences of altering natural hormones in chemical forms of birth control, the challenge of promoting abstinence in today's sex-saturated society, and the demographic consequences of contraception, particularly in the United States.

Contraception Is Not the Answer

"Contraception Is Not the Answer" will bring together an impressive roster of nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers on these various important topics, including Sacred Heart Seminary Professor of Moral Theology Janet Smith, Acton Institute researcher and *National Catholic Register* columnist Jennifer Roback-Morse and demograph-

Continued on page 7

IN THIS ISSUE OF ACTION NEWS:

| | |
|--|---|
| "Law and Order" Seminar Schools Activists on Their Rights | 2 |
| Providence Abounds on Scheidlers' Trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin | 4 |
| THE VINEYARD: HELPERS NEWS | |
| Bill's Bumper Crop | 3 |
| Appleton Helpers Heat Up the North | 3 |
| Toasting a Helper's Happiness | 3 |
| Full of Holes: An Investigative Report | 4 |
| Activism Update | 4 |
| GENERATIONS FOR LIFE NEWS | |
| Youth Outreach News | 5 |
| NCR Story Profiles GFL | 5 |
| Pro-Life Teens on the Front Lines | 5 |
| New Educational Frontiers for GFL | 5 |
| Joe Opens International Pro-Life Conference in Dublin | 6 |
| 2006 Face the Truth Tour Launches in Downtown Chicago | 6 |
| Letters to the Editor | 7 |
| League Protests Pro-Abort Candidate Topinka | 7 |
| From the Director's Desk | 7 |
| Joe Scheidler Speaks at AUL Legal Institute | 8 |
| Joe and Ann on the College Circuit in Maryland and Virginia | 8 |

"Dr. Scheidler" Honored at Ave Maria University

On Saturday, May 6, The Pro-Life Action League's national director delivered the commencement address at Ave Maria University in Naples, FL. A Doctor of Law degree, *honoris causa*, was conferred on Scheidler by the provost of the university, Fr. Joseph Fessio, S.J.

In his remarks to the graduating class, Scheidler noted that his role at Catholic college graduations has often been as a protester where a pro-abortion speaker is featured. He commended the college for its commitment to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Many of the families of Ave Maria's students are pro-life activists themselves and warmly greeted Scheidler with recollections of various pickets and prayer vigils they had attended with him. Many of the members of the graduating class regularly go to abortion facilities in Naples and Ft. Myers to pray and counsel.

Joe Tells Students To Build a Culture of Life

In his address, Scheidler referred to Pope John Paul II's exhortation to build a culture of life and challenged the graduates to bring their talent and training to a world sadly in need of their idealism. Scheidler also quoted Pope Benedict XVI's Good Friday prayer in which the Pontiff warned that "we have lost our sense of sin."

"Ave Maria's graduates," said Scheidler, "believe in the existence of evil and know what is necessary to defeat it."

Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J. also received an honorary degree at the commencement ceremony, as did John Donahue, a member of the AMU Board of Trustees. The invitation to deliver the commencement address was issued

to Scheidler by Tom Monahan, former CEO of Domino's Pizza and founder of Ave Maria University.



Photo by Ave Maria University
Ave Maria University Provost Joseph Fessio, S.J. places a hood on honorary Law Degree recipient Joe Scheidler

NOTE: Our series on the League's history will continue in the Summer 2006 issue.

“Law and Order” Seminar Schools Activists on Their Rights

The Pro-Life Action League often fields calls from activists who want to know exactly what their rights are—activists who have perhaps been confronted by a police officer who tells them to “keep moving” as they are protesting at an abortion clinic, or have been told they could not hold graphic signs on a sidewalk. Julie McCreevy, the director of the League’s Helpers of God’s Precious Infants division, came up with the concept of holding a “Law and Order” seminar to take a comprehensive look at just what the rights of pro-life activists are.

We invited our attorney, Tom Brejcha, chief counsel of the Thomas More Society Pro-Life Law Center, and Terry Hodges, a retired Chicago police officer who currently teaches political science at two Chicago colleges, to spend an afternoon with activists, discussing our basic constitutional rights and the issues surrounding pro-life activities.

Starting off with a recording of the well-known theme song from the television series *Law and Order*, Ann Scheidler acted as moderator for the afternoon seminar. Drawing on his thirty years on the Chicago Police force, Terry Hodges presented a detailed picture of the police officer’s role. He told the audience of fifty people that first and foremost the police officer is taught that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution is the most important law of the land, and that all other laws, whether passed by Congress or by state or local law-making bodies, must not infringe upon the civil liberties guaranteed by the First Amendment. Law enforcement personnel take an oath, just like the president and members of Congress, to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

Police Are Required To Remain Neutral

That being said, however, Hodges pointed out that police officers have an enormous amount of discretion at the street level, since they are also commissioned to keep the peace and safeguard the public. He assured the activists that police officers, especially in a large city like Chicago, try to do their best to protect the rights of everyone involved in a demonstration. “The police do not take orders from the abortion mills,” he said. “They don’t take orders from you.” The police are expected to be neutral. Reading from the Chicago Police Department directives, Hodges listed several advisories for police officers investigating a First Amendment activity.

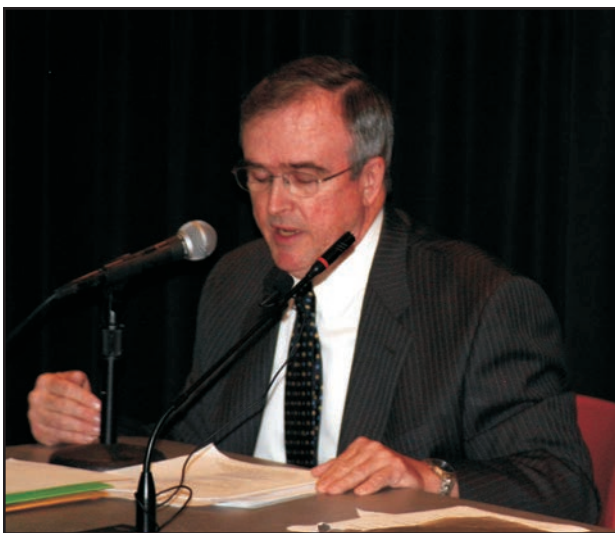


Photo by Eric Scheidler
Veteran Chicago Police officer Terry Hodges instructs activists at the “Law and Order” Seminar on dealing effectively with police

Typically, Hodges explained, if the police are called to an abortion clinic by the clinic personnel, they will take a few minutes to observe the situation before getting out of the squad car and going into the clinic. The officer will take information first from the individual who placed the call—in this case a clinic staff member. He will then speak to the pro-lifers and get their side of the situation. If the clinic has complained that pro-lifers are blocking the driveway into the clinic, he will question them, and perhaps remind them that blocking the entrance is prohibited. He is unlikely to make an arrest based solely on the word of a clinic employee or a pro-lifer. But he will make a report to document that he has assessed the situation. Both parties are entitled to get the number of the report in case they need it later.

Hodges also assured the audience that the last thing a police officer wants to do is put pen to paper and make an arrest, because it is much more



Photo by Eric Scheidler
Attorney Tom Brejcha explains how pro-life activists can defend their rights

work for him. But if either the clinic operator or the protester want to pursue having an arrest warrant issued, the individual should ask the officer where he or she should go to obtain a warrant and should ask the officer for the report number. The police ideally want to resolve a situation without an arrest.

Respect Is Key When Dealing with Police

Mr. Hodges advised that pro-lifers should always address an officer respectfully, using his or her title, “officer,” “sergeant,” and so forth. And he advised that even if you suspect the police officer is misinformed or misinterpreting the law, it is best to go along with what he tells you, and make a complaint or talk to a lawyer at a later time. Never, he said, should you tell an officer that you want to speak to his superior officer. If you want to go up the chain of command, get on your own phone and call for a superior to come to the scene.

Tom Brejcha, the lead attorney in the *NOW v. Scheidler* RICO case, told the audience that as a result of the recent unanimous victory in the United States Supreme Court in *NOW v. Scheidler*, pro-lifers no longer need be concerned that they could be hit with a RICO lawsuit.

Mr. Brejcha read from the text of the FACE bill (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances), passed in 1994, that one cannot “by force, or threat of force, or physical obstruction injure, intimidate or interfere” with someone because she is trying to get into an abortion clinic. The bill includes a section defining terms such as “intimidate,” limiting what seems like the broad scope of the bill.

Brejcha concurred with Hodges that protesters and sidewalk counselors are well-advised to do what they are told by police officers, then contact a lawyer to do further research into what the law or ordinance in a given town actually says. He said he has generally been successful in pointing out how a regulation has been misapplied, or in having an unconstitutional ordinance struck down.

Both law and order experts were emphatic that the usual activities of pro-life activists are classic First Amendment protected activity—freedom of speech, freedom of religious expression, freedom of assembly. Although they advised prudence, they also sought to impart to their audience the confidence to boldly pursue their pro-life activities.

Audio CDs of the seminar are available by calling the Pro-Life Action League at 773-777-2900.

Providence Abounds on Scheidlers’ Trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin

Green Bay, Wisconsin is known the world over for its famed football team, the Green Bay Packers and legendary quarterback, Brett Favre. Green Bay is also home to Relevant Radio and to A&A Alexandrina pregnancy assistance center. On April 28 Joe and Ann Scheidler were guests of both enterprises.

Joe Scheidler was invited to give the banquet address at the annual dinner and auction benefit for the A&A Alexandrina Crisis Pregnancy Center. The center takes its name from the life of the Venerable Alexandrina Maria de Costa who was paralyzed after jumping from a window as she attempted to escape from an attacker and preserve her purity. Her cause is on course for canonization.

In anticipation of the A&A banquet, center director Barbara Bartolazzi invited Joe and Ann to visit their center on Webster Street. Located in a small strip mall about a half-mile from the OB/Gyn Associates where abortions are performed, A&A has comfortable counseling rooms

where their counselors meet with clients, an ultrasound and an examining room, a resource center for expectant mothers and a pro-life library. The center’s medical director, Dr. Amy Schueckler, oversees the healthcare aspects of the center.

Visit to Studio Turns into Interview

After touring A&A, since there was still a little time before the evening festivities, the Scheidlers paid a visit to Relevant Radio headquarters. Lori Herlihy gave them a tour of the main facility and then took them to the studio where Drew Mariani was preparing for his afternoon program. Mariani invited the Scheidlers to join him in the studio and quickly changed the programming to accommodate an in-studio interview.

During the interview Joe and Ann had an opportunity to announce the League’s upcoming “Contraception Is Not the Answer” conference scheduled for September 22 and 23 (see story, page 1). Both Drew and callers to his program were

excited about the conference. Drew asked to be kept up to date on the details so that he could help get the word out to his listeners.

At the A&A banquet that evening, Joe spoke about the vital role of the crisis pregnancy center from an activist’s point of view. Sidewalk counselors, he said, rely on the compassion and the services of centers like A&A when they try to dissuade women from going in to abortion clinics.

Scheidler Hat on Auction

In addition to his banquet talk, Joe donated one of his famous hats to the auction. Drew Mariani, who served as master of ceremonies and auctioneer, was able to get the bidding up to \$250 for the Scheidler hat!

A special treat in Green Bay was the chance to get together with Laura Canning Ebert and her husband Michael. Laura worked with Joe Scheidler at Illinois Right to Life in the mid-seventies. Her

Continued on page 8



The Vineyard

News from the Chicago Chapter of the
Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Helper Bill's "Bumper Crop"

by Julie McCreedy

I recently spoke with Bill Keen, a Chicago Helpers sidewalk counselor of many years. Bill possesses a tremendous love for abortion-bound moms and their unborn babies, as well as a talent for telling their stories.

One day, as we were delivering an entire truckload of furniture that had been donated to us for a mom whom Bill had turned away from abortion, I told him that I would like to write about some of the wonderful ways in which he has helped to save babies. Ever modest, he replied, "Oh, no, please don't write about me." When I explained that these stories could encourage and inspire those who read them, he said, "Well, that's important, so go ahead." (Out of respect for their privacy, I have not used the real names of the mothers whose stories Bill shared with me.)

In this limited space, I will only be able to share some of the broad outlines, so please bear in mind that Bill's care for these mothers and babies extends far beyond his meeting them and helping them choose life outside of the abortion mill. He continues to share in their joys and sorrows and provides for them in many ways, from delivering furniture and assembling baby cribs to helping with clothing and food. Bill is always available with a caring ear and a warm heart.

The Fruits of Kindness

With this in mind, I would like to share the stories of two pairs of twin babies that the Lord saved from abortion through the instrument of Bill. I like to call them "Bill's Bumper Crop." Here is a thumbnail sketch of the first half of the harvest:

Bill met the twins' mother, Taylor, through Janeen. Janeen had met Bill outside the Washington Street abortion facility where, without Bill's presence, she would have aborted her baby. Bill helped Janeen find an apartment, contributed to the deposit and first month's rent and has helped with food, furniture and friendship ever since.

Bill's charity touched Janeen so deeply that when her cousin Taylor came to her to tell her that she



Taylor and her family, including saved twins, Patrick and Paul.

was pregnant with twins (for the second time!) and planned to get an abortion, Janeen earnestly shared with Taylor all that she had learned of the beauty of life through her friendship with Bill. She also put Taylor in touch with Bill and together they ministered to Taylor with such sincerity that her heart was touched and she turned away from abortion.

Taylor gave birth to twin boys, Patrick and Paul. They are the apple of her eye, and the whole family—Taylor's mother, daughter and older twin boys—have welcomed them with delight.

A Family in Crisis

The second half of the harvest began with Bill's meeting Charlotte outside of the abortion center. Charlotte was on her way inside for an abortion because she just wasn't happy with her relationship. She and her boyfriend had no real financial troubles and had been together for several years and had a daughter together. However, they had not married, and were drifting apart. Abortion seemed like the answer.

Bill opened Charlotte's eyes to the possibility of a good life, a marriage, and a happy family. He explained the tragedy that would descend on her life as well as upon her boyfriend and daughter if she aborted her baby. At the time they met, Charlotte was about ten weeks pregnant, and didn't know that she, like Taylor, would give birth to twins. But she listened to Bill, and she too is now rejoicing. Her twins, Lucy and Jameel, are the love not only of her life but of their father's and big sister's as well.

Bill is keeping in close contact with this family as well, in hopes that Charlotte and her boyfriend will become more truly committed to each other, find a way to heal their relationship and consider anchoring their little family in marriage.

Bill can attest to the words of Our Lord that "the harvest is great." But Our Lord also tells us that "the workers are few." Please consider joining us and harvesting a bumper crop of your own.



Charlotte's twins, Lucy and Jameel

Photo by Bill Keen

Appleton Helpers Heat Up the North



Photo by Julie McCreedy

Chicago Helpers of God's Precious Infants Director Julie McCreedy traveled to Appleton, WI on Saturday, May 6 for a vigil with the Appleton Helpers, ably organized by Margie Beck (front row, second from left). The day began with a Helpers pro-life Mass at St. Pius X Church, followed by a prayer vigil at the Appleton Planned Parenthood. The group then returned to St. Pius for Benediction and a sidewalk counseling seminar led by Julie, followed by a lovely luncheon.

The privilege of working with such inspired counselors and prayer warriors made Julie's 400-mile round trip well worth it.

Toasting a Helper's Happiness



Just married, Vincent Tessitore toasts his radiant Brazilian bride, Gabriele. The couple's March 11, 2006 wedding took place at the church of Nossa Senhora do Brazil (Our Lady of Brazil) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Vince is a long time Chicago Helpers of God's Precious Infants sidewalk counselor. He has saved many babies and their parents from the tragedy of abortion. We wish this wonderful pair many blessings and much happiness.



"Let the children come to me."

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



Full of Holes Planned Parenthood's Horror Story about an Indiana PRC Just Doesn't Add Up

by John Jansen

In April, Planned Parenthood Federation of America sent an e-mail to its supporters alleging that an Indiana pregnancy resource center (PRC) had engaged in "a campaign of harassment and intimidation" against a pregnant 17-year old girl who had "unwittingly" walked into the center, which shares a parking lot with the Planned Parenthood facility.

Planned Parenthood claims an unnamed PRC in an unidentified Indiana location first passed itself off as an abortion facility, tricked the young woman into going for an appointment at its "other office"—the real Planned Parenthood facility across the lot—and then called the police to intercept her there, saying that she was a minor "being forced to have an abortion against her will."

Thereafter, the story continues, the PRC staff "proceeded to wage a campaign of intimidation and harassment over the following days." The story says the PRC staff showed up at the girl's home and even went to her school to urge classmates to pressure her not to have an abortion. The story grimly states: "Our clinic director reports that she was 'scared to death to leave her house.'"

Pro-lifers intercepted the Planned Parenthood communiqué and were immediately skeptical. The absence of specific details gave the story all the marks of an urban legend, and I decided to investigate Planned Parenthood's shocking claims.

Investigating Planned Parenthood's Story

The communiqué offered only three clues about the abortion facility involved in this alleged incident: that it was (1) run by Planned Parenthood, (2) in the state of Indiana, and (3) shared a parking lot with a pregnancy resource center. By cross referencing the Indiana Planned Parenthood locations with two national PRC databases, I found only one possible fit: A Woman's Choice in Indianapolis.

Now that I had identified the only place where this incident could possibly have occurred, I contacted the Indianapolis Police Department, reasoning that they would surely have filed a police report after responding to a tip that a girl was being forced to have an abortion. The IPD official I spoke with could find no trace of any police report corroborating Planned Parenthood's version of events. Nor were there any police reports related to the nearby pregnancy resource center. The police department official I worked with said that the police would be unlikely not to have filed a report on an incident like that described by Planned Parenthood.

Next I searched the Marion County Clerk's Office records to see if any lawsuits had been filed against the pro-life center. Again, nothing.

Planned Parenthood's story claimed that the young woman was "scared to death to leave her house," yet no police report was ever filed. No lawsuit was ever brought against those responsible for the alleged "campaign of harassment and intimidation." If this incident really took place, Planned Parenthood was apparently more interested in demonizing pro-lifers than in looking out for the welfare of this young woman.

Planned Parenthood Urged To Come Clean

On May 5 I published the results of my research on the Generations for Life and Pro-Life Action League websites, and we issued a national press release calling on Planned Parenthood to either substantiate its claims with hard evidence or admit that their story is a fabrication.

One enterprising pro-lifer brought the matter to the attention of Indiana State Senator Billie

ACTIVISM UPDATE

by John Jansen

200 Protest Planned Parenthood Express

On Saturday, March 4, the Pro-Life Action League joined the Illinois Right to Life Committee for the first of its monthly protests at the Planned Parenthood Express location in Orland Park, IL. Over 200 pro-lifers participated in the event organized by IRLC Executive Director Bill Beckman, who resides nearby.

Beckman's goal is to oust the Planned Parenthood Express facility, located less than two miles from Carl Sandburg High School. The Express locations—essentially outposts of Planned Parenthood's full-service clinics—dispense contraceptives and offer abortion referrals, with special discounts for clients seventeen and under.

Beckman notes that abortion profits are now Planned Parenthood's primary source of income, with the Express locations intended to increase their bottom line—at the expense of vulnerable teens. It was particularly fitting, therefore, that many of the pro-life protesters were teens themselves (see related story, page 5).

Wichita Clinic: CLOSED

After twenty years of performing abortions, Central Women's Services in Wichita, KS, is closed. CWS was open for abortions only about two days a month. It had been experiencing financial troubles recently, and was behind on its rent.

Operation Rescue staffer Cheryl Sullenger attended the clinic's yard sale of business supplies, office equipment, and furniture on May 26. "There really wasn't much there," said Sullenger. "It was very dingy and crowded inside, and not particularly clean. Most of the items for sale had seen better days, for sure. It must have been a very depressing experience to have had an abortion at such a dumpy office. As I toured the building, I felt a real sense of loss for the babies that died there."

OR President Troy Newman added: "We pray that Wichita's better known abortuary, George Tiller's Women's Health Care Services, will be the next to close."

Two Irish Activists Arrested

Two pro-life activists were arrested in Tullamore, County Offaly, while protesting the role of Ireland's Health Service Executive in the abortion

Breaux, concerned that Breaux might give credence to Planned Parenthood's claims, which appear designed to influence legislation that would restrict the activities of pro-life pregnancy resource centers. Sen. Breaux's legislative assistant, Cindy Felsten, wrote the following response, which we published on the Generations for Life website:

I looked into this email and yes it is a true story. Many of the Pregnancy Crisis Centers [sic] here are staffed by volunteers who are not trained. The information was put out to try to get people to stand up and ask for legislation to stop what some of these centers do.

Indiana Political Staffer Duped?

I called Cindy Felsten myself and she again insisted that Planned Parenthood's story is true. I asked how she was able to verify it. She told me that Planned Parenthood of Indiana official Michael McKillip had assured her by phone that their version of events was accurate.

Felsten admitted that McKillip did not divulge the facility nor even the city in which the incident was supposed to have occurred. When I asked her if she had contacted the pro-life center to get its version of events, she said, "No." It was troubling, even if not surprising, to witness the staff of an elected official shilling for Planned Parenthood and denigrating the integrity of Indiana PRC workers.



Photo by Eric Scheidler

Group protests Planned Parenthood Express in Orland Park, IL, March 4

of a 23-week baby in 2003. The case involved a 14-year old mother who was taken to England to have her unborn child killed. The girl's own mother, who was entitled to attend the hearing that would determine her grandchild's fate, was unable to attend the hearing due to the failure of the HSE's local chapter to provide transportation.

The activists, Donal O'Driscoll and Colm Callanan, were approached by an Irish national police officer who requested that they remove their picture of an aborted baby on the grounds that it was "offensive." Upon refusal, the two were arrested and detained in a cell for half an hour. The two will face a hearing in their case in July.

Alabama Authorities Close Abortion Clinic

The State of Alabama recently closed the Summit Medical Center in Birmingham and suspended abortionist Deborah Levich's license after an investigation into a botched abortion by clinic staff involving the delivery of a 6 pound, 4 ounce baby. A woman went to Summit on February 20, and was told after an ultrasound that she was six weeks pregnant when in fact she was 8 months along. In violation of state law, non-physicians then administered the abortion pill, RU-486, a drug approved by the FDA for use only in the first eight weeks of pregnancy.

Six days later, the woman delivered a six pound, four ounce dead baby at a hospital emergency room. An investigation into the facility showed that patient records were falsified to indicate that a doctor had administered RU-486, even though no doctor was present at Summit that day.

However, we can be encouraged that, thanks to the tools made available to pro-lifers on the Internet, Planned Parenthood's desperate attempt to deceive the public was widely publicized. I am gratified that our increasingly influential Generations for Life website played a part in exposing the lies of the culture of death.

ACTION NEWS

Publisher: Joseph M. Scheidler
Editor: Eric J. Scheidler
Assistant Editor: John Jansen
Contributors: Annie Casselman
John Jansen
Bill Keen
Julie McCreevy
Ann Scheidler
Joseph M. Scheidler
Eric J. Scheidler

We welcome Letters to the Editor and submissions from contributing writers. For comments, submissions or subscription information:

Pro-Life Action League
6160 N. Cicero Ave.
Chicago, IL 60646
Tel: 773-777-2900
Fax: 773-777-3061
E-mail: info@prolifeaction.org
Web: www.prolifeaction.org
Newsline: 773-777-2525

GENERATIONS FOR LIFE

YOUTH OUTREACH NEWS

by Annie Casselman and John Jansen

The spring semester has flowered with opportunities for Generations for Life to share the pro-life message and educate students on the life issues.

On March 1, John delivered GFL's Pro-Life 101 presentation to the Human Development classes at Proviso West High School in Hillside, IL, where he had spoken the previous year. The pro-life message was very well received, with several students showing emotion at the depictions of life before birth and the explanation of various abortion procedures.

John also gave the Pro-Life 101 talk at the Life! Youth Rally hosted by St. Jude Parish in New Lenox, IL on March 11 to an audience of teens and parents, all of whom found the presentation to be eye-opening. The Life! Youth Rally was inspired by the participation of two St. Jude parishioners, Margaret Motto and Vanessa Luna, in the 2005 GFL Youth Leadership Conference. Following the conference, Margaret and Vanessa worked with youth minister Jenny Krumdrick on ways to spread the pro-life message among their fellow teens. In addition to organizing the Life! Youth Rally, which they hope to make an annual event, Margaret started a pro-life club at nearby Lincoln-Way Central High School.

Junior High Kids Embrace Chastity

On April 9, Annie was invited back to St. Mary Parish in Byron, IL to give a chastity talk to the seventh and eighth grade Religious Education students. One young lady commented, "I loved the talk last year so I came back again to hear it with my sister who is in eighth grade. It was just as good this year. I really want to live chastity!" Two



John Jansen delivers a PowerPoint presentation at the Life! Youth Rally in New Lenox, IL, March 11

weeks later on April 26, Annie spoke at Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills, IL on chastity to the seventh and eighth grade Religious Education and Catholic school students. Both audiences were very welcoming and receptive.

John was privileged to hear nationally known chastity speaker Jason Evert speak to a standing-room only crowd at St. Patrick Parish in Lake Forest, IL on April 24. John manned a GFL display table at the event, where he made contact with dozens of pro-life teens and parents. St. Patrick youth minister Casey Ross, who had brought in John to give the Pro-Life 101 presentation earlier this year, hosted the talk, which was sponsored by the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office.

GFL also had a display table at the Illinois Catholic Homeschool Conference at the University of St. Francis in Joliet on May 19-20. John and Annie have worked a number of homeschool pro-life clubs, and hope to expand such clubs in the coming years.

PRO-LIFE TEENS ON THE FRONT LINES

On Saturday, March 4, two hundred pro-lifers converged on Orland Park, IL, to protest a new Planned Parenthood Express facility in the community (see story in "Activism Update" column, page 4.) Among those holding signs and praying were several teen groups, including a yellow-shirted legion from the pro-life club at Lincoln-Way Central High School in nearby New Lenox. The large teen contingent, with their infectious energy and enthusiasm, was a tremendous inspiration to the older generations.

The next day, League Communications Director Eric Scheidler posted an entry on the GFL Blog with pictures of some of the teen activists and brief remarks thanking them for their presence. Eric's post prompted an astonishing response, generating 343 comments, 326 more than any post had previ-



Some of the teens protesting Planned Parenthood Express, March 4

ously received. Since that time, such lengthy and involved discussions have become more frequent on the blog.

As Eric pointed out, Planned Parenthood has reason to be worried about this new generation of teens, whom polls consistently show to be the most pro-life segment of the population.

NCR STORY PROFILES GFL

GFL was proud to be featured in the Easter Week edition of the *National Catholic Register* in a favorable profile titled "Youth Well Spent." The article includes remarks from Annie and John as well as from some of the students whom they have helped to start pro-life clubs at their schools, including Sandra Ramirez, who started a club at Loretto Academy in El Paso, TX and is now president of the pro-life club at the University of Dallas.

The publicity generated by the article has been a boon for GFL, contributing to a marked rise in traffic on the GFL website in the month of April. A copy of the article can be found online at: http://generationsforlife.org/images/NCR_Article.pdf

NEW EDUCATIONAL FRONTIERS FOR GFL

For four years, Generations for Life has educated high school and college students on abortion and pro-life activism, delivering scores of classroom presentations and shipping hundreds of student packets. As we have become better known, we have also begun to receive interview requests from students across the country, particularly during the peak term paper months of December and May.

This spring, Annie and John were interviewed by high school students in Arizona, Minnesota, Missouri, and Illinois, and college students from the Metropolitan State College of Denver, Northern Kentucky, George Mason, the University of Illinois-Chicago, DePaul, and Northwestern. Interviews are a welcome opportunity to communicate the pro-life message one-on-one—and the interviewer usually learns more than he or she knew there was to learn!

DuPage County, Here We Come!

Another new educational opportunity may be opening up for Generations in DuPage County, Illinois. At the end of April, Annie received a call from Barbara Urbik of Woman's Choice Services, who wants to help Generations and the GFL Curriculum get into all the high schools of DuPage County. Barbara sees enough teenagers from week to week to know that the pro-life message is needed in the schools.

On May 8, Annie met with Barbara and Woman's Choice Services Director Peter Breen to lay out a strategy for getting Generations for Life into the high schools in their area. Barbara will be contacting public and Catholic schools over the summer to schedule speaking engagements for Annie and John all over DuPage County this coming fall.

Save the Date!

GENERATIONS FOR LIFE PRO-LIFE YOUTH CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, 10-21-2006
10:00AM-3:00PM

SACRED HEART CHURCH
LOMBARD, ILLINOIS

Look for a registration form in the next Action News or register online later this summer at generationsforlife.org.

Joe Opens International Pro-Life Conference in Dublin

Joe Scheidler gave the opening talk at Ireland's Youth Defence Fourth International Conference in Dublin on March 24. He spoke on the role of the Supreme Court, both in his own RICO case, *NOW v. Scheidler* and with respect to the anticipated fall of *Roe v. Wade*.

Scheidler gave a brief background on the Supreme Court and some of its more notorious rulings, such as the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 in which the Court ruled that blacks "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the Negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit." He was bought and sold and treated as an ordinary article of merchandise and traffic, whenever profit could be made by it.

Roe v. Wade, Scheidler said, is another ruling which will be forever hailed as a travesty. Attempts to soften the blow of *Roe v. Wade*, or to overturn it entirely, have been made for the past thirty-three years. American citizens never had the chance to vote on whether they wanted abortion on demand, Scheidler said, and polls show that they clearly do not support the wide-open parameters of *Roe*.

European Pro-Lifers Look to U.S.

When Scheidler mentioned the recently passed legislation in South Dakota, which would outlaw nearly all abortions, the audience erupted in enthusiastic applause. Irish and European pro-lifers are encouraged by the signs of a turning tide in the United States, and the impact that will have on the rest of the world. Scheidler told the



Photo by Ann Scheidler
Joe (left) joins Irish activists protesting at a Marie Stopes center in Dublin, which refers Irish women to abortion facilities in England

international audience that he fully expected *Roe v. Wade* to be either overturned or significantly undercut in the near future, and that once America outlaws abortion, it will have a ripple effect on the rest of the world.

Turning to the *NOW v. Scheidler* case, Scheidler said, there is a bright side to the Court. He explained how the Justices on the current court seemed well informed and genuinely concerned about the broad implications of applying the racketeering statute to political protesters. He emphasized the importance of the First Amendment in the United States and the Court's protection of First Amendment rights, even for those whose message is unwelcome.

Speakers from Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, the United States and Ireland covered a broad spectrum of pro-life issues during the three-day international conference. Organizers from Youth Defence also provided traditional Irish entertainment each evening of the conference, including Irish music and a Ceili dance. Joe

Scheidler's wife, Ann, accompanied him on the trip to Ireland and had opportunities to discuss pro-life concerns with attendees from England, Ireland, Africa and Ireland.

Scheidlers Join Marie Stopes Protest

The Scheidlers and several other American pro-life activists joined Youth Defence in their regular protest of the Marie Stopes abortion referral center. Over one hundred protesters lined both sides of the street in front of the center, chanted pro-life slogans and held signs alerting passing motorists to the tragedy of abortion.

Following the Youth Defence conference, the Scheidlers went to Northern Ireland at the invitation of Precious Life President Bernie Smyth to address a group of activists who regularly counsel outside the abortion referral center in Belfast. Although Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom, abortion is not permitted there, due to the determined efforts of Precious Life. Members of Precious Life are on duty every day and every hour that the referral center is open, offering women alternatives and telling them the truth about abortion.

The Scheidlers then spent a few days touring Ireland before heading back to the United States. One of the benefits of attending a pro-life conference outside the U.S. is the contact with like-minded people from other parts of the world. The pro-life world is virtually of one mind in the effort to restore respect for the unborn, spare women the tragedy of abortion and expose the propaganda that has led to the acceptance of abortion.

2006 Face the Truth Tour Launches in Downtown Chicago

by Eric Scheidler

On Wednesday, April 12—Spy Wednesday of Holy Week, when the Church remembers Judas conspiring to hand over Jesus—twenty dedicated Pro-Life Action League members hit the streets of downtown Chicago to launch the spring phase of the 2006 Face the Truth Tour.

The Tour group began at Wacker Drive and Madison Street for an "early bird" site, 7:30-9:00 a.m., showing the truth about abortion to the large crowds of morning commuters crossing the Chicago River from the Metra rail stations. Hundreds of pieces of literature were distributed and volunteers received more positive comments than usual, including e-mail messages sent to the League later that day praising the Tour and asking for information on getting involved in the fight against abortion.

A pair of pro-abortion counter-protesters with NARAL signs stood off to the side for a short time during the beginning of the Tour site. No other counter-protesters were seen that day.



Photo by Eric Scheidler
Truth Day at Daley Plaza, May 17, pro-abortion group at left

Chicago Police Hassle Pro-Life Father

The second site of the day, along the west side of Lake Shore Drive near Buckingham Fountain, was marked by an unusually large police presence. Five police vehicles monitored the pro-life protest, including a surveillance van which parked for a while on the median of the Drive, apparently videotaping the scene.

About an hour into the demonstration, a police seargent who had been circling the block over and over pulled up on the sidewalk and took objection to the fact that two signs were being held by pairs of children—my children, as it happened. Though the seargent claimed to be concerned for their safety, his manner was usually belligerent for a Chicago police officer, and he seemed bent on entrapping me into admitting I was acting irresponsibly for having my children on the Tour.

Though nothing could be further from the truth—my children, one of whom is actually a teen, were several feet from the flow of traffic and are experienced Truth Tour participants—we decided to conclude this site early because of the intimidating behavior of the police. The League's attorneys were alerted to the problem and are preparing a response if this sort of police reaction is encountered again.

Baby Malachi an Imposter?

On May 17, we brought the Tour to another favorite site, downtown Chicago's Daley Plaza. Hundreds of Chicagoans on their lunch hour saw the League's abortion signs and received literature on abortion. A man whose cousin had scheduled an abortion spoke to one of our twenty volunteers and was given resources and encouragement to help him talk her out of the abortion.



Photo by Eric Scheidler
A bus shelter advertisement provided a uniquely appropriate location for a third trimester "Choice" sign during the April 12 Truth Day

A small group of pro-abortion counter-protesters stood at one corner of the plaza and passed out a crude flyer with various desperate pieces of "evidence" that our well-documented photographs are fakes. For example, they declare that the second trimester Baby Malachi abortion photo is a fake because two different prints of that photo have different color hues—which is in fact common with different printings of the same image.

Of course, anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of fetal development—or who has ever seen an ultrasound image—can imagine what a second-trimester abortion would look like. The unfortunate Baby Malachi fits the description to a tee.

A second Tour site planned for 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the Art Institute had to be cancelled due to rain. The Spring Tour phase will conclude June 14, and the Summer Tour will be held July 8-15.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on your victory over NOW. It was such a long, hard battle for you and your family. All pro-lifers are pleased that your dedication and perseverance for the cause of life was successful.

I just couldn't help myself and had to show Planned Parenthood my pleasure with your victory. See enclosed picture.

Sincerely yours,

**Bart J. Gaffney, Co-Chair,
Champlain Valley Right to Life, Inc.
Jay, NY**

Below is the picture Bart enclosed with his letter—Editor:



Hi there,

My name is Angela and I am 24 years old and the office administrator for Queensland Right to Life in Brisbane Australia. I just watched your sidewalk counseling video and I wanted to write to say thank you for what you are doing! You have inspired me to do more to stand up for life.

When I was younger I used to pray outside abortion clinics with my mother, but the last couple of years I haven't done so. Although I am totally and passionately pro-life, I felt that sidewalk counselors were a bit fanatical and weird. However, I have changed my mind.

The people in your video were so full of the love of Christ. I feel convicted and feel that I should really pray about going out there to the abortion clinics. I might start first with praying outside the

clinics first though. I also thought Annie [Casselman] was lovely. Being a young person, she inspired me to get out there also.

Thank you for the wonderful work you do. May God Bless you in your amazing work.

**Angela Hayes,
Brisbane, Australia**

Dear Joe,

I belong to a police and fire family. What you wrote about the police tells me the problem is yours. You will be looking for the same police to protect you when you are being opposed. Large numbers of police tell me they expected trouble and were there to help. I can't support you!

**M— L—,
Park Ridge, IL**

Editor's Note: This letter was in response to a May 1 letter from Joe Scheidler which included an account of the League's negative encounter with the Chicago Police on April 12 (see story, page 6). The following is an excerpt from League Communications Director Eric Scheidler's response:

Dear M—,

... I want to assure you that we have the greatest respect for the police, and that my father only drew attention to the negative experience on April 12 because it was so unusual.

In my work coordinating Face the Truth Tours and other pro-life protests, it has been my privilege to work with police officers all over the state, including state troopers, county sheriff's officers, campus security and municipal police. In my experience, police officers are almost always cooperative and professional, and my close involvement with them out on the street has inspired a tremendous respect for them and admiration for the fine work they do.

This is especially true of the Chicago Police, whose professionalism and respect for our right to protest abortion are outstanding. That is why our experience on April 12 was so remarkable, and so troubling. The belligerent attitude of the Chicago Police sergeant who questioned me about my children's involvement in the Face the Truth demonstration was so utterly different from the positive experience we've come to expect from the Chicago police.

You're absolutely right that when we face threatening or even violent opposition, we will turn to the police for protection. We've been able to count on them so often in the past. They in turn have been able to count on us to treat them with deference and do all that we can to accommodate their safety concerns. ...

**Yours for Life,
Eric J. Scheidler**

The Deception of Contraception

Continued from page 1

er Andrew Pollard of EMP Intelligence Service in England.

"Contraception Is Not the Answer" will be a ground-breaking conference. It will arm the pro-life movement with the tools it needs to intelligently combat the abortion advocates' contention that birth control is the answer to reducing the number of abortions. It is vital that the pro-life movement take the high ground in this argument and be well versed in every aspect of the debate. "Contraception Is Not the Answer" will take us to a new level in the struggle to build a culture of life. It will help us to proclaim to the world the dignity of the human person and the awesome gift of fertility.

Watch your mail this summer for more information on "Contraception Is Not the Answer," including the complete conference schedule and registration form. Online credit card registration will also be available at the Pro-Life Action League website, www.prolifeaction.org. This is truly a history-making event. Don't miss it!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Pro-Life Activism Is Working

by Joe Scheidler

"The times, they are a changin'," says the old song, and it is certainly the theme for what is happening in the abortion wars—changing for the better. I have been saying since the 1970's that the day would come when the media would get on board in the fight for life and pretend they had been leading the way all along. I'm not ready to say they are leading yet, but let's watch carefully and see what happens. Just consider these recent stories.

New Attitudes in the Press and Courts

On May 7, 2006 an article by Russell Shorto appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, entitled "Contra Contraception," an exceptionally frank and accurate story on contraception and abortifacients, and on the shifting attitudes toward their widespread use.

On May 30, the *Chicago Sun-Times* ran a lengthy op-ed by John O'Sullivan on the fact that most Americans, including the media, have no idea what *Roe v. Wade* actually says—that abortion is legal for the full nine months for any reason. O'Sullivan spelled it out, step by step, presenting the parameters of *Roe* and *Doe v. Bolton*, something we have never seen in any secular newspaper. It was unique!

And as my readers know, on February 28, 2006, the United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously in my favor in the twenty-year long *NOW v. Scheidler* RICO lawsuit. But unless you read the decision, what you may not know is that ours wasn't the only significant victory that day. In Justice Stephen Breyer's Opinion, he used the term "pro-life" to describe those of us who oppose abortion. His words: "Enter final judgment for the pro-life defendants." This breakthrough really impressed my attorney, Tom Brejcha!

And as our victory suggests, the shift in public attitude hasn't escaped the courts. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to take another look at the partial birth abortion ban—this one the federal law, passed by Congress and signed by President George Bush in 2005. And not just the Supreme Court, but other federal courts seem to be moving in our favor with more conservative judges being appointed.

Our Efforts Are Driving Public Opinion

Why this shift in the courts and media? Because there's been a shift in public opinion on abortion. And that shift has even emboldened some elected officials. South Dakota has rocked the nation, and indeed the world, with its recent legislation outlawing nearly all abortions. Other states are poised to follow suit.

So I'm going to go out on a limb and give much of the credit for this new thinking on the part of legislatures, courts and even the media to the unflinching efforts of pro-life activists like you. For thirty-three years we have been out in front of abortion clinics, on the streets, exposing the truth about abortion and helping women choose alternatives. Our proclamation of the truth has awakened many women to the reality that they are responsible for the deaths of their own babies and has led them to seek healing. Many of these women are speaking out now, and their message is reaching the people who make the laws, rule on the laws, and those who sometimes even report the truth.

The truth always wins in the end. We're not at the end yet, but we're definitely on the way. Give yourself a pat on the back and redouble your efforts. It's working!

League Pickets Pro-Abort Candidate Topinka



*Photo by Eric Scheidler
Luanne Bloom and Phil Corridon picket Topinka in Chicago, Mar. 7*

On Tuesday, March 7, the Pro-Life Action League picketed Republican candidate for Illinois Governor Judy Baar Topinka at the Thompson Center in downtown Chicago. League members highlighted Topinka's support for abortion with signs reading LIFE YES! TOPINKA NO! and graphic abortion signs, as well as flyers on Topinka's pro-abortion stance.

Regrettably, Topinka defeated pro-life candidates Jim Oberweis and Bill Brady in the March 21 primary. She will face staunchly pro-abortion Democrat Rod Blagojevich in November.

Providence Abounds in Green Bay

Continued from page 2

compassionate counseling of a caller prompted a waiting coffee service salesman to offer to cover the cost of IRLC's rent. That salesman, Tom Bresler, later opened the Aid for Women crisis pregnancy centers in Deerfield, IL and downtown Chicago. Michael and Laura attended the A&A banquet and stayed in Green Bay overnight to join the Scheidlers for breakfast.

On Saturday morning, the Scheidlers met with the staff and volunteers of A&A and fielded questions about pro-life activism. Just as one of the volunteers was suggesting that it would be a good idea to have a regular pro-life segment on Relevant Radio, Lori Herlihy walked in unexpectedly, but providentially. She said she would present the idea to the Relevant Radio executives at their next meeting. We'll see what the future holds.

Joe Scheidler Speaks at AUL Legal Institute

On Monday, May 22, League director Joe Scheidler spoke to an audience of interns and law students at the annual Americans United for Life Legal Institute. This annual event includes presentations by a broad spectrum of pro-life leaders covering activism, crisis pregnancy counseling, bioethics, euthanasia and healthcare issues.

Daniel McConchie, Vice President of Americans United for Life, coordinated the Institute and gave the opening talk, as well as presentations on pro-life politics and the future of the pro-life movement. The students were from law schools and graduate programs at several universities, including Notre



Photo by Ann Scheidler

Dame, Georgetown and Catholic University of America.

Scheidler spoke on what motivates a pro-life activist such as himself to stay the course in the face of such battles as the *NOW v. Scheidler* RICO case, which spanned the last twenty years. He told the students that his faith is the foundation for his commitment to the cause of life, and his faith sustains him when he confronts obstacles like the lawsuit or resistance from both secular society and

many in the Christian community.

The League provided copies of its *Action Speaks Louder Than Words* DVD for each of the attendees, and the *Face the Truth* DVD with a booklet on coordinating Face the Truth Tours.

Joe and Ann on the College Circuit in Maryland and Virginia

by Ann Scheidler

It was about dinner time on Friday, April 14 when I received a desperate call from Jack Ames, president of Defend Life in Baltimore. Norma McCorvey, Jane Roe of *Roe v. Wade*, had been scheduled by Defend Life to speak at six colleges in Maryland and Virginia and two churches, but had come down with the flu and was unable to make the tour. Since it had been a monumental feat to coordinate the presentations at the colleges, Jack did not want to cancel the talks.

One of Defend Life's principal activities is its Lecture Series. Defend Life brings in speakers on life issues from all over the country and makes them available to colleges, universities, parishes and pro-life functions. They work closely with the Respect Life clubs at the colleges. The members of the various pro-life clubs had worked hard to promote the Norma McCorvey talks and were expecting good-sized audiences.

Jack said that he knew it was very short notice, but he asked if Joe and I could rearrange our schedule and spend five days the following week, from April 18 to 22, filling in for McCorvey. Since we had recently launched our *Roe* education campaign to explain the full meaning of the abortion decisions, it worked out well to take our message to these colleges and churches on the east coast.

Standing in for Roe

At each presentation I gave a brief overview of the evolution of the *Roe v. Wade* case and pointed out the deception that was an integral part of the drive to legalize abortion, including the fact that Norma McCorvey's own attorneys knew that she had not been raped, but went ahead with that story in their arguments before the Texas courts. I explained how abortion had negatively impacted our society. Joe then discussed the goals of the pro-life movement, activism in particular, and the signs indicating that abortion will soon be restricted and will eventually be outlawed in America.

The tour started with American University in Washington, D.C., where we spoke to forty students. Although most were not pro-life, they were respectful and asked thoughtful questions. Three staunchly pro-abortion female students remained after the talk to debate abortion and women's rights with Cheryl Tomlin and other pro-life students.

From American University we went straight to Georgetown University where Steve Picciano, president of the pro-life club, introduced us to an audience of fifty students. We were pleasantly surprised at the number who attended the talk and

told us about their support for pro-life initiatives. The current pro-life club is made up mostly of freshmen who are very enthusiastic and energetic.

Catholic College Students Receptive

On Wednesday, Missy Smith, one of Defend Life's most dedicated volunteers, drove us to Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, a two-hour drive. At Christendom we were greeted by our niece, Brittany Scheidler, a freshman, who gave us a tour of the campus. Chrissie Walsh, president of the pro-life club, hosted a lasagna dinner with the pro-life club at the rectory of the campus parish before the evening talk. One hundred students, faculty members and area residents attended the talk, including Brian and Cathy Clowes from Human Life International, whose headquarters are just a mile from Christendom.



Photo Courtesy of Andy Bodoh
At Christendom College (from left): Brittany Scheidler, Joe and Ann Scheidler and Shield of Roses officers Andy Bodoh, Chrissie Walsh and Fred Gruber

From Christendom, Jack Ames drove us to the Baltimore area where we stayed at the lovely home of Bill and Marta Coons. On Thursday morning we headed to Steve Peroutka's office in Pasadena, MD where we taped two segments of his *Face the Truth* radio program.

Thursday afternoon we spoke at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg. About thirty students gathered in the beautiful college chapel, including Kevin Butler, a seminarian who had worked with our daughter Annie in youth ministry in the Rockford Diocese. Butler will be ordained in the spring of 2007. Following the talk at St. Mary's, Vince Perticone invited us to his home for an Italian dinner. For dessert he surprised us by inviting us to his own authentic 1950's ice cream parlor in his basement. Vince and his wife built the ice cream parlor entirely by themselves.

On Thursday evening we spoke at Immaculate Conception parish hall in Baltimore to a crowd of more than a hundred. Although they had expected to hear Norma McCorvey, the audience was gracious and supportive of our activist work. Many

stayed after the question period to discuss ways they could get more involved in the pro-life effort.

Shift Evident in Student Attitudes

On Friday, April 21, two talks were scheduled at two campuses of the University of Maryland. The first was arranged by Rose Capozzi and Kelly LeFleur at the Baltimore County campus. The talk was at noon and many students brought their lunch to the lecture hall. Among the eighty attendees were two priests, Fr. Gray of the Catholic campus ministry and Fr. Carr from New York. Some of the students received special credit for attending the talk. The students in the audience were very attentive and seemed genuinely interested in learning more about the impact of abortion on the culture.

At 3:00 we spoke at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland. The last time Joe had spoken there, the audience had been particularly hostile. This time our reception was very agreeable. Even a group of four young women wearing "I love pro-choice boys" T-shirts asked thoughtful and provocative questions, not designed to be antagonistic. Cathy McCloud and Patrick Youngwirth, of the UMCP pro-life club had done a good job of advertising the event, although many of the students still thought they were coming to hear Norma McCorvey.

We joined Baltimore area pro-lifers for dinner on Friday evening, though Joe spent most of the dinner hour doing a radio interview with *Catholic Answers Live*. Due to poor cell phone reception, he had to walk outside in the rain to do the interview.

The Knights Save the Day

The speaking tour ended with a talk at the Rock Creek Knights of Columbus hall. The talk had been scheduled for St. Raphael's Parish in Rockville, MD. However, once the pastor found out that the speaker was not Norma McCorvey, he canceled the use of the parish facilities. The K of C stepped in to host the event and signs were posted at the church directing people to the new location. It was a small group of committed pro-lifers, so we opted to set aside the *Roe* education talk and instead focus on how our involvement in the pro-life movement has affected our family life. Our niece, Elsa Hoffmann, who lives in the D.C. area, stopped by for a visit at the end of the evening.

Our campus visits encouraged us by making it very clear that attitudes toward abortion are shifting. There were far fewer radical feminists, far more students open to learning the truth, and a large number of dedicated pro-life leaders poised to continue building a culture of life.