

RIGHT TO LIFE CENTRAL MACOMB

Newsletter

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Serving Armada, Chesterfield Township, Clinton Township, Fraser, Harrison Township, Lenox Township, Macomb Township, Memphis, Mt. Clemens, New Baltimore, New Haven, Ray Township and Richmond

Standing on the Sidewalk During Lent

BY LEN GUTMANN

Of all the pro-life ways of witnessing outside an abortion clinic, I've only felt comfortable with the job of praying. As a Catholic, I do it with a rosary in my hand. It helps to have something to hold on to, especially at first when it dawns on me, again, that I am separated by just a couple of walls from a procedure that is so ugly and brutal and hidden.

The beads give me something to be "fidgety" with, especially early on when I'm nervous. The nervousness shows up each time I do—as though something deep inside me knows that I'm standing before a haunted house and a haunting reality. I think other pro-lifers feel it too. If you've never witnessed before an abortion facility, but are planning to do so, I mention this—not to instill fear, but to let you know that a deeper part of yourself can "feel" something that wants to make us be afraid.

With the rosary beads warming up in my fingers, I settle myself down. The rosary is great because the first prayer is the Apostle's Creed. Saying it, I feel the calm that comes from declaring the first thing I believe in (the first thing all pro-lifers seem to believe in), which is "...God, the Father almighty." Just getting to that word, "almighty," assures me that anything haunting about this place is powerless against our God. Before long, the entire Creed is comforting me. The final beliefs I announce really bolster me up—"the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."

With those last words of the Creed, I realize much: first, that I'm not alone in front of this place (for we are a communion of compassionate people who come out to the clinics). Announcing belief in the forgiveness of sins helps because something seriously sinful is happening here—and it can be forgiven. Next, I'm consoled by the fact that the little ones brought here will one day rise up with the glorified bodies we will never see in this life. And in the end, as we all believe, that body will live forever in heaven for all of us to see.



When all of my fears are calmed by that prayer—it's then that I remember why I'm really there. That's when tears well up in my eyes. After I get over the "me" part of being on the sidewalk, the sorrow sets in as I feel for the tiny baby and her confused mother. If this place frightened me when I arrived, how it truly must frighten the two victims who've been tempted to enter it.

It's not very long (especially if it's a Saturday morning) before a woman arrives. It's never easy, considering what she and her child are about to go through—what will happen to them between the mother's going in and her coming out. I ask God for the child's suffering to be brief. But that's just the beginning of the dual suffering. When the childless mother exits the place, the puffy red eyes and the abdomen-holding walk reveal a hurt that might last a lifetime.

Watching the woman leave is when sidewalk prayer support is the hardest. I try to spend a moment working out my anger with God. "Why didn't my praying stop this woman from bringing her baby inside?" I ask Him. "Why couldn't You just crush this place with your power in the first place?!"

The silence is deflating. But so is the reality of legalized abortion. It pierces the hearts of those of us who see what is truly going on.

Before long another mother pulls up, lured here like the woman before her. So I grab my rosary, and hold on even tighter. This praying out in public—this is standing up for Life and the little ones as we walk through this valley of tears. This is the front line in the battle between good and evil. With the rosary's crucifix in my hand, I feel for Mary. I don't see her, but she is there. So is the apostle John. This, I realize, is Calvary.

This is being there—at the foot of the cross. 

Len Gutmann is a life-long parishioner, and member of the pro-life group at St. Peter's Parish, Mt. Clemens.



www.rtlcentralmacomb.org

Right to Life Central Macomb is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, all-volunteer organization that works within the law to help protect the unborn, the handicapped and the elderly through education, legislative action and community assistance.

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Adoption Assistance:

Bethany Christian Services
248-414-4080
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Madison Hts., MI 48071

Catholic Services of Macomb
586-416-2300
15945 Canal Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Crisis Pregnancy Centers:

Abigayle Ministries (Sheltering Home)
586-323-1411
12313 Nineteen Mi. Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48313

Birthright of Macomb
586-254-5930
45464 Van Dyke
Utica, MI 48317

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586-783-2229
37540 Gratiot Ave.
Clinton Twp., MI 48036

Project Hope
586-416-2300
1-888-4-BABYDUE
15945 Canal Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Right to Life of Michigan
Crisis Hot-Line
1-800-57-WOMAN (1-800-579-6626)

Educational Assistance:

RLM Macomb County
Resource Center
586-774-6050
27417 Harper
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

Michigan Right to Life
616-532-2300
www.rtl.org
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Post-Abortion Assistance:

Project Rachel
(Archdiocese of Detroit)
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Governor Jennifer Granholm
P.O.Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
www.michigan.gov

For other elected state officials:

www.rtl.org

RLM Resource Center
586-774-6050

BE ACTIVELY PRO-LIFE! TIPS #1 AND #2

#1 Contact the newspapers, such as Detroit Free Press, The Detroit News, and local weekly papers to express your views about life issues. Whether it is about legislation (see legislative report); assisted suicide, which is back in the public eye; or any life issue in general, you can let your voice be heard. The Macomb Daily, 100 Macomb Daily Drive, Mt Clemens, MI 48043, Fax: 586-469-2892, www.macombdaily.com

#2 Pray outside of an abortion clinic at Dodge Park and 15 Mile in Sterling Heights during the 40 Days for Life campaign from February 25th – April 5th. Go to www.40daysforlife.com/sterlingheights for more information.

Legislative News

BY SUSAN VIVIANO



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

What can we do now that we have a pro-abortion President and Governor? We can make our voices heard. Call or email the President, Governor, your Senators, and your Representative (see contact information on pg. 2).

Here are a few things that have happened or will be up for vote this year on the Federal level:

New Mexico Policy - President Obama has reversed the Mexico City Policy, which will pay for abortions overseas. This policy, instituted by President Reagan in 1984 and adopted by the subsequent Republican presidents, denied U.S. population-control funding to organizations that "perform or actively promote abortion" in foreign countries.

Health Care Professionals and Organizations Conscientious Objections - The White House quietly announced on Friday, February 27, that President Obama is starting the process of overturning protections President Bush put in place to make sure medical staff and centers are not forced to do abortions. Contact the President and express your disagreement by going to www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Ban Lifted on Funding of Embryonic Stem Cell Research - President Obama signed an executive order on March 9 forcing taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research.

Freedom of Choice Act - FOCA is a proposed federal law to nullify virtually all federal and state limitations on abortion.

This has not yet been introduced, and because of so many people speaking out against it, hopefully it never will. You can sign a petition against this and/or get a printable version at www.rtl.org.

National Right to Life will be keeping a close eye on Washington to make sure this bill is not cut up and added into other bills.

The Hyde Amendment - This is a provision barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortions, first passed by the United States Congress in 1976. Our concern is that they will try to remove this amendment. This will be involved in an appropriation bill this spring or fall.

On the State level, even though we have a pro-abortion Governor, we still have a pro-life Legislature.

Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act -re-introduced in the Senate and House; is currently in committee. This bill is to coincide with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which upheld the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, *Gonzales v. Carhart* on April 18, 2007. Having a state law in place is necessary to provide for responsive enforcement, instead of having to rely on federal enforcement whose resources are overextended. Governor Granholm vetoed last year's attempt at passing this bill. If you live in Rep. Kim Meltzer's district, please call her to thank her for sponsoring this bill.

For further pro-life state legislation, go to www.rtl.org or for federal legislation <http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home/>

BE ACTIVELY PRO-LIFE! TIPS #3 AND #4

#3 Become a church representative. Contact us if you are interested helping get the pro-life message to your church community.

#4 Volunteer to work at a Right to Life booth at one of the many summer fairs or festivals in our affiliate.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION (Right To Life Central Macomb and Right to Life of Michigan)

Your contribution brings you the Right to Life Central Macomb membership newsletter, Right to Life of Michigan News and other educational materials. Gifts and payments to Right to Life Central Macomb are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

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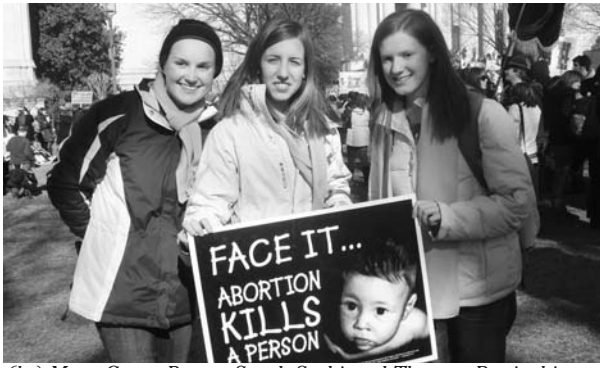
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(l-r) Mary Grace Bauer, Sarah Seski and Theresa Rupinski

March For Life Through The Eyes of a Teenager and Her Mom

Theresa Rupinski, 14, a freshman at Regina High School in Warren, participated for the first time in the March for Life on January 22, 2009 in Washington, D.C. She traveled by bus with many students from the Detroit-Metro area, including 2 other students from Regina (see picture). Before she left, Theresa e-mailed all her relatives and friends. Below are her remarks to everyone upon her return.

Theresa (age 14) writes: *Thank you so much for everyone's prayers regarding the March for Life! I couldn't believe how many young people participated in the March! It was great to be with so many people who were the same age as me and who were all fighting for the same cause. I really enjoyed the Mass at the Verizon Center. There were priests, bishops and cardinals from all over the U.S. The March was fantastic and the weather was nice and sunny. EWTN estimated that there were about 300,000 people! I would really love to encourage everyone who could, to participate next year. It is truly an exciting event and I can't wait to take my friends with me next year! Thanks again for all your prayers. Love, Theresa*

Mary Rupinski (Theresa's Mom) writes: *For all the years I have watched this March on TV, to be there in person was truly inspiring. To see all the young people, the future of our country, so on fire and committed to protecting and defending life really gives me HOPE! Any discomforts were overshadowed by the comradere we felt, the great and interesting people we met, the fun chants the young people made up: i.e. "Obama, your mama...was pro-life!" and the inspiring people around us-the elderly, & handicapped who came out for the March. I walked along with one woman who carried her sign "I regret my abortion" the entire way; she, like many others, told me she will do ANYTHING to prevent other women from going through what she has suffered due to her abortion. The priest who gave the homily at the Mass reminded everyone to take a good look around and remember the sight of that arena FILLED with people the next time that we feel "alone" in our convictions and afraid to stand up for what we believe! We are never alone and with Christ we will be TRIUMPHANT! 🙏*

CALENDAR of EVENTS

• 2009 •

Feb. 25 -April 5 40 Days for Life campaign

April 23 "Bid for Life" Dinner/Auction, Ukrainian Cultural Center

April 23 Compassion Pregnancy Center Dinner, Barrister Gardens

April 29 Legislative Day, Lansing

May 9-10 Mother's Day Flower Sales, area churches

Aug. 18-23 Armada Fair

Sept. 11-13 Richmond Good Old Days Festival



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