

Life is a gift from God. We as humans do not have the right to disturb God's work in the Universe. We must pay reverence to Life and the gift he has given us.

Issue 3, JULY 2008



Precious Life

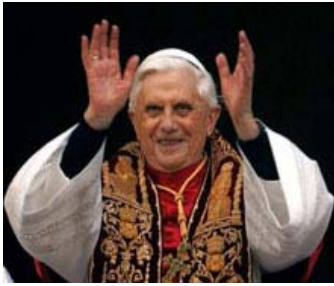
Page 1

THE INFANT IN MY WOMB LEAPED FOR JOY



Respect Life

Pope Benedict XVI Says Fighting Hunger Linked With Opposing Abortion



Vatican City (LifeNews.com) — Pope Benedict XVI told a delegation from Guatemala in a Saturday meeting that fighting child hunger is linked to the pro-life battle against abortion. He said promoting the best interest of children on hunger are similar to pro-life interests in a child's right to life. The pontiff said that, without the right to life, children die, and without food, children are subjected to death as well. "This primary right to food is intrinsically connected to the protection and the defense of human life, the first and inviolable rock upon which the entire edifice of human rights is founded," the pope said. "The effort to help mothers, above all those who are in great difficulty, to bring children into the world with dignity, thus avoiding the unjustified recourse to abortion, will never be sufficient," the pope added, according to a Zenit report. Pope Benedict continued his explanation, saying efforts to curb hunger are important but still placing the Catholic Church's pro-life message against abortion on a high pedestal. "In this sense, safeguarding human life, in particular that which has already been conceived but not yet born, which is more innocent and defenseless, is a duty, with which there is linked, by its very nature, the care that the adoption of children be guaranteed by the legality of the procedures followed for this purpose," he said.



PARTY PLATFORM VERSUS CATHOLIC FAITH

Bishop Aquila on Nonnegotiable Life Issues

BALTIMORE, Maryland, JAN. 25, 2008 (Zenit.org).- Here is an excerpt of the address Bishop Samuel Aquila of Fargo gave Nov. 15 to Loyola College in Baltimore titled "The Sanctity of Human Life from Conception to Natural Death." The presentation was part of the Loyola Alive Seamless Garment Series. It can be found in its entirety on the ZENIT Web site.

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The understanding of conscience as the voice of God in the heart of each person is essential. The voice of God is rooted in the good and the true and in love as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. God is the one who establishes the good. Truth is objective and is most fully discovered in the person of Jesus Christ.

Once again the study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the section on conscience will help you to form your consciences. If a conscience is not formed, it is easy for it to be erroneous in its judgment of good and evil. Tragically in reflecting on what decisions to make, a person may be listening to the father of lies rather than to God.

Jesus reminds us that "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15: 9-12).

A Catholic with a properly formed conscience puts faith in Jesus Christ, lives the commandments, has knowledge of the teaching of the Church as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and desires to

continued from previous page

live a virtuous life through the total gift of self to God and by living his love in the world.

The proper formation of your conscience in love and truth — in Jesus, who is both love and truth — is necessary if you are to experience joy. To build a culture of life Catholics must form their consciences and always choose life and the dignity of the human person from the moment of conception to natural death.

Finally, and most challenging, is the promotion of the culture of life in society. Catholics in the political arena today are too often more faithful to party platforms and partisanship than to their faith in Jesus Christ, his Church, and the promotion of a culture of life. There is a false separation between one's private life and faith and one's public life.

Today some Catholic politicians who support abortion hide behind the lies of "pro-choice" or not wanting to "impose their morality" on others. Yet they

strongly support other life issues by opposing capital punishment, seeking just treatment for immigrants, and correctly understanding that part of just governance is ensuring the dignity of human life. Quite rightly, they do not consider this to be "imposing morality" in these areas.

There may also be politicians who are pro-life with respect to abortion, euthanasia and embryonic stem-cell research, yet who support capital punishment and policies that result in the oppression of immigrants. They seem to forget to opt for the dignity of the human person in these cases, and they choose to be more faithful to their party platform than to their Catholic faith.

Catholics in the political arena must recognize that opposition to intrinsic evils, such as abortion, euthanasia, genocide, embryonic stem-cell research and same sex unions is always required by the faithful Catholic. Because these intrinsic evils are direct

attacks on human life and marital dignity, they are nonnegotiable for every Catholic. Catholics must recognize, too, that in the other human life issues — such as immigration, capital punishment, the economy, health-care and war — the dignity of the human person must first and foremost be taken into consideration in seeking solutions to these questions.

As John Paul II reminded everyone involved in civil and legislative affairs, "A law which violates an innocent person's natural right to life is unjust and as such, is not valid as a law" ("Evangelium Vitae," 90). "Abortion and euthanasia are thus crimes which no human law can claim to legitimize. There is no obligation in conscience to obey such laws; instead there is a grave and clear obligation to oppose them by conscientious objection" (ibid., No. 73). We are warned in Scripture and by John Paul II that "we must obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29, "Evangelium Vitae," 73).

Every Catholic who supports intrinsic evils is reminded that they will one day stand before the judgment seat of God and give an account of themselves and how they lived the Gospel of Life.

At the same time, as pro-life Catholics, we must have concern for immigrants, the suffering, the sick and the poor. We must work for the avoidance of war, the elimination of the death penalty and an end to drug trafficking. If we are truly going to be pro-life and build a true culture of life, all of these are matters of concern.

While there can be different solutions for questions regarding some issues which are not intrinsic evils, the inherent dignity of the human person from the moment of conception to natural death must be the lens through which all decisions are made. We must constantly, at every level, promote the dignity of the human person and the truth that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God from the moment of his or her conception until natural death.

The government has no right to interfere in people's personal choices.

To say that government should let people make all of their own choices is neither practical nor desirable. We cannot let people make their own choices to rape, rob or drive drunk. We cannot let them make the choices to embezzle, defraud, write hot checks, drive their cars over the speed limit, slander other people, etc. By definition, the goal of every law is to deny someone the legal ability to choose a particular activity, and many prohibited choices could even be considered "personal." For example, it is illegal to have sexual relations with a sibling, or a child, or an animal, or a dead body.

As for abortion, it is not the government's role to protect one individual's choice to kill his fellow human beings. Given the biological fact that the unborn are living human beings, the question is not whether the government has the right to prohibit abortion, but whether it has the right not to.

Source: <http://www.deathroe.com>

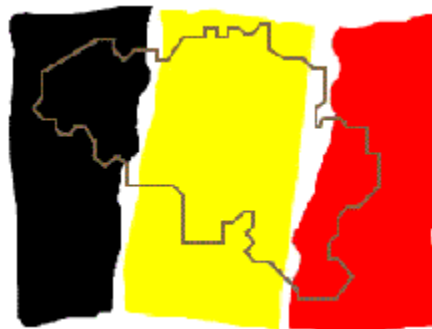


Belgium Lawmakers Want Teens, Mentally Disabled to Have Assisted Suicides

Brussels, Belgium (LifeNews.com) —

Lawmakers in Belgium are pushing the nation to open its assisted suicide law to teenagers and the mentally disabled. Members of the Belgium coalition government say parents should have the right to subject their terminally ill children to euthanasia and take their lives. Belgium legalized assisted suicide in 2002 for patients with considerable mental or physical pain but pro-life advocates feared pressure would be put on others to consider it as well. Bart Tommelein, leader of Belgium Liberals, plans to bring forward a proposal to extend assisted suicide to children and to older people with such severe dementia they can't make their own medical decisions. "We will seek, as Liberals, parliamentary majorities," Tommelein told the London Telegraph. The idea has already drawn strong opposition from Cardinal Danneels, Belgium's Catholic Cardinal who used his Easter sermon to condemn euthanasia. "Avoiding suffering is no act of bravery," he said. "Our society seems unable to cope with death and suffering."

www.LifeNews.com



TAKE A CHANCE ON THE EUCHARIST

Doesn't it seem that we are faced with seemingly endless demands on our time, resources, energy and attention? We try to fit everything into our busy lives. The incessant pressure of our personal and professional lives tests our professed priorities. We often become true reactionaries as we go from fire to fire, leaving the remnants of our hectic schedules to our families and spiritual life. A quick review of our day-timers and checkbooks easily identifies our priorities. You know, "*If you were charged with Christianity, would there be enough evidence to convict you?*"

A number of years ago I asked myself the critical question "*What is really important to me?*" "*Where do I spend most of my time, money and thoughts?*" I found that the answer was quite disconcerting - notwithstanding my lovely wife and 4 children, respected position in our parish and professed Catholic faith, a majority of my time and thoughts were spent on career, money, ambition and the material world.

This midlife examination of the "business plan" led me to look closely at what I "professed." I am sure we have all stated the "*God first, family second, etc.*" I went further and really examined my bedrock priorities. By the grace of God such search began and ended with our Catholic faith. "I believe in one God... "He came down from Heaven..." . The infinite one came down from Heaven for me (us).; The creator of the universe became incarnate for me (us); God loves me (us) enough to create us - knowing beforehand we will screw up but created us anyway, and through His plan redeemed a corrupt world.

The words "*came down from Heaven*" haunted me. I know He lived for 33 years and died on Calvary. But we have been taught, and I know, that we do not worship a dead Jesus. "*Came down from Heaven.*" God Himself "*came down from Heaven.*" The Infinite One of a million galaxies "*came down from Heaven.*" Our loving Father, a wonderful savior, spirit of truth "*came down from Heaven.*"

"*Down from Heaven*" - Well, did he have a nice visit? Catholics profess a basic belief in the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist, but do we really believe? Do we believe, trust and know that the God who manifested Himself in the spirit to Israel in the Old Testament and to the Church by His physical presence in the year *anno domini*, would **not** leave us alone after his ascension?

When I asked myself whether I really believed in the "real presence," I sheepishly answered, really whispered, "I believe." I then heard in my prayer a subtle "*Really, show me.*"

These questions 10 years ago led me to the most sweet and sublime appreciation for the love Our Lord has for us. He gave us Himself in a Eucharist to sustain us, nourish us, to touch us, allow us to touch Him, love Him, concretely, physically. The infinite, stepping out of time and eternity to now, for us.

Our protestant brothers and sisters would assert that although they don't believe Jesus is physically

here, He didn't leave us alone, but left us with His spirit. But the Church teaches that there was no such divine retraction from physical substantial presence to only spirit. Jesus' "*I will be with you always*" was no idle promise.

The mystery of the incarnation is so sweet and unfathomable that our response can only be a simple thank you, Jesus. We, the Church, have Jesus, Son of Mary, the Incarnate Third Person of The Holy Trinity, now, physically, substantially in the Eucharist.

So What? [sarcastic emphasis added] A look at the American Church screams "Eucharist, no big deal." Given mass attendance, our "casual" reception of Communion, welcoming of obstinate dissenters at Communion, and the seeming disappearance of our tabernacles, is it any wonder that those outside the Church don't know what we believe or don't believe that we really believe, what we profess? This hypothetical "so what?" question is not to single us out, but is a fire alarm, a life preserver to a harried and distracted community. I propose the Eucharist as the Means and End to our lives.

We know that we have been created as eternal creatures, designed by our Maker to love, honor and glorify God. Such is our ultimate purpose, design and end - our destiny. Yet we spend so much of our lives in anxiety, hurry and distraction pursuing lesser goods and all too often lesser evils.

The Church teaches with clarity that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic life. I know from actual experience that the Eucharist, received and adored, is the key, the answer to every need we have, every question in our lives, every longing in our hearts. He is the potter and we are the clay. We must only embrace the potter's wheel by frequent Communion, and hours spent with Our Lord in Adoration.

Do you want to change your life for the better; to be less anxious; to be a better spouse and parent; to find peace and contentment? The answer is so simple and clear: Attend Mass often and spend time with Jesus in person (no more telephone calls or emails) in Adoration. Then surrender and let Him do His thing (yes, no further effort by us is necessary or productive).

You will discover that what started as a selfish motive of seeking happiness through Christ will end with yet another sweet Christian paradox. Eucharistic intimacy will lead to a longing for God which is the essence of true liberty, a compulsion to be with Him which frees rather than enslaves. To come full circle and discover that it is not about us, but about Him.

The Eucharist will transform every part of your life and your hectic practice will still be hectic but will bear the mark of a gracious joy that will bear fruit a hundredfold. Nothing ventured, nothing gained - take a chance on the Eucharist. He never disappoints.

Gregory N. Weiler
Palmieri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron LLP



SEPTEMBER 24 -
NOVEMBER 2, 2008



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

This fall, from **September 24 – November 2 of 2008**, Orange County will be uniting with more than 170 cities across America – and around the world – for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history: the *40 Days for Life* campaign! People of faith are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion.

The *40 Days for Life* campaign is made up of three key components:

- **Prayer and Fasting:** We invite you to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. (Fast from any food, TV, radio, etc).
- **Peaceful Vigil:** In Orange County we will have continuous peaceful prayer vigils outside two abortion facilities during the 40 days of the campaign: The Planned Parenthood Facility located in 700 S. Tustin St., Orange and The Family Planning Associates Medical Group located in 4501 Birch St, in Newport Beach. Join us for an hour of prayer or more at your most convenient location. Walk-ins are always welcome but please if you can sign up in advance.
- **Community Outreach:** take a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of our county. You can help by distributing flyers, spreading the word and signing up petition drives.

To sign up contact your Church pro Life Group,
Visit www.40daysforlife.com/OrangeCounty to keep informed about the campaign.

To get additional
Respect to life
information,
use these links

www.OperationOutcry.org

www.FeministsforLife.org

www.PriestsforLife.org

www.UnitedStatesConferenceofCatholicBishops.org

www.whyknow.org

www.LifeNews.com

www.TeenShelter.org

American Life League www.aal.org

The Center for Bio-ethical Reform
www.cbrinfo.org

www.ThePresident'sCouncilonBioethics.gov

www.LifeChain.net

www.NaProTechnology.com

www.WelcometoHopeafterAbortion.com

www.HeartbeatInternational.org

When does life begin? Dr. Fritz Baumgartener
explains
www.prolife.com/life_begins.html

www.LifeIssues.org

Human Life International www.hli.org

www.EmbracingOurDying.com

www.LaityforLife.org

www.ElizabethMinistryInternational.com

www.NationalRighttoLife.org

www.zenit.org

" In a crisis Pregnancy? We can
Help, call 1-800-631-6254,
www.birthchoiceclinic.org



Mary's Shelter

- A resource for pregnant teens & their families
- A pro-life ministry that needs your support

(714) 730-0930

www.teenshelter.org

Keep Promoting Pro-Life Perspective Even When You Can't See Results

I often hear people talk about the results of their work in ministry - how many children were fed, how many homes were built, how many items were distributed. It is great when you can show how everyone's time and money is helping. It is always encouraging and it helps with keeping people interested in your work. Things are often different in pro-life work. This is work where you really don't get to see a lot of the results. Many times you are just giving out information and praying that people will take it to heart. You really have to learn to trust God to be in charge of the results and know that your work is changing lives whether you see it or not. In pro-life work so many people get frustrated because they cannot see the outcome of the work and time they invest. I have seen many people drop out because they feel they are not accomplishing anything

Full story at LifeNews.com

Respect Life Calendar

Date	Day	Event
4-Aug	Fri.	Deanery 7 Rosary Vigil
4-Aug	Mon.	Diocesan Pro-Life Task Force Mtg
5-Aug	Tues.	St. Edward Respect Life Min. Mtg
2-Sep	Tues.	St. Edward Respect Life Min. Mtg
5-Sep	Fri	Deanery 7 Rosary Vigil
6-Sep	Sat.	Diocesan Pro-Life General Mtg
24-Sep	Wed.	St. Edward Day-40 Days for Life
3-Oct	Fri.	Deanery 7 Rosary Vigil
5-Oct	Sun.	Nat'l Month for Life begins
6-Oct	Mon.	Diocesan Pro-Life Task Force Mtg
7-Oct	Tues.	St. Edward Respect Life Min. Mtg
12-Oct	Sun.	Voter Registration at St. Edward
1-Nov	Sat.	St. Edward Day-40 Days for Life
3-Nov	Mon.	Diocesan Pro-Life Task Force Mtg
4-Nov	Tues.	St. Edward Respect Life Min. Mtg
7-Nov	Fri.	Deanery 7 Rosary Vigil
22-Nov	Sat.	Diocesan Pro-Life General Mtg
1-Dec	Mon.	Diocesan Pro-Life Task Force Mtg
2-Dec	Tues	St. Edward respect Life Min. Mtg
5-Dec	Fri.	Deanery 7 Rosary Vigil

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the
gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers
and sisters.

I know there is nothing that destroys
more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered
death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.

I am ready to do my part in ending
abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.

I commit myself to be active in the
pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and sisters are
protected,
And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen!



Precious Life
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A Prayer Vigil For Life

Please join us in prayer to stop procured abortions of pre-born babies. The peaceful prayer vigil will be held at the Planned Parenthood Facility at 26302 La Paz (at Chrisanta), Mission Viejo on **First Friday, of every month.**

We will pray the Holy Rosary for the unborn children, the distressed mothers, the abortionist and staff and all those connected in any way to the taking of the life of the innocent babies. We will pray that they will rethink their position and spare the lives of the millions of babies sacrificed in our country.

This Rosary Vigil is held on the public sidewalks at this location on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Please join us. For more information call 949-481-3230.

BE A POWERFUL WITNESS FOR LIFE