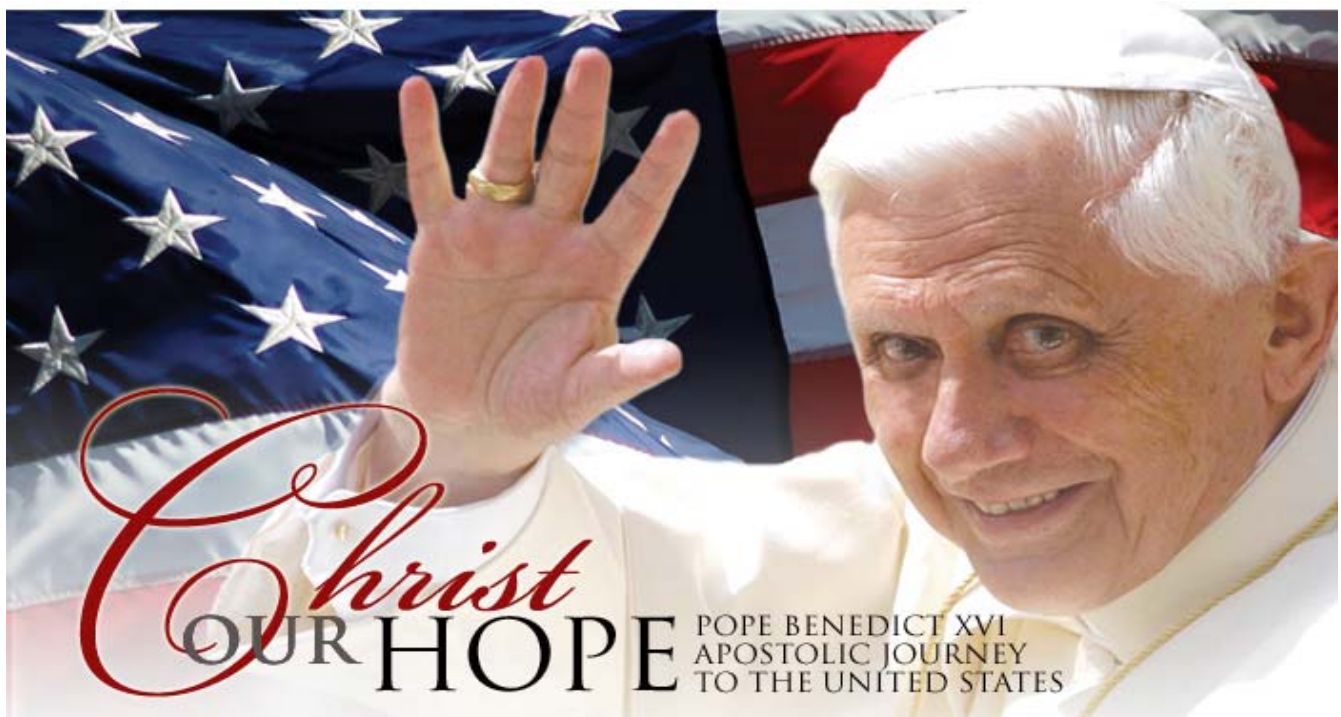
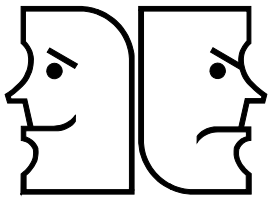


God Bless America



Pope Benedict XVI concluded his six-day visit to the United States with a Mass honoring the bicentennials of the Archdioceses of Louisville, Boston, New York and Philadelphia.



Smile & Grimace

Popes' Visit Triggers a "tsunami" of New York Seminary Applications

The New York Daily news reports that St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, New York has received dozens of applications following the Holy Father's visit.

The Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of New York, Father Luke Sweeny, "It's been like a tsunami, a good tsunami of interest.

For the first time in 108 years, the seminary had been preparing for a year with no students.

Only 23 seminarians are expected to be ordained for New York City over the next four years. A study carried out by Catholic World Report claims the archdiocese's ratio of priest to congregation members is among the worst in the country.

Fr. Sweeny said, "we were hoping the Pope would convince many who were considering the priesthood to take the next step. It looks like he did."

Catholic League Comments on Obama's "Catholic" Advisors

When Sen. Barack Obama recently announced the formation of his Catholic National Advisory Council, he said he was "deeply honored to have the support and counsel of these committed Catholic leaders, scholars and advocates." Commenting on this group is Catholic League president Bill Donohue:

"The best advice I can give Sen. Obama about his Catholic National Advisory Council is to dissolve it immediately. Of the 26 Catholic former or current public office holders he has listed as either National Co-Chairs (5), or as members of the National Leadership Committee (21), there is not one who agrees with the Catholic Church on all three major public policy issues: abortion, embryonic stem cell

research and school vouchers.

"Indeed, on the issue of abortion, their record is disgraceful. Consider the scorecard as issued by the most radical pro-abortion organization in the nation-NARAL. Of the two National Co-Chairs who have a NARAL tally, one agrees with the extremist group 65 percent of the time and the other agrees 100 percent of the time. Of the 20 National Leadership Committee members with a NARAL score, 17 have earned a 100 percent rating.

"Practicing Catholics have every right to be insulted by Obama's advisory group. What is the purpose of having an advisory group about matters Catholic when most of its members reject the Catholic position? If Obama wanted input from gay leaders, would he choose those who don't reflect the sentiments of the gay community? In short, to choose Catholic dissidents to advise him about Catholic concerns is mind-boggling.

"If these are the best 'committed Catholic leaders, scholars and advocates' Obama can find, then it is evident that he has a 'Wright' problem when it comes to picking Catholic advisors."

Pope Speaks to Catholic Educators

Pope Benedict XVI addressed a crowd of Catholic educators gathered at the Catholic University of America. After congratulating them on their efforts against a "crisis of faith" and a "crisis of truth," he went on to tell them why American education was failing.

"We observe today a timidity in the face of the category of the good and an aimless pursuit of novelty parading as the realization of freedom," the Pope said. "We witness an assumption that every experience is of equal worth and a reluctance to admit imperfection and mistakes. And particularly disturbing is the reduction of the precious and delicate area of

management of 'risk,' bereft of any reference to the beauty of conjugal love."

While these words were primarily intended for Catholic educators across the country, they hold a special meaning for the pro-life movement. They describe, in a beautifully succinct way, what we fight against every day: a sexual culture of lies, misrepresentations and illusions that results in an epidemic of contraception, sterilization, and abortion.

Kudos To:

The Archdiocese of Louisville



In 2008 the Archdiocese of Louisville celebrates 200 years as a Roman Catholic diocese. It shares the honor of being among the earliest dioceses in the United States with the Archdiocese of New York, the Archdiocese of Boston and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, which also were founded in 1808. Only the Archdiocese of Baltimore (1789) and the Archdiocese of New Orleans (1793) were established earlier.

The Diocese of Bardstown was founded as the first inland diocese in the United States on April 8, 1808. Its see city moved to Louisville in 1841, and the Diocese of Louisville was elevated to an Archdiocese in 1937.

The Diocese of Bardstown included the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. The first bishop of the diocese, Benedict Joseph Flaget, was given pastoral responsibility for a huge territory to the north and west of Kentucky. Today, 44 dioceses in ten states have descended from the Diocese of Bardstown.

Want to Know the Truth About Planned Parenthood?

PLANNED PARENTHOOD EXPERT TO ADDRESS CATHOLICS IN ACTION ANNUAL MEETING

James W. Sedlak, M.S., vice president of American Life League, and a recognized expert on Planned Parenthood will be the featured speaker at the **Catholic In Action Annual meeting on September 12th** at the Audubon Country Club.

In 1993, Jim was identified by Planned Parenthood Federation of America as one of the "most active" fighters against PP Sex Education programs. In 1955, Planned Parenthood featured Jim in two segments of its anti-life film, *UNHOLY ALLIANCE*.

Among Jim's credits are:

- Author of *PARENT POWER!!*
- Writer/editor of the Wednesday STOPP Report!
- Featured on ALL's audio series on Planned Parenthood
- Primary author of Human Life League's Deadly Deception on the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

He is also a frequent contributor to American Life League's *Celebrate Life* magazine.

Jim has been a featured speaker at numerous state-wide pro-life conventions. He presented workshops at national conventions funded by American Life League, Concerned Women for America, Human Life International and Coral Ridge Ministries. Jim has given talks in Canada, England, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and Australia. He has appeared as a special one-hour guest on the Dr. Laura radio show. He has made TV appearances on "Politically Incorrect" with Bill Maher, and Mother Angelica's EWTN worldwide network. Jim has provided commentary on breaking news stories for the USA Radio Network and the Salem Radio Network.

You don't want to miss this speaking appearance, so mark your calendar now:

DATE: Friday, September 12th

TIME: 7 P.M

PLACE: Audubon Country Club

Tickets: \$6.00

For Reservations:

CALL 777-5499 OR 548-4135

Lifeshouse Maternity Home Opens Its Doors



Lifeshouse is open and what a joy we feel in our hearts as we arrive at this milestone. All of the credit goes to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for He has done wondrous deeds, through His people.

I truly believe that everyone that has worked on this project has felt every emotion possible along our journey; tired, hurting, tempted to quit, hassled, stressed over decisions to be made and this list goes on. However faith kept us grounded and God always had an answer, be it in Psalms, Hebrews, Joshua, Ephesians, Isaiah, James, Luke and the list goes on. God's word and His promises helped us to realize that we were not alone.

Now we are being given the wonderful opportunity, by our example, to lead young women, men and their families on a similar journey of faith.

We have now opened our doors and our hearts to show unconditional love to young women. We fully realize that each of them will also experience numerous emotions as they give up many of their present day freedoms to focus on their future and the future of their unborn child. That is why every girl entering into Lifeshouse is given a New Testament Bible so when she experiences these emotions she too can turn to the **One** with the answers.

We ask for your continued prayers as we complete one leg of our journey only to enter into a new phase, yet the same, in that we have to put our trust in God.

Also, we will need even more of your financial help as we have housemothers on staff 24/7 to supervise the residents, utilities have to be paid, food and diapers have to be purchased and the list goes on.

Just imagine having eight pregnant girls to care for and several babies! We do trust that God will provide all our needs for these are His children, simply sent to us for a short time in their lives, but during a very important time; one of spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual growth while preparing for the birth of their child.

All donations can be sent to Lifeshouse at 2710 Riedling and are 100% tax deductible. I can be contacted at 897-1655 or on my cell at 812-987-4505

Joan Smith, Executive Director

Louisville - 40 Days for Life Campaign

In an effort to stem the flow of bloodshed in College Station Texas, in 2004, the first 40 Days for Life campaign was born of the frustration of pro-lifers in that town. Three ordinary people responded to a call which God placed in their hearts to pray and fast as an answer to the abortion crisis facing College Station. Within a short period of time, these three people mobilized 1,000 others to join them in prayer, fasting and standing vigil outside their local abortion mill, which was attempting to expand the scope of its operations. They also implemented a door to door community outreach effort which took the truth of the pro-life cause to 25,000 households in their community. God heard their prayers and answered. Abortion in College Station was reduced by 28% following that effort. The word spread and in the next three years, seven other cities launched their own 40 Days for Life efforts, each experiencing profound results. Last fall, National 40 Days for Life was launched and 89 cities around the country participated in a focused campaign centered on prayer and fasting, to call down God's mercy on their cities and towns and upon the nation, to bring about an end to abortion.

Louisville was one of 59 cities in the U.S. participating in the spring campaign, recently ended on Palm Sunday.

Louisville's first campaign effort was born of the same frustration - the abortion mill on Market Street is open five days a week. It has ended the lives of 1,085 children *just* since January 1st of this year! Innocent lives are lost and mothers and fathers are damaged in ways that may take years for them to fully comprehend. A small group of incredibly dedicated sidewalk counselors have stood for years those same five days a week, attempting to make a difference for those children and their families. Pro-life ministries also reach out to mothers whose hearts are sometimes opened to choosing life. And still, the problem remains - an abomination in our midst.

God does not leave us alone in our misery. He asked us to bring the 40 Days campaign to Louisville and to leave the results up to him. Believing that God is a Father who keeps his promises, we did just that. From January to February 6, we worked to build a campaign team to remind people of all faiths that there is immense power in prayer and fasting. Remembering that God used the time frame of 40 days throughout salvation history to hear the cries of his people standing humbly before him to answer their prayers in miraculous ways, we would stand with thousands of like minded people around the country and now, the world, to believe that miracles are still possible.

Louisville's efforts were richly rewarded in so many ways. Over 750 people participated in the peaceful prayer vigil held in front of the mill from February 6 through March 16. Most had never been actively involved in a pro-life effort of any kind. Over 35 churches, schools and organizations were represented, most of them Catholic. The Archbishop of Louisville even stood with us when twelve inches of snow was disrupting normal activity. We stood for 17 hours nearly every day in generally unpleasant weather. And we prayed. We asked God to send us miracles. And he did. We know of women who chose life for their babies "because of our prayers."

We know of post-abortive women who were drawn to our vigil; we prayed with them. We prayed with grieving fathers and grandmothers who lost children to abortion. We prayed for the abortionists and those that help them in their grizzly business. One of them asked for our prayers. Thousands of people drove by, thousands more walking by saw our signs and were made aware of the killing field that lies in our midst. "I didn't know" was something we heard a lot.

Is the mill still open? Sadly, yes, it is. Are they still killing babies and wounding women and families? Sadly, yes, they are. Will we stop praying for the conversion of all people to love as Christ loved? No, we won't. We do not accept this atrocity in the name of choice. We know there is an absolute truth—— about the Culture of Life, not a relative one. We know that all things are possible in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Remembering that silence always helps the oppressor, never the oppressed, we invite you to remember Christ's command of us. "Be not afraid!" Courage is a grace always given when sought. In the end, we are all judged on how we loved our brothers and sisters. Did we love enough to witness to the truth? Did we love enough to beg God's mercy for those who don't know it? Do we love enough?

To learn more about Louisville's 40 Days for Life campaign, please call Jenny Hutchinson 502-897-3982 or email jhutcil216@aol.com.

**National 40 Days for Life fall campaign dates -
September 24 through November 2, 2008.**

On the day that Pope John Paul II began the 25th year of his pontificate, he published an apostolic letter on the rosary.

In the letter he said, that the revival of the rosary was crucial because "today we are facing new challenges" that require recourse to the rosary. The letter spoke of the urgent need to "counter a certain crisis of the rosary" caused when the rosary is devalued and, therefore "no longer taught to our younger generation." The Holy Father placed the focus of the revival of the rosary on Christian families since renewed devotion to the rosary within family life "will be an effective aid to countering the devastating effects of this crisis typical of our age."

John Paul II's apostolic letter on the rosary is certainly relevant today.

Pray the Rosary for an end to abortion.



BISHOPS TAKE DIFFERENT APPROACH TO PRO-ABORTION POLITICIANS RECEIVING COMMUNION

CARDINAL EGAN: GIULIANI SHOULDNT HAVE RECEIVED COMMUNION

The archbishop of New York said the city's former pro-abortion mayor should not have received the Eucharist during Benedict XVI's trip to the United States.

In a statement released on April 28th, Cardinal Edward Egan recalled the Church's position on abortion, noting that it "is a grave offense against the will of God."

"Throughout my years as archbishop of New York, I have repeated this teaching in sermons, articles, addresses and interviews without hesitation or compromise of any kind," he continued. "Thus it was that I had an understanding with Mr. Rudolph Giuliani, when I became archbishop of New York and he was serving as mayor of New York, that he was not to receive the Eucharist because of his well-known support of abortion.

"I deeply regret that Mr. Giuliani received the Eucharist during the papal visit here in New York, and I will be seeking a meeting with him to insist that he abide by our understanding."

By emphasizing the gravity of support for the legalized killing of the unborn, the cardinal takes a strong stand in defense of human life. Since Giuliani is not currently a candidate for political office, the cardinal's statement cannot be misinterpreted as a partisan gesture. Rather he is using an opportunity to instruct the faithful.

At the same time, the cardinal is protecting the Church from further scandal. The cardinal's message should not be lost on countless other Catholics who are receiving Communion while in a state of serious sin.

Cardinal Egan's statement stands in stark contrast to the official silence from Washington's Archbishop Donald Wuerl after several prominent Catholics(including Nancy Pelosi, John Kerry and Ted Kennedy) received Communion at the Papal Mass in Washington.

ARCHBISHOP WUERL ANSWERS CRITICISMS ON COMMUNION FOR POLITICIANS

Washington, May. 2, 2008 (CWNews.com) - Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington, DC, has responded to criticisms about allowing pro-abortion politicians to receive Communion.

In a column that appears in this week's edition of the archdiocesan newspaper, [Catholic Standard](#), the archbishop argues that any decision to bar prominent Catholics from receiving the Eucharist should be made by the bishop in their local dioceses.

The archbishop was clearly responding to public protests that arose from pro-life Catholics after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senators Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, and Chris Dodd received Communion during a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI ([bio - news](#)).

None of those individuals is enrolled in the Washington archdiocese. Pelosi is from California; Kennedy and Kerry are from Massachusetts; Dodd is from Connecticut. In his column the archbishop did not indicate how he would respond to a pro-abortion Catholic politician who resided in Washington.

The column by Archbishop Wuerl appeared soon after New York's Cardinal Edward Egan had released a public statement criticizing former Mayor Rudy Giuliani for receiving Communion at a papal Mass in New York. Cardinal Egan said that Giuliani should not have received Communion because of his public support for legal abortion.

[See the [CWR analysis of Cardinal Egan's statement.](#)]

In his *Catholic Standard* column Archbishop Wuerl cited the policy approved by the US bishops' conference in 2004, leaving the question to the discretion of individual bishops, to be decided on a diocese-by-diocese basis. That approach drew some criticism during the papal trip from Cardinal William Levada, the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who indicated his uneasiness about what he called "territorial morality."

The archbishop's column put some demands on other bishops to admonish politicians who flout Church teachings. "A decision regarding the refusal of Holy Communion to an individual is one that should be made only after clear efforts to persuade and convince the person that their actions are wrong and bear moral consequences," Archbishop Wuerl wrote in the *Standard*. "Presumably this is done in the home diocese where the bishops and priests, the pastors of souls, engage the members of their flock in this type of discussion."

Catholics In Action Annual Meeting

Date: Friday, September 12th

Time: 7 pm

Place: Audubon Country Club

Tickets: \$6.00

For Reservations:

Call 777-5499 OR 548-4135

BENEDICT XVI SAYS HE FELT CHURCH'S SUPPORT IN UNITED STATES

Reflects on Highlights of April 15-21 Trip

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 30, 2008 (Zenit.org).

Benedict XVI says that during his trip to the United States, he tangibly experienced the support of the Church for his mission as Successor of Peter.

The Pope affirmed this today in his address at the general audience in St. Peter's Square, which he dedicated to reflecting on his April 15-21 apostolic journey to the United Nations and the United States.

"I have had the joy of personally visiting, for the first time as the Successor of Peter, the dear people of the United States of America, to confirm the Catholics in their faith, to renew and increase fraternity with all Christians, and to announce to everyone the message of 'Christ Our Hope,'" the Holy Father said, citing the theme of the trip.

The Pontiff said that at the White House, he was "able to pay homage to this great country, which from the beginning has been constructed based on a pleasing joining together of religious, ethical and political principles, and continues to be a valid example of healthy secularism, where the religious dimension, in the diversity of its expressions, is not only tolerated but valued as the 'soul' of the nation and the fundamental guarantee of the rights and duties of the human being."

Referring to his meeting with the nation's bishops, the Pontiff said: "I was able to support my brothers in the episcopate in their difficult task of sowing the Gospel in a society marked by many contradictions, which threaten the coherence of the faithful and of the clergy themselves. I encouraged them to raise their voices on current moral and social questions and to form the lay faithful so that they be good 'leaven' in the civil community, starting from the fundamental cell that is the family.

"In this sense, I exhorted them to re-propose the sacrament of matrimony as a gift and indissoluble commitment between a man and a woman, the natural environment for the welcoming and education of children."

The Bishop of Rome called education one of the challenges of our days, and said for this reason he met with leaders of schools and universities.

"The educational task is an integral part of the mission of the Church, and the U.S. Church community has always been very committed in this field, offering at the same time a great social and cultural service to the entire country," he said. "It is important that this can continue. And it is in the same way important to take care of the quality of the Catholic centers of education so that in them, [students] are formed truly according to 'the extent of the full stature' of Christ, joining together faith and reason, truth and liberty."

Benedict XVI affirmed that his ecumenical and interreligious meetings were an important part of his trip. "I stressed the great responsibility of the religious representatives, both in teaching respect and nonviolence, and in nourishing the deepest questions of human consciousness," he recalled.

Turning his attention to the second leg of the trip, which brought him to New York, the Pope recalled his visit to the United Nations on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Providence permitted me to confirm," he said, "in the most great and authoritative supranational assembly, the value of this declaration, recalling its universal basis, that is, the dignity of the human person created by God in his image and likeness to cooperate in the world with his great design of life and peace."

He continued: "Respect for human rights is rooted, as well as in peace, in 'justice,' that is, in an ethical order valid in all times and for all peoples, which can be summarized in the famous maxim: 'Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you.' [...] Upon this base, which constitutes the characteristic contribution of the Holy See to the United Nations Organization, I renewed and I renew again today, the commitment of the Catholic Church in contributing to strengthen international relations, characterized by the principles of responsibility and solidarity."

There were moments of the Pope's time in New York that he said "have remained firmly etched in my spirit." One of them, he recalled, was Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral with priests and consecrated persons.

"I will never forget the warmth with which they congratulated me for the third anniversary of my election to the See of Peter," the Pope affirmed. "It was a moving moment, in which I experienced in a tangible way all of the support of the Church for my ministry."

"Finally," he added, "my visit culminated with the celebration of the Eucharist in Yankee Stadium in New York: I still carry in my heart that festival of faith and brotherhood, with which we celebrated the 200 years of the oldest dioceses of North America. The original little flock has progressed enormously, enriching itself with the faith and the traditions of successive waves of immigration.

"To this Church, which now faces the challenges of the present, I have had the joy of announcing anew 'Christ Our Hope' of yesterday, today and forever."

Church Teaches Forum

July 18 & 19, 2008

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze • Most Rev. Joseph, E. Kurtz

Most Rev. Thomas G. Dorman • Rev. Edmund McCaffrey

Rev. Roger Arnsperger • Rev. Wade Menezes

Friday Evening:

Mass 5PM – Celebrant Cardinal Arinze

Banquet 7PM

Saturday:

Conference begins at 9am

Mass 11:30AM – Celebrant – Archbishop Kurtz

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Call 1-800-842-2871

"And What I Have Failed To Do..."

Fr. Frank Pavone, M.E.V. National Director, Priests for Life

What's this I hear from some people that they might "sit out" the Presidential election because they aren't comfortable with the likely choice of candidates?

Since when are elections supposed to make us "comfortable?" Since when do we exercise that right to vote, for which people fought and died, only when it's easy and clear-cut, and our choices are just the way we want them to be?

At Mass we pray, "I confess to Almighty God...that I have sinned...in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do..."

What we fail to do can make us just as guilty as what we do. A sin is a wrong choice, and to decide not to do something is just as much of a choice as to decide to do something.

A sin of omission is still a sin - and we are still responsible for the results. What, then, makes us think that we are more responsible for the results of voting than for the results of not voting?

A vote is not a philosophical statement. It is a transfer of power. It is a pragmatic act to preserve, as much as possible under the circumstances, the common good, and to limit the evils that threaten it.

And in the pragmatic matter of elections, what matters is not how closely a candidate measures up to my preferences and convictions. Instead, it's a question of who can and will actually get elected. It does little good if the person I felt most comfortable supporting doesn't get to actually govern and implement those positions I like so much.

The vote can be used just as much to keep someone out of office as to put someone in.

If we fail to use that tool, however, and as a result the person who gets elected is far worse and does far more damage than the other person we did not like, then we still share responsibility for the damage that will be done.

Elections have seasons. In the earliest phases, the field is wide open. We can recruit candidates, or decide to run ourselves. We build up the name recognition and base of support for the person or people who would make the best candidate. This takes years of work.

Then the season of primaries arrives, during which voters choose between the candidates who have been recruited and who have been building up their strength.

Then the general election season arrives, and we may find that we don't like any of the names on the ballot. At that point, we have to shift our thinking and focus on "better" rather than "best." The reality usually is that one of several unsatisfactory candidates will in fact be elected. So we use our vote to create the better outcome and to limit the damage. That's the shift that some fail to make.

And we are still responsible for what we fail to do.

Is Planned Parenthood Racist?

Late last month a group of black pastors and pro-life activists, joined by two congressmen, met in front of the Planned Parenthood offices at 1108 16th Street in Washington, D.C. The group demanded a congressional audit of what they alleged is a pattern of racist practices, funded by taxpayers at Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.

A feisty pro-life student magazine had called Planned Parenthood offices in seven states, posing as an openly racist donor seeking to make sure that his check would be earmarked to abort "a black baby".

According to the group, Planned Parenthood officers in at least four states agreed to accept the checks and to earmark them for that purpose.

This current racism charge calls to mind memories of a similar operation that revealed many Planned Parenthood clinic employees were willing to tell a caller (posing as a thirteen year old girl) with a twenty-two year old boyfriend how she could avoid mandatory child sex abuse reporting requirements.

The Planned Parenthood Action Fund has promised to spend \$10 million on this election. According to published reports, the organization has a budget surplus of \$114 million and assets of more than \$1 billion. In 2006 Planned Parenthood received \$337 million from taxpayers.

Do you want your tax money going to this group?

Would you like to know more about how Planned Parenthood operates?

Be sure to attend the *Catholics In Action* meeting on September 12th to hear James W. Sedlak, M.S., vice president of American Life League, and a recognized expert on Planned Parenthood.

DATE: Friday, September 12th

TIME: 7 P.M

PLACE: Audubon Country Club

Tickets: \$6.00

For Reservations:

CALL 777-5499 OR 548-4135



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The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Contributed by Earl and Lela Kalkbrenner

The months of May and June are traditionally known as the Month of Mary and the Month of The Sacred Heart, respectively. There are specific reasons why this is so. This article will explain the great importance of these two devotions.

On June 13, 1917, when she appeared to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, the Most Holy Mother of God told Lucia dos Santos, *“Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace it, and these souls will be loved by God like flowers placed by me to adorn His throne.”*

Our Lady came to Lucia again, as she had promised, eight years later on December 10, 1925. She appeared with the Child Jesus in the

Dorothean convent at Pontevedra, Spain. The Blessed Virgin revealed a heart encircled by thorns. The Child Jesus said: *“Have compassion on the heart of your most holy Mother, covered with thorns with which*

ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation.” Our Lady spoke next, saying: *“Look, my daughter, at my heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to*

console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

The five first Saturdays of reparation were requested to atone for the five ways in which people offend the Immaculate Heart of Mary: (1) attacks upon Mary’s Immaculate Conception; (2) attacks against her Perpetual Virginity; (3) attacks upon her Divine Maternity and the refusal to accept her as the Mother of all mankind; (4) for those who try to publicly implant in children’s hearts indifference, contempt and even hatred of this Immaculate Mother, and (5) for those who insult her directly in her sacred images.

As stated above, the five acts of reparation are:

1. Confession: This confession must be made in the spirit of reparation, on the First Saturday itself or some days before or after, and may be associated with another devotion.

2. Communion: The Communion of reparation must be made during the 24 hours of the First Saturday.

3. The Rosary—Five Decades: This too must be recited in the spirit of reparation.

4. Meditation for 15 Minutes: This meditation can be on one or all the mysteries. Using pictures of the mysteries helps our meditation.

5. The Spirit of Reparation: All these acts have to be done with the intention of offering reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the offenses committed against her.

Our Lady asked that, whenever we pray the Rosary, the following prayer be inserted after each decade. *“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.”*

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a nun of the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary, was born in 1647 and died in 1690. She had many apparitions of Our Lord in which He gave instructions for the implementation of the Devotion of the Sacred Heart. *“Thou must not keep these graces to thyself, nor be sparing in distributing them to others, for I have willed to use thy heart as a channel for conveying them into souls according to My design; by this means many will be saved from the abyss of perdition.”*—words of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary.

The Promises of the Heart of Jesus:

1. *“I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.”*
2. *“I will establish peace in their homes.”*
3. *“I will comfort them in all their afflictions.”*
4. *“I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death.”*
5. *“I will bestow a large blessing upon all their undertakings.”*
6. *“Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.”*
7. *“Tepid souls shall grow fervent.”*
8. *“Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.”*
9. *“I will bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up and honored.”*
10. *“I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.”*
11. *“Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.”*
12. *“I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate **on the first Friday in nine consecutive months**, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.”*
“Not only during prayer, but also at other times, keep yourself in the presence of Our Lord, as a disciple who is before his Master and anxious to learn to do His Will perfectly by giving up his own will.” -- St. Margaret Mary Alacoque