



# FOR LIFE

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## Human Trafficking evidence in everyday life

These days I see careful consumers at the grocery store. They stand with a product in hand, studying the fine print that lists its contents before putting it into their grocery carts. They know ahead of time what is safe or healthy for their families.



What if all the things we buy came with such a listing of 'contents'? These 'contents' would be a different kind of list—disclosing what went into producing the product at the price we pay. A clothing label might list: "produced in a sweatshop with forced labor—14 hours per day, 7 days a week at \$2.00/hour." A chocolate bar's list: "made from cocoa beans, picked by kidnapped boys of the Ivory Coast; beaten if a bag of cocoa pods is dropped; paid nothing."

After reading such a label hopefully we would put the product right back on the shelf. It would be hard to live with the knowledge that what we bought actually contributed unwittingly to the slavery of the person who helped produce it!

But that is what is happening today with many of the things that have become part of our every day lives. It helps large companies get even larger—increasing their profits and keeping their stockholders happy. And concealing how the product is actually produced keeps us happy—happy because of the cheap price. But this cheap price comes at a very high price for so many of the world's poor. Someone along the 'production line' is getting short changed when prices are too good to be true. This is where slavery (human trafficking) enters the picture. To keep productions costs as low as possible, millions of people around the globe are caught in the web of slavery. We outlawed slavery in the U.S. with the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1865. But after 140 years, slavery is not only alive and well; it is happening to more people than at any other time in history.

*Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery,  
A Parish Resource Packet  
Sisters of the Divine Savior (Salvatorian Sisters)  
www.sdssisters.org/slavery*



The Fair Trade Certified™ label guarantees consumers that strict economic, social and environmental criteria were met in the production and trade of an agricultural product.

For more information on Fair Trade see:  
[www.crsfairtrade.org/](http://www.crsfairtrade.org/)

## Womb for rent

Have infertile couples taken a maternity leave of their senses?

—excerpts from *U.S. Catholic*, March 2008



. . . An e-brochure for the modern "womb worker": women in the developing world offering up this most vital resource in exchange for reasonable compensation.

. . . Economists will tell you the birth of this new commercial opportunity reflects the classic outcome of the struggle between supply and demand, albeit for a service not traditionally associated with the free market.

. . . For families struggling with infertility, this new market is like the answer to a prayer, while for the Indian women who willingly commodify their own bodies, the labor and its \$6,000 payment represents delivery out of poverty and into economic and personal liberation. ...Only if motherhood can be reduced to the stirring within a petri dish full of genetic material.

. . . A rented womb may seem the perfect mechanism to relieve one couple's struggle with infertility and a poor woman's hunger, but it offers a terrible template for a future when such biomedical breakthroughs become thoroughly exploited, leaving motherhood and family devalued in the First world and human dignity degraded in the Third.

Undocumented immigrants are persons with dignity—a reality that obliges us to learn about the immigration system, understand the motives for migration and consider the needs of individuals and families. Our American ideals call us to participate in the public debate; our Catholic faith urges us to do so with charity.

—*"Where All Find a Home"*  
Maryland Bishops, December 6, 2007

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## From the Director

I recently gave a presentation in a forum I never dreamed would invite a Catholic pro life director. The head of ethics, from a very large hospital system based in Cleveland, asked me to speak to their multiple hospitals' ethics committees on current reproductive technologies. I was a responder and was asked to give a Catholic response to two cases as they were presented. Before the cases were presented, there was a brief "history" of reproductive rights given by an OB/GYN physician. She gave us the story of how abortion was brought to Cleveland. Her main focus was on a woman's right to fertility and abortion. She repeatedly said that people have a right to fertility and the use of technology available to achieve fertility. She mentioned many times that childbearing is a right.

A few weeks later, as a response to some reports about teen pregnancy in our country, a local columnist described a classroom discussion about why people have children. The columnist asked, "Why should a person choose to have a child?" The article contained the columnist's answer as well as some of the students' comments. One student said to "have something or someone to love" and another said, "it's an individual thing." Reading the article, I had that feeling like an elementary school student who knows the answer to the teacher's question. Inside I was jumping up and down saying, "I know, I know." I have heard all my life from my family and from my religious formation that children are received.

My response to both of these situations is the same. They are so related and yet in an informal survey of Catholics about why they had children, I got the same types of responses as the columnist. My catechesis led me to a very different answer. The dilemmas that surround our understanding of fertility and infertility

could find some clarity, if we could change the lens from which we approach our own fertility. The Catholic Church has a very different perspective than the discussions at the hospital and in the newspaper column. So then came the big "ta da" moment.

My talk to the ethics committee members began with a statement that was the basis for all of my comments. Before being able to address the first case specifically, I told them that the Church has a very different view of our ability to reproduce. The other presenters spoke of fertility as a right like the right to free speech or the right to vote. The Catholic Church believes that children are a **gift** to parents. "The covenant between God and mankind is interwoven with reminders of God's **gift** of human life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2260). Mother Theresa of Calcutta expressed this very well also. She said, "The child is God's **gift** to the family." The reason that people have children is because they are a **gift** from God. Anything less than this understanding, that life is **gift**, reduces life to a commodity. Life is so much more than a commodity.

One really important piece of information that I gave to the group at the hospital was that when you speak with Catholics in an ethics consult, they may not have a clear understanding of the Church's teaching on reproductive practices. I suggested that the consult should include someone able to help with a clear understanding of the Catholic teaching. Finally, they were asked to invite the parish priest, another minister from the parish pastoral staff, or a Catholic hospital chaplain who could help someone seeking understanding.

In the chart on this page is a list of Church-approved reproductive technology. Since this publication is primarily for people who minister in the Church, we are printing this list. I would strongly suggest that the list be discussed in a pastoral context to really provide catechesis. Maybe we can, in our own little ways, proclaim once again that life (and that means children) are a **gift**.

### Prayer Corner

#### Sacred Eyes

To see with SACRED EYES is to go beyond the surface. To see with SACRED EYES is to "see" with my whole being with eyes, ears, touch, taste, smell, with every feeling and intuition.

To see with SACRED EYES is to "borrow" the Beloved's eyes, is to behold the face of God in each person, each moment, each being.

—Mary Southard, CSJ



### Church-approved reproductive technology

—excerpt from *Our Sunday Visitor*, January 27, 2008

- Natural family planning.
- Moral medical testing to determine spouses' overall health and any abnormalities in their reproductive organs.
- Medication and surgery to provide more normal functioning of the reproductive system.
- Low tubal ovum transfer (LTOT). If a fallopian tube is blocked or damaged, the ovum may be transferred past the blockage and into the lower part of the tube.

For more information, visit

[www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/treatment.htm](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/treatment.htm)

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## Spokesman: Pope Invites Responsibility Toward Creation

—Father Lombardi Comments on Peace Day Message

VATICAN CITY, JAN. 6, 2008 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org))- Benedict XVI is asking rich and poor nations take more responsibility for preserving the planet, according to a Vatican spokesman.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said this . . . [when] he commented on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace, celebrated Jan. 1.

The priest said: "Until some time ago the theme of the environment could have seemed a concern of the rich rather than the poor, of developed countries rather than those less so, for which economic development was instead an absolute priority.

"Regulating and limiting this development seemed like a luxury, a way of keeping the weak in their condition of subjection. Now, the frequent disasters caused by environmental disequilibrium strike with greater force those who do not have the means to defend themselves, and an awareness is growing of an irreparable impoverishment of the resources of the weakest countries. . . ."

According to Father Lombardi, "the Pope links a powerful moral appeal to solidarity, on the basis of the recognition of a universal destination of the goods of creation, that also takes the poor and future generations into account. . . ."

"Once again," he added, "knowing that we are created by God makes us responsible before him and other people, but we must also find practical ways toward the future of humanity in this our common home through the toil of reason and dialogue. An alliance between faith and reason is needed."

*We believe in one Creator God and the common origin of humankind. Because human beings have a common Creator, the human race has an essential unity that is prior to any distinctions of race, nationality or ethnicity. All humanity is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gn 1:26).*

— "Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good"  
Catholic Charities USA, February 7, 2008

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**For Life** is a quarterly publication of the Pro Life Office, Catholic Charities Parish and Community Ministries, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, as an educational service for the people of this diocese.

The mission of the Pro Life Office is to proclaim the sanctity and value of human life as a gift from God and the foundation of human dignity, and work to ensure the quality of life at all stages of existence. This office encourages a Consistent Ethic of Life approach in promoting reverence for life, which is rooted in the Gospel and teachings of the Church.

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[www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/prolife](http://www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/prolife)

## Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

—Here are a few highlights (more in the next issue)



Part of that rich heritage on faithful citizenship is the teaching of Vatican Council II's Declaration on Religious Liberty (*Dignitatis Humanae*). It says that "society itself may enjoy the benefits of justice and peace, which result from [people's] faithfulness to God and his holy will." The work for justice requires that the mind and the heart of Catholics be educated and formed to know and practice the whole faith.

During election years there may be many handouts and voter guides that are produced and distributed. We encourage Catholics to seek those resources that are authorized by their own bishops, their state Catholic conferences and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This statement is intended to reflect and complement, not substitute for, the ongoing teaching of bishops in our own dioceses and states. In light of these reflections and those of local bishops, we encourage Catholics throughout the United States to be active in the political process, particularly in these challenging times.

The church equips its members to address political and social questions by helping them to develop a well-formed conscience. Catholics have a serious and lifelong obligation to form their consciences in accord with human reason and the teaching of the church. Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want nor is it a mere "feeling" about what we should or should not do. Rather, conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil.

Conscience always requires serious attempts to make sound moral judgments based on the truths of our faith. As stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right."

The formation of conscience includes several elements. First, there is a desire to embrace goodness and truth. For Catholics this begins with a willingness and openness to seek the truth and what is right by studying sacred Scripture and the teaching of the church as contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is also important to examine the facts and background information about various choices. Finally, prayerful reflection is essential to discern the will of God. Catholics must also understand that if they fail to form their consciences they can make erroneous judgments.

— "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,"  
U.S. Bishops, November 29, 2007

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## Upcoming Events . . .

**Wed., April 9, 2008—Faith and Health Care Reform**, hosted by the Catholic Ministry of Health Care Professionals, will be held at the Center for Pastoral Leadership from 6-8:30 p.m. Three professionals present a panel discussion on the current American health care system and advocate for faith-filled directions for the future. Call 216-363-2674 to register; \$25, includes dinner. Registrations due by April 4. Continuing education credits available.

**Sat., April 19—Cleveland Pregnancy Center Annual Banquet and Silent Auction**—This year's theme is *"From a Father's Heart."* Please consider sponsoring a table at this year's event, which will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Hts., Ohio. Guest speaker will be Robert Rogers of the Mighty in the Land Foundation. For more info, call 440-243-2520 or visit [www.clevelandpregnancyhelp.org](http://www.clevelandpregnancyhelp.org).

**Wed., April 30—"Climate Change: A Vision for the Common Good,"** presented by Archbishop Celestino Migliore at 7 p.m. at St. Hilary Church, 2750 West Market St., Fairlawn, OH 44333.



## Wish List . . .

**Adopt-a-Shelter Bedroom**—The West Side Catholic Center is looking for help in giving a 'gentle facelift' to one, many or all of the 13 shelter bedrooms available for "adoption" this spring season at the Women and Children's Shelter. The

Shelter provides over 11,000 bed nights annually and has operated at capacity since opening in 2001. Monetary donations can be made and/or groups can organize to paint the room, hang the pictures, and help to set up the space. For more info on how you can Adopt-a-Shelter Bedroom, contact Susan Ertle at 216-631-4741, ext. 132.

**Cleveland Pregnancy Center** is pleased to announce the arrival of TWO online registry's for material donation needs and ideas for quick and easy ways to give. Just visit the TARGET or WAL-MART Baby Registry online or in-store; enter **Cleveland** for the first name and **Pregnancy** for the last name under Mother's name.

**Birthright of Lorain County**, 2136 North Ridge Rd., Elyria, is in need of volunteers who are able to do any of the following: spend a few hours a week in the office talking with clients, face to face or on the phone; sort clothing, do basic housekeeping; baby sit for office volunteers; collect and/or sew maternity and baby clothing; knit and/or crochet layette items; provide miscellaneous office supplies/furnishings. Please call 440-324-9566.

**LifeWorks Ohio, Life Savers Program**, 4427 State Rd., Cleveland 44109 is in need of the following items. Call 216-661-3000, X 15. Baby cribs, car seats, diapers, wipes, onesies. These are given to young moms and families in need.

2.5 million plastic bottles are discarded **every hour** in the United States.

—*Health Looks*, Jan/Feb 2008

**Pro Life Office  
Catholic Charities  
Parish and Community Ministries  
7911 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44102**

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## Natural Family Planning OKed

—excerpt from *National Catholic Reporter*, November 23, 2007

**St. Louis**—In what some claim is a gain in legitimacy, the medical coding system used by the government, insurance companies, medical clinics and health care providers now includes two codes specifically for natural family planning.

Having codes for natural family procedures will make it easier to get the procedures covered by insurance and will enhance statistics gathering, according to Diane Daly of the American Academy of Fertility Care Professionals, which promotes natural family planning and women's health and infertility issues while upholding Catholic teaching.

## Catholic Social Teaching Meets Wall Street

—excerpt by Mary Ellen Foley McGuire, from *America*, November 19, 2007

### Walking the Walk

Socially responsible investing, [ ], is a good way to invest money, make a profit ethically and effect both systematic and individual change. The scope of its environmental and corporate influence is vast, as is the difference it can make in one person's life and in the lives of millions of poor families. It is a powerful way to be a disciple of Christ's mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor." How does one begin?



**Talk to your financial advisor.** You can obtain a listing of financial advisors who are committed to socially responsible investing.

**Invest in socially responsible mutual funds.** Check out your retirement plan at work to see if this is an option. For investment possibilities for yourself or your church, school or hospital.

**Deposit funds in a microlending institution.** The Community Investing Program suggests that 1 percent or more of your investments be devoted to community investing. For a list of microlending opportunities and more information, go to [www.communityinvest.org](http://www.communityinvest.org) and [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org).

**Be an active shareholder.** Vote your proxies. Support and sponsor shareholder proposals. Write letters. Ask questions. Anybody who owns even one share of stock in a company is a part owner and can have a say in how it is run.

## Do the Earth a favor: Turn on the tap

—excerpt from *National Catholic Reporter*, by Laura Lloyd, January 11, 2008



- ◆ Seventy-four percent of Americans drink bottled water, and one in five drinks only bottled water.
- ◆ Worldwide, consumers spent \$100 billion on bottled water in 2005.
- ◆ Making bottles to meet Americans' demand for bottled water required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil last year—enough fuel for more than 1 million U.S. cars for a year—and generated more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.
- ◆ Each year, 4 billion pounds of polyethylene terephthalate, or PET, plastic bottles, which are recyclable, end up in landfill or as roadside litter. Only a small number are recycled.
- ◆ About 40 percent of bottled water comes from the same sources as tap water. In blind taste tests, most consumers couldn't taste the difference between tap and bottled water.
- ◆ Bottled water isn't subject to the same stringent quality controls as tap water. It is no safer than tap water and sometimes much less safe.
- ◆ Large beverage corporations are sometimes draining water supplies that communities in less-developed countries rely on. The United Nations estimates that more than 1 billion people worldwide currently lack access to safe drinking water and that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will not have access to drinking water.

When the fundamental requirements of human dignity, of human life, of the family institution, of a fair social order, in other words, basic human rights, are at stake, no law devised by human beings can subvert the law that the Creator has engraved on the human heart without the indispensable foundations of society itself being dramatically affected. Natural law thus becomes the true guarantee offered to each one in order that he may live in freedom, have his dignity respected and be protected from all ideological manipulation and every kind of arbitrary use or abuse by the stronger.

—*"The Primacy of Natural Moral Law"*  
Benedict XVI, November 8, 2007

## SEND US YOUR EMAIL

If you are interested in being notified of timely updates through our **email alert system**, please send a request to [pmgerovac@clevelandcatholiccharities.org](mailto:pmgerovac@clevelandcatholiccharities.org).

## Father's Stem Cells Provide New Life

Three-year-old Andrew Mueting of Dodge City, Kan., is a bright, happy-go-lucky, energetic little boy. But when he was 4 months old, doctors gave him a bleak prognosis. Born with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, an extremely rare blood disorder that affects approximately 20 U.S. babies a year, Andrew was expected to spend his few years of life fighting anemia and infections, struggling with weak bones and eventual blindness and deafness. Now, thanks to a new procedure that used his father's adult stem cells, Andrew has a chance to live a long, healthy life with few ill effects. In treatments at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., "Andrew had to go through eight days of chemotherapy to completely wipe out his immune system," said his father, Nick Mueting. "During the last five days of is treatment, I took a medicine that helped my body produce a lot of stem cells in my blood. At the end of that period...I was hooked up to a machine for five hours as it extracted the stem cells from my blood." After that, 50 cubic centimeters of the father's stem cells were injected into his son's blood.

—*America*, October 22, 2007



## Makes you go hmmm....

(A Column of Quotes)

Nobody loses when peaceful measures are used to resolve conflicts.

—*Federico Lombardi, SJ*  
Director of the Vatican press office

"Science contributes much to the good of humanity, but it is not able to redeem it."

—*Pope Benedict XVI*

"We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are."

—*Max Dupree*

The Pope highlighted "new problems" associated with such questions as "the freezing of human embryos, embryonal reduction, pre-implantation diagnosis, stem cell research and attempts at human cloning." All these, he said, "clearly show how, with artificial insemination outside the body, the barrier protecting human dignity has been broken. When human beings in the weakest and most defenceless stage of their existence are selected, abandoned, killed or used as pure 'biological matter', how can it be denied that they are no longer being treated as 'someone' but as 'something', thus placing the very concept of human dignity in doubt."

—*Pope Benedict XVI*

Cleared of a wrongful conviction, Kirk Bloodsworth uses his new life to fight the death penalty. "If it can happen to an honourably discharged Marine Corps veteran like me, it can happen to anybody."

—*U.S. Catholic*, March 2008

"The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of one's self to others."

—*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.*

The Holy See appreciates the efforts undertaken at various levels to combat human trafficking, which is a multidimensional problem, and one of the most shameful phenomena of our era. In fact, trafficking in human beings is a dreadful offence against human dignity, which the social doctrine of the Catholic Church regards as the foundation of human rights.

—*Archbishop Agostine Marchetto,*  
Secretary for the Pontifical Council for  
Migrants and Travelers

## Homelessness called 'pandemic'

—excerpt from *National Catholic Reporter*, December 7, 2007

VATICAN CITY—Homelessness is "a global pandemic" that demands a Christian response and government intervention, said the Vatican's secretary of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.



Archbishop Agostino Marchetto said more than a billion people are homeless or lack adequate shelter, and that number is on the rise. These "figures should startle, if not shock us, and they should goad us to greater pastoral action" and advocacy work aimed at tackling the root causes of homelessness and poverty, he said.

About 50 participants from all over the world met at the Vatican to share ways the church could continue to provide basic material assistance for people on the street and find new ways that promote their dignity and value.

Marchetto said the church must foster "communities of welcome," which are "ecclesial communities willing not only to receive the homeless but also to accompany them with commitment."

## "Absolute" Respect for Life Needed in Mideast Pope Urges Halt to Wave of Violence in the "Land of Jesus"

VATICAN CITY, MARCH 2, 2008 (Zenit.org) - The only way to find peace in the Middle East is by showing respect for human life, even the life of the enemy, says Benedict XVI.

The Pope affirmed this today after leading the midday Angelus in St. Peter's Square. He again appealed for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, as a new wave of violence has plagued the Gaza Strip in recent days.

"I renew my pressing invitations to Israeli and Palestinian officials, that this spiral of violence be stopped, unilaterally, without conditions," the Holy Father said. "Only by showing an absolute respect for human life, even that of the enemy, can one hope to provide a future of peace and coexistence for the young generations of those peoples who both have their roots in the Holy Land."

"I invite the whole Church to lift up supplications to the Almighty for peace in the land of Jesus and to show attentive and active solidarity with both populations, Israeli and Palestinian," he said at the conclusion of his message.

According to information acquired by international agencies from Palestine medical sources, since the morning of Feb. 27 more than 100 Palestinians—both Hamas militants and a large number of civilians—have been killed and more than 150 wounded by Israeli fire in Gaza.