



FOR LIFE

Volume 11, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter
2005

Defense of Life is Linked to Liberty

In Rimini, Cardinal Martino Speaks About Social Doctrine

RIMINI, Italy, AUG. 25, 2005 (Zenit.org) Defense of life, religious freedom, and peace and human rights are the priorities on the world scene, says the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.



Cardinal Renato Martino highlighted these issues Tuesday when addressing the topic "The Social Doctrine of the Church at the Service of Modern Man," at the Meeting for Friendship Among Peoples, being held here this week by the ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation.

The session began with a question posed by Giorgio Cittadini, president of the Foundation for Solidarity: "What are the conditions necessary for an individual and the community in which he lives to enjoy full liberty?"

Cardinal Martino responded by illustrating the contents of the recently published Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, written by the pontifical council he heads.

According to the cardinal, the priority areas of commitment in society, in the light of the demands of the Gospel and the primary needs of humanity, are life, religious freedom, and peace and human rights.

The promotion and defense of life, from conception until natural death, is "of fundamental importance for Christians' action in the social realm," said the president of the pontifical council.

Peace-loving

"The right to religious freedom is the foundation of all other rights," Cardinal Martino said. "God guarantees man's inviolable nature, made in the image and likeness of God. Freedom of conscience, just like religious freedom, does not stem from a subjective claim, but derives from the reality of human dignity and man's transcendent vocation."

Further, Cardinal Martino distinguished between a peace-loving person, a pacifist and a peacemaker.

"The peace-loving person is the one who, by the gift of God and his own virtue, is able to live with himself and

others without conflict. Peace is proper to peace-loving men," he said.

"Pacifism is something good, but unless it is oriented by peace-loving men, it runs the risk of betraying the objective of peace, becoming an ideology," the cardinal warned.

"The peacemaker is the peace-loving person who enters into historical situations of conflict to offer words, attitudes and solutions of peace," he continued. The peacemaker, or "agent of peace," is guided by love, because, as St. Augustine wrote, "to have peace means to love," the Vatican official said.

Also, Cardinal Martino confirmed that "the main criteria of attention to human right must be the proclamation of the transcendent principle of the dignity of the person, as true humanism is transcendent."



Got Water?

\$46 BILLION - Amount spent per year globally on bottled water

\$1.7 BILLION - Amount needed per year beyond current spending to provide clean drinking water to everyone on earth

MORE THAN ONE BILLION - Number of worldwide who lack reliable access to safe drinking water

80% - Percentage of world illnesses due to water-borne diseases

Source: The New York Times

2,500,000—Number of children under the age of five who die annually from water-borne diseases.

Source: World Health Organization

IN THIS ISSUE

Defense of Life is Linked to Liberty	1
From the Director	2
Prostitution Assailed as Insult to Women's Dignity	3
The Right to Life	3
Upcoming Events	4
Special Needs	4
Websites of Interest	4
Vatican to Convoke Experts on Human Genome	Insert Page
Project Rachel—What's New	Insert Page
You Can Help End the Death Penalty	Insert Page
Laughing in the Dark	Insert Page
Abortion's Varied States	Insert Page
Courses Aim to Give Gang Members a New Life	Insert Page

It is God who gives everything including life and breath to everyone. He is not far from any of us.

Acts 17:28

From the Director

I've been reflecting lately about how people come to understand and embrace the Catholic teaching of respecting life. It seems that one life issue strikes a stronger cord with one person and a different life issue is of great concern to another. We can uphold the value of life, yet when we hear words like respect life or pro life or consistent ethic of life, our minds and hearts go in different directions. People can all be asked the same question. What does respect life mean? The answers can all be correct. They can all be part of the continuum. We may identify with each threat to life, yet we think or mention different issues threatening life in our world. It is fine. Any threat to life in one way is a threat to another life. The seamless garment says that in respecting all life we respect each life. I heard a little story recently that helped me to understand even more that life is the most important consideration in our world.

A group of children were asked to list what they thought were the seven wonders of the world. After much thought they agreed on the following: Egypt's Great Pyramids, Taj Mahal, Grand Canyon, Panama Canal, Empire State Building, St. Peter's Basilica, and China's Great Wall.

Except for one girl, when the teacher asked her to share her choices, she said. I think the seven wonders of the world are: to see, to hear, to touch, to taste, to feel, to laugh and to love.

When I hear that story, I hear the little girl say that the wonder of the world is to live. I can extrapolate that concept to believe that to know the wonder of the world is to know life. Then to respect the wonder of the world is to respect life.

Many of us are preparing for October, Respect Life Month. Each year the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops dedicates this month to the beautiful gift of life. We are working on prayer services for our parishes, service projects to help the homeless or volunteering to help women in crisis pregnancies. We are organizing civil demonstrations against abortion, euthanasia, armed violence, and the death penalty. We are reading information to expand our knowledge about life threatening issues like embryonic stem cell research and the genocide in Darfur, Sudan and the pandemic of AIDS in African countries. This year, we are helping our fellow citizens in the Gulf States to find a home, food, jobs, family and life outside of a shelter.

When we open our hearts to hear the cries of people who may not even be able to cry, we begin to value life. We see lives compromised and then we open our eyes wider to see the many ways that life is threatened. Then we act; each of us in our own ways. We pray. We find people in need and we give them resources to ensure they and their loved ones will live. We talk to our families and our friends about what a wonder life is. We work to change social structures and legislation that legalize processes that end life. We ask God to open our own minds and hearts to the ways that we unconsciously contribute to the needless ending of another's life.

We all need the support of each other in respecting life. Prayers are offered to save the unborn or stop an execution. More prayers are offered to obtain funds to purchase medication for a child dying of AIDS or to bring peaceful solutions to societies entrenched in violence. All our prayers are joined in acknowledging the wonder of life. We raise our voices to God in praise of the greatest gift he has given the world and that is life. We join our hands in making ourselves "a people for life" creating a "culture of life" (John Paul II).

It is true that each of us cannot take on every threat to life in our world. Each of us can, however, love and respect the wonder of life. Then together, but each in our own way, we can help others to "have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

—Peggy Gerovac

...Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from injury.

-Vatican II, The Church and the Modern World, #1

Prayer Corner

*Trust in the Holy One and live with love,
ever in harmony with nature,
enjoying Earth's bounty—
the vast variety of her riches.
Be not like those who exploit others,
who live by greed and deceit,
who take without return;
For the spirit of the selfish is weak,
and eventually broken.*



*The upright of heart follow the path of love,
with kindness and understanding they
are blessing to the world;
In times of trouble, love is their stronghold,
the Beloved Friend leading them safely home.*

*Puffed up with pride, the greedy are like
inflated balloons,
hot air that soon bursts or fizzes out.
Those who plant seeds of love in their hearts
soon reap a harvest of delight;
blessings are the blossoms they enjoy
and bring as gift to the world.*

*-Nan C. Merrill
"Meditations and Mandalas"*

Prostitution Assailed as Insult to Women's Dignity

Appeal of Conference Called by the Holy See

VATICAN CITY, JUNE 20, 2005 (Zenit.org) Denouncing prostitution as "an insult to the dignity of woman," a congress held in the Vatican sought ways to address the challenge posed by the world's growing sex trade.

When opening the congress today, Cardinal Stephen Hamao, president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, called on the faithful to "assume the defense of women's rights."

The pontifical council convoked the first International Meeting for the Pastoral Liberation of Women of the Street, being held through Tuesday in the Palace of St. Calixtus.

Every year, the trafficking in human beings affects the lives of 1 million people. In Thailand, for example, between 150,000 and 200,000 women, many of them minors, end up on the streets, the congress revealed.

It estimated that 500,000 women from Eastern Europe are enslaved and forced to prostitute themselves on the streets of Western Europe.

The "injustice and violence perpetrated against women" must be reported "wherever it takes place," said Cardinal Hamao. He encouraged efforts to free the victims of this

"degrading yoke," Vatican Radio reported.

Targeting the demand, Sister Eugenia Bonetti of the International Union of Superiors General, an expert in the problem of human trafficking, proposed "working on the demand," that is, targeting those individuals who frequent the services of the sex trade. "Unfortunately, there is never any talk of this," she said.

"They cannot say: I pay and can therefore buy sex on the street. A person's dignity cannot be paid for," she said in a summary she presented on Vatican Radio.

"A great role awaits us: to form and inform," she said. "I have known many women who unfortunately are no longer alive, as they have been killed, fallen ill, or died."

"I don't know how many know that traffickers use the poverty of women to make very great earnings," Sister Bonetti added. "To be able to free herself from this situation and cancel her 'debt' [with the mafia], a Nigerian woman must now pay between 70,000-80,000 euros," about \$85,000 to \$98,000.

She added: "Formation must intervene here, as no one has the right to destroy the dignity of another person."

The Right to Life

An excerpt from "Respect for Human Rights: The Secret of True Peace" by John Paul II

Human life is sacred and inviolable from conception to its natural end. "Thou shalt not kill" is the divine commandment which states the limit beyond which it is never licit to go. "The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of life is always morally evil."

The right to life is inviolable. This involves a positive choice, a choice for life. The development of a culture of

this kind embraces all the circumstances of life and ensures the promotion of human dignity in every situation. A genuine culture of life, just as it guarantees to the unborn the right to come into the world, in the same way protects the newly born, especially girls, from the crime of infanticide. Equally, it assures the handicapped that they can fully develop their capacities, and ensures adequate care for the sick and the elderly.

Invest according to Catholic principles:

- ▶ **Ave Maria Catholic Values**
PHONE: 866-283-6274
WEB SITE: www.avemariafund.com
- ▶ **Aquinas Small Cap or Aquinas Growth**
PHONE: 800-423-6369
WEB SITE: www.aquinasfunds.com
- ▶ **Catholic Equity Funds**
PHONE: 877-222-2402
WEB SITE: www.catholicknights.com
- ▶ **Pax World Funds**
PHONE: 800-767-1729
WEB SITE: www.paxworld.com

Volume 11

Issue 4

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.

Pro Life Office
7911 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102
(216) 334-2965
www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/prolife



Upcoming Events . . .

Sun., Oct. 2—Life Chain (West)—Join area pro-lifers in the *Life Chain*, a peaceful one-hour long vigil to affirm the sacredness of life. From 2:30-3:30 p.m. at 20800 Center Ridge Rd., across from the Westgate Mall. Signs will be provided.

Sun., Oct. 2—Life Chain (East)—Join St. Gregory Parish, 1545 South Green Rd., So. Euclid, in the *National Life Chain*. Bring your whole family, water, umbrellas, strollers, all are welcome...rain or shine! Assemble in church parking lot at 12:45 p.m. The *Life Chain* will be between 1-2 p.m. Following in the church, speaker Tom Raddell from Life Link; closing benediction offered by Fr. Ireland.

Sat., Oct. 8—Life Walk 2005—at 10:00 a.m., a fundraiser to benefit the ministry of **Alternaterm** at Euclid Creek Metropark. Contact 216-371-3349 for pledge forms.

Sat., Oct. 15—Walk for Life—sponsored by the **Cleveland Pregnancy Center**. A 2-mile fun walk will be held at St. Ignatius Sports Complex, 1911 W. 30 St., Cleveland. Registration at 9 a.m.; walk at 10 a.m. For info, call 440-243-2520.

Sat., Oct. 15—Religion & Politics: Let's Hold a Conversation!—A panel presentation sponsored by the Parish Justice Outreach Committee of the **Catholic Commission** from 9-11 a.m., 795 Russell Ave., Akron, OH. Continental breakfast provided. To register, call 330-535-2787 by Oct. 10. For other info, go to www.catholic-action.org.

Fri., Nov. 4—Womankind's 30th Anniversary Hearts and Hands Gala will be held at the Cleveland Athletic Club on Euclid Ave. in Downtown Cleveland. Call 216-662-5700 for more information.

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



Special Needs . . .

Can you volunteer once a week to save a baby's life?

Birthright is in need of volunteers at the following locations:

- East 185th Street, Cleveland
- 14701 Detroit in Lakewood
- 5451 Broadview Road in Parma

Call Fran at 216-731-7133 or Bernice at 440-331-9239. Also, we are always in need of donations for the following: diapers (any size) and baby wipes.



Websites of Interest . . .

Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty
www.ccedp.org

The Crisis in Darfur
savedarfur.org

Water for Life Decade
www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/

"Violence, of whatever sort, cannot be a way of resolving conflicts. It mortgages the future severely and does not respect either persons or peoples."

—Benedict XVI

**NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2323**



For Life-Extra

Volume 11, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter
2005

Vatican to Convoke Experts on Human Genome

International Conference Scheduled for November



VATICAN CITY, JUNE 22, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers has convoked an interdisciplinary conference on "The Human Genome" from Nov. 17-19.

"We have defined health as tension towards harmony," explained the president of the pontifical council, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragán, in the written presentation of the event.

"Exploring this concept, in this 20th International Conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers we will address the beginning of this tension, a beginning that marks health throughout life -- the human genome," he said.

"This is a very broad topic and to a large extent subject to new research and discovery," the cardinal added. "Our aims are modest and we will try to study this subject solely from the specific perspective of health, which, for that matter, is an all-embracing reality. We will lay stress on the therapeutic aspect."

Cardinal Lozano Barragán will open the working sessions of the international conference with an address on the "Origin of Life and Theology."

The first session will be presided over by Father Angelo Serra, retired professor of human genetics, of the School of Medicine of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Rome.

Other scheduled speakers include Dr. George Robert Fraser, a member of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Dr. Clotilde Mircher, of the Lejeune Foundation, Paris; and Aubrey Milunsky, director of the Center for Human Genetics at the Boston University School of Medicine.

The minutes of the conference are to be published in May 2006.

For more information, see www.healthpastoral.org.

Life, especially human life, belongs to God; whoever attacks human life attacks God's very self.

—The Gospel of Life (Donders translation), #9

You Can Help End the Death Penalty

An excerpt from "Catholics and the Death Penalty"



Many of our own parishes provide ample opportunity for discussion with fellow Catholics and may be the most important place for us to engage in an active, prophetic witness. Perhaps your small faith group might reflect on Bible passages where the question of justice and mercy are highlighted. Or perhaps your parish book club might read a book on capital punishment, or even a church document on the death penalty. Those preparing for baptism and confirmation, both youth and adults, should be acquainted with the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching and what better issue than the death penalty as a case study in evolution of church teaching? As important as it is to speak with those outside the church, our encounter with fellow Catholics around the profound questions of life, death, reconciliation and justice raised by capital punishment, allows us to enter more deeply into the life of our church, and through the church, into the life of Christ himself.

New EMAIL Address

Please check your address list.
My email has changed to:

pmgerovac@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

Laughing in the Dark

By Sheila Provencher—28 August 2005, Baghdad, Iraq

Jokes can reveal a lot. I suspect they can reveal more about a situation than can many scholarly articles, political speeches, and media reports. In that light, here are some jokes from Iraq that I've recently heard.

There is a huge government-sponsored billboard (for real) near Tahrir Square, an area of Baghdad through which I frequently ride. The billboard proclaims, in huge Arabic letters: "One nation. One people. One constitution."

Last week as we rode past, the cab driver laughed and said that the billboard was meaningless. In fact, he said, it should read, "Three nations. Crazy people. No constitution."



Pro Life Website

by Peggy Gerovac

Have you visited

www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/prolife lately?

On the homepage there are currently two important links. First, there is a direct link to the 2005 USCCB Respect Life Program material for you to look at or even order. Second, there are two events posted that might interest you. One is related to post abortion and one related to the death penalty. Several groups this last month used information from the website in developing their new parish Respect Life groups. Maybe you'll find something for your ministry.

Project Rachel—What's New?

by Peggy Gerovac



Referrals for Project Rachel come from many sources including parents, grandparents, priests, pastoral ministers and concerned friends. We can all invite women who might need some post abortion healing to consider the Church for help. You might want to suggest the Pro Life website, email, or phone number. When a woman calls the Pro Life Office, I ask a few questions and then make a referral to them. We always ask the woman to make the contacts when she is comfortable and ready. The process is extremely confidential. There are no records kept on the individuals who contact me, and I never initiate contact with the person. Project Rachel's first goal is to help women to feel safe and protected. Please keep us all in prayer: the women seeking post abortion healing, the lay and ordained ministers who counsel and myself in coordinating the program.

Abortion's Varied States

U.S. Rates Down, Others Up

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPT. 3, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The level of abortions is dropping in the United States, but rising in Spain and England. A July 19 article in the Washington Post analyzed a report published by the Alan Guttmacher Institute. The report, "Estimates of U.S. Abortion Incidence in 2001 and 2002," was released May 19.

According to the pro-abortion institute, U.S. abortion rates continued to fall in 2001 and 2002, although the rate of decline has slowed since the early 1990s.

The report, which the institute cautions is based on provisional statistics, estimates that 1,303,000 abortions took place in the United States in 2001, a drop of 0.8% from 2000. In 2002 there was a further decline of 0.8%, to 1,293,000.

The Guttmacher Institute's study also said that there are significant variations among states, and within population subgroups. For example, while the abortion rate declined among most groups between 1994 and 2000, it increased among poor women and women on Medicaid.

In its article the Washington Post noted that black and Hispanic women have higher rates of abortion, accounting for 32% and 20%, respectively, of the total number. Higher abortion rates also exist among low-income women. No fewer than 60% of women who had abortions in 2000 had incomes of less than twice the poverty level -- below \$28,000 per year for a family of three.

Among age groups 56% of women who ended their pregnancies are in their 20s, while 15- to 19-year-olds account for 19%.

An analysis of the report in the July 26 issue of the weekly publication Culture & Cosmos observed that 53% of women who had unintended pregnancies used a contraceptive method during the month they got pregnant. Another striking fact is that marriage plays an important role in

reducing abortions. Married women accounted for only 17% of abortions, and even when they became pregnant unexpectedly, they are less likely to abort.

Pro-life groups continue to make efforts to reduce the number of abortions. In recent times the center of activity has been at the state level, according to a June 13 report in the Christian Science Monitor.

The article quoted a researcher from the Guttmacher Institute, Elizabeth Nash, who said that in the first five months of 2005 there had been 16 bills at state level regarding the activities of abortion clinics. Initiatives range from requiring parental notification for teen-agers who seek abortions, to attempts to obtain legal recognition for the personhood of a fetus.

Courses Aim to Give Gang Members a New Life

Church in El Salvador Offers Training to Youths

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, AUG. 24, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The Archdiocese of San Salvador is offering courses in professional formation to rehabilitate youths who are members of the country's feared gangs.

At a press conference after Mass on Sunday, Archbishop Fernando Sáenz Lacalle said that every day "we hear news of terrible violence by the gangs."

"We must go to their help to extricate them from this wave of violence in which they are submerged," he said.

According to official sources quoted by the EFE news agency, there are about 10,500 gang members in El Salvador. Most are in the gangs Salvatrucha Mob and Mob 18, to which the government attributes 60% of the murders that occur in this country of 6.7 million.

Since August 2004, the government has carried out the "Super Hard Hand Plan" against the gangs, an operation that culminated last Thursday in the capture of 29 gang members accused of murders on the outskirts of San Salvador and in the department of La Libertad.

Thousands arrested

The Super Hard Hand Plan gives continuity to the Hard Hand Plan launched in July 2003 by the government of President Francisco Flores, which succeeded in arresting 16,000 gang members, some captured several times after being released.

Archbishop Sáenz Lacalle reported that a parish in Ciudad Delgado, northwest of San Salvador, has succeeded in rehabilitating a complete gang, whose members have been trained for various jobs.

The archbishop added that, though it is necessary "to take all measures" to contain the gang members' wave of violence, "the experience in the Calle Real Parish is very positive" and must be reproduced.

The youths, he lamented, "are immersed in this wave of great lack of training, of deformation of conscience and of violence."



