



# FOR LIFE

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## Holy See Backs a "Human Ecology"

NEW YORK, MAY 15, 2006 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org))

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, in an address last Thursday to a session of the U.N. Economic and Social Council's Commission on Sustainable Development, affirmed that "Only the integration of environmental and developmental concerns into policy-making and a committed political follow-through will lead to the improvement in living standards for all, while assuring our world's environmental future."

After criticizing "the irrational destruction of the natural environment," the archbishop added that "there has been the more serious destruction of the human environment."

"Although people are rightly worried about preserving natural habitats," noted Archbishop Migliore, "too little effort has been made to safeguard the moral conditions for an authentic human ecology."

Such an ecology will place the human person "at the center of environmental concerns, while simultaneously promoting an urgent sense of human responsibility for the earth, be it at the level of states, commerce or individuals," the Holy See official said. . .

Key environmental problems identified by the Archbishop:

1. Water woes
2. Energy needs



**When you organize the global society primarily for the purpose of increasing production and consumption, you systematically destroy community (human and nonhuman).**

—John Cobb (Simpler Living, Compassionate Life)

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## Modern-Day Slavery



**Human trafficking** is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Examples of recent cases of human trafficking in the U.S. include adolescent Mexican girls trafficked to the U.S. for forced prostitution, Indian men trafficked for forced labor, and African women and children trafficked for domestic servitude, among others.

The U.S. government estimates that approximately 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year; about 14,500-17,500 of them into the United States. Of those trafficked into the United States, it is estimated one-third are children.

USCCB/MRS has served trafficking victims from Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Our clients have been men, women, and children. They were trafficked for forced prostitution, forced labor, and domestic servitude

"Trafficking in persons—in which men, women, and children from all over the globe are transported to other countries for the purposes of forced prostitution or labor—inherently rejects the dignity of the human person and exploits conditions of global poverty."

—*Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*

<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

**How can I help? See Insert.**

"Even today," the Holy Father said after praying the rosary with the faithful, "there is a need for conversation to God, the God of love, so that the world be freed of wars and terrorism."

—*Benedict XVI*

We would like to make our own the words that the Holy Father Benedict XVI spoke in his address to our congress: "God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person or adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26) in each one.

—*excerpt from "Human Embryo in the Pre-Implantation Phase" Communiqué From Pontifical Academy for Life*

The celebration of death and resurrection of Christ, said Benedict XVI, "gives us the certainty that evil does not have the last word, supported by this certain knowledge we can commit ourselves with greater courage and enthusiasm to creating a fairer world."

—*Benedict XVI*

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## From the Director

During a recent evening of reflection on eco-spirituality, I heard the speaker say some very important words. She said “nothing is thrown away.” Her context for these words was in reference to material items that are moved from our homes, offices, etc., to landfills. I began to think of two landfills I see on my travels through Chicago and Wisconsin to visit my family. The first one I see rises up high above the Interstate just south of Chicago. The mound is so large that the garbage trucks seem as small as Tonka trucks driving up to the top to throw away their loads. During the winter, a little further north in a suburb of Milwaukee, I can see skiers sailing down the snow-covered slopes created by another landfill. It is overwhelming to see and try to comprehend what new landscape we are creating with items thrown away. I am also reminded of some Central American countries that have “neighborhoods” in these garbage heaps. They are not so nicely covered up with manufactured ski slopes or manicured soil. In these landfills, children and adults live. They make their living by finding things to sell amid the decay.

*“In the era of globalization, it is important that the management of public life not be guided preponderantly and solely by economic considerations, by the quest for profitability, by an inconsiderate use of the planet's resources in detriment to populations.”*

—Benedict XIV May 18, 2006 *Zenit*

Now this phrase “nothing is thrown away” has really stayed with me for about a month. It seems to be a mantra as I read and hear many topics related to our teaching about Consistent Ethic of Life. No life is thrown away in God's eyes. I began to reflect about ways our human society has decided to throw away. John Cobb in his book, Simpler Living, Compassionate Life, says, “. . . we are called to celebrate all life, including our own, not to repress it. But the celebration of life does not involve participation in the luxury and waste of a throw-away society that exists in the midst of world poverty.”

I have read so many stories and lessons this month about lives that seemed to be thrown away. Here's an interesting one. There is a new trend for couples from other countries coming to the United States for a process called “gender selection.” Some U.S. fertility clinics advertise to people who are unable to “gender select” in their own country. A couple from Australia began their family with the birth of three healthy boys. The parents decided they really wanted to have a girl in their family, and gender selection was the procedure to ensure their goal was met. So several embryos were created, and then cells were extracted to test for male or female DNA. When an embryo was determined to be female, it was implanted in the mother's womb. What about the other embryos? Were they thrown away? Maybe not literally, but they were not needed by this family; so they were moved to another place for storage until a use was determined. That sounds a bit familiar to me. Can someone be thrown away never to be considered again?

Recently, two bishops requested an embryonic stem cell research ban in Wisconsin and encouraged the use of adult stem cells to find relief and cures for disease and other medical trauma. Governor Doyle responded by first saying

that such a ban would not be a wise economic decision for their state. You see, stem cell research began in Wisconsin, and they have big plans to capitalize on the unused embryos of in vitro fertilization. Research on cells captured from “extra” embryos is planned. In Catholic teaching we realize that each person is created in the image and likeness of God, even the “extras.” Many years ago Thomas Merton said, “*But to love another as a person we must begin by granting him his own autonomy and identity as a person. We have to love him for what he is in himself, and not for what he is to us. We have to love him for his own good, not for the good we get out of him.*” (from *Disputed Questions* by Thomas Merton, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers.)

Consistent Ethic of Life teaching helped me to see the “throw away” mentality alive in the conscious of our society (embryonic stem cells, death penalty, casualties of war, etc.). Even our individual conscience needs more development to see the human ecology of our choices and decisions. What decisions do we make without regard for other lives? Do we pay attention to our words and decisions that sometimes “throw away” or disregard people or groups of people as not necessary? God inspires us, through prayer, to see and love as God does. With devotion and a listening heart we can learn to love all life enough to consciously make choices that encourage and sustain life.

## Prayer Corner

Covenant God, hear the creatures You have made,  
creatures made to know You and enjoy You forever,  
creatures who find their rest in You.

Creator of all beauty, You have made us in Your image;  
You have made us for pleasure;  
You have made us for joy.

O God, You have made us in Your image:  
You have made us for community,  
for communion, for love.

In our foolishness, we squander those gifts.  
We desire what is less than beautiful,  
what is less than good,  
what is less than lovely.

We pay the price in lives that are marked by restless striving,  
not joy,  
in lives that are marked by loneliness and self destruction,  
not communion.

Out of community with You,  
we cannot properly love our neighbors and ourselves.

Liberate us from those elements of our selves, loving God,  
that keep us from loving You and our neighbors aright.

Grant us eyes to see and hearts to love  
those You have given us to be our neighbors,  
so that we see signs of Your kingdom, Your shalom,  
in our lives together.



*James Vanden Bosch*

*Summer: A Spiritual Biography of the Season*

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## Wheels for Justice

—by Sr. Kathleen Ryan, SND



Holy Week took on a special significance for students from Catholic High Schools and Colleges in the Diocese of Cleveland who led the state on the Wheels for Justice Bike and Bus trip to Columbus to call for the abolition of the Death Penalty in Ohio. from April 7-10.

Over Palm Sunday weekend, 25 Students and 10 teachers biked 162 miles to Columbus, praying the stations as they went, to witness to their respect for life and calling for an end to the death penalty in Ohio. They were joined on Monday, April 10, in Columbus by 300 students on 8 buses from 13 high schools from Cleveland and other high schools across Ohio for a rally at the statehouse.

The students are all members of Catholic Students for Peace and Justice, (CSPJ) a network of the colleges and high schools of the diocese working together to promote peace and justice through Catholic Social Teaching in their respective schools.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Monday of Holy Week, the students prayed in front of the statehouse, remembering how Jesus was executed at the hands of the state. Through their presence, they were in solidarity with all victims of violent crime (including those executed in the name of all Ohioans). They advocated against the use of the death penalty as a form of punishment.

The bike riders stopped 13 times along the 3 day journey to pray the Stations of the Cross. They were riding and praying for the victims of violent crimes and their family members. They were riding and praying for those who have been executed and are currently on death row awaiting their execution. The 14<sup>th</sup> station was prayed by the more than 300 students who joined the bike riders in front of the Statehouse on the final day of the journey.

Around a camp fire in southern Ohio, the student bike riders from Beaumont, Cleveland Central Catholic High School, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, Padua Franciscan High School, Regina High School, St. Ignatius High School reflected on their common commitment to Catholic Social Teaching in the context of a consistent ethic of life. They reflected on why the action they were taking was necessary.

They were joined in Columbus by bus riders from their schools as well as from John Carroll University, Ursuline College, Magnificat, Our Lady of the Elms, St. Edward,

May Christ inflame the desire of all men to break through the barriers which divide them, to strengthen the bonds of mutual love, to learn to understand one another, and to pardon those who have done them wrong. Through His power and inspiration may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts as brothers, and may the peace they long for ever flower and ever reign among them.

—Pacem in Terris  
John XXIII

St. Joseph Academy, St. Martin de Porres, Walsh Jesuit High School and other Catholic High schools from throughout the state of Ohio. Representatives from the Commission on Catholic Community Action, a social action office of the diocese of Cleveland, and the Ohio Catholic Conference of Bishops supported their efforts as the young people took the 162 mile trip to give witness to their faith.

The young people were very grateful Bishop Pilla joined them at the beginning of the journey to bless the bike riders, pray for a safe journey and to commend them for taking their faith so seriously.

Bishop Gries also joined the opening prayer service and led the students in the first station. Together they prayed from *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death, a Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops calling for an end to the use of the Death Penalty*, November, 2005.

Bishop Gries, reading from the document, stated, "Twenty-five years ago, our Conference of Bishops first called for an end to the death penalty. We renew this call to seize a new moment and new momentum. This is a time to teach clearly, encourage reflection, and call for common action in the Catholic community to bring about an end to the use of the death penalty in our land. "

(Sister Kathleen Ryan is the director of legislative affairs and education for the Commission on Catholic Community Action, a social action office of the Diocese of Cleveland. She accompanied the biker riders during their four day journey and spoke with others at the rally at the Statehouse.)

It is not you who shape God; it is God who shapes you. If then you are the work of God, await the hand of the Artist who does all things in due season. Offer the Potter your heart, soft and tractable, and keep the form in which the Artist has fashioned you. Let your clay be moist, lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of the Potter's fingers.

—Saint Irenaeus

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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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## Upcoming Events . . .

**Saturday, July 15**—sponsored by **The Catholic Coalition of Parish Pro-Life Representatives**, Fr. Peter West of Priests for Life will speak at an informal private luncheon from 12-3 pm. Anyone wishing to talk and share ideas about the pro-life cause is welcome to attend. Call 216-226-6663.

**Sunday, October 22**—**Womankind Material and Prenatal Care Center** will hold its **12th Annual Hearts and Hands Luncheon** at the Intercontinental Hotel. For further information, contact Womankind at 216-662-5700.

[www.ProLifeSearch.com](http://www.ProLifeSearch.com)

This is a new search engine powered by Google, developed by two businessmen in Chicago as a means to raise money for pro-life organizations. It costs you nothing, other than to remember to use the search engine in place of others. The revenue generated by your usage is then passed on to pro-life groups.



### Crown Point Ecology Center

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Renewing Earth and Spirit since 1989.

Visit us in Bath, Ohio or at [www.crownpt.org](http://www.crownpt.org)

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



## Wish List . . .

**West Side Catholic Center**, 3135 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, is in need of the following items:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Coffee, sugar, dried beverages
- Men's pants, shoes, sweatshirts (especially hooded sweatshirts)
- Men's work boots
- Household items: pots, pans, silverware, towels, sheets, curtains, blankets
- Small appliances: alarm clocks, toasters, irons, crock pots
- Duffle bags and backpacks
- Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, Vaseline
- Dishwashing detergent
- (A special wish: *The Drop-In Center could use a DVD player, as VCRs and VHS tapes are becoming obsolete.*)

If you are able to assist, please call 216-631-4741 for hours and drop-off location.

**Womankind Maternal and Prenatal Care Center**, 5400 Transportation Blvd. in Garfield Heights is in need of medical and non-medical\* volunteers to provide client support for mothers-to-be and families.

If you have a willing heart and would like to become a helping hand, please call Womankind at 216-662-5700.

*\*Training is provided*

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## Vatican Clarifies Its Condom-AIDS Study

—VATICAN CITY, APRIL 25, 2006 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org))



The Holy See is preparing a "study" for internal dialogue, not a "document," on condoms and AIDS, says the president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers.

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragán, clarifying information published recently in the media, told ZENIT that this "profound study," requested by Benedict XVI, takes into account "both the scientific and technical aspects linked to the condom, as well as the moral implications in all their amplitude."

The question the study addresses in particular is that of couples united in sacramental marriage, in which one of the spouses suffers from AIDS.

The discussion as to whether in such cases it would be licit to use a condom to save a life arose with the idea of the establishment of the Good Samaritan Foundation in September 2004. The Vatican-headquartered group aims to financially support the neediest sick, in particular those suffering from AIDS. . .

**I invite each of you to work ever harder at the integration of persons with disabilities into society, into the world of work and into the Christian community, as I remind you that every human life deserves respect and must be protected from its conception to its natural end. I assure my support and my prayers to all those who are already dedicated to this immense task.**

—Benedict XVI, *ANGELUS* 4 December 2005

## Selling Human Eggs?

"Moral, health issues seen in sales of human eggs," by Mary C. Schneidau (excerpt from *Our Sunday Visitor*, May 21, 2006)



In an effort to provide infertile couples with healthy and smart children, some fertility clinics are offering college women thousands of dollars to donate their eggs. It is a disturbing trend, Catholic experts said, that is ripe with moral problems and can have serious medical consequences for the donor.

Most clinics seek eggs for in-vitro fertilization (IVF), in which a child is conceived in a Petri dish before the embryo is implanted in woman's uterus. In many cases of IVF, the biological mother is not the woman who carries the child. The process is immoral because it separates procreation from the marital act.

"It's not different in substance from offering to pay people for organ donations," he said, and college women may be coerced by money into making the wrong decision.

## Cardinal Sees New Threats to Life in the Americas

—VATICAN CITY, JUNE 8, 2006 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org))



In a message sent in Benedict XVI's name to the Organization of American States, the Vatican secretary of state warned against the new threats to human life in the Western Hemisphere.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano's message was presented to the OAS' General Assembly, which closed Tuesday in Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic.

The message focused on "the dignity of the human person, the absolute value of human life from conception until its natural end."

The New Threats:

1. Legalization of abortion in several countries of Latin America
2. Violence in its diverse forms: terrorism, attacks against innocent civilians, kidnappings, threats, drug trafficking
3. Family is the first entity that states must protect and promote and ensure the minimal material conditions necessary
4. The conditions of production and development which threaten peace and harmony for all

## Ecumenical Declaration by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (key points)

- ✓ God as Creator of the Universe and Father of humanity is the basis of the dignity that characterizes all human beings.
- ✓ Man is the subject, center and end of all human activity.
- ✓ Human life in its physical dimension constitutes a fundamental and primary good for man.
- ✓ The human being must have his most important right recognized, which is life.
- ✓ Health is a good which must be promoted and protected.
- ✓ Sickness and suffering can only be fully understood in the light of Christ's paschal mystery.
- ✓ Death is the last stage of earthly life and its natural limit.

—[Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org) (ZE06051520)

## Abortion Shunners Get Insurance Discount

ROME, JUNE 5, 2006 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)) - At least five health insurance companies in Switzerland give discounts to women who refuse abortions and in vitro fertilization, as well as prenatal diagnosis..

The companies offer eligible women rate reductions of 10% to 40%, and thousands of people have signed these special contracts.

## Spirituality/Theology

"The Sure Way to Peace and Justice" by Denis Murphy, (excerpt from *America*, April 3, 2006)



The church's increased involvement with the poor will demand a spirituality and a theology for such work. In poor Catholic countries it is necessary to link the people's deep spirituality with work for justice. Now these two currents often flow in two different directions. The linking of spirituality and theology should assist the poor who face conflict in their struggle for a better life, since change inevitably involves conflict. In the West this may help middle-class people, caught up in the round of more work with less security, to recognize the need for a simpler, prayerful yet productive life.

Giving priority to the problems of poverty will help us understand the mysteries behind some expressions the church has used for years, like church of the poor, preferential option for the poor, God's special love for the poor. As an Indian Jesuit, Samuel Rayan, used to say, we must be with the poor not because they are good, but because God is there. What do these words and phrases really mean? Is there a solid reality behind them, or are they rhetorical flourishes? We are more likely to discover the reality or, better, have it made known to us, if we work with the poor. These phrases will have no special meaning if church people do not focus on poverty. Priority for work with the poor may renew the church. Who can tell now what changes may occur?

## Life Lessons



The Life Lessons column is presented to provide further Prayer & Reflection on the current issue of "For Life." Each quarter questions and thoughts for reflection are presented for use in your private prayer and reflection, for discussion within your family, in a group of peers, with another person concerned with life issues or even in your parish groups. You may be amazed at the fruits of reflection.

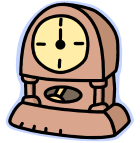
1. How does the expression "throw away" hold new meaning for you?
2. What new ways of diminishing human dignity were you made aware of in the issue?
3. How is your reading of "For Life" expressed in prayer?

On September 11, 2003, Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke at the University of Notre Dame. He said, "True peace and real security will never come from the barrel of a gun. They will come when we act from the perspective that PEOPLE MATTER."



## Book Review

"A Time to Speak" by Yvonne Florczak-Seeman



Yvonne had five abortions and came into the Church through Project Rachel. She has an organization called [www.lovefromaboveinc.com](http://www.lovefromaboveinc.com). She is making this book available so you can use it for your ministry.

The Pro Life Office has been able to offer the book (through a generous donation) to each woman seeking assistance with Project Rachel. When a post-abortive woman enters the Project Rachel ministry in the Cleveland Diocese, she is offered a copy of "A Time to Speak."

## Prevention Part of AIDS Fight, Cardinal Tells U.N.

NEW YORK, JUNE 5, 2006 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org))

A cardinal reminded a high-level U.N. meeting that one of every four AIDS patients in the world is treated in a Catholic center.

Representing the Holy See, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragán also pointed out the work of prevention promoted by the Church, based on "information and education toward proper behavior, so as to avoid the pandemic."

The cardinal, who is president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, on Friday addressed the meeting held by the U.N. General Assembly. The U. N. event began last Wednesday.

He began his address by transmitting Benedict XVI's greetings "to all who are engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

"The Pope is deeply concerned about the spread of the illness and guarantees both the continuity and the increase of the work that the Catholic Church does to stop this scourge," said Cardinal Lozano Barragán.

Explaining the Church's action in this area, the cardinal revealed that "26.7% of the centers that treat people infected with HIV and affected by AIDS in the world are Catholic-based."

This work entails "the training of health care professionals, as well as prevention, treatment, care and assistance," he added. "In all these stages, we accompany the sick and their respective families."

## Project Rachel—What's New?

by Peggy Gerovac



In March 2006, we sent a mailing of Project Rachel invitational brochures to each parish. There was a significant increase of calls in certain areas of the diocese related to the campaign. As I have been out and about, I have seen the brochures posted, too. Have you distributed the brochures? Do you need more? Have you published a bulletin insert? The women who call for help are in so much pain. Please help us reach out to them.