

Pennsylvania State Board Respect Life Report – December, 5th, 2009

Fr. Tom, President Donnelly, Members of the State Board, and Brother Hibernians:

At the last meeting, I proposed the Hibernian Pro-Life Plan that tentatively provides for the acquisition of sonogram equipment for Pregnancy Crisis Centers in the State of Pennsylvania. Here are the details so far:

1. Prayer:

a. Urge each of our brothers to pray the following:

- i. The Rosary every day, asking our Blessed Mother for her intercession, guidance, and protection, especially for those mothers in crisis and their unborn babies.
- ii. The Divine Mercy Chaplet on Friday's, preferably at 3:00 PM.
 1. Ask Jesus Christ and our Almighty Father to have mercy on those directly and indirectly affected by abortion.
- iii. Pray to the Holy Spirit that we, as Irish Catholic Brothers of Christ Jesus, may be a beacon of his light and draw others into his glorious Gospel of Life!
- iv. Pray for St. Patrick's intercession, especially for potential fathers and mothers of crisis pregnancies.
- v. As the patroness of babies, infants, and youth, Pray for St. Philomena's intercession to protect the very young.
- vi. As the patron saint against abortion, pray for the intercession of St. Catherine of Sweden.
- vii. Pray for the intercession of Saints Agnes of Rome and Thomas Aquinas, the patron saints of chastity.
- viii. Pray for our parish priests that they have the courage and grace to speak effectively about pride, shame, abstinence, chastity, forgiveness, and repentance as it relates to crisis pregnancies, especially where hostile family situations can provoke abortion.
- ix. Pray for all those affected by abortion.

b. Ask all division and county presidents and their respect life chairmen to pray the Hibernian Pro-Life Prayer, before closing each meeting.

2. Sacrifice:

- a. The Hibernian Pro-Life Plan will raise funds to provide sonogram equipment for Pregnancy Crisis Centers in the seven counties of Pennsylvania where 94% of abortions in the state occur.
- b. It is proposed that all divisions take a voluntary collection of one dollar at each meeting and planned division, county or state activity.
- c. The one dollar amount will promote participation by all brothers and be a subtle reminder that we are looking to make a difference one soul at a time.
 - i. Nine out of ten women that see a sonogram image of the living baby in their womb choose life, even when pitted against hostilities and adversities at home and in their personal relationships.

- ii. The frequency of the voluntary collection will keep the plan active and promote the prayer and activism aspect of the plan.
 - d. Fasting:
 - i. Urge all men to voluntarily fast on all first-Fridays.
 - 1. Follow the Church's guidelines for fast and abstinence, unless health prevents fasting, or allows for full fasting.
 - ii. Fasting has the same effect on prayers as a magnifying glass on sunlight.
- 3. Activism:
 - a. Urge every single division in the State to participate in the "Right to Life" march in Washington, DC, every year, until it's not necessary.
 - i. Relate story of Rachel's participation in the Right to Life March.
 - b. Urge every single man in our order to personally engage a Pregnancy Crisis Center in their neighborhood. They need lots of volunteer help, including prayer warriors, fathering skill mentors, and general office work, like stuffing envelopes.
 - c. Actively participate in fund-raising activities for pro-life organizations.

In order to officially roll out the plan in January, there needs to be a few guidelines set to assure the success of the plan:

- Collections to be sent to the State Treasurer, who will have a special account set up for the plan.
- Donations will be tracked by the State Respect Life Chairman and posted on a website, so the plan's progress can be viewed in real-time.
- Disbursements will be made on a rotating basis across the seven counties that account for 94% of all abortions in the state.
- Disbursements will be issued when an amount equal to \$45,000 is collected, or on the anniversary date of Roe vs Wade, January 22nd, if the total amount collected by January, 22nd, 2011 is less than \$45,000.
- Divisions and County Boards will also be encouraged to take on fund-raising for the Pro-Life Plan, for instance, fifty-fifty raffles during AOH activities, special collection jars at division club rooms, collecting at the doors of their parish in January, collecting along St. Patrick's Day parade routes, and special donations from divisions and county boards.
- This plan has the full support of the PA State Board, and as such, each County and Division President will be sent a letter encouraging their participation.
- Division and County Board donations will be collected by the respective Right to Life Chairman and forwarded to the State Treasurer.
- E-mail notices will be published for state wide distribution to keep all members fully informed of the development and progress of the plan.
- This plan will require the assistance of several Respect Life Chairmen, and each one will be contacted throughout early January to assure their receipt of plan information and their commitment to promote the plan.
- Every effort will be made to acquire personal testimony of women who choose life.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your attention, time, and prayers. With the permission of the board, I will continue with the official roll out in January, to coincide with the "Right to Life" march.

In Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity,

Larry Squires
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Pennsylvania State Board Respect Life Chairman

Copy of Prayer Card to be distributed in January, 2010.

Pray for our parish priests that they have the courage and grace to speak effectively about pride, shame, abstinence, forgiveness, and repentance as it relates to crisis pregnancies, especially where hostile family situations can provoke abortion.