

## Pennsylvania State Board Respect Life Report – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Introduction spoken, but not part of hand out:

Fr. Tom, President Donnelly, and Brother Hibernians:

Many of you may not know who I am. I am Larry Squires, from Allegheny County, Division 17, Monroeville, PA. Originally, I was a member of Division 34, Homestead, PA, where my mother's great grandfather, a displaced Irish coal miner, was a charter member in 1898.

This past July, President Donnelly asked me if I would be the State Respect Life Chairman, and obviously, I accepted the challenge.

Every since my first "Right to Life March," about eighteen years ago, my interest and involvement in pro-life activities has been increasing steadily. From inviting dozens of folks to come along for the ride on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, to attending fundraising dinners for our local Community Care Pregnancy Center, I find it very difficult to turn away from pro-life activities, and most recently the Holy Spirit has presented the opportunity to engage the effort at deeper levels and broader horizons.

As you get to know me better, you will find out that I have been blessed with a gift for Observation, Analysis, Planning, and Execution. So far as my duties and obligations to the office of Respect Life Chairman, the observation, analysis, and planning have been underway for several months. With the blessings of Almighty God, the protection and guidance of our Blessed Mother, the intercession of our patron, Saint Patrick, and your patience and prayers, we will successfully execute the plan you're about to meet.

1. Ask the men if they've ever fixed a leaky faucet, flat tire, dead battery, etc.
  - a. Did they avoid fixing it, because there must be thousands of leaky faucets, flat tires, or dead batteries in this country? What good will fixing one do?
  - b. Or did they fix it, because of their sense of ownership and desire to accomplish something.
2. Next, ask the score of the Steeler Game last Sunday? The Eagle's on Monday Night?
  - a. How about the score of the last Philly's game? What was the series record for the championship game?
  - b. How many games did the Penguins take to beat the Red Wings in June?
3. Who here is a Steeler's fan? Eagles? How about the Temple Owls? New Orlean's Saints?

Men like to: 1) fix stuff that's broken, 2) track results, and 3) support a winning team. The AOH Shamrock Plan will provide our Brothers with a way to fix what's broken, track results, and support a winning team.

End of Introduction:

The AOH Shamrock Plan:

In honor of the Holy Trinity and our blessed patron, St. Patrick, the Shamrock Plan will have three distinct parts that work in unity for a common goal. County and Division Respect Life Chairmen will be engaged to facilitate the plan.

These three parts are equal in importance, yet each has their own particular focus. You may have seen these concepts on posters and tee shirts during the “Right to Life” march in Washington, DC.

1. Prayer
2. Sacrifice
3. Activism

Although listed above in order of execution, I will describe each part in order of complexity.

1. 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.
  - 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 fundraising activities for pro-life organizations.
2. 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 for St. Patrick’s intercession, especially for potential fathers and mothers of crisis pregnancies.
    - iv. 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.
    - v. Pray for all those affected by abortion.
3. Sacrifice:
  - a. Basic Facts:
    - i. There are about one hundred Community Pregnancy Crisis Centers in the State of Pennsylvania.

- ii. Each center sees roughly thirty to forty clients per month. That equals about three to four thousand statewide.
- iii. Ironically, there are about one hundred facilities licensed to perform abortions in Pennsylvania.
  - 1. Planned Parenthood of Pittsburgh was selling abortion gift cards last Christmas.
- iv. Sonogram equipment can drastically impact the number of abortions in a neighborhood.
  - 1. Nine out of ten girls who have a sonogram decide to keep their babies.
  - 2. Sonogram equipment costs anywhere from \$30,000 to \$100,000 to purchase, depending on vintage and condition.
  - 3. Centers that acquire sonogram equipment, called, "going medical," require a part time nurse to be on staff. This adds an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 to the operating cost of going medical.
- v. Demographically, abortion crosses all socio-economic boundaries:
  - 1. White women procure the majority of abortions in PA, even in Center-City Philly and Downtown Pittsburgh.
  - 2. 97% of all PA abortion are procured in seven counties, Allegheny and the six counties around Philly.
  - 3. Bucks County, the most affluent in the state, has the highest per-capita rate of abortion.
- b. Fundraising:
  - i. The Shamrock Plan will raise funds to help Pregnancy Care Centers purchase sonogram equipment and pay staff.
  - ii. With 15,000 men and lady AOH, we can easily raise \$75,000 per year at \$5 per capita, enough to equip and staff one center with sonogram.
- c. 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.

#### The Result:

- 1. Hibernians will be able to help fix a problem.
  - a. In many areas, Pregnancy Crisis Centers have been so effective, the abortion clinics in their areas have closed for good, due to lack of business.
  - b. By volunteering, Hibernians will be able to utilize their Catholic values to mentor men in fathering skills.
- 2. Hibernians will be able to track results.
  - a. Year after year, we will be able to see centers going medical!

- b. Centers that we support may be able to tell us how many woman make a decision for life, based on sonograms from equipment that we provided.
  - c. As a center is able to provide more services, like sonograms, the take rate in the neighborhood climbs.
  - d. Centers with sonograms typically engage three times as many clients as those without.
3. Hibernians will be supporting a wining team!
- a. Can you ever imagine being in heaven and meeting a soul that was rescued directly by our efforts!
  - b. Saving nine out of ten babies is a phenomenal track record!

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your attention, time, and prayers. With the permission of the board, I will officially inaugurate the Shamrock Plan. By the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting, I will have the particulars of the Shamrock Plan drafted and ready for rollout 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