



DEFEND LIFE

Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987

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Defend Life wins free speech suit

Defend Life has won a lawsuit that it brought against Montgomery County, Md., after county officials stopped Defend Lifers from holding signs during last summer's Face the Truth Tour.

"We received a letter of apology from the top legal authority in Montgomery County, verifying that we certainly do have the constitutional right to do what we were doing, and that the police and zoning people were misinformed," said Defend Life

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Assault on pro-lifer 'bears fruit'

A 69-year-old pro-life activist was violently attacked at a Harrisburg, Pa., abortion mill on December 22, resulting in serious injuries.

Ed Snell had been going to the Hillcrest Women's Medical Center on Front Street off and on for 20 years, but began going there regularly with other pro-lifers about a year ago, he told *Defend Life* in a January 4 interview.

About six months ago the pro-lifers received permission to go on a business's parking lot adjacent to Hillcrest's parking lot. There they would try to talk women out of going

in for an abortion.

"Apparently, we were pretty successful," said Snell, "because eight weeks ago they put up an 8-foot privacy fence."

The Hillcrest manager told him, "We put this up because of you."

The pro-lifers were undaunted.

"I knew God would open things up for us," Ed recalled.

Fellow pro-lifers John McTernan and Marlin Scheidler began bringing stepladders so they could climb up and talk to the women over the

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We're winning, says Life Dynamics head

Like soldiers in battle, pro-lifers are often able to see only the strife about them; they can't see the big picture.

"I'm here to give you the big picture: we are winning!" Mark Crutcher told almost 100 pro-lifers at Blessed Sacrament Church in Washington, D.C. on January 11.

When he founded Life Dynamics, a feisty pro-life organization in Denton, Texas, in 1992, there were 2,126 free-standing abortion clinics in the U.S. Today there are 742, he noted.

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Ed Snell, at home with his wife Karen, is recovering from serious injuries after an attack at an abortion clinic.

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Director Jack Ames.

"I think it's a total victory! I'm very pleased."

Leon Rodriguez, County Attorney for Montgomery County, in a January 10 letter to the Defend Life director, expressed "the County's regret that there was a misunderstanding on the part of the County personnel with whom you came in contact on July 31."

He added, "This County vigorously supports the Constitution, and we sincerely regret any actions that risked impairment of the rights to assembly and free speech."

The lawsuit arose from an incident at the Face the Truth Tour stop in Rockville on July 31.

Police and a zoning official confronted approximately 40 pro-lifers holding signs, threatening to fine each sign holder \$500 unless they left immediately.

The pro-lifers left the area rather than risk paying the fines.

On October 12 attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Defend Life, charging that Montgomery County had violated Defend Life's right under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to picket with signs.

"No one should be threatened with fines for exercising their constitutional rights to free speech," ADF attorney Matt Bowman said at the filing.

"Our clients were simply holding signs promoting their pro-life views. But Montgomery County mistakenly thinks it can ban picketing in the United States of America."

The July 31 incident occurred at the heavily traveled intersection of Rockville Pike and Randolph and

Montrose roads.

During morning commute time, the 40 pro-lifers had spread themselves out along the sidewalks and public rights of way, holding large signs. Some of them were graphic posters of aborted babies.

According to Defend Life's Complaint, two Montgomery County police officers arrived and informed Ames that the pro-lifers must take down their signs or face prosecution because they did not have the necessary permits.

Ames told the officers they were

'No one should be threatened with fines for exercising their constitutional rights.'

incorrect in requiring permits, and that the pro-lifers were engaging in protected free speech under the U.S. Constitution.

A third officer who arrived, named as Defendant Officer John Doe in the Complaint, declared that county ordinances required that every sign displayed on public roads must have a county permit affixed to it.

The officer stated that he would not issue them citations this time, but in the future, they must have permits.

A few minutes later, however, an investigator from the county permit department's zoning section arrived "in a state of extreme agitation," according to the Complaint.

He told the picketers that they were violating state and county laws that prohibit holding signs on a public sidewalk.

Investigator Frank De Lange,

who was also named as a defendant, then declared that the demonstrators "had two options: immediately take down their signs, or De Lange would begin issuing \$500 citations to each person holding a sign and let 'the judge' decide," the Complaint stated.

Officer Doe reportedly backed him up, stating that the pro-lifers could either "pack it up" right away, "or we're going to start issuing citations."

"Because Plaintiffs feared the onerous citations that De Lange and Officer Doe threatened, Plaintiffs left the area immediately," the Complaint stated.

The Defend Life suit contended that no state statute is apparent that prohibits the holding of signs along public rights of way on state roads.

The suit argued that Montgomery County zoning laws and policies regulating signs, as interpreted and applied, "are unconstitutional prior restraints on speech" and "afford unbridled enforcement discretion to county officials."

The suit further charged that the laws and policies "are unconstitutionally overbroad and have a substantial chilling effect" on the free speech rights of Defend Life and others.

As part of the settlement of the lawsuit, Montgomery County has dropped a policy, posted on its website, stating that the holding or waving of signs was prohibited.

The lawsuit, *Defend Life v. Montgomery County*, was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Northern Division.

The Alliance Defense Fund is a legal alliance founded to defend religious liberty under the First Amendment through strategy, training, funding and litigation.

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fence.

But Snell instead mounted a sturdy plywood platform on the roof of his car, securing it to a luggage rack.

The three men arrived at about 6:30 on the morning of the Saturday before Christmas. Ed parked his car almost parallel to the white privacy fence.

“Ed was towards the back of the fence,” said McTernan in a phone interview. “Marlin was towards the front. I was up front.”

At about 7:15 a.m. a car drove into the Hillcrest lot and parked directly in front of Snell’s car.

The driver, a young white man of medium build and height, got out of the car and looked up at Snell, who was standing on his car platform.

“I have a 2-by-4 sign that says that breast cancer is a risk of abortion,” said the pro-lifer. “I held that up.

“I said that research and studies show there is a risk of breast cancer. Not only are you going to lose the child, you risk losing *her* life later on.”

The man got back in the car, then emerged again, this time with his young female passenger.

“He started climbing the fence,” said Ed. “She was pulling on him by the back of his pants.”

McTernan, who had been walking away from Ed, heard a man yelling, drowning out Ed’s voice.

He turned around in time to see the irate man reach the top of the fence and leap directly onto the car platform, screaming as he went.

“He shoved Ed high in the chest with both hands,” said McTernan.

The violent push catapulted Snell backwards, landing him about eight feet from his car, his head and back hitting hard on the cement pavement. The assailant immediately leaped



Karen Snell stands next to the platform-topped car from which Ed Snell was shoved.

back over the fence.

“It all took only two to four seconds,” said McTernan.

He ran to Snell, who was lying on the ground unconscious.

“His breath was really strange,” he recalled. “It was like a moan, shallow and rapid. I didn’t know if his skull was fractured or his neck broken. I thought he might be dying.”

McTernan called 911 on his cell phone and asked for an ambulance. The operator told him he would have to make a separate call to the police.

While Scheidler stood watch over Ed, McTernan called the police, at the same time walking back toward the alley.

There, he was able to see the assailant in the Hillcrest parking lot.

“I told him, ‘You assaulted him and you’re going to get arrested.’ He was real agitated. He said, ‘I want to see him!’

“I was afraid he might do him further harm, so I blocked his way.”

The man’s girlfriend grabbed him and took him into the Hillcrest building.

Minutes later, a heavyset woman in her fifties, whom the pro-lifers believe to be a manager, walked out of Hillcrest and into the alley toward the adjacent parking lot.

“Who is it? Who is it?” she cried. Spotting Snell’s unconscious form, she exclaimed, “It’s him! Oh, good!”

“She began to laugh and mock Snell, and walked toward him,” said McTernan. “I blocked her way. I said, ‘You’re evil!’

“She laughed and sang, ‘I’m evil, I’m evil!’ It was diabolical,” McTernan recalled with disgust.

It took about five minutes for Snell to regain consciousness.

“God took care of me,” he said. “I have no recollection of hitting the ground. The first thing I remember was Marlin standing over me.”

He tried to get up, but McTernan put his hand on Ed’s chest.

“I said, ‘Stay down, Ed, don’t move.’ I was afraid he might aggravate his injuries.”

In the ambulance, Snell struggled to breathe and fought off severe nau-

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sea.

Doctors at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center diagnosed him with internal bleeding on the brain, four compression fractures of the vertebrae, a fractured shoulder blade and two broken ribs.

Snell's son Ed, a doctor specializing in sports medicine, phoned his two brothers and sister.

"Better get over here," he told them. "I don't think Dad's going to make it."

A police officer had arrived at Hillcrest just before the ambulance pulled out. He talked to the paramedics, then to McTernan.

"I gave him details of the attack and a description of the assailant," said the pro-lifer.

Two more officers arrived and the three went into Hillcrest.

"I waited a long time for them to come out," said McTernan. "Then here comes this guy out with his girlfriend. They got into their car."

The police came out after them.

"I called out, 'What are you doing? That's him! That's the assailant!'"

A female officer replied, "It's

none of your business!"

"I'm making it my business," McTernan retorted. "Ed Snell is my good friend."

The officer threatened to arrest him for interfering with a criminal investigation.

The police initially charged the suspect, Nathan Richardson, 23, of Port Royal, Pa., with simple assault, a misdemeanor that is often handled by

'I'm not sorry it happened, because I knew God would use it for good.'

a mail summons.

But when they learned of the extent of Snell's injuries, they charged him with aggravated assault, which is a felony, as well as with reckless endangerment and simple assault.

Richardson turned himself in at police headquarters and was released on \$10,000 unsecured bail.

After three days in the hospital, Snell was released at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Although the first week was

"rough," Ed said, he is able to sit up now with the help of a back brace. It will be six months to a year before he heals completely.

"I didn't jump on my car to be a martyr," Ed reflected. "But I'm not sorry it happened, because I knew God would use it for good. For one thing, the pro-life issue has exploded here."

On December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, of the Harrisburg Diocese, led 150 people at a Rosary rally at Hillcrest.

"He called me right after it," said Snell, who is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Harrisburg, where Rhoades used to be pastor.

The bishop told Snell they had two "turnarounds."

"He said, 'Your pain and suffering are bearing fruit already,'" said Snell.

After a 10-day mainstream media blackout, Harrisburg's *Patriot-News* on January 1 carried a front-page story on the attack.

Two days later the city's "top dog" radio talk show host, Bob Durgin, on WHP 580 AM spent his entire three-hour show discussing the assault.

Hillcrest was closed on January 2, 3 and 5, "so something is going on there," McTernan reported.

The Friday following the assault, McTernan was standing in the alley as Earl McLeod, the abortionist who owns Hillcrest, drove up.

McLeod stopped and asked how the injured man was doing.

John described Ed's injuries.

"You tell him I'm praying for him," said the abortionist.

McTernan stared at him in disbelief.

"I said, 'You're praying for him, with what you're doing in this place?'"

"He couldn't look at me."

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Financial savvy helps Strobhar sway corporate minds

Financial advisor Tom Strobhar used to live about 100 yards from a clinic that specialized in partial-birth abortion.

“One day, I decided to join the pickets out front – to witness that something going on inside there was wrong,” he told the March for Life Kickoff Rally at Father Rosensteel Knights of Columbus hall in Silver Spring January 13.

Strobhar became a regular demonstrator outside the abortion mill, but, he said, “I kept thinking, what else can I do?”

Then he read an article in *Newsweek* about Pillsbury Corporation receiving 10,000 letters from people saying they wouldn’t buy Pillsbury products because the company donated to Planned Parenthood.

Strobhar thought that writing such letters was a good thing to do. But as an experienced investment advisor, he knew how to pack more punch into his letters.

First, he bought about two shares in each of 40 companies that donated to Planned Parenthood.

“As a shareholder, I had a legal claim on their board of directors,” he explained.

Raising the specter of a possible legal suit for shareholders, he brought up in his letters to these companies the fiduciary responsibility aspect for stockholders.

“I got a phone call from one of the companies,” said Strobhar. “They said, ‘It’s not the corporation giving to Planned Parenthood, it’s the foundation.’”

“I said, ‘Let’s not play games. The corporation funds the foundation.’”

A discussion ensued. The end result: the company, which had been



Tom Strobhar (right) is greeted at the Knights of Columbus rally by Tom Grenchik, director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pro-life office.

giving Planned Parenthood \$35,000 annually, stopped its donations.

AT&T didn’t respond to his letter very promptly, but when it did, it was to notify Strobhar that it was ceasing its yearly \$50,000 gift to Planned Parenthood.

“Planned Parenthood took out full-page ads: ‘AT&T caves in to extremists,’” he recalled. “But AT&T stood firm.”

Strobhar decided to take his campaign to a second level.

“I started doing shareholder resolutions. Corporations do not want these things in front of their shareholders,” he said.

At General Mills’ annual meeting in Michigan, he presented a resolution that the company stop giving to the pro-abortion organization.

“I gave a little speech about Planned Parenthood and what they do. I got some nice applause.”

At the meeting, Strobhar learned through an employee that General Mills had already received thousands of letters opposing such contributions.

“They had been giving for years; they were hard-core,” he said. “But they said they weren’t giving to Planned Parenthood. We said, ‘Put

it in writing and we’ll drop the resolution.’ They did.”

Strobhar is chairman of Life Decisions International, which publishes a Boycott List of companies who have given to Planned Parenthood in the last five years and whose officials refuse to say that donations will not be made in the future.

LDI urges pro-lifers to boycott the companies’ products, write letters to them, and not invest in them.

“It’s really a grass-roots effort,” said Strobhar. “But to date, we have over 150 companies that have stopped giving to Planned Parenthood.”

Strobhar has used the shareholder resolution tactic to combat corporation policy on other issues, such as domestic partner benefits and the selling of pornography.

“Corporations have a tremendous impact on our culture; they are changing the culture without changing our laws,” he noted.

At a Ford Motor Company meeting, he told Bill Ford and his board that by paying domestic partner benefits to their employees, they are paying for activities that have been

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Real-life exorcist tells how it's done

If you've ever seen the movies, "The Exorcist" or "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," you need to take them with a grain of salt, cautions Fr. Tom Euteneuer.

"They bear some elements of truth, but also a lot of exaggeration," he says.

Father Euteneuer ought to know, because he has performed exorcisms himself.

"I'm working with a couple of ongoing cases right now," he told an audience of 200 who, despite dire weather forecasts of icy rain and sleet, packed St. Agnes parish hall in Catonsville on December 7 for the priest's Defend Life-sponsored lecture.

"Exorcism is a sacramental of the Church, a ritual prayer reserved by the Church for a priest to say over a person who is possessed," explained Euteneuer, whose "day-job" is being president of Human Life International.

Possession is very rare, but people possessed by the devil do exist, and they do need the help of the Church, he observed.

Father explained the ritual of exorcism step-by-step, using as an example his exorcism of a woman from Africa.

Her uncle, a practitioner of witchcraft, had, as part of a pact with the devil, bound her up with evil curses, spells and terrible afflictions over a period of years.

He did things such as make a voodoo doll of her and bury it. She woke up with nightmares that she was being buried alive.

"She couldn't hold a job. She had terrible things happen to her all the time, and terrible physical pains. She went to this priest and that priest, and nothing seemed to work," said Euteneuer.

"Finally, a wise bishop authorized an exorcism."

Once the devil gets inside a person,

"he acts like a terrorist; he begins to take the city block by block, until he's in total control. That's what we call possession," Father explained.

This woman's uncle had begun his work on her when she was 18. When Father was asked to perform the exorcism, she was 36.

Her case took seven separate sessions over a period of a year.

The exorcism began only after a process of careful discernment, to be sure that her troubles were not caused by any physical or mental illness.

'You don't just wave a magic Catholic wand and all the demons go away.'

The person has to be a believer, willing to renounce any life of sin or involvement in any cult, said Euteneuer.

The African woman proved to be extremely cooperative. She tried to go to Mass every day and receive the Eucharist.

Before the exorcism begins, "You work with them, you pray for them, and you prepare them for it," Father explained.

"You talk about the Church's ritual and set them at ease, so they have nothing to be afraid of."

The rite of exorcism used by Father Euteneuer was written in 1614. It is a compilation of prayers, some of them over a thousand years old, originally in Latin. The Church revised the rite in 1999, translating it into vernacular languages.

The person to be exorcized is seated in a chair, preferably in a chapel or the sacristy of a church.

"On rare occasions, a person needs

to be tied down – you do it with their permission – because you're dealing with a preternatural being with supernatural strength," said Father.

Euteneuer moves everything away from the chair, so there is nothing the person can grab, under the influence of the demon, and use against him.

For the same reason, he uses a wooden crucifix rather than a metal one, and his rite of exorcism book has a soft cover.

"You always have to presume that the devil is going to give you every sort of resistance he can give you," he explained.

But, he emphasized, the priest is always in charge of the exorcism, not the demon.

Jesus gave priests an example of how to deal with the devil when He was tempted in the desert.

"The Lord didn't dialog with him; he answered him back and then rebuked him. The exorcism ritual is a one-way dialog of commanding."

The priest begins with a litany of the saints, calling on all the saints and angels to come and help him.

After a three-hour session in which she was totally unconscious, the African woman asked Father, "Who were all those people in the chapel?"

"I said, 'There were only three or four people with me.' But she saw all the angels and the saints."

The priest commands the demon to tell him his name, and the day and hour of his departure.

"The Church allows you to ask other questions, not out of curiosity, but to get information you need to help this person be free," said Euteneuer.

When he asked how many demons were in the African woman, the answer was 15.

"You command them to be truth-



Fr. Tom Euteneuer explains exorcism to a packed hall at St. Agnes Church.

ful, because demons are liars. But they must be obedient to the authority of the Church, which is the authority of Christ.”

It may take some time to get the truth out of the demon, however. And it *will* take some time to get him to leave.

“You don’t just wave a magic Catholic wand and all the demons go away.

“What you’re dealing with is a process. The person is possessed in a long, drawn-out process. Exorcism is a reversal of that process; that’s why it takes a long time.”

Father Euteneuer recited for his audience one of the three powerful prayers of the exorcism ritual, which begins, “I cast you out, unclean spirit, along with every Satanic power of the enemy, every specter from hell and all your fell companions.”

It calls the demon, among other things, “you enemy of faith, you foe of the human race, you robber of life, you corrupter of justice, you root of all evil and vice, seducer of men, betrayer of nations, instigator of envy [and] font of avarice.”

“That’s a pretty long list of name-calling,” Father admitted. “It’s sort of like spiritual intimidation – like, we know who you are and all your names!”

If the Church consistently applies the exorcism ritual over time, it is always successful, because the Church is a greater authority than any demon, he said.

While Father has met only five or six people in the past five years or so who were truly possessed, he has met dozens of people who are “infested” – meaning that a demon has gotten inside them.

They enter in different ways.

“You may invite them in: you play with a Ouija board, you go to a séance, do some of this New Age stuff, or listen to Satanic music. All these things are potential channels for them to come in.”

One can be the target of witchcraft, like the African woman.

Living a life of unrepented sin for a long period can also bring on infestation.

Or sometimes God allows the devil to afflict people, either for their own spiritual good, or as a wake-up call for them to turn to Christ more forcefully.

“But in general, if you live your life according to the dictates of your faith, you are invulnerable to these sorts of things,” said Euteneuer.

Cases of possession should be left up to priests; but in cases of infestation,

prayer groups made up of lay persons, under the direction of a priest, can perform “deliverance” ministry, in which they bind the demons.

“Binding means taking the spiritual authority of Christ and putting spiritual handcuffs on the demon,” Father explained.

For example, prayer groups at the Franciscan University in Steubenville have deliverance prayers.

Father has also used deliverance prayers at abortion clinics.

Once, he prayed a private prayer of exorcism at each of the four corners of an abortion mill.

“As I went to the third corner, a woman drove up and got out of her car,” he recalled.

“She was very angry; she ripped the literature out of the hand of a pro-lifer and strode into the clinic.”

The pro-lifers kept praying. Father Euteneuer went to the fourth corner and prayed the deliverance prayer.

“Five minutes later, the woman literally came running out of the abortion mill. She was smiling.

“We asked her what happened. She said, ‘I don’t know.’ We told her we were praying for her. She said, ‘I guessed that, because I could feel the prayer penetrate the walls of the building!’”

We can never forget that the core problem of the Culture of Death is a spiritual problem, said Father.

“We need the participation of priests praying at abortion mills; we have some, but not enough.

“One priest comes and stands outside an abortion mill, and everyone inside gets agitated. Why is that? It’s because he represents the Church Militant, and they know it.”

But all pro-lifers are part of the Church Militant, Father reminded his audience: “We have to take the authority that Christ has given us and use it for the sanctification of souls and their salvation.”

WIN, from page 1

“When you shut down abortion mills, you destroy their ability to provide easy access to abortion,” said Crutcher.

Pro-abortionists insist that women will crawl over broken glass to get an abortion, but it’s not true, he said.

Abortion is a very marginal decision. Government studies have shown that the abortion rate is not driven by demand, but by supply.

The precipitous drop in the number of abortion mills is due to several factors, said Crutcher.

“The No. 1 reason is lack of staff; the turnover rate in these places is astronomical. Their morale is through the floor.

“You know what’s killing the abortion industry? Doubt. If you’re going to be pulling the arms and legs off little babies, you’d better be sure you’re right. But people that were sure that you and I were wrong are now terrified that we’re right.”

People in America are beginning to have serious doubts about abortion,

said Crutcher: “There is more support for the pro-life movement than ever. Even the people who are ‘pro-choice’ are soft on it.”

The most staunchly pro-abortion group is the elderly, while the most staunchly pro-life group is the young, he noted. “And our birth rate is twice as high, so we should win by attrition.”

Recent technologies have also given the pro-life movement a boost. We now have a generation of young adults who have sonograms of themselves as unborn babies, Crutcher pointed out.

Thanks to the internet, the pro-abortion industry has lost its monopoly on the distribution of information: we don’t have to wait for the mainstream media to show pictures of aborted babies any more.

In the pro-abortionists’ 2004 ‘March for Women’s Lives’ in Washington, the one overriding emotion was anger, said Crutcher.

“That’s not the emotion of winners, that’s the emotion of losers. They know they’re losing – that’s

why they’re so nasty.”

The pro-abortionists fancy themselves as intellectuals, he said. “We’re supposed to be the Neanderthal knuckle-draggers. But that arrogance is going to destroy them.”

They believe in three stupid things, said Crutcher:

1. Once *Roe v. Wade* was settled law, pro-lifers would disappear in two years. On January 23, 1973, the *New York Times* declared, “The Supreme Court has settled the issue once and for all.” “They’re completely bewildered why we are still here!”
2. They would have the support of women, because legal abortion empowers women. For them, the cornerstone of women’s equality was having easy access to abortion. But women going into abortion clinics are the most powerless and exploited of women, said Crutcher.
3. Legalizing abortion would remove its stigma and mainstream it. But the stigma against abortion is greater than it was 35 years ago. Back then, it wasn’t talked about; now, it’s a major issue. “For some things, the stigma can never be washed away,” said Crutcher. “Why do you think pro-abortionists bristle when you say they’re pro-abortion?”

Crutcher, who has been in the pro-life movement for 20 years, said that though he knows we’re winning, we can still lose.

To win, we must:

- Renew our commitment to victory.

“I hear pro-lifers say, ‘We’re not

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Mark Crutcher answers questions after his talk at Blessed Sacrament Church.

Pro-life leaders meet with Leadership Institute head

In a war, a general uses scouts and spies to ferret out the enemy's weaknesses. Then he exploits those weaknesses to defeat the enemy.

That's the model Mark Crutcher has used as president of Life Dynamics, he told Morton Blackwell, president of the Leadership Institute, at LI's Arlington, Va., headquarters January 11.

"You can't win a war without infiltrators," Crutcher explained, adding, "One of the things we're known for is our undercover operations: the *New York Times* called us the CIA of the pro-life movement."

Defend Life Director Jack Ames, who believes people of like minds should network, had set up the meeting between Blackwell, Crutcher and 40 Days for Life Director David Bereit.

Crutcher and Blackwell immediately found common ground.

"We have over a thousand independent student groups on campuses across the country. A lot of them focus on the right to life," said Blackwell.

Crutcher noted in turn that Life Dynamics has a website, DeathRoe.com, specifically for young people.

Blackwell gave Crutcher a CD with the names of college pro-life groups begun or aided by the Leadership Institute.

Bereit had met with Blackwell previously.

"We had 89 cities in 36 states participate in 40 Days for Life last fall," he told the conservative leader; "22,000 people participated, and 350 babies were saved."

Sixty cities in 30 states have signed up for this spring's 40 Days for Life; all but five are new participants, he said.

Bereit thanked Blackwell for his



Morton Blackwell (right) meets with (from left), Mark Crutcher, David Bereit and Jack Ames at his Arlington headquarters.

leadership advice and help.

"That's a major satisfaction I have: finding people who are philosophically sound and helping them become more effective," said Blackwell.

Blackwell, whose nonprofit organization has trained over 61,000 young conservatives in leadership skills since he founded it in 1979, listened attentively as Crutcher described Life Dynamics' activities.

When he started the organization in 1992, said Crutcher, "I took an inventory of the talents I had, and then looked for holes in the pro-life efforts. I didn't want to reinvent the wheel."

"We never undertook a training program that was already being done by someone else," Blackwell commented approvingly.

Crutcher, whose background included doing sales training and acting as a marketing consultant for the oil industry, determined that Life Dynamics would attack abortion as a business.

The undercover operations followed naturally.

"The information we use to defeat the abortion industry will come from the abortion industry itself," he explained.

"We have several infiltrators now. They report that the abortionists are very demoralized. The turnover rate of providers and second level staff is terrific. The major reason abortion clinics are closing is lack of staff."

Crutcher contended that in the eyes of the abortion industry, the upcoming national election is not about appointments to the Supreme Court, but about government funding of abortions under national health care.

Abortion is a marginal decision, he said; a woman won't get one if it's too expensive.

For that reason, abortion clinics still price them at about \$350, the same as they did 30 years ago – far below the actual cost.

"If you bill the abortion under insurance, it's \$4,000," said Crutcher.

The big money in abortion mills right now is in birth control pills and STD treatments, he said.

But the abortion industry is hoping for election results that will lead to nationalized health care.

"That's the reason they're building all these mega-abortion clinics across the country. They're getting ready for abortions paid for by nationalized health care," said Crutcher.

Judge dismisses Planned Parenthood 'escort' case

A York County, Pa., judge dismissed a charge on November 28 brought by pro-lifer Paul Schenck against a Planned Parenthood "escort."

Magisterial District Judge Barbara Nixon dismissed the charge of harassment against Ira Hochman arising from an incident in which Hochman allegedly shoved Mr. Schenck in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion mill in York on August 17.

Schenck, who is director of the National Pro-Life Action Center in Washington, D.C., testified that as he was reading aloud from the Supreme Court decision in *Gonzalez v. Planned Parenthood*, Hochman walked toward him and said, "Shut up, 'f' you."

"He drew back his fist, paused for a moment, then opened his hand and pushed me with his open hand," said Schenck.

"Then he reached down, took a clump of sod, opened my shirt pocket and stuffed it in."

After "patting" Schenck's pocket, Hochman walked to his car and left, Schenck testified.

Schenck was required to present his case without the aid of a district attorney in a summary trial procedure, practiced in Pennsylvania courts, called "private prosecution."

Immediately after Schenck presented his case, Hochman's attorney moved for a judgment of acquittal, stating, "Legions of case law would establish that a single incident does not establish harassment."

Schenck then tried to state that he had been reading the *Gonzalez v. Planned Parenthood* opinion to show that the Supreme Court found that certain abortions committed by Planned Parenthood are considered by the Court to be similar to the killing of a newborn infant.

But Judge Nixon interrupted him,



Outside the courtroom, Paul Schenck, holding the shirt worn when he was allegedly assaulted, is flanked by his wife Rebecca and supporters Steve Peroutka and Fr. Joseph Tuscan.

retorting, "This is not a forum to argue about abortion."

"My actions were lawful," argued Schenck; "Mr. Hochman impeded my lawful constitutional rights."

Nixon countered that the charge was not that Hochman had impeded his right to free speech, but a charge of harassment.

"The single incident did not rise to the level of harassment," she said, and dismissed the charge.

Fr. Joseph Tuscan, one of about ten Schenck supporters present at the trial, said afterwards that he had gone with Schenck to the police station to file the complaint after the August 17 incident.

"The police refused to file the charge," said the Capuchin priest. "They said he would have to file a 'private prosecution.' They were laughing about the whole situation."

Schenck said that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania filed the charge of harassment.

"I was doubtful from the beginning that it was a case of harassment," he recalled. "I would have thought it was assault and battery."

"The Commonwealth filed a stupid charge of harassment, probably knowing all the time it wouldn't fly. It was a set-up, in my opinion," commented veteran pro-life activist Ed Snell, who was present at the August 17 incident and attended the trial.

Snell said that Hochman, a retired engineer on the board of Planned Parenthood, "kind of runs things – he's like the chief escort" at the York facility.

"We've tried filing complaints against him before, but the police wouldn't take them. I was surprised that Paul even got in the courtroom. In the local district courts, there's no justice for pro-lifers."

"I honestly didn't expect to prevail," admitted Schenck. "I suspected that harassment was a non-charge."

"But I think whenever we can make a record that Planned Parenthood is committing abortion crimes, that's important."

"The only good thing was that they brought Ira into court, and he had to pay for an attorney," said Snell.

"From our point of view, that's a victory."

Prayers at clinic save babies from abortion

By Dick Retta

Between January 2001 and the present, many women and their preborn babies have been saved from abortion at area abortion facilities.

During that time, over 300 women indicated to pro-life sidewalk counselors that they had changed their minds about having an abortion. This was the result of efforts by the counselors, through prayer and counseling, coupled with others praying the rosary.

One of the most recent saves was a set of twins, spared after the mother-to-be had a change of heart after speaking at length with a counselor.

On March 9 eight women who had entered one of the local abortion facilities for an abortion later came out and told a counselor that they had changed their minds about having an abortion. Eight babies were saved from abortion at one facility on one day. Praise be to Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

A recent joy resulting from a save was the birth of a baby boy named Daniel, on Good Friday. Before that a baby boy, David, was born on, of all days, January 22, the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

Someone was there praying the rosary in all instances of abortion-minded expectant mothers having a change of heart. Sometimes there would be over 30 pro-lifers praying the rosary.

We can always count on Our Lady being present to help, as counselors become instruments of the Holy Spirit. Also, counselors can count on the presence of angels and saints, including their guardian angels and patron saints. After all, the entrance to any abortion facility is a battleground between good and evil.

Whenever a counselor is speaking one-on-one with an abortion-minded woman, trying to change her heart from aborting the precious, God-created life in her womb, it is a battle between good and evil. The doors of an abortion facility are the jaws of hell. Inside is the devil's workshop, given the horror taking place at the hands of abortionists and their assistants.

The saves that take place in front of abortion mills occur in various ways. Often it's the result of a counselor being able to spend enough time talking to the abortion-minded woman, explaining the danger to her life or health, post-abortion mental anguish, religious considerations, including her salvation being put in jeopardy as well as that of those who help her, the pos-

sibilities of never having a baby in the future, available assistance for those who decide to keep their babies, and adoption alternatives.

These concerns are also contained in a handout flyer. Some women change their minds after lengthy direct counseling. Others might just take the flyer and read it in the waiting room of the abortion facility and then change their minds.

Others sometimes change their minds because they saw people outside the abortion facility praying and caring what happens to them. Others come out and say they changed their minds but can't say why: "I just couldn't go through with it," they say. I believe that many of these women were inspired through Our Lady as a gift to those praying the rosary and counseling outside the mill.

This is the scene, many times, in all kinds of cold or rainy weather. Counselors often have to deal with pro-abortion "escorts" who try to block them from offering assistance and information to the women going in for an abortion.

Our Lady knows the tools of the "adversary," who tries to discourage us in any way he can. The battle between good and evil continues unabated 7/24/365.

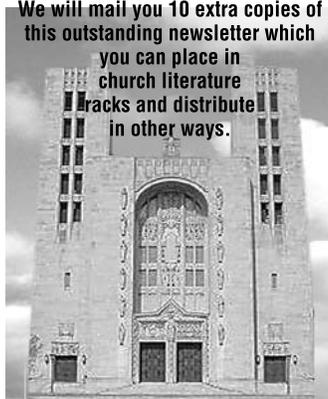
Because of the obvious importance of prayer in saving the lives of innocent babies, a Capital Area Pro-Life Coalition has been formed with the goal of attracting more pro-lifers from area churches to join in praying the rosary. In this way we hope to not only save the lives of babies, but also to close the killing factories. Three such places have been closed in recent times.

You are encouraged to accompany Our Lady in praying the rosary at one of the area abortion facilities. For more information contact Dick Retta at 301-424-4225 or at dickretta@comcast.net.

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Pro-Life Training Program Series

‘Pro-choicers’ are really pro-forcers

By Janet Baker

The anti-life mentality is inherently coercive. It would never have been promulgated were it not so. Anti-lifers have secured most of their legal achievements by judicial fiat. Most notable amongst these, of course, is *Roe v. Wade*. Another “achievement” of theirs by judicial fiat was the murder of Terri Schiavo in 2005.

They haughtily claim to be “pro-choice,” but the only “choice” they support is the murderous option. Those of us in front of abortuaries see stark testimony to this. Many times I’ve seen young girls dragged in by their boyfriends or parents (or sorry excuses of the same).

Not too long ago, one literally walked by me in tears, dragged by a man, despite my pleas. After she went in, I challenged the deathscorts about this, asking if she looked like she was free “to choose.” An older deathscort sneered that “she’s getting good reproductive health care.”

Her younger cohorts merely smirked. I then asked them if they were so blind that they could not see the young woman’s tears. Of course, there was no answer, only silly simpering.

They merely parrot the blatherings of their leaders and other intelligentsia (???). Many of us remember how Molly Yard, the late former president of NOW, praised Red China’s policy of coerced abortions. She went so far as to extol that barbarism as “the most intelligent in the world.”

Make no mistake about this – they want the U.S. to resemble Red China! Former Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm opined, “We must have compulsory birth control, limiting every family to two children.”

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Paul Ehrlich claimed that “it has been concluded that mandatory population control laws, even those requiring compulsory abortion, could be sustained under our existing Constitution.” Well, Paul, no they can’t! But we see the drift.

Already we see the gay lifestyle being shoved down our throats. Pro-life activists are currently trying to stop a Montgomery County bill that might well require women and little girls to share public toilets and showers with all manner of perverts.

Many of us, through our tax dollars, are forced to fund Planned Parenthood’s goals of mass abortion and contraception. We are forced to subsidize pornographic sex education in our public schools. Some states such as Oregon are forcing their citizens to fund euthanasia.

We have seen what happens to those who stand up to these anti-life acts of coercion. Recall what happened when the Christian group, Repent America, preached on the sidewalks of Philadelphia during one of the vile “gay pride” days. They were arrested for exercising their First Amendment rights! But they *were* acquitted and are, in fact, taking action against the city (for which I highly commend them).

Of course, those of us on the front lines are mocked, threatened and spit upon – all in the name of “tolerance,” mind you. Need proof? The following You Tube url will take you to a rather cheesy Planned Parenthood flick that displays the tolerance with which we are treated: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LrYyxGZ_88.

Just a cartoon, you say? The following url: <http://en.gloria.tv/?video=gyqb763ew2mlxybjaex> takes you to an attack on pro-lifers that is *not* a cartoon (warning: it could be disturbing).

Why are the anti-lifers so belligerently coercive towards us? For one thing, they know that their heyday is just about over. People are starting to wake up. Of course, more work needs to be done, lest that awakening be snuffed out, which is the goal of the anti-lifers.

Secondly (this is no surprise), we are having more children than are they. That means more and more young people are pro-life. Thus, they believe they must be aggressively coercive if they are to maintain their death-grip on the organs of influence in our society.

Thirdly, they want us to embrace their lifestyles in order to assuage their own guilty consciences.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the anti-lifers are becoming more and more paranoid. Those of us on the front lines see this quite plainly (which is a great reason for all pro-lifers to commit to some manner of front-line activism).

We will delve more into their paranoid mindsets in the next segment.

Pro-lifers hold Empty Manger Caroling Day

Pro-lifers filled the cold winter air with the cheerful sounds of Christmas carols at Planned Parenthood in Baltimore on the Saturday before Christmas.

Matt Marshall knelt beside an “empty manger” he had made, while he and seven other pro-lifers sang spiritedly in front of Planned Parenthood’s Maryland headquarters on Howard Street on December 22.

Their caroling was part of Empty Manger Caroling Day, begun five years ago by Chicago’s Pro-Life Action League.

The carolers explained that the empty manger symbolized both the coming of our Savior and the hope that every preborn child brings to the world, and also the rejection of the unborn child killed by abortion.

Planned Parenthood was closed that day, and few pedestrians were on the street, although every few minutes, a metro train rumbled and clanged past, just inches from where the carolers stood.

The pro-lifers alternated their caroling with prayers. Lisa Basarab offered a prayer for the conversion of Planned Parenthood of Maryland President John Nugent and his staff, and Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards.

David Clark, who is undergoing a year of discernment with Priests for Life’s Missionaries of the Gospel of Life in Amarillo, Texas, led prayers for an end to abortion and the healing of those who have had abortions.

Simultaneously with the morning’s caroling on Howard Street, about 30 pro-lifers sang carols beside an empty manger in front of the Hillcrest abortion mill in Ca-



Caroling at Planned Parenthood in Baltimore are (from left, standing) Marty Taylor, Lisa Basarab, Dave Clark, Susan Priest; (kneeling) Matt Marshall, Christine Ruby, James Redifer and Sharon McCall.

tonsville.

Their number included Fr. Carl Cummings, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Catonsville.

Defend Life Director Jack Ames and Dolores Waters, who joined the Howard Street carolers after taking part in the Hillcrest caroling, reported that the companion of a

young woman going for an abortion at Hillcrest had become very belligerent toward the pro-lifers.

“She said, ‘f’ you, and told us not to put anything on her car,” said Ames.

The girl going in for an abortion “looked very sad and walked with her head down,” said Waters.



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STROBHAR, from page 5

condemned by Muslims, Christians and Jews for thousands of years.

In 2002 Strobhar presented a shareholder resolution before the 20,000 shareholders of Berkshire Hathaway, pointing out that the company's head, Warren Buffet, advocated anti-life eugenics and donated billions to anti-life organizations.

Strobhar has made 60 to 70 shareholder resolutions since he began doing so in 1991. Sadly, he said, not once during that time has a Catholic religious order done a shareholding resolution on abortion.

Instead, they do resolutions on issues such as global warming, the death penalty or tobacco.

"I talked to a nun about it. She said she wouldn't help, because abortion isn't an ecumenical issue."

As head of Pro-Vita Advisors, a non-profit group he founded in 1989, Strobhar offers groups and individuals morally responsible investment guidelines that promote the culture of life.

When his children were growing up, and General Mills was still giving to Planned Parenthood, he recalled,

"We didn't eat Cheerios. My daughter complained, but I explained that these little sacrifices we make show that we think life matters."

Pro-lifers need to make sacrifices commensurate to the sacrifices they ask pregnant, unmarried girls to make in order to keep their babies, he said.

"The pro-life movement will succeed only to the extent that pro-life people are willing to be inconvenienced," said Strobhar.

CRUTCHER, from page 8

called to be victorious – we're just called to be dedicated to the battle."

"That's bastardizing what Mother Teresa said, to excuse their laziness," he charged. "We wouldn't accept that from a football coach!"

Three thousand babies who should be safe in their mothers' wombs are being killed every day.

"You don't have the right to say winning doesn't matter. Winning is all that matters," he contended.

- Return to our roots and decide what the pro-life movement means: no exceptions.

"If you're only pro-life for some babies, you're as pro-abortion as the National Abortion Federation; you just draw the line at a different place."

- Refocus our attention, not on stopping abortions, but on stopping *abortion*.
- Recognize that we've been the victim of the great ping-pong scam.

"We've been stabbed in the chest by the Democrats, stabbed in the back by the Republicans, and left to bleed to death by the church.

"Ninety-nine percent of the churches in America would not allow me to make this speech," said

Crutcher, who is a Southern Baptist. "The American church can stop abortion any time they choose to, but the unborn simply aren't that important to them."

As for politics, he said, "We've got to be single-issue; we've got to have a litmus test.

"I'm sick and tired of having politicians tell us what they *believe* about abortion. What they believe is irrelevant. I want to hear what their plans are to return legal protection to every unborn child."

We've got to relight the fire in the belly of the pro-life movement, said Crutcher. There's a lot of burnout in the movement; that's understandable, but not acceptable.

"We think about this as a game, but children are being slaughtered!"

There's also a lot of division in the pro-life ranks, he admitted.

"But don't worry about people who are complaining about what you're doing. Stop worrying about being popular – you're never going to be popular. If you went into the pro-life movement to be popular, you're as crazy as a drug store rat!"

Our job is to do our duty wherever God stations us, he said.

"Do you realize how honored you are that God has chosen you to protect His unborn children?"

"When we prove to God that we have more than the wish to win, we have the *will* to win, He will deliver the victory."

Crutcher's Life Dynamics is noted for its aggressive tactics and undercover investigations. It exposed the abortion industry's sale of aborted baby parts in 1999. More recently, it has documented the abortionists' routine protection of predators of underage girls.

Mr. Crutcher's lecture was sponsored by Defend Life and Washington Knights of Columbus Council 224.

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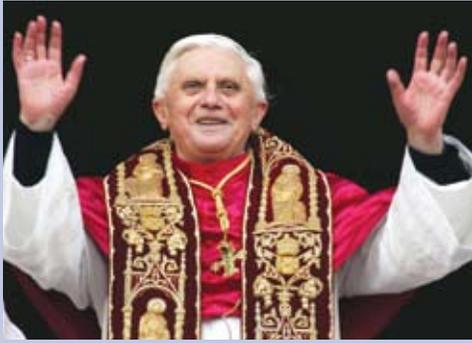
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