



National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.
PO Box 61838, Staten Island, NY 10306



Uniting for Life

Winter 2008

What's in Your Toolbox?

By Georgette Forney

My husband Jim has a blue metal tool box and it is filled with a variety of basic tools as well as some odd shaped contraptions. A few days ago a neighbor came over and mentioned that her door lock was broken and she was going to call a locksmith. Jim went out to our garage and came back carrying his toolbox, assuring her that he could fix the problem. I just laughed because the running joke in our house is when we have a problem with anything, leaking faucets, squeaking brakes, jammed compact disc players, etc. tell Daddy and he'll come to the rescue with his trusty blue toolbox! He loves to fix things that are broken.

As I watched Jim walk back home from our neighbors, sporting a smile of success and carrying his toolbox I got to thinking about how important it is to have the right tools to tackle a problem.

Obviously you need different tools to fix different problems and you have to know which tool to use. You cannot fix a flat tire with a hammer nor can you unclog a drain with a screwdriver!

As we consider the problem of devalued life in our society (caused by abortion, euthanasia, violence and despair), we need to think about what tools will help us restore dignity and protect those most vulnerable from destruction.

Here at Anglicans for Life (AFL) we provide many types of tools for your "pro-life toolbox." Our Sanctity of Life Sunday bulletin inserts educate and inspire parishioners by using bible verses and facts. The Silent No More Awareness Campaign DVD has 15 testimonies you can use to help people understand what happens to women after an abortion. The AnglicansforLife.org

website has a beautiful pre-natal slideshow that highlights the intricacy of God's creation of mankind which is great to share with someone who questions the humanity of the unborn child. AFL's monthly News Brief regularly features books and movies that present the value of life in a non-confrontational entertaining way.

Some tools are educational in nature; some have a spirit of advocacy about them, while others are ministry driven. Sometimes you need a combination of tools to handle a problem. Some tools address many life topics such as bible verses, while others can only relate to a specific issue. You cannot expect the Partial Birth Abortion Ban to influence someone about the evils of embryonic stem cell research. The key is to know which tool(s) to use with each problem/circumstance. This is where the Holy Spirit comes into play.

We must be prepared and have our toolboxes well stocked with a variety of basic tools, know where to acquire additional items as needed and be walking rightly with the Lord so we can hear His guidance about which tool to use.

The one caveat to all this is our experience. Sometimes when we have had a previous encounter with an issue, we want to respond the next time in the same way. We recently learned that a baby was saved after the pregnant mother watched a testimony on our DVD. Now I want to equip every sidewalk counselor with a DVD player! However not all women will choose life after hearing a testimony--but some might after seeing an ultrasound.

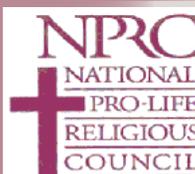
Making a difference for life means having lots of good tools in our toolbox but it also means depending on God to show us which tool to use. Anglicans for Life has a great variety of tools available. Please call, email or visit our website to request a catalogue.

The list of tools we can use to affirm the sanctity of life includes:

- Holy Scripture
- Brochures
- Bumper stickers
- Fetal models, billboards
- Research and facts
- Letters to editors
- Testimonies
- Movies
- Websites
- Articles
- TV/Radio Commercials
- Marches/Walks for Life
- Internet News
- Campaigns
- Legislation
- Political candidates
- Periodicals/Newsletters/Publications
- Sidewalk Counselors
- Graphic signs
- Newspaper advertisements
- Books
- DVDs
- Organizations
- Pregnancy Resource Centers
- Personal conversations

www.anglicansforlife.org

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Photo Courtesy of LifeNews.com

National Pro-Life Religious Council

The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) is a Christian coalition which acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and works to encourage every Christian denomination to affirm and witness to the biblical standard of the value, dignity and sanctity of human life, and to foster ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia.



Henry Hyde

NPRC Mourns the Death of Pro-Life Statesman Henry Hyde

The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) mourns the loss of November 29 of former Illinois Congressman, Henry Hyde. Known for his civility during his 32 years in the US House of Representatives, Congressman Hyde was a passionate defender of the unborn.

In 1976, Rep. Hyde was instrumental in the passage of a pro-life amendment that bears his name, and which ended the use Medicaid dollars for the funding of abortions. Tragically, these funds had been used in the previous year (1975) to pay for at least 300,000 abortions.

The NPRC honors Henry Hyde for his years of unparalleled work in the defense of innocent human life in the womb, and challenges today's representatives in the United States Congress to take up his mantle of protecting the unborn.

Millions of Americans joined together in mourning the passing of this pro-life hero.

National Right to Life President Wanda Franz stated, "Congressman Hyde was a passionate and dedicated ally of the pro-life movement. In both word and deed, Henry Hyde worked for the day that unborn children are again protected by law. Henry Hyde will be remembered by history as the father of the modern pro-life movement for his introduction and sponsorship of the amendment that bears his name, prohibiting federal funding of abortion. Hyde first offered the amendment as a freshman member of Congress in 1976, and it remains in place to this day."

Throughout his more than three decades in Congress, Henry Hyde was a leader for the pro-life movement. As chairman of the House Judiciary Committee (1995-2000), Congressman Hyde ushered numerous pro-life measures to the House floor, including the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. He later served as chairman of the House International Relations Committee and under his leadership, the House rejected attempts to remove legal barriers to funding of organizations that perform or promote legalized abortion abroad.

Henry Hyde was honored twice by the National Right to Life Committee--in 1995 with the Proudly Pro-Life Award, and again in 2006 with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Both awards recognized his leadership within the pro-life movement and his personal dedication to the cause. Hyde also served as Honorary Chairman of the 1990 Rally for Life, which brought more than a half-million pro-lifers together in Washington.

Many remember a famous quote from Congressman Hyde--words which pro-lifers cherish as encouragement to them in their struggles:

"When the time comes as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God - and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world - and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him because he loved us,' - and God will look at you and say not, 'Did you succeed?' but 'Did you try?'"

Please see p. 3 for further quotes from Henry Hyde.

Anglicans for Life

Black Americans for Life

Common Good

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)

International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC for Life)

Life Education and Resource Network (LEARN)

Lutherans for Life (LFL)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

National Clergy Council (NCC)

Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)

Priests for Life (PFL)

Religious Outreach, National Right to Life Committee

Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (TUMAS)/Lifewatch

United Friends for Life (UFL)

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LCMS World Relief and human care worker Rev. Dr. Albert Colver (on right) delivers baby items to Oleg Ryumin, director of the Caring Pregnancy Center in St. Petersburg Russia.

group does a lot of this sort of thing, but it was a special pleasure to make blankets for little babies in such a cold place." "We want to keep those babies warm, and I think it must lift the mothers' spirits to get something new for their babies," Snyder says. "We love doing this kind of thing."

Because shipping is prohibitively expensive, shipments have been arranged as hand-carried items on board flights with LCMS World Relief and Human Care workers and Lutheran Professors traveling to Russia to work and teach.

In Russia, where 6 of 10 pregnancies end in abortion, it is encouraging that Christians are actively taking a stand for life and rolling up their sleeves to reach out to a society in need and hurting. And thanks to the partnership with LCMS churches and LCMS World Relief and Human Care and their love of life, a warm winter hug was sent overseas to these Russian mothers who chose life for their children. This made winter a little more snugly for these special babies!

LCMS to Russia with Love

As winter approached, Life Ministries of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) sponsored a layette drive for two caring pregnancy centers in St. Petersburg and Novosibirsk, Russia. Life Ministries is a program area of LCMS World Relief and Human Care that overseas the sanctity of human life work of the 2.5 million member church body. The two crisis pregnancy centers are staffed by partners from our overseas Lutheran church bodies and are initiated and supported by funds from LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

After an overwhelming response to an e-mail plea to Life Ministries' *Notes for Life Subscribers*, multiple shipments of winter items were collected from various churches and were hand-delivered in late October. Items sent included baby sweaters, hats, blankets and bunnings.

When Lee Ann Snyder, a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Columbia City, Indiana, heard Gloria Vinogradov, director of the crisis pregnancy center in Novosibirsk, Russia, give a talk at her church last year, she thought they should do something to help the cause. She went to the president of the local quilting group in Columbia City and asked if the group would like to make receiving blankets and send them to Russia. "They ate it up," Snyder says. "Our



LCMS Life Ministries director, and NPRC Board Member Maggie Karner (on right) and assistant Sandy Burris organize and pack the shipments of donated baby items for Russia.



More baby items delivered to the Nadezhda (Hope) Caring Pregnancy Center in Novosibirsk, Siberia in Russia. Pictured are from left: Dr. Timothy Quill, Lutheran Professor who assisted in the deliveries as he traveled to Russia to teach at the Lutheran Seminary there; Lutheran Deaconess Gloria Vinogradov, director of the Pregnancy Center; and Rev. Dr. Albert Colver, on staff at LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

The Polish Welcome LCMS Pro-Life Talks

By Maggie Karner, Director, Life Ministries

While attending the 4th World Congress on Families in Warsaw, I met leaders (both Christian and non-Christian) from around the globe who have made it part of their vocation to encourage governments to enact family-friendly legislation and laws that value the sanctity of the relationship between parents and children.

At the request of my Polish hosts, the Center for Mission and Evangelism (a ministry of the Polish Lutheran Church), I spent the following week lecturing about sanctity of life issues at public schools, town halls and church basements. I was pleased by the church's willingness to engage their society in a dialogue about these life issues and provide a method for outreach into their communities. All in all, I spoke in 2 town halls, 6 adult church groups, 3 radio station interviews (one on the largest Christian station in Poland with 5 transmitters), 1 church youth group, and 9 public school presentations to high school and middle-schoolers. Speaking daily in different cities (one day alone I had 6 school lectures), I was thrilled to cover a variety of topics including "The Miracle of Human Development," chastity, "Pro-life Parenting in the 21st Century," post-abortion healing, bioethics and cloning, end of life issues and euthanasia.

I particularly enjoyed speaking to the youth who were very engaged in these discussions and asked many questions. The Miracle of Life presentation was a favorite with them, and they crowded around after my presentation to look at and hold my models of fetal development.

When discussing issues involving bioethics with the youth, I raised the question of whether someone else's life can be deemed "unworthy to be lived" by someone else. (This of course was Hitler's famous line.) Given that almost all of these kids live in the shadow of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps that are located in this region of Poland, these young people and their families have been deeply touched by this tragedy. These youth clearly understood the parallels with this thinking in bioethics today. In Poland, which has so recently recovered democracy after years under Communist and Nazi rule, it is critical that we help these young citizens understand their responsibility to be active and engaged citizens and to help prevent this type of holocaust of innocent human life from ever happening again on their soil.

As a side note, I was able to visit Auschwitz on my last day in Poland. Nothing can prepare you for the tangible legacy that these innocent lives left behind. . . This is chilling evidence of the dehumanizing doctrine that disregarded even the most basic human right to life. As I walked among the cell blocks and traced my fingers down the list of victim's names, I was suddenly struck by the realization that this place is only 60 years old. These contemporary structures are in perfect condition (the fences are electric and the facility had the appearance of a modern prison that could be used tomorrow).

What I didn't count on was the realization that as "civilized" as we pretend our modern society has become. . . we are never far from barbarism and the utter devaluing of human life.

Catholic Bishops Strengthen Priority of Life Issues in Political Document

On November 14, the U.S. Catholic bishops overwhelmingly approved their document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," which made clearer than earlier versions that the issues of abortion and euthanasia—questions of life or death—take priority over other political issues of lesser moral weight.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, NY, on Nov. 12 introduced the document for which he was responsible as the chairman of the bishops' committee on Domestic Policy. He had led the document through extensive consultation among other committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The document states:

"Intrinsically evil actions... must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned. A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia. In our nation, "abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others" (Living the Gospel of Life, no. 5). It is a mistake with grave moral consequences to treat the destruction of innocent human life merely as a matter of individual choice. A legal system that violates the basic right to life on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed. Similarly, direct threats to the sanctity and dignity of human life, such as human cloning and destructive research on human embryos, are also intrinsically evil. These must always be opposed....

"The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our society, human life is especially under direct attack from abortion."

The document criticizes "a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity.... The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many."

Further, the statement strongly warns that Catholics who vote for candidates because they want to keep abortion legal, or who ignore the pro-abortion stance of a candidate and support him or her just because of party loyalty, are acting immorally.

Fr. Frank Pavone, president of NPRC and national director of Priests for Life (PFL), strongly supported the document and called on "priests to preach on its contents, on candidates to study its lessons, and on voters to heed its guidance."

"We at Priests for Life echo the bishops' call for a consistent ethic of life, properly understood, which begins with the proclamation that life is sacred and that the right to life can never be denied to a person whether born or unborn," Fr. Pavone stated in his weekly commentary for PFL.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston pointed out that in previous documents, "there was always the fear that we were considering sort of a smorgasbord of issues, but without any prioritizing, or giving the impression that all issues are of equal value." Cardinal O'Malley drew national attention when, in words to the Boston Globe, he criticized the Democratic Party for being "extremely insensitive to the Church's position of the Gospel of Life in particular." He commented that the support which Catholic voters in Massachusetts give to pro-abortion Democratic candidates "borders on scandal, as far as I'm concerned."

Congressman Hyde's stirring defense of the ban on partial-birth abortions:

By upholding this tragic veto [by President Clinton, 1996], those colleagues join the network of complicity in supporting what is essentially a crime against humanity, for that little, almost born infant struggling to live is a member of the human family, and partial-birth abortion is a lethal assault against the very idea of human rights and destroys, along with a defenseless little baby, the moral foundation of our democracy because democracy is not, after all, a mere process. It assigns fundamental rights and values to each human being, the first of which is the inalienable right to life.

One of the great errors of modern politics is our foolish attempt to separate our private consciences from our public acts, and it cannot be done. At the end of the 20th century, is the crowning achievement of our democracy to treat the weak, the powerless, the unwanted as things? To be disposed of? If so, we have not elevated justice; we have disgraced it.

This is not a debate about sectarian religious doctrine or about policy options. This is a debate about our understanding of human dignity, what does it mean to be human? Our moment in history is marked by a mortal conflict between a culture of death and a culture of life, and today, here and now, we must choose sides.

I am not the least embarrassed to say that I believe one day each of us will be called upon to render an account for what we have done, and maybe more importantly, what we fail to do in our lifetime, and while I believe in a merciful God, I believe in a just God, and I would be terrified at the thought of having to explain at the final judgment why I stood unmoved while Herod's slaughter of the innocents was being reenacted here in my own country.

This debate has been about an unspeakable horror. . . . We are not talking about abstractions here. We are talking about life and death at their most elemental, and we ought to face the truth of what we oppose or support stripped of all euphemisms, and the queen of all euphemisms is "choice" as though one is choosing vanilla and chocolate instead of a dead baby or a live baby. . . .

Let the innocence of the unborn have the last word in this debate. Let their innocence appeal to what President Lincoln called the better angels of our nature. . . . Make it clear once again there is justice for all, even for the tiniest, most defenseless in this, our land.

Associate Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become an Associate Member of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.

Enclosed is my fee of \$25.00 for membership as:
an individual _____ a church _____ a group _____

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of \$ _____ to help NPRC with its important work.

Mail to: NPRC c/o Development Office,
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Contact Person _____

Church or Group _____

Address _____

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