



February, 2012



## Forty Days

The Spring campaign for Forty Days begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22. The kickoff event for the Little Rock campaign will actually be on the preceding Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m. in front of the abortion facility at #4 Office Park Dr. in Little Rock. The Fayetteville kickoff is in front of the Planned Parenthood facility on Tuesday, February 21 at

6:30 p.m., 3279 N. Crossover (near Joyce and Crossover). If your parish is one of the ones in close enough proximity to participate, please be sure that they have signed on to cover at least one day. If your parish is not close enough to cover a day and you still wish to participate, please contact the scheduler for the events at either [marshaboss74@gmail.com](mailto:marshaboss74@gmail.com) for Little Rock or Ben Rowse for Fayetteville at [40daysnwa@gmail.com](mailto:40daysnwa@gmail.com).

## Let the Spin Begin

Surely everyone is now aware of the developments of the Susan G. Komen situation. What should we make of all this? No less than 12 articles a day regarding this situation have come across the Respect Life desk since the news broke. Here is one take on it.

First, the decision was made not to allow any further grants of the SGK affiliates to Planned Parenthood last November. These grants were made for the purpose of breast cancer detection. The decision was based on two factors; one was that PP does only manual breast cancer screening, something every woman can do in the privacy of her own home. It does not warrant eighteen grants for \$600,000 (2011) to accomplish this. Joe DeCook of the American Association of Pro-life OB/Gyns points out that this "totaled about 1/20 of one percent...if they would just get a fraction of that righteous indignation over botched abortions and maternal deaths, or operations like that of Kermit Gosnel..."

Second was the fact that PP is under investigation by Congress for a host of violations including fraud, Medicaid overbilling, criminal cover-ups, falsifying medical

information, violating safety standards, encouraging prostitution and sex trafficking, medical malpractice, acceptance of racially motivated donations and huge profits.

This decision on defunding was only brought to light recently by Planned Parenthood to garner support for them. It accomplished its purpose. Tremendous backlash, both positive and negative ensued. PP pulled out their knives and attacked SGK with predictable effect. Within days, SGK issued another statement which seemingly contradicted the initial statement. But there is much dissent on what this new interpretation actually means.

Many pro-life observers say that the clarification is not a backtrack of their original statement, that it was made only to diffuse the situation and that SGK still has no intention of renewing the grants. At least one board member has stated publicly that SGK has not caved in on this decision. The re-issued statement says that grants will not be awarded to organizations under investigation for a felony. It would seem that, at least in most states, at least one of these offenses is a felony and, thus, prevent the grants from being awarded. The final determination on this will only come with time.

Meanwhile, SGK has also released a statement changing their position on embryonic stem cell research. While there are assurances that breast cancer research does not lend itself to embryonic stem cell research and SGK has probably never directly funded it, SGK has given significant sums of money to research entities which do engage in ESCR and has stated both in printed literature and on their web site that ESCR is the hope of the future. Their new position states that they do not believe in ESCR and do not and will not fund it. This new statement has not been exposed or challenged---yet. However, nothing has been said about the denial of SGK that a link exists between abortion and breast cancer, a link that an increasing number of studies confirm.

Probably the most disturbing thing to come from this is that the local Arkansas affiliate first wrote a letter to SGK at their Dallas headquarters and expressed disappointment at the initial decision. Now, Sheila McBride of local SGK has been heard on the air praising the reversal. Among other things, she said that they had never been asked for a grant by the local PP, but if they had been, they would have granted it. This is the same person who sat at the conference table here in the diocese five years ago and assured us that the local chapter would never do such a thing. Such despicable duplicity! And some of our own Catholics still believe this.

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There will surely be more developments on this issue to sort out and every effort will be made to filter out truth from fiction and innuendos. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, we need to keep SGK in our prayers, that they actually mean to cease grants to Planned Parenthood and will stick to it. If you feel so inclined, you can contact SGK to voice your approval of defunding PP by going to [news@komen.org](mailto:news@komen.org). There has also been a flurry of donations to both SGK and PP as a result of this dust-up. SGK initially reported a 100% increase in donations, but PP has also had a huge increase in donations.

Probably the best outcome so far is that no one can deny any more that SGK has not been awarding grants to Planned Parenthood, and an increasing number of them at that.

We will close with a favorite line garnered from all these stories, and that is "All this could have been avoided if SGK had not awarded these grants to Planned Parenthood in the first place." You cannot lie with dogs and expect not to get up with fleas.

### They Said What!

**If what goes on in someone's bedroom is none of my business, then don't make me pay for their supplies or consequences.**

Another news item you undoubtedly heard about is the decision of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on contraceptives clarifying a position issued in August. In spite of impassioned pleas by the Bishops of the Catholic Church regarding the earlier directive, the Department of Health and Human Services have pressed ahead with the mandate that all health care plans cover sterilization and contraception, including abortifacients. There are some very narrow exceptions which, according to Archbishop (soon-to-be Cardinal) Timothy Dolan called "So narrow that even Jesus Christ would not qualify."

What you may not have heard about is the attempt to silence the military clergy and keep them from addressing the issue. The following is a quote and a picture which was recently released by Family Research Council. The picture of Military Archbishop Broglio may have been photo shopped, but it speaks volumes.

*First, he ordered churches to violate their conscience. Now, the President is instructing them not to talk about it!.....After stripping away the rights of religious groups everywhere, the commander-in-chief is putting a halt on protests from the pulpit, at least in the Army's chaplain corps. Like most Catholics, the military's priests had planned to speak out against the rule forcing groups to violate the tenants of their faith by funding abortifacients and contraception. Unfortunately, they never got the chance.*



Archbishop Timothy Broglio

*While church leaders around the country voiced their disapproval to the mandate on Sunday, the Army's pulpits were silent. According to several sources, the Chief of Chaplains had issued an Army-wide gag order warning priests not to read any letter resisting the policy. The church "cannot--and will not--comply with this unjust law," wrote Archbishop Timothy Broglio, head of the corps' priests. According to the Army, that language is too controversial. After a lot of back and forth with the administration, the Chief of Chaplains announced that "a new version of the letter will be read, one that was edited of the language about 'unjust laws.'*

*Not surprisingly, that kind of censorship didn't set well with Archbishop Broglio. In a statement, the Archdiocese didn't hide its frustration. "[We] stand firm in the belief, based on legal precedent, that such a directive from the Army constituted a violation of his constitutionally-protected right of free speech and the free exercise of religion, as well as those same rights of all military chaplains and their congregants." While the military itself is governed by different rules when it comes to free speech, chaplains have always had the right to speak openly about the moral issues of their day. That's why George Washington established the chaplaincy. He understood the importance of teaching soldiers the difference between right and wrong.*

The need to stand with our Bishops and let them know we are behind them 100% is critical. They must know they have our support and, especially, our prayers, to give them the strength of purpose they will need to withstand the pressure to cave. They cannot, like Susan G. Komen, offer an appeasing statement whether it is for public relations or not.

If you have not done so yet, please register your opposition to the mandate by going to

<http://www.votervoice.net/core.aspx?aid=970&issueid=25200&atid=20767&siteid=0&app=GAC&isvisited=false>.



The Devil in the Details

“Everyone should be cared for and no one should be killed.” Cardinal Francis George, speaking about the health care bill while it was still under consideration.

The above situation with mandating coverage for contraceptives including abortifacients is a very fluid situation as surely you are aware. Since this was written, President Obama issued a non-compromise compromise which was rejected by the Bishops late on Friday. The situation may have changed again by the time this reaches you. Please consult the official Bishop’s website at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for the latest information on this.

The following article by Respect Life Director, Marianne Linane, appeared in the January 21 Arkansas Catholic:

**They Will Know That We Are Christians by Our Love...**

Words from that song we all know came to mind regarding recent events at the abortion center in Little Rock. Early Christians won converts to Christianity by the love they demonstrated, not only for other Christians, but by those who opposed them. Today it is sometimes difficult to distinguish those who profess to be followers of Christ from the skeptics.

But one place where Christian love is manifest is at the only free-standing surgical abortion center remaining in Arkansas. There "prayer warriors" are present to be a witness to God's love to those mothers who succumb to the pressure of our changing culture to abort their unborn children. Every day that abortions are being performed they are there praying for the mothers and their unborn children and offering loving alternatives to the mothers. They do it in a way that conveys true compassion and concern for the mothers as well as for their unborn children.

I have no idea who first expressed it, but someone astutely noted that “Whom you would change you must first

love.” We are engaged in a struggle to change hearts and minds about abortion in our culture, and that struggle can only be won by much love, love for the mother considering abortion, love for those performing and assisting in them and love for those in society who do not share our respect for the dignity of the life of all, especially the vulnerable.

Recently, a group formed out-of-state came to Arkansas to present a different approach at the center. They are an offshoot of "Operation Rescue" whose tactics of civil disobedience have earned for them the reputation of being hard-liners and outside the mainstream of thought and activity. They appear to revel in controversy and behave in a manner which gains for them much publicity. Unfortunately, it leads to painting all pro-lifers with the same brush. Although we do not employ such tactics -- the yelling at the clients, the graphic pictures of aborted babies, even name-calling – we are all seen as one and the same. We very much regret this perception.

But, interestingly, that perception is not that of the workers in the abortion center. Over the months there has been a sort of rapport developed between our sidewalk helpers and prayers and the clinic staff. They still do not appreciate our presence there, but they have developed a sort of tolerance for us. After the encounter with the State of Refuge group on December 7-9, two different Helpers received comments from one who was the most hostile to our presence. She said to one, “I am glad that you are back!” upon our return and to another “I will never be mean to you people again!” It may be wishful thinking to say that this is the start of a major conversion, but it could be. Our most fervent prayer is that it is. If so, it will be the love demonstrated on the sidewalk for the mothers and the clinic workers that is responsible for it.

A week before Christmas the sidewalk helpers and I visited the abortion center again where we sang Christmas carols before an empty crib and passed out candy canes to the mothers and the workers who care to take them. Whether they took the candy or not is immaterial to us. It was the love demonstrated by our actions that matters most. They will know that we are Christians by our love.

**December**

Proclaim the news  
 the nation's law  
 the right to choose  
 a box of straw  
 without a tiny stranger  
 no silent night  
 no virgin birth  
 no life or light  
 or peace on earth  
 we choose the empty manger.

*Linda Thayer 1994*

## Confirming Bishop Taylor's Remarks

In his address to the youth at Extravaganza on January 21, Bishop Taylor commented on our commitment to our faith. The remarks referenced the HHA mandate on mandating coverage for contraception. Bishop Taylor pointed out that our Faith is not something we put on for Church on Sunday and tuck away the rest of the time. It defines us as people. It is who we are and informs our every action. I was reminded of this upon reading these words on Fox News:

*Professing Christianity is more than an adherence to a particular set of beliefs; it is a way of life that centers on love for God and for our neighbor. The real work of the Church lies in bringing God's love to men and women everywhere, in every occupation, in every state of soul.*  
Michael Novak and William E. Simon, Jr. in "A More Complete Catholicism on FoxNews.com 12/21/11

## Pam's Story

In a recent email, there was a story about a woman named Pam, who knows the pain of considering abortion. More than 24 years ago, she and her husband Bob were serving as missionaries to the Philippines and praying for a fifth child. Pam contracted amoebic dysentery, an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite found in contaminated food or drink. She went into a coma and was treated with strong antibiotics before they discovered she was pregnant.

Doctors urged her to abort the baby for her own safety and told her that the medicines had caused irreversible damage to her baby. She refused the abortion and cited her Christian faith as the reason for her hope that her son would be born without the devastating disabilities physicians predicted. Pam said the doctors didn't think of it as a life, they thought of it as a mass of fetal tissue.

While pregnant, Pam nearly lost their baby four times but refused to consider abortion. She recalled making a pledge to God with her husband: If you will give us a son, we'll name him Timothy and we'll make him a preacher.

Pam ultimately spent the last two months of her pregnancy in bed and eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy August 14, 1987. Pam's youngest son is indeed a preacher. He preaches in prisons, makes hospital visits, and serves with his father's ministry in the Philippines. He also plays football. Pam's son is Tim Tebow.

The University of Florida's star quarterback became the first sophomore in history to win college football's highest award, the Heisman Trophy. His current role as quarterback of the Denver Broncos has provided an incredible platform for Christian witness. As a result, he is being called The Mile-High Messiah.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!

Dr. Gerald B. (Jerry) Kieschnick, President Emeritus, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

## Roe v. Wade Observances Report

Once again, media outlets did not cover the January 22 events even though they continue to grow in significance. Estimates of the crowd in DC top 400,000 and the West Coast March in San Francisco has grown from approximately 7,000 in 2005 to nearly 70,000 in 2012.

For the youth in DC, in order to accommodate the large crowd, both the Verizon Center and the D.C. Armory were used for the events. The combined venues hold 28,000 people, and tickets for both locations sold out. Many others reportedly wanted to attend but were unable to get tickets due to high demand. Starting last year, organizers added five additional sites to accommodate the overflow of people wishing to attend because "there simply isn't an indoor facility large enough to support the crowds." Of those in attendance, between 80 and 90 percent were young people, i.e., those under 30.

The march in Little Rock was a smaller scale version of the ones in both DC and in San Francisco—it, too, was markedly populated by young people. This presence is certainly comforting to the folks in the crowd who have been championing the right to life of the unborn for as long as Roe v. Wade has been the law of the land. They can rest better knowing that the pro-life legacy will live on until there is no longer a need to march in capitals around the country and in the world. As Fr. Bill Elser is quoted in the Arkansas Catholic, "Their fervor and enthusiasm for the movement is inspiring. I know that one day we will win, either by a constitutional amendment or through the Supreme Court."

