Special March for Life Issue

Between January 20 and January 23, three busloads of Notre Dame students represented the Fighting Irish as they attended the 33rd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The March, organized by Right to Life member Monica Querciagrossa, was a success, as many other colleges and organizations from around the country were able to see Notre Dame students witness to the sanctity and dignity of human life.

On Saturday, some students from Notre Dame were able to participate in the American Collegians for Life Annual Conference at the Catholic University of America. On Sunday, the day before the March, young pro-life students and marchers from across the United States were visible throughout downtown Washington, D.C., asking for an interview. Once news rushed upon the group, a group of cameramen and a reporter from EWTN Catholic News rushed upon the group, asking for an interview. Once again, Right to Life members were able to send the message to the world that the University of Notre Dame is pro-life! When asked about the club, president Arina Grossu was able to advertise, live and on international television, the Collegiate Conference (planned for April 2006), as well as many other events from Notre Dame forges new paths into the future, and as many controversial debates take place on campus, we, the members of Right to Life know Who is ultimately in charge. Our Lord is slowly changing hearts and minds, and as people realize the power of the Truth, their eyes are opened and their lives are tran formed. However, until every human life, from conception until natural death, is protected in this country, and a true culture of life is brought about, Notre Dame Right to Life will continue to witness to the Truth, and declare that truly, Notre Dame, Our Mother, is pro-life!

Along the March, many other marchers or onlookers spontaneously shouted, “Go Irish,” or, “Go Notre Dame!” These encouragements were naturally returned with chants of “Go Irish, Save Babies,” or “We are ND; we are pro-life.” Indeed, as the University of Notre Dame forges new paths into the future, and as many controversial debates take place on campus, we, the members of Right to Life know Who is ultimately in charge. Our Lord is slowly changing hearts and minds, and as people realize the power of the Truth, their eyes are opened and their lives are transformed. However, until every human life, from conception until natural death, is protected in this country, and a true culture of life is brought about, Notre Dame Right to Life will continue to witness to the Truth, and declare that truly, Notre Dame, Our Mother, is pro-life!

-John Sikorski

Watch video of NDRTL’s interview on EWTN at: http://bossjeep.com/catholicjeep/photogallery/marchforlife2006/videos.htm
President’s Welcome

January 2006

January marks off the beginning of a fresh year with new visions and dreams for the Notre Dame Right to Life Club. We arrived back to campus from our long Christmas break in time to hop on a bus and head to Washington DC for the 33rd annual March for Life. After the twelve hour drive, and a weekend in the nation’s capital, on Monday morning we made our way to the MCI Convention Center for Mass. With no extra room available, we walked to St. Patrick’s Church to find it just as full. After standing around in the cold, we huddled together to recite the rosary and then received the Eucharist at the outside communion service in the midst of construction workers and city noise. It was a transcendent experience. Having gathered the strength from the Eucharist, we marched to the Mall chanting and proudly waving the Notre Dame flag to leave no doubt that the Notre Dame Right to Life has arrived. Providence sent EWTN our way and after an interview with them, we established ourselves as a pillar of Catholicism and pro-life activism at Notre Dame. Now I am in the midst of answering emails from parishes, dioceses, youth groups, high school teens, admirals, people who want our shirt, and those inquiring about our upcoming Youth Rally and Collegiate Conference. In addition, we were able to pass out around 7,500 flyers for the Collegiate Conference to major Catholic and non-Catholic universities who were present at the March. Things are looking up for us, but please continue to keep us in your prayers as we work to bring about the culture of life this semester.

In and through our Blessed Mother,
Arina O. Grossu

Petition

Our marchers signed this petition to

Sen. George Frist.

Dear Senator Frist,

I am dismayed to learn that you have decided to shift your position in the embryonic stem cell research debate. Your former position, one of agreement with the President’s policy established in his August 9, 2001 address which prohibited the spending of federal funds on any research that would destroy any further human embryos, is one I support. I urge you to reconsider your current position, that the human embryos previously created in fertility clinics may be destroyed for research. Ethically, this position is untenable, and scientifically, it is unnecessary. We can achieve the bright promise of stem cell research by moral means. Adult stem cell research, using cells from umbilical cord blood as well as pluripotent stem cells found in all humans, has the potential to cure all the ailments that others suggest justify the destruction of innocent human life. This much is clear from extensive clinical research, documented in peer reviewed scholarly journals (www.stemcell.org) as well as in the report made by the President’s Council on Bioethics (www.Bioethics.gov).

The destruction of viable human life is not justifiable by any ends. It has been argued, however, that “left over” frozen embryos from fertility clinics are not viable because no one will ever implant them in a womb from which they would develop into infants. This is demonstrably not the case. Project Snowflake and similar programs have made it possible for families to adopt and rescue frozen embryos, implanting them in adoptive mothers who gave birth to and raised these “left over” human beings. This project has to date enrolled over 120 adoptive families and resulted in the birth of 81 of the “left over” people your legislation will make it legal to destroy (www.nightlight.org). We need to protect these vulnerable innocents, not experiment on them. The overwhelming number of frozen embryos should not be a justification for the willful destruction of human life. Instead we should realize that it is reckless and unethical to practice fertility techniques that produce hundreds more embryos than we ever intend to implant. Allowing destructive experimentation on these embryos will serve to justify this practice we must stand against.

It has been argued that the cost, in terms of human life, of embryonic stem cell research is great but that the benefits will be greater and therefore justify the initial costs. This argument is not only immoral; it is scientifically unfounded. Diabetes, Parkinson’s Disease, heart disease, Alzheimer’s Disease, spinal chord injuries: we are promised embryonic stem cell research is likely to lead to cures for all of these ailments. The fact remains, however, that adult stem cell research is not only morally preferable to embryonic stem cell research, it is more promising in terms of providing those cures. Several clinically available effective therapies have already been achieved in the field of adult stem cell research (www.stemcell.org). For example, a cardiac clinic in Germany has perfected the regeneration of heart muscle after a heart attack from stem cells procured from the patient’s own body. Embryonic stem cell research, on the other hand, has to date only been shown to generate cancerous tumors in humans.

Please Senator, review your position on this important life issue. Protect innocent life, Senator Frist, oppose embryonic stem cell research.

Sincerely,

Arina Grossu, President, agrossu@nd.edu
Glenn Bradford, Webmaster, gbradfor@nd.edu
Joe Kirkconner, Treasurer, apresspr@nd.edu
Ann Pressprich, Secretary, imcdole@nd.edu
Ian Patrick McDole, Co-VP, amcdole@nd.edu
Adam Hoock, Co-VP, ahoock@nd.edu
Caitlin Shaughnessy, Membership, shaughn@nd.edu
Adam Hoock, Co-VP, ahoock@nd.edu

NDRTL
MISSION STATEMENT
The purpose of our organization is to promote and uphold the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death through prayer, service, and education, and to help women in crisis pregnancies find alternatives to abortion through service and support, in the spirit of the Catholic Church.
Notre Dame, St. Mary’s Students Rally for Life in Washington

It is not every day that scores of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s students help lead a political protest hundreds of miles from campus. Not unless that day is January 22.

Every year, on or near January 22, the Notre Dame/St. Mary’s Right to Life Club sends several buses of students to the annual March for Life. The march, which regularly draws over 100,000 people to the nation’s capital, marks the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that required the complete legalization of abortion. Marchers gather to demand legal protection for the unborn, which has been essentially denied by Roe v. Wade since 1973.

This year about 90 students made the long trek to Washington, D.C. As the march was on a Monday, most people departed the previous Friday in order to sightsee, attend the American Collegians for Life conference, and make a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The collegiate conference, with seminars ranging from the “Psychology of Euthanasia” to “Activities for Campus Pro-Life Clubs,” lasted all day Saturday. Father Frank Pavone, Director of Priests for Life, told the students, “There is a cause in our time we care enough about life to spend a weekend for. The mood was upbeat, but among all the school groups present only Notre Dame seemed to have the esprit de corps and leadership to really make itself known, be it through its banner held high, its prayers well prayed, or its songs well sung.

Finally the masses headed down the hill to and the right, where the imposing Supreme Court, and its many watchful police, awaited one and all. Only eight or ten counter-protesters could be found, yelling through bullhorns and arguing ineffectively against the multitudes of pro-lifers. Long after they left the premises, the marchers remained at the steps of the Court to listen to women who, as part of the “Silent No More” campaign, each told moving stories of how they were victimized by the abortions they had.

With the March ended, Notre Dame’s time in Washington was almost complete. After meals in Union Station and Metro rides back to the buses, Notre Dame Right to Life departed Washington for school.

But they will return. If history is any indication, many who marched this year will take the buses back next January 22 — if necessary, to bear witness once again to the sanctity of life, but hopefully to celebrate a return to a greater respect for life.

— Timothy Wymore

Secretary’s Welcome

And we’re back to the grindstone. This last month has been busy for Right to Life as we made our way to the annual March for Life, and now we are trying to get back into the swing of campus life after our month off for Christmas break. This year’s March was a very spiritual uplifting experience. I spent almost every day at the National Shrine, and the number of pilgrims who had converged on America’s Catholic Church were a sign of the movement’s strength. I truly believe that the Supreme Court will overturn Roe vs Wade in my lifetime, making our work almost finished. Then we will have to start working on the state level.

This issue of “Footprints” covers only the March for Life, our main event of the year. Many thanks are in order to the numerous people who helped organize the trip, but especially to Monica Querciagrossa who worked tirelessly with John Sikorski to make sure the trip went on with ease. I hope that you enjoy hearing about our experiences at our nation’s capital. It was a trip many of us will never forget, and we pray that our efforts there will be heard.

May Our Lady look over our country.

Peace,

Ian P. McDole
CAMPUS NEWS

March for Life—Washington, D.C.

Praying the Rosary during the March

Communion Service outside St Patrick’s Church in Washington, D.C. before the

At the main portal to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

NDRTL 2006 SHIRT

Buy our 2006 shirt for $20. Make checks payable to
ND Right to Life.

Notre Dame Right to Life
315 LaFortune Student Center
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556
A Catholic Youth Rally on Chastity and Pro-Life Issues

Keynote Speakers include:
- Mark Hart, Life Teen’s “Bible Geek”
- Illinois Citizens for Life
- Panel on Living Chastity in Vocations

Let’s Rock the Boat.

Parents and chaperones are encouraged to attend. Registration info coming soon!

http://www.nd.edu/~prolife/youthrally
liferally@yahoo.com  (574) 631-3066

February 2006

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<tr>
<th>DAY &amp; DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 7th</td>
<td>Club Meeting</td>
<td>Dooley, LaFun</td>
<td>7:30-8 pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 6th</td>
<td>Crossroads Guest Speaker Mark Thomason</td>
<td>Dooley, LaFun</td>
<td>8-8:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 13th</td>
<td>Club Mass</td>
<td>Log Chapel</td>
<td>10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. &amp; Sat. 10th-11th</td>
<td>Edith Stein Project</td>
<td>McKenna Hall</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<td>Friday, 24th</td>
<td>Club Officers/Commissioner Applica-</td>
<td>3rd floor LaFun</td>
<td>5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 28th</td>
<td>Club Voting for officers/Commissioners</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
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Photos
Notre Dame Right to Life presents the 1st annual
Pro-Life Collegiate Conference
“Am I my brother’s keeper?”
Freedom Misunderstood, Part I
Friday & Saturday, April 21-22, 2006
University of Notre Dame

Speakers include:
- Dr. Peter Kreeft, (http://www.peterkreeft.com)
  - Professor of Philosophy at Boston College
- Fr. John Coughlin, O.F.M.,
  - Professor at Notre Dame Law School
- Dr. Janet Smith,
  - Chair of Life Issues at Sacred Heart Major Seminary
- Fr. Heyd,
  - Priests for Life

More information forthcoming. Check the website for updates.

Please contact us for interest, questions, or concerns.

http://www.nd.edu/~prolife/conference
ndconference@gmail.com  (574) 631-3066
A SPECIAL THANKS
TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS:
WITHOUT YOU, WE WOULD NOT HAVE THE
NECESSARY RESOURCES TO BRING THE MESSAGE OF LIFE TO THE NOTRE DAME COMMUNITY.

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2. Terrence & Sarah Ward Fort Wayne, IN
3. Arthur L. Roule, Jr., ND ’58 La Porte, IN
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27. Andrew & Maria Dotterweich, II Jackson, MI
28. Mr. Richard Dyer, Jr. Fairfax, VA

...help us get to 100!

Last but not least...
We would also like to thank Thomas M. Sullivan of Wilmington, CA for the beautiful tapestry of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Christ in her womb. We will surely be using it on campus and at the March for Life next year.