

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE

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A LIVELY MONTH WITH CRL

The month of May was filled with activity! **Pro-Life Information Tables** have been popping up all over Northern California! Saturday May 10 we spoke to over 100 people in Marin County at a local "flea market." The last Saturday in May several of our members staffed an information table at the Del Monte Mall in the Carmel, CA area. Both events were well received and we were able to proclaim the message of life. In Marin several people requested materials for talks to youth in the Marin area, which we were happy to provide, thanks to our generous supporters.

With the culmination of the school year several students contacted us from throughout the state requesting assistance on **term papers and a pro-life speeches** at both the high school and college level. We were able to assist the students as requested, and in one case were able to provide materials for the student to distribute during her speech to a Women's Health class at a San Diego junior college.

Thursday May 29 several of us joined more than a dozen college students from American Life League's **Crossroads in walking across the Golden Gate Bridge**. This was the kickoff of their cross-country walk. These young people will be sacrificing their summer vacations to speak out for babies. They will walk from San Francisco to Washington D.C. stopping along the way to speak to church groups and to pray at abortion clinics. (See article in this newsletter for more details.)

We have been gifted this summer with an **"Internet Intern."** Joy Juedes is majoring in journalism with a minor in Health at Marquette University. She is staying with her parents in Southern California this summer and will be assisting us with Internet research. She will also be writing several articles for our newsletter. Welcome aboard, Joy!

CROSSROADS KICKOFF 2003

By Vicki Evans

As the heavy fog swirled in the early afternoon of May 29, a procession over fifty strong made its way over footpath of the Golden Gate Bridge, witnessing for life and offering prayers for an end to abortion. Their message was highlighted by T-shirts and sweatshirts boldly proclaiming the messages: "PRO-LIFE" and "ABORTION IS HOMICIDE."

Thus began the 2003 Crossroads pilgrimage across the country from San Francisco to Washington D.C. Sponsored annually by CRL's parent organization, American Life League (ALL), Crossroads consists of a selfless group of college students who sacrifice their summer vacation to bring the pro-life message to scores of cities around the country. These collegiate youth will preach, teach and conduct TV, radio and newspaper interviews as they travel, and offer their prayers and enthusiasm for the cause of life. This year, seventeen marchers began their trek on May 29th in San Francisco and will conclude on August 15th in Washington D.C.

Marching alongside the core Crossroads group were representatives from Rock for Life, another ALL-sponsored group of teens and young adults---actually, anyone born after 1973 who has survived the abortion holocaust. Another group of marchers made up of infants and children with ages ranging from nine months to the early teen years, along with their parents. Pro-life adult and senior citizen contingents participated as well. There were even imbedded journalists taking pictures and videos, and some Bridge police on bicycles facilitating the flow of traffic.

One of the most gratifying things about the march was the number of children and young people participating. As the average age of the pro-abortionists increases, the pro-lifers just seem to get younger and younger. This result is not surprising given the counter-cultural instincts of youth and their innate sense of the unfairness of extinguishing life before it begins.

As the majority of us completed our walk at the Vista Point on the Marin/North end of the Bridge, the Crossroads collegiate continued marching into Marin and on to Napa and eventually to Washington D.C. What a witness to the Culture of Life!

THE TIDE IS TURNING... TOWARDS LIFE

As we are preparing to "go to press" the House of Representatives has just passed the **Partial Birth Abortion Ban**. The Senate passed a similar bill on March 13. In both votes it was a 2-1 majority in favor of the ban. A January Gallup poll found that 70% of the public favors the ban, which would outlaw the barbaric procedure of crushing a baby's skull and emptying out the brain while the baby is in the process of being born.

This past year brought the passage in several states of a 24-hour **waiting period** before having an abortion. These laws also require that the mothers be offered **printed material** on abortion risks and photographs of the baby's development. **Parental consent** laws have also passed in several states.

Finally, while we all mourn the death of Laci and Connor Peterson, his death may not have been in vain. The Congress is working on the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" and already 30 states INCLUDING CALIFORNIA have laws on the books protecting these helpless pre-borns from violence and prosecute the perpetrators to the maximum extent of the law, even to the death penalty in the Connor Peterson case.

And let us not forget the February 26 ruling by the **Supreme Court** in the Joe Scheidler vs. NOW overturning the racketeering judgment against prolifer Joe Scheidler, ending a seventeen-year case with a victory for the prolife movement. (Joe's son, Eric, will be our Fall Banquet speaker in October.)

It has been a long and at tiring uphill climb, and yet the past few months have shown some bits of light in the transformation of our nation from a culture of death into a people of life. All these successes did not occur overnight. Just like the final blow of the hammer does not split the rock, so each of the efforts over the years to change our laws and the hearts of humanity are now bearing fruit. Keep up the fight for life. If our office can assist you in your efforts in any way: pamphlets, videos, research on statistics, speakers, supplies, please call us. We are here to serve our members as you proclaim the message of life to those you encounter.

Many thanks to our generous donors who underwrite our efforts to promote the Culture of Life. Your contributions go a long way in educating the public through pro-life information tables, media interviews, pro-life research assistance, and more! Your continued support is greatly needed and much appreciated!

Volunteer opportunities with California Right to Life include:

- 1 media spokespeople (training provided)
- 2 teen / young adult contact for chastity / abstinence interviews
- 2 newsletter mailing helper – 3 hours monthly
- 3 Fall Banquet assistants: publicity, auction items, ticket sales, setup/cleanup, decorating

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please call me at (925) 944-5351.

For Life,



Cecelia M. Cody
Executive Director