

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Established 1981

## January/February 2011

### Breaking the Chains Walk for Life West Coast 2011

It was a beautiful sunny yet crisp winter day in San Francisco. An estimated 40-50,000 gathered for a rousing rally at Justin Herman Plaza, and then “strolled down the Embarcadero” up to 20 across in a line that stretched over a mile, culminating at the Marina Green in sight of Golden Gate Bridge, where the youth held a rally at Fort Mason. The Walk stretched from Pier 31 to Fort Mason! Unbelievable!



*Note the Carondelet Students for Life sign in the upper left corner. Maddie Lopez, one of our mall table volunteers (and niece of our board president Brian Hockel) made the sign. She and her friends spent many hours last fall forming the Students for Life group at Carondelet High School in Concord. (See our December newsletter for articles by Teresa Hasley and Gabby Quintana, also students at Carondelet.) These gals are the face of the pro-life movement.*

”I have attended most of the West Cost walks since they began. This was most vigorous and the largest that I have seen. I never saw such a diverse group so happy to be there.” – Richard of Corte Madera

“I was so moved to see so many people stepping up for life, and supporting her as she mourns the loss of her child to abortion.” - Rebecca of Nevada

Several of the signs that struck a note:

- Diapers are disposable, babies aren't.

- Abortion is the worst form of terrorism
- When babies die... God cries
- Equal Rights for unborn women
- If a woman had a crystal womb, she would not abort, so she could see the miracle inside.
- No more euphemisms, abortion kills.
- Abortion is racist. Almost 50% of African-American babies are aborted.
- America has killed more of its people through abortion than in all the wars combined.
- The pains of losing a child, will far outweigh the fear of an unwanted pregnancy (ask me)
- Life - the first inalienable right.
- Womb to tomb – Defend Life
- A Child's a blessing, not a burden
- It's a poverty that a child must die so you can live as you wish – Mother Teresa
- A nation that kills its children, is a nation without hope – John Paul II
- Hope – for me too Obama (and shows the baby in the womb in the blue and red motif)
- “It's” NOT a decision, “It's” NOT a choice, “It” is a Baby... a Child of God
- Every day AIDS kills 5,500, Abortion kills 115,000
- I was adopted – Thanks Mom... Abortion would have hurt you and ME.
- It's NOT “just tissue” it's a baby (and picture of smiling baby)
- Praying my rosary for the blessing inside your ovaries
- Real men defend life
- Without life, liberty and pursuit of happiness are not possible... Vote Pro-life.
- You will meet your baby again... then what?
- There are 2 victims in every abortion, a dead baby & a dead conscience – Mother Teresa.
- Everybody that is for abortion is already been born

For more pictures and quotes visit:  
[www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com)

## Abortion Rate Rises after Years of Decline

In Mid January the Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood released numbers revealing that the actual number of abortions in the U.S. rose from 1,206,200 in 2005 to 1,212,350 in 2008 — the first increase since steady decreases during both the 1990's and 2000's.

The Guttmacher Institute is pro-abortion but regarded by pro-life groups as having more accurate abortion figures than the Centers for Disease Control because it receives its numbers directly from abortion businesses and accounts for all 50 states, whereas the CDC does not receive reports from California and others.

Abortion figures peaked in 1990 but had been dropping ever since, thanks to pro-life legislative and educational efforts as well as the work of pregnancy centers offering women tangible pregnancy help and abortion alternatives.

The abortion rate - the percentage of pregnancies ending in abortion - had reached the lowest point in the 2005 Guttmacher Institute figures since the year following Roe. Now that has gone up from a rate of 19.4 percent of pregnancies ending in abortion in 2005 to 19.6 in 2008.

Rachel Jones, senior research associate at Guttmacher, indicated she believed the downturn in the economy had a role in the slight upturn in the abortion numbers: “We expect that the economy did impact unintended pregnancy and abortion, but other factors did as well.”

One factor is that Guttmacher included in its 2008 report abortion centers that were not accounted for in the 2005 report, so the abortion totals and abortion rate likely remained about the same had they been included before.

Guttmacher also indicated the number of abortion businesses in the United States rose from 1,787 in 2005 to 1,793 in 2008, marking the first occasion in which its numbers showed an increase in the number of abortion facilities since 1982. However, figures from pro-life groups paint a different picture — showing fewer abortion centers. In fact, the

Guttmacher numbers only show an increase because some abortion centers in California were not included in the 2005 total that were finally accounted for in this new survey. Had they not been included, the number of abortion centers would have fallen 3 percent.

Randy O'Bannon, the director of education and research at the National Right to Life Committee, credited pro-life groups with preventing any increases in the abortion totals.

“Grassroots pro-life legislative and educational efforts, along with the practical, life-affirming alternatives to abortion offered by pregnancy care centers across the United States, have certainly had an impact in preventing an increase in the annual number of abortions,” he told LifeNews.com. “But with abortion continuing to claim the lives of more than 100,000 unborn children every month, we must continue to be

vigilant in our efforts to educate the public and enact laws that protect unborn children and their mothers from the dangers of abortion and make sure they know that help is available.”

The report also found an increase in the use of the dangerous abortion drug RU 486, which has resulted in the deaths of at least 13 women worldwide, and potentially dozens more, as well as the

injuries to at least 1,100 women in the U.S. as of 2006 FDA figures.

The report found 199,000 of the reported abortions, or roughly 16% of the total, involved the mifepristone abortion drug and that total represents a 24 percent increase in usage from the 2005 numbers.

O'Bannon said those numbers alarmed him because of the large number of women who have ended up hospitalized with hemorrhages, ruptured ectopic pregnancies, or serious infections, which have proven deadly on occasion.

“RU-486 not only goes after a whole new customer base with the false promise of an easy, safe alternative to surgical abortion, but its increased use lets the abortion industry shift to a method that that requires less overhead to administer, thereby adding to their ever-increasing bottom line,” Dr. O'Bannon noted. “With the median cost of \$490, Guttmacher found for a chemical abortion, the new method represents more

**Abortion claims the lives of more than 100,000 unborn children every month in the United States.**

than \$97.5 million in gross revenues for an industry already making hundreds of millions of dollars.”

Looking at the number of abortion businesses, the new figures do confirm the trend pro-life advocates have seen around the nation of a move towards larger abortion centers and the consolidation of smaller ones, as the number of abortion centers doing 5,000 abortions or more annually rose 50 percent since the last Guttmacher report.

O’Bannon also said the report found an increase in the number offering abortions after the midway point of pregnancy (generally considered 20 weeks after the woman’s last menstrual period or LMP). Twenty-three percent offered abortions after 20 weeks LMP, compared to 20% in the 2005 report; eleven percent offered abortions after 24 weeks LMP compared to just 8% three years earlier. This translates to at least 350 providers who offer these late abortions.

“Pro-abortion advocates have long said that they want abortion to be ‘rare.’ Yet, sadly for mothers and their unborn children, it is clear from these latest findings that abortion remains a big business in the United States and that the abortion industry is continually working to increase both their reach and their bottom line,” he concluded.

Some states saw notable increases or decreases in abortions — with a 13 percent drop in Wisconsin while abortions in Louisiana rose 38 percent as people began returning to the state following Hurricane Katrina.

The new Guttmacher information was based on responses from 1,525 abortion practitioners out of 2,344 surveyed and it included data from state health departments that provide comprehensive abortion reporting and other sources.

## Unplanned by Abby Johnson

It isn’t often that a pro-life book hits the best sellers list; however, this month’s book has broken that barrier. In the first 24 hours of release, Unplanned shot up to the #8 bestseller on Amazon and #3 at Barnes & Noble, a Top 10 national bestseller!

Unplanned is written by Abby Johnson, former Director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas, who now is pro-life.

Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ of Ignatius Press, one of the book’s publishers, writes:

“Abby Johnson quit her job in October 2009. That simple act became a national news story because Abby was the Director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas who, after participating in her first actual abortion procedure had a profound change of heart, and walked across the road to join the Coalition for Life.

*“Abby’s story is one of great moral courage in an age that groans for lack of it. Hers is a modern parable of hope for us all, witnessing to the truth that sets the human heart free.”*

—Marjorie Dannenfelser,  
President, Susan B. Anthony List

*“Unplanned is a heart stopping personal drama of life-and-death encounters, a courtroom battle, and spiritual transformation that speaks hope and compassion into the political controversy that surrounds this issue. Telling Abby’s story from both sides of the abortion clinic property line, this book is a must-read for anyone who cares about the life versus rights debate*

and helping women who face crisis pregnancies.” Besides Fr. Fessio, SJ, several other pro-life leaders have endorsed the book:

“Abby’s story is one of great moral courage in an age that groans for lack of it. Hers is a modern parable of hope for us all, witnessing to the truth that sets the human heart free. A riveting story.”

—Marjorie Dannenfelser,  
President, Susan B. Anthony List

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!**

**A LIFE depends on it...**

**1-800-395-HELP (4357)**

**LIBRARY CORNER**

To purchase a copy of her book today, visit <http://www.ignatius.com/Products/UNP-H/unplanned.aspx>. Or contact us at 925-944-5351 or [callife@calright2life.org](mailto:callife@calright2life.org). We have purchased several copies for our lending library.

## Calendar of Events

For a more complete listing see: [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org)

**Spring 40 Days for Life** – begins Wednesday, March 7, 2011. More information: visit the website [www.40daysforlife.org](http://www.40daysforlife.org)

40 Days for Life has a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, often affecting their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion in America, through a three-point program of

- ❖ *Prayer and Fasting*
- ❖ *Constant Vigil*
- ❖ *Community outreach*

**Saturday April 16, 2011 – United for Life Dinner**  
United Irish Cultural Center 2700 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue (off Sloat Blvd), San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 567-2293.

### WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same “no-exceptions, no excuses” beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.