

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Two Saturdays ago I joined with a group of people to pray the Rosary outside the Planned Parenthood office in Waldorf. Although they don't actually perform abortions at this site they do abortion referrals there. So on the second Saturday of each month local supporters of the right to life gather there to pray for those who come for referrals and also for those who work for Planned Parenthood. We're praying for a change of heart. While I was there a few people came to the PP office. Since the PP office is in the same shopping center as Nick's of Clinton a lot of people saw us standing on the sidewalk praying. I know that people who have never done this sort of thing worry about what happens. But it was peaceful. There were no confrontations. Just a prayerful witness to the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

And our nation needs our witness. Since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1974 at least 35 million American children have been killed in the womb and millions of women and men have been emotionally scarred by their *choice* to end the lives of their own sons and daughters.

Related to these facts is another. The abortion industry has made huge profits from the "termination" business. Indeed, in 2005-2006, Planned Parenthood, America's leading terminator of life, performed a record 264,943 abortions, attained a high profit of \$55.8 million and received record taxpayer funding of \$305.3 million. At the end of the period covered Planned Parenthood also reported net assets of \$839.8 million.

While PP reported a record number of abortions for the period, they provided no figures on adoption referrals. Could it be that adoption referrals are not nearly as profitable as abortions? In any case, despite its name the last thing that Planned Parenthood of America is interested in is actual parenthood.

The organization now known as Planned Parenthood was founded in the 1920s by Margaret Sanger as the "Eugenics Society." Using money provided by the Rockefellers and other wealthy Americans, Sanger, the patron saint of the abortion industry, preached "blessed are the barren", and extolled the virtues of sex without marriage.

Sanger certainly practiced what she preached, abandoning her daughter when the child got in the way of one of her relationships. Sanger also taught that the poor, the disabled and the non-white should be "weeded out" of the human race through the use of contraception, sterilization and abortion. These were ideas also popular with Hitler and the Eugenics Society took a favorable view of the Nazis "racial purity" programs in the 1930s.

Sensing that their past support of the Nazis may not be too popular in light of WWII and the Holocaust, after the war Sanger's disciples changed the name of their group to "Planned Parenthood" and, just like that, an elite group of wealthy, immoral racists recast itself as the great champion of human progress.

I bring these facts regarding Planned Parenthood to your attention because I think they are important to understanding the reality of abortion in America. Abortion is first and foremost a tragedy for the boy or girl whose life is ended in the womb. Abortion is also a tragedy for the mother and father of the child whose life is ended. A truly just society never would have tempted them with such a horrible "choice." The violence of abortion also leaves its mark on grandparents and siblings. And it is a tragedy for our society as a whole. Think of it. Since the *Roe v. Wade decision* at least 35 million beautiful lives that would have blessed our nation have been forever lost.

But in addition to being a tragedy, abortion is also big business. The personal tragedies that are part of every decision to abort a child are bringing millions of dollars each year into the coffers of Planned Parenthood and the other promoters of abortion. Recently I watched the film *Amazing Grace* which tells the story of how British involvement in the African slave trade was finally stopped. After years of frustration the opponents of the slave trade only succeeded in stopping it when the practice became unprofitable for the slave traders. Perhaps that will be what it takes to end the scourge of abortion in America. One group working to that end is Stop Planned Parenthood. Affiliated with the American Life League, they are trying to stop Planned Parenthood, from receiving your tax dollars. STOPP can be contacted at [www.all.org/stopp/](http://www.all.org/stopp/)

We must pray for all those who will be tempted to choose this act of violence as a solution to an unplanned pregnancy. If you have been scarred by abortion consider contacting Project Rachel, which is the Church's healing ministry to those who have been involved in abortion. For more information see [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com) Finally, please consider joining us in prayer outside the Planned Parenthood office on the second Saturday of each month.

With my prayers,  
Fr. Conley