

ROCKLAND CATHOLIC COALITION

THE ROCKLAND COUNTY CATHOLIC COALITION

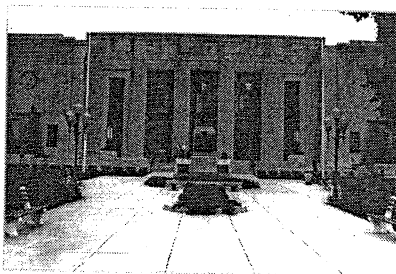
P.O. BOX 264, GARNERVILLE, NY 10923

Spring 2007

Our Mission

The Catholic Coalition was founded in 1989 because affairs in the world today call "with a particular urgency" for action of the lay faithful. Therefore, we publicly affirm our rights as American citizens to speak out as Catholics and peacefully dedicate our efforts to:

- ❖ Defend the free exercise of religious liberty in places of worship without harassment, defamation, or desecration of our sacred symbols and reality.
- ❖ Defend as an undeniable truth that innocent human life from conception until natural death be respected and protected as sacred, especially the young and unborn, old and weak, unprovided for, defenseless, or those at the mercy of others.
- ❖ Expose how families are penalized by discriminatory taxation, defend the rights of families to pass on their values to their children, and work for the integrity of the family as ordained by God and nature.
- ❖ Defend against anti-Catholic prejudice in the news media and/or the arts that misrepresents, ridicules, or demeans Catholics, their representatives, their beliefs, or their act of worship.
- ❖ Protest discriminating tactics if used to deny equal treatment to all who use peaceful demonstrations to save lives.
- ❖ Ensure equal opportunity for all public officials to peacefully act on moral convictions in the public sphere.



Rockland County Action

Update on Coalition activities since our last newsletter:

- ❖ We attended county legislature meetings to protest funding for Planned Parenthood (© funding for PP was not included in the budget this year.)
- ❖ We participated in the Lifeline along Rte 59 in Nanuet.
- ❖ We got permission for a crèche to be displayed at the legislative bldg in New City and held a ceremony for the lighting of the crèche. Fr. Johnson of St. Augustine's led with a prayer. Scott Vanderhoef then gave an inspirational message. Finally, St. Augustine's choir led the gathering in singing Christmas hymns.
- ❖ Plans were made for March for Life in Washington, D.C.
- ❖ Plans were made for an evening meeting in late March in hopes of recruiting new members.
- ❖ We'll be placing a beautiful ad in the Journal News for Mother's Day.

Congratulations, Monsignor!

Monsignor John Harrington, our longtime advisor, celebrated his 62nd year as a priest recently. CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD BLESS YOU, DEAR MONSIGNOR!

Death for Dollars?

Ukraine has become the self-styled stem cell capitol of the world. Ukrainian women have been paid \$200 per fetus, as reported by Life Site News. Ukrainian researchers started a Kiev company called Em Cell, charging \$25,000 per treatment. Now, evidence obtained by the BBC suggests newborn babies may have been killed in Ukraine to feed a flourishing international trade in stem cells. Mothers from the city of Kharkov say they have given birth to healthy babies, only to have them taken by maternity staff. The BBC claims to have a video showing 30 infants exhumed from a cemetery used by the Ukrainian hospital. Pictures show dismembered bodies with missing organs and brains, which is *not* standard post-mortem practice. The Council of Europe is now carrying on an investigation as a response to about 300 families who have come forward with charges against the hospital. Were these babies harvested for the high amounts of stem cells in their brains and bone marrow? Sadly, bioethicist Wesley Smith believes the demand for hundreds of millions of eggs and stem cells will lead to fetal farming.

Locally, a recent Penny-saver ad solicited women for egg donations for which they'd be remunerated.



"Teach me O Lord your way, that I may walk in your truth." Ps. 86:11

CHRIST BE BESIDE ME, CHRIST BE BEFORE ME,
CHRIST BE BEHIND ME, KING OF MY HEART.

Human Pappilloma Virus

Gardasil, a drug developed by Merck, a New Jersey-based company, is meant to combat HPV, a sexually-transmitted disease, although the drug company admits it doesn't protect all strains of HPV and a pap test is needed in addition. The cost is \$360 for three injections. There is a strong influence across the country pushing for mandatory vaccinations for girls beginning at age 9. A Scarsdale, NY Assemblywoman, Amy Paulen (D.), is introducing legislation to make it obligatory in New York State. Instead of giving license to condone premarital sex, perhaps we should view the serious risks with which we are burdening our young. Children today already receive 48 doses of 14 vaccines by age 15, and can get 12 in a single day. Do some research and see the high incidences of chronic disease and disability. Diabetes is on the rise. Once autism ran at a rate of 1 in almost 3,000, but today is 1 in 160. Learning disabilities also have increased. Is there a relationship between over-vaccination and our present health problems? Do we need another vaccine? Worst of all, the HPV vaccine works on only 10% of strains of the virus.

Who Can Deny These Facts?

HPV is in epidemic numbers here in Rockland. It is a sexually transmitted disease. We believe in abstinence, the *only* safe means to ensure good physical and mental health. Don't be fooled by so-called experts. Planned Parenthood has a book available for sale for \$12, which is, in their view, informa-tional for *children!* Adults in our organization as well as other Catholic organizations here in Rockland could not believe their eyes. We call it immoral in content

and pictures -- and to be quite frank, *pornographic*. Just about everything to PP is normal. This info is filtered into our public schools by teachers who agree with the PP agenda. *Please be watchful of what your children and grandchildren are being taught.* Ask questions about the health programs being offered to young children and teenagers. Attend school board meetings. Tell other parents about any objectionable material and voice your objections strongly at the meetings. *Get the immoral material out of our Rockland schools.* Also, be watchful of programs offered to teens to be *leaders*. PP spreads their agenda this way, too -- they offer school credits or money for attending. They make everything attractive to young, vulnerable children.

When Parents Speak Out!

With encouragement from the Catholic Churches in North Rockland, parents have begun to voice opposition to Planned Parenthood speaking in public schools. So far, the district has agreed to notify parents when PP is coming to schools and to allow children to opt out of the classes. The superintendent, Dr. Monahan, and the health committee have also met with a group of parents and listened to their concerns. The board agreed to reconsider having PP in North Rockland schools at all. Parents and grandparents, is Planned Parenthood coming to your schools? Speak up -- speak out!

Pope John Paul said: "It is not about dialogue, it is about joining hands and engaging in social causes to enhance the human dignity of every human being."

Respect for Students

Respect for all students should be the goal! The New York State United Teachers is calling for legislation that would require all new teachers be exposed to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. Responding to a survey that claims gay and lesbian students report hearing anti-gay language in school, a proposal would add a new requirement for teacher certification. Personal or religious beliefs could not be a reason for opting out of this certification requirement. Is another law really necessary?

Double Standard?

We have all been pained to read the many stories splashed across the leading newspapers concerning child abuse and alleged child abuse by priests. It seems these stories have been given prominence day after day in both the print media and on the radio and TV. You may have missed the recent report of a 68% increase in substantiated claims of abuse in 2006. Perhaps this revelation didn't get the media attention we have come to expect because it did not involve Catholic priests, but rather employees of the city school system. About 1/3 of these claims involved the sexual abuse of children by NYC school employees. We didn't hear the snide, cheap jokes aimed at smearing all of our priests, nor did we hear much about a story involving a highly-regarded rabbi at a Brooklyn yeshiva charged with its 4th sex abuse lawsuit. The Times, Daily News, and Newsday all passed on this one. Another example of the double standard that we all have to face so often.

† † †

Here I am Lord, come to do your will.

CHRIST BE WITHIN ME, CHRIST BE BELOW ME,
CHRIST BE ABOVE ME, NEVER TO PART.

Good News, Bad News

Thanks to Mr. Vanderhoef, Planned Parenthood didn't get any direct funding from the county in the most recent budget. Unfortunately, New York State reported having 39 separate contracts with various Planned Parenthood affiliates in the state. The contracts totaled \$23,022,037 for fiscal year 2005, which placed New York in the lead as the state that gives the most money to Planned Parenthood.

True Love Revolution

Founded by two students at Harvard University, the True Love Revolution promotes abstinence before marriage. It was founded earlier this school year and currently claims about 90 members.

Natural Family Planning

The Sisters of Life have a short tape teaching the WONDERFUL natural way of planning a family. For more info, call: 212-371-1000 x 3182

A Rosary for Life

Every Saturday at 11 a.m., a group of the faithful led by Rich Bruno and Fr. Frank Samoylo from St. Augustine's, pray the rosary at the Planned Parenthood office in Spring Valley. Their right to do so (on county property, not private property) was contested. They won the case and were awarded \$5,000 for lawyer's fees. PLEASE JOIN THEM. In cold weather, many sit in their cars and pray.

Watch Me Grow

Did you see the wonderful program on National Geographic, Watch Me Grow? It showed the stages of the growth of a baby in the mother's womb from conception to birth. Kudos to National Geographic!

Good Friday Sacrifice

As has been done for many years, the Rosary will be prayed at the site of the abortion clinic on the corner of West Clarkstown Rd. and Eckerson Rd. (back of the medical bldg). Call Peggy Beirne at 845-735-6970 to sign up for any hour you can give in the 24-hour period. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

March for Life in Washington, D.C.

On January 22, the 34th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, over 100,000 people marched in protest at our nation's capitol. More and more young people in their teens, 20's, and 30's, are coming out every year, thank God! How come there are times when 10 protestors can make front page news and yet over 100,000 pro-life marchers can be ignored by the media?

Ave Maria University Update

The Naples, Florida, university is presently operating at an interim campus with about 500 students. The new town and campus are making good progress. They hope to celebrate midnight mass this Christmas in the new oratory, which will hold 1,100 people. The university hopes to eventually have 5-6000 students. To learn more, go to: www.avemaria.edu

On the Lighter Side

A new cologne has appeared on the scene called Archangel. It describes itself as a cologne for the traditional man who is often demonized and ridiculed for displaying manliness and traditional values. It's worth a look-see (or look-smell). For more info, check: www.archangelcologne.com

Petty Larceny or Hate Crime?

Three young Rockland County men were arrested and charged with petty larceny for stealing statues from nativity scenes in Suffern and Haverstraw during the '05 and '06 Christmas season. In Long Island, a 20 year old was arrested for kicking a menorah and was charged with a felony hate crime. A teenager faced the same charge for destroying a menorah. The NYC public schools permit the display of a menorah because it is considered a secular symbol, and yet the nativity is forbidden because it is considered a religious symbol. So, why did the Rockland County thugs get a minor slap on the wrist for violating a "religious" symbol while the Long Island thugs get slammed with the more serious felony charge for violating a "non-religious", secular symbol? Sounds like a double standard to me. You decide.



Pres. Bill Clinton signed into law that marriage is defined as a union between a man and a woman. *Stand up for this wherever and whenever you can. It cannot be denied.* According to EWTN, the media demeans womanhood (as if we didn't know this for ourselves, but it is good to hear it coming from our priests.) Pornography couched in beautiful background music is in so many of the programs. Homosexual behavior is seen as a normal, alternative lifestyle (we stress that it is the lifestyle we condemn, not the person.) There is an attack on femininity, which God intended as a beautiful mystery. When we follow "The Word", Jesus, in all He said and did, we become the truly human being we were intended to be.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

God bless all who marched on that cold and windy day in Pearl River. The Respect Life Inc. group marched proudly for the defense of the unborn.

Twenty years ago, Irish television was more destructive than communism, according to Father Benedict Groeschel of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Last year when he was given a chance to speak on Irish TV, he found that it had changed for the better. He encouraged the Irish people to remain firm in the faith that St. Patrick planted so long ago.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

There are thousands of Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the U.S. that are an important face of the pro-life movement, working to change minds and hearts in the abortion war. The system helps women sign up for Medicaid and begin prenatal care. They also help girls find emergency housing if necessary and provide them with free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. C.P.C. also promotes abstinence before marriage so these centers are eligible for federal abstinence grants. Our county is lucky to have Care Net and Birthright (although Birthright doesn't apply for grants.) C.P.C.'s have been around for a few decades, but Pres. Bush has made them a centerpiece for compassionate conservatism. However, with pro-choice Dems back in control, pro-life legislative advances just might end. Keep an eye on what Congress is doing.

Support the Knights of Columbus

Our Holy Father extols them and their wonderful works. He considers them his right arm. Learn how to get involved at: www.kofc.org

Startling News

Fr. Angelus Shaunessey, EWTN TV Network: BE APOSTLES, DISCIPLES. The largest religious denomination in the U.S. now is fallen-away Catholics. If we find this extremely sad, think about how God must view this. Since He wants all of us to be saved, we can be sure something will happen to rectify the situation. It is not just a U.S. phenomenon; Europe has had this befall it as well. Our Lord's message, through His Blessed Mother and Saints, and in His apparitions to Saints, has always been, make reparation, prayer, fasting, *Eucharistic adoration*. We have many churches that have either 24-hour adoration or some hours during the week. Just call around and you'll find one that would suit your schedule. *We need all of these sacrifices*. Fr. Angelus continued, "Do all you can by your words and actions to bring people back to the faith when and wherever you can!" Jesus told us His Body and His Blood are our food by which we are to be saved. Can we deny the devil is alive and well that so many Catholics have fallen away from receiving what will gain them ever-lasting life? And what about Confession, a sacrament ignored by so many? Remember the lines every Saturday Penance, the sweetest words anyone can hear on this earth: "Your sins are forgiven." Priests should encourage young and old alike to come to the sacrament. It doesn't matter how long you have been away or what you have done. They have heard it all. They take the place of Jesus who, like the father of the prodigal son, reaches out to us to forgive. He loves us beyond any feeling of love we can ever experience here on earth.

Archdiocese 200th Anniversary

Just in time for the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese, there is a Catholic exhibition on the Parishes and Religious Orders of Rockland County at the Rockland County Historical Society, Zukor Rd., New City. It opened on Sunday, March 11, with a prayer by Msgr. Edward Weber, our Vicar. The exhibit will run through June 17, Tues. through Sun., 1 pm to 5 pm. *Don't miss it!* It is beautiful and informative.

Books to Read

The Supremists: The Tyranny of Judges and How to Stop it, by Phyllis Schlafly. It treats the Constitution as a living and evolving document meaning to some we can decide what we want to do. What a travesty.

Rediscovering God in America, by Newt Gingrich.

Good Counsel Home (Cardinal Cooke Home), Spring Valley, now housing 7 ladies (2 expectants) and 5 babies. It provides life skill training, assists those going back to school and those needing immigration advice. Practical needs: pampers (size 3 and up), (*many*) baby wipes, toddlers clothes (2T-6X). *Donations always welcome!*

Important Phone Numbers

Care Net: 352-6047; Birthright: 623-9098; Rachel Ministry: 942-2200 x 150; Good Counsel: 356-0517; Courage (a support group for Catholics with same sex attraction who desire to live in accordance with Church teachings): 212-268-1010

DONATIONS

Will humbly be accepted to R.C.C.C

Name: _____

Address: _____