

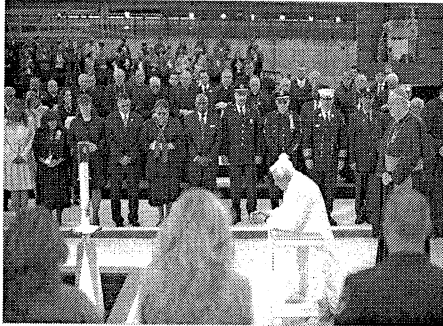
The Rockland County Catholic Coalition

P. O. Box 264, Garnerville, NY 10923

Spring 2008

The Gates of Hell Will Not Prevail

The Papal Visit



Pope Benedict prays at Ground Zero.

Pope Benedict XVI came to the United States on a journey of hope for all of us. Our Holy Father had lived under the sinister regime of Nazi Germany and his family suffered under Hitler, knowing firsthand the horrors and twists and turns of life, therefore sharing in the understanding of tragedy. He believes strongly in prayer where everyone is included. He was welcomed by all faiths. His belief is that this unity is essential for peace and his prayers are for *all* souls and forgiveness. He told us he loves America and stressed that we are blessed to live in a country with religious freedom. His advice to us is to have a relationship with Christ, live lives of hope, and be guiding stars for others. Pray—Pray—Pray.



What the Rockland Catholic Coalition has done since the Fall of 2007:

◆ Sponsored the Christmas crèche display and prayer vigil at the Legislative Building in New City.

◆ Participated in the 40-days of prayer held all around the U.S. to end abortion and return to a culture of life. Remarkable results occurred,

Including the closing of the last abortion clinic in Rockland in April.

◆ Our members have been calling & emailing to stop the enactment of the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act.

◆ Two members manned a table at the Rockland County Information Day for the students at RCC.



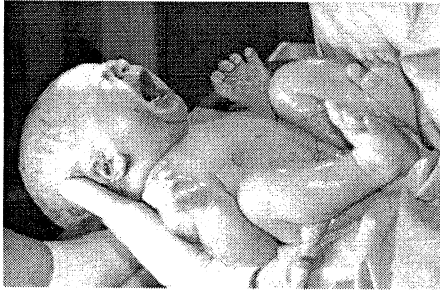
Fr. Vondras reminds us that former Gov. Eliot Spitzer introduced a bill to the New York State Legislature (S.5829/S.6045) which, among other issues against life, would mandate Catholic Hospitals and institutions perform abortions and require the Catholic Church in NYS to provide medical insurance for the procedure, in violation of Freedom of Religion and the Separation of Church and State. The founding fathers of our country experienced, firsthand, the disastrous results of civil government interfering with the rights of religious consciences in Europe. The Separation clause, if anything, was meant to avoid the replication of such a situation in the new nation. Unfortunately, his successor, Gov. David Paterson, is also pro-abortion and the matter has not died with the last administration. It shows how alert we all must be to the insidious snares of the enemies of human life who would do anything to destroy the sanctity of life which has been held sacred in our society for so many generations. As we all know, and can't deny, abortion proved to be the unraveling of all that America stands for. In the wake of *Roe v. Wade* one threat after another has

been launched against the unborn, the elderly, and the infirm. Untold hours of effort, sacrifice, and prayer have been counter-launched to stem the tide that would bring us back into the dark ages of history. There is so much work that needs to be done and so many opportunities for all of us to make our voices heard and to help restore the dignity of human life and the dignity of our nation. In this Easter season we remember the words of Deuteronomy; I place before you life and death...choose life that your children may grow in peace! Life is the source of peace and Truth is the source of life. Our task is to help our lawmakers understand that! — Fr. John J. Vondras

Take Action Now! Stop the Reproductive Health & Privacy Protection Act S.5829 and S.6045-A. Call your State Senator, your Assembly Member. Phone numbers are listed on Page 4, or email through the NYS Catholic Conference website at www.nyscatholic.org.

Fr. McGivney's Sainthood

The sainthood cause of the founder of the Knights of Columbus has taken a major step forward. On March 15th, Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree of "heroic virtues" for Fr. Michael McGivney, the American priest who founded the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, CT, in 1882, the largest lay Catholic organization in the world. Fr. McGivney can be beatified if a miracle is attributed to his intercession. Sainthood requires an additional miracle. Learn more at www.fathermcgivney.org.



Non-Embryonic Stem Cells

Life magazine ran a series on fetal life, showing the babies in different stages of development. The Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that they did not have a right to life. That led to controversy and in some cases violence. Now we have embryos and the embryonic stem cell. The fetus (baby) cannot speak. The stem cell is genderless. Both are totally defenseless. The reason for the use of stem cells is to repair body parts and cells. They can fix leukemia, repair a heart valve, and make muscles work again. As a result there is a moral quandary in our immoral society. That is the creation of embryonic stem cells.

The Hollywood hype is that we are denying cripples and other people with illnesses of their chance to recover. This is the furthest thing from the truth. Stem cells that have been derived from aborted babies have had no success. Yet, those derived from body parts etc. have been successful in curing people. This other evil needs to be stopped with regulation, but it can only be stopped with your spiritual study of the subject, to eventually make you realize the horror of what is being perpetrated on humans with potential. There has been a powerful breakthrough in the scientific community which pursues stem cell research that does not use embryos. They are derived from skin cells. This is very exciting news. For more information, call the Massachusetts Family Institute at 781-569-0400 or visit their web site at mafamily.org.

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

Last year, Gov. Spitzer praised the \$6.1 million that New York committed in the 2007 budget for the destruction of human life under the umbrella of "research". This he called a "moral" imperative. On Jan. 7, 2008, over the objection and concerns of the Ethics Committee, \$14.5 million in grants were awarded to NYS institutions for research projects. Call your representatives to protest!



Defending Life

Two busloads of Rocklanders traveled to Washington in Jan. for the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, March for Life. The cold weather didn't lessen the numbers of marchers who voiced their views to their representatives. You'd be pleased to see a growing number of Americans, especially young people, who oppose the violence of abortion. When interviewed, many of them expressed how sonograms helped to firm their belief that life begins at conception. Their enthusiasm gives us hope! Locally, on Good Friday, there was a 24-hr vigil before an abortion clinic. It was so nice to see a large group of teens from Albertus Magnus pro-life club! Also, every Sat. on public ground on Perlman Dr., off Rte 59 in Spring Valley (near the PP office,) volunteers pray the rosary for life from 11 AM to noon. Please join us.

A Candidate New to the Scene: Barack Hussein Obama

A brief look at the statements Barack Obama has made on life issues and marriage shows that his beliefs are out of line with the teachings of the Church:

◆ In 2003, while chairman of the Illinois Senate's Health and Human Services Committee, Obama led the fight to oppose a bill that would have mandated healthcare for a baby *who survived an abortion*, effectively legalizing selective infanticide.

◆ During a recent appearance in Johnston, PA, after a woman in the audience made a plea for him to help "stop these abortions," Obama said of his daughters, "...if they make a mistake, I don't want them to be punished with a baby."

◆ On March 2nd, Obama told a crowd at Hocking College in Nelsonville, OH, that he believes the Sermon on the Mount justifies his support for the legal recognition of same-sex unions, and at the same time referred to St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans condemning homosexuality as "an obscure passage in Romans."

Yet, somehow Obama claims that all of his positions are in harmony with Christian teaching.

A Prayer from Archbishop Sheen

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen asked us to say this prayer every day: "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby who I've spiritually adopted, [Name], who is in danger of abortion. You can add after the prayer: "Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us. Mother of life, pray for the unborn."

Pray for the canonization of Archbishop Sheen. His cause is being researched in Rome.