



**CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE
OF KENTUCKY**
WITNESS

Mid-Term Election Edition

 October 2002

SPECIAL EDITION

**CCK Board
of Directors**

Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.
Archbishop of Louisville

John J. McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro

Roger J. Foy
Bishop of Covington

Reverend
Robert H. Nieberding
Administrator of Lexington

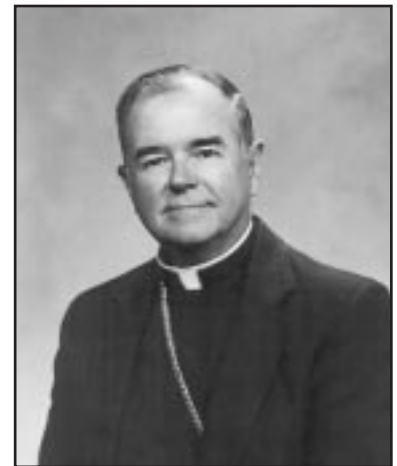
Vincent E. Senior
Executive Director

**A WORD
FROM THE
ARCHBISHOP**

Every year our Church designates October as Respect Life month and is a fitting time to reflect on the values of our society and those of our democracy. As our nation continues to seek solace and solutions from the ghastly attacks of September 11th, one small but powerful action available to most all Americans is that of voting in the elections on Tuesday, November 5th. Voting is an expression of our patriotism and a real opportunity to respond to the Gospel call to justice.

One of the most memorable moments in my life occurred during the papal visit of 1979 when the pope preached on the mall in Washington, D.C., about the sacredness of human life. Pope John Paul II said that human life is precious because it is a gift of a God whose love is infinite: "When God gives life, it is forever." The pope urged us to be passionate indeed about the value of every human person called to be a brother or sister of Christ. Then he spoke unforgettably stirring words:

"And so we will stand up every time that human life is threatened. When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, we will stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life. When such a child is described as a burden...we will stand up and insist that every child is a unique and unrepeatable gift of God. When the sick, the aged, or the dying are abandoned in loneliness we will stand up and proclaim that they are worthy of love, care and respect."



Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., CCK Board Chair

I will never forget the thrill of hearing the Holy Father's testimony to the sacredness of human life uttered in that place, which is the heart of our nation. I return to his words often and am always moved by them.

Our nation continues to face important civic challenges and our Catholic tradition calls us to active faithful citizenship. Elections are an opportunity to participate directly in civic life and set aside the cynicism about politics that keeps so many from the polls on Election Day. Low voter turnout is a dangerous trend for our democracy and we must not allow frustration with politics and politicians to keep us from exercising our most basic constitutional right: the right to vote. Participation in the electoral process is an important means by which Catholics begin shaping a society more respectful of human life and dignity, and one that seeks the common good of all in society.

Prior to the 2000 elections, I joined with my brother bishops in offering the following consideration: "Every candidate, policy, and political platform should be measured by how they touch the human person; whether they enhance or diminish human life and dignity, and human rights; and how they advance the common good." I am mindful that daily life is filled with responsibilities to family, community and employers, but I urge all Catholics to make it a priority to go to the polls and vote. Our nation enjoys many blessings and freedoms and it is our obligation as faithful citizens to act as informed voters on November 5th.

I N S I D E

- *November 5 - Election Day!*
- *Special Bulletin Clip Art*
- *Execution Watch*
- *Catholics at the Capitol 2003*
- *107th Congress - Priority Issues*

CANDIDATES IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

US SENATE

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-incumbent)
Lois Combs Weinberg (D)

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st Congressional District

Representative Ed Whitfield (R-incumbent)
Klint Alexander (D)

2nd Congressional District

Representative Ron Lewis (R-incumbent)
David L. Williams (D)

3rd Congressional District

Representative Anne Northup (R-incumbent)
Jack Conway (D)

The Catholic Church is prohibited from endorsing candidates and does not seek the formation of a religious voting bloc. Our moral framework does not fit the categories of right or left, Democrat or Republican.

4th Congressional District

Representative Ken Lucas (D-incumbent)
Geoff Davis (R)

5th Congressional District

Representative Hall Rogers (R-incumbent)
Sidney Jane Bailey (D)

6th Congressional District

Representative Ernie Fletcher (R-incumbent)
Gatewood Galbraith (I)

*Find your Representatives online at:
www.vote-smart.org*

BEYOND SOUND BYTES: QUE

Politics is about more than our own pocketbooks or economic interests. Catholics, other believers, and men and women of good will must look beyond the television commercials and campaign slogans. The following questions may help voters focus and reflect on important issues as we prepare to elect those who would lead our government.

1 How will we protect the weakest in our midst – innocent, unborn children, imprisoned, and those living in poverty?

2 How will we overcome the scandal of a quarter of our preschoolers living in poverty in the richest nation on earth?

3 How will we address the tragedy of 35,000 children dying every day of the consequences of hunger, debt and lack of clean drinking water around the world?

4 How can our nation help parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, and a sense of hope?

5 How can society better support families in their moral roles and responsibilities, offering them real choices and financial resources to obtain quality education and affordable, safe housing?

6 How will we address the growing number of families and individuals

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE BALLOT

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT # 1

Are you in favor of family courts in Kentucky by amending the Kentucky Constitution to allow the Supreme Court to designate a division of circuit court as a family court?

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT # 2

Are you in favor of permitting the General Assembly to provide by general law for the formation, organization, and regulation of corporations by repealing certain sections of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to corporations?

107th CONGRESS – PRIORITY ISSUES

Reauthorization of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) - The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program expired on September 30, 2002. It is unclear whether there will be sufficient time for the Senate to pass a comprehensive reauthorization bill, reconcile it with the bill passed by the House of Representatives, and have the President sign reauthorization into law. In July 2002, the Senate Finance Committee approved the Work, Opportunity, and Responsibility for Kids (WORK) Act of 2002, but it has not yet received a vote by the full Senate.

Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001 (S. 1899/ H.R. 2505) - It bans any use of cloning to manufacture human embryos in the laboratory. A regression in society's respect for human life

and human dignity will occur unless S. 1899 is swiftly enacted. The House version (H.R. 2505) was passed in July, 2001 and sent to the Senate.

The Innocence Protection Act (H.R. 912/S. 486) - The House and Senate bills are identical.

Presently, the House bill has two hundred and ten (210) cosponsors, and 31 Senator cosponsors. The bill would afford greater access to DNA testing by convicted offenders; and help States improve the quality of legal representation in capital murder cases.

*General Election will be held
November 5, 2002.
Polls are open from
6:00 am to 6:00 pm.*

continued on page 4

QUESTIONS FOR THE ELECTION*

without affordable and accessible health care?

7 How will our society best combat continuing prejudice, bias, and discrimination, overcome hostility toward immigrants and refugees, and heal the wounds of racism, religious bigotry, and other forms of discrimination?

8 How will our nation pursue the values of justice and peace in a world where injustice is common, destitution is widespread, and peace is too often overwhelmed by warfare and violence?

9 What are the responsibilities and

limitations of families, voluntary social service organizations, economic markets and government? How can these elements of society work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, care for creation, and overcome injustice?

10 How will our nation and state resist what Pope John Paul II calls a growing "culture of death"? Why does it seem that our nation is turning to violence to solve some of its most difficult problems – to abortion to deal with difficult pregnancies, to the death penalty to combat crime, to euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of old age and illness?

*Adapted from USCC's *Faithful Citizenship*, 1999

DEATH ROW INMATE FACING EXECUTION

In 2002, various states have executed a total of 55 persons.

Kentucky is on the verge of adding one more to the list. Kevin Stanford was convicted of murdering Ms. Baerbel Poore on January 7, 1981 and sentenced to death in September of 1982. He was 17 years of age at the time he committed his crime and was tried as an adult.

The United States remains the only Western industrialized nation continuing to use the death penalty. Pope John Paul II has called on Catholics to seek an end to the death penalty. In his homily while visiting St. Louis, Missouri in 1999, the Holy Father stated, "A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the



Kevin Stanford with CCK staff, Scott Wegenast

chance to reform." In the November 2000 statement, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and*

Criminal Justice,

our U.S. bishops wrote, "It is time to abandon the death penalty – not just because of what it does to those who are executed, but because of how it diminishes all of us... We ask all Catholics – pastors, catechists, educators and parishioners -- to join us in rethinking this difficult issue and committing ourselves to pursuing justice without vengeance. With our Holy Father, we seek to build a society so committed to human life that it will not sanction the killing of any human person."

CCK and a large coalition of youth advocacy groups have long supported passage of legislation in Kentucky to prohibit the execution

of juvenile offenders. Polling data released by the University of Kentucky in June of 2000 indicated that 79.5% of Kentuckians polled agreed that juvenile offenders should not receive a death sentence.

"It is time to abandon the death penalty – not just because of what it does to those who are executed, but because of how it diminishes us all..."

Kevin

Stanford's final appeal to the United States Supreme Court was partially rejected on October 7, 2002. The Court is still considering a *Habeas* petition and a decision is expected in a few days. CCK and the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty are supporting efforts to persuade Governor Paul Patton to use his Executive Clemency powers to commute the death sentence of Kevin Stanford. Govern Patton has it within these special powers to change Kevin's sentence.

Act now and join in this effort to stop the cycle of violence. Governor Patton needs to hear from citizens across the Commonwealth. Take a few minutes to contact Governor Patton and urge him to grant Kevin Stanford clemency rather than kill him in our name.

Governor Paul E. Patton
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 564-2611
Fax: (502) 564-2517
Email: governor@mail.state.ky.us

*Don't kill
for us.*

For more information go to
www.ccky.org or **www.kcadp.org**

Duplication and distribution of this page is encouraged.

BULLETIN CLIP ART & QUOTES



**NOVEMBER 5
ELECTION DAY**
Polls Open 6am - 6pm

**5 NOVIEMBRE
DIA de ELECCIONES**
Centro electoral
está abierto 6am - 6pm

**NOVEMBER 5
ELECTION DAY**
Polls Open 6am - 6pm

THE DIVERSE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The Catholic Community is large and diverse. We are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. We are members of every race, come from every ethnic background, and live in urban, rural, and suburban communities. We are CEOs and migrant farm workers, senators and persons on public assistance, business owners and union members. But we are all called to a common commitment to protect human life and stand with those who are poor and vulnerable. We cannot be indifferent to or cynical about the obligations of citizenship.

– *Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium, p. 11*

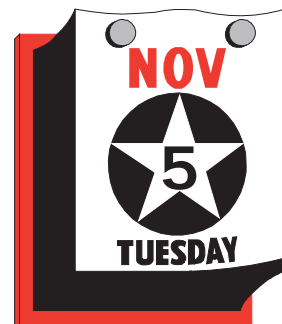
✓ VOTE - NOVEMBER 5 ✓

THE CHURCH & THE POLITICAL PROCESS

The Church's participation in public affairs does not undermine but enriches the political process and affirms genuine pluralism. The leaders of the Church have the right and duty to share the Church's teaching and to educate Catholics on the moral dimension of public life so that they might form their consciences in the light of their faith

– *Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium, p. 12*

✓ VOTE - NOVEMBER 5 ✓



CITIZEN ADVOCACY

CCK is joining with diocesan staff statewide to launch a two day legislative advocacy program in the 2003 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The event is scheduled for February 17 & 18, 2003 at the Hampton Inn in Frankfort.

Citizen advocates will receive lobbying training, legislative briefings and engage in direct lobbying

of their representatives. Guest speakers, including members of the General Assembly, are being scheduled and a special mass is planned for the event. As the event develops, more information will be available on CCK's website – www.ccky.org.

CCK plans to continue arranging individual and group visits to the General Assembly in the 2003 Session.

107th CONGRESS *continued from page 3* **Keeping All Children Safe in Schools Act of 2002**

(H.R. 5257) - The bill is needed in Kentucky to provide parity to nonpublic schools when hiring new teachers. Presently, nonpublic schools do not have the same access to federal criminal background checks of employees, volunteers, and applicants as their public school counterparts.

Federal Housing Trust Fund (H.R. 2349) – The new funding would serve as a source of revenue for the production of new housing, and the preservation or rehabilitation of existing housing that is affordable for low income people.

The Charity Aid, Recover and Empowerment Act (S. 1924) - The CARE Act seeks to provide crucial resources to the faith-based and secular charities that serve those living on the margins of our society and economy. (S.1924 was originally referred to the Senate as the Community Solutions Act of 2001 –H.R.7)

U.S. Military Action in Iraq - CCK urges that the United States take steps to reshape the embargo, establishing clear criteria for lifting the restrictions on trade in civilian goods, while retaining a strict embargo on military equipment and technology, as well as appropriate political sanctions.

United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2002 - A new bipartisan bill to combat

HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis worldwide has passed the Senate (H.R. 2069, originally introduced as S. 2525). The Senate and House will soon meet to reconcile differences between this bill and a similar global health bill (without debt relief provisions) passed last year by the House.

CCK STAFF

Vincent E. Senior
Executive Director

Scott A. Wegenast
Policy Analyst

Rev. Patrick Delahanty
Policy Analyst

Donna Norton
Administrative Assistant



1042 Burlington Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

© CCK 1998

Work the Web



www.ccky.org