



**CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE
OF KENTUCKY**

WITNESS

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CATHOLICS @THE CAPITOL MARCH 8/9

a bill.

Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @ The Capitol is a 2-day event that the Catholic Conference dreams will build that **network of people**. It takes place at the Holiday Inn in Frankfort on March 8 and 9.

Kentucky is facing serious policy decisions related to human life, healthcare, the treatment of immigrants, and a host of other issues.

Through Many Gifts, One Spirit, the Catholic community can bring its voice to urge individual Senators and Representatives to use Gospel values when they consider these important issues and vote on the legislation before them.

Please join us for registration at 3:00 p.m. on March 8th. At 4:00 p.m. workshops begin and participants will receive training in advocacy and education about legislation of interest to the Catholic community. Then, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Lexington will join us and celebrate the Eucharist with dinner to follow. Ed Monahan, our new Executive Director, will speak briefly and Sr. Robbie Pentecost will deliver a keynote address on Faithful Citizenship: How We Can Make a Difference.

On Tuesday morning, CCK staff and others will provide additional legislative information and everyone will be ready to head to the Capitol and meet with legislators.

Catholics @ The Capitol is an exciting opportunity to exert political power in a positive manner and make a difference in the lives of Kentuckians who often are voiceless, especially the poor. Please register early; bring yourself with all your unique gifts and join us in the One Spirit of Christ to build a place to live that reflects the Kingdom Christ has established.

We urge each parish and diocesan agency to send at least one person to this event. Also, please advertise the event and distribute the registration form as broadly as possible.

Deadline for registration is Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2004.

CATHOLICS @ THE CAPITOL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE
MARCH 8 & 9, 2004 – HOLIDAY INN, CAPITAL PLAZA
CALL 800-465-4329 OR 502-227-5100 TO RESERVE ROOM
ROOM RATE IS \$70 FOR 1 TO 4 PERSONS
REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE CONFERENCE – \$30

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND YOUR CHECK FOR \$30 TO CCK

**BISHOPS SELECT
NEW DIRECTOR**

Ed Monahan will become the Executive Director of CCK on March 1, 2004. Monahan is an attorney who has worked for state government as a public defender with the Department of Public Advocacy (DPA) since 1976.



CCK Deputy Director, Fr. Pat Delahanty said, "Ed will help CCK promote the common good for all Kentuckians. As a lawyer, he gained experience in the public policy arena by working with legislative coalitions; and, as someone whose faith is very important to him, he will be a convincing advocate for the Gospel values and the social justice teaching of the Catholic Church."

Monahan has been Deputy Commissioner of DPA since 1996, litigating cases, directing DPA's legal education program and strategic planning, and coordinating DPA's legislative work. He is also a member of the Kentucky Bar Association's Ethics Committee.

Archbishop Thomas Kelly said, "I have known Ed Monahan for a long time and greatly admire his work as a public advocate. He is a strong supporter of the Church's pro-life stance on the sacredness of human life from conception to death. Moreover, his familiarity with the legislative and executive branches of state government is a most valuable asset. It will be a great pleasure to work with Mr. Monahan as we continue to keep the Church's positions before the Commonwealth."

Former CCK Executive Director Jane Chiles said, "I am delighted with Ed's appointment. His experience and faith insures that the Conference will continue to be an effective voice in today's ever complex political world."

As a parishioner of Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Lexington since 1984, he has served on the parish council by chairing the social concerns committee, is a Eucharistic minister, and is a member of the parish's Journey to Justice Group.

In addition to his parish ministry, he is an active member of Cursillo, and has served on CCK's Pro-life Committee, the Board of Directors of Birthright in Lexington, and the Mission Board of the Lexington Diocese. He also coordinated and taught CCD at Frankfort's Good Shepherd parish.

He is married to Diane Solomon, a physical therapist at Central Baptist Hospital and chair of the Birthright Board of Directors. They have two daughters, Lauren, a sophomore at Lexington Catholic High School, and Megan, an eighth grader at Mary Queen School.

Monahan is a 1976 graduate of Catholic University's School of Law. He completed his undergraduate work at Thomas More College in Northern Kentucky. He grew up in Ludlow, Kentucky. There he attended St. James Parish elementary school and St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati.

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PLEASE ANSWER AS MANY OF THE FOLLOWING AS YOU CAN

My PARISH IS _____

CIRCLE THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT YOU LIVE IN: 1 2 3 4 5 6

My STATE REPRESENTATIVE IS _____

My STATE SENATOR IS _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND YOUR CHECK FOR \$30 TO CCK

**MAY HE REST
IN PEACE. AMEN.**

On June 26, 2003, Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., announced the untimely death of CCK Executive Director, Vincent E. Senior. He died after an attempt to repair an aneurysm.

Speaking on behalf of CCK's Board of Directors, Archbishop Kelly stated, "Vince Senior served the Kentucky bishops and his Church well during this past year as Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky. Time and time again, he proved himself to be a very effective negotiator as he represented the Bishops and the Catholic people of Kentucky in Frankfort. He also was a wonderful person—a man of virtue and principle, and a devoted husband, father, and brother. We were lucky to have known him."

The bishops had named Senior to the position of Executive Director in July of 2002, following the retirement of Jane Chiles, the former Executive Director. Senior was retired from the Reynolds Metals Company where he was employed for 37 years. He is a former plant manager at the Reynolds aluminum foil operation in Louisville and Richmond, Virginia. Prior to his retirement, Senior served as Corporate Director, Public Affairs, managing Reynolds' state and local government relations throughout the country.

At CCK he worked to protect human life and dignity and sought the common good for all in society.

He leaves his wife, Alice, their daughters, grandchildren, and loving friends.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

It is easy to err in thinking that our one communication has little influence. Our voice does make a difference. Lawmakers tell us that 4 or 5 handwritten, thoughtful letters from their constituents are often enough to grab their attention and prompt them to support or oppose a bill. Your reflective letters or visits have an impact beyond what is assumed. Here are common sense guidelines:

- 1) Think, pray and discuss with others** what your Catholic faith teaches on the issue.
- 2) Be brief and specific** when contacting your legislator. Long or general communications are not effective.
- 3) State your position.** Carefully frame your viewpoint. Get to the point by explaining your precise view and what action you want your representative to take. For instance, vote for and cosponsor HB 3, which addresses fetal homicide.
- 4) Provide your reasons.** Succinctly state your reasons for the action you want. For instance, making it a crime to kill an unborn child is an important way to protect life.
- 5) Avoid emotionalism.** Communicate your views with feeling but do not personally attack the legislator or become emotional. Both are barriers to effective persuasion.
- 6) Request a response.** Ask your legislator to tell you what he or she thinks about the bill and why, and to let you know how he or she votes on the bill.

The 2004 session of the General Assembly got off to a fast start with a rally on January 8 to support House Bill 3 and Senate Bill 4, both of which make it a crime to harm or kill an unborn child. Because of federal law, abortion will still remain legal.

Conference Deputy Director, Fr. Pat Delahanty, spoke at the rally and called for the passage of this important human life legislation. Because Representative Stan Lee organized the rally, the statement refers only to HB 3. It does, however, apply equally to SB 4, sponsored by Senator Dick Roeding. Here is the Conference statement.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky, the public policy arm of the 4 Catholic Bishops of Kentucky, wishes to add its voice to that of so many others who cry out for justice in demanding that persons who harm children in the wombs of their mothers be held accountable.

We endorse House Bill 3 and urge every House member to support it because it recognizes that there are two victims – the woman and her child – when a pregnant woman is assaulted or killed, and her unborn child is harmed or killed as a result. This bill's passage would bring Kentucky to that same common sense and compassionate stance of some 38 other states that have already recognized the humanity and legal status of unborn children.

We reject the claims of opponents who refuse to acknowledge the existence of pre-natal human life because they wish to preserve the "right" to abortion.

Nothing in this legislation changes the current, misguided law that allows abortions. But HB 3 does make clear that when a woman is having a child, we will hold accountable anyone who would harm the child while still in the mother's womb.

CONTACTING LAWMAKERS

Your elected Senators and Representatives value your opinion and need to hear from you about HB 3 and other bills that the Catholic Conference is working on. You can find a list of all of these on our website: www.ccky.org.

The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) in Frankfort also has a website to help you contact your legislators. There are also toll-free phone numbers for your use. Here is a sample of the information available.

- Find your legislators and how to contact them at www.lrc.state.ky.us/whoswho/whoswho.htm
- Find out what is happening with a bill in which you have an interest at www.lrc.state.ky.us/record/o4rs/.htm
- Find the legislative calendar and daily schedule at www.lrc.state.ky.us/sch_vist/schedul2.htm
- Find legislative committees and names of members at www.lrc.state.ky.us/org_adm/committee/comminfo.htm

Important Toll Free Telephone Numbers

Leave Your Message: 800-372-7181 Meetings Information: 800-633-9650

En Español: 877-864-0202

TTY Message Line: 800-896-0305

CCK ENDORSES FETAL HOMICIDE LEGISLATION



The opening of the General Assembly, a presidential election year, half the seats of the Kentucky Senate and all the House seats up for election, make 2004 an important year for debate and decisions about the leaders, policies, and values that will guide our state and nation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2239, teaches that "It is the *duty of citizens* to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of *one's country* follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity."

And paragraph 2240 continues, "Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country." (Have you ever wondered how many Advent confessions included, "O Father, I almost forgot to tell you, but I didn't vote in November?")

Because it is so important that we Catholics be faithful citizens, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, a statement to guide the Catholic community in bringing our Gospel values to influence the civic and political areas of our lives.

CCK highlights several important questions to ask when deciding who to vote for or what legislation to support. Visit the USCCB website to view the entire document.

As the bishops point out, "The Catholic community is a diverse community of faith, not an interest group. Our Church does not offer contributions or endorsements. Instead, we raise a series of questions, seeking to help lift up the moral and human dimensions of the choices facing voters and candidates."

- After September 11, how can we build not only a safer world, but a better world, more just, more secure, more peaceful, more respectful of human life and dignity?
- How will we protect the weakest in our midst--innocent unborn children? How will our nation resist what Pope John Paul II calls a "culture of death"? How can we keep our nation from turning to violence to solve some of its most difficult problems--abortion to

deal with difficult pregnancies; the death penalty to combat crime; euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of age, illness, and disability; and war to address international disputes?

- How will we address the tragic fact that more than 30,000 children die every day as a result of hunger, international debt, and lack of development around the world, as well as the fact that the younger you are, the more likely you are to be poor here in the richest nation on Earth?
- How can our nation help parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, a sense of hope, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility? How can our society defend the central institution of marriage and better support families in their moral roles and responsibilities, offering them real choices and financial resources to obtain quality education and decent housing?
- How will we address the growing number of families and individuals without affordable and accessible health care? How can

health care better protect human life and respect human dignity?

- How will our society combat continuing prejudice, overcome

hostility toward immigrants and refugees, and heal the wounds of racism, religious bigotry, and other forms of discrimination?

- How will our nation pursue the values of justice and peace in a world where injustice is common, desperate poverty widespread, and peace is too often overwhelmed by violence?
- What are the responsibilities and limitations of families, community organizations, markets, and government? How can these elements of society work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, care for creation, and overcome injustice?
- When should our nation use, or avoid the use of, military force--for what purpose, under what authority, and at what human cost?
- How can we join with other nations to lead the world to greater respect for human life and dignity, religious freedom and democracy, economic justice, and care for God's creation?

CCK urges all Catholics to heed the call to be faithful citizens. Contact Karen Chambers to arrange a Frankfort visit to your legislators and please register for Catholics @ The Capitol today.

View full text of *Faithful Citizenship* at www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/faithfulcitizenship03.htm

Staff Telephone Numbers

Catholic Conference

Office: 502-875-4345

Kentucky League for Educational Alternatives

Office: 502-875-8010

Opportunities for Life

Office: 502-223-5330

Hotline: 800-822-5824

Fax: 502-875-2841



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Work the Web



www.ccky.org