

For I was...in prison and you visited me

Bishops Visit Beloved Prisoners in Lexington

Beloved. Names are important. Names identify us. Names provide meaning. We all have names that people call us. The name by which God calls us is beloved daughter or beloved son. Lexington's Bishop Ronald W. Gainer delivered this message to Catholic prisoners, prison staff and CCK Committee members in his homily, given partially in Spanish, during a Mass concelebrated with Bishop John J. McRaith and Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P. at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington on August 24, 2004.

You might ask what were the bishops and CCK Committee members doing at the federal prison.

In November 2000, the U. S. Bishops issued a statement on crime and criminal justice: *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice* found at www.usccb.org/sdwp/criminal.htm. It is often referred to as the 3Rs.

In the 3Rs they urge Catholics and others of good will to reach out to crime victims, offenders, and communities and reform a criminal justice system where: "victims are often ignored, offenders are often not rehabilitated, and many communities have lost their sense of security."



Guard tower at Eddyville

To show how important reform is, Kentucky bishops and the Catholic Conference of Kentucky's Social Concerns and Pro-life Committee members have visited 3 prisons since 2002: the Kentucky State Penitentiary, which incarcerates 800 maximum security prisoners in Eddyville and houses those condemned to death; the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women in Pewee Valley, which has 700 women; and the Lexington Federal Medical Center prison housing 2400 inmates.

Through these visits, the bishops and Catholic Conference Committees have listened to prisoners and prison staff, and witnessed to the Eucharist as a "real encounter with the Saving Lord and a central Catholic sign of true justice and mercy" for those who have lost their freedom. The stark nature of losing freedom was brought home to those visiting Lexington's federal prison when a guard said to one visitor, "If you want to see how small the cell is, step in, and I will lock the door."

Christians find prisons complicated realities to contemplate. In the 3Rs, the bishops acknowledge the paradoxical nature of the Catholic approach to crime and criminal justice: "We will not tolerate the crime and violence that



Fr. Arthur Molina (l), Catholic Chaplain at the Federal Medical Center, joins Bishop John McRaith, Archbishop Thomas Kelly, O.P., and Bishop Ronald Gainer during a visit in August. They met with Warden Joe W. Booker, Jr. and other staff members prior to a tour of the prison facility.

threatens the lives and dignity of our sisters and brothers, and we will not give up on those who have lost their way.... We encourage and support those called by our community to minister to prisoners and victims and all other people who work directly in the criminal justice system.... We suggest that they use these reflections to assess how the system can become less retributive and more rehabilitative. We pray that these words offer some comfort to victims and communities threatened by crime, and challenge all Catholics to become involved in restoring communities to wholeness."

Changes called for

The bishops want substantial changes in the criminal justice system and call on Catholics to lead the way in this reform as a part of their faith: "the current trend of more prisons and more executions, with too little education and drug treatment, does not truly reflect Christian values and will not really leave our communities safer. We are convinced that our tradition and our faith offer better approaches that can hold offenders accountable and challenge them to change their lives; reach out to victims and reject vengeance; restore a sense of community and resist the violence that has engulfed so much of our culture."

The Lexington federal prison offers work opportunities and treatment options, including Veritas, a residential drug treatment program that has 100 enrolled in the 9-month program. But many Kentucky jails and prisons lack sufficient treatment programs. Our faith calls us to work

(See Gospel Values page 5.)

Catholic Conference Board of Directors



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Official Position of the Catholic Conference

Constitutional Amendment Promotes, Preserves, and Protects Marriage

1. The Church teaches that marriage is more than a civil law contract. It is a faithful, exclusive, and lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman, joined as husband and wife in an intimate partnership of life and love for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of their children.

2. To promote, preserve, and protect marriage today requires, among other things, that the Church advocate for legislative and public policy initiatives that define and support marriage as a unique, essential relationship and institution.

3. The 2004 Kentucky General Assembly has placed the following constitutional amendment on the ballot on November 2, 2004 for the voters of the Commonwealth to ratify or reject: *"Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Kentucky. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized."*

4. Current Kentucky law states: "As used and recognized in the law of the Commonwealth, 'marriage' refers only to the civil status, condition, or relation of one (1) man and one (1) woman united in law for life, for the discharge to each other and the community of the duties legally incumbent upon those whose association is founded on the distinction of sex."

5. Passage of this amendment to the Kentucky Constitution would reduce the chance that a court would declare the current Kentucky law unconstitutional under Kentucky's Constitution.

6. The Church's defense of marriage focuses primarily on the importance of marriage, not on homosexuality or other matters. The Church's teaching about the dignity of homosexual persons is clear. Homosexuals should have an active role in the Christian community. They must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Our respect for them means we condemn all forms of unjust discrimination, harassment or abuse. Equally clear is the Church's teaching about the meaning of sexual relations and their place only within married life.

7. God established the family as the basic cell of human society. Therefore, we must strive to make the needs and concerns of families a central national priority. Marriage must be protected as a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman and our laws should reflect this principle. Marriage, as God intended, provides the basic foundation for family life and the common good. It must be supported in the face of the many pressures working to undermine it. Policies related to the definition of marriage, taxes, the workplace, divorce, and welfare must be designed to help families stay together and to reward responsibility and sacrifice for children. Because financial and economic factors have such an impact on the well-being and stability of families, it is important that just wages be paid to those who work to support their families and that generous efforts be made to aid poor families.

8. For more information about the marriage amendment issue, read the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) September 9, 2003 Statement of the Administrative Committee, *Promote, Preserve, Protect Marriage*, <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2003/03-179.htm>, or visit the USCCB's *Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers About Marriage and Same-Sex Unions*, <http://www.usccb.org/flwy/manandwoman.htm>. Also available is *Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers*, a Statement of the Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family, <http://www.usccb.org/laity/always.htm>.

9. The Catholic Conference of Kentucky supports ratification of this constitutional amendment so we continue to promote, preserve, and protect marriage.

Adopted on August 24, 2004 by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky
+Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P. — Archdiocese of Louisville
+Bishop John J. McRaith — Diocese of Owensboro
+Bishop Roger J. Foys — Diocese of Covington
+Bishop Ronald W. Gainer — Diocese of Lexington

Bullying has no place in our schools

Bullying behavior that threatens other students because of their religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability is inappropriate, threatens the safety of our children in public and non-public schools and undermines the God given dignity of the person. Many schools provide protections against this behavior. All schools must do so on behalf of our children.

Bullying is a problem for our children

"Millions of students are teased and bullied every day in the United States, and most teachers and parents are not completely aware of the extent to which these incidents occur. A recent Bureau of Justice study estimates that every 7 minutes a child is bullied. Adult intervention occurs in only 4% of these incidents, peer intervention in 11%, and no intervention in 85%." Bryony Orwick and Doris Settles, "The Schools Response to Online Bullying."

In 1998 the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) was created to address the issue of school safety. The KCSS reported that in 2002-2003 8.5% of Kentucky's public school population of 629,030 students had disciplinary action that resulted in a suspension, corporal punishment or an expulsion.

Our children term bullying and teasing a big problem. A 2001 survey "Talking With Kids About Tough Issues," by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon, asked 1,249 parents of children ages 8 to 15 and 823 children ages 8 to 15 about their problems. Of the 8-11 year olds surveyed, 74% said that bullying and teasing occurred at their school. Of the 12- to 15-year-olds, 86% said bullying and teasing was a problem at their school.

2004 Kentucky legislative action

In the 2004 General Assembly the Catholic Conference of Kentucky worked for passage of legislation that would:

- Establish that students must be provided a school environment free of bullying, harassment, and intimidation;
- Require a school's code of conduct to prohibit bullying, harassment, and in-

timidation;

- Include procedures for reporting and investigating incidents;
- Require a school district to provide information and training to employees and volunteers;
- Include harassment, intimidation, or bullying as a cause for suspension or expulsion of a student; and
- Require school districts to report all incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation to the Kentucky Department of Education.

While this legislation did not pass in 2004, it did make it to the floor of the Senate after passing out of the Education Committee.

Learning, safety, dignity

This legislation is important to Catholics who send their children to parochial schools and those who send their children to public schools because bullying is a major problem in our state. It interferes with learning, threatens the safety of our children and violates the dignity every student has as a child of God.

We know of instances of Catholic children being subjected to threatening behavior because of their faith. We work with thousands of immigrants in this state and are aware of the animosity on the part of some toward them.

Catholic schools are aware of how certain persons may be more subject to the sort of behavior this bill addresses. At Louisville's Trinity High School, for example, the student code of conduct specifically states: "Disciplinary consequences may result for the following and other violations of courtesy or respect for others and self: name-calling and other forms of verbal or non-verbal harassment, including harassment based on racial differences or on actual/presumed sexual orientation...."

2005 Kentucky legislation

The 2005 Legislature provides hope for passage of this protection for our children. The CCK and its Education Committee members will be working to have this legislation enacted for children in public and nonpublic schools.

Catholic Conference Education Committee

Covington

Dr. Lawrence Bowman
Eugene Kuehne

Lexington

Patrick Guentert
Sr. Bernadette McManigal, BVM

Louisville

Rev. Joseph Atcher, O. Carm.
Dr. Sue Grenough
Leisa Speer, Chair

Owensboro

Patricia Blair
James Mattingly

The Education Committee of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky is a statewide advisory committee to the Kentucky Roman Catholic Bishops which

- ◆ Identifies educational issues of importance relating to Catholic schools, public schools and lifelong religious formation;
- ◆ Plans and networks the direction of Catholic education in Kentucky;
- ◆ Serves as a resource to the CCK Executive Director on the legislative and legal issues affecting all education in Kentucky.

Catholic Conference Pro-Life Committee

Covington

Robert Greene
Rev. Ronald Ketteler, Chair
Sr. Dorothy Schuette, OSB

Lexington

Rev. John Moriarty
Rev. Mr. Jim Paris

Louisville

Helen Rothgerber
Rev. Tony Smith

Owensboro

Rev. Richard Meredith

The mission of the Pro-Life Committee is to advise the Bishops of Kentucky on matters pertaining to the dignity and preservation of human life in all its stages.

The Committee is charged with examining critical issues of the day and encouraging cooperation among all pro-life people.

The Committee develops plans and programs which will inspire the people of God to live and give visible witness to their faith within the Church and in the community.

The Committee assists in the development of a public policy effort that advocates for the protection of human life in all its stages.

Political Activities

What you may and may not do

The political season is here. Prudence demands that we refresh ourselves on the rules about elections. The rules are important to follow for Catholic organizations that are exempt from taxes and that want to keep their tax exemption. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of General Counsel has produced *Political Activity Guidelines for Catholic Organizations* (March 2004), which sets out 18 pages of explanation and examples of various situations encountered. Eight examples of what it counsels follows. A link to this document is: www.ccky.org/. Ignore it at your peril.

We highlight only of few of the rules here, so call us or visit the website for additional information.

Political campaign activity prohibited

"Political campaign activity focuses on candidates and campaigns for election." If a Catholic organization wants to keep its tax exemption, 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) contains an absolute prohibition "against participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate...." Prohibited activities include: organizational statements of support or opposition for any candidate, political party or political action committee (PAC); providing or soliciting financial or in-kind support to any candidate, political party or PAC; distribution of voter education materials biased with respect to any candidate, political party or PAC; conduct of public forums, debates or lectures biased with respect to any candidate, political party or PAC; and conduct of voter registration or get-out-the-vote drives biased with respect to any candidate, political party or PAC. "A Catholic organization may not directly or indirectly make any statement... to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office, political party, or

PAC. The rating of candidates for character, experience and professional ability, even on a non-partisan basis, violates the political campaign activity prohibition. The rating of candidates based on their agreement with a Catholic organization's positions or the labeling of candidates as pro-life or anti-family or by using symbols or signs, likewise violates the political campaign activity prohibition."

Outside voter guides

"Catholic organizations should be wary of outside groups seeking to distribute their 'voter education' materials. *Outside voter education materials should be approached with extreme caution*, including materials accompanied by outside legal opinions. Among other things, the issues covered in outside voter education

The only guide approved by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky is the one provided in the center page of this newsletter. Readers should consult their own bishop to determine if other guides have been approved by their bishop for distribution in their diocese.

materials typically do not illustrate the wide range of issues of importance to the Church, but rather reflect the issue focus of the preparing organization. In addition, their preparation, content, format and presentation may not satisfy the requirements of section 501(c)(3) applicable to Catholic organizations. Often, the organizations preparing these voter education materials are not section 501(c)(3) organizations, and thus are not subject to the political campaign activity prohibition. The fact that it may be permissible for the preparing organization to distribute a voter guide does not make it appropriate for Catholic organizations to do so. (Arch)dioceses are encouraged to adopt policies prohibiting distribution of *any* voter education materials that have not been approved or made available by the (arch)diocese or state Catholic conference. Local legal counsel should be consulted before a Catholic organization agrees to distribute voter education materials prepared by outside organizations."

Gospel Values Shape Criminal Justice Reform Efforts

(Continued from page 1.)

for more opportunities for rehabilitation. The bishops call individuals, parishes, dioceses, and state Catholic conferences to instill Catholic principles and values in the criminal justice system. Key among these suggestions is an appeal to all those at the crossroads of crime and community, violence and justice, fear and hope—prosecutors, police officers, probation and parole officers, victim advocates, jail and prison ministers—to bring these principles and values to bear in their work.

Kentucky's 11th Largest County

The fiscal and population realities of penal institutions in Kentucky are imposing. Imprisoning many consumes a lot of limited state resources. Kentucky has 14 state prisons, two of which are privately run. There are a total of 17,509 state inmates. Of these, 5,617 are state prisoners in county jails, in a halfway house, controlled intake, community custody or awaiting judgment. Another 10,000 are in Kentucky's jails awaiting resolution of pending charges. A third of Kentucky's prisoners are African-American. Eight percent are women. There are 27,090 persons on probation or parole. The criminal justice portion of Kentucky's budgeted funding is \$976 million or 5.39% of the budgeted funds for all 3 branches of state government. Of that \$976 million, Kentucky's Corrections Department receives \$334 million or 34%, the most resources of any criminal justice entity in Kentucky. The average cost to lock up a prisoner in state prisons is \$17,194 per year. The yearly cost to supervise a person on probation or parole is \$1,256. Adult prisons have 2,897 employees, the majority employed within the state's 12 correctional institutions.

Beyond what the state spends, the federal government has a penal presence in the Commonwealth that is significant. There are 5 federal correctional facilities with the capability of imprisoning 7,600 prisoners, with a staff of 1,781 and funding of \$157 million.

If you add together persons in prison and under correctional control in Kentucky and the staff that is in charge of them, those 66,877 people would cost \$491 million and would be by population the 11th largest county in Kentucky right

behind Madison and Pike counties.

This kind of data has prompted a conservative columnist, Cal Thomas, to write: "We do retribution well. We should be focusing on restitution." In this way, he notes, victims come first, taxpayers save money, and offenders become better citizens, rather than better criminals.

Principles found in the 3Rs document point to the same conclusion. Every person is created in the image of God. Every person has rights and responsibilities. The common good must be our goal. There is a preferential option for the poor. Problem solving should occur in the community. We all are responsible for all, for the victim, for the community, for the offender.

Applying these principles to Kentucky's penal system is challenging.

In light of this challenge, the CCK Social Concerns Committee is studying further responses to the call of the bishops to act on our beliefs in reforming Kentucky's criminal justice system, including more prison ministry.

Fr. John Rausch, former chair of the CCK Social Concerns Committee, said, "The bishops challenge us to make the system less retributive and more restorative. Bishop Gainer focused us on the core message of Jesus, that each of us is loved, even prisoners. He spoke volumes about the unconditional love of Jesus when he embraced the inmates who brought the gifts to the altar. On behalf of victims, perpetrators and people of good will, we must work to restore our communities to wholeness. The CCK Social Concerns Committee has some hefty work ahead of it to meet the call of the bishops."

A sign posted on the bulletin board of the drug rehabilitation program at the federal prison said, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. Rm 8:28." Indeed, the bishops in *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration* call us all to love him by working for the good of the victims of crime, prisoners, and our communities.

The question before us is, are Kentucky's limited fiscal and human resources being used wisely and in a way that fully advances the bishops' teachings on *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration*?

Catholic Conference Social Concerns Committee

Covington

Sr. Joan Boberg, CDP
Sr. Ruth Kettman, CSJ

Lexington

Russlyn Case-Compton
Ted McCormick
Mary Alice Pratt
Rev. John Rausch

Louisville

Steve Bogus, Chair
Mark Bouchard
David Dutschke
Sr. Mary Schmuck, RSM

Owensboro

Richard Murphy
Veronica Wilhite

Catholic Healthcare Summit 2004

The Catholic Conference invites all healthcare leaders, sponsors, chief administrators, and key health care system leaders to Summit 2004.

Thursday, November 11
The Catholic Center
1310 West Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker
Sr. Patricia Talone, CHA

Register by calling
Karen Chambers
502.875.4345

Catholic Conference Ecumenical Committee

Covington

Rev. Ronald Ketteler

Lexington

To be announced

Louisville

Rev. William Hammer

Owensboro

Rev. Tony Bickett
Rev. Michael Clark

Enlightened by faith and guided by love, the CCK Ecumenical Committee seeks to:

- ◆ involve the whole Church, faithful and clergy alike, in promotion of spiritual ecumenism working toward unity among Catholics and among Christians;
- ◆ work with the Kentucky Council of Churches to increase ecumenical dialogue among leaders and members of the various churches and ecclesial communities;
- ◆ promote study leading to doctrinal understanding;
- ◆ and serve as instruments through which common action can be taken on matters related to social services and the formation of public policy.

From the Desk of Fr. William Hammer

Kentucky Bishops Approve Revised Ecumenical Handbook

On November 21, 2004, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of a significant moment in the work of the Second Vatican Council. On that date the Council issued *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the *Decree on Ecumenism*. A two-part Ecumenical Directory soon followed, with the parts published in 1967 and 1970 respectively. In subsequent decades, the Church has worked more fervently with other fellow Christians to make Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper—"that they all may be one" (John 17:21)—a reality.

In recognition of the ecumenical progress that had been made and desiring to bring together into one resource document an updated Catholic understanding of the fruits of ecumenical dialogue, the Vatican issued its *Directory for the Application of Principals and Norms on Ecumenism* (DAPNE) on March 25, 1993.

DAPNE attempts to apply the developments in ecumenical understanding and teaching to the Church's day-to-day life. The Directory envisioned that national Catholic Conferences, regional organizations, and even individual dioceses might compile their own ecumenical directories to assist Catholics with guidance and directives in the local Church's day-to-day life. To this end, the bishops of Kentucky issued their first statewide *Ecumenical Handbook* on June 25, 1995.

It is important to recall that on May 25, 1995, our modern day "apostle" of unity, Pope John Paul II, issued his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, detailing his personal commitment to the work of ecumenism. The Holy Father describes ecumenism as an organic part of the Church's "life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does" (U.U.S. #20). Because of important developments in the area of ecumenism, Kentucky's bishops have now updated and re-published their *Ecumenical Handbook for the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Kentucky*.

The *Handbook* is written as an aid and guide for Catholic laity and clergy of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It can also assist other Christians who seek greater understanding of the Catholic Church's present teaching and discipline regarding our relations with other Christians.

A brief review of the table of contents demonstrates how valuable the *Handbook* is as a teaching tool as well as a source of guidance in the practical application of our Church's ecumenical principals. Some sections of the *Handbook* describe the history of the ecumenical movement and the unity that we seek. There is also a brief overview of religion in our Commonwealth and the need for ongoing ecumenical formation on the part of all Catholics. Also included is a very practical section that provides guidelines related to our sacraments, particularly Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation and Anointing, and Marriage. One section addresses other forms of ecumenical sharing. Another focuses on practical suggestions for ecumenical involvement at the local level as well as a discussion of ecumenical "etiquette."

Every Christian must work to build up the Body of Christ. One way to do this is to become more actively involved in ecumenical activities. During the past 40 years, some of the centuries-old barriers to Christian unity have begun to dissolve. Further efforts must continue at the international, national, and local parish level. With the revision of the *Handbook*, Kentucky bishops pledge their support and encouragement. Catholics should invite other Christians to join in shared prayer, in cooperative efforts to meet human needs, and in educating ourselves regarding the gift of faith that all Christians share. And we should also accept their invitations to do the same.

The 27-page *Ecumenical Handbook for the Dioceses of Kentucky* is available for downloading at <http://www.ccky.org/publications.htm>. Or contact your diocesan Ecumenical Office to request a copy.

The four bishops of Kentucky conclude their cover letter for the *Handbook*, "It is our sincerest hope that this *Ecumenical Handbook* will not only provide useful guidance and information, but also motivate Christians in Kentucky to work for the unity that Christ wants for His Church." Contact your diocesan Ecumenical Office for information about the efforts in your diocese to foster Christian unity.



Faithful
Citizenship

Responsible Citizenship Never Ends

There's the Election, Then What?

Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility is a statement of the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2003) and is available online at www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/index.htm

The 2004 November Election and the 2005 Kentucky General Assembly

"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship, to become informed, active, and responsible participants in the political process."

Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, a summary of the Catholic teaching on public life and key moral issues is designed to help you be a citizen of faith year round.

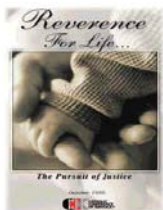
"Faithful citizenship is about more than elections. It requires ongoing participation in the continuing political and legislative process."

The Moral Framework

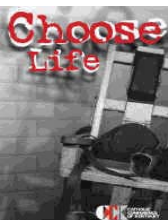
"Our responsibility is to measure all candidates, policies, parties, and platforms by how they protect or undermine the life, dignity, and rights of the human person whether they protect the poor and vulnerable and advance the common good.... As bishops, we seek to form the consciences of our people. We do not wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates. We hope that voters will examine the position of candidates on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy, and performance. We are convinced that a consistent ethic of life should be the moral framework from which to address issues in the political arena."

Resources to Help Faithful Citizens Advocate

Kentucky's Catholic Bishops have adopted Statements on Principles of Taxation, Allocation of Revenue, Contributing to the Common Good, and support for the passage of the constitutional amendment to Promote, Preserve, and Protect Marriage. These are available at: <http://www.ccky.org/news.htm>



Reverence for Life is the pastoral of the KY Bishops which teaches about abortion, the consistent ethic of life, quality of life, conscience, civility, and reconciliation, www.ccky.org/Pastoral%20Resources/reverence_for_life.htm.



Choose Life is the 1984 pastoral of the KY Bishops, which teaches about the death penalty, consistent ethic of life, deterrence, retribution, rehabilitation, protecting society, and forgiveness, www.ccky.org/Pastoral%20Resources/choose_life.htm.

Sign up Today

Legislative Alerts For Faithful Citizen Advocacy

Please join the growing numbers of Kentucky Catholics who want to bring Gospel values and the teachings of our faith to bear on the public policy decisions of those elected to office.

The Catholic Conference monitors legislative and regulatory proposals of State and Federal governments and sends alerts to Faithful Citizen Advocates so they can contact their elected representatives and ask them to support the Church's position on an issue.

Visit www.ccky.org today and become one of our newest members. In addition to alerts we send advocates advance copies of this newsletter as well as press releases and statements of Kentucky's four bishops.

It is free. Join today.

Hold These Dates: February 14 & 15, 2005 — Catholics@TheCapitol

OFL Needs New Program Director



Lyndie Ruschell

Lyndie Ruschell resigned from her position as Executive Director of Opportunities for Life in early September. During her 6 years with OFL she trained and maintained a volunteer corps of nearly 100 persons to answer the hotline number each day of the year for 24 hours a day. Other volunteers serve as prayer partners, pro-life leaders in their parishes, or local mentors. Some serve as pregnancy care center volunteers. Others help us keep informed about local resources available in Kentucky's 120 counties.

Ruschell announced that the date for the Fall retreat for new volunteers will be changed so that her replacement will have time to settle in and provide the quality training that volunteers need in this special ministry.

Just before her final day, there was a phone message from a woman who had called the hotline. "I want you to know," said the caller, "I have decided to have this baby." Colleagues and staff could not have given a more appropriate gift to Ruschell as she departed. She expressed how grateful she was for this blessing from God.

Economic conditions often cause a woman to debate having or not having an abortion. A study by Rutgers University indicates that abortion rates increased by 14% when that State placed a "family cap" on welfare payments.

Jane Chiles, former Executive Director of CCK and personal friend of Ruschell, noted, "Lyndie's efforts kept OFL in a position of connecting women with resources in

their communities so they would know they could bring their children to term in a caring environment."

Ed Monahan, now Executive Director of CCK, indicated that some kind of "pregnancy impact" statement ought to be required when public policies are being debated that affect the lives of families and children.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky is searching for a new Program Director to work in Frankfort and direct the Opportunities for Life office.

Opportunities for Life Program Director

OFL offers personal, confidential help to persons experiencing an untimely pregnancy. It is a statewide pastoral outreach ministry of Kentucky's Bishops under the direction of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

Responsibilities:

- Recruit, interview, evaluate, train, supervise, and provide guidance to volunteers
- Identify, develop and evaluate community resources for inclusion in OFL database
- Develop and produce public information and education

Qualifications:

- Commitment to consistent ethic of life and Catholic social teaching.
- Good organizational, management, communication (verbal, written), and relational skills.
- Professional experience and college degree preferred.

Send resumes to Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1042 Burlington Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**Opportunities For Life
Kentucky's Pregnancy
Hotline
1-800-822-5824**



**CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE
OF KENTUCKY**

1042 Burlington Lane
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www.ccky.org

Kentucky League for
Educational Alternatives
502-875-8010

Opportunities For Life
502-223-5330

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