



“Faithful Citizenship: More Important Than Ever”

John Carr Keynote Speaker at Catholics @ The Capitol

John Carr Secretary USCCB Department of Social Development and World Peace

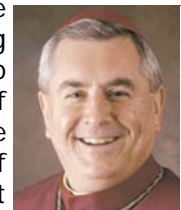


In March 2004, more than 100 Catholics, Faithful Citizen Advocates from parishes throughout Kentucky, visited Frankfort during the 2004 meeting of the General Assembly. Their visits to legislators helped pass important legislation related to human

priorities for public life outlined by the United States Bishops in Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility: protecting human life; promoting family life; pursuing social justice; and practicing global solidarity.

Legislators will certainly introduce bills regarding cloning, abortion, death penalty, tax reform, housing, health care, education, and a myriad of others that will cry out for action on the part of the Catholic community.

Because prayer, especially the Eucharist, is so important in forming a community of believers, Bishop



Lexington Bishop Ronald Gainer

Ronald Gainer of Lexington will be the celebrant of Mass on Monday at 6:15 p.m.

Before this celebration, there will be two sessions: Persuading Your Legislator: The Basics of Communicating; and Briefings on Issues to Discuss with Legislators on Tuesday.

After more discussion about legislative issues over breakfast, participants will travel to the Capitol to meet legislators.

Complete details about registration are on page 8. CCK has obtained a special room rate at the Holiday Inn and up to four in a room is possible to defray costs. The \$40 registration fee for the event helps cover most of the other costs.

CCK does not have the means to provide financial assistance to persons needing this. We are hopeful that parishes and diocesan agencies can assist persons who need help paying for lodging and the registration fee.

Catholics @ The Capitol is an exciting opportunity to exert political influence in a positive manner and make a difference in the lives of Kentuckians who often are voiceless, especially the poor.

Please register early and bring a carload of Faithful Citizen Advocates with you.

life and dignity.

On February 14 and 15, 2005, the Catholic Conference is hosting Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @ The Capitol again. Even though legislators will be meeting for only 30 days, Faithful Citizen Advocates will have an opportunity to have an impact on legislation important to the Catholic community as we seek to promote the common good and create a society that reflects Catholic values.

To help us reflect on our mission, CCK invited John Carr, Secretary of the Department of Social Development and World Peace for the U. S. Bishops' Conference. He has graciously accepted the invitation and will join us on Monday evening for a banquet and his keynote address: Faithful Citizenship: More Important than Ever.

Married and the father of four children, John has served the Church in the area of social ministry for more than 25 years, the last 10 of them in his current office. He assists the bishops in sharing and applying Catholic social teaching, advocating on the moral dimensions of key domestic and international issues, and building the Catholic community's capacity to act on its social mission.

John's presentations, filled with wit and humor, always hold up Gospel values and help people focus on why it is so important that the Catholic voice be raised up on behalf of those whose voices are not heard. He inspires listeners to participate in building up the Kingdom through this important ministry of advocacy.

Guiding our discussions are the moral



Schedule

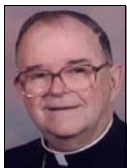
Monday PM February 14

- 3:00—Registration, Holiday Inn-Capitol Plaza
• 4:00—Opening Prayer
• 4:05—Welcome
• 4:15—Persuading Your Legislator: the Basics of Communicating
• 5:15—Briefing on Issues
• 6:15—Eucharistic Celebration
• 7:15—Banquet
• 8:00—John Carr: Faithful Citizenship: More Important Than Ever
• 9:15—Closing

Tuesday, February 15

- 8:00—Breakfast
• 8:15—Briefing on Issues
• 9:00—Meetings with legislators
• NOON—Lunch in Capitol Annex
• 2:00—House/Senate convene (optional)

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“We Are All Really Responsible For All”

Bishops Approve 2005 Legislative Agenda

By Ed Monahan
Executive Director

The 2005 General Assembly is upon us. The US Catholic bishops' *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* sets out four Moral Priorities for Public Life:

- Protecting Human Life
- Promoting Family Life
- Pursuing Social Justice
- Practicing Global Solidarity

The U. S. bishops teach that we have an ongoing responsibility to participate in the legislative process.

The 2005 legislative session presents Catholics with an opportunity to witness to our faith in all four of these areas of moral priority. Kentucky's bishops have approved a spectrum of issues to work on ranging from the preeminent threats of abortion and euthanasia to other life issues: preventing embryonic stem cell research and cloning, providing affordable and accessible health care especially for Kentucky's children and the poor and vulnerable, assistance to undocumented immigrants, reducing and eliminating the use of the death penalty.

This 2005 session lasts but 30 days and will likely be dominated, absent a special session, by the major policy decision the legislature makes—the way Kentucky decides to spend its revenue and how Kentucky decides to raise sufficient revenue so the state can meet its obligation to care for the needs of the people who live here, especially those on the margins, the poor and vulnerable.

Legislators failed to pass a budget in 2004 as required by the Constitution. Many think it is unlikely to pass in the 2005 session as it takes a 60% majority to become law but the public's demand for a budget may propel a result. However, Governor Ernie Fletcher could call legislators into special session and then only a simple majority vote is needed to pass bills.

Whenever the legislature proposes a budget and/or necessary reform of Kentucky's tax system, the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) will be working to implement these principles found in the bishops' policy statement on spending and taxation:

1. Spending by the State of KY should first assure that the basic needs of all people - especially those who are poor and vulnerable - are addressed as a priority before other appropriations are made.
2. All citizens and corporations have the right and responsibility to contribute to the common good through the payment of taxes.
3. The State of KY should seek and maintain revenues sufficient to meet the basic needs of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.
4. Taxation in any form should be based on one's ability to pay.
5. All forms of taxation should be fair and just in their treatment of the poor.

You can read the full text of this policy statement at www.ccky.org/publications.htm.

Why do Catholics work on legislation touched by these four moral priorities for public life and why such a broad spectrum of issues? Simply put, we advocate because these issues affect people. We have responsibility for others.

In all that he teaches, Pope John Paul II calls us to promote both human life and human dignity. In his powerful encyclical, *The Gospel of Life: On the Value and Inviolability of Human Life* (1995), in which the Pope spoke about the evils of abortion and euthanasia, he also called us all to service of others, especially those in need. "In our service of charity," he writes, "we must be inspired and distinguished by a specific attitude: we must care for the other person for whom God has made us responsible. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to

see 2005 Legislative Agenda, page 3



Ed
Monahan
Executive
Director
Catholic
Conference
of Kentucky

2005 Legislative Agenda

continued from page 2

become neighbors to everyone (cf. *Lk* 10:29-37), and to show special favor to those who are the poorest, most alone and most in need. In helping the hungry, the thirsty, the foreigner, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned—as well as the child in the womb and the old

Other Important Legislative Issues for 2005

Bills CCK will be working on in 2005 in addition to those listed above will include:

- Prevent bullying. In recognition of the dignity of each person and the need to insure a good learning environment, establish for public and private schools that students must be provided a school environment free of bullying, harassment, and intimidation. Require policy with procedures for identifying and reporting according to reason for conduct. Require training of teachers to implement the law.
- Limit Kentucky's use of private prisons and the privatizing of correctional services.
- Oppose expanded gambling, the further professionalization of gambling.
- Provide timely restoration of voting rights to offenders.
- Promote drug treatment and alternatives to incarceration; seek the reallocation of incarceration costs for drug treatment.
- Require a study to determine what public policies promote and undermine marriage and make recommendations.

person who is suffering or near death—we have the opportunity to serve Jesus. He himself said: 'As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' (*Mt* 25:40)"

This echoes the previous call of John Paul II in his 1987 encyclical, *On Social Concerns*. There he said one must have "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all."

Catholics have the ability to influence beyond what we know. Legislators tell us that they listen to constituents who approach them in an informed and concerned manner. Legislators appreciate being approached by those who want to promote the common good, who do so in a clear, but civil, manner that is not partisan and who communicate in a principled, but not ideological, way. CCK's legislative advocacy alert system, powered by CapWiz, found at <http://capwiz.com/ccky/mlm/> provides you that opportunity. Sign up today and become a Catholic Conference Faithful Citizen Advocate.

Faithful Citizen Advocates Score Victory; Win 200 Million Dollar Prize For Children

With 746 members on a list that is growing, the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, along with others throughout the nation, was able to convince members of Congress to restore \$200 million to the educational budget.

Of that funding which reaches Kentucky, more than \$100,000 will flow into Catholic schools throughout Kentucky.

In the past, Congress has allocated nearly \$300 million to this Title V program. Before phone calls, emails, faxes, and letters poured into the office of Kentucky's two Senators, Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning, the Senate had cut the funding to zero. You saw that right—\$0.

After Faithful Citizens acted, they both went to work and were able to get \$200

million restored to the budget since signed by President George Bush.

On average 70–80 Catholics a month have become Faithful Citizen Advocates since the Catholic Conference began the list last March.

Since March, members have contacted Governor Ernie Fletcher asking him to restore voting rights to ex-offenders in a timely way. They wrote hundreds of letters to President Bush urging him to work on ending the genocide in Sudan. Advocates also contacted the Congressional delegation for Kentucky and helped pass legislation that will benefit mentally ill prisoners.

Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ in this important ministry by signing up now: <http://capwiz.com/ccky/mlm/>.

Catholic Conference Social Concerns Committee

Covington

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

Lexington

Russlyn Case-Compton
Mary Alice Pratt
Rev. John Rausch

Louisville

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

Owensboro

Richard Murphy
Veronica Wilhite

Coming Soon

Economic Justice

A series of brochures on Catholic social teaching and economic justice are nearing completion. Focused on seven principles found in Catholic social teaching, these brochures are Kentucky specific and meant for use in parishes and other Catholic adult educational settings. The Catholic Conference will distribute these in the first quarter of 2005. They will be on the website in Adobe PDF format also.

Rally For Life

The annual Right to Life Rally for Life in Frankfort will take place at NOON in the Capitol Rotunda on Thursday February 3, 2005.

Bishop Ronald Gainer of Lexington will represent the Catholic Conference and speak that day.

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.

Embracing Christ's Healing

Bishops, Health Care Leaders Hold Summit

Catholic Health Care leaders gathered at The Catholic Center in Lexington with Kentucky's bishops on November 11, 2004, for the Catholic Conference of Kentucky's 2004 Health Care Summit. While a chilly rain fell on Lexington, the Summit featured the warmth of St. Louis' Sr. Patricia Talone, Vice-President for Mission Services, Catholic Health Association, who presented on Catholic health care's unique mission of embracing Christ's healing.

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Lexington led the planning for the 2004 Summit and welcomed the 46 CEOs, sponsors and leaders of Catholic hospitals and nursing homes. Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P. of Louisville expressed the support and encouragement of the bishops for the health care leaders in their critical role of bringing the Gospel to the weak and ill. On behalf of all four bishops, he thanked the health care leaders for their service to the community and their commitment of care.

Sr. Talone said the presence of the four bishops at the Health Care Summit "is an impressive witness of your bishops' support of your noble work as Kentucky health care leaders." Participants expressed appreciation for the active participation of the bishops in the discussion, and for the opportunity to network and stay connected with Catholic leaders.

Health care is in a difficult position today because of the many forces it faces, especially in achieving the mission under harsh financial constraints. "But it is not about us," Sr. Talone said. "It is about God's healing ministry to people. God is not at a distance. God is involved in people's daily lives, especially at the crossroads of birth, death and illness. Health care leaders do for the weak and ill what Kentucky author Wendell Berry calls forth, care for one another in the community.

Care by Catholic hospitals and nursing homes is done with moral muscle. The care reveals God's grace in ordinary, daily events through liturgy, prayer, and action. The way the care is provided reveals the Catholic identity. "Pope John Paul II proclaims, 'Solidly rooted in charity, Christian health care institutions continue Jesus' own mission of caring for the weak and the sick.'"

Health care is a right, not a privilege.



Sr. Patricia Talone (center) was the featured speaker at the health care summit attended by Bishop McRaith, Bishop Foys, Bishop Gainer and Archbishop Kelly.

The Pope, bishops and the Catholic Health Association teach us this as part of promoting the dignity of every human. But in this nation Sr. Talone said that we have yet to have the dialogue on what health care is necessary to meet that right and how we are going to provide health care to the nation's 45 million uninsured. Bishop John J. McRaith of Owensboro commented that this undercounted the number actually in need of basic health care since many who had health care insurance lacked the necessary level of coverage.

In *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* the bishops noted that "Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life, a fundamental human right, and an urgent national priority. We need to reform the nation's health care system, and this reform must be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life, and meet the needs of the poor and uninsured. With tens of millions of Americans lacking basic health insurance, we support measures to ensure that decent health care is available to all as a moral imperative. We also support measures to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid as well as measures that extend health care coverage to children, pregnant women, workers, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations."

Catholic Conference of Kentucky Executive Director Ed Monahan asked the Catholic health care leaders present to help the Catholic Conference do its public policy work in the coming legislative sessions to meet the moral call of the bishops. The health care leaders expressed a desire to become more active on Kentucky legislative health care issues.

Parents' Voices Needed in 2005 to Achieve KLEA's Legislative Goals

Since our founding in 1991, the Kentucky League for Educational Alternatives (KLEA) has been active in both Frankfort and Washington, D.C. in seeking and supporting legislation that would be of benefit to Kentucky's Catholic schools, parents and students. Conversely, we monitor and take action to suppress and oppose any legislation that we feel is harmful to our constituency.

Harry Borders
Executive
Director
KLEA



Early on it became apparent that any legislative gains would benefit all of Kentucky's non-public schools so, as a practical matter, KLEA recruited all of the non-public schools in Kentucky that include the Christian academies, Baptist, Lutheran and other non-religious affiliated schools both large and small, well established and just beginning. The common thread that runs through all of these institutions is quality.

Our stated mission is "to secure the enactment of public policy initiatives which would provide direct government assistance or otherwise be of benefit to non-public education."

Our concern in part, then, is for the fiscal well-being of our schools. It needs to be said that KLEA never involves itself in the internal workings or policies of any school. We are a grassroots politically active school parent group that encourages our schools to participate in the political process by putting us in touch with their parents, teachers, and supporters.

As a group we can, and have, accomplished many good works with many more to go. As this is written, KLEA claims approximately 300 accredited non-public schools, 90,000 students and 100,000 parents plus an unknown database of administrators, teachers and support personnel. One fact alone stands out from the above numbers. If the parents working through KLEA take concerted action on any legislation, the political pressure would be tremendous indeed. The application of that pressure will be needed in the 2005 session of our General Assembly.

The KLEA Advisory Board is made up mostly of parents who represent the schools mentioned above. Board members give three years of their time to further the cause of non-public education. Over the years a smattering of administrators and teachers joined the mix, but regardless of the make-up, the group meets with one purpose and speaks as if one voice.

Considering that our board members represent the spectrum of private education, I am pleased to report that in ten years of directing KLEA, I have never known a member to espouse for his/her school only. Without fail, they ask "what can we do for our schools," and then proceed to work for the common interest. As a result we accomplish much.

The crowning achievement of any such parent board has to be the enactment of what is known as a "school choice program." The term has evolved over the past 25 years to denote any program that allows parents to choose a school deemed best suited for their children without financial penalty.

The two most popular choice programs are vouchers and tax credits, with vouchers being the most problematic of the two. Tax credits normally withstand legal scrutiny as many courts have ruled that tax credits are dollars that never were part of the state's treasury. Vouchers are permissible only in states without "Blaine" language in their constitutions. We will discuss "Blaine" amendments in a later issue.

Minnesota enacted educational tax credits 25 years ago and has expanded the program several times since. Ten other states have enacted such legislation with many more striving to do the same. In Kentucky, we have attempted passage of tax credits on several occasions but in spite of broad support from legislators the bill languishes in an unfriendly committee and there it dies. Only concerted parental pressure will reverse this problem in the future. Our parental advisory board's ultimate wish is that our 100,000 parents realize their vast potential and take action when needed.

Catholic Conference Education Committee

Covington

Dr. Lawrence Bowman
Rev. William Cleves
Eugene Kuehne

Lexington

Patrick Guentert
Sr. Bernadette McManigal, BVM

Louisville

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

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 Ecumenical Committee

Covington

Rev. Ronald Ketteler

Lexington

Rev. Mr. Mark Stauffer

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. Ron Ketteler

A People Made One: A Pastoral Letter On Ecumenism

The threshold of the new millennium became a moment for rekindling hopes for overcoming the tragic divisions among Christians that were fomented in the second millennium. In the aftermath of centuries of disunity, Pope John Paul II had called for prayer "that unity among Christians will increase until they reach full communion."

In anticipation of a "new Advent" in Christianity, the Holy Father issued *Ut Unum Sint (That All May Be One, 1995)*, a major encyclical reconfirming the Second Vatican Council's *magna charta* of Catholic ecumenism, *The Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio, 1965)*.

In accord with the conciliar teaching, Pope John Paul II declared a fundamental doctrinal note: "Thus it is absolutely clear that ecumenism, the movement promoting Christianity, is *not just some sort of 'appendix'* which is added to the Church's traditional activity. Rather it is an organic part of her life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does ..." (UUS n. 20)

The opening words of *Ut Unum Sint* resounded with a summons for Christian unity which was originally heralded "by the Second Vatican Council with such impassioned commitment" and is now "finding a greater echo in the hearts of believers, especially as the Year 2000 approaches, a year which Christians will celebrate as a sacred Jubilee, the commemoration of the Incarnation of the Son of God who became man in order to save humanity." (UUS n. 1)

This reinvigoration of the Church's commitment to ecumenism witnessed by the ministry and pastoral teachings of Pope John Paul II created "a teachable moment" at the time that the Catholic bishops of Kentucky published their second letter on ecumenism — "*A People Made One*." The title of the pastoral is taken from an ancient phrase found in the commentary of St. Cyprian on the "Lord's Prayer," a text quoted by Pope John Paul II at the end of *Ut Unum Sint*. [UUS n. 102]

It should be noted that *A People Made One* is "reader friendly," pastoral in scope, and adaptable as an introduction to "Ecumenism 101." In that regard, a "Study Guide" has been devised to facilitate ecumenical discussions at the level of local parishes and congregations. This pastoral letter is available for downloading at the web site of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (www.ccky.org) or you can contact your diocesan Ecumenical Office and ask for a copy.

Having accented these features, this brief review, however, will be limited to commenting on five key aspects of the pastoral.

1) A New Historical Context: *A People Made One* responded to the "new and changing context" of ecumenical participation at the end of the twentieth century. Overall, the ecumenical vision has shifted away from an earlier "ecumenism of return" mentality common in some Catholic circles as well as from "models of mergers" in Anglican and some Reformation church traditions. The

changed context becomes an opportunity to reflect "to take a closer look at where we are now and, to the extent possible, what to anticipate in the future, even while we continue to rely for guidance on the landmark document of Catholic ecumenism, *The Decree on Ecumenism* of the Second Vatican Council.

2) Spiritual Ecumenism: After reviewing recent accomplishments of the ecumenical movement, the pastoral letter focuses on the core of the Catholic practice of ecumenism, namely, "spiritual ecumenism" and "an ecumenism of repentance." In accord with the *Decree on Ecumenism, Ut Unum Sint* centers the basic ecumenical task in conversion of heart and the primacy of prayer: "This change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement, and can rightly be called 'spiritual ecumenism' [UR n.8]. " (UUS n. 21)

3) Unity among Catholics: The bishops as pastors in the Church call attention to the reality of the need to live "spiritual ecumenism" and the "ecumenism of repentance" within the churches themselves." They observe that "(o)ur own disunity aggravates the disunity found among all."

In this vein, *The Decree on Ecumenism* had drawn out the radical implications of undergoing interior conversion: "The faithful should remember that they promote union among Christians better, that indeed they will live better, when they try to live holier lives according to the Gospel." (UR n. 7)

4) Attitudinal Changes: An important section of *A People Made One* clusters together a number of crucial elements needed to participate in the ecumenical mission of the Church: a) changes in attitude; 2) the majority or minority status of Catholics in local communities; and, 3) religious diverse marriages. The introductory summary insights in the pastoral comprise good starting points for further understanding.

5) Practical Steps to Promote Unity among Christians: *A People Made One* sums up seven recommendations for engaging Catholics in ecumenical activities. Several pastoral invitations center on prayer services, dialogues, or social action. These practical steps address possibilities in the diocese, the parish, ecumenical organizations, and community service projects.

A People Made One closes with a discussion of "Ecumenism and the Millennium," a powerful motif in the writings of Pope John Paul II. Now, having passed the threshold of the Third Millennium, the Catholic bishops of Kentucky continue to express their prayer that Catholics across the state join them so "that God will bring about a restoration of unity among God's people."

To quote again from St. Cyprian's commentary on *the Lord's Prayer*: "God does not accept the sacrifice of a sower of disunion ... To God, the better offering is peace, brotherly concord, and a *people made one*." (UUS n. 102)

OFL Collection Set for January 15th and 16th

December 15, 2004

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Directors and Parish Leaders,

On behalf of the unborn and women in crisis, we ask for your help in seeking donations and volunteers to support the work of Opportunities for Life (OFL). January 15 and 16, 2005 is the weekend designated for the annual parish collection that supports the work of Opportunities for Life. January also marks a recruitment time for the Spring training session for new Opportunities for Life volunteers. Please promote this important collection and urge your parishioners to consider becoming volunteers with Opportunities for Life.

OFL offers personal, confidential help to persons experiencing an untimely pregnancy. It is a statewide pastoral outreach ministry of Kentucky's Bishops. OFL volunteers provide a contact 24 hours a day, offering hope and referrals to pregnant women in need. OFL is a program under the direction of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

...Experience teaches that a supportive mention of this life-affirming ministry in your prayers and homilies is especially effective in raising awareness of the work of OFL. It produces generosity in the giving of both time and money.

Trained volunteers answer a 24hour/7day statewide toll-free telephone hotline for women and men facing an untimely pregnancy or dealing with the regret of past decisions. Volunteers offer a loving, caring, listening ear to callers and provide them with information about available resources. In addition to the positive influence an OFL volunteer can have in a caller's life, volunteers often report how their participation with OFL profoundly impacts their own lives.

We thank you for the past generosity to Opportunities for Life and for your continued willingness to offer your support to this important Respect Life ministry. Please convey our gratitude to your parishioners for their generous support of OFL.

Please share this letter and enclosures with other appropriate staff and parish leaders. Thank you for your interest in this work and for bringing it to the attention of those you serve. Do not hesitate to contact the OFL staff at (502) 223-5330 with any questions about the work of Opportunities for Life.

In Christ's peace,

Most Rev. Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., Louisville
 Most Rev. John J. McRaith, Owensboro
 Most Rev. Roger J. Foy, Covington
 Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, Lexington

Opportunities For Life Has New Program Director

Catherine Bateson
 OFL
 Program
 Director



Catherine Bateson is the new Opportunities for Life Program Director replacing Lyndie Ruschell, who resigned in September 2004 after 5 years of dedicated service to those facing problem pregnancies. Catherine began working at OFL in the last week of December.

"Catherine Bateson's work at the University of Notre Dame and her teaching ministry in Albuquerque give us a well-grounded promise for her great success in leading Opportunities for Life," said Louisville's Archbishop Thomas Kelly C. Kelly O.P., chair of the Board of Directors for OFL. "She has a deep reverence for all human life, from conception to the grave, and this will infuse her work on behalf of women in troubled pregnancies. The Conference looks forward to Ms. Bateson's direction of this ministry, which is so close to the heart of the Church."

Ed Monahan, CCK Executive Director said, "OFL is fortunate to have Catherine's commitment, enthusiasm and energy grounded in our Church's teachings. She brings an unusual amount of expertise for a person at her stage in life."

Catherine comes to Kentucky after a year of teaching theology at St. Pius X Catholic High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame where she majored in theology. She also concentrated on Catholic Social Teaching. While there, she organized a group of students that successfully petitioned the administration to begin a course focusing on Pope John Paul II's theology of the body. Her writings include a paper linking this theology to Catholic Social Teaching beginning with Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*.

Catherine also speaks Spanish. She grew up near the Mexican border and has lived in Honduras where she spent June and July of 2001 teaching in an orphanage, Finca del Niño. Prior to this, she was the student coordinator of the El Paso/Juarez Border Issues Seminar from August 2000 through February 2001. In the summer of 2000, she was the coordinator of Los Hermanos, a program for migrant children in Bonita Springs, Florida.

In her year at St. Pius X, Catherine was the facilitator of the Pro-Life Club and helped organize the school's first annual Go-Life Week held this past April. Because this event was so successful, there are plans to expand it in 2005.

When offered the OFL position, she said, "I am looking forward to working at OFL. in order to foster a society that promotes the dignity of the woman, as well as her child. We must be Christ's love to them both."

Catherine is excited that a new training session for volunteers begins in March. OFL volunteers first complete the correspondence segment of the training, and then they gather for a final weekend workshop in Nazareth, Kentucky, to complete their training.

The deadline for registering for this Spring session is February 21, 2005. OFL hopes that readers will consider becoming volunteers and recommending this to fellow parishioners. Call toll free to 1-888-496-3638 to learn more about volunteer opportunities and the training requirements.

KENTUCKY'S 24-HOUR PREGNANCY HELPLINE: 1-800-822-5824

Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @ The Capitol 2005

Join Catholics from across the state for a 2-day legislative education and advocacy conference. Our faith calls us to be Faithful Citizens actively engaged in shaping a society that respects human life and seeks and promotes the common good.

**February 14 & 15, 2005 at the Holiday Inn-Capitol Plaza
405 Wilkinson Boulevard, Frankfort, KY**

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, Feb 1, 2005

If staying overnight, call 800-465-4329 or 502-227-5100 to reserve a room at the special rate of \$70.00 plus tax (1-4 Persons). Be sure to mention Catholics @ The Capitol to receive this special rate.

Registration Fee: \$40.00 per person — includes evening banquet and breakfast.

(There is no financial aid available through the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.)

**Please mail completed forms and the \$40.00 per person registration fee to
Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1042 Burlington Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601**

PLEASE PRINT

First name _____ Last name _____ Title _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

Parish _____ School/Agency _____

List parish committee involvement if any _____

(Please complete the following if known.)

My KY State Representative is _____ My KY Senator is _____

Additional or special needs you may have _____

Indicate the day(s) you are attending: _____ Monday; _____ Tuesday; _____ Both Days

For questions about registration contact Karen Chambers at 502-875-4345 or e-mail cckstaff@ccky.org.

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