

Bringing Gospel Values to Public Policy

2006 Catholics @ The Capitol features Sharon Daly

Sharon Daly,
Senior Adviser
on Public Policy,
Catholic Charities
USA



Senate staff about Amerasian refugees, or testifying before members of the House Budget Committee to request an increase in the minimum wage for the working poor, Sharon Daly has worked tirelessly to bring Gospel values to bear on the public policy of this nation. She is currently the Senior Adviser on Public Policy for Catholic Charities, USA. She leads the agency's work on welfare reform and federal budget and tax issues.

Daly is this year's keynote speaker during the 2006 Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @ The Capitol event February 21st and 22nd in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Her topic, "**Persistence and Persuasion: the Impertunate Widow as Role Model,**" will emphasize that important things take a long time to accomplish. Using examples from her vast experience in the halls of Congress, she will describe our past successes, and argue that, if we do not give up, we will continue to see success in the future.

Prior to becoming a Washington D.C. policy analyst and lobbyist in 1978, Daly had worked for eight years at local and state levels developing programs for low-income children, families, and senior citizens.

In Washington she has been the director of government and community affairs at the Children's Defense Fund.

Specializing in anti-poverty policies, she has also directed the Domestic Social Development Office of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the nation's Catholic bishops.

Due to her background the Catholic Conference of Kentucky has asked her to guide a session on Tuesday afternoon on

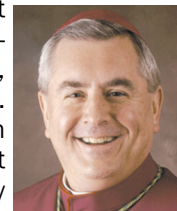
Whether standing on the steps of the U.S. Capitol with Jim Wallis to challenge Congress to address poverty in this nation, or writing memos to United States

Basic Lobbying Techniques. She graciously agreed. This session is an opportunity for participants for whom this may be their first experience in lobbying. It is intended to give them some basic skills and to ease any anxiety they have about discussing legislation with their Senator and Representative.

CCK staff and CCK committee members will be guiding discussions on legislation that CCK is supporting and opposing. Certain moral priorities govern the position taken on various bills: protecting human life; promoting family life; pursuing social justice; and practicing global solidarity.

Legislators will introduce bills dealing with cloning, abortion, the use of the death penalty, 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 Ronald W. Gainer of Lexington will be the celebrant of Mass on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.



Bishop
Ronald
Gainer

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

Complete details about registration are on the back page. 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 cannot provide financial assistance so, we are hopeful that parishes and diocesan agencies can assist persons who need help paying for lodging and the registration fee. Ideally each parish in Kentucky would have at least one person attending.

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 poor persons.

Please register by February 1, 2006, and bring a carload of Faithful Citizen Advocates with you.

Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @The Capitol 2006 Schedule

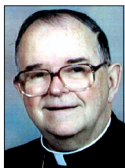
Tuesday PM February 21

- 2:30—Registration
- Holiday Inn-Capital Plaza
- 3:30—Opening Prayer & Welcome
- 3:45—Choose one workshop
 - ◆ Basic Lobbying Techniques
 - ◆ Advanced Legislative Issues
- 4:45—Issues to be discussed with legislators
- 5:45—Break
- 6:00—Eucharistic Celebration
- 7:00—Banquet
- 7:45—Keynote Address by Sharon Daly
- 9:00—Closing

Wednesday, February 22

- 8:00—Breakfast
- 8:15—Directions to the Capitol, further discussions 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.”

Health Care for All Is a Moral Right

By Ed Monahan
Executive Director



Ed
Monahan
Executive
Director
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of Kentucky

I was ill and you cared for me, hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me, a stranger and you welcomed me. (Mt 25:36).

Our salvation depends on whether we really cared for the ill, hungry, thirsty, naked, immigrant, undocumented, unborn. As a state and a nation we are failing this test as funding for health care for the poor, food stamps for legal immigrants, and child support is under attack.

While we slash our commitment to the poor, can we explain to our Maker the massive reduction of our own taxes? While we term funding social assistance to those in need as unsustainable, can we explain to the least among us how we find the political will to fund sports arenas? While 577,650 of our neighbors in Kentucky and 45 million nationally lack health insurance, is it just that we assault funding for Medicaid?

The injustice is structural and is infected with an “absolutizing of human attitudes.” It is “opposed to the will of God” and the “good of neighbor” to have an “all-consuming desire for profit...at any price” according to Pope John Paul II (*On Social Concerns* (37)). Yet, isn’t that what underlies the desire for enormous tax cuts juxtaposed with the refusal to raise sufficient revenue according to our ability to pay in order to meet real human needs?

Our Governor and legislators face critical health care decisions: how to deal with the Medicaid deficit in the current fiscal year, how much to allot for Medicaid in the coming fiscal biennium, and how to provide for the 577,650 uninsured in Kentucky to be able to afford health insurance.

With these public policy decisions as context, the four Kentucky Catholic Bishops have issued a Statement, *Health Care is a Moral Right, a Safeguard of Human Life*. They identify the “lack of access to affordable health care for so many children and adults in our country and in Kentucky” as a “structural injustice that harms people and undermines the common good.”

They call for new dedication to meet this injustice. “We urge Catholics, people of good will and our national and state leaders to look beyond special interests and partisanship and to unite our state and nation in a new commitment to meet the basic physical and behavioral health care needs of our people, especially the poor and vulnerable, pregnant women, the mentally ill, mentally retarded, children and adults in low-income families, the elderly, the disabled, immigrants and the undocumented. This effort acknowledges the moral right of all to health care, that health care is a safeguard of human life, and our obligation to work toward health care for all.”

This call is rooted in the biblical vision to heal persons who are sick, with special protection of people who are poor and needy. The Bishops’ Statement emphasizes that:

- ◆ Human life from conception to natural death is sacred;
- ◆ Access to adequate health care is a basic human right just like food, clothing, shelter;
- ◆ Health care safeguards life; and
- ◆ A just society is one that protects and promotes the fundamental rights of its members – with special attention to meeting the basic needs, especially the need for health care for people who are poor.

In addition to their Statement, Kentucky’s Bishops wrote Governor Fletcher on December 6, 2005 asking him to “apply available surplus money to the Medicaid deficit to insure that anyone who relies on Medicaid ...does not lose coverage or access to vital medical services.” The Bishops urged the Governor to “make the request for sufficient funding for the Medicaid program a priority in [his] next biennium budget proposal. No person should be denied health care because he or she cannot afford it.”

In their letter the Bishops stressed that our state budget is not just a fiscal plan; it is a set of moral decisions. “In these difficult times, the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky urge you to keep uppermost in your mind and heart the needs of the ‘least of these’ and render budget decisions that ensure that poor persons, God’s very special people, are not neglected.”

The stakes are high—our eternal life. Our salvation does not depend on what status we gain, what wealth we amass, what power we wield, but upon how we care for the least among us, especially the ill, hungry, thirsty, naked, stranger, unborn. It’s time to reverse our course and put the least among us first.

The Bishops’ letter to the Governor and *Health Care is a Moral Right, a Safeguard of Human Life* are at www.ccky.org/

The GI Bill: Vouchers' Granddad

By Dave Kirkpatrick

The original GI Bill, enacted into law in June of 1944, passed by the House 387-0 and the Senate 50-0, was in effect until 1956. In its peak year, 1947, almost 50 percent of college students were veterans. That bill paid for tuition, fees, and incidental charges and even provided a monthly stipend. Economists have estimated that the average veteran has paid from two to eight times in income taxes what he or she received in education benefits. Altogether, from 1945-1956, more than 7,800,000 World War II veterans, about half of the total eligible, took advantage of the program. The perception is that all of them attended a college or university. By one tally 2,230,000 did, including 65,000 of 265,000 women veterans. But 3,480,000 attended other institutions, including private, for-profit proprietary schools. This writer attended such a school, an electronics trade school in Boston, and only later obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Another 1,400,000 were involved in on-the-job training and 690,000 were enrolled in on-the-farm training. Instruction was obtained in such areas as sheet metal, tool and die, steam fitting, auto mechanics, tire retreading, and even tap dancing.

One summary reported that veterans attended 481 nonsectarian, 474 Protestant, 265 Catholic, and five Jewish institutions of higher learning, in addition to state colleges or universities (that is, more religious than secular institutions and more private than public). Among them were 36,000 veterans who studied to become members of the clergy, most of whom were Protestants.

By the time the WWII GI Bill expired in 1956, college-educated veterans included 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists; 67,000 doctors; 45,000 engineers, and 22,000 dentists, all of whom had exercised their individual choice; not one veteran was assigned to a particular school or other educational program.

It's true that "vouchers" weren't used but that was because it wasn't then necessary to provide funds through the students. The money could go directly to the education providers.

As for the possibility that public schools would be damaged by publicly subsidizing personal choice, it might be noted that at the time the GI Bill was instituted, about 80% of college students attended private institutions and 20% public ones. Today the ratio is almost exactly reversed, 80% public and 20% private. Since vastly greater numbers now obtain such an education, even the private institutions' 20% is greater in actual numbers than its 80% in the mid 1940s.

The feared excessive regulations didn't develop either. Basically it had to be determined that the veteran served and was honorably discharged, and was enrolled and in actual attendance in his/her program. These millions of veterans were served by a relatively small Veterans Bureau in Washington.

The original GI Bill proved to be a win-win for everyone, individuals and society alike. It was so obviously successful that millions of other veterans have taken advantage of benefits offered through subsequent versions in 1952, 1966, 1976 and 1984. While each of these differed in their details, the basic idea of publicly funding educational opportunities for eligible veterans remained.

In brief, there are those who regard the original GI Bill as the

most important law ever passed by Congress. It certainly ranks up there near, if not at, the top. Ironically, as with the present debate over publicly funded choice in basic education, there were those in the higher education establishment who argued against its passage in 1944, arguing that the colleges were already serving those with the ability to take advantage of them, or that the older more worldly GIs would not only be out of place on campuses with 18-22 year-olds and but might cause negative consequences.

Even among those who admit the now unquestioned benefits of these bills, there are those who say a program utilizing post-secondary educational experiences is not comparable to one providing vouchers to students in basic education. However, millions of WWII GIs were not high school graduates. Therefore, many used their benefits to obtain high school diplomas from both religious and public high schools.

Finally, this comment in which you might substitute "vouchers" for "the GI Bill," because the concept is the same: "In 1994 our Association issued a report detailing the educational backgrounds of the World War II GIs. It showed that one out of every three had less than an eighth-grade education, one in six had less than a fourth-grade education, and only 40 percent had completed high school.... In all, 8 million of 12 million veterans took advantage of the GI Bill. The program ended up costing, in today's dollars, \$119 billion.... The GI Bill turned out to be one of the wisest investments the United States had ever made."

That was then-National Education Association President Keith Geiger speaking to its convention in Minneapolis, July 3-6, 1995. Funding education by choice was proven to be more effective than funding education by compulsion.

Dave Kirkpatrick is a Senior Education Fellow with the U.S. Freedom Foundation in Washington, D. C.

Bishops Issued Revised Statement on Crime and Criminal Justice

The Kentucky Bishops have issued a revised Statement, *A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice: A Kentucky Call to Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration*. They set out education, ministry, and public policy initiatives over the next 3 years.

They conclude, "As bishops, teachers, and pastors, we seek to offer a perspective inspired by our Catholic tradition to the discussion on crime. For us, crime and the destruction it brings raise fundamental questions about the nature of personal responsibility, community, sin, and redemption. A distinctively Catholic approach to these questions can offer society another way to understand and respond to crime, its victims, and its perpetrators. We approach this topic, however, with caution and modesty. The causes of crime are complex. The ways to overcome violence are not simple. The chances of being misunderstood are many."

It is found at <http://www.cky.org/publications.htm>.

Four Moral Priorities Guide Legislative Advocacy

The 2006 General Assembly is upon us. In *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* the U. S. Bishops set out four Moral Priorities for Public Life: Protecting Human Life; Promoting Family Life; Pursuing Social Justice; and Practicing Global Solidarity.

The 2006 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.

**BECOME A
FAITHFUL CITIZEN
ADVOCATE
BY VISITING
WWW.CCKY.ORG
AND CLICKING ON
THE FAITHFUL
CITIZEN LINK.**

During this 60-day session, one of the most important major policy decisions the legislature makes will be the raising of revenue and approval of the budget: the way Kentucky decides to spend its revenue and 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.

In following Christ, we Catholics believe we have a responsibility for our neighbor. We are called to proclaim that God bestows on each person human dignity and the right to life. We seek to uphold that dignity and right to life by advocating for public policies that reflect this Gospel view of God's plan for us.

The four Catholic bishops of the Commonwealth urge all Kentucky Catholics to raise their voices in defense of human life and dignity by keeping in touch with their legislators throughout the 2006 meeting of the General Assembly. This newsletter, the Conference website (www.ccky.org), legislative alerts sent to those who have signed up to be Faithful Citizen Advocates, and Catholics @ the Capitol, are all tools to help you become informed about these important issues so you can speak knowledgeably about them when you contact your legislators.

Here is a summary of issues CCK expects to see surface during the 2006 legislative session and our response to them.

Protecting Human Life

Human life is a gift from God, sacred and inviolable. Because every person is created in the image and likeness of God, we have a duty to defend human life from conception until natural death and in every condition. Abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human life and dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental good and the condition for all others.

The Catholic Conference will **SUPPORT** legislation:

- ◆ that will prohibit the expenditure of Kentucky's tax dollars for abortion related education and counseling;
- ◆ to prohibit *embryonic* stem cell research since this involves the destruction of a human embryo and life;
- ◆ to promote *adult* stem cell research through the extension of tax credits for that purpose;
- ◆ to *abolish* the death penalty;
- ◆ to reduce the chance of convicting the innocent by requiring electronic recording of interrogations of suspects in capital murder cases;
- ◆ to make advance directive and health care surrogate forms available to persons when applying for or renewing various public licenses, when registering to vote, when registering a motor vehicle, and in other public situations; and
- ◆ to maintain a statewide registry for organ and tissue donation.

The Catholic Conference will **OPPOSE** legislation:

- ◆ opposing requiring the morning after pill to be dispensed over the counter without a prescription; and
- ◆ that allows for the expanded use of the death penalty by increasing the number of statutory aggravators.

**DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR HUMAN LIFE
JOIN ARCHBISHOP THOMAS C. KELLY, O.P. AT THE RALLY FOR LIFE
12 NOON, FEBRUARY 1ST, CAPITOL ROTUNDA, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY**

Practicing Global Solidarity

As a wealthy and powerful nation, the U. S. has the capacity and the responsibility to address the scandal of poverty and underdevelopment. The U.S. should adopt a more generous immigration and refugee policy, extend to immigrants the full protection of U.S. law, and offer a generous legislation program to undocumented immigrants.

The Catholic Conference will **SUPPORT** legislation:

- ◆ to repeal the Kentucky law that allows the state to take private property from non-resident and resident aliens; and
- ◆ to define the crime of human trafficking for the purpose of forced labor.

Continued on page 5

Protecting Family Life

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.

The Catholic Conference will **SUPPORT** legislation:

- ◆ establishing that students must be provided a school environment free of bullying, harassment, and intimidation;
- ◆ providing monies for school bus transportation of nonpublic school children to ensure their safety;
- ◆ creating corporate tax credits to benefit public and nonpublic school students; and
- ◆ prohibiting students from having weapons in a car on school property.

The Catholic Conference will **OPPOSE** legislation:

- ◆ requiring a student who pays in-state tuition for college to prove legal residency in U. S. or Kentucky;
- ◆ requiring that a student be a permanent resident or U.S. citizen to apply for scholarship funds at a public post-secondary institution; and
- ◆ to direct the Legislative Research Commission to study the costs associated with educating elementary and secondary children of undocumented aliens attending Kentucky schools.

Pursuing Social Justice

Our faith reflects God's special concern for the poor and vulnerable and calls us to make their needs our first priority in public life.

The Catholic Conference will **SUPPORT** legislation:

- ◆ providing adequate funding for Medicaid, legal services for the poor in both the civil and criminal areas of law, education, and the St. Joseph Mobile Clinic;
- ◆ provide Medicaid funding for efforts to cease smoking, provide incentives to health care workers who encourage smokers to quit, and to allow for lower co-payments for non-smokers;
- ◆ prohibit providing tobacco to children in state custody and provide child smokers free treatment for cessation at local health clinics;
- ◆ providing state and county funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to help lower income citizens with housing needs;
- ◆ to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would allow the automatic restoration of voting rights for felons who have completed serving their sentences and/or have been discharged from probation or parole;
- ◆ developing alternatives to incarceration and increasing funding for Community Corrections programs;
- ◆ creating Individual Development Accounts to help poor persons toward self-sufficiency;
- ◆ providing treatment for compulsive gamblers;
- ◆ providing treatment for chemical addiction, especially for those convicted of violating drug laws; and
- ◆ raising the state minimum wage.

The Catholic Conference will **OPPOSE** legislation:

- ◆ expanding gambling because of the social costs and because the common good requires that progressive taxation of all citizens is necessary to meet the needs of Kentuckians;
- ◆ increasing Kentucky's use of private prisons;
- ◆ mandating staff to patient ratios in nursing homes;
- ◆ creating the Kentucky Right to Work Act; and
- ◆ increasing Kentucky's use of private corporations to operate prisons and correctional services.

There may be additional legislation that the Catholic Conference will work on as the 2006 session unfolds. Visit the website regularly throughout the session for additional legislative information. CCK encourages citizen participation and invites everyone to become Faithful Citizen Advocates and to take action on public policy issues. Sign up today by visiting www.ccky.org.

**Catholic Conference
Ecumenical Committee**

Covington

Rev. Ronald Ketteler

Lexington

Rev. Mr. Mark Stauffer

Louisville

Dr. Matthew Hayes

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.

Ecumenical Endeavors

Interchurch Marriage

By Rev. J. Michael Clark, J.C.L.

Nestled in chapter four in the *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism* (DAPNE) - "Communion of Life and spiritual Activity Among the Baptized" - one finds a section addressing *Mixed Marriages*. Other more familiar terms, namely, "interchurch marriage" or "ecumenical marriage" are used in the United States with greater regularity and appear more inviting to us. [See page 18 in the *Ecumenical Handbook for the Dioceses of Kentucky*, rev. 2003]. However we choose to name them, these marriages between a baptized Catholic and another baptized Christian are commonplace in our society. Thus, most Catholic families in Kentucky have an experience of the opportunities and the challenges created from the unifying aspects of such marriages.

Questions, stresses and possibilities arise when we, personally, or a member of our family or inner circle of friends makes plans to wed. When the wedding involves two Christians, and one is a Catholic, additional questions are raised: How do we honor the faith tradition of both parties? What right does the Catholic Church have to regulate our marriage? Who can be involved in the ceremony? Where can the celebration be held? When we have children, which church will they attend and be baptized into? Such important questions during marriage preparation can be a source of conflict or can help to strengthen the marriage by strengthening the faith commitment of the couple.

To assist in guiding its members through the maze of logistical choices, the Catholic Church provides a set of "maps" illustrating the way. On the universal, that is, worldwide level, DAPNE functions to spell out the principles of marriage stating, "the primary concern of the [Catholic] Church is to uphold the strength and stability of the indissoluble marital union and the family life that flows from it" [DAPNE, n.144]. An exhortation to each spouse to live Christian values, foster unity and harmony while acknowledging the real differences that exist in their respective faith backgrounds shines forth in this DAPNE. A caution to avoid relativism and religious indifference permeates the text. The sacramental nature of the marriage between two Christians receives important attention as well.

On the State level, the *Ecumenical Handbook* builds upon DAPNE by providing practi-

cal options for its implementation with a particular thrust for ecumenical collaboration. Answers to some of the standard queries about interchurch marriages can be found in this *Ecumenical Handbook*. Its emphasis on the positive elements of interchurch marriage constitutes a framework of congeniality and interconnectedness from which the couple can begin to grapple with the more sobering issues they must face. Furthermore, within the *Ecumenical Handbook* an acknowledgement of the role of the Holy Spirit in providing the necessary gifts for the couple to flourish in grace, love, faith and hope brings an awareness of the reliance upon God that all couples are to embrace. While the *Ecumenical Handbook* targets interchurch marriages primarily, its import bears upon the larger institution of marriage.

On the local, that is, diocesan level, a *Policy for Marriage* fleshes out the details of preparation and celebration. When couples meet with a priest or pastoral minister to begin discussing their intention to wed, they should receive a copy of this *Policy*. With Church personnel and these "maps" to lead them, the couple sets out to answer the questions stated above and jointly make a myriad of decisions that will impact not just the wedding day, but their life-long living as a couple united in the bond established when they mutually exchange and receive consent to be husband and wife.

Although the ecumenical tools mentioned focus primarily on interchurch marriages, they have relevance for all who seek a better understanding of our Christian perspective on the institution of marriage. The great lengths the Catholic Church, in consort with other Christians, goes to promote and sustain the notion of marriage illustrates the call of the Spirit to all of us to be witnesses to unity and cooperation in the manner marriages are celebrated and lived.

Father Clark is the Ecumenical Officer for the diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.

The 27-page *Ecumenical Handbook for the Dioceses of Kentucky* is available from your diocesan ecumenical office or can be downloaded from the Catholic Conference of Kentucky website: www.ccky.org/publications.htm.

OFL Annual Collection January 21/22, 2006

Each year, Kentucky's four Catholic Bishops invite Catholics to join them in supporting the Opportunities For Life office which they have established to offer those facing a problem pregnancy options other than abortion. The collection is set for the weekend of January 21/22, 2006.

In addition to requesting financial support, Opportunities For Life is seeking to increase the number of volunteers who give so generously of their time in telephone contact, outreach, and prayer. During the past year, OFL volunteers fielded nearly 4,000 phone calls from clients seeking help.

OFL telephone volunteers answer a 24-hour/7-day statewide helpline for abortion-vulnerable women and men. These volunteers also assist those suffering from post-abortion syndrome.

Outreach volunteers offer a loving, caring presence to clients and assist them in making use of local resources.

Prayer volunteers intercede for callers through local prayer trees.

OFL has always given volunteers thorough training in preparation for this special ministry. To enhance recruitment, OFL staff now provides localized diocesan trainings and will offer a training in each diocese between April and July of 2006. In addition to celebrating the healing ministry of OFL in a client's life, well-trained volunteers report that participation in this ministry profoundly impacts their own lives and draws them closer to God.

OFL now offers the *Ongoing Training Institute* in answer to requests from volunteers so that they could have access to the most current information relevant to this ministry.

Client outreach continues to be very important. To be more available to Generation X and Y clients, OFL developed a new website — www.opportunitiesforlife.org — where clients can search for pregnancy resources in their local communities. Newly printed posters also remind clients that they are not alone with their pregnancy and invite them to call the helpline. Working with members of the Catholic Conference's Hispanic Committee, OFL is exploring additional ways to reach out to Latino women who need assistance.

Opportunities For Life deeply appreciates the kindness of the Catholic community in Kentucky which supports our bishops' efforts to help women and men bring children into this world. We thank you for giving generously to this collection and urge you to consider becoming an OFL volunteer.

Sharon Ford, an OFL outreach volunteer, shares the following story about a typical OFL client.

I received a call from the OFL helpline concerning a woman who is 32 weeks pregnant. She lives alone with her young daughter and has now been put on bed-rest by her doctor due to early signs of pre-term labor. She has been working at her new job for almost six months but is not yet eligible for benefits. This leaves her with no paycheck until after the baby arrives. She has no family support, but thankfully has medical insurance to cover her pregnancy and delivery.

I spoke with Catholic Charities, Cabinet for Family and Children, the Social Concerns Committee of her local Parish, and Birthright; these generous agencies helped to provide Sharon with food, counseling, and clothing. We were frustrated in our efforts to get emergency financial assistance from any local agencies, including the local churches, so our client lost her phone service temporarily.

Thankfully, our client was released back to work for the remaining weeks of her pregnancy and can now pay her bills. Also, she has reconciled with her family, and they now await the birth of her baby together. Great work, OFL team, from the helpline to the outreach volunteer!

Opportunities For Life—Pregnancy Helpline—1-800-822-5824

Kentucky Bishops Issue Pastoral on Economic Justice

The recently issued pastoral letter on economic justice, *Economic Justice in 21st Century Kentucky: Holding Ourselves Accountable*, focuses on seven principles or themes of Catholic social teaching.

It applies these principles to a range of specific issues in the state. What makes this pastoral letter different, though, is the format: a series of eight brochures with illustrations rather than the usual document style. A brochure is devoted to each of the seven principles of social teaching: human dignity; option for the poor; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and care of God's creation.

Another brochure, called a "resource," includes a letter from the bishops of Kentucky's four dioceses; a summary of six basic moral principles that govern economic life; and suggestions for how to use the document. Copies of each brochure are available on the Conference website: www.ccky.org.

U.S. Bishops Draw Attention to Catholic Schools

At their June 2005 meeting, the United States Bishops re-committed themselves to the support of Catholic schools in a statement, *Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*.

The bishops said, "The Catholic community is encouraged at every level to support the work of our Catholic elementary and secondary schools, keeping them available and accessible to as many parents as possible." The bishops strongly encourage clergy and laity to market and support Catholic elementary and secondary schools as one of our church's primary missions.

Catholic schools are a vital part of the teaching mission of the Church.

There are many challenges. But, the bishops of the United States, are committed to overcoming these challenges." The statement can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/bishops/schools.pdf>.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, Feb 1, 2006

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Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @ The Capitol 2006

February 21 & 22, 2006 at the Holiday Inn-Capital Plaza

405 Wilkinson Boulevard, Frankfort, KY

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.

If staying overnight, call 800-465-4329 or 502-227-5100 to reserve a room at the special rate of \$72.00 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: ___ Tuesday; ___ Wednesday; ___ Both Days
On Tuesday you have a choice of Sessions; choose the one most suited to your needs.**

___ **Session 1—Basic Lobbying Techniques;**

___ **Session 2—Advanced Discussion of Legislative Issues**

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



**CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE
OF KENTUCKY**

1042 Burlington Lane
Frankfort Kentucky 40601

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