

## *Catholics @ The Capitol to Feature Dick Dowling*

### **Renewing the Public Square: the Church's Commitment to the Common Good**



Richard Dowling

**D**ick Dowling has been Executive Director of the Maryland Catholic Conference for nearly twenty-two years. His vast experience uniquely qualifies him to deliver the keynote address to those attending Catholics @ The Capitol on February 13 and 14, 2007.

"Renewing the Public Square," the topic of his address, will focus on seeing no contradiction between being a Catholic and being a citizen. Being Catholic leads to being a good citizen. Both laity and clergy have responsibilities to seek and foster the common good.

Dick hails from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and is a graduate of Scranton Preparatory School and the University of Scranton. His master's degree was earned at Boston University's School of Public Communication, his Juris Doctorate at the Georgetown University Law Center.

He is a recipient of The Saint Thomas More Society's *Man for All Seasons Award*, presented annually to a Maryland attor-

ney who exemplifies the spirit and ethics of the 16th Century lawyer, writer, and statesman. He is a past president of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors.

Prior to joining the Conference, Mr. Dowling was a National Leadership Fellow of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the first non-academic to have been granted a Kellogg fellowship award. The fellowship enabled study at M.I.T., the University of Southern California, Louisiana State University, and in Brazil.

He served the nation as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

His public policy experience includes working as a legislative assistant to former U.S. Congressman and Senator William D. Hathaway of Maine, as director of governmental affairs for the American Speech and Hearing Association, and as executive director of the American Society of Allied Health Professions.

Dick and Marian Dowling reside in Bethesda, Maryland. They are the parents of three daughters and the grandparents of two boys.

## **Pray, Educate, Witness in the Capital**

Prayer lies at the heart of Catholic advocacy. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer will celebrate Mass and give the homily on day 1 of the 2007 Catholics @ The Capitol event. Each year this liturgy helps us focus on the needs of those we serve and inspires us as we prepare to speak to our legislators on their behalf.

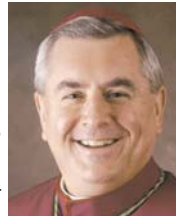
In addition to prayer, volunteer advocates prepare by becoming more familiar with the legislative process and the various bills that the Catholic Conference is supporting or opposing during the 2007 meeting of the General Assembly.

Two seasoned advocates, Jane Chiles and Sheila Schuster, will lead a workshop for newcomers to the lobbying experience. They will offer practical advice about how to communicate effectively with legislators. Through role playing, participants will learn basic skills to engage legislators in a fruitful dialogue about pending legislation.

At the same time, Fr. Pat Delahanty, associate director of CCK, and Harry Borders, Executive Director of KLEA, will lead a session for those who have had prior lobbying experience. This session will focus on the bills CCK is supporting or opposing.

Following this workshop, we will celebrate the Eucharist. Then we will share dinner and the presentation by Dick Dowling.

On Wednesday morning, along with breakfast, CCK staff will lead additional discussion of the issues and answer questions. Armed with directions to the Capitol, participants will go forth to meet with State Representatives and Senators.



Bishop Gainer

Complete details about registration are on the back page. CCK has obtained a special room rate of \$74.00/room at the Capital Plaza Hotel (former Holiday Inn) and up to four may stay in a room.

There is a \$40 registration fee to help cover some of the costs CCK incurs.

Since CCK cannot provide financial assistance, we hope parishes and diocesan agencies can help persons pay for lodging and the registration fee. Ideally each parish in Kentucky would have at least one person attending this important gathering.

## **Catholics @The Capitol 2007 Schedule**

### **Tuesday PM February 13**

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

### **Wednesday, February 14**

- 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)

**REGISTER ONLINE  
AT WWW.CCKY.ORG  
OR USE THE FORM  
ON THE BACK PAGE.  
DEADLINE:  
FEBRUARY 5**

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*"We Are All Really Responsible For All."*

## Let Your Light Shine; New Opportunities to Make a Difference in Our State and Nation Await Us

By Ed Monahan  
Executive Director



Protecting human life and advancing human dignity is the underlying principle that guides all the public policy advocacy of the Conference.

*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* summarizes the Catholic Church's teaching on public policy issues and is organized under four moral priorities. Using these four priorities, here is a brief description of some of the many issues CCK will be working on in 2007 at the state and federal level.

### Protecting Human Life

Human life is a gift from God. It is sacred and inviolable. We have a duty to defend human life from conception until natural death and in every condition because every human person is created in the image and likeness of God.

In 2007 CCK will work to reduce abortions by promoting an **in-person informed consent** law that passed both houses in 2006, but failed to become law because of disagreements between the two chambers' versions. CCK will also work to **advance adult stem cell research** and prohibit embryonic stem cell research. As Pope John Paul II said, "It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop." (*The Gospel of Life*, no. 101). We will also work to insure that pharmacists are not required to **dispense Plan B against their conscience** and our faith tradition. Our country is founded on honoring religious liberty.

CCK also seeks to reduce death sentences that are the product of coerced confessions by enacting a law requiring **interrogations to be electronically recorded**. Kentuckians no longer favor the **death penalty**. In a 2006 statewide poll 67.6% of Kentuckians preferred a sentence other than death; only 30.5% favored death. As Kentuckians choose life, the state's public policy should change to reflect their choice.

### Promoting Family Life

The family is the basic cell of human society. We must strive to make the needs and concerns of families a national priority.

CCK is committed to the protection of children in all settings and at all times, and we support policies that ensure the well-being of all children. Even though it passed the House unanimously in 2006, the bill to ban **bullying** in schools and require commonsense approaches to reducing bullying failed to be considered by the Senate. Public policy should protect our

children from the harm bullying causes. Bullying undermines human dignity.

We believe in the importance of **quality education for all Kentucky's children**. We support efforts to fund public schools adequately and to establish policies that create excellent educational environments both for the 75% of our Catholic children who attend these schools and for all Kentucky's children.

We support parents who choose a faith-based education for their children. They send nearly 48,434 children to 98 Catholic elementary schools, 25 secondary schools; and five post-secondary schools. These schools exist to give parents a choice, not to compete with the public school systems.

We believe the state has some responsibility for the education of children in nonpublic schools. So, we seek appropriate financial assistance that is constitutional. Asking for and receiving our fair share is important as the number of our schools declines and the cost to operate them continues to challenge our available fiscal resources. Since 1995, 30 Catholic schools closed for lack of funding.

The state has a significant fiscal interest in our continued ability to keep Catholic schools open. With the state and federal funding per elementary and secondary public school student at \$8,732, the 41,561 elementary and secondary Catholic school students represent a savings of over \$363 million per year to KY and federal taxpayers or \$726 million each biennium in state and federal dollars. If the closing of Catholic schools continues, the state's financial obligations for education will increase.

In 1993, the Catholic bishops of the U.S. stated, "Every person has a **right to adequate health care**." Catholic hospitals and nursing homes provide healthcare to many in our state through 16 acute care hospitals; 30 nursing facilities and other Catholic-sponsored service organizations including hospice, home health, assisted living, and senior housing. These ministries generate millions upon millions of dollars that benefit their local communities and the entire Commonwealth. The Catholic bish-

# Human Life and Dignity Basis for Legislative Advocacy

Continued from page 2

ops favor health coverage for all.

The 2007 General Assembly should fund the Medicaid program to provide tobacco dependency treatment interventions, including counseling and pharmacotherapies. Tobacco is the number one health threat in this state with \$1.2 billion of Medicaid funds going to treat tobacco related illnesses. And Kentucky has the second highest rate of pregnant women smoking. Funding a **comprehensive Medicaid smoking cessation** benefit is a morally responsible means by which real health needs of some of Kentucky's Medicaid recipients can be met.

**Medicaid** is a critical program to ensure medical care for poor, elderly, vulnerable persons. It is essential that Medicaid be properly funded and not subject to budget reductions or eligibility restrictions.

CCK supports health care for all as a moral right. But, CCK opposes government providing or requiring **benefits based upon a domestic partnership status** that equates that relationship to marriage.

## Pursuing Social Justice

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

Achieving a morally fair wage is a central teaching of our faith, "the worker must be paid a wage sufficient to support him and his family." Pope Pius XI (1931). CCK is working to **raise the minimum wage** from \$5.15 to \$7.00 an hour with an annual cost of living increase. Contrary to what many believe, the broad public support for increasing the minimum wage is bipartisan. Republicans (74%), Independents (80%), and Democrats (93%) overwhelmingly favor increasing the minimum wage. Of those making more than \$75,000, 79% favor an increase. *The Gallup Poll Briefing* (March 2006 p. 8). Pope John Paul II identified a just wage as a "key," and "concrete means of verifying the justice of the whole socioeconomic system and, in any case, of checking that it is functioning justly." *Laborem exercens* (1981), n. 19. CCK will oppose legislation that repeals or suspends **prevailing wage** laws or seeks to make Kentucky a **right to work state**.

CCK will work to advance legislation that provides timely, automatic **restoration of voting rights** to offenders who have completed their sentences.

In 2007 the omnibus **US Farm Bill** will be up for reauthorization for a 5–6-year period. It sets farm policies in the following programs: agricultural support, nutrition, conservation, rural development, trade, and international food aid. The policies enacted will affect domestic farmers, food producers and consumers, as well as farmers in developing countries. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will work to advocate for the creation of truly equitable system that meets the needs of domestic medium and small farmers, fights hunger in the US and abroad and supports farmers and their families in developing countries.

CCK will continue to support legislation to prohibit and punish **human trafficking** and protect victims, especially undocumented victims. Legislation on trafficking is a priority for USCCB. A human trafficking bill passed both Houses in 2006 but did not become law because of political entanglements.

CCK opposes **expansion of gambling** for reasons that include its many negative social consequences and its unreliable and regressive nature as a revenue source. At the same time CCK supports legislation that insures that the regulation of charitable gaming, which supports many Catholic Church and school ministries, is reasonable.

## Practicing Global Solidarity

Kentucky should not create regressive responses to the presence of immigrants in our state. Instead, we should seek national comprehensive legislation. The US should adopt an **immigration and refugee policy** based on providing temporary or permanent safe haven for those in need; protecting immigrant workers from exploitation; promoting family reunification; safeguarding the right of all peoples to return to their homelands; ensuring that public benefits and a fair and efficient process for obtaining citizenship are available to immigrants; extending to immigrants the full protection of U.S. law; offering an earned legalization program to undocumented immigrants, and addressing the root causes of migration.

## Our faith unifies us

The Church has a public policy agenda that addresses the many issues that affect people's human life and human dignity. Some may question why CCK is involved in this breadth of issues. The needs of people, all created in the image of God, compel public policies across the spectrum of issues that affect their life and dignity. Protecting the life of the unborn is a preeminent public policy objective. Once a person is born our responsibility to build up the common good and help our brothers and sisters does not end, it continues. Some Catholics struggle with aspects of the Church's public policy agenda. The Bishops ask that these public policy positions be seen by all Catholics regardless of political party from the unity we all share around the Eucharistic table. As stated in *Faithful Citizenship*, the altar is "where we find the direction and strength to take what we believe into the public square, using our voices and votes to defend life, advance justice, and find a place at the table for all God's children."

## The way we advocate

Discourse in the political arena is too often harsh, disrespectful, and destructive. Catholics "are called to be clear but also civil. A Church that advocates justice and charity must practice these virtues in public life. We should be clear about our principles and priorities, without impugning motives or name-calling." *Faithful Citizenship*.

## Let your light shine: use your influence

We do have the power to be influential in the public square where decisions are made that affect us. We have influence—more than we often realize. We are counseled by scripture to not let our light be hidden under a bushel basket. Seize new opportunities to make a difference in our state and nation.

CCK's legislative advocacy alert system, found at [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org), provides you an opportunity. 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. Sign up today and become a Catholic Conference Faithful Citizen Advocate. While visiting the website, you can also sign up for Catholics @ the Capitol, February 13 and 14, 2007.

# Adoption is Important in God's Plan

As Christians, our faith sustains and supports us during our trials and brings blessings into our lives. The circumstances that bring families to adoption, either as placing or adopting parents, may be the hardest they ever face. Faith and prayer lead persons in difficult situations, like infertility or an untimely pregnancy, toward solutions, and toward others who can assist all parties to an adoption to find joy, solace, and love.

There are a number of examples of adoption in Scripture. Not all were cases of providing for orphans, although God specifically calls all people to care for orphans. Some were occasions of placing a child in adoption for a specific purpose, but all were cases of providing for the well being of the child. Moses' adoption by the daughter of the pharaoh provided rescue and security for a child set adrift by a parent who prayed for his best interest. Joseph's adoption of Jesus and his model of fidelity and vocation is a New Testament example of the importance of adoption in God's plan. The overarching theme in these biblical stories is two-fold. Adoptions take place for the well-being of the child with his or her best interest at heart, and as a means of accomplishing God's good purposes for all people.

Many modern situations involving adoption can be just as

complicated and heart wrenching. A birth mother can range in age from 11 to 48 years with most being young women in their twenties. This may be her first pregnancy or this may be her second, or more. The birth father may be actively involved in the pregnancy or he may not. Birth mothers share few commonalities but all are pondering the best possible future for their child. This is where Catholic Charities of Kentucky plays a role. The four diocesan agencies offer a full range of counseling services for expectant families and those who may be considering growing their family through adoption. The



pregnancy counseling and adoption staff at the four diocesan offices work together to provide services statewide. They call this effort *A Caring Connection*. They average 25 to 35 adoptions a year. Catholic Charities of Owensboro and Lexington have completed several international home studies. The Covington Diocese will begin international adoptions in early 2007. In conjunction with the four diocesan Catholic Charities programs, Opportunities for Life (OFL), a statewide ministry of the four Catholic Bishops of Kentucky, provides a 24-hour helpline staffed by trained volunteers. OFL refers callers interested in learning more about the option of adoption to *A Caring Connection*, confident that caring and experienced professionals will assist in making a plan that is best for both the mother and her baby.

The diocesan agencies are uniquely committed to providing professional counseling to all involved. Without this dedication to serving the needs of the families, there is no one to address a birth parent's grief, adoptive parents' fears or adopted children's questions regarding their heritage or why an adoption plan was made for them. These programs are concerned not only with the welfare of the child, but also with the long term physical, emotional, and mental health of all involved.

Birth families of all faiths are offered counseling free of charge. Pregnancy counseling may or may not result in an adoption depending upon the wishes of the birth mother and father. Staff offer support and encouragement to birth parents by providing them with the information needed to make an informed decision. Birth parents can choose between closed and open adoption when making an adoption plan.

Families interested in adopting a child must meet certain eligibility requirements, which vary slightly among the four Charities agencies. Adoptive families must work with the agency located within their diocese of residence. They must

**CHILDREN PLACED  
IN ADOPTION  
EXPERIENCE  
GOD'S GRACE IN A  
WAY SIMILAR TO  
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CHILDREN  
RECEIVE COMFORT  
AND LOVE,  
KNOWING THAT A  
FUTURE HAS BEEN  
PLANNED FOR  
THEM THAT IS IN  
THEIR BEST  
INTEREST.**

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## A Caring Connection

By serving women and families confronting the difficult realities of an untimely pregnancy, our goal is to provide hope and support by encouraging life affirming decisions. Services will be directed toward enabling clients to realize their full potential. All parties are entitled to privacy and confidentiality.

### Catholic Social Services, Covington

1-800-227-3002  
(859) 581-8974  
www.cssnky.org  
Monica Kuhlman

### Catholic Social Service Bureau, Lexington

(859) 253-1993 extension 216  
www.cssblexington.org  
Laurie Hainley

### Catholic Charities, Louisville

(502) 637-9786  
www.catholiccharitieslouisville.org  
Helen Rothgerber

### Catholic Charities, Owensboro

(270) 852-8328  
www.kycatholiccharitiesadoption.org  
Rita Heinz

### Opportunities for Life, Frankfort

502-223-5330  
www.opportunitiesforlife.org  
Michelle Herberger



tremendous pressure for women to parent their children even if doing so would place them under significant financial or emotional strain.

"Why do we encourage a young mother to parent a child when she typically does not yet have the emotional resources to make such a monumental decision? Most adults would not advise a teen to choose a career at this point in their lives but we encourage teen parents to make a life-long commitment before they have the chance to really understand the full meaning of this decision," said Monica Kuhlman who has served the Diocese of Covington as an adoption counselor for over 30 years.

"Teenage moms are still teenagers. Because of their lack of maturity, it's hard for them to grasp that statistically there's a very small chance of staying in a relationship with the birth father, that they will likely be parenting alone and that they could be committing themselves and their child to a lifetime of poverty. If they were mature enough to understand all this, it might affect their decision," said Kuhlman.

In 2003, 12% (6,867 children) of all births in Kentucky were to mothers under age 20. A full 74% of these births were to single mothers and 19% were repeat births, meaning this was not the mother's first child. It is estimated that 11% of Kentucky teen pregnancies ended in abortion. Of Kentucky high school students, 52% are sexually active. (www.childtrends.org)

Children placed in adoption experience God's grace in a way similar to children who are born into a family. Adopted children receive comfort and love, knowing that a future has been planned for them that is in their best interest. As children grow older this can be palpable evidence of God's direction and sovereignty in their lives. An adoption plan, as it progresses and after it is in place, is a powerful example of God's participation in the good of all those involved, one which furthers wholeness and healing. The church's active involvement in fostering the work of qualified service providers vastly improves the prospects for successful adoption in our society. These caring and experienced professionals assist young women in developing a plan that is appropriate for them and for their infants and give hearty endorsement to adoption as a way of prospering the lives of all concerned.

*Continued from page 4*

have explored medical solutions concerning infertility, have a normal life expectancy and have the physical, financial and emotional resources to attend to the need of a growing child. Potential parents must commit to adoption education/preparation and a home study as well as a fair amount of paperwork. Those prospective adoptive families who are hesitant to pursue adoption because of cost should be reassured that adoption is very affordable, especially since the establishment of the Federal Adoption Tax Credit. After the completion of the home study, staff members provide tremendous support for the prospective adoptive family as they await a placement. The local Catholic Charities office can be contacted for more detailed eligibility requirements.

Today, nationwide, less than one percent of unexpected pregnancies result in an adoption. With so many screened and prepared couples awaiting placements, why are more young women not choosing adoption? Remarkably, there is



This is the fourth in a series of articles by the CCK Hispanic Committee on the **Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform** which aims to reach beyond the networks of the participating national agencies, and to enlist the support of Catholic individuals and institutions in dioceses throughout the country.

Visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org) for more information. Le invitamos a visitar nuestra página con regularidad, debido a que se estará actualizando constantemente con materiales, noticias relevantes y otra información que esperamos sea de su utilidad.

## Migration in Light of Catholic Social Teaching

By Rev. Ken Mikulcik



Rev. Ken Mikulcik

As one listens to public discourse in news commentary and reads editorial statements in the papers and listens to conversations one cannot help but pick up on the vast spectrum of opinions on immigration. Most of those opinions have been formed over the past few months as the invisible workforce of undocumented workers revealed its face in public rallies in major U. S. cities in April and May, 2006. The bishops of the United States

and Mexico, however, have been reflecting on this pastoral concern for many years.

Following upon the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, and the U.S. bishops' own *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us*, their more recent document, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* offers a mature understanding of the dignity of the person and the phenomenon of modern migration. Written jointly with the Mexican bishops it shows the Universal Church's capacity to address the human condition in a comprehensive and clear way, laying out the principals of Catholic social teaching as it applies to migration, the pastoral response needed, and the public policy challenge and responses.

After pointing out the common history of migration and a shared faith in Jesus Christ in the two countries of Mexico and the United States, the document offers a reflection on migration in the light of the Word of God and Catholic social teaching. Migration was present as a factor in the history of Israel beginning with Abraham and Sarah welcoming the three strangers who were a manifestation of the Lord. The whole episode of Israel's migration to and from Egypt is a key event in the Old Testament. That migration was echoed in the Holy Family's trip to Egypt as refugees. Jesus' identification with the needy in the judgment scene in Matthew 25 can easily be connected with the experience of the migrant being so often hungry, thirsty and detained. Finally, the risen Jesus commands his apostles to go to all nations, sealing his mandate with the gift of the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit's guidance has been manifested in "Catholic social teaching, in particular the teachings on human dignity and the principal of solidarity." (SNL n. 27).

What has seemed remarkably absent in the public discourse on migration, namely the dignity and rights of the one who is migrating, is the starting point for the bishops. Beginning with Pius XII's *Exsul Familia*, the bishops point out that persons have a right to migrate to achieve conditions worthy of human life. They also point out that John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris* includes not only a right to migrate, but also a right not to migrate. This is all in the

context of the sovereign state's right to control its borders keeping in mind that that right is not absolute. John Paul II referred to the refugee crisis as a "festering wound." And he reiterates in *Ecclesia in America* the rights of migrants even in the case of "non-legal immigration."

The two Bishops' conferences echo this rich tradition as they lay out for us five principals that emerge with regard to immigration. The first is that "Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland." Work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need. Second, "Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families." The goods of the earth belong to all, so persons have a right to migrate in order to survive. Third, "Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders." This control does not include closing a border to accumulate more wealth. Therefore wealthy nations have a stronger obligation to accommodate migrants. Fourth, "Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection." At minimum, this means that asylum seekers should not be incarcerated and that they deserve a full hearing by the competent authority. Fifth, "The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected." (SNL nn. 34 - 38) Regardless of one's legal status, migrants possess inherent human dignity that should be respected.

Finally, the bishops of the two conferences offer their assessment of the current situation between the United States and Mexico:

"The Church recognizes the right of a sovereign state to control its borders in furtherance of the common good. It also recognizes the right of human persons to migrate so that they can realize their God-given rights. These teachings complement each other. While the sovereign state may impose reasonable limits on immigration, the common good is not served when the basic human rights of the individual are violated. In the current condition of the world, in which global poverty and persecution are rampant, the presumption is that persons must migrate in order to support and protect themselves and that nations who are able to receive them should do so whenever possible. It is through this lens that we assess the current migration reality between the United States and Mexico." (SNL n. 39)

The prophetic character of the bishops' statement, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* shines through as a timely document providing clarity at a time when many in the United States are caught up in the fear that accompanies loss of jobs and a costly war effort. The bishops faithfully frame the whole discussion as it should be framed: with a foundation in the inherent value of human dignity.

Rev. Ken Mikulcik is a priest working in the Owensboro Diocese as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield, KY. To learn more about the Church's teaching about immigration, visit [www.ccky.org/justice\\_for\\_immigrants](http://www.ccky.org/justice_for_immigrants) web page.

## OFL Opens New Toll Free Hotline Number for Hispanic Speakers

# Opportunities For Life Helps Women Make Life-Affirming Choices

By Michelle Herberger



Michelle Herberger

This has been a busy year for Opportunities for Life (OFL) and our volunteers have readily met the challenge. As of November 30, 2006, OFL has served 3,930 clients. An OFL volunteer wishing to remain anonymous, shares the following story:

*A couple of months ago, I had a call from a mother who had kicked her daughter out of the home. Her daughter was a couple of*

*months pregnant. The mother wanted her to keep the baby and the girl was undecided. I talked with the mom and gave her the number of Catholic Charities. I asked her to try and encourage her daughter to talk with one of the counselors there. I never heard back. Then, about six weeks ago, one of the couples I know who is adopting a baby sent me an email to let me know that she and her husband were selected by a birth mom as adoptive parents. The more she told me of the story, the more it sounded like the call I got a couple of months earlier. (There were a lot of unique instances in this call and in her story that were too "odd" to be coincidental.) Come to find out, it was the same girl!*

Kudos to our volunteer and to Catholic Charities for helping a young woman make a positive, life-affirming choice and helping her child find a stable, loving home!

OFL has completed 4 trainings as of November and has 27 new volunteers. Some of these volunteers are bilingual which enabled us to open a Spanish helpline in August, 800-860-7165.

New posters have been printed in Spanish to advertise the helpline and those have been distributed throughout the state. The new helpline number is also listed in Spanish phonebooks and newspapers. If you know of places where these posters should be placed, contact us at 502-223-5330 and we will be happy to provide you with copies to post in those locations.

Hoping to add to the number of our qualified and dedicated volunteers, OFL will be offering four localized diocesan trainings in the spring of 2007. In addition to the diocesan trainings, OFL will offer continuing education/formation to our volunteers by meeting regularly with them in their dioceses on their requested topics. OFL will also offer an annual retreat to the volunteers.

The bishops of Kentucky have designated a weekend in January for the annual parish collection that supports the work of OFL. This is also a time when parishioners are asked to consider becoming volunteers with OFL. Thanks to the generous support of this ministry, OFL is able to continue to reach out to abortion-vulnerable women, men and their unborn children.

## 2007 OFL VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES

### Training sessions hours are:

Thursday	6:30 pm—9:00 pm
Friday	6:30 pm—9:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am—3:00 pm

### Training sessions dates are:

Louisville	February 1—3
Lexington	February 8—10
Owensboro	April 19—21
Covington	May 12 and May 26 (two Saturdays)

**Rally For  
Life Set for  
February 20  
at State  
Capital**

Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P. of the Archdiocese of Louisville will represent Kentucky's four Catholic bishops by speaking during the annual Rally for Life in Frankfort that scheduled for NOON in the Capitol Rotunda on Thursday February 20, 2007. This event, sponsored by Kentucky Right to Life, takes place during each meeting of the General Assembly and draws attention to issues about human life and dignity.

The provides another opportunity for Catholics to inform their legislators about the importance of legislation related to adult stem cell research and the need to inform patients in person about abortion and its consequences.



Registration Deadline: Monday, February 5, 2007

Registration Deadline: Monday, February 5, 2007

# Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @ The Capitol 2007

February 13 & 14, 2007 at the Capital Plaza Hotel

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 \$74.00 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](mailto:cckstaff@ccky.org).  
**You can also register at [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org); mail us your \$40 registration fee or pay when you arrive.**



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