



The Caleb Report

January-February 2004

Life Decisions International

vol. xii · no. 1

IN THIS ISSUE: 100th Corporation Ends Support Of Planned Parenthood / PPFA Annual Report Released / It's Not My Turner / Courage Under Fire / Quotable Quote / Pro-Abortion Activists Cry Foul / The Prayer Project / Target: Teenagers / Update: Corporate Funding Project / Abusing A Bad Situation / Co-Founder Needs A Dictionary

100th CORPORATION ENDS SUPPORT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD Blimpie International Inc. Attempts to Intimidate Boycott Leaders; Tactic Fails

Few people would have predicted it. Many pro-life leaders were skeptical. But as of January 2004, at least 100 corporations have agreed to stop funding Planned Parenthood since the origin of the Corporate Funding Project (CFP) just over a decade ago. It is estimated that the CFP has kept a minimum of \$25 *million* out of Planned Parenthood coffers.

The CFP, which has been the cornerstone project since LDI's inception in 1992, initially received a cynical response from many leaders in the Pro-Life Movement. One prominent leader urged LDI to select just one product made by a single corporation and "make a public example" of it.

The suggestion was rejected by LDI leaders because they were unwilling to let the many other corporations that were funding Planned Parenthood off-the-hook. And what would have happened had LDI selected the "wrong" product and the parent company *never* agreed to stop funding Planned Parenthood? It would have effectively ended the CFP and made a laughing stock of the Pro-Life Movement.

There were other compelling reasons why LDI leaders chose to stick with the initial plan. If only one item had been boycotted, pro-abortion people could easily minimize its effect by purchasing it. Furthermore, many corporations that have agreed to stop funding Planned Parenthood over the years would never have done so until one of *their* products was targeted.

The CFP took its share of unexpected hits, even from allies in the Pro-Life Movement. Care Net and Priests for Life chose to do business with American Express while it was still a boycott target. The action undermined LDI's work, particularly because both groups had endorsed the CFP. But thanks to the

dedication of other pro-life people, American Express eventually stopped supporting Planned Parenthood, despite the harmful actions of the aforementioned groups.

Another trying time for the CFP occurred when an internationally known televangelist asked to work with LDI to spread the word about the boycott. LDI leaders were initially thrilled, but it soon became clear that the televangelist's network wanted to control the administration of the CFP. This was confirmed when the network told LDI to drop The Walt Disney Company from *The Boycott List* because the televangelist's program was aired on the stations of several ABC affiliates, which were owned by Walt Disney. Consequently, the televangelist could not have purchased air time on such stations without looking rather hypocritical. LDI refused to agree to the demand.

The televangelist was planning to announce that he had come up with a brand new idea, possibly through Divine Revelation—boycott corporate supporters of Planned Parenthood. It did not take long for LDI leaders to realize that the desire to help spread the word about the boycott had more to do with raising money than ending funding of Planned Parenthood. (LDI leaders were given a draft copy of the televangelist's letter that was to announce the "new" idea, which was primarily a fund-raising piece.)

Another bump along the path was the atrocious messages LDI received from pro-abortion zealots who believed that sending hate mail and pornography would make us see their point and end the CFP. This was all preceded by the announcement that Berkshire Hathaway, which is owned by rabidly pro-abortion Warren Buffett, would end corporate funding of

Planned Parenthood. Of course, no one can forget the role that pro-life Pampered Chef consultants, led by the incredible Cynthia Coughlon, played in convincing Buffett to change his mind.

Receiving threatening letters from corporate lawyers is commonplace at LDI. But these lawyers do not realize that experience and accuracy are stronger than legal rhetoric. The most recent example was that sent by **Blimpie International Inc.** Poor, poor Blimpie. It seems the sandwich and salad giant has gone a little stale since it was added to *The Boycott List*.

LDI received a scathing letter from Blimpie's corporate attorney that was clearly an attempt to intimidate. Leonora C. Seid claimed our statement that the company had funded Planned Parenthood is "patently false, obviously made without research or substantiation, and designed to bring Blimpie International, Inc. disrepute with some of its consuming public." (Giving to Planned Parenthood can cause a company disrepute with the consuming public? Why is that?)

Unfortunately, Seid is grossly mistaken, which trumps "patently false" every time. If Seid had researched the CFP more carefully, she would have learned that under LDI's Standards and Policies for placing a corporation on *The Boycott List*, Blimpie qualifies as a target.

It may interest Seid to know that our source of the information was Planned Parenthood itself. (Maybe Seid will be sending a nasty letter to that group's leader for "spilling the beans?") Planned Parenthood's Portland, Oregon, affiliate had identified "Blimpie Subs and Salads" as a supporting organization. Moreover, there is a link from Planned Parenthood's website to none other than that of Blimpie International Inc. It seems it was not LDI that made a "patently false" and "without research or substantiation" statement.

Seid wrote that as franchisor, Blimpie International "has no legal basis, under its Franchise Agreements, to demand or prohibit Blimpie Franchisee' affiliations with any organizations." Blimpie International may want to consider a revision of such agreements. If one of its "independent" franchisees funded the Ku Klux Klan, would Seid's "it's a franchise" defense be acceptable to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People? Would *anyone* care which *specific* Blimpie franchise owner had made the donation? If a "independent" franchisee funded the National Rifle Association, would Seid's defense be acceptable to the Brady Center to Prevent Gun

Violence? Not a chance. Blimpie International would scramble to make the necessary changes.

The fact that Blimpie International is a franchise system is immaterial. It is Blimpie International that chooses to give franchise owners the power to fund controversial groups, even though it will reflect on the corporation as a whole. Just as "no man is an island," no Blimpie Subs and Salads franchise truly stands alone. Franchises could not exist without Blimpie International. LDI's Standards and Policies, which have existed and stood several challenges for more than a decade, state that if any part of a company supports Planned Parenthood, the entire corporation is subject to boycott.

Seid asked LDI to consider the scenario that one of our supporters wished to purchase a Blimpie franchise. Such a supporter would be "coerced to *disassociate*" from LDI. Not quite. We can say with great confidence that not even one LDI supporter would enter into such an agreement with Blimpie International. In other words, our supporters would choose to disassociate from *Blimpie*, not LDI. We have had occasion to work with supporters who had a franchise from corporations before they became boycott targets. In *every* case the persons continued to support LDI while lobbying those within the company to end the controversial practice. Seid underestimates the commitment of people who believe that killing unborn human beings is wrong.

The Blimpie lawyer tried to throw her weight around:

We will give Life Decisions International the benefit of the doubt that it never intended to publicly ascribe to Blimpie International Inc. or its system of Blimpie franchisees, acts having no basis in truth, and that it will, upon receipt of this notice, promptly, voluntarily and publicly, (1) remove Blimpie International Inc. from *The Boycott List*; (2) remove Blimpie International Inc. from the LDI Website; (3) issue a clearly stated retraction of the identification of Blimpie International Inc. as a business to be boycotted (i) immediately on the Website; (ii) in the next published hard copy of *The Boycott List*; and (iii) in all other forms of public communications directed to members or supporters concerning boycott activity. Certainly, with notice of your misstatement, your legal responsibility is clear.

Seid enumerated the possible consequences to LDI, as though she was the first corporate mouthpiece to threaten us. "Failure to confirm to the understanding in writing that you have taken corrective action within five (5) business days shall compel Blimpie International, Inc. to take legal action to protect its business interests and the business interests of its

franchisees,” she wrote. Needless-to-say, LDI will not be meeting any of Blimpie International’s demands. This is particularly true since LDI has not made a “misstatement.” Bottom line: corporate lawyer intimidation attempt fails once again.

LDI congratulates its allies and supporters who have steadfastly fought all corporate giving to Planned Parenthood. With your continued support and active involvement, we can look forward to more victories!

P.P.F.A. ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

As it has done virtually every year, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) has increased its share of the abortion market and funding for the abortion advocacy group continues to skyrocket. “The last thing that Planned Parenthood wants to do is prevent the so-called ‘need’ for abortion,” charged Douglas R. Scott, president of LDI, in a press statement released nationwide. “Doing so would cost the group tens of millions of dollars every year.”

In its *2002-2003 Annual Report*, PPFA confesses to killing nearly seven percent more human beings who were living in the womb than it did during the previous reporting period. In 2002, Planned Parenthood brutally killed 227,375 children. It is important to note, however, that this whopping figure represents only those killings committed with surgical instruments. PPFA also proudly confesses to having administered 633,756 doses of so-called “emergency contraception”—an increase of nearly 35 percent over the previous reporting period. Oddly, PPFA’s *Annual Report* does not include the number of older people it has killed or injured (such as Holly Patterson).

PPFA affiliates gave prenatal care to a scant 15,860 mothers and referred a dismal 1,963 others to adoption agencies. These figures represent very slight increases (less than 1.6 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively) over the previous reporting period, ending a continuous decline in the number of mothers given prenatal care and those referred to adoption agencies over most of the past decade.

“This monstrous, taxpayer-funded ‘product of choice’ claims to present all options open to a mother who is facing an untimely pregnancy. Yet comparing its abortion numbers to its prenatal services and adoption referrals, it is clear that the latter two ‘choices’ are not where the money is,” Scott said. “Planned Parenthood greatly profits from every death choice and it gains virtually nothing from a life choice.”

PPFA generated a staggering \$766.6 million during its last fiscal year, an increase of more than \$71 million from the previous year. American taxpayers wrote a check for one-third of this amount (\$254.4 million). While taxpayers gave PPFA \$13.5 million more in 2002-2003 than they did in the 2001-2002 fiscal year, it represents a *slight* decrease of its overall budget.

PPFA enjoyed a record \$36.6 million in “excess revenue over expenses” (known to most people as a “profit”) in 2002-2003 *alone*, and it has hundreds of millions of dollars in reserve (essentially a savings account). Yet this “not-for-profit” creature continues to claim a “need” for more and more money—from taxpayers, through all levels of government, and every other possible funding source. (It is possible that Planned Parenthood is receiving tax money you were forced to pay at the federal, state, county, and local levels of government. Yes, you could be subsidizing Planned Parenthood four times!)

“PPFA has record budgets every year, yet the problems it claims to address get increasingly worse,” Scott said. “If the Pentagon had the success rate of Planned Parenthood, Saddam Hussein would have defeated our troops in less than 24 hours. It seems that any responsible government official would eventually say, ‘Planned Parenthood has received more money every year and the problems have worsened. Maybe Planned Parenthood *is* the problem.’ But instead lawmakers continue to throw money into the unstable and unfit *Titanic*.”

Scott is not surprised by the huge increase in income for PPFA. “The Planned Parenthood hierarchy considers the Bush Administration to be a threat to abortion on demand. It is not uncommon for funding to shoot up at such times because PPFA utilizes its standard ‘the sky is falling’ message to motivate pro-abortion zealots to open their wallets.” PPFA literature and fund-raising letters often claim *Roe v. Wade* is a mere one vote away from being reversed by the Supreme Court of the United States. “This is clearly untrue and I know PPFA President Gloria Feldt can count since she has had a lot of practice with her group’s income,” Scott said. “But saying *Roe v. Wade* is secure does not raise a lot of money.”

As usual, LDI will release an in-depth analysis of PPFA’s *2002-2003 Annual Report* as the Spring 2004 issue of *Special Reports*, which is scheduled for release in March.

IT’S NOT MY TURNER

Just one week before the state held its presidential caucuses, Planned Parenthood activist and actress

Kathleen Turner spent some time in Iowa in an effort to raise money for Planned Parenthood. At caucus time it is difficult to get noticed by the media unless it directly relates to the election. Turner's high-profile and well-timed visit made it easy for Planned Parenthood's Stand Up for Choice 2004 Iowa Caucus Campaign to get media attention.

In August 2003, Planned Parenthood began its campaign to ensure that pro-abortion platforms were part of caucus discussions. Planned Parenthood leaders claimed to have recruited 87 of 183 Polk County (where Des Moines is located) precinct captains to do the group's bidding.

While Turner points out that all Democrats running for President are pro-abortion, she traveled to Iowa to "make sure women's choice is at the forefront of the issues for this upcoming election." (Turner supports Senator John Kerry, D-Mass., who won the Iowa caucuses.)

"The whole country is looking here," Turner told the *Des Moines Register*. "Our job at Planned Parenthood is really to make sure (the candidates) understand the issues and the importance of them and how they can be improved."

Turner has been chairman of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Board of Advocates since 1995. She increased her commitment to the pro-abortion group in 2003 by agreeing to speak at events throughout the country for no fee. "I told Planned Parenthood national they could have me for the year."

During the newspaper interview, Turner referred to the "attacks by the Bush Administration on women and abortion rights," which she called "frightening." In fact, it was Bush Administration policies that convinced Turner to become more active. "It just became more and more urgent in the last year, and I thought, 'I'm going to do something.'"

While in Iowa, Turner spent an hour at a private reception mingling with 210 donors who paid between \$100 and \$5,000 to drink wine and have their pictures taken with her. Iowa Lieutenant Governor Sally Pederson was among those who attended the event.

A longtime Planned Parenthood activist, Turner said she is deeply interested in politics. Her time lobbying and testifying in Congress on behalf of Planned Parenthood and other causes gives added credibility. And the fact that Turner personally used Planned Parenthood "services" while attending college provides yet another note of authority.

Turner spoke of her first visit to Planned Parenthood:

I'd never become sexually active, being an old-fashioned woman and my father being extremely rigid. So when I did decide, I went to the clinic there in Springfield. I got my contraception and my counseling there, and I've been with them ever since. Certainly my mother, God bless her, never told me about contraception or what was needed. So Planned Parenthood did. It was a little risqué to go on my own, but it was a hell of a lot more sensible than going ahead without it.

Turner said that her daughter has had "quite full sex education in school." She also said her daughter has always "been aware and in some extent involved" with her mother's Planned Parenthood activities. "So she's quite clear on the topic, I think."

Turner is an opponent of abstinence education:

It's withholding information about contraception. It's supplying misinformation that condoms don't work, that the pill possibly leads to breast cancer, none of which has a scientific basis, let me add. So it isn't simply a question of saying "don't have sex," which we know is ridiculous because they're teenagers, and it's just going to happen in many, many cases.

Turner said that in our society we "sell everything through sex." She continued:

We have women in bikinis selling tires. That doesn't make any sense. So we use sex continually to attract, but we at the same time have a real hypocrisy about personal relationships and sex. I think it's unhealthy. I think one of the things Planned Parenthood is doing is trying to create more dialogue and make it socially acceptable to say these are the needs, these are the actions that have to be taken."

"Families should be planned, and the man has as much right to do that as the woman," Turner declared. But she did not encourage corporations and Hollywood to tone down the use of sex, choosing instead to make use of it.

COURAGE UNDER FIRE

Now he has gone and done it. Bishop Raymond L. Burke of La Crosse, Wisconsin, who has been appointed the next Archbishop of St. Louis, Missouri, by Pope John Paul II, has warned politicians masquerading as "Catholic" that by voting pro-abortion they are not in communion with the Church. Burke has stated that politicians may not "promote any legislation" that would either continue or worsen "anti-life practices." The Archbishop-elect told Milwaukee's *Journal Sentinel* that politicians who continue to do wrong will be asked "not to present themselves to receive the sacraments because they would not be Catholics in good standing."

Obtained by the newspaper through freedom of information laws, the Bishop's letter was mailed to pro-abortion politicians in the diocese who identify themselves as "Catholic." Pro-abortion Senator Julie Lassa (D) received the letter. "You have failed to restrict the evil of abortion when the opportunity presented itself..." the Bishop wrote. "I call upon you to consider the consequences for your own spiritual well-being, as well as the scandal you risk by leading others into serious sin. As a faithful member of the Catholic Church, you have an obligation to fulfill the duties of your office with regard not only to the laws of the state, but also with regard to the moral law."

Accompanying Burke's letter was a copy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics." He stressed that bishops have a duty to "enlighten the consciences of political leaders to the protection of life, especially political leaders who are Catholics." Lawmakers were encouraged to read the document and make an appointment to meet with the Bishop to discuss the matter.

Lassa, who decided against meeting with the Bishop, the newspaper she is "concerned that the bishop would pressure legislators to vote according to the dictates of the church instead of the wishes of their constituents because that is not consistent with our Democratic ideals...I appreciate that the bishop has expressed his opinion and I will take that into consideration, but I have to consider what's in the best interest of my constituents...But I can't let my religion take precedence over my duties as a legislator."

"This is the common rhetorical mantra spewed by pro-abortion politicians," said LDI's Douglas R. Scott. "First of all, this is a republic, not a democracy. Is Lassa arguing that killing unborn children is consistent with 'Democratic ideals'? If not, who does she support it? If a majority of the voters in her district wanted to kill all homeless people would Lassa vote for such a bill? This is about leadership. This is about standing on principle. This is about bringing your personal life into harmony with your public life. This is about explaining just how the killing of unborn children is in the 'best interest' of any constituent. But, of course, this assumes that Lassa is personally pro-life and takes her faith the least bit seriously as opposed to viewing her religion are nothing more than a social club."

Rep. Marlin Schneider (D), whose state assembly district is part of Lassa's Senate district, assailed Burke's action. "Churches ought not [sic] use the pulpit for blatant political purposes. When they start

telling legislators how to vote, they've crossed the line." Schneider calls himself a Lutheran. Predictably, Scott said it is time for more church leaders to "'use the pulpit for blatant political purposes.' To do otherwise is to have a hand in a grave injustice."

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"The oral contraceptive, developed by Gregory Pincus, lowered the 'whoops!' factor to less than 1%, making it, for a time, the most effective form of family planning short of surgical sterilization."

— one item on the historic list "The Next Big Thing," *Time*, September 8, 2003.

PRO-ABORTION ACTIVISTS CRY FOUL

Rekha Basu, a columnist for the pro-abortion Des Moines *Register*, is upset with Dubuque County Right to Life (DCRL). What was the sin? DCRL "outed" a pro-abortion baseball team owner.

In a December 31, 2003, column, Basu complained that, "Ordinarily, baseball and abortion have little to do with each other." The writer uses the very next sentence to take a shot at DCRL. "Except in Dubuque, where abortion has something to do with everything, it seems."

Earlier in the month, the citizens of Dubuque voted against spending \$6 million on bonds for a stadium in order to get a professional baseball team. But it seems that, according to Basu, "abortion became an unexpected subtext to the debate."

A week before the referendum, DCRL President Arthur Gilloon sent letters to 3,300 pro-lifers exposing Michael Gartner, an owner of the baseball team in question, as a Planned Parenthood supporter. The letter was also published in the Dubuque *Telegraph Herald*. Gilloon said Gartner had served on the board of Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa in Des Moines (PPGI). Basu pointed out that Gartner had agreed to serve on PPGI's board but due to time constraints he "never actually served." (Is this supposed to exonerate him?) Gartner was master of ceremonies for PPGI's fund-raising event in September 2003 and January 2004.

Gilloon asked whether Gartner's having a "foothold" in Dubuque would encourage PPGI to renew its efforts to establish an abortion facility in Dubuque. "You know how that works," Basu's sarcasm began. "You bring in a baseball team and next thing, you've got an abortion clinic, and women are being enticed into getting its services. I've seen some odd litmus tests and some labored connections, but this is about as odd and as labored as I've ever seen." This is one way to avoid the real point of Gilloon's argument.

Basu spent a full paragraph covering Gartner's résumé as though his success as a businessman could invalidate Gilloon's points.

PPGI President Jill June referred to Gartner as "a national figure with whom she's grateful and proud to be associated. It's a great loss to the city of Dubuque that his wisdom, leadership and gifts will not be directed there." What June meant to say was that Gartner is a national and *very wealthy* figure.

Basu takes over Gartner's defense:

Possibly—though I'd have no reason to know this—Gartner shares the view of a majority of Americans and the U.S. Supreme Court that abortion is a private matter between a woman and her health professional. And perhaps he is guilty of believing that when it comes to unplanned pregnancies, prevention and education, where Planned Parenthood puts its emphases, are the best solutions.

Possibly, though we would have no reason to know this, Basu misrepresents the views of Americans out of ignorance. And maybe she is sugarcoating Planned Parenthood's activities out of sheer habit. Whatever the case, Basu is flatly wrong on both counts.

What Gartner believes "is Gartner's business," Basu wrote. "Just as it's his business where he donates his money, \$5,000 of which was sent to Des Moines' Planned Parenthood last week with a note saying it was among charitable contributions he and his wife had originally earmarked to donate to Dubuque institutions if they had done business there." In other words, Dubuque residence chose principle over Gartner's money. This is apparently a foreign concept to Basu.

Once again Basu decided to attack DCRL's leadership, claiming its leaders live in a "black-and-white, my-way-or-no-way world." Basu had much more to say on the matter:

[T]here is no accommodation for differing beliefs. You blacklist anyone who doesn't share yours and hijack any economic-development plan they're associated with. And deny women the credit of knowing their own circumstances and needs better than you.

Not surprisingly, Basu wrote that "reproductive choices of Iowa's women should be theirs alone." She also claimed to be worried about the women who live in pro-life Dubuque. Basu especially "worries" about the "poor and young" women she alleges have "limited access to factual information and services, functioning in a stifling climate of enforced orthodoxy and taboos."

"I can't imagine you could get elected [to public office in Dubuque County] unless you were Right to Life," said Fran Hansen, president and chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa and Cedar Rapids. "In an environment like that, pro-choice people are not going to speak out if they have a business or something. They would lose."

Basu praised those communities that "set aside their religious differences in the interest of pluralism and tolerance." In order to do so, of course, some religions would have to cave in on one of their most basic beliefs. Such compromise would make Christianity unrecognizable.

"It's clear that Planned Parenthood is still smarting over the beating it took when the residents of Dubuque stood up against its effort to build a facility in their community," said LDI's Douglas R. Scott. "And those who wish to demonize pro-life leaders for speaking the truth should get used to it. It is what we do best." Scott praised the work of Gilloon and the other leaders of DCRL for doing just that—speaking the truth. DCRL is nationally known as one of the most effective local pro-life organizations in the country.

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please join us in daily prayer for the men and women who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions: *January*—members of the anti-life band **Hell on Earth**; *February*—Democrat candidate for President **Al Sharpton**, N.Y.; *March*—Senator **Joseph Lieberman**, D-Conn.; and *April*—presidential candidate and Senator **John Edwards**, D-N.C.

TARGET: TEENAGERS

Planned Parenthood of Western Washington (PPWW) is now offering special hours just for East Pierce County teenagers to walk in, "get educated about reproductive and sexual health," and see clinicians, reports the *Tacoma News Tribune*. The facility is currently open for three hours every Thursday. It takes walk-ins only during those hours. Teenagers may get help during other regular office hours by making appointments.

Free condoms are available in the lobby, but teenagers must see a clinician before receiving birth control pills and other chemicals. For the time being, abortions are not committed at the location, but referrals to another Planned Parenthood facility for the killing procedure are being made.

While teenagers wait in the lobby to see a clinician, Mina Halpern, PPWW's "community educator," uses the opportunity to indoctrinate them in the areas of birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and "emergency contraception." She claims the staff is seeing an increase in sexually transmitted diseases among teenagers, although she did not have specific numbers.

True to form, Planned Parenthood has created a group of young volunteers to spread the word about the new "services" offered at the Puyallup, Washington, office. And staff members often go to local schools to provide "sexuality education."

"The only reason that kids would have to go to Planned Parenthood is to get pills and abortions," said Kathy McEntee, who has organized the annual March for Life in Olympia since 1979. She has long been a critic of Planned Parenthood and thinks the new "services" will send the wrong message to teenagers. "We are putting our kids at risk," McEntee told the newspaper. "I'm trying to expose the myth that abortion is safe."

UPDATE: CORPORATE FUNDING PROJECT

There are several modifications to *The Boycott List* released in November 2003. The first is that **Mrs. Field's Famous Brands Inc.** was pulled as a boycott target before *The Boycott List* was released to Partners but not prior to the publication going to press. We are also pleased to announce that **Schering-Plough Inc.** and **The Home Depot** are no longer boycott targets.

ABUSING A BAD SITUATION

So-called "right to die" proponents are still trying to push Terri Schindler Schiavo, who has brain damage, over a cliff. In December 2003, End of Life Choices (ELC), formerly called the Hemlock Society, began a \$60,000 campaign throughout Florida to "raise public awareness of living wills and other instruments for decision-making regarding medical and therapeutic care," the Associated Press reported.

"Today's headlines are full of the pain of unspoken wishes," said one of the ads, which were purchased in major newspapers in Miami, Orlando, Tampa and Tallahassee. "Save your loved ones the anguish of making a difficult decision when you are unable to speak for yourself."

The *Baptist Press* reported that discussion about living wills has prompted concerns related to assisted suicide and euthanasia. At issue is how easily the lines can blur when trying to find comfort for someone who is ready to die and causing someone's death outright.

As readers of *The Caleb Report* know, Terri Schindler Schiavo is now in what some doctors call a "persistent vegetative state." In Florida, people determined to be in such a condition are *legally* (not accurately) considered "terminally ill." Basic nutrition and hydration have been labeled "artificial life support."

Pat Anderson, attorney for Schindler Schiavo's parents, told the *Florida Baptist Witness* that ELC is using Terri's situation incongruously. "They want to take advantage of Terri's situation to prey on the fears of older Floridians," Anderson said. "Terri's case is not about living wills."

ELC advocates "options in dying for terminally ill, mentally competent persons (regardless of age)" and promotes "the right of these individuals to hasten their death" under what it calls "careful safeguards." ELC's David Brand said it is his group's hope that "tragic situations such as the Terri [Schindler] Schiavo case can be avoided in the future by encouraging people to speak out about end-of-life choices."

"The Pro-Life Movement ran into trouble as soon as some people began to accept the living will approach," said LDI's Douglas R. Scott. "Too many people have also come to accept nutrition and hydration as some sort of 'medical treatment.' This serves as an example of how a compromise can lead to our own fall." Scott urged Floridians to convince lawmakers to change the definitions of "terminally ill" and "medical treatment" so they reflect reality, not the political sentiments of some.

CO-FOUNDER NEEDS A DICTIONARY

"Retirement." That is what LDI co-founder and former executive director Patricia Pitkus Bainbridge claimed to have in mind when she and her husband moved from Amherst, New York, to Rockford, Illinois. Bainbridge would care for her elderly (yet feisty) mother and enjoy a life of leisure. But "retirement" is clearly a word with which she is unfamiliar.

Since "retiring," Bainbridge has become a member of Human Life International's (HLI) Board of Directors. She has accepted what amounts to a fulltime position as associate director of the Respect Life Office at the Diocese of Rockford. Bainbridge, who continues to work with LDI's staff and Board of Directors in an advisory and promotional capacity, is also serving as chairman of the Department for Life/Catholic Conference of Illinois. Working under the authority of Bishop Thomas G. Doran and Fr. David Peck, Bainbridge has flourished and confirmed her position as one of the world's most esteemed pro-life leaders.

“I don’t think Bishop Doran and Father Peck initially realized just who had moved to their town,” said LDI’s Douglas R. Scott. “But they soon began to see that this was not your average pro-lifer.” Bainbridge has been an established leader on the national and international levels of the Pro-Life Movement for a decade or more. “Let’s just say both men now know what a blessing they have in their midst,” Scott said.

As usual, Bishop Doran and Father Peck did the right thing and stood behind Bainbridge’s work. All three have remained strong in the face of internal pressure from less-than-pro-life “Catholics,” several of whom are employed by the Diocese.

Catholiccitizens.org recently described Bainbridge as “a widely respected” pro-life leader. And HLI did not ask her to serve as a member of its Board of Directors without good reason. After facing serious internal division and accusations of impropriety, the leadership, commitment, honesty, and steadfastness of Bainbridge did much to show the world that HLI is once again under superb and godly leadership (HLI President Fr. Thomas Euteneuer is *beyond remarkable!*) and it has fully resumed its great work.

“Any organization that includes sinners is subject to internal problems. These may range from backbiting to embezzlement to attempted coup d’états,” Scott said. “LDI has faced some bad times as has virtually every other pro-life group. But like HLI, the hardship led to stronger leaders and a cleansing of the organization. It is amazing how one can eventually see the hand of God working in what appears at the time to be the most ungodly situation imaginable.”

Bainbridge has taken on strong “political” forces, both in and out of the Diocese of Rockford. One challenge involved the release of a statement that led the Diocese to end its association with CROP WALK, a community-based fund-raising event for local hunger-fighting agencies as well as the international relief and development efforts of pro-abortion Church World Service.

Bainbridge’s work led to the development of a diocese-wide policy regarding who may speak at church events. The new policy bans pro-abortion speakers from all Catholic institutions: “[P]ermission to speak at or use diocesan, parish, or institutional property shall not be granted to individuals who hold any view that is contrary to the Catholic Magisterium’s moral teaching and practice.”

A memorandum accompanied the policy that was sent to all Catholic institutions in the diocese. Bainbridge introduced the policy by saying she hopes that “all

other Dioceses in the state will also adopt the same or similar statement” and that she will use her position as chairman of the Department for Life/Catholic Conference of Illinois “to encourage this action.”

One layman who was encouraging the adoption of such a policy was former state senator Patrick O’Malley, who had participated in a protest outside St. Xavier University during a lecture by pro-abortion former Governor Jim Edgar, R-Ill. Ironically, Edgar had been invited to address the Catholic community on his “moral compass,” which is not unlike asking Ted Kennedy to speak on safe driving. In a letter to Bainbridge, O’Malley said, “As someone who has served in the Illinois General Assembly for ten years, my experience confirms that the adoption of policies as would enforce such an exclusion will profoundly change the debate on abortion in Illinois.”

O’Malley suggested that one way to make pro-life policies for Catholic politicians effective would be to create a list of those who accept the fullness of Christian teaching on sexual morality and the value of life. “The only way to be eligible (for having your name placed on such a list),” he suggested, “would be to vote pro-life and/or repent.” O’Malley predicted that in Cook County alone, “the number of politicians who would change their position on the issue of abortion and/or be removed from office (by voters) would be enough to profoundly change the laws in Illinois. Think what could happen if this is done statewide.”

In Chicago, several pro-abortion activists have been allowed access to Catholic institutions. The most egregious example has to be the invitation extended to Al Sharpton by Pastor Michael Pfleger. Sharpton was asked to speak during Mass at Saint Sabina’s Catholic Church. The rabidly pro-abortion presidential candidate gave an emotional and loud political speech in which he condemned President George W. Bush.

Karl Maurer, editor of Catholic Citizens of Illinois’ weekly newsletter and catholiccitizens.org, wrote about the problem facing the Catholic Church:

Throughout the United States, many Catholic Bishops continue to allow pro-abortion Catholics to flaunt their defiance of Church teachings without fear of retribution. Many in the Church hierarchy clearly are concerned that if they alienate pro-abort politicians who support their ‘social justice’ agenda, it will result in abandonment or even revenge by these politicians.

Considering our rapidly devolving pagan society, and a Federal Court system that no longer hides its overt hostility to Christian moral truth, it is

encouraging to see the Rockford Diocese firing back as the Cultural Revolution expands.

Catholic Citizens of Illinois hopes that other bishops in Illinois are willing and able to take the same courageous approach.

Next to her husband, former national ice dance champion and Olympian Walter “Red” Bainbridge, Patricia Pitkus Bainbridge’s biggest fan is clearly LDI’s other co-founder. “Patricia and Red are like family to me. They have remarkable wisdom and unwavering—and I mean *totally* solid—moral principles. I would trust both of them with my life,” Scott said.

Yes, anyone blessed enough to know Bainbridge would understand that “retirement” is a word which is foreign to her. And the elderly, infirm, and unborn child are better off because of it.

The Caleb Report, an official periodical of Life Decisions International (LDI), is published six times per year. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of every LDI Partner or members of its Board of Directors/Advisors or staff. Visit us at: www.fightpp.org. This publication may be copied so long as it is done in full. It may be quoted so long as proper citation is provided with the quotation. Write: P.O. Box 75161, Washington, DC 20013-0161. Phone: (540) 631-0380.

© 2004 Life Decisions International.