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Judie Brown Energizes Pro-life Audience

Dan Hagan

On Sunday February 2nd at Boundary Oaks Country Club in Walnut Creek, a roomful of California Right to Life supporters enjoyed a beautiful brunch featuring an inspiring talk by Judie Brown, founder of American Life League and veteran of some 35 years in the pro-life movement. Judie's message, entitled "Roe v Wade: 30 Years is Enough," minced few words in its penetrating analysis of the current situation. Judie pointed out that to a secular humanist, the conscience of the pro-abortion movement, "Abortion is a Sacrament." She explained that the promotion of abortion under the guise of using health care is the pro-abortion strategy supported by the Doe vs. Bolton court case.

Some good news was included in Judie's talk: more and more young people are beginning to question the abortion movement. Partial -Birth Abortion has dramatically brought this issue into question. She tells youth, "One third of your generation has been aborted and you are one of the survivors." This realization has had a tremendous impact on many young proliferers.

During the Q and A segment one revealing question was, "What has been the most significant data in the pro-life movement?" "Ultrasound!" Judie responded. "It is undeniable and when we are able to show a young pregnant woman her baby on screen the results are very positive."

A tape of Judie Brown's talk is available for a donation of at least \$5. Send your name and address, and note on the enclosed donation slip that you would like a copy of the tape.

--- Ethics Question on Hospice Care

A call came in last week from a Sister in Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity order, asking for information on end of life issues and medical ethics, especially as they relate to Hospice Care. We were able to put her in contact with one of our members who is an expert in the field of medical bioethics.

CRL Hits the Streets: Roe v Wade Commemoration

Wednesday, January 22 marked the 30th anniversary of the infamous Roe v Wade decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. To commemorate this sad anniversary, about 60 dedicated proliferers including grandparents, working men and women, families with small children, and teens gathered early in the morning at the Walnut Creek Planned Parenthood abortion facility to take part in California Right to Life's prayerful remembrance of the 43 million children killed by abortion since 1973. This quiet, somber crowd filled the sidewalks on Oakland Boulevard in

front of the abortion mill, praying and holding signs proclaiming the ugly truth of abortion to the commuters passing by. One young man dressed as the Grim Reaper stood in silent witness to the lives lost on that very spot. Each participant in the prayer vigil renewed his solidarity with our unborn brothers and sisters and strengthened his resolve to persevere in the prolife effort. Thanks to everyone who joined us!

Looking ahead...

---- Abstinence talk to youth at risk

At the end of February, California Right to Life's Executive Director, Cecelia Cody, will be speaking at Berkeley Youth Alternatives to "youth at risk" on abstinence. Many thanks to our generous donors for underwriting the prolife materials that will be distributed there.

---- Lecture on Stem Cell Research

In March Cecelia will be giving a talk in Walnut Creek on stem cell research – why embryonic stem cell research is wrong, and why we should be concentrating on adult stem cell research. Watch for details on this important current topic in our next newsletter!

---- Prolife presence at U.C. Berkeley

Our April plans include visiting the U.C. Berkeley campus to proclaim the message of life at the California Republican Annual Convention. If you would like to assist in this project, please contact us.

Sacramento – January 22, 2003

by Camille Giglio

January 22, 1973. Thirty years later, the day began foggy and very cool, threatening rain. Not a good omen for attendance at a public open-air event by the pampered citizens of California.

Early in the morning I watched C-Span reporting on the attendance at the Pro Life Rally in Washington, D.C. Thousands of people had braved freezing temperatures, some of them driving long distances, to witness to the value of human life in front of the Supreme Court. Would it be the same in Sacramento? I left home for the 70-mile drive to Sacramento with a heavy heart.

How delighted I became as the day progressed. The highway was free of fog, the traffic was light and I found a parking space near the Capitol. The day warmed up considerably, the rain held off and, yes, people had driven long distances to attend this prolife memorial.

A busload of 56 people drove through the night from Southern California. Another busload arrived from Santa Clara and one from Yuba City. People came from Auburn and Modesto. Many of the people with whom I've worked all these years were there. Even more heart warming were all the young people, members of "Teens for Life," as well as families with young children. The Sacramento Bee reported the attendance of 900 people at the North steps of the Capitol for the noon rally.

The main focus of the day was the opportunity for all these people to meet with their legislators, carrying to them the message that innocent human life is valuable and the request to cease and desist funding abortion.

Though legislators have become inured to demonstrations and demands from citizens, it was the first time many of these people had spoken to their legislators or visited the Capitol. They were fired up with zeal for life and are heartened to press the issue with legislators in their home districts.

The message, which we encourage all of you to carry, continually, to your legislator is this: "Include in the yearly budget the statement that there will be no funding for state paid abortions, especially repeat

abortions.” Urge legislators to vote “NO” on accepting the budget unless and until it contains that wording.

Republicans have the ultimate ability to control passage of the budget because it takes a two-thirds vote to pass the budget or raise taxes. Many of them will not find the courage to stand against the Governor’s demands unless you, the tax paying, voting citizens, give them an incentive to oppose the budget.

Of course, the biggest news coming out of the day’s events was Bishop William Weigand’s challenge to Governor Davis to change his position on abortion or do the responsible thing and stop receiving Holy Communion at Mass. This was an extraordinary and brave action for the Bishop to take. He needs your thanks because Governor Davis could make the months ahead very difficult for the Catholic Church through restrictions on the funding of state programs that are run by the church and on issues, now before the courts, regarding Catholic Hospitals, their legal, nonprofit status and the state demands that all hospitals provide or refer for abortion and contraceptives.

We would like to keep you informed of the legislative and budget activities in the state so that you can directly participate in the protection of innocent human life. Please consider submitting your email address to the California Right to Life Committee, Inc. email center - crtlif@aol.com - to receive periodic updates on legislation, where to email or write your position and, in general, statements to support that position.

Streamlining our Educational Efforts...

California Right to Life is focusing on four ways to reach the general public with the prolife message: radio and television advertising, billboards, mall tables, and our website, www.calright2life.com. We are also available for media interviews and prolife talks for schools and other groups. Your generous donations underwrite our costs to further these efforts. In order to maximize the direct impact your funding provides for these projects, we have reduced our overhead costs by consolidating our library of prolife materials into a smaller storage space. **If you know of anyone who would be willing to donate office space for our library materials, please call Cecelia at (925) 944-5351.** In the meantime, we are very pleased to be able to offer increased telephone availability and continued public access to the CRL library by appointment.

How you can help...

- 16 ***Do you enjoy talking to people?*** Help at a mall table one Saturday a month at Concord’s Sun Valley Mall, at our new mall table effort at Monterey’s Del Monte Mall, or call us to help start one in your local area.
- 17 ***Do you have expertise on a life issue?*** Become a CRL contact for media on a life issue such as euthanasia or stem cell research. Call us to be added to our resource list.
- 18 ***Are you a teen or young adult, ages 15-25?*** Volunteer to be on our “media contact list” for chastity or other young adult issues.
- 19 ***Are you willing to make a financial sacrifice to spread the prolife message?*** Donate funds to help with California Right to Life’s targeted educational projects. Your ongoing contributions are much needed and greatly appreciated.