



## PRO LIFE NEWS (April 7, 2008)

### St. Malachy Council 12540

**Will the Holy Father Discipline Some of his Children?** When he visits the United States later this month, Pope Benedict XVI is expected to hold Catholic colleges accountable for having invited pro-abortion speakers to campus. The pontiff has requested an audience with more than 200 top officials from Catholic universities and he is expected to make it clear they need to follow Church teachings. According to Patrick Reilly, president of the Cardinal Newman Society, a leading watchdog in monitoring Catholic colleges and the speakers they bring, several bishops and Vatican officials have indicated the Pope's speech will "raise a lot of eyebrows." Rev. David M. O'Connell, president of Catholic University, stated, "One thing the Pope will emphasize is the importance for all (Catholic) schools to realize that they aren't independent contractors, they are part of the church." Father O'Connell said the Pope could address the need to hire Catholic staff for colleges and to reinstate teachings about absolute truth, such as the inviolability of the right to life.

**Indiana Legislature Fails to Protect Pharmacists:** After initially getting approval from the Indiana Senate, Senate Bill 3, which would have protected pharmacists by removing any legal discipline for refusing to dispense drugs that they believe could cause abortions, died in the House. The bill never made it out of House committee. Mike Fichter, the director of Indiana Right to Life, blamed the result on pro-abortion representatives who prevented the bill from getting a hearing. He stated, "Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle were ready to pass this protective measure, but Speaker of the House Pat Bauer and his Democrat committee chairmen did everything within their power to make sure the bill never had a shot for passage."

**Confronting Susan G. Komen Here at Home:** As we have discussed, Komen affiliates across the nation have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Planned Parenthood and the group has denied the abortion-breast cancer link. Now the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette wants its parishioners to boycott the April Race for the Cure in Indianapolis. The Diocese recently released this statement: *Due to its policy allowing affiliates to offer financial support to abortion providing facilities, its endorsement of embryonic stem cell research, and the continued denial that abortion may well lead to the development of breast cancer, it is not appropriate for Catholics to participate.* Rather than supporting Komen, the Diocese is asking Catholics to donate their time and money to local hospitals and other groups that provide breast cancer screenings and medical care.

**Whatever Happened to the Hippocratic Oath?** In Oregon, officials have released their tenth statewide report on the status of assisted suicide there. It found the number of people who died by assisted suicide is on the rise and also showed the number of people getting drugs to use in taking their own lives is increasing as well. More people received lethal drugs from doctors to kill themselves than any previous year under the state's first-in-the-nation law legalizing assisted suicide. Of particular concern to the pro-life community is that doctors aren't doing more to help patients address the mental health issues that likely prompt them to consider suicide. According to Rita Marker of the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, "During 2007, not one patient who died under Oregon's assisted suicide law was referred for psychiatric or psychological evaluation before receiving the prescription for lethal drugs."

**Psychiatrists (At Least Elsewhere) Beginning to Recognize the Link:** England's national organization for psychiatrists, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, for the first time ever says women should be told that abortions can cause mental health problems. It went as far as to say that abortions shouldn't be done unless women are counseled on the possible mental health risks of abortion. According to a London Times report, the Royal College says brochures given to women considering an abortion need to be updated to reflect the mental health problems so many women encounter following an abortion. Dr. Peter Saunders, general secretary of the Christian Medical Fellowship, said in light of this new position by the Royal College doctors who do abortions need to reevaluate the majority of abortions they perform. He states, "How can a doctor now justify an abortion (on mental health grounds) if psychiatrists are questioning whether there is any clear evidence that continuing with the pregnancy leads to mental health problems."

"Respect of the human person from conception to natural death is the only measure to judge any policy, be it the fight against terrorism or the fight against hunger and underdevelopment. Dialogue and interaction become possible when our common human dignity is the guiding value."

*Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, permanent observer of the Holy See of the United Nations, March 5, 2008*