



# MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE

April 2008

## ABORTION NUMBERS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

National Right to Life Cites Pro-Life Education, Legislation as Key

National Right to Life cited an increase in pro-life educational outreach and legislative initiatives as central to a new report issued by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the special research arm of Planned Parenthood, showing the annual number of abortions reaching their lowest level in nearly 30 years.

"Today's numbers confirm what we have known for years -- if women seeking abortions are fully informed about the risks surrounding abortion, the development of their unborn child, and public and private assistance available in their area, they are more likely to reject the idea of abortion," said Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D., NRLC director of education and research. "Women's Right to Know laws, parental involvement laws, bans on partial-birth abortion -- all of which continue to be enacted by the states -- not only help women facing crisis pregnancies, they also raise the public's awareness about abortion and the humanity of the unborn child."

The Guttmacher Institute report finds just over 1.2 million abortions in the United States in 2005, down nearly 25% from their high of 1.6 million in 1990, and the lowest reported total since 1.179 million in 1976. Additionally, the report shows the abortion rate (the number of abortions per every thousand women age 15-44) down to 19.4 per thousand -- the lowest since 1974. The Guttmacher report speculates that the lower abortion rates may be due to "more women carrying unintended pregnancies to term," implicitly acknowledging that attitudes toward abortion and pregnancy may have substantially changed.

Much of that attitudinal shift can be attributed to the efforts of National Right to Life and its state affiliates in passing legislation at

the federal and state levels to protect unborn children and equip their mothers with information.

Twenty-three states have women's right-to-know laws that provide women seeking abortions with information about abortion and its risks, biological information about the development of their unborn child, and available alternatives to abortion, including, significantly, the types of both governmental and private assistance available if they choose to bear their child.

Twenty-eight states have laws providing for parental involvement in a minor daughter's abortion decision. Other data show that teen abortion rates have fallen further and faster than abortion rates as a whole.

Also significant has been the enactment of partial-birth abortion bans at the federal and state level. Public debate surrounding these laws has further increased the public's awareness about

abortion and the development of unborn children in utero.

Educational outreach has also played a significant role in changing the public's attitude about abortion. Every year, thousands of pieces of literature are distributed at fair booths and events nationwide. Furthermore, polling trends continue to show that the majority of Americans oppose the vast majority of abortions.

"What the pro-life movement has done, and continues to do, has saved hundreds of thousands of lives," Dr. O'Bannon added. "Falling abortion rates are a sure sign that, given truthful information about abortion, about its impact on their lives, about the child growing inside them, and given even the slightest help and encouragement, many women will choose life."

## Missouri Department of Health 2006 Abortion Figures

While there was a slight increase in the number of resident abortions and the break out number of teen abortions in the 2006 figures, resident abortion rates in Missouri continue to be significantly lower than the numbers of the late 1970's and the 1980's.

### Resident Abortions

2006	11,833
2005	11,619
2004	11,871
2003	12,476
2001	12,266
2000	12,292
1990	17,947
1985	19,210
1980	21,671

### Teen Abortions

2006	2,023
2005	1,925
2004	2,026
2003	2,066
2001	2,365
2000	2,489
1990	4,306
1985	5,235
1980	7,006

### Repeat Abortions

2006	4,934
2005	5,028
2004	4,978
2003	5,405
2001	5,343
2000	5,598
1990	6,828
1985	6,450
1980	5,932

These 2006 figures are the most current and complete available from the Missouri Dept. of Health as of January 2008.



## Thought You'd Like To Know . . .

An elementary school in Wenatchee, Wash., has raised \$12,000 to help a kindergarten teacher pay for adult stem-cell treatment that could help her beat lymphoma, KING 5 News reported. Doctors tried chemo, but it wasn't enough. This week, Marcy Hegberg of Mission View Elementary School will begin a costly stem-cell transplant at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

Dawn Vargo, associate bioethics analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said the kindergartners are on to something. "We should be putting our time and energy toward adult stem-cell therapies that provide treatments for patients like their teacher," she said. "Rather than wasting taxpayer dollars on unproven and unethical embryonic stem-cell research, let's put our money toward proven and tangible adult stem-cell therapies."

CitizenLink.org 3/5/08

Geron, a leading biotech firm, says it's going to try experiments on humans this spring using embryonic stem cells. Chief Executive, Dr. Thomas Okarma, said these trials await FDA approval. His company has spent \$100 million on embryonic stem cell research and wants to begin injecting the controversial cells into humans with spinal cord injuries.

According to a CNN report, Okarma said the studies would involve 40 patients and it would be the first time the cells had been used in humans. The process to get approval could be time consuming. "This is the first time that a human embryonic stem cell application is being submitted to the FDA, so there's a good chance that some questions will arise, said industry analyst Ren Benjamin.

Three other biotech firms, Advanced Cell Technology, Neuralstem, and Novocell want to include humans in embryonic stem cell research studies. The trials pose problems other than ethical objections from pro-life groups -- this controversial science has never been able to overcome the immune system rejection issue.

News Brief, Anglicans for Life March 2008

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## Status of State Legislation 2008

*Jim Cole, State Legislation Chair*

**Hearings have been held on several bills of interest to pro-lifers.** This year's primary pro-life bill, SB 1058, sponsored by Senator Rob Mayer, and HB 1831, sponsored by Rep. Bob Onder, bolsters the requirements for informed consent and outlaws the practice of coercing abortions. It was heard by a Senate committee on February 18 with Missouri Right to Life (MRL) testifying in favor of the bill. Pro-abortionists objected vehemently to certain particulars in the definition of coercion. On March 5, SB 1058 was brought up on the Senate floor for debate, but after opening statements were made, it was returned to the calendar for future action.

Another bill, HB 1984, sponsored by former MRL board member Rep. Therese Sander of Moberly, was heard by a House committee on March 5. HB 1984 would update the State's statistical reports on abortion to specify the methods of abortion currently used. MRL testified in the bill's favor. The committee voted to combine the bill with a related bill, HB 1922, sponsored by Rep. Belinda Harris, and sent the combined bills to the floor.

MRL also offered testimony in favor of HB 1339, sponsored by Rep. Scott Muschany, to remove abortion clinics from certain protections offered by current Missouri law against medical malpractice lawsuits.

A bill to prohibit the formation of animal-human combinations using biotechnology has been introduced as HB 1953, sponsored by Rep. Jim Lembke, but the Speaker has not assigned it to committee. It is expected that the cloning industry will oppose the bill.

Pro-abortion activists sponsored SCR 28, a resolution to ratify the 1972 federal Equal Rights Amendment. Missouri Right to Life testified in opposition because such an amendment would be very likely to spawn court decisions that would erase all regulations of abortion that have been passed in the last 35 years. State court decisions on state ERA's supply the precedents. The rationale of the adverse state-court decisions is that only women can be pregnant and undergo abortions, so it is sex discrimination to regulate abortions. Federal courts should not be given the opportunity to rule that a federal ERA has the same effect. The companion House bill is HCR 14. It was referred to committee, but has not had a hearing yet. MRL will testify against it when and if it has a hearing.

The Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act is being pushed by one bill in each house, SB 1139 & HB 2106, respectively. The bill contained one glaring pro-abortion provision: it allowed parents of minor children to agree in advance, before a child's death, that the child's organs and tissue may be taken for research or transplantation after death. No protection for the unborn is included in SB 1139. Therefore, it is possible, under this bill, for abortion clinics to obtain a mother's consent for donation of an aborted child's organs and tissues at the same time as the mother's permission for an abortion is obtained. When a pregnancy is far enough along for it to matter, abortionists should not be able to induce a doubtful mother to proceed with an abortion by promising that it will be all right because the child's organs or tissue can be used to help other children. Missouri Right to Life has already written about this problem to

the members of both the Senate and the House committees considering the bills.

At the printing of this newsletter we have been able to put a pro-life amendment on HB 2106. We hope this amendment will remain on HB 2106 and we are working to put the pro-life amendment on SB 1139.

### Legislators' Dissatisfaction with MRL

In several public events, state legislators who voted several times in 2007 to give money to the cloning industry have complained that publishing their voting records in the MRL News has made them appear more pro-death than pro-abortion legislators. The complaining legislators conveniently forget that MRL wrote them memo after memo in 2007 to make clear MRL's opposition to the measures for which they voted. They cast the votes; MRL only reported them. No legislator has claimed that an error in his or her voting record has been made.

Cloning is at least as much a pro-life issue as abortion, and in this writer's opinion, more so. The amount of tax dollars involved in 2007 dwarfs the amounts that pro-lifers fought against being provided to abortionists in the 1990's, and the numbers of lives that will be lost by cloning and killing human beings in order to obtain embryonic stem cells will dwarf the numbers lost to abortion. Being pro-life requires more than just being anti-abortion.

The ratings of legislators for the purpose of PAC endorsements are based on four-year averages, so the voting records of 2007 will not, by themselves, be the measure that is used to assess the lawmakers as future candidates.

## A Successful Pro-Life Action Day

On Tuesday, March 11, hundreds of pro-life citizens from across Missouri came to the State Capitol for MRL's Pro-Life Action Day. After registering in the third floor rotunda, they went to workshops presented by MRL attorneys Jim Cole and Jerry Nieters to learn more about current legislation. Many took advantage of the opportunity to be trained to gather signatures for the MO Cures Without Cloning Campaign initiative petition at another workshop presented by Steve Rupp, a member of the Eastern Region Board.

The halls of the Capitol were filled with voters wearing "red for life," as they called on their legislators to urge support for pro-life legislation.



MRL Legislative Liaison Susan Klein (standing right) gives information to some of those attending Pro-Life Action Day.



Many at Pro-Life Action Day take the opportunity to attend workshops explaining this year's pro-life legislation and the MO Cures Without Cloning Campaign.

"It's gratifying to see so many people who care enough about pro-life legislation to take their valuable time to participate in this event," said Pam Fichter, State President. "I'm particularly thrilled to see so many families participating. Besides voting, there's no better way to participate in the process than to call on your elected representatives in person."

A summary of the legislation MRL is supporting is included in a separate article. The legislative session ends on May 16.

***To all who attended Pro-Life Action Day, thanks for speaking and for standing for Life!***



Jim Cole, General Counsel

### STATUS: INITIATIVE LITIGATION

Missouri Cures Without Cloning Campaign won an important victory in the Circuit Court of Cole County on February 20, 2008. Circuit Judge Patricia Joyce entered a judgment against the Secretary of State that found the Secretary's ballot summary of the CWC initiative was "insufficient and unfair." As required by governing Missouri statutes, the Judge drafted a substitute ballot summary.

The parties on the other side, both the Secretary of State and the private supporters of cloning who intervened in the case, have appealed the ruling to the Missouri Court of Appeals in Kansas City. That court has expedited the briefing schedule. As of the

writing of this article, oral arguments to the appellate panel of Judges Howard, Smart and Hardwick are set at 2:00 p.m. on March 26, 2008.

### STATUS: LITIGATION AGAINST ABORTION REGULATION LAW OF 2007

In the last issue, an article described the two lawsuits filed by Planned Parenthood against the Missouri Department of Health seeking judgments that the abortion clinic regulations imposed by last year's major pro-life bill are unconstitutional.

The federal judge in case no. 07-4164, pending in the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, issued certain preliminary rulings and told the parties to negotiate on which specific details of Missouri's clinic building regulations would apply. The period for the parties to negotiate has been extended several times, and since the last article, it was extended once again. A report is due

to the Court on May 19, 2008.

In the state court case, Jackson County Circuit Court no. 0716-CC30805, Planned Parenthood has filed a motion for summary judgment. Such a motion claims that the relevant facts are uncontested, and under those facts, the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, without a full-scale trial. As of the date of this writing, the State's response is not yet due. After the response is filed, the motion may be set for an oral argument before the Circuit Judge who is presiding over the case. There is no deadline for the Court to issue its decision on the motion.

If the judge agrees that the relevant facts are undisputed, the motion for summary judgment could result in a judgment that favors either Planned Parenthood or the State. If the judge finds that some relevant facts are still disputed, the case will move forward through the preparation phase and then will go to trial on a date to be determined.

# *How to Talk to Your Patient About an Advance Directive*

## **An educational brochure of National Association of Pro-Life Nurses**

*Conclusion of National Association of Pro-Life Nurses brochure on end-of-life issues. Part one appeared in the February 2008 MRL News and may be accessed at [missourilife.org](http://missourilife.org) or [nursesforlife.org](http://nursesforlife.org).*

### **When to resuscitate, when to use DNR**

If the patient is not expected to recover from the current illness, a Do Not Resuscitate order is entirely appropriate. The situation is complicated, however, when the expectation falls short of the patient's prior level of function. It must be remembered that when healthy, functional individuals are asked under what conditions they would not want to live, their criteria is much higher than when the question is put to those with the very same disabilities. This is a critical area and the importance of the selection of a proxy becomes evident. At this writing, if you do not specify that you wish to be a DNR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is the default.

### **What about a feeding tube?**

Nutrition and hydration have only recently been considered "medical treatment." Those who hold life itself in high regard consider them ordinary means. If the patient is not dying, food and hydration are humane treatment and always indicated. There have traditionally been two rounds on which one could ethically reject a treatment: if it is useless or if it is very burdensome *for the patient*. These must be taken into consideration when faced with a decision about a feeding tube.

### **Defining death**

Death has recently been re-defined to a lower standard for the purpose of harvesting organs. The diagnosis of "brain death" often fits this category. The previous standard of cessation of heartbeat and respiration are a much more reliable criteria, but if the patient is a good candidate for and wishes to be an organ donor, there is often pressure to accept the brain death criteria since it can be used before the traditional standard applies. If you wish to be an organ donor, you must be clear about where you will draw a line and share this with your proxy.

### **Organ donation**

Organ donation is a generous consideration. However, one wants to be sure that he or she is truly dead before proceeding with harvesting of organs. While this seems intuitive, with the push for organ donation there have been ethical concerns about the harvesting from donors.

### **Quality of life**

"Quality" of life is a term coined by the pro-euthanasia people and it has gotten a bad name because of it. But there is a legitimate place for it when the treatment is burdensome and outweighs the benefit. The term must be used cautiously. Again, this is one of the most critical of decisions a proxy can make and it is the area of the most importance that both the patient and proxy be of like mind and objective about this. What is in the best interest and the most likely wish of the patient in this regard?

### **Comfort care**

Care is mandatory; treatment is not. Even if there is concern that strong medication may shorten a patient's life, if the intention is to provide comfort, not to hasten death, it is ethical to administer the medication. Treatments which are burdensome and outweigh the benefits or are futile are not obligatory.

### **Futile care**

It is a bad term. Care is NEVER futile. Again, treatment may be, but care never is. Unfortunately, the term has made its way into the medical lexicon, but it generally refers to the *treatment* being futile, i.e., the patient will not recover with or without the treatment. This distinction is critical. Providing treatment may be optional. Providing care is humane and obligatory.

### **Stopping treatment—is it ever indicated?**

It may be indicated if it is very burdensome *to the patient* and/or outweighs the benefit. It is perhaps, one of the few places where the quality of life after recovery might be considered. There is no difference morally and legally between withholding and withdrawing treatment. Withdraw is, however, generally psychologically more troubling.

### **Ventilators**

Ventilators can be a very unpleasant means of sustaining life, thus, they have gotten a bad reputation. No one ever "wants" to be on a ventilator. But often it is a temporary means of getting over a crisis that the body cannot handle without it. If the patient has a poor prognosis for recovery, it is quite ethical not to be placed on a ventilator, or even to remove one, but a blanket statement denying ventilator treatment under any circumstances is unwise.

### **Antibiotics**

Antibiotics are generally not burdensome and are considered a standard of care. However, some of the newer antibiotics are exorbitantly expensive. If the patient has a poor likelihood of recovery, the expense could be burdensome and it would be acceptable to decline their use.

### **Avoid term extraordinary care**

As a last caution, extraordinary care has grown to include a large number of treatments which are neither burdensome nor outweigh the benefit. Feeding tubes are an example of this. In spite of the ease of insertion and care, and in spite of the fact that providing food and hydration are humane treatment, many consider them extraordinary. Actually, there are few treatments which can now be considered "extraordinary". NAPN believes that medically administered food and hydration by some manner of feeding tube is not extraordinary.

'Burdenome treatment' is intended to mean burdensome for the *patient*, not those affected by the illness of the patient. As the cost of medical care has escalated, it has also come to include financially burdensome. But this implies that a financial value can be placed on a human life, so care must be taken if this is a consideration.

## Tips

- Talk to family members about your wishes to minimize disputes if decisions must be made for you.
- Keep your advance directive document in an accessible, easy-to-find spot.
- Tell your family where to find the document.
- Give copies to your doctor and family members likely to be involved in decision-making.
- If the document is updated, as it might be if you are diagnosed with a terminal illness, be sure you distribute dated new copies to all these persons.

## Take my hand... Not my Life

### National Association of Pro-Life Nurses



Post Office Box 8236 Hot Springs Village, AR 71910-8236 [www.nursesforlife.org](http://www.nursesforlife.org)

*Presented with the permission of Nurses for Life. Any inquiries may be directed through their webpage.*

## A Pro-Life Black History Month Celebration

On February 15, Black Americans for Life celebrated Black History month at their first Awards Banquet held at the Figlio's Tower Restaurant on the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Alveda King was the guest speaker for the event.

Dr. King is the daughter of slain civil rights activist Rev. A.D. King and the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is a staunch defender of the unborn baby.

Of the 283 in attendance, 75% were African American. Dr. King stated that she was very impressed with the cultural mix of the Kansas City Black Americans for Life group. It was a fulfillment of the prophecy that her Uncle Dr. Martin Luther King said in his "I have a dream speech," black men and white men, Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Gentiles working together in unity for civil rights". Dr. Alveda includes the unborn child in her message of civil rights. She has been trying to get across this message to the rest of the country.



Dr. Alveda King (standing center rear) with members of Black Americans for Life

The following Kansas City leaders were honored as being outstanding in the pro-life African American Community; Dr. Charles Briscoe (Beacon of Light), Dr. Brenda Jenkins (Virtue of Life), Pastor Gus Franklin (Protector of Life), Mrs. Mae Jackson (Faithful Witness), and Pastor Aaron Lavender (Defender of Life).

### Support Our Sponsors!

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## SUPPORT THE WORK OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE!

HERE'S SOME WAYS TO DO THAT!

- **Pray for the efforts of Missouri Right to Life**
- **Return your annual Membership appeal**
- **Write letters to the editor supporting Missouri Right to Life**
- **Return the enclosed envelope with your donation for *Life***
- **Remember Missouri Right to Life when preparing your will or when estate planning**
- **Submit your email address to MRL to receive legislative alerts**
- **Make donations of stocks to Missouri Right to Life Education Fund**
- **Sponsor an MRL billboard and display a bumpersticker (see last page)**

**For further information about donation options, & other info contact Patty at the MRL State Office at 573-635-5110 or email [patty.s@missourilife.org](mailto:patty.s@missourilife.org)**

## Memorials

*In memory of a loved one or friend,  
these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.*

*In memory of:*

*Given by:*

*Mary Mueller*

*MRL Sedalia Chapter*

*McVae Wilt*

*Bernard & Barbara Greenwell  
John & Dianna Havermale*

*Ruby Howarth*

*MRL Hannibal Chapter*

*We encourage you to consider a gift in memory of a family member or friend.  
Your gift will support pro-life work to restore respect for the sanctity of life.*

## Western Region plans spring events

The Missouri Right to Life Western Region 5th Annual Golf Tournament will be held Friday, April 25th, at Eagles' Landing Golf Course (former Richards Gebaur Air Base), South 71 Highway to 155th St. exit.

Registration is at 12:00 noon with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. A light lunch will be provided.

- 4-player scramble for women and men
- \$10,000 hole-in-one prize
- Putting contest
- Prize at every hole
- Raffle
- Door Prizes

Dinner and awards ceremony at 5:30 p.m.. Tickets are available for dinner guests.

For additional information or a registration form, please call Western Region at 816-353-4113.

**Missouri Right to Life Western Region has carnations** available for Mothers' Day, May 11th. These long-stemmed blooms are \$1 each with a minimum order of 25. The flowers will be available for pick up at several locations on May 9th and 10th.

Consider ordering for your church congregation, day care moms or nursing home clients as a beautiful witness for Life!

Orders may be placed by calling the Western Region at 816-353-4113.

## Missouri Right to Life 28th Annual Yard Sale

Missouri Right to Life, Hannibal Chapter, will again be having its annual yard sale on May 22-24 at Mabee Sports Complex, Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal.

Good usable clothing and household items may be dropped off Monday, May 19th thru Wednesday, May 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mabee Sports Complex, south entrance.

Sales days will begin with the sneak preview on Thursday, May 22, from 4 -7 p.m. (\$1.00 Admission), followed by Friday, May 23, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 24 from 8am to Noon (50% off Saturday). For more information, or to volunteer, please call Geri Graves at 221-3410.

## Celebrate Pro-Life Revival

### Randall Terry featured speaker

Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, MO, will be the site of the Celebrate Pro-Life Revival. It will be held April 25th and 26th at 7:00 p.m., and April 27th at 2:00 p.m. There will be a "Pizza Blast" for the youth at 5:00 p.m. on April 26th.

Randall Terry, formerly of Operation Rescue and currently with the Society for Truth and Justice, will be the featured speaker.

For additional information, the contact for the event is Ron Hartman at 573-898-5857 or Tina Boltinghouse at 573-795-4617.

Visit

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE

at [www.missourilife.org](http://www.missourilife.org).

Get the latest pro-life news, alerts, updates, and information.

## Pilgrims Make Trip, React, To March for Life 2008

On Sunday morning, January 20, 2008, 141 pilgrims from Springfield to Cape Girardeau boarded buses for their long journey, 24 hours plus, to Washington DC, to join thousands of other pro-life pilgrims to stand up for life. They traveled across southern Missouri picking up passengers, then headed off to the 2008 March For Life.

Catholic University of America hosted the marchers by providing their gym floor for the overnight stay.

Groups broke off and took the Metro Sys-



March participants from Poplar Bluff and Cape Girardeau

tem to do tours from there. Many had never been on a Metro system and thought it was cool to travel underground. Upon returning to the University, the pilgrims attended the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Shrine of America in the evening. This was followed by a spaghetti dinner at the university.

On Monday morning the buses took everyone to the Verizon-MCI Center for the Youth Rally and Mass. There were 25,000 mostly youth at this event. Hundreds had to be turned away as word had spread about this Mass and Rally. What an experience to see the youth singing and participating in this heartwarming event. This was the fifth year that the group attended the event, and it is the most requested event that everyone wants to attend, including the adults.

After the Rally and Mass, the police blocked off the streets so those attending could march down to the National Rally and March For Life. Rain had been forecast for the day, but only a few drops came down during the events. The crowd was estimated at 250,000+ pro-lifers, making it the largest March ever. For those participating, all they could tell was that there were thousands and thousands of pilgrims marching elbow to elbow. The youth far outnumbered the adults.

The majority of pilgrims plan to go on this trip again next year. A special "thank you" to everyone who made this possible by your

prayers, donations, and sponsorship.

Quotes from some of the passengers on the buses about the trip:

"Last year I met a lady who had come to the March for Life every year since Roe vs. Wade. She was inspirational to me – someone who has not given up and is fighting the good fight, probably through prayer, patience, and persistence. I saw in the faces and heard in

the voices of many people this year the same vigilance and determination. May all of us who journeyed to and from our nation's capital find our role in the journey to end this horrific action called abortion."

Donna Anderson, 60-yrs young, St. Joseph Parish, Scott City

"It is amazing to see so many people believing in the same thing and willing to fight for their beliefs."

Amy Beel, 17, Leopold High School

"When I decided to go on the march, I thought maybe there would be a small group that was going to march with me. I was completely shocked to see the thousands of people that were there."

Jessica Deken, 15, Poplar Bluff

"I really am proud of what I did this weekend because I have always been against abortion, but I've never really expressed my opinion."

Keith McCoy 15, Poplar, Bluff

"Thinking about the walk made me think, "Hey, look, I'm going to DC to march for the babies." But while I was marching and when the march was over, I knew that wasn't what I should be thinking. My eyes and mind opened and I learned that it wasn't just babies I was marching for; it was for the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, and grandparents of those babies."

Margaret Cathey, 14, Poplar Bluff

"It has been about 12 years since I've made the trip to Washington DC -- before the birth of my daughter, Evan. Each year since, I've battled between my duties at work and home and whether I should take four days to commit to standing up for life. This year I am proud to have taken my daughter (at her request). While the trip is not a "vacation" -- it is sometimes uncomfortable and tiring -- it IS a way to rededicate yourself to your commitment to life issues. It was inspiring, to say the least, to see so many countless people trying to change our nation's policies."

Krista Keesee, St. Augustine, Kelso

"The March for life was one of the most spiritual events that I have ever been to. To me, seeing all the pro-life supporters from across the nation gather and voice their opinion in a non-violent, non-offensive way is just amazing!"

Michael Herberlie, St. Vincent de Paul School, Cape Girardeau

"I am proud to be part of the largest March for Life on record. Something I will never forget is the pictures of the babies that were aborted."

Josh Baumgart, 14, St. Vincent de Paul School, Cape Girardeau

"What a wonderful witness for the students to see the enormous crowd in support of Pro-Life! Also, they were moved by the public display in terms of signs, charts, and slogans. I hope the public support of Pro-Life makes it easier for them to speak out with their support to live, practicing and supporting Pro-Life."

Virginia Sander, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sponsor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau



Evan Keesee and Maria Drury during the March For Life

# NEW BILLBOARDS PRESENTED BY MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE!

*Aren't they beautiful?*

*They are a special thank you to everyone who has made pro-life his or her life's work!*

*An invitation for others to join us!*

*And a life-affirming project for regions and chapters!*

*To obtain a bumper sticker with the same beautiful design, write, call (573) 635-5110 or email your request to MRL. A donation to cover postage and expenses would be appreciated.*



**P R O - L I F E**

**Make it your Life's work...**

**Join Missouri Right To Life**

**www.missourilife.org • 1-888-MRL-IS4U**

©March 2008

*New billboards have been developed for Missouri Right To Life. They celebrate the wonderful gift of life and the many people who work tirelessly to restore respect for that gift.*

*Plans call for billboards in the Kansas City, the St. Louis, and the Hannibal areas, and they could be across the state. For Chapters and Regions, consider sponsoring billboards in your*

*area. The MRL state office will provide you with all the information you need to see one on your drive home from work, school, church -- anytime you're "on the road." Give them a call at 573-635-5110.*



**P R O - L I F E**

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