

PRO-LIFE Report - March 2010

I attended a *Democrats for Life* meeting on January 22 in which Congressmen Joe Donnelly (IN) and Steve Driehaus (OH) both said that after Scott Brown's election in Massachusetts, Speaker Pelosi asked the *Democrats for Life* – all 64 of them who voted against public funds for abortion -- to vote for the Senate health care bill, as passed by the upper chamber, which would have funded abortions nationwide. They, led by their standard bearer Bart Stupak, held firm. Pelosi then went to the White House and told the President that she did not have the votes to pass the Senate bill in the House and thus could not enact the legislation before Scott Brown was sworn in. Along the *March for Life* route one could see signs saying "Thank You Congressman Stupak." I had a chance to thank personally one of those 64 Congressmen, Michael Michaud of Maine, on February 4.

It would be interesting to speculate what would have happened if the Nelson-Hatch-Casey amendment, which mirrored the Stupak amendment, had been approved by the Senate. We might today have a health care bill minus the abortion funding. But as one Black minister, Luke Robinson from Frederick, Maryland said from the podium on January 22, the abortion industry could have had a health care bill enacted into law without the abortion funding. They chose instead to continue their support of a policy which, according to Planned Parenthood, would increase the number of abortions per year by 200,000 to 300,000. The National Organization for Women (NOW) stands firm in opposing health care reform if it does not include abortion funding. The Catholic Bishops, on the other hand, strongly support health care reform legislation, but without abortion funding. Pastor Robinson also spoke of a large abortuary that Planned Parenthood is planning to open in a heavily Hispanic and Black neighborhood in Houston. PGK Pat Hall and many other PRO-LIFERS held Vigils for Life at the new facility as it prepared to open. This enormous six-story "abortion super-center" will have its top floors dedicated to late term abortions.

This year I took special note of religious Sisters at the *March* because there is a new exhibit at the S. Dillon Ripley Smithsonian Museum on the history of nuns in America. I saw dozens of Sisters at the

March and made sure to tell them to see the exhibit if they had time. It will be on display until April 25. The exhibit shows Sisters teaching the young, ministering to babies in hospitals, on Indian reservations, at foundling homes, in orphanages and in general living a PRO-LIFE ethic in their daily lives. How appropriate that the exhibit opened on January 15, a week before our *March*. I trust that the timing was not coincidental. Speaking of coincidences, it was reported on January 22 that Bristol Palin has filed suit for more child support from Levi Johnston. A few years back, State Senator Jay O'Brien spoke to us at a communion breakfast at the council home saying that the strongest supporters of abortion were young men ages 18 to 24. Levi Johnson is 19 years old. Another coincidence? The trial of the killer of George Tiller, the abortion doctor from Kansas, opened on January 22. PRO-LIFERS violent? Year after year, I have never seen more peaceful demonstrators than at our *March for Life*. No pre-march coverage by the *Washington Post* of our efforts except a short item saying we were "marking the anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*" and giving a detailed account of road closures. A quick cursory reading would give one the impression that we support *Roe*.

I saw only one counter demonstrator at the *March*. I think the recent abortion funding reversals have curbed the enthusiasm of those who support abortion on demand. I also saw a sign that urged Father Jenkins, the President of Notre Dame University, to "free the ND 88" --- referring to the number of PRO-LIFERS who were arrested in South Bend when President Obama received his honorary degree there last spring. Father Jenkins participated in the *March* but I don't know if he saw that banner. I like to pick up literature at the *March* that one never sees covered in the main stream media. One pamphlet that caught my eye was published by the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a religious order of Sisters in Massachusetts. In their pamphlet, the Sisters ask "whether it would be moral to vote for Scott Brown, a pro-choice candidate, in view of the fact that the favored Democrat, Martha Coakley, is fanatically pro-abortion." In short, with caveats, the Sisters answer "yes." During the campaign, Coakley and her supporters viciously attacked Brown for

proposing a conscience clause for Catholic health facilities that would have exempted them from administering Plan B abortifacients as long as they referred patients to hospitals that would provide them. Coakley also proclaimed that PRO-LIFERS “shouldn’t work in the emergency room” if they refuse to dispense abortifacients. Like Creigh Deeds, she thought that touting her pro-abortion credentials would guarantee electoral victory. She lost by 110,000 votes. Keith Olberman of MSNBC accused Scott Brown of being a ‘supporter of violence against women’ because he is PRO-LIFE. (He is actually pro-choice). Olberman was parroting Coakley’s campaign when he made that accusation.

Columnist Robert McCartney, an abortion supporter (after all, he writes for the *Washington Post*), interviewed some PRO-LIFERS at the March and quoted Michelle Fabian, the youth minister of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Lancaster, PA, who has “seen the pain the abortion causes women” because her mother “‘still can’t listen to a vacuum cleaner without shuddering’ because it reminds her to the equipment used when she had an abortion before Fabian was born.” Perhaps McCartney should also have interviewed a few the dozens of women holding “I regret my abortion” signs. McCartney still supports abortion but some of his readers will have second thoughts after reading his column.

Please check the website www.40daysforlife.com for the latest information about vigils at abortion clinics. The current campaign ends March 28. One final note. There was an attempt in Richmond to regulate crisis pregnancy centers in such a way as to discourage pregnant women from seeking aid and assistance at these facilities. Neither the House nor Senate bill got out of committee. I had a chance to speak with my delegate, Mark Sickles, who voted against our crisis pregnancy centers in committee. I sent him information about the kind of work being done at these centers. Hopefully, he will vote PRO-LIFE the next time this bill comes up in the legislature.



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PRAYER FOR LIFE

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are mad difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of Life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, Creator and lover of life. Amen.

Pope John Paul II
Evangelium Vitae, 1995

2010 March for Life

Mount Vernon Council # 5998 sponsored a full day of activities in support of the *37th Annual March for Life* on Friday, January 21, 2010. The day began with a Mass for the Unborn in Columbian Hall celebrated by Fr. Paul Lamb. The lector was SK Randy Saks of Fort Belvoir Council # 11170; SK PGK PFN Jim McCracken was the altar server. Following a continental breakfast prepared by SK Marvin Spychaj; SK PFN PGK Jim Reilly and his wife Janice; SK PFN PGK Jim Dunn and his wife Maryann, Richard Koslow, and Dave Noon, two busloads of marchers under the leadership of SK Bill Hixon and SK Michael Guignard departed the Council building for the March. Upon their return later that afternoon, the marchers and their families were treated to a hot dinner of homemade chili, salad, Italian bread, pasta and meatballs, and desert prepared by SK Marvin Spychaj, SK PFN PGK Jim and MaryAnn Dunn, Dave Noon, SK Wilson Del'Aguila, and Richard Koslow. Pat Noon and SK DGK Bud Powers helped serve the dinner. We owe a very special note of thanks and gratitude to SK PFN PGK Jim McCracken for organizing and coordinating our Council's support for the *2010 March for Life*.



The Mass celebrant was Fr. Paul Lamb, assisted by SK PFN PGK Jim McCracken.



SK Paul Kayanan and his wife, Petronella, led the singing.



SK Randy Saks of Fort Belvoir Council # 11170 served as lector.



More than 120 PRO-LIFE marchers and their supporters attended the Mass for the Unborn.



Gregory McCormick, son of SK PGK Leo McCormick, loading up on the carbs prior to the March.



A large number of young PRO-LIFERS participated in this year's March.



(L-R) Bus Captains SK Bill Hixon and SK Mike Guignard, with SK Wilson Del'Aguila, and Dave and Pat Noon



PRO-LIFE marchers enjoying the post-March repast in the Council Lounge.



PRO-LIFE students from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA