



Heartbeat

The beat of Students for Life at SLU

Volume 1, Issue 5, February 2008



Upcoming Events

*Our Lady's Inn
Service Day*
This February, date TBA

Run for Their Lives
April 12, 2008
See article on pg 5.

Relay for Life
April 19 & 20, 2008
6pm to 6am
Robert R. Hermann
Stadium
Register at slurelay.org.

*Knights of Columbus
Fish Fry*
Every Friday during Lent,
to benefit the Scholarship

Meetings
Every Tuesday, 8:00pm,
Busch Student Center,
room 351



Reflections on the March for Life



This issue of Heartbeat features student responses to the journey to Washington, D.C. to protest the 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22, 2008. The Students for Life at SLU group was nearly 90 students strong, including many students from Truman State University. The trip included a conference sponsored by Students for Life of America, a free day in which many students attended the Vigil Mass at the National Shrine, and finally the March for Life.

To learn about the current crises in the culture of death. To see the “battleground” destruction of abortion – in aborted infants, in women and men personally affected. To stand as a witness of the dignity of every human life, in solidarity with thousands of people, young and old, from across the country. These are the reasons why attending the March for Life this year was so important for me. It was overwhelming to see so many people, including students from Saint Louis University, stand against the secular culture, which has seemingly lost any value in the individual. I was particularly moved during the Vigil Mass at the National Shrine to join in prayer with fellow Catholics for an end to abortion. Justin Cardinal Rigali remarked in his homily at the Vigil Mass, “[God] now sends you out, thousands upon thousands strong, to do your part in forming a vibrant mosaic on behalf of life. You must be the ‘rich color’ He created you to be. You must play your role in His overarching design.”

The pilgrimage to D.C. for the March for Life has reinvigorated my commitment to work for the cause of life.

~Stephanie To

*E*ver since my first year in high school, I have been going to the March for Life with the intention of gaining a deeper understanding of life and why I should be pro-life. I was on and off pro-choice for the first two years of high school because I thought that it was a woman's body, and she can do whatever she wants. There were a handful of girls in my class that had abortions, which had led me to be pro-choice. Little did I know, my opinion would change. The reason for my change of heart



"Peace is not a global issue, it is sheer hypocrisy to even hope for world peace when we, as individuals, wage war upon the most defenseless of God's creatures, the unborn."

~Mother Teresa of Calcutta

FACT:

At current rates, more than one-third (35%) of American women will have had an abortion by age 45.

~Guttmacher Institute



has a lot to do with my high school morality teacher. He encouraged me to volunteer at Our Lady's Inn and Birthright in St. Louis. These experiences opened my eyes to the truth behind the issue.

This was my 10th year in a row going on the March for Life, and it changes every year. I see more and more youth every year, and this is a beautiful thing! I have found out about more and more organizations such as Feminists for Life through the conferences. These organizations have inspired me on my journey as a pro-life woman, and have encouraged me to continue educating myself on the issue. After this year's conference at Catholic University, my heart has opened even more to the idea of reaching out to the youth in St. Louis, specifically to the high schools. It is crucial to educate and show our support to the youth because it is at this age when they are most vulnerable. My hope is to unite the college pro-life organizations with the Catholic/Christian high schools in St. Louis and work together. YAY BABIES!

~Mara Unger



"Eye-opening" and a "change of heart" are two expressions that capture the sentiment of my first trip to D.C. for the March for Life. Eye-opening in that I always knew abortion was wrong, but after the conference put on by Students for Life of America at Catholic University of America, especially after listening to the many different experiences from white, Hispanic, black, and mixed women on issues that range from rape to giving her child to adoption—well, needless to say, these women and their stories allowed me to understand the *evil*, not just the wrongness, of abortion.

My second sentiment is a "change of heart." What does it mean to be a Catholic/Christian?

Moreover, is there such a thing as a Catholic pendulum that swings from liberal to conservative? I know there are people who call themselves one or the other, but I doubt the label holds any relevance or significance as to whether a person is truly Catholic, or any religion for that matter. On Tuesday, January 22, 2008 the March for Life that ended at the steps of the United States Supreme Court helped to clarify my own understanding of being Catholic. If by "liberal" one means to rationalize and compromise Church teaching that abortion is anything but a serious flaw in human nature, then I'm glad I'm not liberal. However, if "conservative" means condemning others to hell and feeling hypocritically self-righteous, then I'm even gladder to not be conservative. I experienced both of these extremes at the March in D.C. For myself, I really want to be close to God; and I honestly believe God's love is physically experienced every time I search for it in that student, that homeless man or woman, that lonely soul, that immigrant, and now especially in that aborted child.

~Victor Cancino

Despite the hundreds of thousands of people gathered together on the National Mall, the real high point of the March for Life is the Vigil Mass that takes place the night before in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Here is where thousands gather to offer their prayers to the physical presence of our Lord during the sacrament of the Eucharist.

This Vigil Mass is an interesting experience; we had to show up four hours early to get a seat on the floor close to the sanctuary. Despite fighting the crowds, which can lead to some quite uncharitable thoughts after you have to defend your spot from a group that just won't give up, the night is incredible for the feeling of



"He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."

~Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2005, 1.21 million abortions were performed, down from 1.31 million abortions in 2000.

~Gutmacher Institute

But there is still work to be done!



oneness that takes place in the Basilica. During this Mass, a great number become most truly and deeply united in their humble pleas for the unborn. It's amazing, and it really tells how united the entire country is behind the cause for the unborn. No other event brings Catholics from all over the country together into one place on such a scale as the Vigil Mass. It really is a national Mass because no matter how effectively time scatters people across the country, this cause brings them back together. Through the uniting of pro-lifers and the deeper union that the Eucharist creates, the Lord works toward promoting justice in this country. Seeing this gives a great deal of hope because if we are so united, then it is only a matter of time before our voice will be heard in Washington!

~Sean MacLennan



the memories of our greatest icons, stand everywhere for a person to behold.

Yet it is not in our capacity for creativity (in our ability to shape marble, glass, and steel) that we find the measure of our humanity. More properly it is in our compassion, our humility, and the mercy we show towards our fellow man...or woman...or child.

The tired, chiseled eyes of the Lincoln Memorial gazed out last week on a vast sea of humanity united behind that common belief. The National Mall teemed with ordinary citizens from every corner of our great country, who came together believing that mercy and compassion will eventually overturn the hatred and ugliness that fuels the evil of abortion. The sight of this incredible tide can only be described as overwhelming.

Lincoln once said, "if slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong." Our generation does not question this statement. Instead, we struggle with the evil of our own time that is every bit as insidious and wicked. We know in our hearts (indeed, it is etched in the soul of everyone who came forth to march this year): if abortion is not wrong, then nothing is wrong.

~Tim Wright

This was my first time going on the March for Life. It was a completely amazing experience that I will never forget! I was excited to see so many people working on the fight for life. When we got on the buses at Saint Louis University, I was proud of the large group we were bringing from Missouri. Then when I saw all of the people at the conference, I was even more encouraged. At the conference we listened to many moving speakers. Each woman who spoke had a heart wrenching story that brought many of us to tears. It was a very powerful day for all of us!

The most incredible part of the trip, however, was seeing the thousands of people filling the streets on the day of the March for Life. There were people of all ages, ethnicities, religions, and beliefs. But the one belief that we all shared was that every fetus has the right to life.

Overwhelming. That is the best word to describe the March for Life experience: for myself, and for my fellow Knights of Columbus who made the journey with Students for Life.

This word can be applied first to our surroundings. Few cannot be moved by such a city as our nation's capital. The temples that house our institutions of government, or enshrine



"When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God -- and a terror will rip your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there'll be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world -- and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him, because he loved us!'"

~Congressman
Henry Hyde



The March for Life was one of those powerful experiences that I will never forget. The entire weekend was a huge encouragement and made me want to work harder to help the cause. The only thing better than going to the March for Life again next year would be to end abortion permanently.

~Emily Noonan

This was my second time on the March for Life. It was so inspiring for me to look around at the March and see so many people of all ages advocating such an important issue. It gave me goose bumps to look around and see the crowd in every direction. It is so great to have an organization like Students for Life on campus to offer a trip to D.C., allowing students to speak out and be a voice for the voiceless. I hope that students take the inspiration and motivation felt at the March back to SLU and other campuses around the US to fight this fight all year long. At the Students for Life of America conference, I heard Bryan Kemper from Stand True Ministries give a speech on motivating other college-age students. He spoke about 50 million innocent lives that have been ripped from their mothers' wombs in the last 35 years. Between that number, believing in the power of prayer, and knowing that you can make a difference, I can't think of anything more motivating for a pro-life advocate.

Everyday in the US, nearly 4,000 innocent lives are taken, which means this issue is worth fighting for everyday. Be proud of being pro-life, and take every chance you can to make a difference. We are all God's children, so let's continue to inform, advocate, and fight until all of our brothers and sisters are protected. I want to thank everyone who helped organize this trip, and I look forward to seeing and being a part of Students for Life's continuing presence and efforts on SLU's campus.

~Sarah Pingel



Where I Come From...

I am from Truman State University.

I am from Dr. Seuss's motto, "A person's a person, no matter how small."

I am from a family of six and a home filled with love and warm cookies.

I am from a pro-life grandma that puts her words into action daily.

I am blessed with friends that have a passion for the pro-life movement.

I am from the March for Life 2008-

Rain or shine we will stand up for what we believe.

I am from a generation with a whole new respect for life.

I am from Kansas (three cheers!), and I support Phil Kline.

I am in awe of the thousands of people that marched on behalf of the unborn.

I am from, "Hey, Hey...Ho, Ho...Roe v. Wade has got to go."

I am hopeful for the future.

I am from a group of students that will drive across the country, eat Country Pride, and bare the elements to support life.

And we will continue to do so until we are celebrating the reversal of Roe vs. Wade.

I am from a culture of life.

I am from a mom that chose life. Thank you mom!

I am from the Catholic Church, instilled with the love of the Eucharist and the value of life.

I respect Mother Theresa and live by her words of wisdom, "Children are like flowers, there can never be too many."

I want to make a difference in this world, and I will not be silent.

I am pro-life and proud of it!

~Grace DelNero

Second Annual Run for Their Lives to Benefit Scholarship Fund

By Caitlin Boyce and Katie Marx



According to updated statistics from the Guttmacher Institute, fourteen percent of all college-age women in the U.S. become pregnant each year. Theoretically, here at SLU there should be approximately 997 pregnant students. Personally, we have **NEVER** seen a pregnant student on SLU's campus. This leads us to three possible conclusions: here at SLU, female students

are celibate, having abortions, or dropping out because of a lack of financial or community support. Concerned with the long-term well being of both the mother and the child, Students for Life at Saint Louis University is committed to assisting women in continuing their education at SLU. We need to create a campus where parenting and pregnant students are not only welcomed, but supported socially and financially.

On Saturday, April 12th, 2008, Students for Life at Saint Louis University will host its 2nd annual Run for Their Lives. Dollars raised by this 5K Run/Walk will help to establish a scholarship fund, assisting parenting and pregnant students here at SLU. The annual run will serve as the major fundraiser as we continue to work towards our goal of endowing this scholarship at \$25,000. **YOU** can help us make this scholarship a reality by becoming a Run for Their Lives sponsor or participant. Sponsorship will help to cover operational costs including advertising, t-shirts, food, and other race day expenses, allowing us to designate 100% of the proceeds to the scholarship fund.

The 5K Run/Walk and children's events will be held on Saint Louis University's campus starting at 9:00am on April 12th, 2008. The registration fee is \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 on the day of the race, with all proceeds to benefiting the scholarship. If you are interested in participating in this great event, please visit our website at <http://pages.slu.edu/org/sfl>.

If you would like more information about sponsoring or participating in the run, or if you have any questions, please e-mail us at runfortheirlives@gmail.com.

We hope to see everyone on April 12th!

Our Mission:

Unwavering in its defense of the unborn, Students for Life at Saint Louis University is dedicated to protecting each and every human life from the moment of conception. With the distinct understanding that college-aged women are one of the most susceptible age demographics to abortion, we seek to educate, to engage, and to inform college men and women on the destructive nature of abortion.

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of *Heartbeat*. If you have any comments or suggestions, or if there is anything you would like to see in future issues, please do not hesitate to contact us at sfl@slu.edu.

Visit Our Website at <http://pages.slu.edu/org/sfl>

Like What You See?
Support SFL at SLU!
Send check donations to:

Students for Life
20 N Grand Blvd, MSC 11
St. Louis, MO 63103-2005

Thank You
for supporting life!

"A Voice for the Voiceless"



Pregnant? Need Help?

The local Pregnancy Resource Center is within walking distance of SLU, at 4331 Lindell Blvd. Call them at 314-783-3040, or visit their website, www.prcmo.net.

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. COMPASSIONATE.

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