



Heartbeat

The beat of Students for Life at SLU

Volume 2, Issue 3, November 2008



Upcoming Events

Pack the Buses

Wed. Nov. 19

7:00 PM

Tegler Auditorium

Dr. Alveda King

Tues. Feb. 24

7:00-9:00 PM

Students for Life Meetings

Meetings this year will be held Tuesdays at 8:00 pm in Ritter 320.



Respect Life Week Fulfills Students for Life Mission

By Sarah Schumacher

Respect Life Week 2008 was a time for reflection, action, and prayer. The week began on October 5th, with opportunities to reflect on this year's theme: "Is abortion racist?" The Cemetery of the Innocents, with each one of its little wooden crosses carefully tied with a colored ribbon to represent the race of the child aborted, portrayed a visual picture in the Quad of the disproportionate number of abortions in relation to race. Stake signs placed along the main thoroughfare of campus alerted students of facts relating to the theme, such as the fact that 78% of abortion clinics are stationed in racial communities (www.christianpost.com). These projects were meant to present the situation to passers-by, provide them with the facts, and allow them to make their own decision after reflecting on the question "Is abortion racist?"

In addition to being a time for reflection, Respect Life Week was also a time for action. Students for Life members participated in Project Baby Bottle, in which members carried baby bottles to their classes and dorms to collect donations for Our Lady's Inn, a crisis pregnancy center. A total of over \$250 was collected! On Saturday of Respect Life Week, SFL members divided into teams for a service day at three locations: St. Louis Our Lady's Inn, St. Charles Our Lady's Inn, and Thrive pregnancy resource center. Service activities included playing with the kids, cleaning, raking leaves, and staining a fence. Respect Life Week also featured "Crescendo," the fundraising kick-off for The

Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance Scholarship, which is one of Students for Life's main activities this year. These examples of action during Respect Life Week are only a sampling of all that Students for Life does each year.

Another important aspect of Respect Life Week was prayer. On Sunday, October 5th, after 10pm Mass, students gathered in the Quad among the crosses of the Cemetery of the Innocents. Together, they held a candlelit prayer service to offer prayers for the thousands of children that the crosses represented, for women in crisis pregnancies, for the efforts of



Students for Life and all those supporting life, and for a successful Respect Life Week. Respect Life Week also closed with a prayerful activity on Sunday, October 12th. Students for Life members stood at a main intersection near campus in a Life Chain for one hour and peacefully and prayerfully protested abortion by holding signs that read "abortion hurts women" and "abortion kills children." These prayerful activities, as well as the reflective and active aspects of Respect Life Week, have allowed us as Students for Life at Saint Louis

"Abortion does not address the basic inequalities, such as poverty and unequal pay, that make a woman believe she cannot have a baby. It's a cheap fix that leaves the woman as poor and oppressed as she ever was, while politicians claim to have struck a blow for women's rights and the doctors go home \$250 richer."

Jane Thomas
Bailey

"The answer to a crisis pregnancy is to eliminate the crisis, not the child."

Frederica
Mathewes-Green



University to live out our Jesuit-inspired mission "to discern prayerful, intellectual, and active means of building a culture of life that rejects the institution of abortion."

One Busy Saturday

By Caitlin Boyce

On Saturday October 25th, Students for Life joined over 2,600 SLU students and Saint Louis community members for Saint Louis University's 10th Annual Make a Difference Day. Student Life and Alpha Phi Omega sponsor this national day of service. Volunteers took part in service projects at more than 75 schools and community organizations throughout the St. Louis area. Eighteen Students for Life members headed out to the Our Lady's Inn in St. Charles, where we stained a fence, spread mulch, cleaned the kitchen, did yard work, and various other projects around the property. This truly was an opportunity for us to not only make a difference but also learn more about the woman and staff at Our Lady's Inn.

After we departed Our Lady's Inn, a total of eleven Students for Life members danced into the wee hours of the morning at the Saint Louis Area Dance Marathon for the Children's Miracle Network. The twelve hour dance-a-thon raised over \$131,000 to benefit CMN's two local hospitals, St. Louis Children's Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center. We had a blast rocking out to the music and meeting some truly inspiring families and children. Although our feet were very sore and we were dreaming of our beds, as we departed Washington University's campus after a VERY long 20 hours, we were already planning and talking about next year...



Volunteering at Chaifetz Arena

By Ryan Belmonte

As a freshman new to SLU, I had been trying to look for ways to become active and get to know people around school through different organizations. When the opportunity to volunteer at Chaifetz Arena was first brought to my attention, I didn't even know what Chaifetz was. I heard about the opportunity at the Students for Life meeting that week. They were looking for volunteers to work at the concession stands at the arena during the Vice Presidential debate watch party and Sarah Palin's appearance. I thought it was an exciting opportunity, but I was not sure that I wanted to do this. I was a little apprehensive about signing up once the sign-up sheet came to me. The event was on a school night, and I was not sure if I wanted to commit that much time out of my day, no matter how thrilling the event was. On the other hand, I thought that this opportunity would be a great experience, and it would help me get more involved with



FACT: Week 6 of pregnancy- Facial features begin to form.
-Mayo Clinic

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."
Proverbs 31:8

FACT:
Abortion legal- 54 countries
Abortion illegal- 97 countries
-Center for Reproductive Law and Policy



Students for Life. I decided to do it, and I am so glad that I did. It was a busy night and there were a lot of people there, but I had fun while doing it. I learned how to work different parts of the concession stands. I now have a new found appreciation for the work that people in concession stands do. At some points it was crazy, and there were other times that were slow, but through all of that, I was able to meet several great members of the Students for Life organization. Seeing Sarah Palin in person and free food were also added bonuses. If I were to make the choice again, I would definitely make the same one in a heartbeat. Working at Chaifetz Arena was an enjoyable, memorable, and fun experience. I am anxiously awaiting the next opportunity that I will have to work there.

Crescendo Event Kicks off Scholarship!

By Brian Reilly

On Friday October 10th, Students for Life hosted an event called Crescendo in Boileau Hall on campus to help celebrate the end of a successful Respect Life Week. The night, which included a live jazz band and appetizers, also officially kicked-off the fundraising efforts for The Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance, a scholarship that will help to assist students who experience a crisis pregnancy and/or parenting students. In just the past few weeks, the Scholarship has been creating a buzz. The Scholarship was featured in an article in the St. Louis Review on October 17, 2008 (<http://www.stlreview.com/article.php?id=16238>). The story has also appeared on many other organization's websites including the Illinois Federation for Right to Life, the Catholic News Agency, and the Cardinal Newman Society. Students for Life of America has also honored Students for Life at Saint Louis University as a "Success Story" for our commitment to the pro-life movement, highlighting the creation of this scholarship specifically. We appreciate all your support and prayers as we continue this project. We do not want to lose any momentum, and we need your help! Please visit our website pages.slu.edu/org/sfl to learn of the different ways you can contribute. Every little bit helps!



Eluana Englaro: the "Italian Terri Schiavo"

By Katrina Becker

In 2005, one of the most prominent figures in national news was Terri Schiavo, who, after a lengthy legal battle, was removed from life support, having lived for years with brain damage after a car accident. A similar

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Students for Life
Busch Student Center,
MSC # 11
20 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

"A Voice for the Voiceless"



situation is now occurring in Milan, Italy, this time centering on Eluana Englaro. Englaro, 36, has been living in minimal consciousness since 1992, when she was severely injured in a car accident. The media describes her situation as a "deep coma," yet supporters say that she does have some occurrences of consciousness, and she is able to breathe on her own. Local courts sided with Englaro's father, Beppino Englaro, in July, allowing doctors to remove Englaro's feeding tube. However, this ruling was quickly appealed on the grounds that this case was an attempt to change existing law. In Italy, assisted suicide or passive euthanasia are illegal, and some consider this situation an attempt to allow just that. One prominent personage involved in the case is Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro, the director of the Rome office of Human Life International. He explains Englaro's situation this way: "She is not in a deep coma, because she opens her eyes. But at the same time, that is irrelevant. We have to insist that it is irrelevant whether she is in a deep coma or gives some signs of being able to relate. Because any human being has a right to food, water and bed rest independent of his or her condition." The Italian high court will likely decide the outcome of the case this week.

Our Mission:

Students for Life is a fellowship committed to upholding the fundamental right to life on the campus of Saint Louis University. We follow the guidance of Catholic thought regarding the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. The Jesuit Mission of Saint Louis University calls us to discern prayerful, intellectual and active means of building a culture of life that rejects the institution of abortion.

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

Contact Information

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Advisor: Steve Fowler

Pregnant? Need Help?

The local Pregnancy Resource Center is within walking distance of SLU, at 4331 Lindell Blvd. Call them at 314-733-4626, or visit their website, www.thivestlouis.org.
FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. COMPASSIONATE.

If you would no longer like to receive this newsletter, please e-mail sfl@slu.edu.

*Edited by Katrina Becker and Sarah Schumacher
Newsletter design by Sarah Schumacher*