

Los Pequeños Pepper

Publication of Los Pequeños de Cristo

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Newsletter of Los Pequeños de Cristo

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Newsletter of Los Pequeños de Cristo
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We are an Archdiocesan-wide Catholic lay organization committed to a charitable defense of the Catholic Faith by means of education, communication, and prayer. We are devoted to the Roman Catholic Magisterium, the Holy Father, and to the bishops and clergy in union with him. Our members believe what the Church believes and we promote what the Church teaches. To this end, we believe that no individual, whether cleric or lay person, has the right to alter the substance of the gospel message or moral truths which have been inerrantly and infallibly held by the Catholic Church since Her founding.

A Pro-life Story

By Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

It was the best respect life homily I've ever witnessed, and I'm eager to share it with you ...

I've been close to these two splendid couples for awhile. The first couple, whom I've known for a long time, have five wonderful sons, ages four to fourteen. One of them, the passionate love of his parents and the pride of his brothers, is a special needs child to a very advanced degree. This beautiful boy - with blue eyes that are hypnotic and a smile that melts ice caps and only adds to global warming - needs constant care, help to breathe, eat and even move. He can only communicate with sounds and slight movements, always masterfully comprehended by his folks and ever attentive siblings. He's been close to death countless times and his mere existence is an eloquent testimony to the resilience of life itself and the power of the love of his family.

This couple recently became pregnant again and early tests indicated that the new baby had Down Syndrome. To end the life of their pre-born baby never crossed the radar of these parents, but mom and dad were realistically and prudently worried about their ability, given their constant attention to their other special needs child, to care for their new baby with the resources and energy necessary.

After a lot of family discernment and prayer, they arrived at the tough but eminently understandable and heroic decision that they could best love their new baby by sharing her with a couple eager to adopt a special needs child.

Enter couple number two. I've only known them a few years, but I've been praying with and for them for a new baby. They had no children yet and it was looking less and less likely that they would. When I telephoned them to inquire as to how they were doing, they told me of their decision to look into adopting a special needs baby and asked if I could help.

You can now figure out what happened. Yes, I put these two deeply Catholic couples in touch ...and last week had the joy and honor of baptizing their magnificent new baby, in a church jammed with all three families: the inspirational blood parents and their wonderful sons and the extended families of the new adoptive mom and dad.

There was not enough Kleenex to go around as tears of joy were flowing in abundance.

Sure, it was bittersweet for the biological parents to "give their baby away," but all they had to do was observe the radiant, tender love of the beaming adoptive mom and dad to know that they had done the right thing.

What was of primary importance to all four parents, the non-negotiable, was the tiny, frail, new life of that baby and her well being.

It was the Church at her best ...

It was humanity at its most noble ...

It was the way it should be ...

It was pro-life ... J

Catholics and Socialism

Yes, “socialism” is a dirty word...

By Stephanie Block

One of the interesting discussions following the wake of this year’s political campaign has been about Catholics and socialism. Is it OK to be a Catholic socialist? (Wonder what sparked this line of thought?)

Despite Pope Pius XI saying, back in the 1930s, that “No one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist”, some Catholics want to argue the point. They claim the “Christian socialism” described in Acts, in which “All those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need,” is the inspiration for the “scientific socialism” espoused by Marx and Engels. After all, Marx and Engels *say* it is.

Well, of *course* Marx and Engels say their inspiration for the socialist ideal was early Christianity. It gives their theories authority and respectability. As Saul Alinsky drily exhorts young radicals, “... you do what you can with what you have and clothe it with moral garments.” [*Rules for Radicals*] Marx and Engels are simply clothing socialism with Christianity, the wolf in a sheepskin.

At the blog called [Catholic America: A closer look at Church, Culture and Change](#), which is a feature of *Newsweek/Washington Post*, writer Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo recognizes that the salient component of “Christian socialism” is *choice*. He glosses over this, however, and only a paragraph later is reminding the reader that he must also bear in mind another Christian principle, namely that “the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.” We see where this is going.

And so here it is: “At stake in contemporary Catholic America is a growing awareness that the US economic system has serious flaws.” OK, Mr. Stevens-Arroyo, hold on there just a minute. Yes, the US economic system has serious flaws but that’s the human condition. There has never been and never will be an economic system without serious flaws. But the US economic system, for all its flaws, has been the envy of the world...and has brought prosperity to the majority of its citizens.

Stevens-Arroyo continues: “In addressing the financial system, “socialism” is not a dirty word for Catholics.” Um...yes, it is. Re-read the Pius XI quote, above. Or, read John Paul II, who, without any illusions about its imperfections, writes, “it would appear that, on the level of individual nations and of international relations, the free market is the most efficient instrument for utilizing resources and effectively responding to needs.”

John Paul is not so generous with socialism. “[I]n today’s world, among other rights, the right of economic initiative is often suppressed. Yet it is a right that is important not only for the individual but also for the common good. Experience shows us that the denial of this right, or its limitation in the name of an alleged ‘equality’ of everyone in society, diminishes, or in practice absolutely destroys the spirit of initiative, that is to say the creative subjectivity of the citizen.”

Referring to Pope Leo XIII, he says:

His words deserve to be re-read attentively: “To remedy these wrongs (the unjust distribution of wealth and the poverty of the workers), the Socialists encourage the poor man’s envy of the rich and strive to do away with private property, contending that individual possessions should become the common property of all...; but their contentions are so clearly powerless to end the controversy that, were they carried into effect, the working man himself would be among the first to suffer. They are moreover emphatically unjust, for they would rob the lawful possessor, distort the functions of the State, and create utter confusion in the community”. The evils caused by the setting up of this type of socialism as a State system — what would later be called ‘Real Socialism’ — could not be better expressed. [*Centesimus annus*]

It gets worse. The pope continues:

Socialism considers the individual person simply as an element, a molecule within the social organism, so that the good of the individual is completely subordinated to the func-

tioning of the socio-economic mechanism. Socialism likewise maintains that the good of the individual can be realized without reference to his free choice, to the unique and exclusive responsibility that he exercises in the face of good or evil. Man is thus reduced to a series of social relationships, and the concept of the person as the autonomous subject of moral decision disappears, the very subject whose decisions build the social order.

Benedict XVI also has some hard words for socialism:

Let us recall the fact that atheism and the denial of the human person, his liberty and his rights, are at the core of the Marxist theory...Moreover, to attempt to integrate into theology an analysis whose criterion of interpretation depends on this atheistic conception is to involve oneself in terrible contradictions. What is more, this misunderstanding of the spiritual nature of the person leads to a total subordination of the person to the collectivity, and thus to the denial of the principles of a social and political life which is in keeping with human dignity.

Why are we even discussing this? The answer is that you have a large body of people – the Catholics living in the US – who, if they knew their Church teachings, rather than what other Catholics *say* they say, might rebel at incoming socialist incursion. Socialism – the unchosen, forced-onto-society, “scientific” version that has martyred hundreds of thousands – is a *really* dirty word to Catholics.

Ahem. Let me try that again. Socialism is a *really* dirty word. J

A Parent's Guide: Teaching the Truth & Meaning of Human Sexuality

How do we teach our children about the wonder of God's plan for love, marriage and sexuality? In an age when our children are bombarded with immoral sexual images and explicit sex education programs, how do we protect their innocence? And how do we pass on the proper message, when the time is right, that human sexuality is meant to be holy and beautiful?

These are the questions that parents throughout the world asked of our late Holy Father John Paul II. He saw that we are in a time of cultural crisis, and in 1995 he responded by commissioning a Pontifical Council comprised of dozens of clergymen, religious and lay family experts. They looked to the heart of church teaching and wrote a guide for parents who need help in educating their children on the delicate subject of human sexuality. The title of the document is **The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education within the Family.**

This program shares the main points of the document through the testimony of parents and educators who follow church teachings in their own lives, and through clergymen who help spread the wisdom of a crucial Catholic document. We strongly encourage you to thoroughly read **The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education within the Family.** "

To order the 55 minute DVD of "A Parent's Guide: Teaching the Truth & Meaning of Human Sexuality" you can make the suggested donation of \$10.00 (per DVD) at the www.catholicparents.org or mail your tax-deductible donation to: **Catholic Parents OnLine, P.O. Box 130815, St. Paul, MN 55113.**

Road to Damascus: A Yet More Excellent Way

By Marie P. Loehr

... *I am the Way and the Truth and the Life ...*

-John 14:6

January 25th is the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. This year this great feast is embedded in the Year of St. Paul, proclaimed by Benedict XVI to fall between 28 June 2008 and 29 June 2009. Many fine commentators have discussed this jubilee year and many fine writers have examined Paul, his life, and his letters. Our primary source for information about St. Paul is found in St. Luke's *Acts of the Apostles*, as well as in Paul's own epistles, letters written to the churches he founded in the various cities of Greece and Turkey on his missionary journeys.

We all know the story, or should. Sometimes we think we know the story, but a re-reading of *Acts* is a surprise. And this is only a first taste of the divine irony...!

Here is Saul, set in his ways and purpose as so many of us are, whether we accept that or not. He is a good man, that is to say, almost certainly a Pharisee by training, one who could be called a rabbi, *i.e.*, master and teacher. He says that he studied under the great rabbi Gamaliel [Acts 22:3] who well understood that if Christ were of God, no man could stop the advance of his teaching or his disciples. If he were not of God, no man would need to lift a finger; the cult of Yeshua would wither of its own emptiness and error.

Saul, breathing fire in his zeal against what he considers a heretical sect, assists—or perhaps even directs—the execution of Stephen, deacon and martyr, by stoning. Then he requests official authority to go to Damascus to round up all the heretical followers of Jesus he can find, and return them to Jerusalem in chains. *Acts* then recounts how Paul, en route to Damascus, with servants or Temple guards to help him, experiences a theophany and is thrown to the ground, blinded. Face to face with the risen glorified Lord, Saul surrenders himself entirely. His men have to lead him into Damascus to the house of one Judas—who is not a Judas—in the street called Straight, the straight and strait way?! Now named Paul rather than Saul, he is blind and remains so until the Lord sends Ananias to cure him.

Ananias is an Ananias who is not false, as is the first one in *Acts*, just as *this* Judas is not a betrayer like the one in the Gospels. However, he is not overly thrilled with this mission, and remarks on Paul's history to the Lord, in the style of Abraham. In this case the dangers of ending up in Saul's clutches and chains are very much on Ananias' mind. But the Lord says, "Go" — and he goes.

Both he and this Judas, as well as the street called Straight, are ironic signs and realities, used by the Lord, of what has happened to Paul. Christ has cast off the "old man," the fallen man as it were. No longer Saul, Paul "puts on Christ." No one understands this better than the converted, straightened Paul, made new.

There is much irony in all this. There is Paul's name to begin with. Saul is the name of the king who persecutes David, out of his mind with jealousy and wrath. David is a fore type of Christ, especially the risen and glorified Christ, whose face shines like the sun, "ruddy and beautiful to behold." Saul is undone by David. This New Testament Saul is undone by Christ.

We have noted the theophany of the burning bush, and Moses' reaction to it. He prostrates himself, as humans cannot help doing when confronted with God up close and personal. God's otherness is so total. His being is such fullness. His presence is so overwhelming compared to our nothingness and sin. Peter, too, confronted with the glittering squirming miraculous catch of fishes, like living flames in the net, falls on his knees at Christ's feet, eyes down, saying, "Depart from me—for I am a sinful man, O Lord." He too experiences a burning bush theophany. Who can see the face of God and live? On Tabor, Peter, James and John fall flat on their faces at the glory shining from within Christ, and the shekinah revealed.

Paul is taken by surprise. He is knocked flat. As a result of this head-on collision with Christ in glory, he is blinded. Those preceding him, shielding their eyes and falling in obeisance and awe, are not blinded. But they have not set themselves against God. They have heeded God's call. But Saul had set himself against the Messiah, and called it God's will, in his ignorance and arrogance, whatever his stated intentions.

This blinding revelation of the Lord on the road to Damascus is indeed another burning bush theophany. Only Paul is enveloped in the light. It surrounds him. Paul is literally swept off his feet, as we say men and women may be swept off their feet in the throes or *coup de foudre* of love. He is knocked flat. But even here, we catch some-

thing of his irrepressibility in his response to the Lord.

Christ says, “Why are you persecuting me?” And Saul—finely trained Pharisee and debater that he is—counters with his own question. “Who are you?!” But note, he adds, “Lord.” “Who are you, Lord?” Identify and define all terms at the outset! Flat on his back in the road, blinded, stunned, he has not lost his wits or wit. Christ answers, with perhaps the gentle exasperation and amusement that mark his response to Philip’s eager, “Show us the Father!” at the Last Supper.

“I am Jesus, whom thou art persecuting,” and he adds, “it is hard for thee to kick against the goad.” Here is more gentle irony—the cattle prod, the sheep crook, the camel goad. It’s a reminder—both teasing and serious—of who Paul is before the Lord. We may even see the image as a spirited horse, rebelling against bridle and bit and its rider’s will.

Paul does not miss the point, so to speak. *Acts* even speaks of him trembling as a fine horse may once it surrenders, after a struggle, to the rider and his will. Paul says immediately, “Lord, what wilt thou have me do?” He is mastered. He submits. He will be Christ’s from here unto martyrdom and beyond.

The entire conversion of Paul is filled with these ironies. He desires, as a good Pharisee, only to do the will of God as he understands it. Thus he persecutes the Christians. In the end he is enlisted in Christ’s cause, with a new understanding of the will of God. He asks for authority and permission to round up all those in Damascus “belonging to this Way.”

In the end he is sent to Damascus, to the Street called Straight by a higher authority, the true High Priest. There are two ironies here, the hint of Christ as the strait, and straight—as in upright, righteous, measure, rule—Way and Truth and Life, where Paul will be straightened out, washed and hung out to sun dry, conformed to the God he has only and always desired to serve. He who thought he was seeing God’s will clearly discovers he is in fact blind to the living Truth. He who is breathing fire and slaughter finds himself enveloped in the consuming fire who IS God. He who thinks of himself as an enlightened and righteous Pharisee of Pharisees, truly human in the image of God, finds himself remonstrated as an unruly beast of burden.

And here we come to “the horse.”

We have all seen paintings by the old masters, of the Conversion of Paul. He is falling or fallen from a startled or rearing horse. We could say, if our readers will forgive an irresistible pun, that for the painters he is thrown from his horse ... onto his ass. And perhaps finds himself shown to be himself an ass into the bargain!

The Catholic Extension Calendar for 2009 begins with a print of Parmigianino’s oil painting of this scene. Paul is rolled on his back, and a rather gigantic Mannerist horse with a long neck and a pin head rears over him, wild-eyed. A Caravaggio online shows a similar scene, but the Tobiano pinto with obvious Arabian bloodlines is a finer horse, and not nearly as spooked as Parmigianino’s nervy beast. There is a Rubens, too, and others.

There is no horse mentioned in Scripture. Daniel-Rops’ *Daily Life in the Time of Christ* notes that the Romans used horses; the Jews, rarely. For those who could afford it, asses were to be preferred, especially Lycaonian asses, the strongest—and also the most stubborn. In his *Dictionary of the Bible*, McKenzie notes that the horse was used for war, and for chariots reserved to kings and princes. So the horse was an image of pride and Roman domination for the Jews in Christ’s time.

Where do the artists’ horses come from? This question is legitimate because the art has become so much part of the fabric of our superficial Biblical memory! It also suggests yet another irony. Paul, who shows himself in this scene to be far more humble and docile to the promptings of God than he appeared on the surface, walked everywhere in his carrying the light of Christ to the Gentiles. Unless he had to use a ship to get to a destination, he used his feet. But he comes down to us, in his moment of conversion, on a horse, the Roman steed, an instrument of war, a symbol of pride and ruler-ship.

This is multi-layered irony. Saul is a Roman citizen, and perhaps accustomed to the use of a horse in certain circumstances. He is in fact at war with “the Way.” Like the horse in the Old Testament, he tosses his head, snorting and calling “ha-ha!” — trampling all in his way. He is filled with pride and intends to show these feckless faithless heretics just who is the boss. He is playing the alpha role here, as we say in training dogs, until he encounters the Alpha and the Omega face to face, Fire of love to fire of wrath—the Fire a backfire that puts out Saul’s fire.

So the horse may have seemed an exact symbol of all this to the great masters in ages more sensitive and trained in symbol than our one-dimensional era. Their paintings suggest how “pride goeth before a fall.” Or there may be apocryphal material in the oral tradition, handed down over the centuries, which inspired this particular image and impression of Paul’s conversion.

Certainly, if we want to stretch the *explication du cheval* we could say that the hulking pin-headed horse of Parmigianino describes Saul before he became Paul, small-minded, throwing his weight around. We could

even suggest that Caravaggio's fine Tobiano symbolizes the dark who is Saul, and the light who is Paul—we could say that. But to prevent our readers from kicking against the goad themselves, we can let that symbolism go the way of Saul's "slaughter and destruction" against Christians.

It's certainly true Saul was in a hurry to accomplish his zealous work for the Temple in Damascus. It's not unlikely he was provided with a horse by those as eager as he to rein in the Christ followers as soon as possible, or sooner. It would certainly be fitting that he and his men should be provided with horses in order to cow their captives properly and march them back to Jerusalem in good order. The horse and rider in that setting would be like the SUV of today beside the lowly jogger or bicyclist.

Finally, it is fitting to Christ's own sense of humor, his dry ironic piercing sense of humor, that he found Saul on his "high horse" and knocked him off, and the chip on his shoulder besides. Thus the Lord himself sends Paul humbly into Damascus to await healing and direction—in the new Way, who IS Christ. J

The American Fascists

By Mary Ann Kreitzer

In today's culture of death, many elitists who fling around the word "choice" have nothing but contempt for individual rights. They are perfectly willing for the masses to choose as long as they make the "right choice" which is the one the elites know is good for them. Margaret Sanger was one of those elitists who detested freedom for those she considered unfit. The organization she founded, the *American Birth Control League* (later *Planned Parenthood*), continues to walk in her fascist footsteps. Sanger proposed the *American Baby Code* in 1934 in an article in *American Weekly Magazine*. It would more appropriately be called the *American No-Baby Code*. These are the poisoned roots of *Planned Parenthood* that continues to be a baby's worst nightmare. It is also the organization that Barack Obama has promised to expand through signing the *Freedom of Choice Act*. FOCA might be more accurately described as the *No Freedom of Choice Act* since it will invalidate all current laws protecting the unborn and eliminate the rights of voters to pass state laws about abortion. FOCA entrenches and expands the murder of the unborn exponentially. Margaret Sanger would have approved. In fact, she very likely would have been Obama's choice to head *Health and Human Services*. Many of his nominees espouse the same evil philosophy! If you don't like what you read below, FIGHT FOCA.

The American Baby Code
by Margaret Sanger

- *Article 1. The purpose of the American Baby Code shall be to provide for a better distribution of babies. To assist couples who wish to prevent overproduction of offspring and thus to reduce the burden of charity and taxation for public relief and to protect society against the propagation and increase of the unfit.*
- *Article 2. Birth control clinics shall be permitted to function as services of government health departments or under the support of charity, or as non-profit, self-sustaining agencies subject to inspection and control by public authorities.*
- *Article 3. A marriage license shall in itself give husband and wife only the right to a common household and not the right to parenthood.*
- *Article 4. No woman shall have the legal right to bear a child, no man shall have the right to become a father, without a permit for parenthood.*
- *Article 5. Permits for parenthood shall be issued by government authorities to married couples upon application, providing the parents are financially able to support the expected child, have the qualifications needed for proper rearing of the child, have no transmissible diseases, and on the woman's part no indication that maternity is likely to result in death or permanent injury to health.*
- *Article 6. No permit for parenthood shall be valid for more than one birth.*
- *Article 7. Every county shall be assisted administratively by the states in the effort to maintain a direct ratio between county birth rate and its index of child welfare. When the county records show an unfavorable variation from this ratio the county shall be taxed by the State.... The revenues thus obtained shall be expended by the State within the given county in giving financial support to birth control.....*
- *Article 8. Feeble-minded persons, habitual congenital criminals, those afflicted with inheritable diseases, and others found biologically unfit should be sterilized or in cases of doubt should be isolated as to prevent the perpetuation of their afflictions by breeding. J*

New Mexico has elected the most liberal legislature in its 96-year history

Jose Vasquez, editor
New Mexico Watchman

New Mexico has been hit by a political tsunami called “the Cabinet.” The Cabinet is a billionaire’s club of homosexual activists reported in Time Magazine on Oct. 31, 2008. The four activist are : Tim Gill, 55, from Denver CO, Jonathan Lewis, 49, from Coconut Grove, FL, Jon Stryker, 50 from Kalamazoo, MI and Henry van Ameringen, from New York, NY. Only Mr. Gill created his company, Quark Express. All others inherited from their fathers.

One thing to keep in mind is that \$1.00 spent on a New Mexico campaign is comparable to \$6.00 in any other state.

The story actually begins when ACORN reported registering an astonishing 50,000 voters in the Albuquerque area and another 10,000 in Las Cruces. A rumored \$15.00 per registrant cash incentive explains the numbers.

The strategy was that in last week of the campaign recorded phone calls flooded constituents with accusation, innuendos and downright lies. In the primary, three conservative Albuquerque Democrats with an average of 17 years of service were targeted. They were Rep. Daniel Silva, (21 years in the House), Sen. Shannon Robinson, (19 years in the Senate), and Sen. James Taylor, (13 years in the Senate).

The onslaught against Republican Leonard Rawson of Las Cruces was too much for even Democrat Tim Jennings. Senator Jennings crossed party lines and recorded a message countering the attacks on Senator Rawson. As a result of “standing up for truth,” Senator Jennings has lost his position as president pro tem of the senate.

The best example of the money manipulation is Mr. Gill and the Equality PAC. (Equality Forum is the organization that awarded Governor Richardson the homosexual “International Role Model Award”) Mr. Gill gave \$15,000 to Equality New Mexico while Jonathan Lewis added another \$2,900. (Remember to multiply these numbers by six.) Other out-of-state funds came from Jonathan Lewis and Jon Stryker into the “Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.”

The money was given to various campaigns including Democratic State Senator Elect Steve Fischmann of Mesilla. Mr. Fischmann ran against Senator Leonard Rawson, the senator who had represented Dona Ana & Sierra Counties for 21 years. As a result of the onslaught, Mr. Rawson lost his seat by 586 votes. Tim Gill was successful in unseating Senator Steve Komadina, a physician who represented Sandoval County for eight years.

Crossing party lines, Mr. Gill personally gave \$2,000 to Republican Barry Bitzer who ran against Komadina in the primary race. Dr. Komadina survived the primary but, using Equality PAC funds, Democrat John Sapien, an unknown, unseated him in the general election by 121 votes. The Cabinet made an all out effort to unseat Bernallillo and Sandoval County’s Republican Senator John Ryan. In the final days of the campaign, contender, Mr. Victor Raigoza received funds from The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund (\$5,000), Equality PAC (\$500) and Governor Bill Richardson (\$2,500).

Senator Ryan managed to retain his seat. The Cabinet’s only Republican is Eric Youngberg who received funds from several of these sources and has avoided voting with his party.

The net result is that when the 60-day New Mexico legislative session begins on January 20, 2009, we can expect an aggressive and successful campaign to pass liberal legislation. It will include the passage of Domestic Partners legislation that was defeated by one senatorial vote in 2007. An “anti-bullying” bill will be passed that will usher in the homosexual agenda into schools and criminalize “anti-gay speech.” We may even be one of the first states to approve homosexual marriage. J

Around the World

Serbian Abortionist has Miraculous Conversion Dr. Stojan Adasevic, who performed 48,000 abortions, sometimes up to 35 per day, is now a Serbian pro-life activist. “The medical textbooks of the Communist regime said abortion was simply the removal of a blob of tissue,” a newspaper reported Dr. Adasevic as saying.

In describing his conversion, Adasevic said he “dreamed about a beautiful field full of children and young people who were playing and laughing, from 4 to 24 years of age, but who ran away from him in fear. A man dressed in a black and white habit stared at him in silence. The dream was repeated each night and he would wake up in a cold sweat. One night he asked the man in black and white who he was. ‘My name is Thomas Aquinas,’ the man in his dream responded. Adasevic, educated in communist schools, had never heard of the Dominican saint. He didn’t recognize the name.”

“Why don’t you ask me who these children are?” St. Thomas asked Adasevic in his dream. “They are the ones you killed with your abortions.” Adasevic awoke in amazement and decided not to perform any more abortions.

“That same day a cousin came to the hospital with his four months-pregnant girlfriend, who wanted to get her ninth abortion. Despite his good intentions, he agreed and decided to remove the fetus as a mass. However, the baby’s heart was still beating when he extracted it Adasevic realized then that he had killed a human being.”

After this experience, Adasevic became involved in the pro-life movement and was able to get Yugoslav television to air the film ‘The Silent Scream,’ by Doctor Bernard Nathanson, two times.” Adasevic has told his story in magazines and newspapers throughout Eastern Europe and has returned to the Orthodox faith of his childhood.

The poignant story can be watched at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKmiiV2EZ3Q&eurl=http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=14322>.

‘Sign of Peace’ Reconsidered The prefect for the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Cardinal Francis Arinze, has said that there is discussion at the Vatican about moving the sign of peace to before the offertory, “in order to create a moment of reflection while we prepare for communion.” Often “the full significance of this gesture is not understood. It is seen as an occasion to shake the hands of our friends, when in reality it is a way of saying to the one next to us that the peace of Christ, truly present on the altar, is also for all mankind. In order to create a more meditative atmosphere as we prepare for Communion, moving the sign of peace to the offertory is being considered.”

Russian City Observes “Week without Abortion” From the good news/bad news department, the southern Russian city of Novorossiysk scheduled a “week without abortion” this past November to combat the country’s extremely high abortion rate. Instead, the city’s maternity welfare center will hold open houses with information seminars on family planning as psychologists and gynecologists work with pregnant women to help prepare them for motherhood.

“Doctors will do everything they can to stop women from doing the irreparable,” a city administration representative told RussiaToday.com.

Russia’s abortion rate is among the highest in the world, with nearly 70 percent of pregnancies ending in an abortion and about 8 percent of women made sterile from the procedure.

Novorossiysk’s “week without abortion” was part of the Russian government declaration of 2008 to be the “Year of the Family” to combat demographic decline. However, despite bans against pro-abortion advertising, welfare payments for childbirth, improvements in the healthcare system, and public service announcements to boost the birthrate, the government’s new social engineering policies seem to have had little effect.

Around the Nation

The Colorado Personhood Initiative — which would have defined all human beings, from the moment of fertilization, as “persons” — may have failed but Judie Brown, president of *American Life League*, saw this first ballot initiative of its kind as historically significant. “The personhood movement defied the odds to blossom in hostile territory - traditionally liberal Colorado. A small group of inspired and passionate people, led by 21-year-old law student Kristi Burton, dedicated themselves to the glorious principles our nation was founded upon and spear-headed a movement that mobilized half a million people.... The abortion debate began anew: ‘We want to grant rights to all human beings - including those most vulnerable - preborn children.’ The personhood fire began in Colorado and has now ignited personhood campaigns in 16 states.... for the babies, personhood is the only defense against the dual threats posed by the *Freedom of Choice Act*, which President-elect Barack Obama has pledged to sign into law, and the *Prevention First Act*, which he cosponsored. These acts would eliminate the possibility of any incremental restrictions on abortion and leave us only one viable option to end the assault on human life: a personhood amendment to the United States Constitution.” For more information, visit the *American Life League* website, www.all.org.

Planned Parenthood has over-billed government for millions It’s old news now, but in 2004 *Planned Parenthood of San Diego* and other California affiliates were caught over-billing the government for contraceptives they purchased at deep discounts. Family PACT – “Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment,” a program jointly funded by state and federal funds, requires that providers of services under the program—such as *Planned Parenthood* — be reimbursed only for the cost of acquiring the contraceptives, but *Planned Parenthood*, in some instances, was demanding as much as 20 times above their own costs, making about \$180 million in profits.

Mark Salo, then chief executive of *Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties*, sent an email to *Planned Parenthood’s* eight other California affiliates, warning them about planned state audits with results, according to Salo, that “could kill many of us.” The e-mail alluded to the protection of internal information, particularly the “invoices for our oral contraceptives purchases.”

A judge, not too surprisingly—except this *is* California we’re talking about—found the purpose of the e-mail was not only to alert the other *Planned Parenthood* affiliates to the upcoming audits but to initiate a coordinated response...a conspiracy to conceal fraud.

No one is going to jail, however. There have been no fines and no talk of *Planned Parenthood* making restitution. Instead, pro-abortion legislators who have received political campaign support from *Planned Parenthood* introduced a bill — supported by NARAL Pro-Choice California and the various California *Planned Parenthood affiliates* — to undo the regulations requiring *Planned Parenthood* to bill the state and federal governments at cost.

The bill’s legislative analysis made no mention of the over-billing discovered by the state’s auditors — only the financial harm that would befall *Planned Parenthood* without the measure. Needless to say, the bill passed and was signed into law by Gov. Schwarzenegger. *Planned Parenthood* did not have to pay back a penny of the over-charges.

Looking at the CCHD—Again

By Stephanie Block

In November, *The Pepper* published an article about the current crisis over the “charitable” *Catholic Campaign for Human Development* (CCHD) collection, concerning its substantial contributions to ACORN over the years. ACORN has had chronic problems with its voter registration drives, its clearly partisan and very pro-abortion political position, and a serious case of embezzlement exposed this summer.

Except for the embezzlement business, complaints against ACORN and other CCHD grantees are nothing new. It was this last issue that put the CCHD in the mainstream news, however. The *Washington Times* reported, the week after the annual November collection, that several priests from the Arlington Diocese discouraged giving. “I personally haven't given a dime to the *Campaign for Human Development* in years,” Rev. John DeCelles said during a Sunday homily at St. Mary's Church in Alexandria. “Over the years, including last year, the Campaign has given millions of dollars to very questionable groups, including groups that actively support and campaign for so-called ‘abortion rights.’” [Julia Duin, “Catholics rebuffing controversial charity,” 11-26-08]

In a bulletin letter to his parishioners at Queen of Apostles Church in Alexandria, Rev. Thomas Vander Woude wrote that in the 1990s, CCHD “contributed to organizations diametrically opposed to the Catholic Church, *i.e.* the pro-abortion group *National Organization for Women* and the *American Civil Liberties Union*.... There are so many tremendous Catholic apostolates that work with the poor that are in need. One wonders if one's donations could be better spent elsewhere until the CCHD has proven its ability to fund truly Catholic apostolates that truly work with and help the poor.”

The situation in Arlington wasn't isolated. Similar stories have been reported throughout the country. An uneasy pastor wrote on a popular Catholic website: “I had the CHD fliers pulled from my parish bulletin last weekend. This thing has kind of snuck up on me... I have always been nervous about CHD, and my own envelope has seemed to have conveniently found its way to File 13 in past years, but this being my first year as a pastor, I am actually in a position to do something about this. Folks at home have received an envelope labeled CHD in their monthly mailing and I really don't have a right to unilaterally re-direct their donations to this designated collection. I think, however, that having a little 90 second informative talk before the Sunday Masses to explain that there are serious concerns about this national collection and putting pencils in the pews allowing people the option to cross out CHD and put “Catholic Charities” might not be a bad idea.”

Then there was the lay action. The Catholic blog *Fidelity and Action* prepared printable cards to place in the collection basket rather than checks (or money) that read: “This is a boycott. No funding of socialist programs. No dollars for CCHD!” Other blogs suggested putting acorns—or for those in oak-less parts of the country, peanuts, as in “nuts to this” — when the plate was passed.

Small, grassroots boycotts sprang up in Washington DC, Portland, Chicago, and Albuquerque. The Catholic Citizens of Illinois prepared a particularly eloquent flier that said, in part:

When the Catholic Bishops of the United States established the *Campaign for Human Development* in 1970, they mandated the Campaign to fund “such projects as voter registration, community organizations, community-run schools, minority-owned cooperatives and credit unions, capital for industrial development and job training programs, and setting up rural cooperatives.” It was subsequently re-named the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, with prohibitions on funding of projects that were not in conformity with Catholic moral teaching.

The CCHD was sold to Catholic parishioners with a slogan of “a hand up instead of a hand out,” but instead, CCHD has heavily invested in the political organizing techniques of Saul Alinsky, a Marxist organizer from Chicago who founded the nationwide *Industrial Areas Foundation*, which in the Chicago area is known as *United Power*. *United Power* has been financed by various mainline Protestant churches and has made great inroads into the Catholic Church in Chicago, recruiting parish ministers and receiving funding from various parishes through dues and contributions. For all practical purposes, *United Power* is an extension of the far left wing of the Democrat Party.



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...It is well known that ACORN played a major role in the current financial crisis by intimidating banks through public rallies, invasions of bank lobbies with large groups of ACORN activists and picketing bank executives' homes. ACORN bullied banks into making loans to people who could not repay them. To avoid vilification as racist, local banks were forced to make loans to unqualified borrowers, even allowing them to use food stamps as collateral for the loans." These practices have caused the failure of several major financial institutions and the damage continues to reverberate through the economy.

...Funding campaigns for socialist programs and Democrat Party candidates has no place in the mission of the Catholic Church or in service to the poor... The funds are collected from the Catholic parishioners with no accountability to them for the expenditures. Nor does the *Campaign for Human Development* fund Catholic Institutions and apostolates that work with the poor.

There were even two bishops withholding funds. In the Birmingham Diocese, Bishop Baker routed money collected over the CCHD weekend to the poor in Latin America. And the Diocese of Charleston told its priests that, "In light of the recent controversy over the *Campaign for Human Development* (CCHD) Collection, the collection will still be taken up in the Diocese of Charleston but the funds will go directly to the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Charleston. Proceeds from this collection formerly went to the *Campaign for Human Development* in the name of Catholic Charities and were distributed nationally. This time the proceeds will remain in the Diocese of Charleston." [11-12-08 Inter-diocesan Memorandum]

Naturally, the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*—which is supposed to oversee the Campaign — attempted some damage control with a news release titled "Catholic Bishops Support CCHD Collection as a Response to Current Economic Crisis," not that they were suggesting it would fund anything substantially different than it had *before* the economic crisis. The CCHD was not designed to give, and never *has* given, any direct assistance to the poor, yet the release disingenuously stated:

"The current economic situation is squeezing everyone in our country. For some of us, that means more careful planning when we take the car to do errands, cutting back on restaurant dinners, and postponing discretionary purchases," said Bishop Morin. "For millions of Americans who live on the edge of poverty in the best of times, it means making wrenching choices every month about feeding their families, paying their rent, and getting necessary medical care. The *Catholic Campaign for Human Development* (CCHD) helps the working poor and others who are trying to keep their heads above these turbulent waters. In the name of all of the Catholics in the United States, CCHD fights poverty and challenges injustice," Bishop Morin said. [USCCB News Release, 11-18-08]

But it sounds good, doesn't it. If the CCHD *did* help the working poor keep their heads above these turbulent waters, who wouldn't want to contribute? J

January Calendar

Los Pequeños Monthly Meeting

January 23, 2009

Call (505) 293-8006 for information.

Pro-life Prayer:

Planned Parenthood Abortuary

701 San Mateo Blvd.

Holy Innocents Chapel:

(505) 266-4100

Times: Daily 8 AM – 3 PM

Mondays and Tuesdays at Noon

Mass at the Holy Innocents Chapel

&

Thursdays at 9:30 AM

Fr. Millan Garcia

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

(1962 Missal)

For more information, call

(505) 266-4100

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

1. Planned Parenthood Abortuary
701 San Mateo Blvd.

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 8 AM
– 11:30 AM

Wednesdays: 12 Noon – 3:00 PM

&

2. Medical Arts (801 Encino Place)

Saturdays: 8AM-11:30AM

For more information, call Phil

Leahy:

(505) 440-3040



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