

Deep Thoughts from the Executive Director

May 7, 2004

Dear Friend for Life,

Over two months have passed since I last wrote. Please allow me to present to you executive summaries of two subjects, each deserving far more elaboration than space allows. If you ever see me, ask for the rest of the story that I cannot, at this time, put in print. Suffice to say, the organization you help build with your prayers, financial support, and activism now has an increasing influence on the entire world.

At the local level, over 2,000 people have become new members/donors already this year. If our growth continues at this pace for the rest of 2004, we shall have doubled the size of Texas Right to Life in two years. As we fight bigger battles in Austin, Washington, and throughout Texas, we must have a larger support base to sustain operations. I never forget that our organization cannot remain stagnant; Texas Right to Life is either growing (increasing in size and effectiveness) or dying. In fact, our growth has been so explosive that we will add three more full-time employees this summer to help meet the needs of Pro-Life Texans counting on us.



Please note that there is a profound transformation currently underway in the Pro-Life movement, especially in Texas. A professional movement and organization of highly trained and talented individuals is coming to the aid of what has traditionally been a loose band of die-hard, volunteer activists. The transition is similar to the early history of our nation when our battles were fought by volunteers. Now those who serve us in our nation's armed services are highly trained, dedicated, full-time professional warriors. Planned Parenthood and the agents of death always use professionals for their nefarious deeds. We must put equally competent (and, in fact, far superior) individuals on the Life battlefield who are willing to make the defense of innocent Life their career. One of the marks of whether you and I succeeded in our shared noble venture will be the strength and competence of the organization we leave to continue advancing the Culture of Life and building the Kingdom of God. Please pray that our latest warriors (new employees) will quickly learn and embrace the Texas Right to Life methods of operation and assimilate with our current staff.

The next piece of great news that I share with you comes from Rome, Italy. Elizabeth and I, through the blessings of your prayers, traveled to Rome to observe an international Vatican conference on End of Life Issues in which Dr. Joseph Graham, the President of Texas Right to Life, participated. The end result was miraculous. On March 20th, the last day of the conference, we, along with 400 health care professionals, clerics, theologians, and deep thinkers, were granted a private audience (if 400 people can ever be called private) with Pope John Paul II. The Pope made a declaration that -- according to *USA TODAY* -- shocked the world by ending centuries of theological debate. The Pope stated that nutrition and hydration (food and water) cannot be licitly removed from a person in a coma or persistent vegetative state. "Death by starvation or dehydration is, in fact, the only possible outcome as a result of their withdrawal. In this sense it ends up becoming, if done knowingly and willingly, true and proper euthanasia by omission."

There will be immediate worldwide effects based on this declaration. (Approximately 1 person in 8 receives health care in America from a Catholic Institution.) Additionally, the implicit directive that one must deduce is

that the removal of food and water from ANY human being is NEVER morally permissible because that act of omission is the moral equivalent of direct killing—except the victim suffers agonizing pain for up to two weeks. To be candid, we feared that we would have to wait until the next pontificate for such a powerful statement. This saint keeps surprising us. Long may he live. *Viva il Papa!*

While Texas Right to Life is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization, we rejoice when any religious leader makes a moral pronouncement that defends the sanctity of human Life. The value of human Life is not the purview of one faith or denomination; rather, God has written the Natural Law on the hearts of all of us. The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God are discernable to any of us who has the moral and intellectual honesty to seek. When all the moral leaders of our world begin to speak with one loud, unequivocal voice on the sacred nature of Life, true revolutionary change will sweep the globe.

That's it for now. We pray daily in our office that you and your family will be blessed by peace and happiness. Be sure to visit the Texas Pro-Life headquarters when you are in Houston.

What a great time to be a Pro-Lifer!

Still Fighting, Winning, and Yours for Their Lives,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Graham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and the last name "Graham" clearly legible.

James J. Graham, Executive Director
Texas Right to Life

p.s. If you ever need to reach me and don't find me at work, try me at home (713.521.4756) or email me (JimJGraham@aol.com).