

# Yuba-Sutter Right to Life Committee Quarterly Newsletter

www.vsrfl.org

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## New Board Member

We are pleased to announce that pro-life warrior Dr. Mike Gabhart has formally joined our Board of Directors in the position of Community Outreach. For the last several years Mike has been actively educating local medical personnel and clergy on how abortion harms women.

## You are Invited

On April 30, at 3 p.m. we will have a general membership meeting at St. Isidore Parish Hall, 222 Clark Avenue in Yuba City. The agenda will include an update on our activities, followed by a presentation by Dr. Mike Gabhart and three other speakers on how abortion hurts women. Look for a letter of invitation soon.

## RU-486

In addition to the forty-five million surgical abortions performed in the U.S. since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, almost a half-million chemical abortions have been performed using the abortion drug RU-486 since it was approved in 2000. In a press release last July, Danco Laboratories, manufacturer of the drug for the U.S., boasted of 460,000 users (and dead babies). All is not well, however, in spite of the manufacturer's pride. Twelve deaths of otherwise perfectly healthy girls and women who took the drug are being investigated, four of them in California alone.

## Cognitive Dissonance

You're not likely to see it at your local cineplex anytime soon, but Hollywood has actually produced a film that does not follow the party line endorsing all abortion, all the time, for any reason. "*A Distant Thunder*" has been described by Jill Stanek as "a compelling new movie that combines supernatural chills with courtroom drama to expose the reality of partial-birth abortion," (2-8-2006, worldnet.daily)

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life recently reviewed the movie:

*The abortionist is on trial, not for having done a partial-birth abortion, but for what he did when the procedure went awry. One of the key witnesses is the nurse who witnessed the abortion. She testifies to how the procedure takes place, and to what went wrong this particular time. Her testimony brings to mind a number of real events related to abortion in the past ten years, and also reveals the striking contradiction between the care we give to the born and the brutality abortion allows to the pre-born. "What difference does three inches make?" is the question in the film and in reality. How can it be that when the baby's head is in the birth canal we can kill her, but if it is pulled three inches farther, we can't? The cognitive dissonance created by this absurd state of abortion policy is accented by reference to the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which recognizes the unborn child as a victim when, in the commission of a federal crime, a pregnant woman is injured or killed. How can the same child, if killed in a federal crime, be a victim, but if killed by an abortionist, be no more significant than medical waste? Common sense tells us that it's the same child . . .*

*Without a doubt, this film will become one of the most powerful tools to make people think and wrestle with the abortion issue, and will challenge them to do something about it.*

We have purchased the 35-minute DVD, which has won awards at two major independent film festivals for best short film. If you wish to borrow it—for personal use or to show it to your congregation—contact Miriam at 671-5347. **Note: there is no graphic content—the drama is in the dialogue.**

You can view the film's trailer at <http://www.adistantthunder.com/main.html>.

## The Tide is Turning

After years of defeats in legislatures and courts, we are beginning to see some victories for the pro-life movement.

- On February 21, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the federal partial-birth abortion ban act. The Court will review a lower-court ruling that has blocked enforcement of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act since 2003.
- On February 24, South Dakota state legislators voted 50 to 18 to ban nearly all abortions in their state and sent the new law to Governor Mike Rounds, who signed it March 6. A doctor performing an abortion would face up to five years in prison unless the abortion was necessary to save the woman's life. This will no doubt land in the Supreme Court, but with the new justices it could be the most significant case since *Roe v. Wade*. Gov. Rounds stated, "I've indicated I'm pro-life, and I do believe abortion is wrong and that we should do everything we can to save lives." We applaud Gov. Rounds for his courage.
- On February 27, Joe Scheidler and the Pro-life Action League were victorious at the Supreme Court (*Scheidler v. NOW*), reaffirming First Amendment rights to protest at abortion mills, without fear that laws originally designed to stop organized crime will be falsely applied to pro-lifers. This was the third time this case was heard before the Supreme Court, and the second time the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Scheidler and his group.
- On March 2, Mississippi's House of Representatives passed a bill that would ban abortion unless the mother's life is in danger or unless she is a victim of rape or incest. As this was written, the bill was on its way to the Senate. Haley Barbour, the Republican governor, has promised to sign the bill into law.

## Respect Life Month

January is the month we remember the 46 million babies that have been aborted in the U.S. since 1973. YSRTL members were among the 15,000 pro-life supporters who participated in the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 21. Several also attended the Pro-Life Breakfast, Rosary, Mass and Rally at the Capitol on January 24. To see pictures from these events, visit <http://www.ysrtl.org/respectlife06.html>

Next January we hope to see even more Yuba-Sutter residents participate in these events.

## Local Pro-life Groups

Occasionally we get inquiries from people who have us confused with some of the other pro-life groups in this area. While we fully support these other groups, the following should help clarify the focus of each **Yuba-Sutter Right to Life's** primary mission is education. We accomplish this through:

- offering presentations to churches and community groups on various subjects, primarily Planned Parenthood's valueless sex education influence in our public schools, and how abortion harms women;
  - analyzing pro-life and pro-death state and federal legislation and encouraging members to contact their legislators to express pro-life views;
  - publishing a quarterly newsletter;
  - organizing and staffing informational booths at the annual Yuba-Sutter and Colusa County Fairs;
  - providing pro-life messages through media such as billboards;
  - supporting and encouraging public participation in local events sponsored by the other pro-life groups;
  - providing a website ([www.ysrtl.org](http://www.ysrtl.org)) as an educational resource
- Membership in YSRTL is open to everyone who believes in the humanity of life in the womb and

the sanctity of all human life. Contact Maureen Guth at 673-1437 or visit the website for more information.

**Please Let Me Live: (the Life-Chain):** This ecumenical organization was started right here in the Yuba-Sutter area in 1986. Annually, on the first Sunday in October, Life Chain invites the churches in each city and town across North America to stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for **one hour**, while holding approved pro-life signs. In 2005, well over 1,100 Life Chains were built in America and Canada. This year's event will be held October 1. For more information contact Royce Dunn at 671-5500 or visit their website, [www.nationallifechain.org](http://www.nationallifechain.org).

**Youth for Life Alliance:** a still-developing interdenominational outreach, led by Rachel Williams, welcomes area youth ages 14-25, but pro-lifers of all ages can have an important part in this dynamic youth-directed ministry. The ministry goals include:

- pro-life leadership development;
- providing forums for discussion;
- distributing literature at youth-centered events and places;
- holding signs in public places;
- and giving talks on the development of the unborn and abstinence.

You can contact Rachel for more information at 671-4653 or email [youthforlifealliance@hotmail.com](mailto:youthforlifealliance@hotmail.com)

**A Woman's Friend Pregnancy Resource Center and Medical Clinic:** This non-profit organization serves over 1300 women in our area each year. Their mission is to be a friend to women in unplanned pregnancies by providing support and information as the mother faces the difficult decisions surrounding her pregnancy.. All services are free

and confidential. The Center is locally organized and financed through donations from local churches, businesses and individuals, and does not receive any state or federal government funds. The center also provides post-abortive counseling for hurting women and men, and has an in-house abstinence educator available to local schools and youth organizations. Annual events include the Walk for Life (May 6 this year) and a Fall fundraising banquet (October 21). For information or to volunteer, call 741-0556 or visit their website, [www.awomansfriend.org](http://www.awomansfriend.org)

## YSRTL 2005 Financial Report

<b>Beginning Balance 1/1/05</b>	<b>\$2,785.05</b>
<b>Total Contributions, Dues</b>	<b>+4,070.07</b>
	<b>\$6,855.12</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Non-Profit bulk mail & PO Box	\$188.00
Newsletter postage, supplies, printing	783.54
Educational mtls.	802.60
Billboards	820.92
Y-S Fair booth fee & insurance	484.00
Colusa Fair booth fee & insurance	284.00
Web page exp.	278.80
Catholic Herald ad	73.15
AWF contributions	300.00
Youth for Life Alliance contr.	500.00
Miscellaneous	120.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>-\$4,635.01</b>
<b>Ending balance 12/31/05</b>	<b>\$2,220.11</b>