



Carolyn's Place



PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

CAROLYN'S VOICE

A Season of Change

Spring is a season of renewal and rebirth, and with that in mind, Carolyn's Place prepares to begin the next leg of its journey with a season of change. In March the ministry relocated to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel convent on Congress Ave. in Waterbury. After seven years at St. Joseph's convent, the opportunity to move to a new location came about through discussions regarding lease options.

Fr. Borino, the pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and his parish community have welcomed us warmly. Our new building contains a beautiful chapel, a cozy living room and kitchen, office space and storage space to house the many donated items that come in from supporters. The accommodations will enable pregnancy testing, support groups, personal needs requests, parenting classes, childbirth prep classes and post abortion support. The ministry's Education Team is "booked" through July!

To all who gave of their time and effort to assist with the physical move... our heartfelt thank you. Two Knights of Columbus councils lent their considerable strength. They were from Prospect and Middlebury. They, along with many of our faithful volunteers made it all possible. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

In addition to our new physical location, Carolyn's Place has a new cyberspace address. We invite you to visit our new website at www.carolyn'splace.net for information about the ministry, its history and services, and useful links for additional help and details on a wide range of pro life and health topics.

In this season of change God appears to be telling us that in order to reach the present culture, we need to be very creative and be centered in prayer.

We ask for your prayers. Each of you has moved with us...imagine the work we will do together. **We can build a culture of life.**

CAROLYN'S PLACE OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH

12:00 TO 3:00

COME BY AND SEE OUR NEW HOME!

Spring 2005

Mission Statement

**Jesus said, "Anyone
who loves me will be
true to my word."**

(John 13:34)

Our purpose in Carolyn's Place, a Pregnancy Resource

Center, is to seek to live out these words of Jesus by offering care, concern and love to any woman who finds herself in a problem pregnancy situation. We will do all that we can to help her in making a decision for life. While not pursuing any political agenda, we will help support in whatever ways needed, every woman who chooses to allow her baby to live.

By our words and deeds, we will support the Right to Life of every child in the womb as well as the right of the mother to continue the mystery that began at conception. We will work to make known this Right to Life in any way possible.

Legally Speaking: By Meredith Cavallo, Esq



On March 31, 2005, Terri Schiavo died after thirteen days without food or water. Terri's tragic death – which can only accurately be described as murder – brought into focus one of the most disturbing trends today: activist judges. The term “activist judges” has been used frequently as of late and has been invoked by both conservatives and liberals. Liberals refer to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia as an activist judge because he has the audacity to suggest that *Roe v. Wade* is bad law. Conservatives referred to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy as an activist judge when he based his decision to outlaw the death penalty for minors on standards of international law. So what is an “activist judge?” At its most basic, an activist judge is a judge with an agenda – not just individual opinions, but an agenda – and his accomplishment of his agenda *regardless of the law*. Activist judges are judges without any regard for the law.

Terri's death was precipitated by such judges. So determined were these judges to see Terri die that they ignored not only common sense, but the laws of both the United States and the State of Florida. Circuit Court Judge George Greer of Florida is an activist judge. In the days leading up to the removal of Terri's feeding tube, Judge Greer made four lawless findings.

1. Denied a request by the Schindler family for relief based on an earlier mistake *he* made.
2. Denied the family's request for more medical tests to prove the existence of a persistent vegetative state.
3. Denied the request for oral reintroduction of food and water, which *she was capable* of consuming.
4. Denied DCF the right to intervene as guardian when several abuse cases against her husband Michael, had been submitted.

First, he denied a request by the Schindler family for relief based on an earlier mistake *he* made. At an earlier hearing, Judge Greer allowed the self-serving hearsay statement of Terri's “husband” Michael to qualify as evidence that Terri did not want to live in a persistent vegetative state. Hearsay is a legal term for a statement that is told through another individual. Because of the inherent untrustworthiness of such statements, Florida law forbids the admission of hearsay statements as proof in situations like Terri's. Judge Greer ignored that law.

Second, Judge Greer denied the Schindler family's request for more medical tests. Because the removal of Terri's feeding tube was based upon a finding that she was in a persistent vegetative state (“PVS”), that diagnosis had to be accurate. The Schindler family contested the PVS diagnosis. Florida law requires medical tests demonstrating that the PVS finding be “determined and diagnosed as permanent prior to the withdrawal of life-prolonging means.” The permanence of Terri's PVS state was called into question, but Judge Greer ignored the common sense questions and the law.

Third, in an astounding decision, Judge Greer denied the Schindler family's request of oral reintroduction of food and water after the removal of the feeding tube. Several nurses who had previously cared for Terri stated under oath that she was capable of drinking and eating soft solids on her own – thereby making the feeding tube unnecessary. Since the feeding tube was the sole issue of contention with Michael, an easy solution would be to feed and hydrate Terri orally. But Judge Greer refused to allow this and, in fact, made the oral introduction to food and water to Terri a crime.

Fourth, Judge Greer denied the Florida Department of Children and Families (“DCF”) request to intervene as guardian on behalf of Terri. DCF submitted several claims of abuse by Michael to Judge Greer. DCF argued that because Michael was the sole suspect of Terri's abuse, he could no longer act as her legal guardian. Judge Greer ignored DCF's claims and all of the testimony submitted and ruled that DCF's intervention was “not appropriate.”

Judge Greer's disregard for common sense and the law does not end with his disregard for state law. On March 17, 2005 the Senate Health Committee and the House Government Reform Committee issued congressional subpoenas requiring Terri and several of Terri's doctors to appear before Congress for a March 28th hearing. Federal law protects witnesses called before an official congressional committee and makes it a crime for anyone to obstruct the witness from appearing. Judge Greer, in finding that there was no reason for Congress to intervene, simply ignored the subpoenas and ordered that Terri's feeding tube be removed. (Note: Judge Greer could have, and should have, been found in contempt of Congress.)

Terri's judicially ordered death sentence was not signed off by Judge Greer alone. In an unusual unifying act, Congress passed a bill that transferred Terri's case out of the state courts (and the death grip of Judge Greer) and into the federal courts. This action, which is used frequently by convicted criminals, allows a federal court to hear the case *de novo*. "De novo" simply means that the court must consider the case anew, as if they were starting from scratch. Surely Terri deserved the same right commonly granted to convicted criminals!

Terri's case was transferred to the care of U.S. District Court Judge James D. Whittemore. However, despite the constitutionally passed law requiring Judge Whittemore to consider Terri's case *de novo*, he allowed each side a mere 45 minutes of oral argument. 45 minutes! Terri's legal battles had been ongoing for 15 years, there was no way to fit 15 years into 45 minutes! And in less than 24 hours, Judge Whittemore ruled that the removal of Terri's feeding tube was correct. The following day, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed Judge Whittemore's decision. And the U.S. Supreme Court twice denied the Schindler family's request for intervention.

Terri's court-ordered murder is the kind of atrocity we in this country like to believe only happens in other, less-enlightened places. And while people talk about living wills and other social "solutions" to situations like Terri's, the real issue people should be talking about is the ramifications of the activist judges that made sure an innocent woman was starved to death. Judges *must* be held accountable for their blatant disregard for law. We must make sure that happens.

(Note: No Connecticut Congressmen supported the House bill protecting Terri. Congressmen Larson (D-1st), and Shays (R-4th) actually voted *against* the bill! Congressmen Simmons (R-2nd), DeLauro (D-3rd) and Johnson (R-5th) did not bother to cast a vote.)

We want to be the first choice of women facing crisis pregnancies.

You can make it happen.

Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Resource Center has a simple vision. We want to be the first choice of every woman in our community who is facing a crisis pregnancy. To realize this vision, **we need more volunteers**—women and men— who will give of their time to assist us in all types of areas.

Call us today. Let's make this vision a reality.

(203) 597-9050.

Reflections

The following was taken from Fr. Pavone's bi-weekly column.

Help Wanted: Priests and Brothers for Life

Fr. Frank Pavone

National Director, Priests for Life

In a column he wrote called "Help Wanted: Sisters of Life," Cardinal John O'Connor presented the idea of a religious community of women specially dedicated to promoting the sanctity of life. He received hundreds of responses, and on June 1, 1991, eight women entered the newly formed community. They now have over 45 members and several convents in the New York area.

Meanwhile, Priests for Life has helped priests become stronger in their pro-life work, within their own assignments, and will continue to do so. But is it not time to take yet another step, and create a community whereby priests and seminarians can dedicate their entire lives completely to the defense of life?

Being pro-life is not a hobby. It is a vocation. It is, first of all, a basic aspect of our vocation to be a human, and a foundational element of our vocation as Christians. For these reasons, it is integral also to the priesthood. Everyone is called to live out this aspect to his or her vocation in one way or another: many do so by dedicating time to various forms of pro-life activities and prayers.

In the Church, various communities focus on a particular aspect of the Christian vocation, in order to strengthen the rest of us in our fidelity to that dimension of the Gospel. So, for example, the Sisters of Charity focus on service to the needy and vulnerable around the world. They are not the only ones called to exercise charity, but their existence reminds all of us of that common call. Likewise, the Blessed Sacrament Fathers are not the only ones who worship the Blessed Sacrament, but their focus on that aspect of our Faith encourages us all to worship the Sacrament more fervently.

So it is with a community focused on life. Pope John Paul II has written, "No single person or group has a monopoly on the defense and promotion of life. These are everyone's task and responsibility" (*Evangelium Vitae*, n.91). The purpose, therefore, of such community is not to say, "We will take over doing pro-life work—the rest of you don't have to worry about it." Indeed, the purpose of the community would be just the opposite—to raise a trumpet call to the whole Church to give the defense of life the priority it deserves, at every level of Church life and ministry!

Some would wonder why, with such a shortage of priests, we would "divert" them to this specialized work. The answer is that the pro-life movement is precisely the source of many new vocations. Many will be led to the priesthood precisely because such a pro-life community exists. And this community would serve parishes nationwide.

I am convinced that the time has come, and I have met numerous young men across the country ready to devote their lives to their unborn brothers and sisters. And therefore, I, too, issue this "Help Wanted" call. Those who are interested can contact me at

vocations@priestsforlife.org.



WHERE LORD?

By Donna Marie Pitino

Where, Lord? Where are You?

On my own. All alone.

Not ready. Unsteady.

Without hope. Can't cope.

Afraid. I prayed.

Where, Lord? Where are You?

I am with you in everything:

When you think and when you sing—

When happiness makes you shout—

When you doubt and feel left out—

When you sigh and go to sleep—

When you laugh and next you weep.

And...

I was with you when you ended the division

And made the life-giving decision

To work through worry and strife

And welcome this new life.

You're my child and I'm proud of you.

I'll be there always in all you

Note from Ellen

Change seems to be the operative word in this issue. We underwent a tremendous change on April 2nd, when Pope John Paul II died. Thinking about writing this was intimidating. Statesmen, theologians... all spoke of or about him. But I remembered a bit of advice Sr. Marion William, my high school creative writing teacher gave me, "write what you know." And so this is purely a personal reflection.

One of John Paul's greatest gifts was his ability to "connect". I have never been to Italy. The closest I came to him was in '95 at his Mass in New York. Yet I felt that we knew one another. Not only did we know one another, I felt he cared about me. I certainly loved him.



His poetry, encyclicals, letters, were windows into his heart and soul! They spoke of a man devoted to God, justice and the dignity of the human person. Reading his "Letter to Women", he reached into my heart and soul. He says, "Women will increasingly play a part in the solutions of the serious problems of the future: leisure time, the quality of life, migration, social services, euthanasia drugs, healthcare, the ecology, etc. In all these areas a greater presence of women in society will prove most valuable, for it will help to manifest the contradictions present when society is organized solely according to the criteria of efficiency and productivity, and it will force systems to be redesigned in a way which favors the process of humanization which mark the "civilization of love." With these words John Paul told me and all women that we have the ability to effect great change by living out our vocation as women. His respect and admiration for women was very evident. Taking these words to heart, I have grown in my vocation.

Helping the young men and women who come to Carolyn's Place find their "vocation" coincides with building up the "culture of life." Young people considering abortion have no idea who they have been created to be. Helping them with that discovery, they recognize their worth and then know the worth of their unborn child.

Here at Carolyn's Place, we are part of the "great campaign in support of life." Here, Pope John Paul II's words are engraved in our hearts. We will be blessed by his legacy for all time.

Dear Friend, Carolyn's Place is entirely supported by contributions. Your donation is greatly appreciated to help continue ministering to unborn babies and their mothers and delivering a message of life to teenagers and adults. Thank you for your generosity.

Yes I would like to donate \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please cut out this form and return it with your donation in the enclosed envelope. All donations are tax deductible.

NATIONAL ACADEMIES GUIDELINES ETHICALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

Austin Ruse, President of the Culture of Life Foundation, said the recent attempt by the National Academies to provide ethical guidelines for embryonic destructive research fails to address the most serious ethical concerns that arise from this practice.

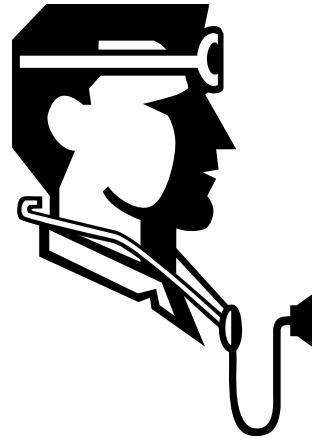
“These guidelines are both inadequate and disingenuous,” Ruse said. “The members of the Academies are attempting to give the appearance that they are offering thoughtful and temperate solutions. The reality is that their belief is in the total acceptability of destroying human life in its most vulnerable stage for the purposes of scientific research prohibits them from producing an ethically acceptable set of principles. If there was any question that these members are not offering a truly moderate solution, the fact that they refuse to call for a ban on the creation of animal-human hybrids should remove any doubt.”

Ruse questioned why the members did not call for an increase in adult stem cell therapy and other alternative means of obtaining stem cells.

“Adult stem cells have repeatedly been used to treat a variety of illnesses so why don’t these guidelines support greater research into their potential? And since umbilical cords and placentas have proven to be entirely ethical means of obtaining effective stem cells, the National Academies should be advocating their use.”

The Culture of Life Foundation is a social policy research institute dedicated to gathering and disseminating the facts and science related to the culture of life broadly understood. To this end, the Culture of Life Foundation seeks to deepen public understanding of bioethics, the family, marriage, popular culture, and the dignity of the human person.

Culture of Life Foundation
Austin Ruse
austinruse@culture-of-life.org



*“I know God
won’t give me
anything
I can’t handle.
I just wish
He didn’t
Trust me so much”*

*Mother Teresa
(1901-1997)*

Carolyn's Place Happenings

As a non-profit organization staffed by only one full-time person and one part-time person, we rely on the generous support of our volunteers to accomplish the many great things we are able to do for our teens, babies and mothers in need of love and support. When we looked at our activity throughout 2004, we were astounded to realize how much we were able to accomplish through God's love and grace..

Our most important accomplishment...**68 babies were born** through the assistance of Carolyn's Place this year alone! In addition, 26 clients graduated from childbirth prep classes and 37 from parenting classes.

Carolyn's Place received 2,635 phone calls.

Of the calls received;

- ◆ 622 were for pregnancy information
 - ◆ 59 requested abortion information only
 - ◆ 67 requested housing
 - ◆ 158 requested birth control
 - ◆ 37 calls were for education talks
 - ◆ 19 calls were for post- abortion information
- ◆ **Walk-Ins.** 216 walk-ins plus many others who came in during the Christmas Season for personal need items.
 - ◆ **483** clients were seen.
 - ◆ **Pregnancy Tests.** 237 free pregnancy tests were giving during the year. Of these **166 teenagers** were tested.
 - ◆ **Positive Tests.** 103 pregnancy tests came back positive.
 - ◆ **HIV and STDs** 30 clients tested positive for **HIV** and/or tested positive for **STDs**
 - ◆ **Personal Needs.** More than **83** clients picked up personal needs items.
 - ◆ **Donations.** More than **40** donations of clothing, diapers and other baby supplies were made, including generous gifts through baby showers and giving trees.

PROJECT ESTHER

“Be mindful of us, O Lord; Manifest yourself in the time of our distress and give me courage King of gods and Ruler of every power. Put in my mouth persuasive words in the presence of the lion...Save us by your power and help me, who am alone and have no one but you, O Lord.”

Esther C 22-24

Join our Education Team on Wednesdays as we fast and pray for our young people. We're asking God to help our young people understand and respect the gift of their sexuality. And we're asking for a return of sexual integrity for our country.

Carolyn's Place

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www.carolynsplace.net

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*One word,
one action,
one selfless deed,
Can lift many souls
who are in need.
All it takes is simply
one.*
