

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

OPERATION MORNING STAR

NEWSLETTER

Volume VI, No. 1

September 2010



10 WEST 71ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10023



"OPERATION MORNINGSTAR"

Good Citizens Want to Know

Here's a synopsis of the legislative workshop presented at the Catholic Daughters' National Convention this past July. If you want to use the presentation at meetings, here is the link to the Power Point: http://www.catholicdaughters.org/morning_star/OMS_2010_legislative_workshop_slides.pdf

In the *Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II reminded the world that we must "recover the basic elements of a vision of the relationship between civil law and moral law." He said, "in no sphere of life can the civil law take the place of conscience."

In fact, "civil law must ensure that all members of society enjoy respect for certain fundamental rights...rights which every positive law must recognize and guarantee."

He continued, "It is therefore urgently necessary, for the future of society and the development of a sound democracy, to rediscover those essential and innate human and moral values which flow from the very truth of the human being and express and safeguard the dignity of the person: values which no individual, no majority and no State can ever create, modify or destroy, but must only acknowledge, respect and promote."

This past June Pope Benedict XVI reinforced this view. He said, "**human reason**, above all if it accepts the inspirations of the Christian faith, **is a promoter of a civilization that recognizes the dignity of the person, the intangibility of his rights and the strength of his duties.**"

When the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*, they urged citizens to speak up for those who cannot defend themselves. They said, "**Nor can we practice the Gospel of life only as a private piety. [We] must live it vigorously and publicly.**" They continued, "we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically."

In *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*, the bishops said, "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."

With this inspiration in mind, the Catholic Daughters have a legislative program, titled Operation Morningstar, to educate our members on current issues of concern to Catholics. **Operation Morningstar is a CDA issues-oriented program to encourage Catholic women to speak out on legislation while it is being considered.** Since it is difficult to change a law after it has passed, "our Catholic influence needs to be projected to the legislators during the debate, before the laws are enacted."

As a 501(c)(3) organization, CDA is tax exempt, so we must follow the IRS guidelines. As a reminder, **Catholic Daughters of the Americas does not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of [or in opposition to] any candidate for public office.** One local court or just one member who violates this rule puts the entire national organization in jeopardy of losing tax-exempt status.

In the name of Catholic Daughters, no local/state court officer or another court member may verbally or by written word issue a statement for a specific candidate or party. No officer or member may promote a program, a website, or any other type of communication that promotes a specific party or candidate— even without naming the party or candidate— as information available can be partisan without naming a candidate or party.

Tools of the Trade reminds, "If an issue arises on a national level, the state or territorial court legislative chair should contact the CDA National Legislative Committee to determine if the committee has taken a position. A state's position should not conflict with the National Legislative Committee's position."

Support 'No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act'

Last November a CNN poll revealed that 61 percent of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortions. A bill introduced by Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Dan Linkinski (D-IL) on July 30 would permanently ban all tax money from funding abortion. **The "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act" would permanently prohibit government funding of all abortions here and abroad.**

Rep. Lipinski told LifeSite News, "The health care bill made it clear that the current way we prevent taxpayer funding of abortion through annual riders is dangerously fragile. To guarantee that taxpayers are never forced to pay for abortions and the innocent unborn are protected, we must make the longstanding ban on federal funding for abortion permanent and government-wide."

According to Colin Mason, writing for Population Research Institute (PRI), "The federal spending in the area of health, foreign aid, and defense would be governed by a clear and simple directive: not one penny of these funds can be used to procure or pay for an elective abortion."

"This would be a powerful step forward

for the pro-life movement and one which, Congressman Smith and his pro-life colleagues, the majority of the American people are firmly behind. According to Smith, every 'reputable poll' shows that large majorities of Americans 'want no complicity whatsoever in paying for the evil of abortion.' This is why, he says, the 'patchwork of policies' that currently exist to block abortion funding is not enough, in the long term, and reminds the public that it is 'time for a single government-wide policy against funding for elective abortion.'

"The passage of the 'No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act,' Smith continues, would constitute formal recognition by the federal government that 'abortion is lethal violence against children and exploitation of women.'" The bill already has bipartisan support with more than 70 co-sponsors.

ACTION REQUESTED: Call Senators and Representatives asking them to co-sponsor the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act." Although there is no timetable yet, it is most important to have

hundreds of sponsors for this important bill. Contact Senators and Congressmen as soon as possible, **Remember to speak as individuals, not as members of Catholic Daughters. Encourage friends and family members to write or call, too.**

Life Chains pro-life vigils set for Oct. 3

Life Chains, which are silent, peaceful, lawful pro-life vigils, will be held at 1400 locations across the United States, rain or shine, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 3. Signs are provided. All are welcome. To find the location nearest you and to read more, see www.lifechain.net or call the national coordinator Royce Dunn 530-674-5068.

CDA Courts Celebrate Respect Life Sunday

Finding a new way to promote life to the next generation can be difficult. Fetal models and bulletin inserts provide ways to inform Catholics about life issues. In some places, Catholic Daughters courts are supplying their parishes with bulletin inserts for Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 3. The Catholic bishops

Fetal Models > 10-12 Week models



The Precious One
Item No. 751PO

The 'Precious One' is the most realistic 12-week fetal model ever developed. Its beautiful detail, softness and weight can really move hearts and change minds! Each baby includes a free full-color development card describing the first trimester of life.

Quantity	1+	10+	50+	100+	500+	1000+	2500+	5000+	10000+	25000+	50000+
Cost/Item	\$1.50	\$0.85	\$0.69	\$0.59	\$0.49	\$0.45	\$0.39	\$0.38	\$0.37	\$0.36	\$0.35

have a beautiful flyer available at this website: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2010/>.

One supplier of beautiful and inexpensive inserts is Heritage House at <http://www.heritagehouse76.com>. The fetal models distributed at the CDA National Convention were purchased from Heritage House. Order information is listed above. CDA members cut pieces of pink and blue felt in 5 1/2 inch squares, and then cut them diagonally, pinning each like a diaper to hold each model and card.

Approved by Joanne Tomassi, National Regent