



We are on the WEB!!!

RESOURCE MATERIAL
 AVAILABLE VIA DOWNLAOD

WWW.OCLife.org

RESOURCE MATERIAL
 AVAILABLE VIA DOWNLAOD

e-mail: oclifehq@aol.com

MARCHING FOR LIFE!

Hundreds of Orthodox Christians from from around the country joined people from across this great country on January 22, 1998. The objective in journeying to Washington D.C. was to witness to the sanctity of life. The Twenty-Fifth Annual March for Life brought together over a hundred thousand people.

Participating in the March emphasizes the miraculousness, the preciousness and the joy of life. Thoughts go to the Creator and Author of Life. Beginning and ending points come to mind - the Alpha and Omega.

The depth of commitment by the participants was obvious as speakers introduced groups travelling from far ends of the country. Many among the thousands were veterans of the war to protect unborn children.

A wide array of religious leaders, Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, Protestants, and Jewish spoke with conviction. Political leaders and other proponents of the rights of the unborn made their voices heard.

The March to the United States Supreme Court Building was a united voice for unborn children crying out for mercy, love and an opportunity to grow. Young and older Orthodox Christians assembled and marched under banners bearing the image of Jesus Christ as Author of Life and the image of the Theotokos with

the accompanying message "Orthodox Christians for Life."

The March for Life educates participants. Unborn children are put to death daily. An Orthodox Memorial Service was conducted at the conclusion of the March.

Serbian Orthodox Christians, Carpatho-Russians, Greek Orthodox, Romanian Orthodox, and Orthodox Church in America believers marched together. Young children and teenagers participating received an education far exceeding any classroom experience.

Senior citizens, well schooled in the experiences of life mustered the energy and braved the winter perils to make their presence known.

The large white and blue "Orthodox Christians for Life banner, together with the icon banner of "Christ the Author of Life" and a large icon of the Ever Virgin Mary visiting St. Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-44) served as the focal point for marchers. Scriptural documentation on the sanctity of life comes from the treasured words of Isaiah 44:24: "Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things..."

As followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we need to be sensitive to the kilings of children taking place each day. Continuous prayers and responsible actions are needed for each conceived child to grow to maturity in a loving Christian home.

Protodeacon Rodney Torbic

The Environmental Movement- Abortion Connection

Valerie Protopapas

Television has brought into our homes scenes of animal rights activists demonstrating in front of fur salons holding graphic pictures of suffering creatures caught in cruel traps and the inhumane killing of animals raised for their fur. TV has also brought us gripping scenes of such environmental disasters as oil spills around the globe, presenting as heroes (rightly so) those dedicated souls who wash oil-fouled birds and animals in hopes of saving these helpless victims of man's planetary vagaries, planned and unplanned. Indeed, one of the most powerful and important social causes of our time is environmentalism, a movement encompassing large numbers of organizations either specific in their orientation (the Audubon Society) or more universal in their concerns (National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth). However, it is unfortunate to note that most of these organizations decrying cruelty to animals and strongly condemning the rape of nature, are pro-abortion. In the opinion of many environmentalists the cruel death of unborn children is not only of less importance than that of various animals or plant species but is, in fact, *a necessary component of the environmental struggle*.

This particular mindset was made most evident by a Supreme Court ruling on the environment handed down shortly after *Roe vs. Wade*, the abortion decision which declared that the unborn baby is not, constitutionally speaking, a person and thus may be killed without reason or penalty. In this particular case brought before the Court by an environmental group, the Justices declared that a meadow could be considered a person under the Constitution of the United States and, as a result, deserving of legal protection. So, on the one hand, "nature" is now sacrosanct while man is, in certain (and ever growing) circumstances, eminently expendable. This peculiar view seems to involve many of those who are animal rights activists and/or general environmentalists. Indeed, most animal rights activists see man as *the* enemy of all life on the planet (including his own species) and, to a certain extent, there is some truth in that allegation. Far too often we are uncaring and cruel, ready to sacrifice for our pleasure and profit all other life forms including our fellow man should we perceive the "need" (i.e.: our desire) to do so. In this attitude we exhibit our failure to follow the commands of God. Man has been appointed the *steward* of the Earth

and the Lord demands that we utilize carefully that which is necessary to sustain our lives while protecting and nurturing the rest of Creation. One doesn't have to be a theologian to discern how badly we have failed in that duty.

In light of that failure, many animal lovers have become "people haters," reserving their respect and affection solely for those of their fellow men who hold similar views. For these people, abortion is a "holding tactic" which keeps down the human population and further limits attacks on the animals they love with single-minded devotion. Yet, in ordaining the cruel death of the unborn child who is as helpless and innocent as the creatures they champion, animal activists perpetuate the very cruelty they decry. It is terribly damaging to the human psyche when there are manifest feelings of kindness towards lower animals that then is contrasted with the acceptance and espousal of the cruel murder of one's fellow man, especially when those doomed to death are innocent. This moral schizophrenia afflicted many of the men and women who manned Nazi death camps. These monsters would alternate between a normal life with spouse, children and beloved pets and participation in the sadistic torture and murder of the helpless men, women and children at their mercy. It is interesting to note that most if not all high-ranking Nazis including Hitler, were avid animal lovers. In the Third Reich, blood sports were severely restricted while the unprecedented slaughter of human beings became the policy of the State. And today there can be no doubt that many animal rights activists hold their own species in contempt, an attitude often expressed by bumper stickers stating: "The more I see of people, the more I love my dog."

In the case of the pro-abortion environmentalist, however, there frequently exists a different mindset. Unlike the animal rights activist who is motivated by hatred of the cruelty perpetrated by man upon his or her beloved beasts, many environmentalists are elitists, staunchly affirming the value of the lives of themselves and those of their social and political persuasion. These are the people who firmly believe that they may walk across a protected meadow without consequence while lesser folk (such as are vast majority of their fellow men) would do inestimable damage to an irreplaceable natural resource. For example: if Robert Redford wanders about a Rocky Mountain wilderness, its virgin nature is preserved. Whereas, if you or I are thoughtlessly permitted to do the same, the blow to the environment is

incalculable. This is not an unusual mindset for the environmental elitist. These are the people who individually or through organizations, lobby Washington to reinstate the International Planned Parenthood Federation as an organ of American foreign policy - especially in the poor non-white countries of the Third World (and they have been wildly successful in the present avidly pro-abortion administration). It was IPPF which planned and promoted the atrocious "one couple-one child" abortion/infanticide policy of the Chinese Communists. They and their allies labored mightily to overturn the Mexico City Policy of the Reagan-Bush Administrations, a policy which went far in removing the United States from the business of exporting abortion. In contrast, Vice-President Al Gore in one environmental conference demanded the reinstatement of contraception and abortion in Third World countries with the threat that such nations must accept this "assistance" as the price of continuing American aid. Environmentalists frequently equate people with pollution, especially when the people in question are not their "type." Even the disreputable "science" of eugenics is making a comeback under the environmental banner.

Sadly, far too many "nature lovers" are "people haters." One consequence of this situation is the ability of the abortion establishment to use them and their institutions - many of which are incredibly affluent - as allies in the war against the unborn child and traditional Christianity. This alliance must war against the Church because of Her doctrine of the sanctity of human life; that is, human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore have more intrinsic value than the snail darter, the California redwood or the dusky sparrow, all of which are sacrosanct according to many environmentalists. However, it is interesting to ponder that were Christian ethics to prevail throughout the world, the rape of nature including the abuse of animals *could not happen*. Obedience to God's injunction to care for the planet and all its life forms would end the atrocities inspiring the wrath of environmentalists and animal rights activists. Furthermore, had Man never fallen, had he obeyed God and not his own selfish desires, nature would not be the cruel arena of "eat and be eaten" (the survival of the fittest) that it now is. For nature is more cruel than any furrier and more destructive than any logging crew. Horrible cruelty is the way of the "natural" world and no animal lover or environmentalist can overcome or dispute that reality however fanatical he or she may be.

In fact, the world desired and demanded by animal rights activists and environmentalists is the redeemed World which Christ has promised to restore when His Kingdom is established. It is bitter irony to contemplate that many of those whose laudable desire is to bring forth this "new" earth are performing acts that will ultimately prevent them from ever attaining their desire. In the support and advocacy of abortion and other deadly policies directed against their brothers, these deluded souls are producing the seeds of their own destruction despite the fact that at the same time, they are being obedient to God's injunction to care for His Creation.

Below is a list of pro-abortion environmental organizations compiled by the National Right to Life Committee, one of the largest non-sectarian pro-life groups in the nation. As you can see, at least one well-known, high-profile group - Greenpeace - is not mentioned. We have also heard from other sources that Greenpeace is not pro-abortion but, unfortunately, we have no definitive proof of that fact. In order to discover whether an environmental or humane organization is, in fact, pro-abortion, one may write to the subject group and ask about their stand on the issue, especially if they support Planned Parenthood in any of their guises including IPPF. Of course, if you do not receive an answer, you may assume the worst. (Note: there is an organization within the Orthodox Church - Green Orthopraxy - which addresses environmental issues from an Orthodox perspective and deserves the support of Orthodox Christians interested in this issue.)

The list of environmental groups that have lobbied for abortion in the past and are now supporting pro-abortion legislation: Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Action, Environmental Policy Institute, Friends of the Earth, Global Tomorrow Coalition, Izaak Walton League, National Audubon Society, National Parks and Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, National Resources Council of America, National Resources Defense Council, Renew America, The Sierra Club, The Oceanic Society, The Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited, Union of Concerned Scientists and Zero Population Growth.

Groups which support present pro-abortion legislation but appear unaware of their connection with abortion include: American Forestry Association, Audubon Naturalist Society, National Association of State Energy Officials, National Consumers League, Public Citizen, Rainforest Action Network, Solar Energy Indus-

tries Association, Thermo Electric Corporation, World Resources Institute and The Cousteau Society*. (National Right to Life News, March 9, 1989, p.5).

[*the support of abortion which previously appeared to be unintentional may have changed since the death of the Society's founder, Jacques Costeau. His son and replacement has openly called for severe reductions in the human population, something that suggests the matter is now no longer one of ignorance but deliberate policy.]

Lowering the Bar

Valerie Protopapas

Anyone familiar with sporting events such as the pole vault knows that as the contest goes along, they "raise the bar"; that is, they eliminate lesser competitors to discover the best of the best. In fact, there is no competition in which the bar is *lowered* in an attempt to determine the winner. This same increase in difficulty marks advancement in almost every field of human endeavor. First grade is more difficult than kindergarten, college is more intellectually challenging than high school and so on through life. In fact, we naturally understand that if we are in pursuit of excellence whatever the field, there must be a constant effort to "raise the bar."

Unfortunately, today in America we are in the midst of an ongoing effort to "lower the bar" when it comes to morality and national politics vis a vie the Clinton Administration and there can be no doubt that, by extrapolation, our entire society has become a part of that effort. For if we as a nation are prepared to tolerate illegal and immoral acts, it cannot help but be reflected throughout the culture. It amazes me to see fobbed off as "no big deal" the fact that the President of the United States has openly and repeated lied to the American people, his associates and his Party and committed such serious felonies as perjury, obstruction of justice, abuse of power and witness tampering. Any and all of these crimes and near-crimes would have destroyed previous occupants of the White House but somehow excuses are constantly found for its present occupant by politicians, lawyers, academicians, the media and far too many ordinary citizens. We are treated to the unedifying spectacle of our President twisting, turning and parsing words to avoid telling the truth under oath and the reaction of the public and its representatives is appar-

ently kudos for his "skill" at doing so.

Of course, some of this has to do with the fact that Clinton is a liberal Democrat and therefore the darling of the establishment elite. However, that does not explain who so many ordinary, non-ideologue Americans are willing to give an acknowledged "wrong-doer" a free pass. Certainly, the economy is good and we are not at war but there is some question as to whether our recent strikes against "terrorists" might have been the actualization of the recent film, "Wag the Dog" in which a beleaguered President fakes a war to focus public scrutiny away from a sexual dalliance. The mere fact that many Americans actually envision that the President's actions might arise from such motives speaks volumes for the country's present state of mind. Of course, we must give the highest marks for this Administration's ability to obfuscate, confuse and deceive. They have coined a term - "spin" - to describe nothing less than Dr. Josef Goebbels' infamous motto: "Tell a big enough lie often enough and it will be believed." By releasing small amounts of information (which they decry as having been "leaked" by the other side), they insure that when the facts finally do come out, the matter will be "old hat" in the minds of the public and, hence, unimportant. "There's nothing new here," is the usual comment when the full story of the President's scandals finally comes out. The fact that most people would be more exercised over the release of new information pertaining to the assassination of former President John Kennedy than they are about the criminal activities of the sitting President of the United States is something that should cause us individually and as a nation to anxiously ponder. The result of this incredible public apathy is nothing less than the most corrupt Administration in the history of this nation ensconced in the White House spewing depravity into the body politic like sewage into a reservoir.

Yet this deplorable situation is not limited to any particular person, party or even to politicians in general. The egregious nature of the present Administration and its leadership is merely indicative of our moral and ethical decline. "Anything goes" was an American motto long before Bill Clinton and, in fact, it was a credo that permitted many voters to overlook the moral and ethical baggage that Clinton brought with him to the campaign in 1992. "It's the economy, stupid!" was the President's first campaign slogan and its success was obvious. Almost immediately the new Administration engaged in such acts as "Travelgate" (the firing and

bogus prosecution of innocent civil servants working in the White House Travel Office), “Filegate” (illegally obtaining over fifteen hundred FBI files of Republicans and other possible “enemies” of the Administration) and the putting forward of a host of questionable candidates for various Cabinet positions who were then either rejected out of hand or withdrew as their scandals became public. As each of these infamies appeared, at first the public was appalled but they soon lost interest and the matter settled like ooze in a pond to the bottom of public consciousness. The only reason that the “Monica Lewinski” scandal has generated such prolonged interest is the fact that it involves the one thing most Americans seem to be able to focus on for over ten minutes - sex. Even so, the aggregation of known facts that nine months ago would have finished the Clinton presidency, is now regarded as “ho-hum” and “nothing new” by a jaded public.

Bill Clinton is a sort of nineties Everyman. While he is, in fact, corrupt and a corrupter, we cannot lay the blame for the current moral state of the nation upon him or, indeed, upon any one person, political party or organization. Sadly, there is more than enough blame to go around for our nation’s moral crisis. Of course, we can go all the way back to Adam and Eve to find the true culprit - our fallen human nature - but since we know that there have been times in history when human beings have at least tried to “raise the bar” of cultural mores, we cannot say that we have merely degenerated by virtue of elapsed time from Creation to the point where this sort of thing is inevitable. There have been corrupt regimes before and (if Christ does not come again relatively soon) there will be again, however, we know that it is possible to re-institute morality and regain at least as much integrity as this nation once had. The people hunger for what was - for the better days of moral certitude and social stability. Relativism, situationalism and the therapeutic society have reduced America to a moral, ethical and cultural basket case. Most parents want their children to be able to pray in school because they recognize the need for God as an antidote to the present all-pervasive social poisons. They want them taught right from wrong and good from bad not only at home but in the established bastions of society, the schools. The question now must be: how can this be accomplished? How can we as a nation regain our moral footing?

There have been a few high-profile leaders in the movement to return to what once was - a public moral-

ity based upon Judeo-Christian principles - but many have been silenced and all have been subjected to ferocious attacks by the anti-Christian establishment. However the largest and strongest force that has in the past led mankind out of depravity and into the light is missing from this struggle. That force is The Church. To begin with, much of what this country perceives as “The Church” has been co-opted by the other side. Mainline Protestantism is in the vanguard of all the worst movements, abortion and homosexual rights advocacy, feminism, relativism etc. ad nauseam. The American Catholic Church is schizophrenic. On the one hand, it stands against abortion at least publicly. However, there is no doubt that a large segment of that Church has followed mainline Protestantism into the darkness. How long Catholicism will be able to survive their theological dualism is questionable but certainly their condition clearly detracts from their ability to be a strong and unifying force in the re-establishment of morality in America, something which the media exploits by presenting devout traditional Catholics as superstitious oafs.

The only Church in this nation that is *not* in internal schism on moral issues is the Orthodox Church. This does not mean that every “Orthodox”, clergy and lay, agrees with Orthodoxy’s doctrines on morality, but at least the hierarchs of the Church do not openly grant such persons legitimacy in recognition of their positions on these matters. Thus as the only truly united voice for traditional Christian values, the Orthodox Church should be a real force in the culture or at worst, She should be a lightning rod for Christian hope and anti-Christian hate. But does anyone seriously believe that this is the case? I think not. The question that then must be asked is: *why not?* Perhaps Orthodoxy is not in a role of moral leadership in America *because a leader must be heard and seen in order to be a leader*. Christ said that He would be “raised up” in His ministry to mankind. The first time that happened was on the Cross when He was “raised up” to ridicule, torture and death. The second time was when He was “raised up” from the dead by His Father to be King of all Creation. The second time could not have come without the first and the Church cannot come to triumph without enduring the humiliation, condemnation and persecution meted out to those who speak against this world and its prince. Christ Himself “raised the bar” as an example of what we who bear His name must do. But “the bar” cannot be raised in the darkness of silence, only in the light of an outspoken, unapologetic Christian witness. It is growing

late. "The bar" is rapidly being lowered to a point at which we may not be able to raise it again. Both Christ and the nation wait to see if we who have the Orthodox Church in our keeping are up to the task but the issue is still in very grave doubt.

A Call for a New American Council

Valerie Protopapas

There is an old saying, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." There is a great deal of sense in that advice for if one wishes to communicate with a group of people, it is necessary to know and understand how they think and nowhere can that information be more easily gleaned than by observing how they act. In the past, the Church has "Christianized" integral parts of each culture in order to form a more perfect bond with its members. The pagan festival of easter became in the Western Church, Easter - the Resurrection of Christ. The feast of the god Saturn which honored the return of the sun and took place during the shortest, darkest days of the year, became the Feast honoring the birth of the Incarnate Son of God, Christmas. The Church has always known that one must speak first to the culture if one wishes to reach the people dwelling within it.

America has a culture (no laughing, please!). There are things that are distinctly "American." We are, in fact, an ethnic group. Oh, we tend to think of "ethnic" as something pertaining to our "roots" - something Irish or Russian or Greek - but, in reality, America has had an ethnic identity since before the Revolutionary War. Indeed, it was the ethnic distinction recognized in the colonies - that is, the difference between being "British" and being "American" - that fueled the war in the first place. Therefore, if Orthodoxy (which is distinctly "non-American" in its origins and history) wishes to address the people of *this* nation, it must first recognize that to which we Americans respond as a people, diverse as we are. This is essential if Orthodoxy wishes to survive in this nation. Just as the Russian Church did not remain Greek or the Japanese Church Russian, if there is truly to be an *American* Orthodox Church (*not* North American or some other hybrid that tacitly dismisses this country as unworthy of a national Church) then Orthodoxy's leaders must seriously investigate how best to bring the doctrines of the Church to the

indigenous peoples of America including all those hyphenated Irish and Italians. Furthermore, they must understand how best to get the attention of Americans and that is certainly not with dissertations on liturgy or theology, subjects that even very few Orthodox consider high on their list of interests or priorities. In fact, the issues that will attract and hold the attention of most Americans are ones of morality and ethics and the best way to go about investigating how to present Orthodoxy's doctrines in this area is with a pan-Orthodox conference involving not only of all the jurisdictions presently in this country, but also of a full range of participants across the spectrum of the Church - hierarchs, clergy and laity.

Now, we are not speaking here of a conference about those same heretical jurisdictions. That is something internal to the Church and must be addressed in due course of time. However, if Orthodoxy does not begin to connect with *Americans*, the jurisdictional problem will cease to exist because the Church in this nation will cease to exist except in a few pockets of immigrant populations. The jurisdictional problem will have to wait until some of the present leaders pass away and there arises sufficient courage to come to grips with the establishment of a truly "American" Church. No, what is needed *now* is a conference in which all Orthodox in America formulate how best to address this nation on the vital matters currently affecting our society, matters, as stated previously, mainly of moral and ethical concern. Certainly, foremost of these issues is the assault on innocent human life as seen in the legitimization and promotion of abortion, euthanasia and suicide in the culture. People are dying here folks! - and dying in numbers that dwarf the Holocaust and even the depredations of communism. Then, too, there is the fate of the family and marriage which include matters of sexual chastity and promiscuity. And, finally, there is the matter of personal and professional honor and integrity, something highlighted by the current situation in Washington involving the highest office in the land. All of these things are basic to any society and their desecration and degeneration mean the descent of that culture into chaos and eventual extinction. No one within or outside the Church can pretend that American society is not in serious danger of complete ethical and moral collapse. Just read the papers, listen to the radio or watch television or the internet. These are the matters that the Church must

address in this Council so that our leaders and the rest of the Faithful may determine how best to bring to America what is necessary in this era of darkness - the Light of Christ.

For too long now, we Orthodox have been like lighthouse keepers who are only concerned with the appearance of the lighthouse. We scrub the walls and windows. We put up pretty curtains and sweep the long stairs that lead to the Light. We polish that Light and give to Him every service at our disposal. We even clear away anything that might obscure His Flame as He looks out over the vast ocean of life towards those who are in danger of foundering on the rocks of sin and death. The only trouble is, *we don't light the Light!* We are so busy making sure that the lighthouse looks beautiful that we forget why it is there - to guide those in peril on the sea of life. Time is running out. Darkness is falling and the fog of relativism, materialism and hedonism has rolled in over the coast. The ship of humanity is running full tilt towards disaster and still the lighthouse keepers wander about straightening the furniture and fluffing the

pillows. What will be the fate of us, the keepers, when the Great Mariner comes and asks why there are so many bodies of the dead upon the shore? Will He care how beautiful His lighthouse looks or, rather, will he punish the keepers for failing to fulfill our duty to those perishing souls? I think we all know the answer to that question.



The Abortion Industry Exposed and On Trial

Now available for \$9.95 (a drastic reduction in cost and with no charge for shipping) is the book that everyone in the pro-life movement is taking about, **LIME 5**. This expose of the abortion industry provides pro-lifers with an in-depth look at what actually happens in our nation's abortuaries including the medical and sexual abuse that is practiced in these factories of death. For those who want something more to bring to the debate than the humanity of the unborn child, **LIME 5** is a powerful weapon to counter the claim that abortion is a "service" to women. By calling the toll-free line listed below, you can order **LIME 5** by check, money order or credit card. (This is not an OCLife source or sponsored project, but non-Orthodox recommended resource material)

1-800-401-6494

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS for LIFE · 1999 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM ==>>

Mail to: ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS for LIFE, P.O. BOX 805, Melville, NY 11747

Yes, I wish to help OCL! Enclosed is my gift and/or donation to Amicus Brief Fund checkbox

OTHER > \$ _____ \$50.00 > _____ \$25.00 > _____ \$10.00 > _____ \$5.00 > _____ Pledge: \$ _____ per Mo. _____

New Membership in OCL > RENEWAL for _____ Extra Measure Gift > _____ Want to form OCL chapter >

[If you want to get involved in OCL please write or call OCL on how you can help c/o Mrs Valerie Protopapas (516) 271-4408]

(make check or money orders payable in US Dollars to Orthodox Christians for Life)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Telephone (optional) _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Reminder

1999 March for Life

Friday, January 22, 1999, 11:30AM

(Rain, Snow, or Shine)

We start to assemble at 11:00AM
Program Activities Start at 12:00 noon
Service for the unborn at the Supreme Court

The Ellipse, Washington DC

Orthodox Christians for Life,
PO Box 805, Melville, NY 11747
(516) 271-4408



1100 Hicksville Road
Seaford, NY 11783

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 121
Massapequa, NY

