



REVERENCE FOR LIFE

Pray, Proclaim, and Promote the Gospel of Life

Increased State Funding for Antiabortion Groups

Historically most states have spent more money subsidizing comprehensive family planning than they have on places offering abortion alternatives. There appears to be a change in this trend as a number of states have opted to channel funding to anti-abortion activists to counsel women with unplanned pregnancies. The abortion rights supporters have taken the position that the money would prevent more abortions if utilized to broaden the availability of contraceptives. Still the vast majority of states are funding Planned Parenthood.

In 2006 Planned Parenthood

received \$80 million from states and \$200 million from the federal government. This funding covered birth control, gynecological exams, cancer screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, **it was not used for abortions.**

When clients seek assistance due to an unwanted pregnancy they are given **all** the options. Nevertheless there is the presumption that an abortion is the easiest solution.

In recent months there has been an escalation in the use of public funding to subsidize antiabortion



A Gift From God
by Fred Mathews

programs, Christian homes for unwed mothers and other crisis pregnancy centers. In Austin, Texas grants to Planned Parenthood were reduced and

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The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life was inaugurated in the Fall of 1997, with the National Black Caucus and the Franciscan Solid ground Ministry as sponsors and with the support of John Cardinal O'Conner Archbishop of New York and the Archdiocese's Office of Black Ministry. NBCAL is supported by all the major National Black Catholic organizations in the United States.

National Day of Prayer Recap

February 4, 2007

Parishes and organizations throughout the United States ordered the brochure containing the National Day of Prayer for African American Families from Dr. Beverly Carroll at USCCB: SAAC in Washington, D.C. This year's brochure contained an interesting article on "Going The Distance With Jesus," written by Baltimore Dioceses' Therese Wilson Favors, and the founder of this significant day, Reverend James E. Goode, OFM, Ph.D. Its content is being used for Catechesis in several parishes. Suggestions for celebrating this day (the first Sunday in February) were also included in the brochure.

A Stimulus For Violence

Numerous studies and research confirm the fact that media violence has a negative effect on the Black community. It is especially damaging to young children because they cannot easily tell the difference between real life and fantasy. Violent im-

ages on television and in movies may seem real to young children; they can be traumatized by viewing these images. Furthermore exposure to media portrayals of violence increases aggressive behavior in children. Sales of TV's, stereos, VCR's and satel-

lite dishes have a tremendous impact on the cultural environment. A National Television Violence study found that the majority of all entertainment programming

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contains violence. Viewers become desensitized an fearful (over)



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Violence continued

contains violence. Viewers become desensitized and fearful and began to identify with aggressors and their solutions to various problems. Programs that are violence oriented, present a narrow view of the world, viewers of these types of programs overestimate their chance of being involved in violence, they increase anti-social behavior and aggression, create a higher tolerance and threshold of violence that leads to a desire to experience more violence on television and in real life.

Social Analysts have commented on the steady increase in violent and anti-social music lyrics and images, filled with profanity and hate. They have become a successful marketing tool for the music industry.

Correlational studies suggest a connection between the kind of music one lis-

ens to and various maladaptive behavior. College students who prefer rap and heavy metal music reported more hostile attitudes than students who preferred alternative, adult contemporary, dance-soul or country music. Listeners to heavy metal music held more negative attitudes toward women. Rap music fans were more distrustful.

A correlation was identified between a preference for rap and below-average academic performance, school behavior problems, drug use, and sexual activity. Fortunately most African Americans of our distressed society are moral and responsible people. The future will shine more brightly if compassionate and thoughtful individuals join to promote individual responsibility, personal freedom and to develop effective, long-term solutions to reduce violence in our community.

Antiabortion Funding continued.

redirected to the Roman Catholic diocese. Other states adhering to this practice include Florida, Missouri and Pennsylvania which have long-running programs. Florida, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and Texas approved funding in 2005. Arizona and Kansas have authorized one time grants to Right to Life organizations. There are other states who provide funding through the sales of "Choose Life" license plates. Collectively the states will have spent a minimum of \$13 million in 2006 to discourage abortion as a choice. Pro-life activists feel that a balanced division of state funding is the only equitable manner of addressing the matter.

Since the first of the year, this shift in resources has enabled the state of Texas Pro Life organizations to counsel 660 women and teens. A few weeks ago the Texas Catholic Conference sent volunteers to the Capitol in support of legislature to abolish abortion in Texas.



Coping strategies, family relationships and religious involvement are potential protective factors that affect low-income urban African American youth.