



Good News

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Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri.

WHEN TAKING ON THE ABORTION INDUSTRY, DON'T FOCUS ONLY ON CONGRESS

BY MIKE HOEY



UNTIL THE U.S. SENATE has 60 votes to end a filibuster, Planned Parenthood will likely continue to receive federal funds. Defunding Planned Parenthood is a goal that must be pursued, but it will take time. Congress moves slowly, but action on the state and local level can hasten the day when Planned Parenthood is not only denied federal support, but finds its clinics are no longer viable business operations.

Missouri is well in advance of most states in protecting unborn children. The General Assembly has banned the use of public funds for abortion, enacted a 72-hour reflection period before an abortion can be performed and established a program offering alternatives to abortion for women facing crisis pregnancies.

On the local level, 40 Days for Life prayer vigils are

active in front of abortion clinics in St. Louis and Columbia. Missouri has a robust network of centers around the state to help women in crisis pregnancies by offering pre-natal care, counseling, emergency housing and more.

This summer, pro-life action took a new twist when citizens learned that the University of Missouri had granted hospital privileges to abortion doctor Colleen McNicholas. This allowed McNicholas to legally perform abortions at Columbia Planned Parenthood. Citizens were outraged that the state's premier public university would aid and abet the abortion industry.

The Missouri Catholic Conference's network of citizens played a key role in getting university officials to reverse course. Effective December 1, McNicholas will no longer

have “refer and follow” privileges with the university hospital, and Mizzou is cancelling contracts it had with Planned Parenthood. The future of Columbia Planned Parenthood, at least its abortion business, is in doubt, and all because of the strong response of Missouri citizens.

The Mizzou story underscores what can be overlooked: the abortion industry depends upon community support. Right now, St. Louis based Pathology Services, Inc. accepts the remains of unborn children from Planned Parenthood. But what happens if this lab says “No, we will no longer cooperate in this evil.” Maybe St. Louis Planned Parenthood finds another laboratory, maybe they don’t. Regardless, at least one more business has put conscience before business as usual.

As people of faith who want to protect the sanctity and dignity of all human life, we have more opportunities than we think in our communities. We can join the prayer vigils and volunteer at pregnancy resource centers. But a new activity can be to rouse the consciences of local businesses and organizations to no longer assist or cooperate with Planned Parenthood. We can do this by our example and by moral persuasion. Indeed, even those who work for Planned Parenthood can experience a change of heart. Yes, let’s keep working for Congress to defund Planned Parenthood, but let’s not wait for that to happen. Let’s get started in our own communities.

Mike Hoey is the executive director of the Missouri Catholic Conference.

Send a letter (there is no public email address) to:

James R. Miller, Registered Agent, Pathology Services, Inc. 2916 South Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63144.

Urge Dr. Miller to get Pathology Services, Inc. out of the abortion business.

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD: 2015 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY RECAP

Thanks to all involved, this year’s Annual Assembly was a success! Over 430 people attended the Assembly in Missouri’s State Capitol on Saturday, Oct. 3. The House Chamber floor was packed during Dr. Lawrence Feingold’s keynote address, where he passionately spoke about the Church in the Modern World and the teachings of Catholic faith. A small selection of photos from the day are included in this *Good News*; you can find the full gallery at mocatholic.org.



DR. LAWRENCE FEINGOLD gave the keynote address at the 2015 Annual Assembly. Dr. Feingold is a professor at the Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.



436 PEOPLE attended the Missouri Catholic Conference's 2015 Annual Assembly. Annual Assembly attendees gathered in the House Chamber for the opening session.



VOLUNTEERS helped make sure the Assembly ran smoothly throughout the day. Executive Director Mike Hoey advised them on navigating through the Capitol construction areas.



15 CATHOLIC YOUTH participated in the Mock Legislature during the Annual Assembly. They were able to get a sense of what it's like to be a part of the Missouri government in this simulation.

THE MISSOURI BISHOPS chatted with members of the Public Policy Committee and others at their breakfast before the Assembly. Dr. Feingold and his wife shared a laugh with Father Flatley.



FERN WARD led the youth workshop during the morning session of the Assembly. Ms. Ward brought artifacts to give the youth a sense of what life was like before modern technology.

Missouri Catholic
Conference
PO BOX 1022
Jefferson City, MO
65102-1022

RETURN SERVICE
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Phone: (573) 635-7239
Fax: (573) 635-7431



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A MESSAGE FROM MIZZOU STUDENTS FOR LIFE PRESIDENT KRISTEN WOOD

Mizzou Students for Life is the pro-life organization on Mizzou's campus, founded by Reagan Nielson. Since its founding, Mizzou SFL has sought to start the conversation about abortion and its alternatives on campus. Our organization has brought displays to campus including the Planned Parenthood Project, volunteered at MyLife pregnancy help center and "Chalked" campus for National Pro-Life chalk day. This year we will take part in Pro-Life Cupcake Day by passing out treats while sharing the pro life message. Every year we attend the March for life In DC in January. Since the beginning of the fall semester we have been vocal about our opposition of MU's relationship with Dr. McNicholas. We wrote a letter to Chancellor Loftin expressing our concerns and hoped our voice would be heard. It seems it has, given the recent news that MU has cut all ties with Planned Parenthood. Departments are no longer allowed

to receive credit from the Columbia location and Dr. McNicholas no longer has refer and follow privileges at MU. We are so ecstatic to hear this news and we are so proud of our university for taking this step. This is a great start to our year and we cannot wait to watch more hearts and minds change in favor of the unborn.

Kristen is a sophomore studying business at Mizzou. She was elected president of Students for Life this year.

