

mography. It is possible to get reliable information through regular reading of Catholic Press, as well as of other works and books published by the pro-life activists. He warned against the publications which might be signed by professors, but depart from the truth. To learn - means also to attend meetings, lectures delivered by honest people, to watch documental films showing development of a human being, as well as films on destruction of conceived lives, films on tragedies of mothers after killing their unborn child. To collect information on the effects abortion produces on women's physical and mental health.

This kind of challenging and conscious efforts to obtain truthful information and continuous updating of our knowledge is particularly important when the media do not give us proper information but very often give use disinformation.

2.3. To teach others

According to Dr. J. Willke the requirement of "teaching others" is particularly directed to people of the media, to people of the largely understood educational system, but also to religious communities and regular citizens.

"To teach others" means to preach the universal ethical imperative always and in every situation: You are not allowed to kill absolutely innocent and vulnerable people - the unborn children.

"To teach others" is to unveil the methods of abortion supporters and to promote acts in service of life. To convey the truth of the beginning of human life, information on the child development before birth, the truth of the cruelty concealed under the word "abortion".

"To teach others" applies certainly to the acts of narrower, local influence, such as the press, radio, local TV or even very near surroundings, such as your school, university, parish.

The postulate "to teach others" might be fulfilled also through the purchase of the relevant press "advertisement" or TV/radio "spots".

The enormous possibilities of fulfilment of this postulate - "to teach others" - are in the area of so-called sanitary education. Posters, showcases in waiting rooms at GP, surgeries, pharmacies, might and should build up the civilization of life.

The Polish Association for the Protection of Human Life owns a lot of pro-life materials: photos, films and texts. School and parish papers are given the copyright to use them free of charge (tel/fax +48 12421-08-43).

2.4 To help

Dr. J. Willke emphasizes the fact that our work for protection of human life must include some real and material help offered to single mothers and numerous families.

It is necessary that all doctors, not only gynaecologists or obstetricians, knew the local institutions, community organizations and help lines rendering help in critical situations.

"To help" in the work of human life protection in the material sense cannot be restricted to helping single mothers and poor families only. "To help" should also include financial help for pro-life organisations, institutes or publishers in service of human life protection.

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PS. You are welcome to visit our websites: The Polish Association of Protection of Human Life: www.pro-life.pl and Polish Federation of Pro-Life Movements: www.prolife.com.pl

The strategy of pro-life activists contra the strategy of supporters of legalised abortion

Introduction

I am going to present the problem given out in the title in the aspect of positive and negative strategies of the efforts being undertaken for the protection of human life, as presented by two American doctors:

- Dr. John Willke - pro-life activist, president of *International Right to Life Federation*
- Dr. Bernard Nathanson (gynaecologist, obstetrician) - now a pro-life activist, but in 1986 a member and founder of NARAL (*National Association for Repeal of Abortion Law*) - an organization of several members who within 5 years managed to have abortion crime legalised in the U.S. (with no limitations: up to the 9th month of a child's life in its mother's womb).

For many years and everywhere in the world dr. J. Willke has been presenting his 4-clause plan of fighting the killing of the unborn children.

Dr. B. Nathanson experienced "the conversion" and moved from the pro-abortionists' camp to the side of pro-lifer advocates. In 1982 in Ireland he delivered his famous speech "Lethal deception, planned extinction" where he exposed the strategy of pro-abortion groups.

The pro-abortion methods presented by Dr. B. Nathanson have been used all over the world.

Below I would like to present the fundamental part of the speech given by this ex-pro-abortion supporter, keeping the same order as he did.

1. The strategy of pro-abortion groups exposed by Dr. B. Nathanson

1.1 Faking opinion polls

Dr. B. Nathanson: "In 1968 we knew that the honest carrying out of a survey on abortion among Americans would result in a complete defeat. We decided to act differently then. Through the mass media we publicised the results of the surveys we allegedly carried out, claiming that 50 or 60% of the Americans want to have abortion legalised. This was a very effective tactic of a self-fulfilling lie. If you keep persuading the American public long enough that everyone wants to have abortion legalized, most of us would become convinced of the rightness of this opinion. Few people care to be in the minority.

One of our practises was also to use suitably designed and quite ambiguous surveys. This is why I would like to warn everyone to be very suspicious when hearing or reading any surveys results.

1.2. Faking data and size estimates of the abortion underground, deaths of women who have undergone illegal abortions

Dr. B. Nathanson: We also knew, that if we dramatised the situation well enough, we would arouse enough sympathy to *sell* our program of permissive abortion. This is why we fabricated the data on illegal abortions done annually in the U.S. The actual figure was approaching 100,000 but the figure we gave to media and the public repeatedly was 1,000,000. The number of women dying from illegal abortions was around 200-250 annually. The figure we constantly fed to the media was much bigger - 10,000. These false figures took root in the consciousness of Americans convincing many that we need to crack the abortion law."

1.3. The so-called “Catholic Card”

Dr. B. Nathanson: “The most important and the most effective method we used in our work in 1968-1973, was so-called *Catholic Card* (...).

But we avoided treating all Catholics the same way. We knew that this kind of attitude could be very damaging for us. We needed some support from those who we called the *enlightened Catholics*.

Instead we were using a collective term of the Church hierarchy, which was ambiguous enough to convince all liberal intellectuals, anti-war activists and the mass media that it is the Church who is guilty of starting the opposition against the legalization of abortion.

Our message was clear: The Catholic Church is determined to impose her convictions on abortion over the country. The picture of human rights in upcoming years in the U.S. depends on the way of solving the problem of abortion. We cannot allow the dogmatic Church to take over the competencies of legislators and force every woman to give a birth to a child. The proceedings of the hierarchy are unwavering and the opposition towards the Abortion Act comes from the hierarchy itself not from most Catholics. In this manner we separated catholic *intellectuals*, forward-looking and liberal circles from the hierarchs and we drove a wedge into the catholic opposition against permissive abortion. By quoting the fabricated surveys we claimed that *most Catholics support the amendment of the Act*.

What was the importance of our witch-hunt? First of all, it persuaded the media that anyone opposing permissive abortion must be a Catholic or be under the strong influence of the Catholic hierarchy. We kept spreading the belief that the Catholics in favour of abortion are enlightened and forward-looking intellectuals.

An inference of this tactic was to persuade the public that there were no non-Catholic groups opposing abortion. The fact is that other Christian churches as well as non-Christian ones were (and still are) against permissive abortion, for example Orthodox churches, Churches of Christ, American Baptist Association, Lutherans, Methodists, Mormons, Orthodox Jews, Muslims, Pentecostalists etc.

The non-Catholic groups who were strongly against abortion were numerous. Nevertheless, we managed to keep their list unpublished and we prevented the presumption that there could be a different opposition than the Catholic one to arise.

1.4 Suppression of all Scientific evidence concerning the prenatal stage of human life, control over the media

Dr. B. Nathanson: Apart from *Catholic Card* NARAL used two other key methods in abortion propaganda: the suppression of all scientific evidence that life begins at conception and taking the control over the mass media.

First of these methods was to consequently negate a scientifically proved fact that life begins at conception. We claimed that defining when the human life begins is a problem of the theology, law, ethics, philosophy - all but science.

This sort of measure is still one of the favourite tactics of pro-abortion groups claiming that scientists are not able to define the moment when human existence begins. Such opinion is ridiculous and absurd (...).

Not only can we define life precisely but we should do it: it begins at conception. The person conceived is a human being, there is no moment in the prenatal phase of the human embryo’s life when it would be possible to change nothing into something, to change something non-human into a person. Life is a continuous process from its beginning, from the insemination until the very end.

As a scientist myself I know - not believe, but know - that human life begins at conception.”

In his speech Dr. B. Nathanson did not expand on the media issue, so what I would like to add from myself is that the vast majority of the media spreading the untruths of American abortionists, failing to fight their lies and to reveal their manipulations - knowingly or not - contribute to building up the civilization of death.

Today, the scientific, medical truth on conception as the beginning of human life is given not only in serious scientific works but also in millions of secondary and college schoolbooks.

2. Strategy of pro-life advocates

Dr. J. Willke set forth the following general, strategic actions of pro-life supporters:

1. to pray
2. to learn
3. to teach others
4. to help

To pray

Being a believer in God, Dr J. Willke rightfully recognized the first and fundamental role of prayer in protecting of human life. The prayer should be on the first place of all pro-life actions and it should support them constantly.

Let me quote the most important call, the most essential message of the greatest protector of life - John Paul II. On 7 June 1979 in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Poland, the Holy Father called:

“(...) you should never cease praying! It may be a prayer without words. Let the simple and fundamental papal call to pray speak from this place to all who listen to me here or everywhere else. **And this is the most important call. The most essential message.**”

A day later, on 8 June 1979 in Nowy Targ, Poland, the Holy Father said: “And I wish and pray continuously that Polish families gave life and were faithful to the holy right of life.”

Those two statements of God’s Servant John Paul II inspired a group of Cracovian lay Catholics to organize the national Prayer Crusade for the Protection of the Unborn Children (12.10.1980). This prayer crusade had two prayer objectives: To wake up the conscience and sensitivity of Poles for the fate of unborn children and to abolish the Act of permissive abortion and to have it replaced with the law protecting the life of a child from the moment of conception.

On 7 January 1993 Polish Parliament repealed the criminal Abortion Act and introduced a new act protecting life of the unborn (unfortunately with 3 exceptions). Poland was the first country in the world to accomplish such a change under democratic conditions. In 2005, on the 25th anniversary of the Crusade, two of its objectives were modified:

- first - to give thanks to good God for all the good that happened in the work of life protection in Poland,
- second - to ask for the awakening of conscience and social sensitivity for the life protection problem,
- third - to ask the Almighty God to have an unequivocal entry made to the Polish constitution, protecting the life of every human being from conception to natural death. This Crusade has been continuing.

On 13 October 2007, at the II World Prayer Congress for Life, in the God’s Mercy Basilica in Lągowie, Krakow, the **World Prayer for Life** started. It is a World Prayer Crusade in the intention of human life protection, with the motto coming from the words of John Paul II: “A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world.”

In Poland since the 80s there has been a strong prayer movement - Movement for the Spiritual Adoption of an Unborn Child.

2.2 To learn

Dr. J. Willke stressed many times that it is necessary that our commitment for protection of life was wise and based on arguments taken from the development of medicine, history, law and science of death.