Battle in Milwaukee continues

by Cameron Gulden

Milwaukee, WI—Despite tyrannical efforts by city and state authorities to intimidate Christians from obeying God, the full-time work of the Missionaries to the Preborn in Milwaukee continues. Among the efforts are weekly rescues, daily prayer and sidewalk counseling, and a new project to help bring "The Hard Truth" to 100,000 Milwaukee residents.

Rev. Matthew Trewhella, co-founder of Missionaries to the Preborn, was recently found guilty of violating a permanent injunction brought forth by the city to protect the local abortuaries. During his pre-sentencing statements, Trewhella addressed Judge Dugan: "Thomas Jefferson once said that 'the purpose of government is to protect life; abandon that and you've abandoned all.' Everything is backward, judge," Trewhella continued. "The man who cares for his family and for others is jailed, while the man who rips limbs off of helpless children sits at home in front of his fireplace sipping martinis. This is a perversion of God's intent for civil government, and a perversion of our founding fathers' intent for civil government." Trewhella was also allowed to show "The Hard Truth" video to the judge and prosecuting attorneys.

Gary McCullough (l) and Ron Brock sit in the rear of the paddy wagon after a recent Milwaukee rescue.

Krista Gulden (rear), Gary McCullough, and Kim Warren are handcuffed to a pipe on the wall in Milwaukee's Police District 4 after a recent rescue.

The judge sentenced Trewhella to 120 days in jail, and gave him credit for 41 days already served for the offense. The verdict is currently on appeal, and the sentence was stayed pending appeal.

Contempt charges for violating the injunction have been dropped against three individuals, including Joseph Foreman, Bryan Longworth, and Monica Miller. However, Jim Soderna, a Milwaukee missionary, was recently found guilty of two such violations. The jury "deliberated" for less than 20 minutes, and Soderna faces a maximum of two years in jail.

Weekly rescues continue in the city of Milwaukee, though nine missionaries are currently in jail. John Casserly, a retired firefighter and full-time missionary, was recently released after serving five months. Three incarcerated male missionaries have been attempted to be searched by a female guard, and were sent to solitary confinement upon refusing. Two other missionaries were given citations after calling out to an abortionist from a public sidewalk as he left his place of business.

The "Tell the Truth Project" has been underway in Milwaukee since late January, in an attempt to help reveal the hidden truth to the people of the city. The goal is to send out 100,000 copies of "The Hard Truth" to the residents of Milwaukee. Already 1/3 of the total needed funds has been raised. "This is a bold, imaginative plan to bypass the 20-year media blackout," said Rev. Mike Skott of Missionaries To The Preborn. "If the population could be fully informed, they would never tolerate the atrocity of child-killing." ■

Philadelphia City Council targets blockaders

Philadelphia, PA— The Philadelphia City Council has voted to prohibit and punish blockades of abortion clinics by demonstrators. By a vote of 13-4 the council made it an offense punishable by mandatory fines of up to $300 and jail terms of up to three months to block entrances to any facility in the city where children are killed under the terms of *Roe v. Wade*.

The ordinance would not stop so-called peaceful demonstrations — where access is available for clients to proceed with a scheduled child-killing — or the distribution of literature outside the clinics. Pro-life advocates said the bill will not stop them.

The city offices of Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania are the target of weekly demonstrations by pro-lifers, and blockades are prohibited by a federal injunction that is based on state law.

The Northeast Women's Clinic is covered by another federal injunction based on racketeering laws. ■

Church mail effort slams FOCA abortion bill

Congress targeted

The Catholic Church, long outspoken in its opposition to abortion, is engaging in a massive and unprecedented lobbying effort to stop passage of an abortion rights bill in Congress.

Priests in thousands of churches across the country will continue handing out five million postcards, asking people to sign and send them to Washington.

The cards voice opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act, a bill that would prohibit states from restricting abortion.

Priests like the Rev. Robert Hermann of Chesterfield, Missouri, say there's nothing wrong with asking parishioners to join the church's nationwide campaign.

When he sermonizes about the evils of abortion, Hermann says he's simply "witnessing to the teaching of Jesus."

But some parishioners, like Kathleen Starkey of nearby St. Louis, say they don't like feeling strong-armed in church.

On Sunday, January 24, when her priest asked the congregation to help lobby Congress, Starkey walked out of church.

"(The debate's) about exerting control over people in the pew," she says.

Richard Doerflinger, spokesman for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, says church officials are asking parishioners to get involved and are spending more money on the abortion battle because it is "the pre-eminent human rights issue of our day."

Under federal law, churches can lose tax-exempt status if they endorse candidates or tell parishioners how to vote, but church members can lobby politicians. With more than 58 million U.S. members, the church is a potentially powerful lobby.

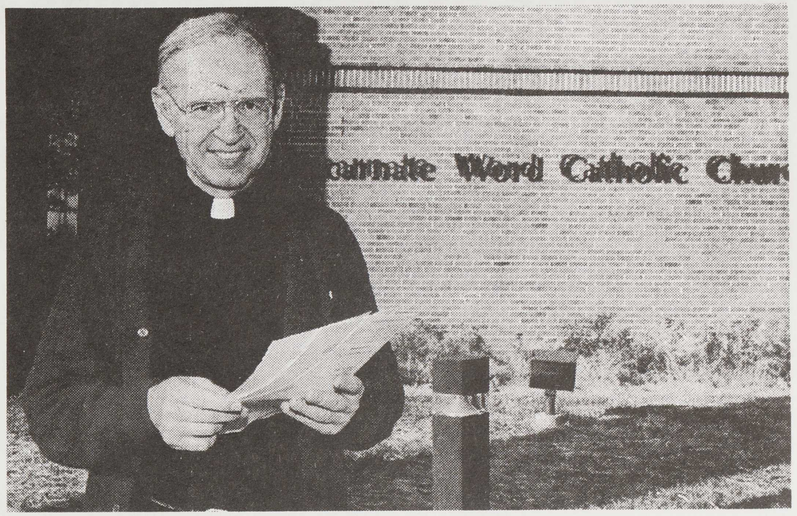
"This is not in our view the imposition of a narrow sectarian religious agenda," said John Walsh, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Boston. "It gets to the question of what kind of society are we going to have."

Among participants:

Fort Worth, Texas, which has handed out 360,000 cards.

Boston, which will send roughly 600,000 cards.

St. Louis, which is sending out 750,000 cards. ■



Rev. Robert Hermann of Chesterfield, Missouri, holds brochures describing the postcard campaign.

Carla Myers starved to death

Teen dies on dad's orders

Akron, OH—Carla Myers died on February 8 from starvation and thirst torture in Edwin Shaw Hospital after her estranged father ordered food and water stopped to the brain-damaged 14-year-old.

Myers was the victim of an October 25, 1992 automobile accident which left her brain-damaged but not comatose, as news reports described her. No ventilator or other medical machines were needed in her case.

Though Myers lived most of her life in and out of foster care, her alcoholic father stepped forward as legal guardian requesting that a feeding tube be removed. The court complied with the request.

When the girl's natural mother heard of the situation, she attempted to intervene and succeeded in having feeding resumed. However, in the following weeks, a "court advisor,"Barbara Patterson, convinced her that her daughter had no hope of "meaningful" recovery.

However, many dispute this claim. And moreover, many of Carla Myers' friends dispute that she was "noncognitive," saying that she responded to them.

Two couples tried to adopt Myers using the sworn testimonies of Lisa Myers, Carla's cousin, and Tonya Jefferys, a close friend of Carla's, to indicate that she was aware of her surroundings and responded to them by squeezing their hands.

The court rejected these attempts to save the teenager. Patterson said that the attempts to adopt Myers were a "sham" and that it was an "exploitation of the Myers family tragedy for political gain."

Local pro-life Christians held a prayer vigil beginning on February 1 when the feeding and water were stopped. Their hope was that minds would be changed and that the teen would be given food again.

In such cases, the actual feeding tube is not removed. Rather it is used to administer anticonvulsant drugs to keep the dehydrating brain from causing wretching and seizure-like movements of the body.

Pastor Joe Slovenic of Northern Ohio Rescue and leader of the prayer vigil, said, "The court and the parents starved Carla to death under the guise of mercy. We feel deeply for the parents in their unbelievable trauma. They're not getting all the facts. But any way you look at it, they murdered Carla, and it was done in an agonizingly slow fashion."

With national health care under a critical eye, some have speculated that the cost of long-term care, while Carla recovered to whatever degree, was a factor. However, several people familiar with the case said there was no doubt that insurance would have covered all the costs of Myers' care.

Though this was the first official starvation death on record in Ohio, Rita Marker of the Ohio-based Anti-Euthanasia Task Force, said, "Euthanasia is happening all the time, all over. It is just not heard of unless publicized by the media." ■