

# THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

## SOCIAL ACTION GROUP

582 Queensberry St., North Melbourne. Vic 3051  
Ph 9326 5757 Fax 93282877

Email: [freedom@connexus.net.au](mailto:freedom@connexus.net.au)

Volume 3 - No.2 April 2003



### EDITORIAL

## WE FIGHT – FOR FIVE POSITIVE PRIMACIES.

In 1936 the founder of the Thomas More Centre, Bob Santamaria, wrote an editorial headed: "We Fight". In it Bob identified two evil brothers: Communism and Capitalism. Both regarded people as things to be exploited. Bob declared that he would fight for a greater vision, where humans are people to be deeply respected. He would not watch idly.

Neither do we sit idly today. We will fight against expressions in society of a reduction of humans to mere instruments, used by advertisers, scientists or politicians, who forget that in all activity the primacy of the human person must be respected!

We will fight to reestablish everywhere we can a new respect based on a new vision. No longer the primacy of profits or individualistic pleasure, but five new primacies:

1. the primacy of the human person; 2. of the family; 3. of the common good; 4. of subsidiarity; 5. of Judaeo-Christian values.

In this way we can say that we are serious about the greatest commandment, to love God with all our heart, because we have not neglected His second commandment, to love our neighbour as ourselves.

And energetically we take up the Pope's call: "to renew the temporal order in all its many elements ..." (Ecclesia in Oceania, Nov 2001, 43)

Michael Casanova

### TMSAG MEMBER COMMITMENTS

- a) FAITH – personal prayer;
- b) STUDY – Catholic Social Teachings;
- c) ACTION – about 1 hr per month;
- d) AND GROUP SOLIDARITY – because solidarity spreads...if it starts at home.

### MEETINGS

Our groups meet at least once a month and follow roughly the following format:

1. 15 mins Prayer
2. 15 mins Catholic Social Teaching
3. 15 mins Discussion of social issue
4. 30 mins Coffee and Action Planning

### TMSAG meetings, APRIL.

**Hawthorn**  
Tues 1, 7:45 pm  
Corner House - 182  
Power St, Hawthorn

**Albury**  
Wed 2, 6.45 pm  
St Pat's, Albury

**Ballarat**  
phone Anthony,  
9326 5757

**Flinders**  
Wed 23, 7:30 pm  
Our Lady's Parish  
Hall  
1 Foote St,  
Dromana

**University Groups:**  
Monash Mondays;  
Deakin;  
La Trobe Thursdays;  
Melbourne Tuesdays;  
phone Rosy, 9326 5757

**ACU Patrick Tuesdays**  
phone Pat, 9326 5757

**Preston**  
Wed 15, 7:30 pm  
St Raphael's Pres,  
17 Hardy St

**Werribee**  
Fri 11, 7.30 pm  
35 Nangiloc Crescent,  
Werribee

For further details, phone 9326 5757

# Catholic Social Teachings FORMATION

## OUR FIVE PRIMACIES

We believe that in Australian society – economics, politics, entertainment, medical research – there is too often a false set of priorities, which puts authentic human goods behind individualistic pleasure.

The Church presents a different vision, deeply impressed by the astounding value of the human person and the magnificent call we have to renew society so that it really will help all to flourish and more easily fulfill their vocations. We can't turn earth into heaven, but we can bring some of heaven's happiness here and reduce the hell of selfish individualism.

To every social issue we study, to every project we plan, we bring a new vision, a new set of priorities, summarised in five primacies.

### 1. The Primacy of the Human Person:

**Defending the dignity & rights of every human, from the one cell stage to old age.**

CCC 1944. "Respect for the HUMAN person considers the other 'another self.' It presupposes respect for the fundamental rights that flow from the DIGNITY intrinsic of the person."

### 2. The Primacy of the Family:

**The fundamental unit of society.**

CCC 2210. "The importance of the FAMILY for the life and well-being of society entails a particular responsibility for society to support and strengthen marriage and the FAMILY. Civil authority should consider it a grave duty 'to acknowledge the true nature of marriage and the FAMILY, to protect and foster them, to safeguard public morality, and promote domestic prosperity."

### 3. The Primacy of the Common Good:

**The essence of nationhood and community.**

CCC 1906. "By COMMON GOOD is to be understood 'the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily.'"

### 4. The Primacy of Subsidiarity:

**Keeping things small enough, local enough, to be personal and to allow self-determination.**

CCC 1894. "In accordance with the principle of SUBSIDIARITY, neither the state nor any larger society should substitute itself for the initiative and responsibility of individuals and intermediary bodies. "

### 5. The Primacy of Judaeo Christian values: These explain every other primacy.

How do we know what is good for people and what is against their dignity and rights? How do we know what will advance the common good of Australia (will injecting rooms)? The first four primacies need the fifth: the authentic and objective truth about man.

### Abortion and the First Primacy

#### Jesuits in the USA Speak up

What happens when the primacy of the human person is disregarded? Extremely serious consequences, a matter of life and death. The following report is from "SPUC information" ([information@spuc.org.uk](mailto:information@spuc.org.uk), news, 28 March 2003).

The Jesuits in the United States have issued a statement to explain and affirm their "renewed stance in defence of human life". A document entitled "Standing for the Unborn" released this week by the 10 US provincials of the Society of Jesus seeks to "underscore the correctness of Catholic Church teaching regarding abortion". The document describes abortion as "a key social evil" which has cost more than 39 million American lives since 1973, and affirms that the Jesuits are compelled to speak out against "a spirit of callous disregard for life" which shows itself directly in abortion but also in other evils such as violence and discrimination. [CNS and US Jesuits' document, 25 March]

**SEE, JUDGE, ACT:  
SOCIAL ISSUE & ACTION**

**IRAQ – PRESSURE FOR ABORTION?**

Steven Mosher, President of the Population Research Institute, says:

"The war in Iraq will displace hundreds of thousands of refugees and inaugurate a lengthy "nation-building" effort. Throughout this process, how will we treat the people of Iraq, and precisely what kind of nation will we try to make Iraq into? At present, USAID and abortion groups are planning ways to promote population control and abortion throughout Iraq and the Middle East. The imposition of U.S. cultural and contraceptive imperialism will arouse grave resistance, and fan the flames of radical Islamic fundamentalism." (See article, Page 5)

If we cannot stop the war, we could try to reduce its evil impact.

**ACTION**

Write to Prime Minister John Howard, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 and ask him to raise the matter with President George Bush. Allowing pro-abortion groups into Iraq is ethically wrong: it's the regime that needs terminating, not the innocent unborn; What the refugees need is food and medicine, not imposed population control. Strategically, Western pro-abortion groups in Iraq would be like Saddam's bombs in the market place – it would stir up ferocious anti-Western hostility among those who are to be won over.

**VICTORIA  
HUMAN EMBRYO RESEARCH**

The Victorian Parliament's Upper House will soon debate a bill to ban human cloning (Good!) AND to allow destructive research on human embryos. The Bill is called: Health Legislation (Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning) Bill 2003. The bill has been passed in the lower house after one day of debating.

This Bill, as it stands as a single piece of legislation, presents a problem – it binds together a "NO" to human cloning, and a "YES" to embryo experimentation!

So how do politicians vote "in conscience" if they are in favour of the ban on cloning but opposed to destructive embryo research? Imagine one single bill which calls for two things: "the protection of grandmothers" and "tolerance zones for street sex workers". How could you vote for it, or against it? Premier Bracks has declared, so magnanimously, that politicians will have a conscience vote – but this is arrogant nonsense, given the structure of the Bill.

For a true conscience vote to be available, politicians need to vote separately on each issue.

When similar legislation was presented in Federal Parliament late last year, the Bill was split – to allow for such conscience votes.

The Labor Governments of Qld and S.A. similarly have decided to present a split Bill.

Why won't Premier Bracks do the same? How

arrogant is the Premier to think he knows better than the Federal counterparts and his co-premiers (both ALP) in Qld and S.A.

We must give all politicians – Labor, Liberal, Nationals and Independents – the REAL opportunity of voting "in conscience".

**ACTION**

Please write to or email Premier Steve Bracks and your local State politicians and

A) ask them to split the Health Legislation (Research involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning) Bill 2003 so as to allow a real opportunity of a conscience vote. Say that it is arrogant or belittling to offer a claytons conscience vote,

B) ask them to vote against destructive research using IVF embryos. Human embryos are human individuals and adult stem cells are hugely more successful than embryonic stem cells at curing people.

We may have very little time to act. Please carry out this action as soon as you can. It is FAR better to actually write twenty simple words, than to do nothing but think about writing a hundred.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Premier Steve Bracks' email address: premier@dpc.vic.gov.au, ordinary mailing address: C/- Parliament House, Melbourne VIC 3000.

To find your Victorian State parliamentarians: <http://tex.parliament.vic.gov.au/bin/texhtmlt?form=VicParl.aq>

## THOMAS MORE SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

### Melbourne Catholic Soccer League – Thomas More Soccer Report

In the absence of an actual match report from March's match (Sobbing), we CAN say that our team has had a couple of lively practices at Princes Park and that all players' skills are sharpening. Our confidence is building in anticipation of our clash with Corpus Christi on

**Sunday 6th April, 3:30pm.**

All supporters are welcome to come along to watch. There will also be a social celebration after the game (details TBD). CYM will battle it out with YTU at 1:30pm. All games will be held at Salesian College Oval, Ventour St, Chadstone.

— from "SPUC information" —

The Catholic archbishop of Melbourne in Australia has said that legislation on embryo experimentation currently before Victoria's state parliament cannot be supported because it would authorise the killing of innocent human beings. Archbishop Denis J Hart welcomed provisions in the bill to ban all forms of human cloning as well as the creation of human embryos solely for research purposes, but stressed that no Catholic could vote for the bill unless clauses permitting research on surplus IVF embryos currently in storage were removed. The archbishop said: "Thousands of human IVF embryos lie in laboratory freezers today, powerless, voiceless, unseen. They are human. They are alive. They are what we all once were. And so they should be treated with reverence and love."

[Archdiocese of Melb, via MediaNet, 24 March]

The Catholic archbishop of Sydney has welcomed news that a grant of 50,000 Australian dollars made available by his archdiocese to support ethical adult stem cell research has been taken up.

Archbishop George Pell, the leading Catholic prelate in Australia, congratulated Professor Alan Mackay-Sim of Griffith University for winning the grant, which will be used to research the potential of stem cells extracted from the inner lining of a patient's own nose to treat Parkinson's disease. [Archdiocese of Sydney, 25 March]

Adult stem cell technology constitutes an ethical and consistently more promising alternative to the use of embryonic stem cells and to so-called therapeutic cloning.

### Are you a Pumpkin?

A woman was asked by a co-worker,  
"What's it like to be a Christian?"

The woman replied, "It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

World Youth Day 2002 -  
You are the light of the world!

### Thomas More Social Action Group Newsletter

Editor: M Casanova. Sub-Editors: R de Castella, C Sheehan, A Cappello, L McCormick.

If you are interested in knowing more about the work of the TMSAGs please call the Thomas More Centre on 9326 5757; email: thomasmore@newsweekly.com.au

Hard copies of the Newsletter are also available – simply call the Thomas More Centre.

Other journals available from the Thomas More Centre are: *AD2000*, *News Weekly* and the *Thomas More Bulletin*. Please call the Thomas More Centre for subscription details.

**PLEASE NOTE: IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THIS WORK THE THOMAS MORE CENTRE WELCOMES DONATIONS- C/O The Director 582 Queensberry St. North Melbourne 3051 Thomas More Social Action Group Newsletter**

# FAMILY PLANNERS EYE ABORTION JIHAD IN IRAQ

By Steven Mosher, PRI Weekly Briefing, 18 March 2003, Vol. 5/ No. 7

Once Saddam Hussein is defeated, what then? President Bush has publicly declared that he would like to see a stable democracy and a free market economy spring up in the cradle of civilization. He has picked, apparently, an official from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to head the lengthy “nation-building” effort.(1) The problem is that our foreign aid programs are better at promoting population control and radical feminism than in building free market democracies abroad.

If we Americans behave in Iraq as we behave in other countries, upon Baghdad’s surrender we will fly in teams of population controllers and “gender advisors.” They will inaugurate programs which will subject Iraqi children, especially girls, to graphic sex education programs. They will stock Iraqi medical clinics with condoms and contraceptives. They will further insist that family planning (population control) programs be in place, warning that the penalty for noncompliance will be a denial of additional aid, even in the form of loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

It gets worse. The “gender advisors” (this is what they are really called), will provide assertiveness training to Iraqi women, urging them out of the home into the marketplace. They will organize special courses (reserved for women, of course) in which they are urged to run for public office and start their own businesses. The “gender advisors” will insist that gender quotas govern appointments to the new government. In the name of promoting “grassroots democracy,” they will fund radical feminist organizations that lobby for, among other things, the legalization of abortion.

During Iraq’s reconstruction, millions of USAID dollars will flow into the coffers of abortion-promoting NGOs to help them “find innovative and culturally appropriate methods to overcome...constraints [to population-control programs].”(2) What kind of “constraints” is USAID referring to here? The “constraints” imposed by traditional morality and religion, that’s what. In the words of one USAID program for the Middle East, “traditional Islamic culture” is the enemy because it presents “a degree of opposition to the expansion of family planning programs.”(3) (Neither does USAID have anything good to say

about Catholics—of whom there are many in Iraq—claiming that “Catholicism... encourage(s) behaviours that are, in effect, risky for HIV transmission.”(4) Like what? Abstinence?)

The Iraqis who wind up in refugee camps may be subjected to even worse treatment at the hands of U.S.-funded groups which continue to press for abortion in refugee camps. This threat is real. In June of 2002, PRI researchers in Afghanistan interviewed women who were repatriated from United Nations refugee camps in Pakistan. Twenty-five percent of the women said they had been given abortions, many of them late-term after “birth defects” had been “diagnosed,” and sterilizations while in the camps.(5)

In Albania in 1999, PRI investigators discovered UN Population Fund (UNFPA) abortion kits designed for use in Kosovar refugee camps. “The refugees are too many, we have to stop them from reproducing,” a UN official declared. “Don’t you see they are refugees? They can’t have children!”(6)

Many Iraqis will undoubtedly react with alarm to these assaults on life and family. The million or so Christians in Iraq (which we rarely hear about) will be as unhappy about this turn of events as their Muslim neighbors. But my real worry is this: That fundamentalist Mullahs, disgusted by the hedonistic lifestyle of Hollywood and the secular materialism of Manhattan that we are trying to impose upon Iraq, will begin to denounce us as the “Great Satan.” Ultimately we may be faced with a radical Islamic revolution.

## ENDNOTES

1. The official in charge of the Iraq reconstruction efforts will reportedly come from USAID. FOX News, “Pentagon Details Framework for Rebuilding Iraq,” 12 March 2003.
2. USAID, RFP for new Afghanistan health program.
3. Ibid., USAID.
4. USAID, “USAID: Benin – World AIDS Day 2001,” [www.usaid.gov/bj/health/p-hiv.html](http://www.usaid.gov/bj/health/p-hiv.html).
5. PRI, “Afghanistan: Aid Assessment Survey,” June 2002.
6. PRI, “Refugees’ Rights vs. ‘Reproductive Rights’: UNFPA Population Control Campaign Threatens Kosovars,” PRI Review, April/May 1999.

© Permission to reprint granted. Redistribute widely. Credit required.

# **Thomas More**

## **Patron of the Thomas More Centre and the Thomas More Social Action Groups**

*by Gabrielle Walsh.*

Thomas More was born in London on February 7, 1478, the son of John More, a barrister (later a judge), and Agnes Graunger. As he was a bright student, from the age of thirteen he boarded in the household of Cardinal Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor.

In 1492 he entered Canterbury Hall, Oxford and after two years in residence he returned to London and entered New Inn as a law student. In 1496 he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn and the following year he met Erasmus who became his life-long friend. In a brief period he became one of England's most respected lawyers.<sup>1</sup>

In 1504 he was elected a Member of Parliament and the following year married Jane and they had four children, Margaret, Elizabeth, Cecilia and John. In 1510 More was made Under-Sheriff of London.

More, one of King Henry VIII's most trusted advisers, was with the King at the "Field of the Cloth of Gold" in June 1520. More was knighted in 1521, he was made sub-treasurer to the King and in 1523, on Wolsey's recommendation, became speaker of the House of Commons. In 1529 More succeeded Wolsey as Lord Chancellor of England.

At about this time King Henry defied the Church in Rome and set himself up as the head of the Church in England. The Act of Succession was finally passed in March, 1534 and at that time Thomas resigned as Chancellor rather than betray his faith. King Henry charged More with treason and he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

More was beheaded on July 6, 1535, on Tower Hill and thus became a martyr for the Church.<sup>2</sup>

Today he is the Saint who models for us the committed individual who stands up for Christian values within the role as citizen of the State. As one prepared to meet his God, More's final conversation with his executioner was bright, "My neck is very short, so see you aim straight. You don't want to spoil your reputation!" In the style of true reconciliation, before he died he pleaded, "I beg all of you to pray for our King, too, that God may guide him. I am dying for our Catholic faith, good people. And I call you to witness that I die the King's loyal servant – but God's first."<sup>3</sup>

More was an individual who put his belief in God above all else - a level of commitment to God, faith and justice towards which we, each in our own way, must continue to strive. His feast day is 22 June.

<sup>1</sup> Ince, E. M., *St Thomas More of London*, New Edition, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> *The English Prayers of Sir Thomas More*, Written while he was a Prisoner in the Tower of London in 1534, Templegate Publishers, Illinois, USA, 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Ince, E. M., *St Thomas More of London*, New Edition, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2003.

### **A PRAYER FROM ST THOMAS MORE**

Lord, grant me a holy heart  
that sees what is true and pure  
and is not frightened at the sight of sin  
but creates order wherever it goes.

Grant me a heart  
that knows nothing of boredom,  
weeping and sighing.

Let me not be too concerned  
with the bothersome thing I call "myself".

Lord, give me a sense of humour  
and I will find happiness in life  
and profit for others.

-St Thomas More (1478-1535)