

Dear Fellow Coordinator and Friend:

My two previous letters focused on the role clergy must assume in order for legalized abortion to end. Prolife's most vital need is pastoral shepherding—for the ordained shepherds in our nation to value the very youngest lambs and help safeguard them and their mothers against the severe danger imposed by enemy forces.

That is an essential role of good shepherds, who are compassionate, alert, bold, and resolute. They turn distractions aside with priority readiness. They repel predators with their faith and courage. They *care* and *lead* because God instituted *shepherding*, and His spirit indwells it. The sheep follow their shepherd because no one else has his *voice* and his *authority*. No one else has his *skill* to mobilize the flock and maximize their worth. And no one else has his *freedom of access* to the flock for instruction, counsel, and encouragement.

Only the true shepherd can fulfill those appointed duties. The would-be shepherd will have limited success because he is not rightfully equipped. I noted in a previous letter that in over three decades of primarily lay pro-life leadership, America has not witnessed a *substantial* reduction in surgical abortion deaths. Progress against chemical killings is even weaker, with child aversion remaining the most feared and unwelcomed subject among clergy today.

Thus the need for a “Great Awakening” in the pulpits, wherein prolife's highest hope for victory rests. I have spoken before about the coalition study group I serve, and I reported that we had changed our first goal to *winning the pulpits of our nation* because no merciful end to abortion is likely without repentant pastoral leadership. The unmerciful option to that is devastation equal to or greater than what ended slavery in the U.S. The church must not wait again for God to administer justice.

Fortunately, the Civil Rights Movement experienced a breakthrough a half-century ago. Most unfortunately, the homosexual movement experienced one far more recently and has advanced its demands into crunch time for the church. Prolife needs a strategic plan with breakthrough potential, and in my 23rd year of pro-life ministry and almost 71 years of age, a breakthrough is of great concern to me. Yes, our noble work at abortuaries, care homes, and pregnancy centers must continue, as must our street and campus emphasis, literature distribution, youth outreaches, media work, lobbying and other familiar labors. But we must level with ourselves: they have not produced the life net or the progress toward it that Preborns so desperately need and that prolife may be able to provide.

That is not to imply that I have the answer. Nor can I know how successful the coalition study group I have mentioned will be. But we are trying. Our goal is to help remove key abortion underpinnings and to eventually unite numerous pro-life organizations into a dominant voice, while respecting the autonomy of each member organization. To date we have established Fundamental Principles, assembled research, identified important objectives, created some focus groups—and have learned that *much* work lies ahead. Within the coalition, a church task force is building a website that will afford pastors a

plan for educating and mobilizing their people. The task force has retained a gifted videographer who has created one DVD thus far and is to create other resources. It is our responsibility to demonstrate the coalition's worth, and that will take time. If you or someone you know is an able researcher, writer, is project minded and can invest volunteer hours working at home, please contact me. And if you have breakthrough ideas, please share them via email or phone.

I now share a request that may surprise you a bit. Among coalition strategies involving the church, one is to encourage Christians to capitalize *Holocaust* when writing about the *American Holocaust*. Clergy and laity must comprehend the depth of our apathy and realize that the bloodguilt in our account probably exceeds that accrued to the European church that Nazism compromised 70 years ago. Our view of that church body must now convict *us*. If America and Canada's pulpits remain luke-warm and the sheep continue to wander (in large measure for want of shepherds), perilous days await us. But if the pulpits awaken, repentant and committed, much of the church will evolve into the Bride of Christ and millions of laity will follow their pastors into the battle for Life. For sheep to nurture shepherds is not God's preferred order, but we sheep have no option if we regard the church essential to ending abortion and the moral freefall of our culture.

Laity have cause for hope. Many in the church drew encouragement from the 83 Catholic officials who endeavored to police their own ranks at Notre Dame. Imagine the impact, conceivably beyond measure, if a strong number (or all) of the 83 cardinals and bishops involved had submitted themselves for peaceful arrest and asked hundreds of thousands of like-minded laity from throughout America to come and quietly pray on site as the President spoke. Let us believe that such could occur hereafter. And let us believe that Protestant clergy may one day publicly police their errant officials and institutions and declare pro-abortion politicians unworthy of communion in Protestant sanctuaries. Today's church will emerge in power when we submit to being a "peculiar" people, as described in the Bible. Peculiar to the world but beloved of God.

Life Chain, need I say, has not ended or seriously reduced abortions, but it has been a first step into pro-life activism for a few million participants. Some of them now lead local ministries. Others serve where prolife needs them most. Thank you for serving Life Chain. Please contact Sharron Albertson and me for assistance at any time. Review the Life Chain helps at www.NationalLifeChain.org and www.LifeChain.net. Please remain in touch with your local pastors and the Holy Spirit as you plan for October 4. If you will, help someone plant a new Chain (please do so) and extend your own Chain to 1.5 hours. My sincere hope is that one day, thanks to Holy Spirit intervention, lay leaders will receive a warm response when they contact their local clergy. Let us pray for each other as we press on together. Indeed God is mindful of our labors and our pressing on.

Because of Him we labor willingly,

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