



## Anticipating Revival: International Convocation 2012

Patriarch Craig Bates and I visited Spain several weeks ago. The Patriarch went to help the CEC in Europe plan for the International Convocation that will take place July 2012 in the city of Madrid, and I was given opportunities to encourage the faithful in Europe to stand strong in their belief that "All Life is Sacred."

There could not be a better time for our convocation to take place in Europe. Church attendance in France, Sweden and the Netherlands is less than 10% in some areas. And as attendance dwindles, so does attention to the traditions and beliefs that the Church has always encouraged. Simple things that, when ignored, produce much more complicated ramifications.

For example, the belief that children are a blessing. Europe is not a country that encourages their people to have kids. In an article in *USA Today*, director of the World Values Survey Ronald Inglehart says, "The biggest single consequence of the declining role of the church is the huge decline in fertility rates." World Values Survey is a Swedish-based group that has tracked the beliefs of more than eighty societies around the globe. For Europe, lower fertility means fewer people entering the workforce. Over time countries like Italy, Germany and France won't be able to maintain the generous welfare programs that have given most workers a lifetime of economic security. Simple beliefs. Complicated ramifications.

This is one of many reasons that I believe the year 2012 is to be greatly anticipated by the congregations in the CEC. Not only will we be gathering for our convocation, we will be gathering in a place that God can use his three streams to water a dry and weary land. This convocation isn't just about our church meeting, it's about our church ministering, especially in the area of Life. And European CEC leaders like Bishop Elmer Belmonte and Bishop Felicísimo are very excited to host their brothers and sisters from around the world.

Before leaving the city, the Patriarch and I were also privileged to speak to the Congregation of St. John the Apostle. During my time with them, I encouraged

those in attendance to follow the example of their children. In order to illustrate the simplicity of a child's faith, I asked a small girl in the congregation to come up front with me. I asked her, "Do you like little babies? Do you think anyone should be allowed to hurt them?"

The little girl gave me a very beautiful but very puzzled look. After a quiet moment, it occurred to me that she did not speak English, so I tried again. Only this time I made the attempt in Spanish. When she still did not answer, I started to suspect that my Spanish was not as practiced as I had hoped.

Thankfully, one of the native priests stepped to my rescue and asked the poor girl properly. Once she understood, she quickly looked up at me and answered that of course she liked little babies and of course no one should hurt them. The congregation laughed with us, but the illustration was successful.

From Madrid, we proceeded to Barcelona to join Archbishop Hines and Bishop Felicísimo Cordero for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of St. James the Lesser. The service displayed complete surrender to the Holy Spirit as God moved through the music, liturgical dance, and a powerful sermon by the Patriarch that concluded with the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

After the service, the congregation honored and blessed all in attendance with skits, dances, music and drama that highlighted ancient Filipino and Spanish culture.

The European clergy and churches from Spain, Portugal, France, and Belgium are extremely excited by the Patriarch's visit. And the Patriarch is equally excited about the plans they've made for convocation. We are all anticipating great spiritual renewal and revival when the worldwide CEC faithful gather in July of 2012. *You* do not want to miss this great gathering. I encourage each of you to start saving your money and making plans now, and I'll see you all in Madrid.

+Fr. Terry Gensemer,  
Director of CEC For Life



Ministering to the people of St. John the Apostle in Madrid.

## Vision is a Full-Time Job, We Need Your Help!

With the Patriarch's call to cultivate our pro-life roots in the CEC, and with Fr. Terry stepping into pro-life ministry full-time, CEC For Life needs your assistance.

We are a 100% pro-life church; We will not be silenced in this culture of death, and we will not standby while innocent children are being murdered. We will get involved, speak loudly, and fight the Enemy for this generation's future. When you give to CEC For Life, you and your family become a part of that. And it is our desire to see every family in the CEC reaping the blessings of God that fall upon us when we give of ourselves to help the oppressed.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for Me." (Matt 25.40)

Our sincerest and deepest thanks go to all of you who have supported CEC For Life with your prayers and finances throughout this year. We hope you will continue to support us in the year 2011. We have some big ambitions, all of which are funded by the grace of God. They begin with the March for Life in January. Please become a part.

Sarah Howell  
Assistant  
Fr. Terry Gensemer  
Director of CEC For Life



## Broken Vessels, Broken Bodies, and A Generation's Call to Life

In 2005, I went to my first March for Life. Two months after that I took my first Ireland trip with CEC For Life, and a few months after that, my second Ireland trip, for the road show with Youth Defence. It was a year of favor from the Lord for me, and it was a season of planting. During those events God instilled a passion in me to protect the unborn that has never been forgotten, never been quenched--it is there, I faithfully believe, forever. But it began in Washington D.C., in damp twenty-two degree weather, where I stood with thousands of people in front of the Supreme Court, realizing at last that I was not the only one who felt this call, and ardently prayed for God to end abortion.

March For Life 2005 was an eye-opener, a kick-start, it was any word you want to choose that communicates the beginning of a new work in Christ. And it's an experience that is absolutely irreplaceable.

This generation is being slaughtered daily by the act of abortion, and the men and women who have fought it since the seventies cannot live forever. It is up to us, the generation that has become so intimately acquainted with death, to stand against abortion. To be broken vessels for the cause of Life. Because we are the ones that it's killing, and we are the people whose friends come to us terrified because they're pregnant, or weeping because they've chosen to have an abortion. When you look into the face of a young person, you are looking at the frontline of abortion, at the very ground that the enemy wishes to steal, kill, and destroy. But you are also looking at a plan and a future. You are looking at a generation that God is calling forward.

Leaders, Rectors, Parents: Do something this January that will truly save a life. Take your young people to the March. Position them to catch the fire that God is instilling in the hearts

of His youth, and, in doing so, put them in the fight. It's the place that God has led us, and, together, I earnestly believe that we can end the killing.

Fr. Terry and I asked some youth and youth leaders from the CEC to tell us how spending time at the the March For Life has affected them, and why they think it's so important for the youth to attend. Read their responses, pray for wisdom and provision. Hopefully I will see you all very soon.

*I have seen a dramatic difference in those students who have attended the March for Life. They go to the March believing that abortion is wrong and come back wanting to abolish the killing of innocent babies. --Alan Melanson, NY*

*The March for life expanded my understanding of the pro-life movement in showing me that it is not just me and my little church that is fighting for life, and that it's not just our little denomination, but it's an issue that brings people together from different and unique backgrounds to rally for the same cause: life. --Grace Beasley, AL*

*The pro-choice side is real...[and] if it was up to only the adults to fight the fight they've started, they'd lose, because one day they won't be here to finish. The majority of the pro-choice community is made up of generation X and Y...and the pro-life movement needs to reach out more than ever in a compassionate way. --Haley Bifulco, NY*

*Last year I attended my first March for Life in Washington DC. Since that day everything in my life has been different, I am not just pro-life, but I live out my pro-life beliefs...The March lit a fire in me that will continue to burn until we see the slaughter of innocent children stopped in this country...The youth are key to this fight. This issue is our issue now. We have a chance to change the hearts of this next generation and show the harm the previous generation has inflicted on children. One third of OUR generation has been lost, and it needs to stop. Take a stand and show up at the March for life. --Jessica Kessler, CA*



### Something New Around the Office

Sarah Howell has recently moved to Birmingham, AL to help with the work of CEC For Life. Sarah will be taking over Jacob Jones' position, as he has decided to pursue other ventures at this time. We are sad to see him go, and we wish him the best. Thank you, Jacob, for all your hard work.

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