

SOLAS

Ireland's pro-life magazine

APRIL 2011

Vol 19 No 2



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- **THE CONVERSION OF AN ABORTIONIST**
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KEEPING IRELAND ABORTION-FREE



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Welcome to the 83rd edition of Solas!



Lent. Time to prepare through a spirit of repentance to renew our baptismal promises. Or to 'give things up' as tradition holds it in Ireland. Read more on page 9 about our Lent for Life challenge to you this year.

It's not the only challenge facing us as we're looking at five years with Labour as a junior partner in government. It's disappointing that Fine Gael didn't take the option of forming a coalition with independents, and we'll need to ensure that Enda Kenny and his party don't renege on the pro-life commitments they made.

We've lots of good news in this *Solas* however, not least an account of how our Election 2011 campaign lost Labour crucial votes. And we've the heart-warming story of how a former U.S. abortionist has built one of the most pro-life medical centres in the country.

As I write we've just got up to 16,000 members on Facebook, and you can read more on page 15 about our exciting plans to build our internet and social media outreach, with a special focus on our Project Truth advert which has already attracted 70,000 views. And we're on EWTN for a St Patrick's day special this weekend!

We're ever mindful though that Ireland's pro-life ethos is under attack by the powerful, wealthy abortion industry. And we ask you to remember us in your Lenten prayers. God Bless,

Linda

WATCH IT! YD ON EWTN

This *Solas* is being packed in double-quick time to give you a special message. On St Patrick's Day, Youth Defence will appear on 'Life on the Rock,' the popular EWTN programme which attracts a major audience worldwide.

Four Youth Defence guests will discuss the threats to Ireland's pro-life laws on the TV programme, we'll show some of the organisation's current projects, and share our history of pro-life activism. Our YouTube advert, Project Truth, will feature, as will a discussion of our upcoming events, the Rally for Life and a major pro-life conference at World Youth Day.

We're really excited to invite you to join in watching the programme if you are a EWTN subscriber. You can see 'Life on the Rock' at 7am on Friday March 18th, and 8.30pm on Saturday March 19th. Hope you can join us. Please pray it all goes well!

SEE YOUTH DEFENCE

ON

**LIFE ON THE ROCK,
EWTN**

**7am Friday 18 March &
8.30pm Saturday 19 March**

THE REAL STORY



Maria Mahoney on the truth behind the abortion pill headlines

Like many Irish people, you may have recently heard that customs officials had confiscated packages of illegal abortion drugs. Perhaps you read *The Irish Times* report which said that the Medicines Board had confirmed the seizure of 1,216 packages of the abortion pills and claimed that this was "evidence that growing numbers of pregnant women are taking illegal drugs to induce abortions in Ireland." Or you may have seen news reports on RTÉ, TV3 or other outlets asserting that the seizures meant that huge numbers of Irish women were importing pills so that they could induce abortions.

Some of these reports quoted the tiny pro-abortion group Choice Ireland, as saying "the figures indicated at least three women a day were ordering drugs over the internet to terminate pregnancies." They wheeled out Juliet Bressan of Doctors for Choice (another outfit with membership in single digit figures) to say that poor women, in particular, needed and wanted these pills, hence the large numbers ordering them on-line.

So the media spin on the story was

that at least 1,216 women had ordered abortion pills from abroad in order to induce abortion.

But that was absolutely untrue - and even a student journalist with an ounce of sense or the desire to fact-check would have uncovered the truth. It seemed that Ireland's media pack, from TV to print, tabloid to broadsheet, were all either incapable of or unwilling to check even the basic facts in relation to this story. Investigations by the Life Institute revealed what those facts were. We wrote to the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) asking for clarification in relation to the customs seizures.

We realised that it was most likely that the abortion tablets had mostly come into the country in large batches, meaning that they were intended, not for 1,216 separate women, but for a small number of individual women and for several unscrupulous 'distributors' who most likely intended to sell them onto vulnerable women. The IMB confirmed that was, in fact, the case.

They wrote that: 'medicinal products

consisting of Misoprostol (1118 tablets) and Mifepristone (98 tablets) [with a] total of 1,216 tablets were not intended for 1,216 separate persons' and that customs had, in fact, detained just 62 separate consignments of the abortion pill who most likely hoped to sell them onto vulnerable women in Ireland or elsewhere.

These abortion pills are dangerous, lethal to unborn children and illegal. Those importing them for illegal distribution should be pursued and face criminal charges. Instead, the media are turning a blind eye to what's happening in order to make a 'case' for abortion legislation.

It is quite incredible that *The Irish Times* and others allowed abortion campaigners to put a false spin on the facts, particularly when those facts were readily available. The Irish media are guilty of either wilful misrepresentation or of sloppy, lazy journalism in regard to their reporting of the custom seizures. The Life Institute has written to the editors and journalists in question in each case. We'll be following developments closely. ●



Distributing leaflets during election 2011



Niamh Uí Bhriain reports on our pro-life campaign for Election 2011

Will it be a case of the tail wagging the dog? That's the question being asked about the Fine Gael/Labour coalition, and for many voters, it is disappointing to see Fine Gael giving Labour the opportunity to govern.

The programme for government that both parties have signed up to contains some negative aspects in relation to social policy. Labour are strongly pro-abortion and pro-embryonic stem cell research. Fine Gael won pro-life votes by insisting they were against both, but they have now entered into a coalition with a party who say that they would legislate for abortion on demand.

Even without Labour, Fine Gael's position on the ABC ruling was not entirely satisfactory. Why is this issue being passed to (yet another) All Party Oireachtas Committee? The last such committee heard evidence from Ireland's leading medical experts which clearly contradicts the European Court's attempt to re-classify legitimate medical treatments as abortion. Nothing has changed since that time, and FG could have been clearer about maintaining Ireland's abortion ban.

However, the hard work put in by pro-life activists before the election produced results. Significant numbers of voters learned about Labour's desire



A mother puts one of our Vote Pro-Life stickers on her baby's pram

to introduce abortion - and it seriously affected support for that party. Pro-life promises (of varying degrees) were wrung from Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. But now Fine Gael has given Labour a seat at the table. Unborn children and their mothers deserve better - but, as usual, it will be the people, not the politicians, who will protect life.

THE CAMPAIGN

In November 2010, Labour were riding high in polls, with 27% of voters expressing a preference for the party. There was talk of Labour out-polling Fine Gael: Labour deputies were eager for an election and talked excitedly about the prospect of Eamon Gilmore becoming Taoiseach.

Then the European Court of Human Rights ruled in the ABC case - and it said that Ireland would have to legalise abortion. Labour rushed out to support the ruling. On January 4th, Gilmore told RTÉ's *News at One* that he would introduce abortion on 'life and health' grounds. That's the UK model, which results in 180,000 dead babies every year, in lunchtime abortions, and in abortion right through until birth for children with disabilities.

Three months later, Labour polled just 19% in Election 2011. They had lost more

than a third of the votes they were once so sure of, and their posters emblazoned with 'Gilmore for Taoiseach' looked increasingly forlorn and ridiculous. The floating voters which had flocked to Labour prior to the ABC case seemed to have abandoned them for Fine Gael and for Independents. And it's certain that a major factor was Labour's support for abortion.

It's the issue that just won't go away, mostly because the Irish people won't lie down and allow the abortion industry to ride roughshod over our pro-life

braved torrential rain to go door-to-door, voters subsequently told reporters that abortion was now a major issue. Labour didn't manage to get one seat in that constituency. That pattern was repeated right across the country, and candidates began to admit they were 'inundated' with queries about their stance on life issues.

Fianna Fáil canvassers told our volunteers in Rathfarnham that they "were hearing about the issue all day". In Naas, Fine Gael said abortion had become a "hot issue" in the elec-

gate Gilmore for being so open about his support for abortion.



In the Dún Laoghaire constituency, pro-abortion Ivana Bacik was parachuted in by the party to stand with Gilmore, and was hotly tipped to take a second Labour seat in that area. Pro-life canvassers concentrated on left-leaning but socially conservative areas of the constituency, informing voters of Labour's intention to legalize abortion-on-demand, and asking them not to give Bacik a preference.



Former MEP's Dana and Kathy Sinnott join Ireland for Life, Precious Life, Youth Defence, Life Institute and others for a United for Life press conference

culture. Protecting children and their mothers from this particularly unnatural cruelty runs deep within the Irish psyche, and, as Labour found to their cost, little support exists for abortion-on-demand in Ireland.

Like many other pro-life people, I canvassed doors and public places with Youth Defence's 'Ask the Question' leaflets, telling people about Labour's policy and asking voters to demand a ban on abortion from all their candidates. It was heartening to see that, even in the midst of this unprecedented economic downturn, the response was hugely positive. In Donegal, where pro-life volunteers

Labour supporters were furious that their position on abortion had been exposed, and on Twitter they fulminated that Youth Defence had "orchestrated" a "pro-life smear" against Labour, resulting in "phone-calls from people who believed that Labour wanted abortion on demand".

The problem for Labour of course, was that it wasn't a smear, and that pro-life people were very open about exposing Labour's policy on abortion. As awareness grew, Labour's support slipped, slipped and slipped some more. There are now rumours of internal rumblings within the party as furious rank and file members casti-

Bacik lost the contest, and with it, her chance to make an immediate impact on Ireland's pro-life laws. By also getting the message out in other key constituencies, the pro-life message became an important feature of the election and hit Labour where it hurt. In Dublin Central, Sligo/North Leitrim, Mayo, Donegal and other constituencies where the 'Ask the question' campaign was focussed it stopped the party from making the breakthrough it craved.

We also made optimal use of Facebook and our websites, and it was

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ELECTION 2011 (CONT'D)



great to see how many young voters turned off Labour once they knew the party's policy on abortion. Our 'Vote Pro-Life' stickers and web-ribbon brought bright splashes of colour to the campaign.

This election - and the threat of abortion legislation - also united the pro-life movement, producing real, positive results. Former MEPs Dana Rosemary Scallon and Kathy Sinnott led more than 30 pro-life and cross community groups, including Youth Defence, Life Institute, Precious Life and SPUC, in a high-profile press conference which called on the par-

ties to pledge that they would ban abortion. Within days, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil had strengthened their policies on abortion, eager to court the pro-life vote.

It's true that both parties left themselves wriggle room in their policies on abortion. And it's also true that the international pro-abortion industry is pouring its resources into attacking Ireland's pro-life laws. But they know that, whatever the result of the vote, the pro-life movement is ready, united and determined. We posted all the political responses to our campaign online where they were consulted by

voters prior to election day. Those pro-life votes never switched back to Labour - something Fine Gael should remember in the months to come.

FINAL POSITION OF THE PARTIES FOLLOWING OUR CAMPAIGN

FINE GAEL

- FG is opposed to the legalisation of abortion.
- FG will establish an all-party Oireachtas Committee, with access to medical and legal expertise, to consider the implications of the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights and to make recommendations.
- FG's representatives will bring to the proposed all-party committee a clear commitment that women in pregnancy will receive whatever treatments are necessary to safeguard their lives, and that the duty of care to preserve the life of the baby will also be upheld.
- FG is opposed to research conducted on human embryos, and favours alternative stem cell research that does not involve human embryos such as adult stem cell and umbilical cord research.

FIANNA FÁIL

- FF's position on abortion remains unchanged, and will maintain Ireland's ban on abortion.
- FF will uphold the right of the Irish people, and the Irish people alone, to decide on Ireland's abortion laws.
- FF will ensure that any new regime put in place in respect of assisted human reproduction fully respects the right to life of the unborn. ●



Some of the representatives of 30 pro-life and community groups which called on the parties not to legalise abortion

RALLY FOR LIFE 2011



Ide Nic Mhathúna urges you to get to the biggest pro-life event of the year

2nd July 2011! Save that date, because it's when the Irish pro-life community comes together in their thousands to celebrate life, and to tell the government that they will not accept abortion, now or ever!

The Rally for Life has always been a hugely positive and joyous celebration of life, and a reminder to everybody that Ireland still protects its mothers and babies from abortion. In fact, Ireland has been hailed as the 'light of the world' to the worldwide pro-life community because of our pro-life ethos. Of course, this also makes us a target for IPPF who say they want to destroy what they call the 'jewel in the crown' of the pro-life movement, but we're not about to let that happen.

The Rally for Life returns to Dublin this year, and there will be music, balloons, facepainting, dancing and celebration as thousands gather together at the Garden of Remembrance to celebrate life.

It is more important now than ever that as many people as possible join together to show their opposition to abortion. With the notoriously pro-abortion Labour party in government, now is a critical time for the unborn child. Fine Gael, along with Labour, have promised a government-appointed All-Party Oireachtas Committee to decide the fate of the unborn in this country – we must let them know that we will not stand idly by while they legalise the destruction of young lives in our name!

Please help to make this Rally even bigger and better this year. Bring your friends and family along for a positive, life-affirming celebration.

WHAT THEY SAID LAST YEAR:

"A great day out for the family – all the kids had a blast". Marion, Kildare.

"Really, really enjoyed it; wasn't sure what to expect, but there was a brilliant atmosphere and everyone was in great form. Will be bringing all my friends next year!" Anthony, Cork.

So join us in Dublin on Saturday the 2nd of July, speak up for the unborn, and celebrate life! If you'd like to help or go to the rally, please call us on 01 8730465, or 028 90278484 ●

5TH ALL-IRELAND RALLY FOR LIFE MAKE IT A DATE! 2ND JULY 2011 : DUBLIN



Contact **01 8730463** and **028 90278484**

WWW.RALLYFORLIFE.NET



Dr Seán Ó Domhnaill on the conversion of an abortionist

The great US pro-life leader, Joe Scheidler, has devoted a considerable portion of his life to bringing abortionists back from the dark side. One of the former abortionists he worked with was Dr Bernard Nathanson, who died last week, and who was famed for his dramatic conversion from a leading advocate of abortion to a stalwart and outspoken champion for children in the womb. May he rest in peace.

Though raised in a devout Catholic family, Bruchalski says he was taken in by professors and friends who claimed that the Church's teachings can change with the culture. "It became a non-issue," he explained. "You could still be a great Catholic and choose to dissent from particular Church teachings".

But he began to have doubts. "I didn't see happiness or joy in my clinics," he

jugorje reawakened the great love for Christ and Mary that his parents had nurtured in him during his childhood. "It was the simplicity of the messages of getting back to conversion," he explained. "And then I had an experience there with a young woman from Belgium who was there praying for the pro-life cause."

Dr Bruchalski said it was "life changing" for him.



Dr John Bruchalski with one of his young patients

Other practitioners, such as Joan Appleton and Dr Tony Levatino, who have also left the abortion industry, have spoken with eloquence and passion to Irish audiences of the need to bring abortionists away from the terrible practice of killing babies.

Dr. John Bruchalski is one of those who has left the darkness behind. This obstetrician told Life Site News that when he entered medical school in 1983 at the University of South Alabama, he learned the different methods for abortion, sterilization, and artificial reproduction, and began providing them during residency.

explained. "Wherever I had more abortion, more contraception, there were more broken relationships, more infections, more destruction, more brokenness."

Bruchalski first felt the call back to the faith of his childhood when a friend convinced him to take a trip to Guadalupe in Mexico City. He says there he heard Our Lady of Guadalupe - revered as the patroness of the unborn - ask him, "Why are you hurting me?"

Yet he wasn't ready to respond, and put it to the back of his mind. Then two years later, a pilgrimage to Med-

When he got home, he told his professor that he could no longer commit abortions or sterilizations. LifeSite News reports that the 50-year-old Virginia native has now become a leading light in pro-life medicine. Through his unique Tepeyac Family Center, one of the largest free-standing pro-life medical practices in the country, Dr. Bruchalski's team offers a safe haven for women in crisis pregnancies, spreading hope through authentic health care that respects the natural processes of the woman's body, the right to life of the unborn child, and the eternal end of the mother's soul.

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LENT FOR LIFE



Rebecca Roughneen on how you can offer up this Lent for Life

This Lent, can you join with members of Youth Defence and Precious Life in a special pro-life mobilisation of prayer and action over 40 days.

This powerful initiative will help end abortion and save the lives of unborn babies, through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful vigils at referral agencies. We hope our Lenten campaign will inspire people who have never been involved in pro-life activities to join us!

Each week of the year, pro-life volunteers stand outside abortion referral agencies to be a prayerful presence and a voice for the unborn child, who would otherwise have no one to speak for them. They offer abortion-minded women essential information and present them with life affirming alternatives to abortion. It is vital that women using these referral agencies receive this life saving contact. In Dublin, volunteers will have a daily

presence at abortion referral clinics. If you would like to get involved please contact Carolyn on 087 6729393. You can make a life-saving impact by joining the prayer vigil at: Marie Stopes Clinic, 10 Berkeley Street, Dublin 7.

In the North, Precious Life members are encouraging more people to join their daily prayer vigils outside the abortion referral centres in Belfast and Derry operated by the FPA, where they will be praying and fasting for the closure of these agencies. For details of how you can get involved contact PL on 028 90278484

Just one hour of your time can make a real difference this Lent. Here's how you can help:

PRAY

Offer up Lenten prayers that the right to life of unborn children is protected in Ireland, and for mothers in crisis pregnancies.

Ask others to join you in this Lenten

Campaign of Prayer for Life - perhaps your friends, or your prayer group

MAKE SACRIFICES

Offer your Lenten sacrifices up for the protection of human life.

Consider making a Lenten donation to our pro-life work. In these tough times, protecting the unborn child needs to remain a priority.

Give up just one hour of your time to join with our volunteers outside the referral clinics

TAKE ACTION

Assist at one of YD's weekly pro-life information stalls.

Distribute pro-life leaflets or collect pro-life petitions in your neighbourhood or at your church.

Volunteer for our busy pro-life office or for one of our schools programmes.

Join us in counselling outside abortion referral agencies.

For more information, ring us!



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They are the only practice in the US offering full obstetrical care for patients from crisis pregnancy centers, and have a special focus on welcoming the poor. Of 700 babies delivered in 2009, 30% were to mothers without commercial insurance.

Dr. Bruchalski said his experience working with abortion-minded women has shown him the need to focus on offering women hope for life with their child. "You really have to focus on [the fact] that there is life after having a child, that there is a way out of your predicament," he said. "Just meeting

women where they are, by being able to listen to their pain and their agony and their suffering, and then love them so much that we walk them through this."

God Bless his work. And lets hope and pray others follow him.



Katie Robinson on why the future is looking brighter for the human embryo

It's now 11 years since Youth Defence ran its first campaign opposing embryo research. At that time that even some pro-life people thought the notion was far-fetched. Experimenting on human life surely just seemed a step too far.

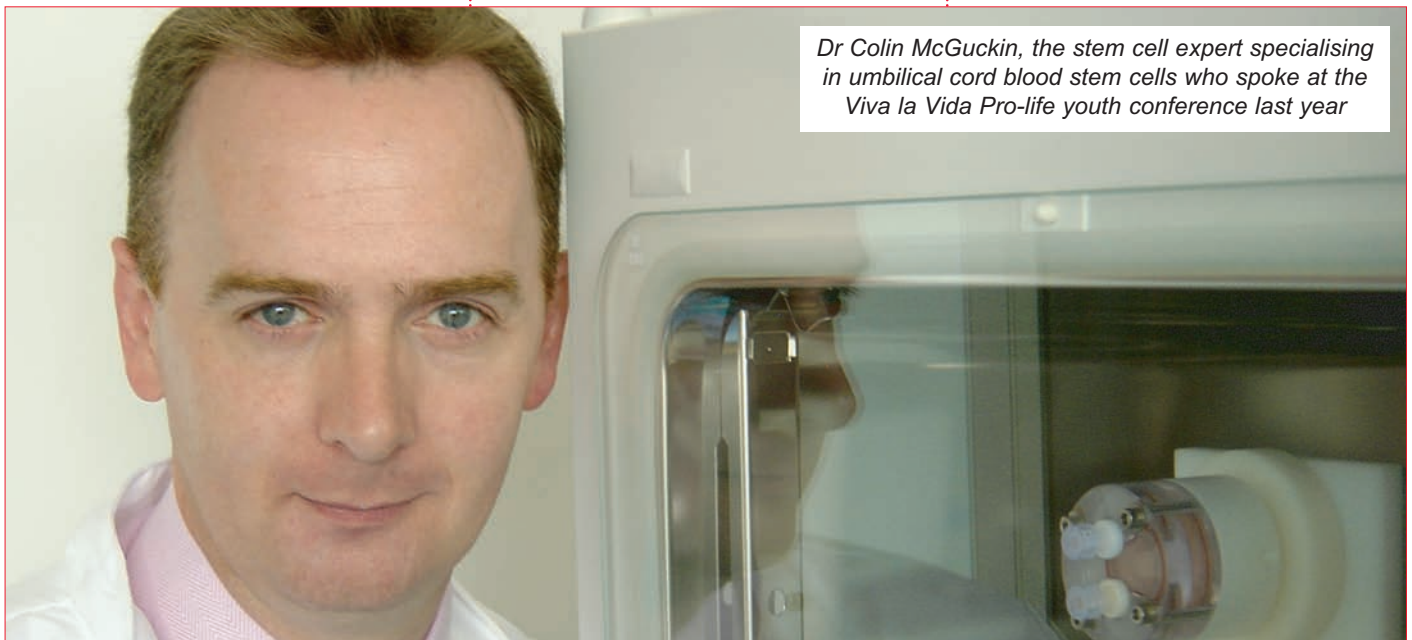
Yet, as we were later to discover, the push to allow for embryonic stem cell research had already begun. Thank God, it was met with determined and resilient opposition, and the results

the campaigns progressed. And as the world is shifting more and more towards adult stem cell research, it becomes harder for proponents of embryo research to prove their case.

Last year, the Life Institute's investigative report, *Join the Dots*, exposed the secret connections and hidden agendas of the elitists pushing for embryo research in Ireland. The report sent a powerful message to those in government: the truth will not

human embryos, and favours alternative stem cell research that does not involve human embryos such as adult stem cell and umbilical cord research."

Fianna Fáil also said they would ensure that any new regime put in place in respect of assisted human reproduction fully respects the right to life of the unborn. (It has to be said that given their involvement in the push for embryo research to date, it



Dr Colin McGuckin, the stem cell expert specialising in umbilical cord blood stem cells who spoke at the Viva la Vida Pro-life youth conference last year

are now coming through for our pro-life ethos.

The last ten years have seen YD take the lead on this issue. Each year saw either a major advertising campaign, a nationwide tour with lectures featuring top stem cell experts, or a national information drive, with the aim of explaining this sometimes complex issue. Slowly but surely, the public began to understand, and then to oppose, the unethical and immoral nature of research on human embryos. Opinion polls showed this rise in support for the pro-life view as

be hidden, and embryonic stem cell research has not been accepted by the Irish people, despite all the efforts made to overrule them.

It was satisfying then to see Fine Gael recently commit to banning embryo research - a huge achievement made possible by the hard slog of the past ten years and by all the support and prayers you have given to our campaigns.

In a letter to Youth Defence prior to the election Fine Gael said: "FG is opposed to research conducted on

was difficult to have much faith in that statement).

We need to make sure Fine Gael are held to that promise: but you can count on us for that, and we have some exciting plans and projects in regard to the human embryo which we'll be rolling out in the coming months. As the good news from adult stem cell research continues - a recent report told of heart damage, skin burns and wounds being healed by the patient's own adult stem cells - things look brighter for the human embryo.

NITSCHKE'S RETURN



Maria Mhic Meanmain asks why RTÉ gave a platform to Dr Death

Philip Nitschke is an incurable attention-seeker - traversing the globe with an array of bizarre machinery, attracting more media than members to his grisly workshops and making increasingly dreadful pronouncements promoting suicide.

But there is nothing eccentric or fatuous about Nitschke's cause, and his crusade is both dangerous and misleading. The Australian is an enthusiastic proponent of legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide, and this was his second visit to Ireland within twelve months.

Not that there was any demand for his 'services'. Nitschke's visit received front page coverage and plenty of promotion on radio where he insisted that he was returning to Ireland in response to requests from members. Yet only a handful of people turned up to his horrible workshop, where he demonstrated his latest gadget to 'assist' in the suicide of the elderly, the

sick and the vulnerable. I know because I was there.

Both my beloved parents died following debilitating illnesses. I strongly believe that Nitschke is normalizing suicide, and bringing about a situation where elderly and sick people feel they have a 'duty to die', in the words of Nitschke's fellow traveller, Baroness Warnock.

I know that palliative care, family support and love are what help at the end of life - not making elderly and sick people feel as if they are a burden. So I called a protest outside the scruffy backroom venue where Nitschke was holding his workshop (he had been turfed out of four other venues last year when the Life Institute made it known that his workshop was immoral and illegal). With the help of the Life Institute, within 24-hours notice, 50 of us had gathered to defend human life. Almost no-one went in, so I ventured a look inside to

see what was happening. Apart from 15 or so journalists and photographers, there was a very small number of elderly people - perhaps a half dozen in total.

The numbers are a clear indication that Dr. Nitschke's suicide workshop is not welcome in Ireland. Yet although the Garda Commissioner's office had received oodles of calls asking the Gardai to take action, the authorities refused to close the workshop down.

In a letter to the Gardai, Niamh Uí Bhriain of the Life Institute said, "Clearly Dr Nitschke is counselling the suicide of others and his actions are in breach of the 1993 Criminal Justice (Suicide) Act. This law was written to protect vulnerable people and, should the Gardai not enforce the law, this workshop will most likely result in the death of an Irish citizen at

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Protesting at the Euthanasia Workshop in Dublin last month



How Maynooth's students rejected abortion providers Marie Stopes

Last week saw committed opposition to a stall by abortion referral agents Marie Stopes on Maynooth University's campus.

The abortion providers were invited to NUI Maynooth by the Students Union, prompting letters and petitions to the authorities in Maynooth from students who felt that Marie Stopes had no place on campus.

"It is ridiculous that in this day and age, when medicine and science show so clearly the humanity of the unborn child, that these few noisy pro-abortion cronies are given a platform", commented one NUIM student.

Although it was obvious to all concerned that the majority of NUIM stu-

dents did not want Marie Stopes on campus, the power that be were intent on letting it go ahead, leaving students no choice but to protest. And that is exactly what they did. In an extraordinarily rapid response, within 36 hours NUIM students designed and printed over 1,000 leaflets, designed posters, and most importantly spread the word about the protest, receiving commitments from a large body of students. At 10.30am on Wednesday morning, with no sign of Marie Stopes, the pro-life students set up their very colourful protest in the Art's block, next to the unoccupied Marie Stopes table. This outraged those members of the Student's Union who are pro-abortion, and soon campus security was on the scene to discuss the matter. As all of

those present - on the pro-life side at least - were from the campus, the protest remained in the Arts building.

At 11:45am it was decided to take the protest to both entrances to the Arts block with the support of campus security. When Marie Stopes eventually arrived, they agreed with the college authorities to set up with one person, no Marie Stopes banner, no pro-abortion literature and a small amount of promotional leaflets. They left ninety minutes later.

Good does certainly come out of bad, as rather than having Marie Stopes in the college all day, the protest turned into a pro-life mini festival. It's unlikely NUIM will see the return of any pro-abortion group anytime soon. ●

Pro-life students in NUI Galway wrote pro-life slogans on the pathways with chalk during life week recently



NITSCHKE cont'd from page 13

some stage in the future." At the workshop I asked Gardai present to intervene and stop the workshop. They refused.

So Nitschke left Ireland the following day. But within two weeks he was back - his flight and expenses paid for by you, via RTÉ, so that he could avail of a huge platform on the Late Late Show. There, he was treated with kid gloves by Ryan Tubridy, who had no opposing guest on the panel

when dealing with the issue. A few pro-life people were allowed to make some short remarks from the audience, but most of the section was given over to Nitschke and his promotion of suicide.

RTÉ rang us to ask if we would speak from the audience. We told them that they were acting recklessly and irresponsibly in allowing Nitschke this platform. Amongst the television audience that night, there is no doubt that there were vulnerable people who

don't really listen to the intricacies of the debate but simply hear someone on the national broadcaster arguing in favour of suicide.

This crass decision by RTÉ comes at a time when we're losing more than 600 Irish people a year due to suicide, and every case is a tragedy which leaves families devastated. Allowing Nitschke's reckless and dangerous promotion of suicide will surely lead directly to the death of people in this country. ●

500,000 VIEWS!



Ide Nic Mhathúna on our big plans for the pro-life advert Project Truth

Most Solas readers will be familiar with the story behind our YouTube video, Project Truth: how it was recorded as a radio advert, banned by the government, and eventually remade as a powerful pro-life internet message.

Making a popular right-to-life advert was a first for the Irish pro-life movement. It was an exciting and important step forward. The good news is that Project Truth is saving lives right now. We've had some beautiful responses to the advert which has been seen by more than 70,000 people online. Here's just one from a young girl called Sandra which really moved me:

"Hi, I just wanted to tell you that I showed this to my good friend and now she is not going to have an abortion. She is 11 weeks & hasn't told her family yet and had already talked to the clinic and everything. She was totally freaked out before but we saw

this and then she changed her mind. She feels better now but is a bit worried about college etc. I know an abortion would have been totally wrong for her & I think her parents will be ok. Thanks for making this, it's really good and makes u think."

The first time I read that message it stopped me in my tracks. Thank God for the little life spared, for the power of prayer, and for our ability to use the internet to reach young women with crisis pregnancies. We're used to the dynamic of talking and listening to the mothers of the babies saved through pro-life work. And, while nothing really matches that interaction, Sandra's response and the responses from other young women in particular have shown us that we need to do more in this area.

So far we've mostly used word of mouth and our Facebook page (where we have more than 16,000 members) to promote this life-saving

message. But now that we've seen just what a difference this ad can make we have big plans - and we're hoping to eventually get Project Truth a whopping 500,000 views.

This would be a huge breakthrough for pro-life campaigning in Ireland - and we need to keep the pro-life movement moving forward at all times. The internet offers us opportunities to bypass the media and reach so many people with the truth about abortion. Our websites are amongst the most popular pro-life websites in the world, and we need to build that achievement into a fully comprehensive outreach that saves mothers and babies from the abortion industry.

We've been blessed with some amazing ideas for this medium and look forward to sharing them with you shortly. By using cutting edge technology and clever, attractive messages and mediums, we can keep Ireland abortion-free. ●



JOIN US ON EWTN!
YOUTH DEFENCE ON
A ST PATRICK'S DAY SPECIAL EDITION OF
LIFE ON THE ROCK



7am Friday 18 March
8.30pm Saturday 19 March

