Is Christ Hospital Violating the Born Alive Infants Protection Act?

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Despite the recent passage of federal law defining the personhood of infants born alive, Christ Hospital still admits to being in the business of abortion but has become fuzzy regarding its now infamous practice of induced labor abortion, known commonly as “live birth abortion.”

Christ Hospital gained national attention in 1999 when it was publicly disclosed that it practiced a method of abortion that resulted in babies being aborted alive, and if aborted alive, they were left to die with no medical intervention. It is now known that the induced labor abortion method is practiced throughout the U.S. However, Christ Hospital was the first hospital to be publicly disclosed.

In August 2002, President George Bush signed the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, which gives legal status and protection to newborn infants, even those who have been aborted alive.

On January 22, 2003, Illinois Leader reported that Christ Hospital director of public relations, Mike Maggio, said he had no knowledge of the new law. He went on to say, “If there is such a federal, state or local law, I can assure you that Christ Hospital is obeying the law.”

In an April 21 Illinois Leader follow-up, Mr. Maggio hedged by saying, “Christ Medical Center and all facilities of the Advocate Health Care system follow all laws governing the practices performed there.” He added that he was now aware of the Born Alive Infants Protection Act. When asked if the hospital continued to commit abortions, Mr. Maggio said, “Legal ones.”

Pro-Life Coordinator of Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Illinois and former Christ Hospital nurse, Jill Stanek, says she has been told by a hospital insider that there may be some shift by the hospital away from the gruesome treatment of leaving infants to die without medical care. This is welcome news, but because the hospital still admits to being involved in abortion, peaceful and prayerful vigils and protests will continue to spotlight abortions at Christ Hospital.

CWA of Illinois joins others at a planned prayer vigil Saturday, April 26, at Christ Hospital, 95th Street 2 blocks East of Cicero (95th & Kostner), Oak Lawn, from 2:45 until 3:30 p.m. The prayer vigil will feature prominent speakers:

- Pro-Life Action League president Joe Scheidler, who recently won an 17 year court battle in the U.S. Supreme Court RICO case, NOW vs. Scheidler;
- Father Frank Pavone, Founder and Director of Priests for Life;
CWA of Illinois Pro-Life Coordinator and former Christ Hospital nurse Jill Stanek who exposed the practice of Live Birth Abortion and was fired.