

Protests of Planned Parenthood in Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Canoga Park, Santa Barbara and 220+ nationwide

Protesters express shock, outrage, pray/demand change

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Feature By George Miller

Pro-life advocates staged hundreds of rallies Saturday across the nation to protest



Planned Parenthood's (PP) abortion and baby-parts selling activities. Included regionally were offices in Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Canoga Park and Santa Barbara PP offices. In Los Angeles, there was another event in Lawndale and more elsewhere in the L.A. metro area.

Advocates became increasingly incensed after seeing new "[Center for Medical Progress](#)" videos coming out every week, purporting to show Planned Parenthood representatives and baby parts buyers talking about such deeds. The Center for Medical Progress fabricated an imaginary company, "Bio-Max," to collect such information via meetings and interviews to expose and embarrass Planned Parenthood and parts intermediaries, with an objective to help ultimately stop what they say are illegal and/or morally repugnant practices.



Participants' signage speaks for them at Thousand Oaks pro-life rally at Planned Parenthood, Thousand Oaks, CA, 8-22-15. Photo: Mark Langsam, the "Photography Czar"

CitizensJournal previously published several relevant articles and ran organizers' event announcements. Here is another article- [summary](#) of issues.

Ventura, CA



People of all ages and ethnicities listen to Andria Rodrigues' powerful presentation at Ventura Planned Parenthood protest, 8-22-15. Photo: CitizensJournal.us.

The largest known regional protest was in Ventura, organized by Defenders of Life of Ventura County ([previous event](#)). Two Catholic churches (Santa Clara Church in Oxnard and Our Lady of the Assumption in Ventura) combined forces with Thomas Aquinas College, St Augustine Academy, students/faculty/parents from high schools Buena, Ventura and St Buenaventura, Ojai Life Center, Oxnard/Ventura Life Centers and others who appeared to be predominantly Christians/pro-lifers. They delivered hundreds of people along both sides of the street near the PP facility at 5840 Ralston Street. Organizers announced that they had counted 325 people at the event (see below):



NorthEast of Ventura Planned Parenthood Ventura, across Ralston Street, 8-22-15. Photo:L CituiensJournal.us



NorthWest of Ventura Planned Parenthood Ventura, across the Ralston Street, 8-22-15. Photo: CitizensJournal.us



That's Ventura Planned Parenthood, across Ralston Street, 8-22-15. Photo: CitizensJournal.us

It is not clear whether that number included 2 fringe protesters with bullhorns who made it difficult to hear prayers for a while. Small matter, since most participants knew the [rosary](#) by heart. Later on, the police acted on a complaint that the ralliers' sound system was disturbing neighbors, so organizers immediately turned it off.

We interviewed organizers Ed Wurts and Anna Murphy before the speakers came on, to learn what triggered this event and what they hoped to accomplish with it. They said that the proximate cause was "the unsavory videos we have seen on TV of what Planned Parenthood has been doing with babies/parts, of the unborn and even born (aborted babies)... We would like to see media reports of what Planned Parenthood does behind closed doors and for national level government to see it."

When asked what they thought about opposition claims that the videos were heavily edited and left out a lot, Wurts responded that the networks also edit/cut longer videos way down and some meaning is lost- this is how it works. He then added that the Center

for Medical Progress, unlike the networks, also provided the full-length videos to anyone who wants to see them.

Several event speakers gave testimony to their beliefs and motivation to act for affirmation of life:

– Organizer Anna Murphy told the assembled crowd that “we mean business to tell the truth to the public,” that college-age people are the most abortion-prone; that it is especially important to have life-affirming information on campus, to counteract the message being relentlessly delivered to students; that [Abby Johnson](#) (ex-PP Director) used to work at one of those places (abortion mill); that clinic workers should receive the pro-life message; that all should pick a day to pray on this; then act.

Deacon Arnold Rand, of a Camarillo church, reinforced the pro-life message. Part of his prayer was: *“on the lips of children and infants you have found perfect praise”* (Canticle – Ezekiel 36:24-28)

A young woman, Rebecca of St. Buenaventura H.S., told us how she went to a pro-life center, received their message, committed to the cause and wants to help everyone know what it means to be pro-life.



Andrew Seely leads rosary prayers at Ventura Planned parenthood protest, 8-22-15. Pho: CitizensJournal.us

Andria Rodriguez, a Senior at Buena H.S., emoted and lamented “hanging out” and hearing girls talking about pregnancy and abortion, They knew where she stands on this and were reluctant to talk to her about it. She said it is “terribly painful to see such apathy toward the unborn.” She advised us “don’t let people tell you it isn’t your business to talk to them about it.” Ms. Rodriguez emotionally and tearfully told hundreds of spellbound people that “it’s not right to say they don’t want him (child) anymore I hope that those who are inside (Planned Parenthood) are listening, because we want to save him.”

Andrew Seely, a teacher at Thomas Aquinas College, led the crowd in the ritual prayers of the rosary, after first laying the groundwork for why he was doing this: for “external success” and prayers; for all to dedicate time to fight evil and make it known; people are turning away from confronting the evidence and need to be turned back; the videos will hopefully open more eyes now; but there are still many who don’t want to know, who turn their eyes away; that organizations will be persuaded to stop their wrongdoing. (some of this is paraphrased because it wasn’t possible to get it all).

It was instructive to see the powerful effect this had on this ad-hoc assembled crowd from various organizations and places, brought together for a common objective. The combination of the prayers, the invocation and advice from the speakers, the shocking evidence of the videos, the large number of young and very young people who were not aborted, all assembled and working as a group, right outside the site of so much evil they believe goes on inside was moving. I saw some tearful faces, but many determined faces and very few indifferent faces.

While this crowd was not representative of the general population, it is representative of many millions of people, motivated, energized, reaching out to the rest of society, many talking to their friends and neighbors, voting. This could have a major effect.

Participants interviewed at random had similar things to say earlier, before the speakers had even uttered a word:

Ron Ryan: “forcibly ending a pregnancy is murder which should be prosecuted.” He wants Planned Parenthood defunded (government subsidies eliminated).

A woman nearby him who chose not to be identified said: “life starts at conception. Abortion is actually committing a crime against an unborn child.”

Another man: “this is a national right to life demonstration. We want to be part of it, because we have a responsibility...”

Another older woman told me “They not only abort babies, but sell their body parts. It’s shocking.”

Participants brought many creative and expressive signs to convey their messages effectively





Statement from Ventura protest organizers:

Protest at Ventura Planned Parenthood Facility on August 22 warns: “PP Sells Baby Parts”

Ventura, CA, August 18, 2015 — In light of recent revelations that Planned Parenthood has been harvesting and selling aborted baby parts, The Defenders of Life of Ventura County and other concerned citizens of Ventura county are calling for a protest at the Planned Parenthood facility at 5400 Ralston Street, Ventura, on August 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. This effort is part of a National Day of Protest taking place at Planned Parenthood offices and abortion facilities all across the United States (<http://www.protestpp.com>) to raise awareness about Planned Parenthood’s trafficking of aborted baby parts. As of this writing, over 300 cities are having a similar protest.

WHY: Undercover videos (see links below) released by the Center for Medical Progress reveal that Planned Parenthood abortion clinics, with the sanction of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, are involved in the harvesting of body parts of unborn children aborted in their facilities and profiting from their sale contrary to federal laws prohibiting such practices.

WHO: Defenders of Life of Ventura County and other concerned citizens of Ventura

WHAT: Press conference, prayer vigil and protest signs calling attention to PP’s baby parts trafficking

WHERE: Planned Parenthood, 5400 Ralston Street, Ventura, CA, and processing to the Ventura County Government Center at 11:00 a.m.

WHEN: August 22, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The videos show high-level Planned Parenthood executives haggling over the prices of fetal specimens. The videos also raise ethical questions about the exploitation of unborn children for financial gain and risks to women’s health if abortion procedures are altered solely to procure more profitable specimens.

As a consequence of this public scandal, several states have initiated investigations of Planned Parenthood and legislation has been introduced in Congress to defund the abortion giant. Planned Parenthood currently receives over \$500 million in taxpayer funding annually.

The ProtestPP.com coalition is headed by Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Created Equal, 40 Days for Life and the Pro-Life Action League, and is co-sponsored by fifty state and national pro-life organizations.

All politics is local. We cannot only look to Washington, DC and our state governments to solve this problem. Planned Parenthood is located in large and small communities all across America. Each community with a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic or satellite office needs to take action against the killing of babies and the trafficking of their body parts. Concerned local citizens from the Ventura area will be sending the message that it's well past time for Planned Parenthood to be run out of town!"

[Links to the first three Center for Medical Progress undercover videos:](#)

Video 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxwVuozMnU>

Video 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjCs_gvlmyw

Video 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw2xi9mhmuo>



Catherine Short, Life Legal Defense Foundation. Photo: CitizensJournal.us

Catherine Short, Chief Counsel representing Center for Medical Progress

While at the Ventura protest, I unexpectedly and briefly met/interviewed [Catherine Short](#), Vice President Legal Affairs of [Life Legal Defense Foundation](#), Chief Counsel representing the Center for Medical Progress/David Daleidem, pro bono, in their legal defense of Planned Parenthood and StemExpress, et al. She says their work is supported by generous donors and would we be one? The case is entitled "[National Abortion Federation v Center for Medical Progress](#)." Yes, there really is a [National Abortion Federation](#). Short, a Ventura County resident, has a new feather in her cap after getting the [injunction lifted](#) by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joanne O'Donnell, which had prevented them from releasing more videos. Right after that occurred, another [devastating video](#) (excerpt here) was released by CMP:

[New Planned Parenthood Video 'Trailer' Released After Court Decision](#)

([MORE](#) videos)

But, Ms. Short believes it's far from over and that there are still about a dozen legal challenges thrown at them by the opposition, to be resolved, including RICO ("racketeering" and much more).

Thousand Oaks, CA

About 120 pro-lifers lined the road in front of the local Planned Parenthood office on 1200 W. Hillcrest Drive. Signs and conversations were opposed to abortion, but especially to the practices of later term abortions and cutting up fetuses (or babies, as we were reminded they were) for sale for research and other purposes.



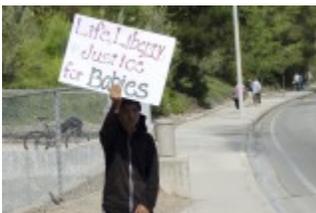
Young folks forced to grow up fast at Thousand Oaks pro-Life rally at Planned Parenthood, Thousand Oaks, CA, 8-22-15. Photo: Beau Akers/CitizensJournal.us



Participants line Hillcrest Dr. at Thousand Oaks pro-life rally at Planned Parenthood, Thousand Oaks, CA, 8-22-15. Photo: Mark Langsam, the "Photography Czar"

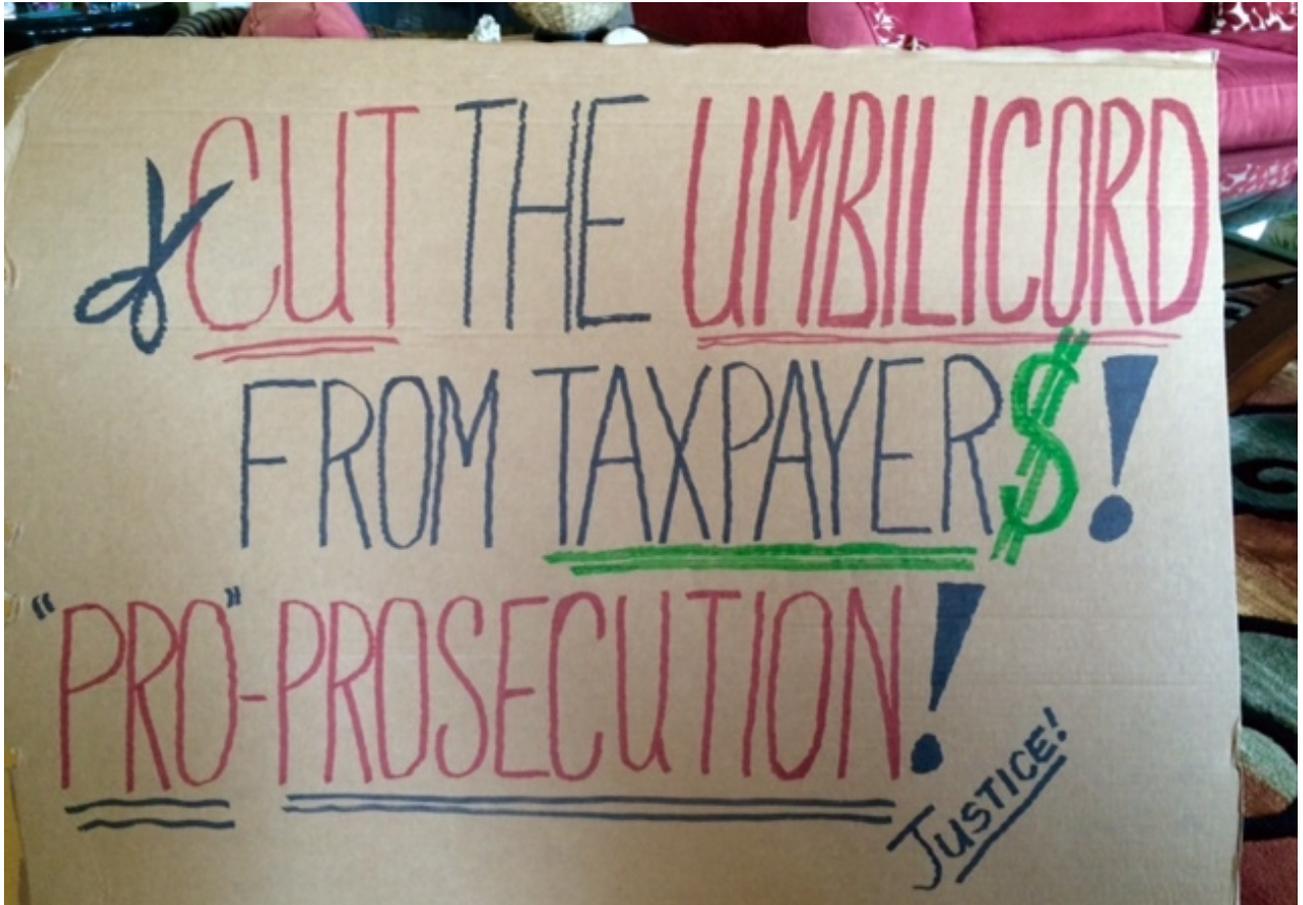
See our separate article on that event by Beau Akers:

[Protest in Thousand Oaks: Defund Planned Parenthood](#)



By Beau Akers- More than 120 citizens rallied in Thousand Oaks to peacefully protest Planned Parenthood's selling of aborted baby parts. The demonstration in Thousand Oaks was one of thousands in the first nationwide protest against Planned Parenthood. The call for national protests occurred after a spate of undercover videos from the Center for Medical [...]

August 22, 2015



Santa Barbara Planned Parenthood Protest, 8-22-15. Photo: Linda Foster

Santa Barbara area protester Linda Foster sent us some photos for publication. Her comments:

"Our presence was recognized by every car that passed. Some people were unaware that there was even a Planned parenthood here. Twice as many horn honks of support than flip-offs (; No speakers. Some were praying, and many stood in a group, backs to the street...why bother to show up if they can't stand facing the street with interaction with passersby? Not hollering, just showing strength in numbers to the public!? I'll get off my bully pulpit now (:"

– Linda



Santa Barbara Planned Parenthood Protest, 8-22-15. Photo: Linda Foster



Santa Barbara Planned Parenthood Protest, 8-22-15. Photo: Linda Foster

Canoga Park, CA



Protest at Canoga Park, CA Planned Parenthood facility, 8-22-15. Photo: Gene Bolsoni

Gene Bolsoni of Woodland Hills informed us that about 100+ protesters showed up at the Canoga Park, CA Planned Parenthood facility, at 21001 Sherman Way, with similar grievances. Our Lady of the Valley Church was the primary organizer. We hadn't heard

back from them as of publication time. Mr. Bolsoni told me that the participants were already quite upset about what they already knew what was going on at Planned Parenthood, but that the latest allegations are just over the top and have energized them even more to fight it. The session was “all Spanish with a little English,” he said. He was moved by the fervent praying, especially by the older Latino women, which he opined would “definitely get results.”

Just in case you were wondering how LA Latinos are weighing in on pro-life:

Songs, prayers, complete with Aztec dances with the prayers- these folks know how to do a protest:



Protest at Canoga Park, CA Planned Parenthood facility, 8-22-15. Photo: Gene Bolsoni

Lawndale, CA (Los Angeles).

Protest PP, Lawndale – August 22, 2015



Meanwhile, events are moving fast:

Anti-abortion group releases video snippet after court win

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/21/anti-abortion-group-releases-video-snippet-after-court-win/print>

NRO interviews the man behind the recent videos.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/421808/planned-parenthood-body-parts-daleiden>

Original announcements for two local events

<http://citizensjournal.us/events/event/planned-parenthood-protest-in-ventura-saturday/>

<http://citizensjournal.us/events/event/protest-against-planned-parenthood-for-you-know-what/> (Thousand oaks event)

Other areas:

ATLANTA

– Mona H., Ventura, CA: “we stopped at the PP in San Luis Obispo they had at least 100”

MORE

Pro-abortion (“Choice”) advocates

This article is focused on the protests/protesters, so it reports on their activities, their views. Meanwhile, pro-abortion forces are not taking this all lying down:

[The Campaign of Deception Against Planned Parenthood ...](#) (NY Times)

[Planned Parenthood: More Sting Videos Are Coming](#) (HuffPo)

[Unspinning the Planned Parenthood Video – FactCheck.org](#) (FactCheck.com)

[The Center for Medical Progress’s bogus hitjob on Planned ...](#) (Daily Kos)

[State officials: No Wrongdoing at Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania](#) (National Abortion Federation)

Meanwhile, a visit to the [Planned Parenthood web site](#) revealed not even an acknowledgement of the huge controversy surrounding it. They are letting others speak for them and putting on their business as usual face. We saw cars with stone-faced young women looking straight ahead driving past us in and out of the Ventura PP parking lot while we were there Saturday.

George Miller is Publisher of Citizensjournal.us and a “retired” operations management consultant, active in civic affairs, living in Oxnard.

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