



# Dóchas

A message of Hope

Spring 2011



Chris Pembroke with the Christian Solidarity Banner as party officers & candidates attend the Baby X commemoration with other pro-life activists

# **A message from the President**

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter especially new members.

Once again the CSP kept the Christian flag flying in Irish politics by running eight candidates in the recent general election and thus giving a few thousand people an opportunity to vote according to their conscience. As a registered Christian Party we availed of our right to a party political broadcast on RTE radio and television, and so many thousands of people know that we still exist and are not going away.

I wish to thank all who supported us financially so we could do this and our candidates, Paul O'Loughlin, Harry Rea, Conor O'Donoghue, Manus Mac Meanmain, Daire Fitzgerald, Colm Callanan, Michael Larkin, & Jane Murphy, for their courage and idealism in putting themselves forward in an Ireland that sadly is becoming increasingly apathetic and even hostile to a Christian party.

On that note Daire Fitzgerald, our Candidate in the most liberal constituency in the country got 434 first preferences, did very well on the RTÉ Frontline programme and I believe his campaign in that constituency was instrumental in preventing Ivana Bacik from getting elected.

I am especially grateful to Manus and his brother for getting our website up and running again. We hope to develop this further over the next few months. We would like to see more branches reactivated and new ones formed all over the country. I'm hopeful that our party will be supported and encouraged to grow by newly appointed Bishops in the future, and with the renewal on-going in the Church in Ireland following the abuse scandals, that more priests and the many lay Catholic organisations, pro-life and family groups will participate in overt political action to ensure that the wave of anti-catholic and anti-christian legislation proposed by our new government is halted so that our candidates will eventually get elected to the Dail and local authorities.

I would also like to thank our Vice-President Paul O'Loughlin for his advice and help to me and hard work behind the scenes in ensuring that our candidates were properly registered to stand for election and to Comt. Cathal Loftus our National Secretary for his assistance to me during the election campaign. Last but far from least Michael Maguire, who left no request for help from me unfulfilled.

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# **CSP turn the Corner**

Vote increases more than 20%

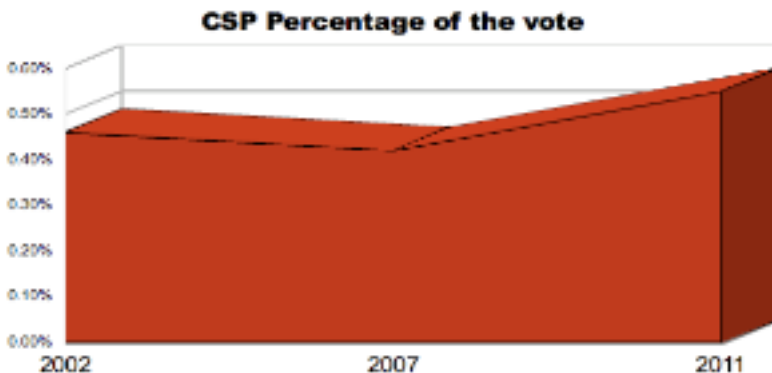
For the first time this century our party's vote has not fallen, it has risen. Not only has it risen beyond the vote received in the 2007 general election, it has risen beyond the percentage of the vote received when the pro-life vote collapsed in 2002. Over-all our vote increased by more than 23%. For every 4 votes we received in 2007 we received almost 5 in 2011. Our share of the contested vote was even more impressive with an increase of 30% from 0.42% of the vote to 0.55%.

Our presence on the ballot helped ensure that basic human rights were an issue in the election and there is little doubt, (at least in the minds of her supporters who berated him), that Daire Fitzgerald's efforts were instrumental in denying abortion-champion Ivana Bacik a seat in the new Dáil. Sinn Féin's

Of our eight candidates. One was in Dublin South where we have never had a candidate, and another in Dun Laoghaire where we last had a candidate in 1997. Of the others, four increased the party vote in both numbers and percentage, more than doubling it in Meath, whilst the other two increased the numbers of votes received albeit with a lower percentage of votes cast thanks to a larger turn-out.

This means that, first and foremost the pro-life message has been delivered, securing commitments that abortion will not be foisted upon us.

It means that efforts do bring results. In the constituencies where we did not increase our share of the vote our candidates were hampered, in one case by being let down by the individual engaged to erect his posters and in the other by efforts he made to ensure his colleagues got their free-post leaflets out despite a surprisingly short deadline.



# **A Referendum on Children**

by Maria Mhic Mheanmain

We now have a new government ministry which represents a new departure in Irish Politics- a minister for children. It should be pointed out that this ministry was first mooted back in 2007 when then Minister of State for children, Brian Lenihan, was hold over the coals by a UN delegation, because Ireland had not fulfilled it's obligations under the convention on the rights of the child.

From a purely philosophical view point, the mere existence of a minister for children is a slap in the face of parents. It assumes that parents are not doing their job and children need a State endorsed nanny to look after them.

However on a pragmatic level the immediate issue is the possibility of a children's referendum. As some readers may know I represent an organisation called PARENTS FOR CHILDREN and as an organisation we have been fighting this proposed referendum. From the release of the first proposed wording in 2007 we have made submissions and sought meetings with relevant parties to try to put forward the perspective of Independent parents (ie not funded by the State).

So far we have been ignored by the powers that be except for one meeting with Brian Lenihan back in 2007. Let me make clear exactly what our objection to a "children's rights" amendment is : it is NOT, in fact a children's rights amendment, it is an anti children's rights amendment. All of the three proposed wordings have one thing in common: they deny children's right to parental vindication of their rights. All in to some degree make the State the guardian of children rights whilst relegating parents to the role of caretakers of their children's welfare.

The first wording was problematic in that it separated the child from the family, and its mention of children's "rights" was non specific and could pave the way for a court inventing rights in the future. More sinister was the fact that it made it very easy for the forcible adoption of children against the wishes of parents.

The second wording was far worse in that it very specifically made the State the guardian of the rights of children while reducing parents to the role of caretakers. It removed the exceptional clause with regard to State intervention, removed the parents inalienable right of parents to protect their children, it introduced the vague concept of the child's best interests, and with regard to forced adoption, it did not specify a time period for a child out of the care of their parents, but rather said it would be "prescribed by law".

I think it is worth mentioning that although we have been ignored, by the powers that be, I believe that our intervention has been partly responsible for the delay in proceeding with the referendum. In 2006 the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis announced that if elected to government they would offer a referendum. They were elected, and now are gone, without any referendum taking place. Indeed

the two wordings which were proposed were rejected and replaced by a watered down version which drew the wrath of the likes of Barnardoes. In fact Justine Mc Carthy stated that it was input from "conservative groups" that caused the referendum to be long figured.

Now we have Fine Gael children's minister in situ and already there appears to be a

reluctance to proceed. There is no definitive plan for a referendum just a “hope” that it will take place by the end of the year. There is fudging on the wording and a promise to look at both wordings to see which is best. I believe that it is only now that those in power fully realise how difficult a task they will have trying to get it passed. PFC have already requested a meeting with Frances Fitzgerald to discuss our concerns. In the meantime, we will continue to fight this threat to our children.

## **The Dignity of the Human Person**

by Cathal Loftus

Four cardinal principles are fundamental to the Social Doctrine of the Church:

The Dignity of the Human Person  
The Common Good  
Subsidiarity,  
Solidarity.

The first social principle is the Dignity of the Human Person. Well, yes, we're all in favour of dignity. If only we all conducted ourselves with dignity! However, when speaking of the Dignity of the Human Person we don't mean courtesy, etiquette, civility, poise, good grooming and fine Old World charm; much as we value, and wish to manifest, such goods - in a dignified manner! Rather, we speak about our unique status among God's creatures.

We best outline that status with quotations taken from the opening articles of the (1995) Catechism of the Catholic Church:

'God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. ...'<sup>1</sup>

The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God; it is fulfilled in his vocation to divine beatitude.<sup>12</sup> ['his vocation to divine beatitude' is simply his call on us to turn to God]

'...Christ sent forth the apostles...to proclaim the gospel: “...make disciples ... baptizing ... teaching ... to observe all that I have commanded ...”’<sup>3</sup>

(continued) 'It is essential to a human being freely to direct himself to this fulfilment.'<sup>4</sup>

'...All Christ's faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.'<sup>5</sup>

It is in Article 1700 that the Dignity of the Human Person is spelled out, and at greater length than is possible in this short summary. But it is on the very first Articles (1 through 8) that 1700 is based. Articles 1 - 4 are based on John (17:3); 1 Timothy (2:3-4); Acts (4:12); Matthew (28:18-20); Mark(16:20); and Acts (2:42).

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<sup>1</sup> Article 1.

<sup>2</sup> Article 1700. ‘

<sup>3</sup> Article 2.

<sup>4</sup> Article 1700.

<sup>5</sup> Article 3, [N.B. See Acts of the Apostles 2:42]

# **Media Black-out of CSP okay: Broadcasting Authority**

by Dónal Ó Drisceoil

I complained on 26 March to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) regarding TV3's non-coverage of CSP candidates on the basis of "Fairness, Objectivity & Impartiality in current affairs". This is what I said:

*"A General Election was held on Friday 25 February 2011.*

*The Christian Solidarity Party (Comhar Chriostaí) (CSP) was contesting this election. It was a national party, and was advocating Christian values. The observance of these values had been noticeably absent, particularly in the previous 20 years. The neglect of these values had been seen by many as the root cause of the economic collapse. CSP is Dáil-registered, and is recognised as a political party. It is the only such party supporting Christian principles.*

*This Party (CSP) fielded 8 candidates nationally in this election.*

*In the week prior to the date of election, the coverage of CSP and its candidates by TV3 was limited to 50 seconds showing CSP candidate Jane Murphy. But candidate Jane Murphy did not get to speak. Instead there was a voice-over.*

On Wednesday, 23 February, I spoke to Lydia Murphy, producer for the Vincent Browne show.

She said it was not the intention to feature any CSP candidate that night. When I pointed out that there would not likely to be any election coverage on the following day, she agreed. Therefore, there would not be any further coverage (if the appearance of candidate Jane Murphy was to be regarded as coverage) of CSP candidates at all. There was nothing she could, or would, do.

This is a disgraceful response from a major broadcasting organisation. TV3 is not exempt from the Broadcasting Act, but the penalties are so pitiful, that they can safely ignore the Act."

I also sent them copies of 2 emails I had sent to TV 3 on 22 and 18 February 2010, and said that neither of these had been replied to.

This was the reply I got from the BAI (emphasis mine):

*"I acknowledge receipt of your email below enclosing a complaint form in respect of the Tonight with Vincent Browne programme broadcast on 23rd February, 2011.*

*I am sorry to say that your complaint, as submitted, is invalid.. The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland cannot accept complaints of this nature where a particular party were*

*not given air-time. We can only accept complaints where an infringement of the 2009 Broadcasting Act actually took place. Complaints can only be accepted when an actual interview took place and it was impartial not the fact that a particular party did not receive any air-time.*

*I am sorry we cannot be of further assistance at this stage."*

Teresa Kearns, BAI.

My comment:

I am following this up, but I am unlikely to get anywhere.

I have looked at sections 30, 42, 47 and 48 of the Broadcasting Act 2009.

It looks as if, regardless of what is in the Act about "Fairness, Objectivity & Impartiality", this is only applied to what is actually broadcast, not to what ought to be broadcast in the public interest.

It boils down to the opinion of the broadcaster: they own the station, and what's in your pocket to pay broadcasters and pay for the station.

The whole thing is a disgraceful abrogation of the right of the people.

## **The RENEW Campaign**

by Mary Doherty

RENEW is campaigning for an end to pornography, all portrayal of sexual activity, obscenities, the sexualisation of children, and the objectification of women from television, billboards, newspapers, film, DVD's, internet or wherever it is presented.

We have written to the advertising standards authority, to TV presenters and spoken on radio in regard to these matters, but much more has to be done in order to raise awareness of the insidious and dehumanising affect on women and family relationships of this objectionable material.

RENEW also want to see an end to so-called sex-education in schools, and a return to the teaching of the doctrine the Catholic Faith in Catholic Schools.

Mary Doherty was Comhar Criostai's top vote-winner in the 2007 General Election and has since been successfully involved in protesting against strip-clubs in Donegal.

# TOWARDS FINANCING THE COMMON GOOD

part 1

by Chris Pembroke

(This article is intended to provoke thought and debate on long-term financial policy.)

The Economy should serve the people, not the people serving the economy - When the people serve the economy then the Common Good cannot be financed.

The present economic financing of the Irish State is structured so that the individual persons in the state serve the economy. All recent Irish Governments have financed the state by borrowing with interest. This has been a deliberate policy. Money borrowed with interest from bankers to fund the state have as collateral the tax payers. This system of financing the state subjugates the persons of the state, (tax-payers) to a perpetual debt with interest.

The system is deliberately structured so that governments will always need to borrow (with interest), which in turn means that the government will pass this debt on to the people. This national debt by its very nature grows exponentially as it needs debt with interest to keep financing the economy. It enslaves persons in the state to a tread mill of perpetual bondage to debt which can never be payed off. This is modern banking, and no amount of tweaking will change its basic structure. To remedy the situation and have the economy serve the common good we need to replace the present system. To leave things as they are would mean we could never finance in any really useful way projects for the common good.

It is really bankers who finance our economy via loans to government. Our government only administers the loaned money. They then use the people's income and resources to pay back those loans with interest to the bankers. But bankers do not loan with the common good in mind; in fact they have no interest in the common good. Governments, via this system of finance have handed over the financing of the economy to unelected bankers who now hold us in their thrall. Under the present system new money is circulated into our economy as debt with interest which means it starts off with negative and zero value. This is totally opposing the financing of the common good and forces people to serve the economy and not the economy to serve the people.

In Summary, the way in which a state is financed is by its very nature structured against the Common Good. The key foundation of the present monetary system is that un-elected bankers circulate the finance to run our economy as credit, i.e. debt with interest. The few who benefit back this present structure. The Common Good and therefore society as a whole fare badly. In excessively brief form we can say that only a system where the actual responsible government of a state circulates money as positive value by spending it into the economy will be of any real hope of being harnessed for the common good. But such a system will need careful control by a governing administration who really understands the true common good. Such a system if carefully monitored should avoid the enslavement of people and the material world to perpetual debt with interest.