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Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

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# Polish Priests Use CBR Photos to Measurably Improve Public Opinion on Abortion

**T**he *Guardian*, a leading UK newspaper, published a story about the impressive gains that CBR has made in concert with Fundacja Pro, our affiliate in Poland. (“Polish Anti-Abortion Activists Borrow Tactics from US in Push for Total Ban,” April 9, 2016.) A shortened version was then aired on Public Radio International (PRI, “Inspired by US activists, Poland Moves toward Europe’s Most Restrictive Abortion Law,” April 12, 2016). Subsequently, a London NBC correspondent interviewed CBR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham on CBR’s impact on abortion politics across Europe. We quote from it here:

Six years ago, Polish activists made international headlines when they compared abortion to genocide. In the city of Poznań, posters depicting Adolf Hitler appeared next to graphic images of foetuses.

This month, those images have resurfaced, as Polish pro-life activists push for a complete ban on abortion – a move that would make Poland’s policies the most restrictive in Europe.

For many Americans, graphic abortion imagery seems familiar. In Poland, pro-life posters are often blood-red and blown up to several feet tall. Many include coins to illustrate scale.

But strangely, those coins are not euros or Polish złoty – they are American dimes and quarters.

On both sides of Poland’s abortion debate, activists have imported tactics and imagery from the United States. Today, with Poland’s abortion policies at their most contentious

*(Continued on page 2)*



*CBR’s Polish affiliate has worked with courageous priests like the one who pastors this church in southeast Poland. By displaying CBR abortion photos outside their churches, these spiritual leaders proved the facts which compelled the conclusion that abortion is indefensible evil.*



### *Polish Priests (continued from page 1)*

in 23 years, the US example is powerfully influencing reproductive rights in Europe.

This week, as news of the proposed abortion ban spread through Poland, thousands of pro-choice protesters gathered in more than a dozen cities and towns. When Catholic leaders read a statement in favour of the ban during Sunday services, many women walked out of church, according to video released by Poland's *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper.

Poland's abortion debate is national, but its symbols are distinctly international. Mariusz Dzierżawski, perhaps the best-known anti-abortion activist in Poland, said in an interview that his use of graphic images comes from the United States.

"We did not create these tactics," said Dzierżawski, whose organisation Stop Abortion planned the 2010 demonstrations in Poznań, and is behind the current movement for a complete ban. Dzierżawski said his "inspiration" is Gregg Cunningham, an American anti-abortion activist who visited Poland in 2004.



*Franciscan monks from Lezajsk, Poland, are sobered by the message of the GAP signs printed in Polish by Fundacja Pro, CBR's Polish affiliate.*

Dzierżawski added that his images came directly from Cunningham's organisation, the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, whose website links to 15 "international affiliates" in Europe, Africa and North America. The website – which also takes credit for the comparison between abortion and genocide – attracted media attention in 2015, when its graphic videos were described in a debate by then presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina.

'We exchanged emails almost every day,' said Dzierżawski. 'I was able to learn what was going on in the States. And I kept him up to date as to what we were up to in Poland.' The two men are still in regular contact, Dzierżawski said.

Our Polish partner, Mariusz Dzierżawski, has skillfully used CBR abortion photo signs to dramatically improve public Polish opinion on abortion, but also important to his success was the willingness of pastors to collaborate with him. These clerics permitted him to affix our signs to the outside walls of conspicuously located church buildings and millions of passersby saw the horror of abortion over the years.

When Fundacja Pro first began to adopt CBR strategy, they held CBR abortion displays on municipal territory, but few mayors would approve requests for display locations. The CBR sign campaigns began to have a big impact on Polish people when many priests agreed to host the abortion photo exhibits. Mr. Dzierżawski stated, "It was the main factor." Although few priests were equipped to speak to the media, they could show the public the pictures.

Mr. Dzierżawski notes: "Many priests in Poland remember that they are shepherds who should lead sheep, not follow them." He further commented: "The persecution [we face] is from the media and some from police. The faithful rarely attack priests, although the media tries to create tension between people and clergy."

*(Continued on page 3)*



*The pastor of this church in the center of Warsaw knows that people need to see the truth about abortion in order to save lives. Our CBR affiliate in Poland provided the signs, including this one CBR created which in English reads: "The insanity of choice." It features photos of a 24-week premature baby next to a photo of a 24-week abortion victim.*



*Many Polish Catholic Churches hosted CBR photo sign displays. These two churches are in the southeast part of Poland.*



**Thank you for your partnership with us. Although the world cannot understand, we know why we work so hard to save babies.**

*“For the love of Christ compels us...”  
II CORINTHIANS 5:14A*

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for God to raise up students to sponsor our Christian College Project
- Pray for God to strengthen our international affiliates.

### 2016 Events

#### Genocide Awareness Project (GAP)

- April 4-5 UNC-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
- April 6-7 UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- April 12-13 Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, CA
- April 26-28 Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

#### “Choice” Sign Outreaches

- April 2 Palomar College
- April 18-19 Eastern Carolina University, NC
- April 14 & 21 George Mason University, VA
- April 23 PP Protest, Raleigh, NC
- May 5 Palomar College, San Marcos, CA

#### TV / Radio Interviews

- April 12 Public Radio International

#### Training Seminars / Speaking Engagements

- April 2 Pro-Life Training Academy  
Chapel Hill, NC
- April 19 Graphic Image Use Training  
Palomar College, San Marcos, CA
- April 24 Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

### *Polish Priests (continued from page 2)*

While Mr. Dzierzawski is enormously grateful for the help of the priests, he acknowledges that many lacked the skills required to effectively mobilize their parishioners against abortion. They meant well and many tried hard, but a high percentage needed training they aren't getting in seminary. In contrast, pro-abortion activists are professionally trained at taxpayer expense in “women's studies” curricula at public universities around the world. Christian colleges and seminaries offer little to no comparable training in saving babies.

Our Lord repeatedly emphasizes the importance of justice. For instance, Matthew 23:23 reads: “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.” Torturing a baby to death is unimaginably unjust. Where is the church? Cowering behind closed doors. This is why CBR is pushing Christian colleges and seminaries to adopt curricular reforms involving full majors and elective courses in anti-abortion activism.

Abortion is child sacrifice. Child sacrifice is both a political and spiritual issue. We can't win without the church and we won't get better churches until we get better pastors. That means better training, and that means dragging Christian higher education administrators and faculty kicking and screaming into real curricular reform.

“ *I was almost forced into having one [an abortion].* ”

**This Ethiopian woman visited AbortionNO.org on April 25,  
and she represents millions of women worldwide  
who are being forced into abortions.**



*Father Miroslaw Dukiewicz, pastor of St. John Bosco Church in Gdansk, allowed the posting of CBR photo signs around his church. He calmly and succinctly explained his reasons when interviewed by the media source, [trojmiasto.pl](http://trojmiasto.pl).*

**Address corrections**

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