

"And the Lord said to me, '...I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them what I command him.'"

-Deuteronomy 8:17, 18

ANTI-ABORTION RALLY MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUPREME COURT'S LANDMARK ROE V. WADE DECISION

# LIFE COUNTS

Life, liberty at 'core of our national character,' Boehner tells rally

BY JULIE ASHER  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Americans "as a people are pro-life" because life and liberty "are intertwined and form the core of our national character," House Speaker John Boehner told the crowd gathered on the National Mall Jan. 23 for the 39th annual March for Life.

"God who gave us life gave us liberty," said the Ohio Republican, who is a Catholic. He added that his pro-life stand isn't political, "it's just who I am."

He and the other members of Congress who

spoke at the rally said they were proud they had passed the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act and the Protect Life Act and voted to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood.

But now, said U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., "we must work to change the Senate and reclaim the White House which not only obstructs pro-life legislation but has for the past three years advanced abortion in so many ways, while not even attempting to appear to be working to make abortion 'rare' and



Young people walk with a banner at the start of the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 23. The pro-life demonstration marks the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion across the nation. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

offering support to women to choose life."

Smith, a Catholic who is chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, told the rallygoers that they were "an important part of the greatest human rights movement on earth — the selfless struggle by prayer, fasting and works to defend and protect all weak and vulnerable persons from the vio-

lence of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia."

He also told the crowd, "The violent destruction of a child in the womb is not an American value."

More than an hour before the rally kicked off, thousands of pro-life marchers, the majority of them high school and college-age youths from

## The Marchers Keep Marching

The First March 1974	20,000
March 1975	50,000
March 1976	65,000
Marches 1977-1998	Up to 100,000
The 25th March 1998	225,000
March 1999	125,000
March 2000	100,000
March 2001	225,000
March 2002	100,000
Marches 2003 - 2007	200,000

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Source: [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

# Silence key ingredient to meaningful communication, Pope says

Cristine del Campo works on the Facebook site of World Youth Day on Nov. 12, 2010 in Madrid, Spain. Pope Benedict XVI invited Christians to join social networks to spread the Gospel and discover new friendships, but he also warned of the limits and dangers of online communication.

(CNS photo/Paul Haring)



BY CAROL GLATZ  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Amid the deluge of information and nonstop chatter in today's media, the church needs to help people find safe havens of silence, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Far from being the enemy of calm and quiet, social media and the Internet can lead people to virtual sanctuaries that offer silent reflection, thoughtful dialogue and true meaning in life, he said.

"Attention should be paid to the various types of websites, applications and social networks which can help people today to find time for reflection and authentic questioning, as well as making space for silence and occasions for prayer, meditation or sharing of the word of God," he said in his message for the 2012 celebration of World Communications Day.

Even brief posts and viral tweets can carry potent messages when people use those tools — not for spam-

ming or for scanning the latest gossip — but for sharing a real part of themselves, he said.

"In concise phrases, often no longer than a verse from the Bible, profound thoughts can be communicated, as long as those taking part in the conversation do not neglect to cultivate their own inner lives," he said.

The theme of this year's World Communications Day — marked in most dioceses the Sunday before

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