

RESPECT LIFE NOTES XXIII, APRIL 2008

Efforts to build a culture of life extend beyond the political and social spheres and are being made in the economic sphere as well. One such effort involves morally responsible investment. Another is directly concerned with companies that support abortion providers financially, and attempts to dissuade these companies from doing so.

Several funds have been established for those who wish to invest in accord with Christian moral values while realizing profit from their investments. The Timothy Plan, for example, is a Protestant group of mutual funds which “avoids investing in companies...involved in practices” like, among others, abortion, pornography and anti-family entertainment (timothyplan.com).

A Catholic group is the Ave Maria Mutual Funds family “...designed specifically for morally responsible investors who are looking for financially sound investments in companies that do not violate core values of the Catholic Church.” The funds use “a proprietary screening process developed by [its]... Advisory Board,” to “eliminate...companies connected with abortion or pornography, or that offer their employees non-marital partner ‘benefits.’” Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, is the Ecclesiastic Advisor to the group’s advisory board (avemariafund.com).

Life Decisions International (LDI) incorporated in 1992, has as its “primary mission...challenging the radical agenda of Planned Parenthood worldwide” (fightpp.org). LDI persuades corporate donors to Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the country, to end their donations to that organization. To date, using such means as boycotts, boycott lists...letter writing and shareholder resolutions, it has succeeded in doing so with more than 150 corporations, among them, General Mills and AT&T (the latter donated \$50,000 annually). As a result, Planned Parenthood has lost millions in donations.

In closing, we note that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued “Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines” (usccb.org/finance/srig.shtm). Though this document primarily presents “Principles for USCCB Investments,” these principles are valid for individual Catholic investors.

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