

‘Grisly discovery’ of fetal remains at abortionist’s home sparks outrage

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — The Sept. 13 disclosure that the preserved remains of over 2,200 aborted babies had been found at the rural Illinois home of the recently deceased Indiana abortionist Ulrich “George” Klopfer has sparked outrage and demands for immediate investigations by authorities.

At an Allen County Right to Life news conference Sept. 16 in front of Klopfer’s now-shuttered abortion facility in Fort Wayne, speakers asked for an immediate investigation by Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill Jr.

That same day, Hill issued this statement: “The grisly discovery of these fetal remains at the Illinois home of a deceased abortion doctor shocks the conscience. Further, we have reason to believe there is an Indiana connection to these remains. This past weekend, I conferred with Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, and he and I have agreed to work together as my office coordinates an investigation.”

The following day, St. Joseph County Right to Life and Lake County Right to Life held a joint news conference in front of the Women’s Pavilion abortion facility in South Bend. The facility also was owned and operated by Klopfer. His Lake County facility was in Gary.

Klopfer was 75 when he died Sept. 3. He had performed abortions in Indiana since the 1970s but had his medical license revoked in 2016 after innumerable infractions over the years.

Pro-life volunteers at the South Bend event told Today’s Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, that they had observed Klopfer carrying out boxes from that building and placing them in his car on numerous occasions, even after he was ordered to cease doing abortions. Lynne Scherschel, vice president of Lake County Right to Life, reported the same incidents at Klopfer’s Gary facility.

Speaking at the South Bend gathering, Jackie Appleman, executive director of St. Joseph County Right to Life, said that Klopfer had “committed” more than 30,000

abortions. She called for authorities to search Klopfer's three Indiana facilities to ensure that all the human remains are found and given proper burial, noting that women have been reaching out to her Right to Life organization, fearful their babies have been stored in Klopfer's garage.

Appleman also asked for an investigation into whether former employees of Klopfer were complicit in storing, hiding or selling the remains of aborted babies.

An Indiana law requiring burial or cremation of aborted human remains was passed by the Indiana Legislature in 2016 but delayed by legal challenges until the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law in May of this year. Even before that law went into effect, Klopfer's actions violated Indiana medical waste laws, according to Steven Aden, chief legal officer of Americans United for Life.

Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of South Bend's Holy Family and St. John the Baptist parishes, said at the South Bend news conference that our culture's greatest need is "reverence for each other." He noted that "children are alive before they take their first breath, they really are: statistically, scientifically, all the rest."

Father Kohrman did not use a name, but he appeared to be refuting comments by South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, a presidential candidate who recently tried to justify his support for a so-called right to abortion by claiming the Bible says life does not begin until a person breathes.

Father Kohrman, who also serves on the board of Catholic Charities, stressed that any woman who needs assistance in carrying her pregnancy to term will be helped by that organization.

Another speaker, Lisa Everett, director of Project Rachel for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, offered assistance in healing to any post-abortive woman or man through the Project Rachel confidential network of trained counselors, priests and companions.

Perhaps the most moving testimony at both news conferences came from Serena Dyksen of Elkhart. She related her experience of Klopfer giving her an abortion when she was only 13, the victim of rape by an uncle. She said she did not even

know what abortion was and went through with it “out of innocence and trusting that adults had my best interest in mind.”

She depicted Klopfer as cold and uncaring, and when she cried out in pain, his reaction was to “yell” at her to be quiet. Dyksen related she suffered physical repercussions and debilitating emotional pain that lasted for years until she began the healing process after an “encounter” with Jesus.

“Even after much healing and attending a post-abortive retreat, hearing the news of over 2,000 baby remains on George Klopfer’s property stirred up so many emotions — not only for me but many women reaching out to me. I feel like I have been violated all over again,” she related.

Dyksen said she wants a full investigation to be done and for the babies to have a proper burial. She is working with attorneys to sue Klopfer’s estate to obtain DNA testing to determine if her child is one of the babies found.

The county Right to Life groups have been in contact with local prosecutors about plans for an investigation and have learned that prosecutors are coordinating with the Indiana attorney general to determine how to proceed.

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