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Gov. Bush recognized for pro-life support

By Jacquelyn Horkan, Tallahassee

"It's going to take a generation before we get back to a world where children grow up in loving, wholesome household," warned Gov. Jeb Bush. "But don't lose hope."

The casually dressed chief executive arrived at the outdoor reception in a coat and tie, but quickly relegated them to a chair back, acquiescing to the muggy demands of a Florida summer.

His remarks came during his acceptance of the first John Paul II Humanitarian Award for Defense of the Unborn presented by Tallahassee's Open Door Women's Clinic, which Lynn Mangan, founder and board president, describes as the Catholic alternative to Planned Parenthood.

"It started when some Catholic families wanted to reach out to abortion-minded women," she said. "Open Door was the second clinic in the country to combine medical services with traditional crisis-pregnancy help."

In presenting the award to Gov. Bush, Rudy Raymaker, a deacon at Tallahassee's Blessed Sacrament Parish and physician, noted the governor's pro-life accomplishments.

"Gov. Bush, with great compassion and integrity, you have whispered to the little ones that you will be their voice," said Raymaker. "It is a heroic and loving whisper that has the potential to save the world."

In his remarks, the governor paid particular attention to a trio of bills passed during the 2005 Legislative session. The first implements a constitutional amendment permitting legislation that required parents be notified before their minor daughter undergoes an abortion.

The second bill imposes state-mandated regulations on clinics that are designed to protect the health and safety of women receiving second-term abortions, a measure that pro-life lobbyists had been trying to get enacted for four years. The final bill creates \$2.5 million in funding for crisis-pregnancy centers to provide professional counseling to the women they serve.

Bush told *The Florida Catholic* earlier that he hopes the money will be available by the end of the summer.

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