

Lifespan *news*

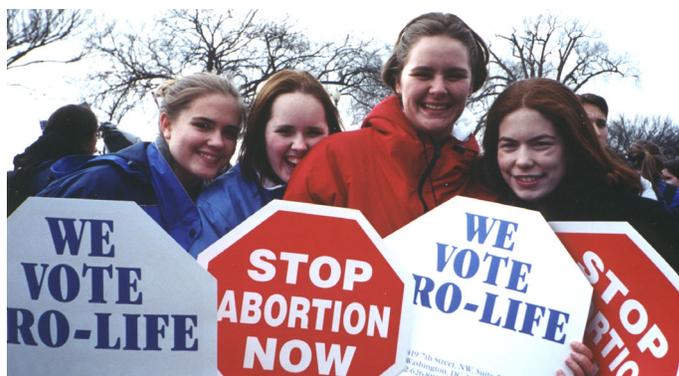
Volume 34 Number 1

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 2005

Rally for Life

January 16, 2005
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Now's the Time, America... *Roe v. Wade* must be overturned

Stand Up, Speak Out, Be Counted!

Inspiring Speakers & Live Music

Patrick Fabian, Madonna University Student

Jerry Stroud, Pastor, Christ Church of Redford

Michael Cullen, Northville High School Student

Lizzy Dodd, Divine Child High School Student

Lauren Bennett, President, Mercy High School Pro-Life Group

Award Presentation to Student Essay Contest Winners

Daniel Himm, First-Place Essay Reading

Maria Valen, St. Mary College of Madonna University Student

Lou Richards Singing Elvis' Inspirational and Gospel Music



Madonna University

(corner of Schoolcraft and Levan)

Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Call 248-777-9090 or 734-422-6230

March for Life—Washington, D.C.

The March for Life is one mile of pro-life Americans marching along Constitution Avenue to Capitol Hill. We pray in front of the Supreme Court. Then we visit our members of the House and Senate, to remind them that pro-life America asks them to overturn the unjust and shameful *Roe v. Wade* decision which has intentionally killed 45,000,000 preborn humans. This 32nd annual event includes a Convention, Rally, March for Life and Rose Dinner. A Lifespan bus has been chartered for the January 24th March for Life; call **248-816-1546**.

Michigan Nurses for Life

Join MNFL on January 11 at 7:15 p.m. at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church on the NW corner of Lone Pine and Telegraph in Bloomfield Hills for a presentation by Luann Adams on post-abortion syndrome. Luann will discuss the history and statistics related to abortion, the symptoms and nature of post-abortion syndrome, and how a woman can find emotional and spiritual healing through individual counseling and support groups. Luann comes with unique qualifications; she is a registered nurse, clinical social worker and licensed marriage and family therapist. She counsels post-abortive women in her practice with compassion and sensitivity. Lifespan members and friends are invited. For further information, call **248-816-8489**.

Donations have been made to Michigan Nurses for Life

In loving memory of:

Herta Shope

Given by: Phyllis Sullivan
Marilyn Schepansky

Calendar of Events

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STDs & Spring Break —“What Will be Your Souvenirs?”
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August 13 Youth Jeopardy Game, p. 7

Lifespan News

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What’s Up With the Youth?

For Pre-Teens, Teens, Young Adults and College Students
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

I am happy to report that our *Movement in Motion* Bus Trip to Washington, D.C. has become a very popular way of getting to D.C. for the March for Life! There are still some seats left, but reservations have been coming in steadily so the sooner you can call and make your reservation...the better! Call **248-816-1546** for more information and to let us know you’re planning on coming!

The annual **Rally for Life** will be held Sunday, January 16th outside Madonna University in Livonia. This day is designated for us to remember, in a very special way, all the babies who have been killed in the United States from abortion since January 22, 1973. Encourage your youth group, school group, college group or family and friends to join us! Maybe you would like to make a banner with the name of your pro-life group on it or a banner with a pro-life message!

If you want to order **candle luminary kits** to light outdoors the evening of January 21st as we recall the tragedy of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, call **248-816-1546** by January 14th.

Plans are underway for Lifespan’s **16th Annual Baby Shower** for crisis pregnancy centers on Sunday, March 13th. See *Shower Time* article on page 9.

That’s it for now...until next time, have a great January!

—Lynn Gura, Representative Coordinator
Lifespan, Oakland/Macomb Chapter

Seeking Mother of the Year 2005

All mothers may qualify for this honor, including your mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, niece, neighbor or very dear friend. Nominations must be submitted in writing, in a minimum of 1000 words, explaining why the nominated person qualifies for “Mother of the Year.” Nominations must be received no later than noon, Wednesday, March 9, 2005. The “Mother of the Year” must be a resident of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb or Livingston County and able to attend the awards dinner. She will be an honored guest at Lifespan’s Mother’s Day Dinner on **Tuesday, May 3rd, at the San Marino Club, in Troy**, where she will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a gift certificate to Marshall-Field’s. If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner. If the “Mother of the Year” is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket, and the nomination letter will be printed in the dinner program and *Lifespan News*. You, or someone you select, will read your nomination letter at the dinner. In nominating the Mother of the Year 2005, please include your name, address and phone number and also the name, address and phone number of your nominee. **Mail or deliver your nomination for “Mother of the Year 2005” to be received no later than noon, on Wednesday, March 9th to: Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152. For more details, call 248-777-9090.**

Pro-Life Student Essay Contest Winners

Three metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Pro-Life Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide or Euthanasia. The first-place prize of a \$1,000 savings bond will be awarded to **Daniel Himm**, 18, of Livonia, a senior, who is homeschooled. Daniel is the son of Dr. William Himm and Carol Watson-Himm. There was a tie for second-place—the following two winners will be presented with \$400 savings bonds: **Lydia Faith Miller**, 14, of Detroit, a sophomore at Bible Missionary Academy whose parents are Wilford and Dorothy Miller; and **Charles Robert Drummond IV**, 18, of Plymouth, a senior at Detroit Catholic Central High School whose parents are Charles and Lisa Drummond. The third-place winner of a \$200 bond is **Nathan Sadasivan**, 15, of Brighton, a sophomore who is homeschooled. Nathan's parents are Maha and Ruth Sadasivan. The savings bonds will be awarded at the Rally for Life at Madonna University, in Livonia, on Sunday, January 16.

We want to thank the judges who had a difficult job choosing the winners from so many excellent entries: **Ann Berger** is a mother of six children, formerly homeschooled. She has been active in pro-life work for the past eight years, especially in the last election and in fundraising efforts for Pregnancy Helpline, a crisis pregnancy center. She and her family are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Howell, and her husband, Jeffrey, recently opened a faith-based medical practice, the Sacred Heart Medical Center. **Sr. Theresa McCall** is an educational specialist in counseling. She has been an elementary school teacher for "many moons" and has worked in boys', girls' and womens' group homes for several years.

Carol Smith is a longtime Lifespan member as well as a member of Feminists for Life. Carol belonged to People Taking Action Against Abortion in the 70s and was a former chairperson of the Detroit Chapter of Right to Life - LIFESPAN. She is currently the principal of Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Elementary School in Berkley, but her greatest achievement is being grandma to Charlie Smith, age 1-1/2. **Mary Beth Theisen** is a middle school mathematics teacher, the eldest in a family of seven children. She believes in the preciousness of every human life from conception to natural death and is glad to be involved with the wonderful work that Lifespan is accomplishing. She is so very glad to see so many young people becoming involved in pro-life work and congratulates them on their excellent essays.

First-Place Essay

The Choice

In 1985, a little baby was conceived. The baby's mom took good care of herself and faithfully keep her doctor's appointments. One of those appointments, a special test called the ultrasound, was performed. Ultrasound is a window into the womb. Through modern technology, the doctor could see fingers and toes, a little face, and discovered the baby was a boy. She also was alarmed to find this little boy's heart was defective. Chances for survival were slim.



*Daniel Himm,
18, is a senior
who is
homeschooled*

The doctor poised a choice to the mother alone to get rid of this "defective little boy." After all, he wouldn't live very long without many operations. He could suffer pain and complications from his surgeries and his lifespan was unknown. A decision had to be made soon.

Feeling pressured, the mom refused to make a decision alone and told her doctor the baby's dad needed to be consulted. That night, when the parents were home together and the other children were asleep, they prayed for their new son and asked for strength and guidance. Being pro-life, they now had to live the message. The choice became easy. The little boy would be given his chance to live, and the parents would put their trust in God, not man.

December 19th that little boy was born and immediately taken away from his mom. He was called a blue baby because of his heart defects which caused a decreased amount of oxygen. The official diagnosis was transposition of the great arteries, pulmonary stenosis and ventricular septal defect (a hole in the heart). His dad followed the ambulance that took him to another hospital where they performed complicated heart surgeries on newborns. His first surgery gave him a 50/50 survival rate.

Numerous surgeries did follow along with many doctor's appointments and continual medications. He even needed a heart transplant at twelve years of age because his original heart was too big and too tired to support him. No one ever said life would be easy, but the choice made in the beginning allowed this child to live and grow and know God. His parents and siblings have become closer through all of this chaos. Today, at 18 years of age, this boy can vote for pro-life candidates, which he did. This is the only way we can assure that the horror of abortion would someday be abolished in this country.

By the way, I was the little boy born to the family who chose life! Because of this, I can make a difference in promoting pro-life issues. I can write and speak out for the unborn because when I had no voice in the womb, my parents spoke for me. Today, I am a senior who is homeschooled and very active physically. I rock climb, caddy, golf and unicycle besides all my studies. I participated in the U.S. Transplant Games since my transplant. Life is a challenge with medical problems, but nonetheless, I am grateful to my parents and the donor who gave me a second chance to live. ■

Second-Place Tie Essay

America's Crisis

Sarah Marie Switzer, a baby who had spina bifida, was operated on only twenty-four weeks after conception. During this surgery, a photographer took an award-winning picture of Sarah reaching out and grabbing the surgeon's finger.

The surgery was successful; Sarah was born two months later and is now a healthy child. What is so ironic is that Dr. Joseph Bruner, the same doctor, aborts babies with this same problem, depending on what the parents want.

Dr. Bruner illustrates the conflicting attitudes of our society toward the unborn. Though the abortion industry tells us that human life does not begin until birth, our own instinct, advances in technology, and new medical discoveries tell us otherwise. Today, America is facing the crisis of continuing to support abortion or admitting that abortion is murder.

The main reason for this crisis is that it is simply natural that we think of the unborn as children. You never hear people say, "We got to hear our fetus's heartbeat!" or "My fetus kicked me." The only time we call a baby a "fetus," is when we want to get rid of it. When a child is wanted, our society has a completely different attitude. We encourage expectant mothers to take every precaution to protect the health of their unborn child. Alcohol and tobacco packages carry warnings that they may cause birth defects. Women have been jailed under child endangerment laws for using illegal drugs during their pregnancies. Our Supreme Court has ruled it illegal to execute a pregnant woman. There is a lot of support for laws such as Laci and Conner's Law that would protect the unborn from violent crimes. These opposite attitudes prove that we are trying to justify abortion by saying that the unborn are not really children, while in our hearts we know they are people.

Another reason for this crisis is the fact that recent technology makes it obvious that even in the first trimester, a "fetus" looks like what it is—a human baby. All across America, ultrasounds and photos are changing women's minds about choosing abortion. Barb, who was sixteen weeks' pregnant, came to a crisis pregnancy center to get a verification of her pregnancy—so she could get an abortion. Her counselor showed her a video of an abortion on a child the same age and then took an ultrasound. After seeing her unborn daughter and even counting the baby's fingers, Barb changed her mind. When asked if the ultrasound had made a difference, Barb said, "Big time. I just came in here to get pregnancy verification, so I could go have an abortion."¹

The final reason for this crisis America is facing comes from the fact that America has made incredible progress with medicine. Performing surgery on unborn babies has become very common. Doctors even give their unborn patients anesthesia to lessen the pain; yet, if the same child had been unwanted, the doctor could legally tear the child apart without any pain medication. Often, babies are born



Lydia Faith Miller, 14, is a sophomore at Bible Missionary Academy

prematurely (at an age where if they had not been born yet, they could have been aborted) and doctors work frantically to save them. As we see the fight to save these babies, America is realizing that there is really no difference between the premature infants that everyone is trying to save and the ones who are being legally murdered.

Dr. Joseph Bruner, who performed Baby Sarah's widely reported surgery, says this is "an increasingly difficult position to be in...because we are performing surgery to improve the lifestyle of fetuses who have spina bifida, it is difficult to justify an operation that could also take that life away. As we walk through this minefield, society is going to have to take a good, hard look at itself because it is untenable to hold both views."²

Although Doctor Bruner is wrong to perform abortions, he is right in his realization that it is impossible to hold these two opposite views about abortion. Baby Sarah reached out and grabbed the doctor's finger, but she also reached for the heart and conscience of our nation. It is time that America must choose—the lie we have been hearing since 1973 or the truth we have known in our hearts since the beginning of time. ■

¹Randy Alcorn, *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments* (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, 2000) 199 n. 473. Quoting Audrey Stout, Marietta GA, e-mail to Randy Alcorn, 12 February 2000.

²Baby Samuel and Mother Doing Well After Fetal Surgery, *World Net Daily*, 16 February 2000; Quoted by Randy Alcorn, *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments* (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, 2000) 94 n. 172.

Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office, pp. 6-7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number **800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigayle Ministries **586-326-0459** or Casa Vitae **248-559-5407**. For post-abortion counseling, call Project Rachel **888-722-4355**. For those with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice **734-464-7810**; Cranbrook Hospice **248-334-6700**, or Hospice of Michigan **888-HOM-5656**. Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, offers pastoral guidance to persons considering abortion or assisted suicide; for this counseling assistance, call **800-281-2102**.



Right to Life - LIFESPAN RESOURCE BOOK 2005

Advertising Contract

This book will contain pro-life informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is Wednesday, March 9, 2005.**

Advertising Contract: I wish to publish _____ page ad for the sum of \$ _____
Please run _____ last year's ad _____ enclosed, new ad
_____ ad copy being e-mailed

<p>Full page (7 x 10) \$275</p> <p>Back cover (inside) \$300</p> <p>Back cover (outside) \$500</p>	<table border="1"><tr><td>1/4 page (3.5 x 5) \$110</td><td>1/8 page (3.5 x 2.5) \$60</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Half page (7 x 5) \$160</td></tr></table>	1/4 page (3.5 x 5) \$110	1/8 page (3.5 x 2.5) \$60	Half page (7 x 5) \$160	
1/4 page (3.5 x 5) \$110	1/8 page (3.5 x 2.5) \$60				
Half page (7 x 5) \$160					

Please attach hard copy, camera-ready advertising. (If possible, pdf files, at 300 dpi, all fonts embedded, are preferred; please e-mail file to mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org and send contract and check by post.) If you are not able to submit camera-ready art work, we will help you with your ad; call us. Payment must accompany ad and contract. Advertisers will automatically receive a copy of the Resource Book. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable.

A **complimentary dinner ticket** to the 2005 Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 3 will be given to any individual for every **\$200** worth of **new** ads obtained for the Resource Book. The ad seller's signature must appear on the contract below when the ad and remittance is received by Right to Life - LIFESPAN.

Contact Person _____	Phone (area code) _____
Name of Advertiser _____	E-mail _____
Address _____	City _____ Zip _____
Ad Seller's Signature _____	Area Code/Phone _____

Make checks payable and mail to:

Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152
For further information, call 248-777-9090 or e-mail: mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org

Contributions to Right to Life - LIFESPAN, Inc. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes; however, business ads are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor with any questions.



detroit

17336 Harper PMB 293, Detroit, MI 48224-1980
Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)
Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Mary Cascos, Office Manager

Thank you faithful church reps

To all of you who worked so hard to sell our Christmas Cards and Entertainment Books and to all of you who bought them from us, we extend our most heartfelt thanks. May the New Year bring all of you the best health and happiness. God bless.

Rally for life

Lifespan needs you, your family, your friends, your church and your organizations to come to our Rally for Life. We must send a powerful message to the people of southeastern Michigan that..."NO, after 32 long years we are NOT discouraged. We will NOT give up our struggle until all our citizens are guaranteed the Right To Life." If you consider yourself pro-life, it's now time to act on your convictions and come to our Rally. Our Rally will be held at Madonna University at the corner of Schoolcraft

livingston

P. O. Box 1532, Brighton, MI 48116-9998
Phone 810-220-LIFE (5433)
Judy Zabik, Director

Memorials

Memorials are a beautiful way to remember a loved one's anniversary, birthday or memorial by making a contribution to Life with Lifespan. Your contributions help us purchase pro-life literature, as well as buying other educational tools for all ages. Make an impact and help us in the struggle to preserve Life; contact our office for further details.

Pro-life jewelry

We have pro-life jewelry that can be customized to your specifications. The sterling silver and crystal beaded bracelets can have various words inserted, such as "Love Life." They are an inexpensive gift that will witness your support of Life. Contact our office to order your personalized bracelet.

Christmas cards

Thanks to all those who helped sell, and buy, our beautiful Christmas cards! It was an outstanding year for us and, more importantly, we continue to witness to the beauty and

and Levan in Livonia, January 16, from 2-3 p.m. God bless you for publicly proclaiming your pro-life convictions.

Ask a friend to become a member

Make it a New Year's Resolution to renew your membership to Detroit Lifespan and also ask a friend to become a member. Membership is the backbone of this organization. We receive no federal funds; we exist solely on membership dues and private donations. Let your friends know that with a membership, they will receive our high quality *LIFESPAN NEWS* on a monthly basis; it will keep them up to date on all pro-life issues which the local media will never print. If you would like me to send them information on our organization and a membership envelope, call 313-640-8534; leave their name and address on the answering machine. Thanks for your help.

Church representatives needed

The Detroit Chapter has 85 churches in Detroit which receive our newsletter and our monthly church bulletin notes. We only have about 15 churches with church representatives. If you belong to a church, but your church does not have a Lifespan rep, please prayerfully consider becoming one. Without our church reps, we are not able to educate a city which desperately needs to hear the pro-life message. Be that person who puts his/her convictions into action by volunteering to be a church representative. Call 313 640-8534 today and start spreading the pro-life message tomorrow:

sanctity of Life during this most blessed Christmas season. We sold out quickly, so if you didn't get your cards in time, remember to order early next year!

New church welcomed

We would like to extend a warm welcome to St. John parish in Hartland as a new church for Lifespan. They've already put up their own crosses (because Lifespan's were booked until next year!) and sold our Christmas cards! If you know of any other churches in Livingston County wishing to learn more about our organization, we would love to hear from them.

Rally for Life

Are you unable to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. this year? Mark your calendars for our local Rally for Life at Madonna University in Livonia on Sunday, January 16, from 2-3 p.m. Please come and show the world (or at least the local media) how much you love Life! Let our office know if you need transportation.

Praying to close abortion clinic

The Respect Life Committee of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Howell, and some Lifespan members, prayed outside the "Women's Health Clinic" on Dec 12th in Flint. Although it was cold and rainy, about a dozen people prayed a rosary and additional prayers for the closure of this "clinic." We encourage all pro-life organizations to participate in similar "demonstrations." You must remain on public property, and you shouldn't be confrontational.

oakland/macomb

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540
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e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 8-4; W 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff

Movement in motion

There is still time to “board the bus” for the trip to Washington D.C. for the annual March for Life. The Lifespan bus leaves on January 22nd and will return early in the morning of January 25th. While this trip is geared toward young people, anyone who has a sleeping bag, a back that can take sleeping on the floor and the ability to withstand a long bus trip is welcome. The folks who went on this trip last year all agree it was a life-changing event. If you can come, we still have a few seats left on the bus. This movement is definitely in motion—don’t get left behind—call the Oakland/Macomb office for reservations.

Youth jeopardy time

We are planning the 2nd annual Youth Jeopardy Game on August 13 and need Jeopardy fans (Ken Jennings would

be nice!) to meet with us on February 12 to start formulating questions, organizing prizes and establishing the schedule for the event. This year, we plan to add a Spelling Bee. If you would like to help with planning, please give the Oakland/Macomb office a call and let us know.

Christmas card curtain call

All Christmas card sales people, stand up and take a bow. You did an outstanding job this year. We had to put in a second order mid-way through the season because you all sold more cards than ever before. One of our sellers told us she sold her own cards three times and had to keep coming back to the office to replace them! We know it is time-consuming and sometimes frustrating when we have to call cards back or make you wait for more, but the results are worth it. Please accept our thanks and know that your efforts help to keep our offices open and our work continuing.

Valuable volunteers

Don’t forget about the volunteer luncheon being held on February 26 for Oakland/Macomb volunteers. We will have a few surprises this year so you don’t want to miss out. When your invitation arrives in the mail, please call us right away and tell us you can come.

wayne west/downriver

27592 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150-2203
Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116
e-mail: wwdr@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M-Th 10-4; F Closed
Patricia Holscher, Director; Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Mgr.

We give thanks and remember

My thanks to the Wayne West/Downriver Chapter Board of Directors and our many members who have persevered through another year of legal abortions.

Thirtysome years ago when I became active in People Taking Action Against Abortion (PTAAA), it never occurred to me that I’d still be fighting the battle to protect unborn children and their mothers in the year 2005. There have been victories as well as losses, but the one thing that remains constant is the determination and longevity of the people in the right-to-life movement. You, our members, are the backbone of Lifespan. It is you who support us with your prayers and donations. I value your loyalty and trust. Let us recommit ourselves in the struggle to outlaw abortions and to protect the elderly and the medically challenged. We, you and Lifespan, are making a difference!

—Patricia Holscher

Another job well done

The 2004 Christmas card season was very successful due to the cooperation of many pastors, church representa-

tives, distributors and helpers who spent many hours making Lifespan cards available. Lastly, to those who bought cards, we thank you.

Bake sale for education

Our thanks to Patrice Gorzalski and her great crew for hosting Our Lady of Good Counsel Church’s annual bake sale for Lifespan. Parishioners, as well as some of Lifespan’s finest bakers, donated their favorite recipes. Proceeds of nearly \$700 will be used for literature and educational materials. Thank you, Fr. Sullivan and OLGC parishioners. We can always count on you.

Note: Our next bake sale will be at St. Mary Church in Wayne in March. Readers, if you are willing to bake, call 734-422-6230.

Mass for the Unborn

A Mass for the Unborn and To End Abortion will be offered at St. Maurice Church, 32765 Lyndon, in Livonia, between Merriman and Farmington Rds., on Monday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. The celebrant will be Fr. Sidney Eckert, pastor. A rose ceremony will precede the Mass at 6:30 p.m. After the Mass, there will be a time of fellowship, and refreshments will be served. We will also have a table with luminaries and pro-life articles available.



Pray to Stop Abortion!

Second-Place-Tie Essay

Legal, Ethical and Scientific Arguments Regarding the Possibility of Outlawing Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Currently, the United States Federal government not only permits research on embryonic stem cells, but also appropriates monies for said research on 275 embryonic stem cell strains.¹ Should the government expand the practice of research on embryonic stem cell research, maintain the current embryonic lines authorized by President Bush, or introduce legislation outlawing the practice of stem cell research? Constitutionally, despite *Griswold v. Connecticut* and *Roe v. Wade*, it seems as if it is possible for Congress to outlaw embryonic stem cell research. Furthermore, there are serious ethical concerns about the practice of embryonic stem cell research; these concerns are not the exclusive purview of the derogatively-termed “religious right,” but valid concerns about the misuse of human lives as means toward an end. Lastly, several have questioned the scientific efficacy of embryonic stem cell research. Therefore, it seems possible to outlaw such research, and perhaps even advisable.

In 1965, Justice Douglas, speaking for the majority, observed that previous “cases suggest that specific guarantees in the Bill of Rights have penumbras, formed by emanations from those guarantees that help give them life and substance.”² Justice Douglas’ “guarantees” whence his “emanations” flow include the Fourth, Fifth and Ninth Amendments to the Constitution. The “emanation theory” was the foundation of the court’s ruling in *Roe*. Justice Blackmun’s opinion for the majority in *Roe* speaks of the individual’s privacy interest in reproductive autonomy, as superceding any life or potential life that might be killed. In regards to the issue of stem cell research, there is not so much of a concern for the reproductive rights of the women; the embryo, by necessity, has been removed from the uterus, or was never in the uterus (having been fertilized *in vitro*). It would seem that without the issues regarding “reproductive privacy” the state interest in protecting life would be paramount, thus permitting government protection of the life (or possible life).

Ethically, many citizens of the United States believe an embryo to be a living person and, as noted above, no Supreme Court ruling has declared otherwise (although a ruling of the court is obviously unable to change moral law). Such people believe the practice of embryonic stem cell research to be wrong, first because it results in the killing of a human being, and second, because it results in using a human being as a means to an end. Despite the vaulted claims of proponents of embryonic stem cell research, it cannot be denied that if embryos are persons, then the embryos are “killed” and used as a means. What,

however, does it mean to use a person as a means to an end? It seems that, as is the case of embryonic stem cell research, one uses another human being for some goal. Even if this goal is high-sounding and humanitarian, as is the case here, it has always been considered improper and immoral to use people in this manner. By “using” people, the inherent dignity of all man is degraded, and man is only a “thing.” Even if a person doubts whether an embryo is alive or not, it would seem prudent to use care and to treat properly a being that might be human, just as one would not fire a gun into a room if a person might be in the room. Several Nobel Prize laureates wrote an open letter to the president in which they said:

*While we recognize the legitimate ethical issues raised by this research, it is important to understand that the cells being used in this research were destined to be discarded in any case.*³

This statement appears to me to be extraordinarily callous; it purports that life can be used for utilitarian purposes, if it is “destined to be discarded.” This line of thinking has led several bioethicists to develop a sliding scale for human worth, in which the very young and the very old are inherently worth less than more independent people. “Slippery-slope” arguments are often maligned, but throughout the twentieth century, there was a trend to move towards an attitude that some lives are more valu-



Charles Robert Drummond IV, 18, is a senior at Detroit Catholic Central High School

able than others, as was the case in the “science” of eugenics which was touted one hundred years ago with the same certainty as current scientists who believe that embryos are not people.

The Nobel Laureates also say that:

*The therapeutic potential of pluripotent stem-cells is remarkably broad. The cells have the unique potential to differentiate into any human cell type. Insulin-producing cells could be used to treat—or perhaps even cure—patients with diabetes, cardiomyocytes could be used to replace damaged heart tissue, chondrocytes could be used for arthritis, and neurons for Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, ALS and spinal cord injuries, to name a few examples. There is also the possibility that these cells could be used to create more complex vital organs, such as kidneys, livers or even entire hearts.*⁴

Some have suggested that adult stem cells may be sufficient to pursue all treatments for human disease. It is premature to

conclude that adult stem cells have the same potential as embryonic stem cells—and that potential will almost certainly vary from disease to disease. Current evidence suggests that adult stem cells have markedly restricted differentiation potential. Therefore, for disorders that prove not to be treatable with adult stem cells, impeding human pluripotent stem cell research risks unnecessary delay for millions of patients who may die or endure needless suffering while the effectiveness of adult stem cells is evaluated.⁵

The term “pluripotent stem cell” is often employed to imply that human embryonic stem cells can form all human tissues except “trophoblast” tissue. (The trophoblast is the outer layer of cells in the early embryo, which allows implantation of the embryo into the mother’s uterine wall.) To harvest embryonic stem cells, scientists must first remove this outer layer of the embryo. The term is used to imply that embryonic stem cells are unable to form an embryo “proper” because trophoblasts are needed for implantation.

The truth is, James Thompson, who led the effort that first isolated and grew embryonic stem cells in the laboratory at the University of Wisconsin, stated in the original paper (*Science*, 1998) that human embryonic stem cells may be able to form trophoblasts in culture even after months of continuous proliferation of the cells. That implies, similar to the process of twinning, which is nature’s way of cloning a human life, the stem cells grown to confluence and allowed to pile up in an array of culture dishes, hold the potential to form multiple identical embryos or human clones of the originally destroyed human life.

So use of the term “pluripotent stem cell” is not only deliberately confusing, but also inaccurate scientifically. Human pluripotent stem cell research is effectively a form of human cloning. This is a scientific fact that the signatories of this letter, as well as Harold Varmus, former director of NIH, ignore and in some cases deny. It is also worth noting that human pluripotent stem cell research is foundational to two other forms of human cloning: 1) therapeutic cloning and 2) reproductive cloning.⁶

Stem cells offer no scientific guarantee of curing any diseases, and despite the words of the signatories, it seems that adult stem cells may be quite useful. Adult stem cells have shown to be more effective than embryonic stem cells in blood formation.⁷ Furthermore, stem cells from adult bone marrow have been shown to be useful in repairing retinas,⁸ forming insulin secreting pancreatic cells,⁹ and in stimulating growth in children with bone diseases.¹⁰

Despite one’s ideological bent, it seems as if, first of all, Congress may prohibit embryonic stem cell research. Furthermore, it seems that there are serious moral concerns about stem cell research that should not be shrugged off as ridiculous. Faced with these moral concerns (and the possibility that adult stem cells offer a viable alternative) it would seem to be prudent and mete to curtail the use of embryonic stem cells. Stem cells hold much promise, but also much ambiguity—it seems as if we should err on the side of caution, rather than recklessly experiment with a thing about which we know little. Stem cell research may and should be outlawed. ■

¹Nevertheless, many state governments prohibit stem cell research. Michigan’s law provides that “[a] person shall not use a live human embryo...for nontherapeutic research if...the research substantially

jeopardizes the life or health of the embryo...” Mich. Comp. Laws § 333.2685(1)(West 1992). Performing such experimentation is a felony. §333.2691.

²*Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 479. See also *Doe v. Bolton*, 410 U.S. 179 (1973).

³*Washington Post*, February 21, 2001.

⁴*Washington Post*, February 21, 2001.

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶<http://www.stemcellresearch.org/facts/laureates.htm>

⁷*O.P. do Pinto, et al. “Hematopoietic Progenitor/Stem Cells Immortalized by Lhx2 Generate Functional Hematopoietic Cells in vivo in Blood* 99, 3939-3946; June 1, 2002.

⁸*M. Tomita, et al. “Bone Marrow-Derived Stem Cells Can Differentiate into Retinal Cells in Injured Rat Retina in Stem Cells* 20, 279-283; July 2002.

⁹*E.J. Abraham, et al. “Insulinotropic Hormone Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Differentiation of Human Pancreatic Islet-Derived Progenitor Cells into Insulin-Producing Cells in Endocrinology* 143, 3152-3161; August 2002.

¹⁰<http://www.stemcellresearch.org/stemcellreport/scr-2002-fall.htm#note7>

Shower Time!

Lifespan is planning its 16th annual Baby Shower for crisis pregnancy centers on **Sunday, March 13**. Continuing this tradition of caring for mothers and their babies, born and yet to be born, Lifespan will host approximately 40 baby showers simultaneously at different locations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston Counties. Showers are usually held from 2:00-3:30 p.m., but may also be held after church services or simply as a gift drop-off shower. If you or your church are interested in co-hosting a baby shower, call **248-777-9090**.



Wee Care

Thank you, everyone, for all you did to make the holidays such special days for so many of our families. Because of you, on Christmas morning, our moms were able to hold their precious babies in their arms, dressed in a new little outfit and wrapped in a warm blanket and your love. You brought the magic of Christmas to so many. May God bless you with a New Year filled with good health, good times, treasured moments with your families and friends and all the happiness your hearts can hold!

Karen Patrosso, Director 248-777-2727
Wee Care, A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Donations have been made to Educational Center for Life

In loving memory of:

Sally Ehlen

Given by: The Lo Piccolo Family

Hope Shoaff

Given by: Marilyn Schepansky

SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 9—Educational Center for Life Seminar—“What Will Be Your Souvenirs?— STDs and Spring Break”— Call 248-816-8489 for details.

Third-Place Essay

Kulturkampf

Rome didn't fall in a day. Neither did the Ottoman Empire, or the Mongol Empire or the Greek city-states.

Instead, they all slowly declined, they grew decadent and weak, until they finally sank into decay and passed out of existence as world powers. The possibility that America might go the same way is not one that many people consider, but it is a very real possibility. It's a very scary one, too.

How did the great empires of history fall? They abandoned their original principles and grew hedonistic and lax. Certainly, in some of these empires, the founding principles were flawed (especially Ghengis Khan's empire), but they had at least something that was good and noble in them.



*Nathan Sadasivan, 15,
is a sophomore who is
homeschooled*

When America was founded, she had something better than Roman order, Greek imagination, Mongol bravery or Ottoman cunning. She had Christianity, the Word of God.

From the President's Desk

As we celebrate a new year, our hearts are full of hope. Hope that the year will bring us closer to bringing back respect for human life. Being a part of this dynamic movement is not only noble, but it also helps us keep our doors open and do the "pro-life peoples' work" of saving lives. I thank you for the work and monies you gave last year to keep this movement in southeastern Michigan solvent and growing.

It is time for you to take a minute and write Lifespan's events on your new 2005 calendar. I know how busy everyone is, so it's important to put the important events of the year on your schedule now.

January is always an important month for this movement. It is the month the *Roe v. Wade* decision was handed down, and anti-life philosophy became a part of the fiber of our country. We start out the year with our **Rally for Life**; this year it is on January 16. The details are on the

So, how much harder will America fall if she abandons her founding principles?

Already, decline and decay are beginning. The Culture of Death is bringing them about. If this new culture prevails, it is only a matter of time before America teeters off the edge to her doom.

It is well worth noting that in Rome, abortion was not allowed until she began to decline. This declining world, a mere shadow of the glory days of Rome, was the world that the Christians lived in, in the third and early fourth centuries. Men would practice a primitive form of abortion on their wives' babies when they didn't want a child, even when the wife did not consent, sometimes causing injury or death to the wife (and, needless to say, always causing the death of the child). Even when the Edict of Milan legalized Christianity, there was a way to go before Christianity became the main religion. The scandals and crimes continued, and it is no wonder that Rome was sacked several times in the next century.

This could happen to our nation, too. It has already begun, and we will continue to spiral downward at an ever faster pace if nothing is done to stop it.

So, what can be done to slow, or stop, the decline? It isn't easy. The only thing that can be done is to wage a *kulturkampf*, a culture war, of sorts. The only way to win is for the Culture of Life to prevail over the Culture of Death.

So this is the massive task before us: to wage, and win, the *kulturkampf*. Legislation to outlaw abortion is necessary, but more than just that is required. We must win the hearts and minds of Americans if we want to save America.

There is hope. It has been done before, and it can, it will be done again. It is possible, however, only through Christ. Some of the more noble Roman Emperors, such as Marcus Aurelius, Diocletian and Augustus Caesar himself, tried to reform the Roman Empire, but all that they had was secular power, they lacked Christ. They failed, and so did Rome.

We can do better. We will win the *kulturkampf*. ■

front page of this newsletter. It is followed by the **March for Life** in Washington D.C. Bus and air travel is available through our office. January is the kick-off month for our new **Student Art Contest**. This Art Contest is for young people to enter their designs to be considered for use on the cover of Lifespan's Resource Book distributed at our Mother's Day Dinner. March 13th is the **Baby Shower**, and May 3rd is our **Mother's Day Dinner**. The **Youth Jeopardy Game** is August 13, and our Lifespan **Breakfast** is in the fall—as yet there is no date for this event. Fall will also see the promotion of our **Essay Contest 2005**. Check this newsletter and future issues or our website www.rtl-lifespan.org for these and other events.

My sincere appreciation for all you do. We need you—Lifespan treasures your membership. In 2005, bring a family member or friend with you to an event. Membership is an ongoing project—help to get new members, why not just ask someone to join you in the cause for life. Be not afraid—Life is worth the risk!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane".



**In Memoriam
John W. Vincent, M.D.
1919 - 2004**

Dr. John W. Vincent is survived by Virginia, his wife of 59 years, twelve children and their spouses, 41 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Dr. Vincent, who served on Lifespan's Advisory Council, was one of Lifespan's earliest and strongest warriors. His love for the unborn and their mothers was evident to all who knew him. He had a long career as a thoracic surgeon at Detroit-area hospitals including Mt. Carmel, Providence and Oakwood. He served as Chief of Staff at Oakwood from 1972-74 and as Credentials Chairman from 1983-86, and retired from there in 1989. Dr. Vincent stated, "No abortions were performed at Oakwood while I was there." "Our father lived his life through the Beatitudes, and his quiet generosity touched countless lives," his son, Thomas, said. Lifespan called on Dr. Vincent on numerous occasions as a benefactor, speaker, emcee, confidante and even chauffeur; he was always willing to help in any way he could. Lifespan will miss this gentle giant. Heaven's gain is our loss!

Donations have been made to Lifespan

In loving memory of:

Irene Petroff

Given by: Judy Ward

Vince Miller

Given by: Erik and Vicki Eriksen
Wallace and Joan Goyette

Rita Radzialowski

Given by: Marge Bradley
Wayne West/Downriver Board and Friends

In honor of:

Rose Riopelle

Given by: Mary Alice Rybicki

Correction to Nov./Dec. Lifespan News: A memorial donation for Michael Condit, not Richard Condit, was given by Diane and Jerry Fagelman.

In loving memory of:

John W. Vincent, M.D.

Given by: Mark and Amy Knoth
Christine Antoskiewicz
Janet and Jim Stark
Mary C. Husson
Mary Kowalski Wilhelm
Colleen Ronayne
Hubert C. Huebl, M.D.
Family of Clayton and Clara Field
The Kempa Family
Clarence and Shirley Schultz
John E. P. Barnds
Roberta McCarty
Progressive Metal Forming, Inc.
Robert L. Leeser, M.D.
Gail B. McLaren
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Rosemary and Richard Detskas
Carolynn Kinzey Krause
Lynne Brackett and Matt Linn
Shirley Kaminski
Cindi and Doyle Mosher
Rosemarie Denton
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Galen McPherson
Joseph and Cheryl Hilger
Dorothy Wait
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Geoghegan
Paul and Karen Bowman and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stump
Dr. John Ilitch
Thomas Stevenson
Carl J. Sarnacki
Chuck Howard
Peggy and John Vandenbossche
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The Pijls Family
Linda Newby
Neil and Deanna Master
Mrs. Sally Swift
Rick Ostin
Bob and Angela Nobbs
Maiorana and Partners, Ltd.
Joseph and Christine Mroczka

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Board and Friends

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Membership Form

Right to Life - LIFESPAN believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.



_____ Annual Membership \$ 20.00
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 10.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.** For more information, call 248-777-9090. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

STUDENT ART CONTEST

DEADLINE: MARCH 16, 2005

PRIZES:

First: \$1000 Savings Bond; Second: \$400 Savings Bond; Third: \$200 Savings Bond

All winners will receive one complimentary ticket to Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner.



RULES:

1. Any student in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12, in public, private or homeschool, who resides in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb or Livingston County is eligible for the contest, except for students in the immediate family of a board member of Right to Life – LIFESPAN.
2. The theme of the pro-life art contest entry is: "A Pro-Life Celebration." Entries might reflect pro-life issues involving family life, children, babies, the handicapped or the elderly.
3. Each entry must include, on a separate sheet of paper, neatly printed, the title of the artwork, the student's name, address, phone number, age and grade, name of school and the names of his/her parents or guardian.
4. A student may submit more than one entry. Each entry must be the student's own original concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws.
5. Artwork must be 8" x 10" and submitted on regular art stock paper. Acceptable media will be watercolor, pencil, pastel, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink or photography.
6. The winning entries become the property of Right to Life – LIFESPAN and will not be returned. Each student who enters the contest assigns copyright for the entry to Right to Life – LIFESPAN.
7. Artwork entries shall be considered by impartial judges selected with experience and knowledge of art.
8. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation, composition and how they relate to pro-life issues, adherence to contest guidelines and design technique.
9. Judges reserve the right to award no prize winner if no entry is deemed meritorious of the prize. Decisions of the judges will be final.
10. All entries must be received by noon, Wednesday, March 16, 2005, and mailed or delivered to Student Art Contest 2005, Right to Life – LIFESPAN, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152.

Winners will be notified by phone by March 30. Prizes will be awarded at the Mother's Day Dinner, May 3, 2005, at the San Marino Club, in Troy. The first-prize entry is also eligible for reproduction on the cover of Right to Life – LIFESPAN'S *Resource Book 2005*, distributed throughout the year as an educational resource on pro-life issues to teachers, legislators, pro-life leaders and others. The winning entries may also appear in an issue of *Lifespan News*. For more information, call Lifespan's Main Office 248-777-9090.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27592 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150-2203



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