

Lifespan *news*

Volume 38 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 2009

\$10,000* RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWING
Maximum of 500 tickets will be sold
Donation: \$50 per ticket

Proceeds from this raffle will be used to help support the life-saving programs of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

***If fewer than 400 tickets are sold by the drawing time, the raffle will become a 50 / 50 drawing. The winning ticket holder will receive half of all ticket sales. If 400 or more tickets are sold, the prize will be \$10,000.**



Drawing Date (revised): May 4, 2009 • Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner
Location: San Marino Club, Troy
(Need not be present to win)

See page 6 for raffle ticket order form



Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund
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News & Notes

Michigan Nurses  For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
Phone 248-816-1546
Fax 248-816-9066
www.mnfl.org

Adult Stem Cell Breakthroughs

Just since the November election when Michigan voters approved a measure that permits research scientists to destroy living human embryos for research purposes, two interesting items appeared in our daily papers.

In one article, the use of the patient's own adult stem cells, applied to a donated trachea, allowed the patient to have a new trachea, which would not be rejected by her body, permitting her to eat, drink and breathe normally. The story was reported on the *Today* program and on Detroit's own nightly news programs.

In another article, human trials are beginning in Salt Lake City, Utah, using the patient's own adult stem cells, which appear to result in the repair of heart muscles. Clinical trials of this treatment conducted outside of the U.S. resulted in a 20-100 percent improvement in patients with heart muscle damage.

During that same time period, no articles appeared, nor were there any on-air reporting of any successes using embryonic stem cells. We know that such efforts take place every day, destroying unknown numbers of human embryos but results are sorely lacking.

Baby Shower!

Lifespan is planning its 20th annual Baby Shower to benefit crisis pregnancy centers on **Sunday, March**

8. Continuing this tradition of caring for mothers and their babies, born and yet to be born, Lifespan will host approximately 50 baby showers simultaneously at church locations throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb 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 would like to co-host a baby shower, call us at 248-478-8878.

Lifespan is seeking Mother of the Year 2009!

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 March 4, 2009. No nomination by or for Right to Life-LIFESPAN board members will be considered. The "Mother of the Year" must be a resident of Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County or be a member of Lifespan, regardless of residency, and able to attend the awards dinner.

The Mother of the Year will be an honored guest at Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner on Monday, May 4th, at the San Marino Club, in Troy, where she will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a gift certificate to Macy'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 2009, 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 2009" to be received by March 4th to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vas-sar St., Ste. 545, Livonia, MI 48152; 248-478-8878.**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As most of you know, December was renewal month for Michigan Nurses for Life. Those of you who are currently members will have received a renewal letter last month. I can't tell you how important it is for you to renew your membership this year. It looks like some rough times ahead for those of us who revere human life, and we want to be able to keep you as up to date as possible with ways you can have your voices heard in defense of life.

For those of you who are not members, or perhaps not even nurses, I encourage you to consider joining as well. Everyone is welcome to become part of this professional nursing organization.

We hold conferences twice a year on matters pertaining to health issues that impact on the pro-life health care professional—doctors, nurses, students, pharmacists, nursing assistants, etc. We welcome your membership and participation.

Remember, the more voices we can raise in an effort to restore respect, dignity and protection to human life, the more likely we are to be heard. Join us!

—Diane Trombley, President
Michigan Nurses for Life

Used Book Sale!



Lifespan is planning its 2009 Used Book Sale. If you are interested in collecting, sorting and setting up for the sale, please call Mary at 313-640-8534. Used book donations can be made on Tuesdays, between 3-5 p.m., at a storage location, 19207 Merriman Rd., inside court, (northwest corner of Seven Mile and Merriman Rds.), in Livonia. Call 734-422-6230 first.

Rally for LIFE

Stand Up, Speak Out, Be Counted on the Side of LIFE!

Madonna University

(corner of Schoolcraft and Levan, in Livonia)

January 18, 2009 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**It is time NOW, more than ever,
to let YOUR voice be heard.**

**Bring your families, friends,
neighbors, co-workers.**

**Be INSPIRED to stand up, speak out and
be an ACTIVE participant in the
defense of innocent human life.**



*This is an OUTDOOR Rally; please dress warmly!
Refreshments inside, following Rally*



*Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Educational Fund
Call 248-478-8878 or 734-422-6230*

Pearls of Wisdom

The Freedom of Choice Act: A Radical Attempt to Prematurely End Debate Over Abortion¹

By Denise M. Burke

Americans United for Life Vice President of Legal Affairs

Nearly two years ago, the public debate over abortion was irrevocably altered. In the landmark *Gonzales v. Carhart* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the federal ban on partial-birth abortion and, more importantly, abdicated, at least in part, its role as the “National Abortion Control Board.”

In its decision, the Court signaled an increasing willingness to blunt attempts by abortion extremists to use the federal courts to unilaterally impose their radical agenda. The immediate reaction of activists and some members of Congress confirmed this critical shift.

Abortion advocates, including some members of Congress, hastily recycled the hyperbolic rhetoric of the 1970s. In one public statement after another, they condemned the decision and the Court, predicting--like modern-day Chicken Littles--that the outlawing of abortion was at hand and that women were about to be relegated to “second-class” status. For example, then-Presidential candidate Barack Obama stated, “I am extremely concerned that this ruling will embolden state legislatures to enact further measures to restrict a woman’s right to choose, and that the conservative Supreme Court justices will look for other opportunities to erode *Roe v. Wade*, which is established federal law and a matter of equal rights for women.”

Recognizing that the federal courts would no longer be a reliable and viable tool for actualizing their demands for unlimited and unregulated abortion, abortion supporters began to look elsewhere for the means to advance their radical agenda.

In late April 2007, Obama along with Senator Hillary Clinton and others, immediately re-introduced the federal *Freedom of Choice Act* (FOCA), a radical attempt to enshrine abortion-on-demand into American law, to sweep aside existing laws that the majority of Americans support—such as requirements that licensed physicians perform abortions, fully-informed consent, and parental involvement—and to prevent states from enacting similar protective measures in the future.

More importantly, FOCA is a cynical attempt to prematurely end the debate over abortion and declare “victory” in the face of mounting evidence that (a) the American public does not support the vast majority of abortions being performed in the U.S. each year and

(b) abortion has a substantial negative impact on women.

Thirty-five years after *Roe*, abortion supporters are dismayed that abortion remains a divisive issue and that their radical agenda has not been submissively accepted by the American public. Their weapon to impose their will on the unwilling American public is FOCA.

History of FOCA

Even before *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, there were attempts by Congress to legalize abortion. For example in 1970, Senator Robert Packwood introduced the *National Abortion Act*, which sought to legalize abortion nationwide and preempt state laws restricting or regulating abortion.² Although the *National Abortion Act* was unsuccessful, Senator Packwood later joined with Senator Alan Cranston to introduce the inaugural version of the *Freedom of Choice Act* (FOCA) in 1989.³

FOCA was introduced at a time when some in Congress feared that *Roe v. Wade* might imminently be overturned (as a result of on-going litigation over abortion-related laws and restrictions including those at issue in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*), and were seeking a means to prevent states from enacting laws prohibiting or regulating abortion. FOCA’s main goals were to create a “fundamental right to abortion” and to eliminate any federal, state, or local government action (including the enactment of abortion-related legislation) that limited or “impeded” access to abortion.

Relying on specific portions of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe*, abortion supporters argued that FOCA would protect a woman’s right to an abortion prior to “fetal viability or at any time...to protect the life or health of the woman” and that states could, within enumerated limits, enact protective laws that did not interfere with a woman’s right to abortion.

Over the next several years, substantially-similar versions of FOCA were repeatedly re-introduced in Congress until 1993, when the provision allowing states to enact protective legislation was removed. The 1993 version of FOCA instead included criticism of the Supreme Court for abandoning the “strict scrutiny standard” (of reviewing abortion-related laws) for the “undue burden” standard that had recently been announced in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.⁴ Notably, under the new “undue burden” standard, requirements such as informed consent, reflection periods, and parental involvement for abortion were deemed constitutional.

After its subsequent re-introduction in 1995, FOCA was not again introduced until 2004 when it was offered by Representative Jerrold Nadler in the House of Representatives and Senator Barbara Boxer in the Senate. In her accompanying press release, Senator Boxer explained that FOCA would “supersede all other abortion related laws, regulations or local ordinances⁵,” which included informed consent laws and any health and safety regulations imposed on abortion clinics.

The most recent version of FOCA was introduced in April 2007, following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, upholding the federal ban on partial-birth abortion. This most-recent version was substantially similar to the 2004 version, but also included a section deriding the Supreme Court’s decision in *Gonzalez*. Specifically, FOCA mischaracterized the prohibition of partial-birth abortion as a “legal and practical” barrier that hindered “the ability of women to participate in the economic and social life of the Nation.”⁶ Further, drawing upon “abortion mythology,” this version of FOCA exaggerated the numbers of Americans who availed themselves of illegal abortions in the late 1800s and early 1900s, inflating the actual figure of less than one-hundred thousand to “over one-million.”⁷

Although expressing as its goal the simple codification of *Roe*, FOCA also expressly provided that it would apply “to every federal, state, and local statute, ordinance, regulation, administrative order, decision, policy, practice, or other action enacted, adopted, or implemented before, on, or after the date of enactment.”⁸ As Senator Boxer eloquently explained in 2004, “FOCA [will] supersede all other laws,” especially those that the Supreme Court has held to be constitutional under *Roe* and its progeny.⁹

What Does FOCA Say?

FOCA provides that “[i]t is the policy of the United States that every woman has the fundamental right to choose to bear a child, to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability, or to terminate a pregnancy after fetal viability when necessary to protect the life or health of the woman.”

Further, FOCA would specifically invalidate any “statute, ordinance, regulation, administrative order, decision, policy, practice, or other action” of any federal, state, or local government or governmental official (or any person acting under government authority) that would “deny or interfere with a woman’s right to choose” abortion, or that would “discriminate against the exercise of the right...in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, or information.”

Clearly, its reach is very broad. This single piece of legislation would apply to any federal or state law “enacted, adopted, or implemented before, on, or after the date of [its] enactment.”

What is the Legal Impact of FOCA?

FOCA creates a new and dangerously radical “right.” It establishes the right to abortion as a “fundamental right,” elevating it to the same status as the right to vote and the right to free speech (which, unlike the abortion license, are specifically mentioned in the U.S. Constitution). Critically, in *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court did not define abortion as a “fundamental right.”¹⁰ And with the exception of one justice’s attempt in 1983 to distort the Court’s abortion jurisprudence by framing the abortion license as a “fundamental right,” the Court has not subsequently defined abortion as a “fundamental right.” Thus, FOCA goes beyond any Supreme Court decision in enshrining unlimited abortion-on-demand into American law.

Thirty-five years after Roe, abortion supporters are dismayed that abortion remains a divisive issue and that their radical agenda has not been submissively accepted by the American public. Their weapon to impose their will on the unwilling American public is FOCA.

FOCA would also subject laws regulating or even touching on abortion to judicial review using a “strict scrutiny” framework of analysis. This is the highest standard American courts can apply and is typically reserved for laws impacting such fundamental rights as the right to free speech and the right to vote. Prior to the Supreme Court’s 1992 decision in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (which substituted the “undue burden” standard for the more stringent “strict scrutiny” analysis), abortion-related laws (such parental involvement for minors and minimum health and safety standards for abortion clinics) were almost uniformly struck down under “strict scrutiny” analysis. If enacted, FOCA would retroactively be applied to all federal and state abortion-related laws and would result in their invalidation.

What is the Practical Impact of FOCA?

In elevating abortion to a fundamental right, FOCA poses an undeniable and irreparable danger to common-sense laws supported by a majority of Americans. Among the more than 550 federal and state laws that FOCA would nullify are:

- Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003*
- Hyde Amendment* (restricting taxpayer funding of abortions)
- Restrictions on abortions performed at military hospitals
- Restrictions on insurance coverage for abortion for federal employees
- Informed consent laws
- Waiting periods

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- Parental consent and notification laws
- Health and safety regulations for abortion clinics
- Requirements that licensed physicians perform abortions
- “Delayed enforcement” laws (banning abortion when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned and/or the authority to restrict abortion is returned to the states)
- Bans on partial-birth abortion
- Bans on abortion after viability. FOCA’s apparent attempt to limit post-viability abortions is illusory. Under FOCA, post-viability abortions are expressly permitted to protect the woman’s “health.” Within the context of abortion, “health” has been interpreted so broadly that FOCA would not actually proscribe any abortion before or after viability.
- Limits on public funding for elective abortions (thus, making American taxpayers fund a procedure that many find morally objectionable)
- Limits on the use of public facilities (such as public hospitals and medical schools at state universities) for abortions
- State and federal legal protections for individual healthcare providers who decline to participate in abortions
- Legal protections for Catholic and other religiously-affiliated hospitals who, while providing care to millions of poor and uninsured Americans, refuse to allow abortions within their facilities

Notably, pro-abortion groups do not deny FOCA’s draconian impact. For example, Planned Parenthood has explained, “FOCA will supercede anti-choice laws that restrict the right to choose, including laws that prohibit the public funding of abortions for poor women or counseling and referrals for abortions. Additionally, FOCA will prohibit onerous restrictions on a woman’s right to choose, such as mandated delays and targeted and medically unnecessary regulations.”

State FOCAs

Seven states have enacted versions of FOCA, further entrenching and protecting the “right to abortion” in those states: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Nevada and Washington.

Conclusion

Clearly, FOCA will not make abortion safe or rare—on the contrary, it will actively promote abortion and do nothing to ensure its safety—so, abortion advocates’ unrelenting campaign to enact FOCA is a “wake-up call” to all Americans. If implemented, FOCA would invalidate common-sense, protective laws that the majority of Americans support. It will not protect or empower women. Instead, it would protect and promote the abortion industry, sacrifice women and their health to a radical political ideology, and silence the voices of everyday Americans who want to engage in a meaningful public discussion over the availability, safety and even desirability of abortion.

Endnotes

1. This article—in substantial part—was previously published by the Culture of Life Foundation. See Denise Burke, “The Freedom of Choice Act: Imposing Unregulated Abortion on Americans” at <http://culture-of-life.org/content/view/full/490/96/> (last visited November 4, 2008).
2. Johnsen, Dawn E., “Functional Departmentalism and Nonjudicial Interpretation: Who Determines Constitutional Meaning?” *Law and Contemporary Problems*, *Supra* note 152, available at: [http://www.law.duke.edu/shell/cite.pl?67+Law+&+Contemp.+Probs.+105+\(summer+2004\)](http://www.law.duke.edu/shell/cite.pl?67+Law+&+Contemp.+Probs.+105+(summer+2004)) (last visited November 4, 2008).
3. See S. 1912, 101st Cong. (1989); H.R. 3700, 101st Cong. (1989).
4. See *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992) and S. 25, 103d Cong. (1993); H.R. 1068, 103d Cong. (1993).
5. *National Right to Life, Senator Barbara Boxer 2004 Press release*, available at: <http://www.nrlc.org/FOCA/FOCA%20Boxer%20press%20release.pdf> (last visited November 4, 2008).
6. See S. 1173, 110th Cong. (2007); H. R. 1964, 110th Cong. (2007).
7. Nathanson, Bernard. (PHD), “Confessions of an Ex-Abortioneer,” available at: <http://www.aboutabortions.com/Confess.html> (last visited November 4, 2008).
8. See S. 1173, 110th Cong. (2007); H. R. 1964, 110th Cong. (2007).
9. <http://www.nrlc.org/FOCA/FOCA%20Boxer%20press%20rel ease.pdf> (last visited November 4, 2008).
10. See *City of Akron v. Akron Ctr for Reproductive Health*, 462 U.S. 416, 420 n.1 (1983) (majority opinion authored by Justice Powell).

LIFESPAN’S RAFFLE DRAWING - MAY 4, 2009 - MOTHER’S DAY DINNER (See page 1)

Please send me _____ raffle ticket(s). Enclosed is \$_____ (\$50 per ticket)

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Area Code/Phone _____

Raffle tickets are available at Lifespan offices. Mail the above form with your check, payable to:

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

Detroit Office, P. O. Box 24774, Detroit, MI 48224; call 313-640-8534

Oakland/Macomb Chapter, 1637 W. Big Beaver, Ste. G, Troy, MI 48084; call 248-816-1546

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter, 27592 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150; call 734-422-6230

Pro-Life Student Essay Contest Winners

Three metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Pro-Life Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research or Human Cloning.

The first-place prize of a \$500 savings bond will be awarded to **Elisabeth Rochon**, 17, of Eastpointe, a senior, who is homeschooled. Elisabeth is the daughter of Marcella and Jerome Rochon.

The second-place winner, **Matthew Mortellaro**, 17, of White Lake, is a senior at Lakeland High School; he will be presented with a \$200 savings bond. Matthew's parents are David and Lynne Mortellaro.

The third-place winner of a \$100 bond is **Daniel Miller**, 16, of Detroit, a sophomore who is homeschooled. Daniel's parents are Wilford and Dorothy Miller.

The savings bonds will be awarded at the Rally for Life at Madonna University, in Livonia, on Sunday, January 18.

We want to thank the judges who had the difficult job of choosing the winners from the many excellent entries:

Loretta Gelhaus has worked with Right to Life - LIFESPAN for the past 15 years. She started by helping her mother who was a church representative. She also enjoys volunteering at St. Genevieve school in Livonia. Loretta's degree is in nutrition from Madonna University. She is married to Rodney and has three grown children.

Barbara Valentic is a member of St. Clare of Montefalco Parish of Grosse Pointe Park where she serves as chairperson of the Worship Commission and teaches 8th grade catechism. She is a mother of three grown children and grandmother of 10. Barbara has a deep and abiding love for the Catholic faith and promotes the right to life from conception to natural death. She was pleased for the opportunity to read what today's youth think and feels they show great promise.

Julie Szydlowski is a professional editor and writer in the corporate global communications field and a freelance writer of topics promoting the principles of faith, community and traditional values. She has taught writing and grammar classes at a local community college and has been a radio guest on different programs to discuss diverse issues such as the benefits of freelance writers to businesses and the merits of school choice. As an active volunteer in her community, she enjoys giving her time in ways that support faith-based activities, adult literacy initiatives, help for the elderly, and protection of the unborn.

First-Place Essay

This War for Life is Ours

Abortion is the deceptive and selfish ending of unborn human life. Four thousand babies are killed everyday. What hope do they have of life? They have hope in our love. Because we love them, we desire to save them from death.

A sidewalk counselor and several people stood before an abortion mill, praying. A mother was inside the mill; after four hours, she walked outside.

"Why are you here?" she asked the counselor.

"Love," he answered. "We have to be here because the love of Christ impels us—love for the unborn, love for the abortionists and staff, love for pregnant women, love for the mothers who have had an abortion. Because God loves them, so must we."¹ Because of love and prayer, she chose life instead of death.

Truly, love is why we want to save the unborn and their mothers from devastation. Abortion claims that life does not begin at conception and that obliteration is a solution. Abortion asserts that the mother's plans are more important than life and that it is right for her to exterminate interfering tissue. The selfish lie spreads and is believed, for the truth is not taught or lived. The good neither speak nor move.

God entrusts us with the truth, and we are responsible for it (Luke 12:48). Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."



*Elisabeth Rochon, 17,
of Eastpointe,
is a senior
who is homeschooled*

We cannot expect the defeat of evil if we do nothing for the victory of good. We cannot be pro-life by knowing the truth of life's sacred value but not defending life when it is threatened. We must fight against abortion to save the unborn. Yet what can we do to save them?

Let us go and pray before abortuaries. Praying outside abortion mills saves uncountable babies and closes many mills. Our witness at the abodes of death upholds the truth that every person, born and unborn, is a living human with a body and a soul. It publicly challenges today's corruption with God's eternal morals. Our testimony compels onlookers, even the nurses and abortionists, to acknowledge life's sacred value. Sometimes they argue, threaten, swear and even strike us. However, some exchange their indifference for a pro-life stance. By praying outside the

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From the President's Desk

My Dear Friends of Life,

I pray that your Christmas was filled with family, friends and good memories. Christmas is a season celebrated for the love of Christ; for hope, for joy and peace. May your New Year also be blessed with peace in your homes and good health.

This was a special Christmas for our Lifespan family; it was the first year for our "Lights for Life" tree. This tree was seen not only from Grand River but also from I-275. The message posted near the tree proclaimed, "LIGHTS FOR LIFE." We could not have done this without the help and generosity of Weingartz. They gave us the land, electricity and storage for this very special and beautiful tree.

This beautiful tradition will last, I hope, for many years. What started out as a small fundraiser for Wee Care has gone far beyond the good done for moms and their babies—it became the cornerstone for the renewal of this movement in southeastern Michigan.

Many have been deeply distressed by the recent election and how it may impact the future of this country. We must never give up hope. Look back and see what good you have done. Some feel that they have failed; others agree with them and want more done. I have been a part of this movement everyday for the past 39 years, and I know the good that you have done. I know the hills that had to be climbed to prove to the world that this movement and its people are strong. We have the truth on our side, and we must never give up. We are determined to maintain our presence as long as it takes to bring the right to life to all the preborn. And yes, to the distress of the "pro-aborts,"

we are still here. We haven't won the war, but we have won many battles.

As I worked on the "Lights for Life" project, it became so clear what this tree really represents. It represents ALL OF YOU! YOU pro-lifers have been the lights in a country filled with darkness. YOU have kept the lights burning bright even when the storms surrounded us. As the darkness of death permeated our society, your lights could not be extinguished, thus, there are thousands of voices still being heard. *Roe v. Wade* has not been accepted by all of society.

The lights on our tree represented someone living or someone taken home to be with God. It was bright and beautiful. It was all about LIFE. For 39 years, YOU have kept alive this movement. YOU have promoted LIFE—YOU are the LIGHTS that will never be extinguished. Because of YOU, this world will never be completely dark. With every new battle won, the world will shine a little brighter.

The "Lights for Life" campaign was a huge success, and my special thanks to all who donated and all who worked on this project. The tree lighting ceremony was Friday, December 12. It was beautiful; we sang carols and gave thanks for all of YOU who have worked so hard in the pro-life movement. The tree was then lit and brightened up our small corner of the world.

I hope you have seen the tree and will remember this project for next year. We can "grow" our Lights for Life tree and make our world even brighter. Our tree is 14 ft. high, but we can add four feet a year. The largest tree of this kind is 139 ft. tall!

Diane Fagelman, President



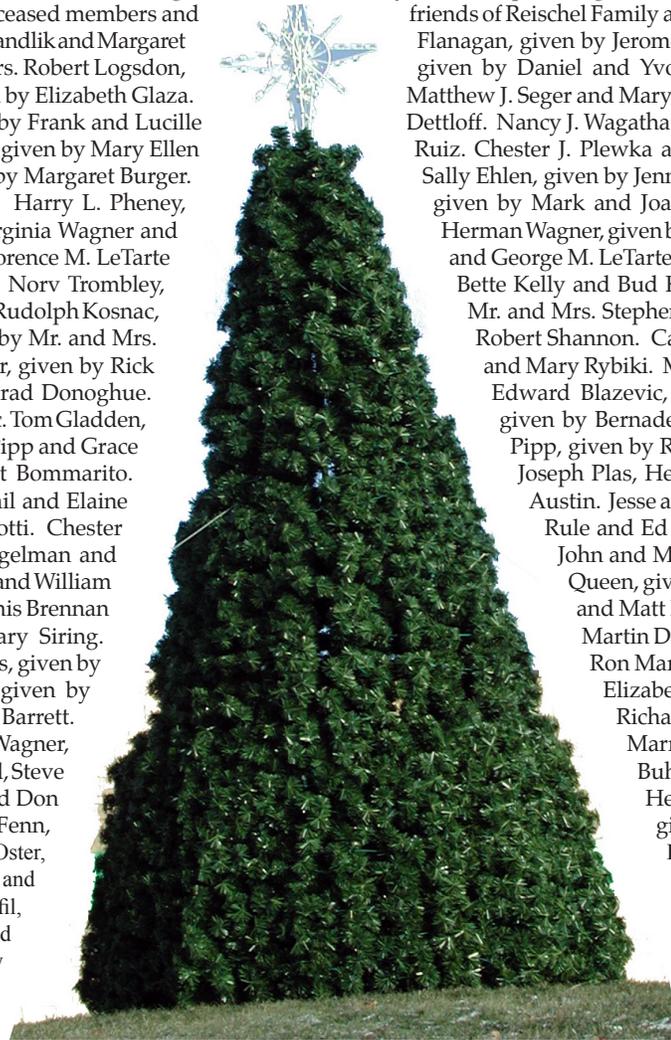
A special thanks to Ron, Ken and Dan Weingartz for their generosity and for all their support in erecting this tree and to Chuck Carpenter who took on the responsibility of the tree project and procured the needed supplies to make this all possible. Many thanks also to his crew Ed Rinke, Chris Beall and George Wade.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Lights for Life Tree Remembrances

IN MEMORY OF:

James and Grace Higgins, given by Rodney and Loretta Gelhaus. Margaret Gibbons and Therese Tomilo, given by Mary Tomilo. Jessie E. Sowers, Matilda E. Bettega and Frank E. Bettega, given by John and Bev Bettega. Violet Rochon and Ann Makaroff, given by Doris Makaroff. Robert and Paula Ervin and Edwin and Zetta Theisen, given by Robert and Barbara Ervin. Donald Roehrig, given by Therese Roehrig. Elizabeth Michelini, given by Peter Michelini. James and Tom O'Connor, given by George and Eleanor O'Connor. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Geller and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Angner, given by Edmund and Estelle Angner. Vernon Smith and Felix and Helen Konopka, given by Theodore and Stella Konopka. Baby Ray Vincent, III, given by Raymond and Marlene Vincent. Herb Chesney, Adam Chesney and Sophia Chesney, given by Lucy Chesney. Susan Ortopan and James Seewald, given by Ellen Ortopan. Angel Babies, Jake, Carolyn and Erin, given by friends of Reischel Family and Schepansky Family, given by Flanagan, given by Jerome and Helen Flanagan. Mr. and given by Daniel and Yvonne Logsdon. Agnes and Ed Matthew J. Seger and Mary Ann Seger, given by Robert and Dettloff. Nancy J. Wagatha and Mark D. Wagatha, given by Ruiz. Chester J. Plewka and Lawrence A. Plewka, given Sally Ehlen, given by Jenny Conely. Our Dearest Parents, given by Mark and Joanne Moening. Richard Hesch, Herman Wagner, given by Dennis and Marilou Mozdzen. and George M. LeTarte, given by Phyllis Ring. Michael Bette Kelly and Bud Kelly, given by Diane Trombley. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kosnac, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Robert Shannon. Carole Metivier and Larra Daniel, and Mary Rybiki. My Grandchild, given by Loretta Edward Blazevic, Mary Hoski and Richard and given by Bernadette Gladden. Chuck Hoffman, Pipp, given by Robert Pipp. Russell Bommarito Joseph Plas, Helen Plas, Daniel Plas, Philip M. Austin. Jesse and Charles Spietz and Catherine Rule and Ed and Ardella Shedlowsky, given John and Mina Vigliotti, given by Jerry and Queen, given by Elizabeth Queen. Caterina and Matt Hall, given by Michael Brennan. Martin Dickerson and George Clos, given Ron Mardiros. Margaret Williams, given Elizabeth Cada. Fr. Francis D. Rabaut, Richard Jahn, given by Dave and Sue Marrie Schraml, Ferdinand Schraml, Buhay, Claudia Steinke, Ed Roman-Heinonen, given by Ken and Karen given by Patricia Gates. Marianne Baby Christine Oster, Michael and John Kulczycki, David Kulczycki, Bruce Tofil, Darlene Konopka, Kim Tom Bradley, given by Marge and Ron and Gloria Sulkowski. Rick Laurie Masiarak.



IN HONOR OF:

Donald and Therese Roehrig Family, given by George O'Connor, given by George and Eleanor Szafranski, given by Joseph P. Szafranski. Matthew Edmund and Estelle Angner. The Unborn, given by by Roberta Angeliu. Shirley Seewald, given by Ellen Sophia Pelachyk. John and Nancy Dankert, given and Stella Konopka, Sue Konopka, Bradley and Doug Bradley. The Hesch Family, given by Russell given by Michael and Monnie Barron. Della Cullins, Felcyn, Mark Blazevic and Sr. Shirlee Hoski, given by Nancy Blazevic. In Support of Lifespan, given by Norbert and Viola Motowski, Howard and Yoko Osborn, Norma Scannell, Richard and Marilyn Lomas and Gregory Day. Grandchildren: Tony, Lauren, Olivia and Emma, given by Lynn Ladd. Mina and John Vigliotti and Dorothy Spietz, given by Judy Vigliotti. Margaret Rule, given by Bruce and Sandy Rule. Julia Fagelman, given by Jerry and Diane Fagelman. Mary Ann Williams, given by Donald Williams. Amanda Cada, given by Elizabeth Cada, Brandon, Kate and Colton Ducharme, given by Dave and Sue Ducharme. Olivia Gorsuch, Hailey Gorsuch, Morgan Gorsuch, Miranda Gorsuch, Nick Gorsuch, Zack Burchart and Reilly Burchart, given by Ken and Karen Patrosso. Our Children and Grandchildren, given by Pat and Bob Holscher.

LIGHTS FOR LIFE

Right to Life LIFESPAN



Therese Roehrig. Michael O'Connor and O'Connor. Parania Szafranski and Antony Angner and Samuel Angner, given by Lucy Chesney. All Friends of Life, given Ortopan. Our Soldiers, given by John and by Mark and Joanne Moening. Theodore Compton Families, given by Marge and and Katie Hesch. Our 14 Grandchildren, given by Lifespan Board. Chris and Anne



detroit

P. O. Box 24774
Detroit, MI 48224-1906
Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)
Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Mary Cascos, Office Manager

New Year's Resolutions

"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. If you forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;

If you say, behold, we knew it not; does not He that ponders the heart consider it? and He that keeps your soul, does not He know it? and shall not He render to every man according to his work?" (*Prov. 24; 10-12*)

How shall we who oppose abortion respond to this pressing moral problem?... We must respond to abortion in a way that pleases our Lord, and neither criminal acts nor "cop-outs" please Him. How can we sit by idly while 1.5 million are aborted every year?

Our unconcern condemns us... God will not except "ignorance" as a reason for inaction... He never accepts ignorance as a reason for disobedience, or lack of involvement in His work here on earth. (*The Sanctity of Human Life, Richard Seefried*)

wee care

A program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund
29200 Vassar St., Ste. 545
Livonia, MI 48152-2193
Phone: 248-478-8884
Office Hours: By appointment
Karen Patrosso, Director

Dear Friends,

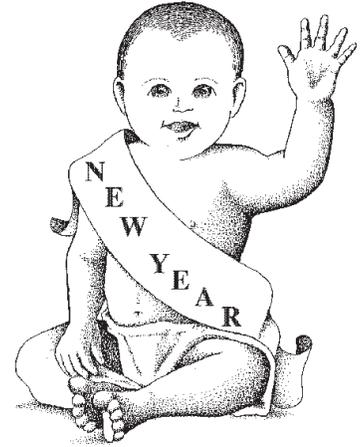
As I write this column, I am waiting, hopefully, for the phone to ring or for someone to walk into my office with some supplies for my babies.

This is a very anxious time at Wee Care. During the holidays, we probably receive about 90% of our baby items that we give out throughout the year. Most of the time, we never know what is coming until "angels" drop off the packages.

This year, especially with Michigan's economy, we are very concerned. We are praying for a miracle. But then, Wee Care is always a place where miracles happen. (How lucky am I to work here!)

When we stand before our God at the last Judgment, we will be asked, "What did you do to the least of My Children, and what did you fail to do for the least of My Children."

May we prayerfully consider what we can do for the least of "My children," the unborn, handicapped and elderly.



New Year's Resolutions:

Be resolved that I will do my best to promote the pro-life cause in everything I do this year whether it will be:

- by treating my family with love and with life-affirming examples.
- by praying regularly for pro-life causes.
- by participating in pro-life Rallies and events.
- by voting 100% pro-life.
- by writing to editors on pro-life issues.
- by writing to State and National officials about pro-life legislation.
- by becoming a church representative for Detroit LIFESPAN.
- by volunteering for a pregnancy center.
- by inviting a friend to become a LIFESPAN member.
- by putting a pro-life sticker on my car.

The miracle of every precious baby's birth—The miracle of 2-lb. preemies getting stronger and going home—The miracle that a mom who needs our help finds us—And the miracle that God sends every day—His "loaves & fishes" one, where He sends us angels like you who miraculously continue to fill our shelves when they are almost empty!

There are no words to thank you. Whether it is a bib from the dollar store, a beautiful handmade afghan or a soft blanket to keep our little ones warm—we appreciate you so much!

Well, God has been busy working His miracles since I started this article—one knight from the Knights of Columbus called and is dropping off a large box overflowing with baby gifts, and a family called, wanting to donate diapers! Another call came from a tearful mom—she is 7 months' pregnant and about to become homeless. She was wandering around in a Salvation Army store this morning and started to cry. A stranger approached her, listened to her story and gave her Wee Care's number. I was able to give her contact numbers regarding housing and because of you, will be able to provide diapers, sleepers, warm blankets and so much more for her precious daughter.

As I said, miracles happen daily at Wee Care!

May God bless us all as we face the New Year together. May we be able to continue Wee Care's work and somehow be able to convince our nation how precious life is.

—Love, Karen

oakland/macomb

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540
Phone 248-816-1546 • Fax 248-816-9066
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, Tanya Wrenn Ofc. Staff

H— hope for blessings in the New Year
A— advancing the respect for all life
P— preserving traditions that keep memories
alive
P— prayers for peace
Y— young lives, children and grandchildren,
unfolding before us

N— new friends, families and bright futures

E— embracing new ideas

W— wishing health to all

Y— Yes to Life! Every day!

E— expecting good things—and sharing them
with others

A— accepting comfort from others when sad-
ness comes

R— resolutions—reasonable, promised and
kept

*A very Happy New Year to all of you from the
Oakland/Macomb board and office staff.*

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.

Proposal 2

Sadly, Proposal 2 has passed in Michigan. Now, in fact, it would be illegal to place any regulations or restrictions on embryonic research in Michigan. Human embryo destruction and research is now the first industry to be completely immune from any local or state laws. History has proven time and again that science without regulation or oversight presents tremendous dangers to the human community. Now, the flaws of Proposal 2 open the door to human cloning in Michigan.

Mass for the Unborn

A *Mass for the Unborn and To End Abortion* will be offered at Our Lady of Good Council Church, North Territorial Road, just west of Beck Road in Plymouth Township, on Thursday, January 22, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. The celebrant will be Rev. Lee Acerbo. This year, 2009, marks the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* abortion decisions.

A rose ceremony will take place during Mass. In our ceremony, persons representing each year since the 1973 Supreme Court decisions, will bring a rose to the cradle placed before the altar, remembering the women who have suffered...and the unborn children who have died...as a result of abortion. A short reflection will be read for each year. This is a very inspiring experience. If you were born after January 22, 1973, and would like to participate in the rose ceremony, call Lifespan at 734-422-6230.

Light a Candle - Dispel the Darkness

Join other pro-lifers by placing a luminary outside your home or church, to burn throughout the night, on Wednesday night, January 21, the eve of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. This practice memorializes the 50,000,000 unborn babies who have been killed legally by abortionists in America. Kits include a candle, white bag and instructions. All you need for the bottom of the bag for weight is sand, kitty litter, baking soda, rock salt, potting soil, etc. Be a living witness for Life. Call now to reserve your kit.

Thank You

The 2008 Christmas card season was successful mainly due to the cooperation of many pastors, church representatives, distributors and helpers who spent many hours making Lifespan cards available. And lastly, to those who purchased cards, we thank you for your loyalty to Lifespan by supporting necessary fundraising. We also would like to thank all those who purchased Entertainment Books. This project has become a very successful fundraiser.

First-Place Essay

This War for Life is Ours

continued from page 3

mills, we protect the babies and their mothers from ruin. We show the mothers that there is a better option, and it is real and available for them. When they see people praying for them, the mothers realize they are loved, and they are given the courage to bear their children. Praying before abortion mills is what each of us can do in our war against death.

Yet we are not strong enough to overthrow immoral darkness. We need God. We need to pray. God alone has the power to convert men's minds and hearts. He, Who created light from chaos, can bring forth truth from deception, life from death. In prayer, we stand in the power of Almighty God, and we are His instruments. He conquers. By entrusting this murderous iniquity to Him, its defeat is possible (Luke 1:37). God is our hope.

It was a spring day in 2003 as a young woman walked from her parked car toward the door of a building. It was the local abortuary. Beside the door stood a sidewalk counselor, praying. The counselor urgently begged the mother not to kill her unborn child. The young woman listened and entered the mill. Under pressure from her boyfriend, she was going for an abortion. As she lay waiting on the bed, she kept thinking about the counselor praying for her. Minutes became seconds. The doctor was about to begin the operation. "I can't do this," she said. "This is wrong!" She got off the bed, changed back into her clothes, and ran out of the mill. She decided to keep the baby instead of the boyfriend; she spent the money he gave her for the abortion to purchase baby clothes. Her son was born on January 22nd, 2004, the 31st anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.ⁱⁱ Almost two years later, the mother wrote a letter to the sidewalk counselor, stating, "I thought about such a special group of people (those who pray outside abortuaries) who loved me, a total stranger, enough to embrace me and stop me from making such a mistake. I thank God for all of you and for my (son)...if and whenever you get discouraged...think of the joy you have brought to me and to so many others...I will not forget that because of your heart and love, I today have my son..."ⁱⁱⁱ

The aborted are similar to the people who were annihilated in the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. Both were vulnerable, and neither was aware of approaching danger. Suddenly, their worlds exploded. They tried to hide. They tried to live. There was no escape...When the planes hit, passengers, employees and rescue workers died. Everything in New York City shut down. Ashes and debris transformed the light of midday into the darkness of midnight. A Catholic priest stood praying outside the nearby abortuary, but he could not help the dying people. The abortion mill alone had not closed. Babies were still being murdered.^{iv}

Who will fight to save the unborn from death? In God, we can (Phil 4:13). The mothers can be rescued from the

selfishness and deception of abortion. The threatened lives of the unborn can be saved. With God, the Creator, Truth and Hope of humanity, we can defeat this slaughter. Let us rise up, dedicate ourselves to God and fight for the unborn in prayer before the abortuaries. ■

ⁱModified quote of Reilly, Monsignor Philip. Goodnow, Dan. Joan Couzens Award reception speech. Pregnancy Aid Banquet. Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. October 24, 2008.

ⁱⁱBeckhold, Mary. Personal interview. October 17, 2008. The mother told Mrs. Beckhold her story.

ⁱⁱⁱThe mother gave permission to print her letter.

^{iv}Reilly, Monsignor Philip—his analogy and his experience. Requested speech. Pregnancy Aid Banquet. Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. March 30, 2007.

Second-Place Essay

No Compromise

In modern America, there is much public debate between those who are pro-life and those who are not. The existence of the great debate over issues of life in this country is a testament to the great philosophical confusion which besets it and the resulting moral depravity which has consumed it. The very idea that such a debate exists is astonishing, yet, even more astonishing, is that those who oppose life, the most basic and precious of all gifts, are somehow winning. How is it that a nation founded on the Christian ethic could fall so far? In this essay, the basic philosophical underpinnings of the opponents of the pro-life position will be attacked and moral arguments for the preservation and protection of life put forth, in the hope that this may help in turning the tide against the barbarism of the anti-life agenda.



*Matthew Mortellaro,
17, of White Lake,
is a senior at
Lakeland High School*

The question of whether or not there is a right to life is an interesting one. Not because of its effect on legislation or court cases, but because of its inherent absurdity. How could one possibly ask if there is a right to life? Is not their continued existence a refutation of any argument to the contrary? When you continue to live and breathe, do you not assert, by those very actions, that you believe that you have a right do so? To argue otherwise is to engage in a performative contradiction—that is, to contradict

your claimed beliefs by the very assumptions you make in holding that belief. To say the words, "There is no right to life" is to assume that there is a right to life. With this in mind, it hardly seems necessary to take seriously anyone who makes such a claim.

The crux of the argument made by those who oppose the right to life regards the so-called "right to choose." They, the advocates of the "pro-choice" position, state that they believe people should be able to do with their bodies what they wish. Yet, do they really hold this position? According to most recent polls, somewhere around fifty to sixty percent of Americans are "pro-choice." If these "pro-choice" proponents took their position seriously, they would support much more than just legal abortions, euthanasia and so on. They would support, for instance, the legalization of all drugs, on the basis that one should have the choice to consume such substances. It seems quite unlikely that such a majority of Americans support such a policy, considering the lack of major candidates speaking on that issue. But, why stop there? If one has the right to do whatever they wish with their bodies, without any interference, then why not the ability to engage in "consenting capitalist acts"—i.e., to run a business without any regulations, to work without paying any taxes, to opt out of the government entirely? This is where the pro-choice position logically leads us—to anarchy. Are we to believe that fifty to sixty percent of Americans are anarchists? The so-called "pro-choice" position is inconsistent and merely a cover for the anti-life position.

Turning from criticism to advocacy, let me lay out a moral argument in favor of life. Here, I am influenced by the 18th century philosopher, Immanuel Kant, in my construction of this position. He built, from first principles, an ethic which is both consistent with many of the virtues of the Judeo-Christian tradition, and yet is compelling to even those who do not share such faith, as it is not based in God's word, but rather in terms that even secularists accept. He called his ultimate moral law the categorical imperative. This had two main features: universality and treatment of humans as ends in themselves. Both of these can be used to construct a moral argument in favor of life.

Using the universality test, we can clearly see the insanity of the anti-life position. Take abortion here as an example, assume for a moment the implications of abortion becoming a universal maxim of action followed by all. Not only would this generation be the last, as no further live births would occur since all are aborted, but this generation's existence would necessarily contradict this rule, for it means they were not aborted. A famous quote from Ronald Reagan comes to mind. "I've noticed that everybody that is for abortion has already been born." Indeed, the universality test immediately shows that abortion is illegitimate.

Let us consider the respect principle, or, in Kant's terms, the treatment of humans as ends in themselves. Again, it takes little thought to see how the pro-life position is demanded by such. Does suicide treat your own self as an end? To ask the question is to answer it. You assert that

your life is a mere means to your own satisfaction when you take it to alleviate suffering; you deny that your life is an end in itself, to be sought for its own sake. Again, application of this principle of respect shows clearly the moral law supports the pro-life position.

We stand here at the fork in the road; we are presented with a choice for which there is no compromise and no halfway solutions. Either we, as a society, accept the ethic of life, to preserve and protect life, or we cast ourselves into darkness and depravity. We, those who advocate the pro-life position, should be seen as the progressives—for we are the ones who support progress and civilization, while our opponents support the return to barbarism not seen since the ancient times. We are the modern abolitionists, and we should be just as unforgiving in our advocacy of the sanctity of life as they were in their advocacy of the end to slavery. Accept no "Missouri Compromise" on this issue; accept no "Three-fifths Compromise." The immediate and total end to abortion, suicide in all forms, infanticide and all other anti-life activities should be our solemn and consistent goal. ■

Third-Place Essay

Personally Opposed?

During the early days of our nation, the enslaving of Africans was a common practice, considered morally justifiable by many people and condoned by the United States Supreme Court. Although slavery was abolished over one hundred years ago, America continues to deny basic human rights to another innocent, helpless group of human beings—the unborn.



*Daniel Miller,
16, of Detroit,
is a sophomore
who is homeschooled*

Slavery was justified by the dehumanizing of the African person. After that was accomplished, slavery was considered moral and right. The Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision of 1857 stated that "...a negro, whose ancestors were imported into this country, and sold as slaves... were not intended to be included under the word 'citizens' in the Constitution, and can, therefore, claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument provides for and secures to citizens of the United States"¹ In 1973, the

continued on page 14

Third-Place Essay

Personally Opposed?

continued from page 13

United States Supreme Court handed down the *Roe versus Wade* decision, which stated that "The word 'person,' as used in the Fourteenth Amendment, does not include the unborn...the unborn have never been recognized in the law as persons in the whole sense."²

The dehumanizing of the unborn is frightening. Today, the unborn child is called a "fetus," and is regarded as a blob of tissue, rather than as a unique human life. Science, however, shows us that unborn children are living, vibrant human beings. Within twenty-two days of conception, a child's heart begins to beat with his own blood, often a different type than that of the mother. In five weeks, limbs and eyes have developed. Two weeks later, every organ system is in place. A baby's nervous system is in place after twelve weeks, and at that time a baby can experience pain.³ Ultrasound images of unborn babies show us that the unborn look exactly like babies outside the womb. Clearly, the unborn are human beings.

Slavery was ignored by many politicians, including President James Buchanan, who was personally opposed to slavery, but felt that it should not be a matter of public importance. Many who would have never personally owned a slave believed that others should possess that 'right,' and that individual states should be able to enact laws legalizing slavery and that those states which already allowed slavery should not be forced to abolish it. Personal opposition to slavery did not free one slave.

Today, many citizens are "personally opposed" to abortion, but do nothing as a matter of public involvement. Very few politicians consider themselves pro-abortion, yet they insist that a woman should have the right to choose, even though her choice could be to murder an unborn baby.

Now, Americans look back on that awful period in our history when slavery was legal and wonder how leaders and educated men could hold such a viewpoint. But because those who saw slavery for what it was—a sin against innocent humans—were willing to voice their opinion regardless of consequences, slavery became a thing of the past. Elected officials such as Abraham Lincoln believed that every human being had the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, regardless of race. They fought for what they believed in and won.

Today, personal opposition to abortion is saving no babies. Elected officials must act on their personal beliefs and pass laws to end the thoughtless murder of human beings. Abortion will end when good people see it for what it is—the murder of innocent human life—voice their outrage and elect leaders who oppose this terrible wrong, not just personally, but with their voices and with their votes. ■

1<http://www.nrlc.org>

2<http://www.nrlc.org>

3<http://www.nrlc.org>

Student Art Contest



High School Students Grades 9 - 12

in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties

Theme: Celebration of Life!
*Artwork to reflect pro-life issues
involving family life, children, babies,
the handicapped or the elderly*

First Prize: \$500 savings bond
Second Prize: \$200 savings bond
Third Prize: \$100 savings bond

For complete rules and
eligibility requirements,
go to "Events" at
www.rtl-lifespan.org

**All entries must be received
by Wednesday, March 11
Right to Life - LIFESPAN
248-478-8878**



End Abortion / Post Election PRO-LIFE SUMMIT

Taking the pro-life movement into the future

Saturday, January 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Lunch included

Christ the King Parish Center

4000 Ave Maria Drive, Ann Arbor, MI

*Presenters include: Bishop Earl Boyea, Deal Hudson,
Al Kresta, Fr. Frank Pavone, Ed Rivet, Joe Scheidler,
Professor Janet Smith*

\$30 per person (pre-registration by January 7)

\$20 High School and College Students

No cost for clergy

\$35 (registration at door)

To pre-register, call **Judy 517-546-3092**

or send check payable to: Citizens for a Pro-Life Society,
4074 Falmouth Lane, Howell, MI 48843

Donations have been made—

In honor of the 53rd Wedding Anniversary of:

Charlotte and Jerry Kelly

Given by: Patricia MacEachern

In loving memory of:

Richard Masiarak

Given by: Diane and Jerry Fagelman

Mary and George Cascos

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Staff of Dembs Roth Gyselinck Construction Co.

Arlene Schnaidt

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Claudia Steinke

Given by: Jamie and Kim Tringale

AAA Corp. Business Control Dept.

Nancy Stein

Jerry and Denise Rossi

Donations may be made loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Right to Life - LIFESPAN will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

Calendar of Events

- January 10.....Pro-Life Summit, p. 14
- January 18.....Rally for Life, p. 3
- January 18.....Sanctity of Life Sunday
- January 21-24.....March for Life Bus trip
- January 21.....Luminaries Lit—Eve of Jan. 22, p. 11
- January 22.....Mass for the Unborn/Rose Ceremony, p. 11
- March 4...Deadline, Mother of the Year Nominations, p. 2
- March 8.....Baby Showers, p. 2
- March 11.....Deadline, Student Art Contest, p. 14
- March 29....."Born to be a Lady" Fashion Show, back page
- March 31.....Deadline, Resource Book Ads
- May 4.....Mother's Day Dinner; Raffle Drawing

Crisis hotline numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office, pp. 10-11. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number **800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigail Ministries **586-326-0459** or **Casa Vitae 248-559-7440**. 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 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 \$ 25.00 _____ *Angel in the Waters* Special Membership _____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 15.00 \$40 or more; (call a Lifespan office for details)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152-2193**. For more information, call **248-478-8878**. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.



**ATTENTION: YOUNG LADIES
10 - 19 YEARS OLD!**

*You Are Invited to the 3rd Annual
"Born To Be A Lady"
Fashion Show*



**Date: SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009
Time: 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

This modest teen Fashion Show is being sponsored by the Educational Center for Life and Right to Life - LIFESPAN. Guests will receive guidelines for modest outfits, resources for modest clothes (including some vendors), and will learn the importance of modest appearance and attitude. The guest speaker is Jessica Rey, who is an actress, model, abstinence speaker and designer (www.jessicarey.com).

Location: Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church
Sterling Heights (located near the northwest corner of 18 Mile and Ryan Roads)

Cost: \$15 per person, includes fruit, sweet treats and beverages

Registration Deadline: March 13, 2009

Call Marilyn, 248-816-8489 or email her at info@edcenterforlife.org
to register for the Show. Seating is limited, so don't delay - register today!

Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Oakland/Macomb Chapter
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540



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