

Lifespan news

Volume 43 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

February/March 2014



Right to Life - LIFESPAN's

25th Annual Baby Shower

Sunday, March 9, 2014 (unless different date noted)

To Benefit Local Pregnancy Help Centers

Baby showers will be held at the following locations. Bring new or gently-used baby items.

For more information, call Right to Life - LIFESPAN at 734-524-0162

Gift Drop-Off ONLY – After Church Services (unless noted otherwise)

In alphabetical order by city. Listing up-to-date, as of January 29, 2014.



Gift Suggestions
Sleepers, onesies, socks, receiving blankets, crib sheets, diapers (size 1 to size 4), baby wipes, wash cloths, towels, pacifiers, bottles, bibs, personal hygiene items for baby, gift cards, cash donations!

Auburn Hills Christian Center
2592 E. Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills

Sacred Heart of the Hills Church
3400 S. Adams Rd., Auburn Hills

Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean)
19400 West 13 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills

Resurrection Catholic Church
48755 Warren Rd., Canton
Weekends of April 26th and May 3rd

St. John Neumann Church
44800 Warren Rd., Canton
Weekends Feb 22nd through March 9th

Oakland Woods Baptist Church
5628 Maybee Rd., Clarkston

Guardian Angels Church
581 E. 14 Mile Rd., Clawson

Church of the Divine Child
1055 N. Silvery Lane, Dearborn
March 8-9th and March 15-16th

St. Alphonsus Church
7469 Calhoun, Dearborn
March 8-9th

St. Anselm Church
17650 W. Outer Dr., Dearborn Heights

Assumption Grotto Catholic Church
13770 Gratiot, Detroit

Brightmoor Bible Missionary Church
15128 Bramell St., Detroit

Christ the King Catholic Church
16805 Pierson, Detroit

Faith Redemption Center Church of God in Christ
20501 Plymouth Rd., Detroit

SS. Augustine & Monica Church
4151 Seminole, Detroit

St. Gerald Church
21300 Farmington Rd., Farmington

St. Dunstan Church
1526 Belton, Garden City

St. Raphael Church with St. Mel Church
5775 Merriman, Garden City

St. Clare of Montefalco Church
1401 Whittier Rd., Grosse Pte. Pk.

Sacred Heart Byzantine Church
29125 Six Mile Rd., Livonia
September

St. Edith Church
15089 Newburgh Rd., Livonia

St. Genevieve-St. Maurice Parish
29015 Jamison, Livonia

St. Stephen Church
18800 Huron River Dr., New Boston

Our Lady of Victory Church
770 Thayer, Northville
March 9th—April 6th

Our Lady of Refuge Church
3750 Commerce Rd., Orchard Lake
Date To Be Determined

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth

St. Kenneth Church
14951 Haggerty Rd., Plymouth
March 8th—March 23rd

Our Lady of Loretto Church
17116 Olympia, Redford

St. John Bosco Church
12170 Beech Daly Rd., Redford

St. Valentine Church
25881 Dow, Redford

St. Andrew Church
1400 Inglewood, Rochester
March 1st-March 2nd

Living Rock Church
33200 Ecorse Rd., Romulus

St. Kieran Church
53600 Mound Rd., Shelby Twp.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Church
38750 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights

St. Jane Francis de Chantal Church
38750 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights

Northfield Hills Baptist Church
1800 W. Long Lake Rd., Troy

St. Thomas More Church
4580 Adams Rd., Troy

St. William Parish
531 Common, Walled Lake
Date To Be Determined

St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church
26440 Ryan Rd., Warren

SS. Simon and Jude Church
32500 Palmer Rd., Westland
TRADITIONAL shower, 1-3PM

Do you want to co-host a Baby Shower for one of the 18 pregnancy help centers in metro Detroit, but you don't see your church/organization listed? Please call us and we'll get you everything you need! 734-524-0162.

How should you speak to your children about abortion?

continued from back page

which will train them to think that human life is a disposable item, and which, if unchallenged, may lead them to an abortion mill someday.

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America has a television commercial that says, "The perfect time to talk to your child about using marijuana is when you think he's too young to talk about using marijuana. Talk to your child before someone else does." Abortion is a clear parallel. To a parent who once objected to my pro-life preaching because her children were present, I gently pointed out to them that I share her concern for her children's welfare. I then told her that it is better that they hear about abortion from me, in the presence of their parents who can discuss their questions and calm their fears, than if they hear about abortion from pro-choice people who will tell them the false and dangerous lie that abortion is "no big deal," and to avoid discussing it with their parents! Worse yet, of course, is if the first time they hear anything substantial about abortion is from the "counselor" who is trying to sell them one.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. This requires that pastors, church leaders and other educators cooperate closely with them. It does not mean, however, that either the parents or other educators have the right to keep their children from the truth. In one instance when I spoke to seventh graders about how abortion harms women, one set of parents objected because I had not received their permission to bring up the topic in class. I assured them that I had no intention of bypassing their parental authority and that, in fact, I welcomed their input. I pointed out that people differ in their judgment of which matters require special parental approval and which do not. I then invited them to be at least equally upset over the fact that their daughter can actually obtain an abortion and be harmed by it without their knowledge or consent, as they were upset that their daughter had heard about abortion and its harmful effects without their knowledge or consent. Public health records in New York State have shown as many as 231 abortions on thirteen-year-old girls in one year.

I know of another case in which parental permission was obtained for all the students in the class, except one, to see a photo of an aborted baby. After school the student whose parents had denied permission insisted that her friend let her see the picture. On returning home she passionately challenged her mom, "Why did you not want me to see what is really happening to these babies? Why was I not allowed to see the truth?"

It is particularly appropriate that children share our concern about abortion. After all, they are closer in age to those who are being killed. Furthermore, they were considered "non-persons" before the law during the first nine months of their existence! If I were born after the *Roe v. Wade* decision, I would take that as a personal insult! What loss today's children have sustained from abortion! Those aborted would have been their classmates, their friends, their husbands and wives! Psychological research is being done on the impact of this tragedy on those whose

lives might have been taken, had they not been "wanted." The International Institute for Pregnancy Loss and Child Abuse Research and Recovery has identified ten types of "abortion survivors" and has published evidence of how damaging it is for a child to grow up in a society in which he / she could have been aborted.

I once spoke at a cemetery service at a grave containing the aborted bodies of several hundred babies. At the end of the service, each person present placed a rose on the grave and departed. Most people missed the scene at the very end. A very young girl, just able to walk, took a rose to the grave by herself and placed it there. She was, indeed, closest to her brothers and sisters in that grave. The youngest had compassion on her peers, who might have seen the sun that day as she did.

Children will respond actively to the pro-life message, as did the two who wrote me and said, "Hi, I'd like to begin this letter by thanking you for last week's sermon. I was deeply moved and so was my younger brother. Although we are both young, I'm 17 and he's 12, we've been taught how precious life is. But we did not fully understand what goes on in abortion till your sermon...We both want to get on the mailing lists of pro-life organizations."

Children particularly like to wear the Precious Feet pin, showing the exact size and shape of a baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception. It was a child's idea to put those feet on top of pink and blue ribbons. A major pro-life organization then made the combination into a pin!

I once met a 7-year old named Nick among a group of young people peacefully demonstrating outside an abortion mill. "This must be your first time taking part in something like this," I said to him. "Oh, no, Reverend," he exclaimed. "I've protested abortion in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, and other places..."

A group of summer campers I once served, ages 8 to 10, sent a joint letter to the local paper to speak up for preborn children.

These and many other projects can be organized in churches and schools, or as part of Christian Education projects. Preaching and teaching will lead even the young to action. Silence will only allow the killing to continue.

I will allow a fourth grade girl to finish this article with her letter to us.

"Dear Christians,

I was so excited about what my life in this world would be. I thought about all the things I would like to do like playing with toys, riding a bike, going to the zoo, and having a dog. I wanted to see movies, go to school, make friends and go to the park and the circus. I wanted to celebrate Christmas and sing praises to Jesus. I looked forward to listening to music, dancing, swimming in a pool, playing soccer, and having dolls.

I am very sad that I never got to do any of these things. My mother did not let me be born. I just don't understand one thing. Why didn't any of you help me? I wish you had. No one heard my crying voice. —An unborn baby"

"Let the children come to me," the Lord declares. Let them come to His Church; let them come to us, that we may love them and teach them the dignity and greatness of all human life.

—Priests for Life, January 13, 2014

Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Celebration of LIFE Annual Dinner

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014
San Marino Club
1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy*



Ryan Bomberger, Chief Creative Officer of The Radiance Foundation, likes to dialogue. He likes to create. He likes to research and learn. He loves to reach out to those in need. And he loves to inspire. Audiences across the country have lauded Ryan's speeches and multimedia presentations. His personal story of adoption, shattering the myth of the "unwanted" child, and ability to address some of the uncomfortable issues of life have resonated with millions. From large conferences to college campuses, mega-churches to small group settings, Ryan speaks to hundreds of thousands each year about a myriad of social issues. Whether addressing abortion, adoption, poverty, family, pop culture, creativity, race issues, civil rights, or character development, everything is presented with a fearless yet freeing approach.

Ryan's passion for people was instilled by parents who adopted 10 children many said would be "unloved." The nay-sayers were wrong. And now the world is getting to know this adoptee, adoptive father and Emmy® Award winning creative professional who loves to tell the world of the beauty of Possibility. Everywhere Ryan speaks, people are drawn by his powerful ability to communicate with passion, humor and irresistible emotion.

**Dinner Reservations: \$50 per person/\$475 per table of 10. Students (under 21) \$25 per person.
Advance reservations required by Friday, April 25.**

Yes, I (We) plan to attend. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ reservations. (Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. **Tickets will be held at the door.**) Seat with _____

Yes, I (We) plan to sponsor a table of 10. Enclosed please find **one** check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ tables. (Please list names of all those for whom table reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. **Tickets will be held at the door.** Table seating will be determined by date of receipt of paid reservation.)

I (We) are not able to attend. Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ to support your pro-life efforts.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (area code) _____ Email Address _____

*For Dinner reservations, please make checks payable and mail to:
Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G, Troy, MI 48084
For information, call 248-816-1546*



Photos/video may be taken at this event and may be used on the web, in publications and/or other media. If you would prefer that your image not be included, please contact Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Main Office at 734-524-0162 or mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org.



Put your special photo in LIFESPAN's Resource Book!

Purchase a special ad to recognize the accomplishments of someone special! It's a great way to acknowledge a graduate, retirement, anniversary, 1st Communicant, scout troop, special teacher, etc.! Purchase a 1/8-page ad to feature your children, grandchildren or other special someone in Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Educational Fund Resource

Book 2014. **Photo Ads are tax-deductible!** Fill out the form for photo ads below and send \$35 with a non-professional photo, along with the names of those pictured, or other desired caption, to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305.** All picture ads must be received by **March 28, 2014**. If you would like your pictures returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you prefer to e-mail your photo, you may send them in JPEG format to **editor@rtl-lifespan.org** (with "Lifespan Photo" in the subject line) and mail your check by post to the above Lifespan address. For more information, call Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Main Office, at **734-524-0162**.

Yes, please include my photo in Lifespan's 2014 Resource Book!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of people in photo (or other caption) _____

_____ My photo and check are enclosed. _____ My photo will be sent by email; enclosed is my check.

Ad Seller's Signature (if name is other than above) _____ Phone _____

Be a LIFESPAN PATRON!

Resource Book 2014 Patron Ads:

Gold Patron \$100 **Silver Patron \$50** **Bronze Patron \$10** **Memorial Patron \$10**

Please PRINT name (s) exactly as you wish it to appear. Names of patrons in each of these categories will be listed on separate pages in the Resource Book 2014. **Patron Ads are tax-deductible; make checks payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund.** Deadline for submission is March 28, 2014.

Patron name(s)—Gold, Silver or Bronze: _____

Memorial Patron name(s)(deceased): _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (include area code) _____

Ad Seller's Signature (if name is other than above) _____ Phone _____



*Make checks payable, and mail to: Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305*



Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

RESOURCE BOOK 2014

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 Friday, March 28 2014.

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

E-mailed ad

Full page (7 x 10) \$280	1/4 page (3.5 x 5) \$115	1/8 page (3.5 x 2.5) \$65
Inside front cover \$325		
Back cover (inside) \$325	Half page (7 x 5) \$165	
Back cover (outside) \$525		

- ◆ Due to the difficulty of working with various formats, we prefer to receive pdf files, at 300 dpi, all fonts embedded, sent by e-mail to editor@rtl-lifespan.org, indicating "Lifespan Resource Book Ad" in the subject line. In the case of electronic submissions, please send contract and check by post to the address below.
- ◆ You may also send a hard copy, camera-ready ad.
- ◆ 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 be sent a copy of the Resource Book upon request only. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable.
- ◆ A complimentary dinner ticket to the 2014 Celebrate Life Dinner on Tuesday, May 6 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 Educational Fund.

Contact Person _____	Area Code/Phone _____
Name of Advertiser _____	E-mail _____
Address _____	City _____ Zip _____
Ad Seller's Signature _____	Area Code/Phone _____
Yes, please send me a copy of the 2014 LIFESPAN Resource Book.	

Make checks payable and mail to:

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150
For further information, call 734-524-0162 or e-mail: mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org

Contributions to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund are deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.



Lifespan Chapter News

Movement in Motion

They are back, and by now, are mostly defrosted after their trip to a very chilly Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. You will be seeing comments from our travelers in this and future newsletters. As usual, the March is a life-changing experience for many of our young people—they come to realize that their homes, their schools, their churches are not the only pro-life voices in our country. They have seen firsthand the hundreds of thousands of other young people who also hear the pro-life message. No matter what the mainstream media reports, they KNOW what they saw and they know that they are, as their t-shirts said, *Generation Truth*. The pro-life movement replenishes its ranks with each child that is born and continues to grow.

Movers and Shakers of the Movement in Motion

Special recognition and thanks go to all those who helped make our trip to Washington, D.C. successful. First and foremost, to Lynn Gura, our Youth Director. She handles the thousand-and-one details, changes in itinerary, add-ons, special needs, provisions, meetings and bus switches with such grace and good humor that she leaves the impression that she is 10 people and not

just one. Her husband, Jeff Gura, is indispensable with organizing and positioning the buses for easy loading and unloading. To all those who sorted t-shirts, counted bagels, checked email addresses, fetched and carried, we offer our thanks. To the students and chaperones and bus captains, we stand in wonder at your dedication. The pro-life movement is in very good hands!

Entertainment Books

The Entertainment Book people have asked us to consider a special promotion, lasting one month, and offering a coupon book with only Premier Dining restaurants listed. The cost would be \$25.00. We don't have all the details yet, but as soon as we do, we will let you know.

40 Days for Life

For details on next scheduled event, March 5-April 13, contact Barb Yagley, 248-703-3577.

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: Monday-Friday 9-3

Irene Tharp, Director • Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.

Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff & Youth Director

March for Life

The March for Life 2014 was an experience I will never forget. My name is Jeremy Gatt. I am a homeschooled senior in high school. With this being my first March, I wasn't sure what exactly to expect. I knew there would be a lot of people, and I had heard that Mass at the Basilica would be crowded, but that in no way prepared me for how many people there really were.

My group got to Mass the day before the March, an hour and a half early, to reserve seats. We ended up with seats facing a television in the crypt of the Basilica. People were sitting on the floor by the time Mass actually started. When the day of the March came, an estimated twenty-eight thousand teens were at the Verizon Center for Mass, and an equally large group at the Comcast Center.

When all of these people and thousands more filled the streets, it was truly a sight to see. At one point, we were standing at the crest of a hill in the road, after marching for a good twenty minutes. Looking back, we could see a steady stream of people following, and even more way back where we started, waiting to join in. Seeing all these people, and a lot of them around my own age, coming out to support the pro-life cause, was one of the most amazing experiences I've had in a while. I will definitely be attending the March for Life in 2015.

Church Rep News

Mark your calendars for our 4th annual Church Reps "Springtime Gathering" on Sunday, March 30th. This enjoyable and informative event will once again be held in St. Dunstan's Church Hall, in Garden City, from 2:00–4:00 p.m., with Frank Tofil as host Church Rep. This year, our program will include the showing of a wonderful DVD which highlights the many activities of our organization. We know that you will want to be a part of this special time celebrating all that LIFESPAN is accomplishing through you in our communities. We truly appreciate you. NOTE: If you have ever entertained the idea of being the liaison (church rep) between LIFESPAN and your church community, this would be a perfect gathering to attend. Call our office to make a reservation.

—Sharon Neal, Church Rep Coordinator

Help Wanted

Are you pro-life? Do you have computer skills? Can you lift 25-30# cartons of Christmas cards? Would you be available to work Monday thru Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.? We are looking for someone with very special qualities to work in our Wayne Co./Downriver office in Livonia. If interested, please email resume to: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org and to: mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org.

14600 Farmington Rd., Ste. 108, Livonia, MI 48154-5431

Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116

e-mail: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10-4; Friday Closed

Patricia Holscher, Director • Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Mgr.



Wee Care

"Wee Care is a program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN." How many times have you read that sentence? It is so very true—without Lifespan—there is no Wee Care—just like without all of your donations—there would be nothing to give our precious babies, and thus Wee Care could not exist. Your constant support for our little ones—whether donating infant supplies, monetary donations or keeping our sweet babies in your prayers is such an outward sign of your love for them.

Another way that you can help Wee Care is by supporting Lifespan. As you know, there are so many events and opportunities throughout the year. Several of them are highlighted in this month's newsletter.

One of them is an awesome opportunity to purchase a one-year gift membership for a friend or family member for only \$5! What a great and inexpensive way to introduce them to Lifespan! See page 10.

Another opportunity is a fun activity—Lifespan is sponsoring a night at the Whaler's hockey game on March 15th. Grab your spouse, your kids or your grandkids and come join us! I will be there with my gang of 13! It is a great way to support our moms and babies and have a wonderful time too (not to mention the popcorn)! Hope to see you there! See page 13.

Love, Karen

A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305
Phone: 734-524-0165 • Fax: 734-524-0166

Office Hours: By appointment; Karen Patrosso, Director

All material and monetary donations to Wee Care are tax-deductible. Checks must be made payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund.

LIFESPAN's Movement in Motion Bus Trip 2014

IN SPITE OF FRIGID TEMPERATURES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.,

SEVEN "MOVEMENT IN MOTION" YOUTH BUSES, SPONSORED BY RIGHT TO LIFE – LIFESPAN, MARCHED FOR LIFE, JOINING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUTH!!!

The March for Life in Washington, D.C. began as a small, peaceful demonstration 41 years ago and has rapidly grown into the largest Pro-Life event in the world!

The March falls on (or near) the somber anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion in January 1973 in our country throughout all nine months of pregnancy for any reason. **Abortion is indeed the greatest human rights violation of our time!**

Some of us who have traveled to the March for Life several times already are able to tell you that the Pro-Life Movement is alive and strong **AND GROWING!** The number of young people (mostly high school and college students) participating in the event is larger each year! Although the marchers from other areas had difficulties getting to D.C. due to the snow, our seven buses made it safely there (the roads were mostly clear with occasional snowy areas). We did experience very frigid temperatures for the March, but it did not stop the excitement, energy, and love that poured out of those who participated as they marched for the unborn, their mommies and their daddies! One saying that has



become quite popular among the younger generation is "**I survived Roe v. Wade but Roe v. Wade will not survive me!**" The goal and commitment of the younger generation is that they will do all they can to **abolish abortion in their lifetimes!** I am so proud of all of them and so glad to be a part of this great Pro-Life Movement that began so many years ago and has gained momentum ever since!

I hope you were able to watch the awesome coverage that EWTN offered either on television or on

live stream through your computer. I heard there was more coverage given than in the past on Fox News and CNN. I know there is still a huge amount of media bias out there on the air and in newspapers, but the social media on You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc. helps tremendously in getting the truth out there about the March for Life and about the increasing number of young people who are calling themselves the "**Pro-Life Generation**" and "**Generation Truth**"!

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LIFESPAN's March for Life History

Since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision, pro-life people have participated in a March for Life in Washington, D.C. on the anniversary of that decision.

The first March was undertaken to demonstrate the huge numbers of people in our country who thought that the decision was wrong and harmful, not only to the unborn children who die in the abortion procedure, but to their mothers and extended family members who are also wounded by that abortion decision.

At first, the March was comprised largely of adults, who gave up a day or two of their time, marched down Pennsylvania Ave. and then met with their elected officials to express their concerns.

As time passed, and the March continued each year, a strange thing happened. The marchers became younger and younger. First, the ranks of college students grew. Then more and more high schools sent busloads of students, all with a unified message—abortion stops a beating heart and human problems cannot, and should not, be solved by destroying human lives.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN joined these efforts in the early years with first, private cars, then tour buses and planes. Since 1999, as the numbers grew, we organized our own buses under the banner, "*Movement in Motion*." The first time we sent one bus, then two, then three, then four, up to eight buses in 2013 filled with young people and their chaperones.

Mostly college and high school-aged students from Detroit metro schools, these young people give of their time and treasure to travel all night from the Detroit area to Washington, D.C. to take part in the March for Life, the Youth Rally (the March organizers also recognized the huge numbers of young people participating and arranged for events of interest to them), and meetings with their elected officials. Many of them are not yet of voting age, but this exercise in responsible citizenship lays the groundwork for future participation in the opportunities offered by our system of government.

No fine hotels for these kids. They sleep on the bus, in sleeping bags on gymnasium floors of host churches and other facilities. Some facilities serve a breakfast, and other meals are on a "catch-as-catch-can" basis at area restaurants. They design and wear t-shirts explaining their pro-life beliefs and don some kind of identifying scarf or hat so chaperones can keep tabs on them.

Rain, shine, snow, cold, fog, heat—over the years, the marchers have experienced all kinds of weather. They have also had to be excused from school and find the money to pay their way. Sometimes sponsorship monies are available, but mostly the funds come

from the students themselves.

Why do they do this in ever increasing numbers? This year the t-shirts designed and worn by LIFESPAN's *Movement in Motion* travelers say it all—"We are Generation Truth."

These young people have grown up with legal access to abortion as part of their societal landscape. They have also grown up with 3D and 4D ultrasounds that offer undeniable proof that the unborn child's heart beats, his/her brain works, he/she feels pain, hears sounds, respond to his/her mother's voice—in short, is alive, sensate and growing. They have also grown up observing the impact that abortion has had on their peers—lowered self-esteem, physical and emotional complications, broken relationships, sadness and regret. That is the truth of their generation and they are determined to speak it, stand up for it and work to change it.

On the evening of January 21st, six buses filled with these dedicated and determined youth left the Detroit area from Troy and Livonia and another bus from the New Baltimore area. They came from 18 area schools and churches including Zion Christian, Sacred Heart Academy, Crusaders for Life Detroit, Oakland and Macomb Community Colleges, U of D Mercy, U of D Jesuit, Ladywood High School, Regina and Loyola High Schools, Greater Grace Temple, East Grand Rapids High School, Our Lady of the Lakes High School, Our Lady on the River and St. Mary Queen of Creation. Another group from Oakland University also attended.

They joined with hundreds of thousands of other pro-life people, mostly college and high school-aged, and marched, chanted, encouraged and demanded that their voices be heard, that human life at all stages, born and unborn, male and female, be valued, respected and protected.

They care about women, they care about babies and they care about the aged and the handicapped. They will continue to march and they will be heard—they will be the ones who make the change. They are "Generation Truth."

—Diane Trombley, Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Media Relations Director

LIFESPAN'S Movement in Motion Bus Trip 2014

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Here are some thoughts of young people I traveled with on Bus 3...

"The March for Life was great this year! The people are amazing and so full of Pro-Life spirit!" —Natalie P.

"Once again, it was a pleasure and privilege to participate in this year's March for Life! Though uncomfortable at times, in the end, it is good to know we've spoken for those who cannot speak for themselves—and knowing that is comforting. I hope we don't need to go next year, that there's no need for the March!" —Anonymous

"This was my first time going on the March, and it was really great! Despite the cold, the lack of sleep, and the long walk, the March for Life was an amazing opportunity to join with so many of our brothers and sisters in working toward a day when God's beautiful gift of life will be respected, defended and cherished by all, for all!" —Emily C.

"The March for Life was a truly inspiring experience. To see so many groups of people from all over the country (even some from beyond the U.S.) made me feel even more excited about the Pro-Life cause!" —Melanie M.

"It was beautiful to see so many people gathered to proclaim the joyful blessing of the gift of Life!" —Stephen W.

"It is amazing to be a part of something so big and so beautiful and so strong!" —Jill D.

"As a first-timer for the March and as a Co-Captain, this has been a memorable, exciting and fun experience! A big thank you to Right to Life - LIFESPAN,

and Lynn Gura for all the love, time and hard work put into this; to my amazing Captain, Annie Fournier, for being a fun, great and helpful Captain; to all the chaperones for being a great help and being with us; and to our students and Crusaders for coming and making this a fun experience! God bless!" —Anna Vitale

"This year, I was extremely blessed to be able to lead Bus 3 on the 41st annual March for Life! My first year as a Bus Captain was a great experience! As always, the March for Life was a memorable experience, especially when we were gathered with thousands and thousands of other Pro-Lifers—all gathered as one, united for one cause—the sanctity of LIFE! Thanks to LIFESPAN for the oppor-

tunity, to Lynn Gura for her hard work, to all chaperones who helped out, to my amazing Co-Captain, Anna Vitale, and, of course, to the Crusaders for Life Detroit for making this trip truly awesome! God bless you all!—Annie Fournier

"After so many months of planning and preparation, we marched! It was absolutely amazing and inspiring! On behalf of the group, we would like to thank Right to Life - LIFESPAN with a special thanks to Lynn Gura, Bus Captains Annie Fournier and Anna Vitale, and all the chaperones on Bus 3!" —Anne Marie Morin, V.P. Crusaders for Life Detroit

Thanks again to all who supported our young people and chaperones through your prayers and to those of you who were able to offer monetary assistance! And, thanks to all the volunteers who helped in the months and intense weeks leading up to the trip and with Traffic Control on the super cold night the buses left from the San Marino Club in Troy.

For those interested in next year's trip, e-mail the LIFESPAN office at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org and put "2015 Youth Bus Trip" in the subject line. I will begin working on preparation for next year's trip by the end of February and will send you updates as they become available!

Lynn Gura, Youth Director
Right to Life - LIFESPAN
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G
Troy, MI 48084
248-816-1546





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Embracing the Journey

By Cristen Krebs, DNP, ANP-BC



Human life is a precious gift. The uncertainty of life compels us to appreciate its fragility.

Just as the onset of labor and date of delivery is a mystery, likewise, no one can predict the exact day, hour or moment of death. When a loved one is living the last stages of a terminal illness, family and friends often question when death will occur.

Because the process of dying is a personal journey, the time of death is difficult to predict, even for doctors and nurses who specialize in care of the dying. While certain symptoms are usually associated with the natural dying process, these symptoms of approaching death may vary a bit depending on the unique end stage illness a person is experiencing. Not all the symptoms will be present in every case, and most individuals demonstrate a combination of the symptoms in their final days or hours of life. Additionally, some individuals never display any of the common symptoms as death approaches.

The dying process usually begins several weeks before death occurs. As the physical body begins to decline, an individual's emotions and sense of spirituality also begin to change as the mind strives to embrace one's own mortality.

The following list accounts for the most common changes that occur in the last months, weeks and days of life.

Withdrawal from Family and Friends

In the process of accepting their own mortality and approaching death, patients often begin to withdraw from their immediate surroundings and family and friends closest to them. Even activities previously pleasurable to the patient may be abandoned as death nears. This process of separating from their earthly world while contemplating life and past memories is a necessary part of the dying process for many patients. Patients experiencing the final stages of a terminal illness frequently decline visits from family and friends. Visitors can easily exhaust a patient and leave the patient feeling as if they are responsible to entertain them. When visitors are permitted, patients often act reserved and introverted. Additionally, patients who have had a long day of visitors often display increased fatigue and exhaustion the following day. This may result in the patient sleeping much of the day, being unable to awaken easily, or not communicating verbally.

During this time, patients require privacy. It is necessary to respect a patient's wishes for solitude and quietly express love to the patient during this period of withdrawal. Patients nearing the final phase of terminal illness are very sensitive to what is communicated by those around them—both verbally and non-verbally. Calmly sitting nearby, holding hands, or offering silent prayers are ways to remain engaged with a loved one who is withdrawing. Providing safe, peaceful and comforting surroundings allows the patient the time needed to reflect on life closure.

Loss of Appetite and Weight Loss

As the body begins a natural decline, an individual's energy needs also decline. The energy required by the body to process food becomes greater than the energy the body can derive from it. As a result, patients often experience a loss of appetite and routine eating habits change. Patients frequently refuse full meals and large amount of liquids and request smaller quantities of food items that are soft and bland, such as puddings, scrambled eggs, or hot cereals. Favorite foods are also of little interest as the body declines.

We are taught at a young age that food is a fuel that gives the body energy and helps sustain life. Family and friends want to nourish their loved one with plenty of good food in the hopes that the patient will begin to feel stronger and possibly recover or live longer. While caregivers are often troubled by the patient's loss of appetite, and subsequent weight loss, it is important they understand the patient's refusal of food to be a signal that nourishment must be derived in other ways—through the mind, soul and spirit. Additionally, they should be aware that the body naturally requires less food and drink as it declines. Caregivers can frequently offer sips of liquids and ice chips, or small bites of ice cream, pudding or other soft foods.

Refraining from force feeding and following the patient's food requests will enhance comfort. Forcing a patient to eat or making them feel guilty if they refuse food strains the patient-caregiver relationship and may lead to patient isolation. Patients who are declining require reassurance that loss of appetite is accepted. This respect and acceptance ultimately enhances patient comfort.

In the last 2-3 days of life, the patient may be unable to swallow, resulting in the inability to take medications by mouth. At this time, caregivers can apply balm or petroleum jelly to the lips to keep them moist, and can use mouth swabs dipped in cool water to keep oral membranes hydrated. These measures further ensure comfort.

continued on page 12

Embracing the Journey

continued from page 11

Declining Metabolism and Excessive Weakness, Fatigue and Sleep

As the patient's food / fluid intake and metabolism decline, the body begins to display other changes. Body temperature lowers by a degree or more, blood pressure slowly lowers, and the pulse becomes irregular and may slow down or speed up.

As these changes occur, less oxygen is available to the muscles, resulting in increased weakness. It requires more effort to complete everyday tasks that were previously easy to accomplish. Patients often display discouragement or depression as they resolve to ask for assistance with bathing, walking and eating.

Patients may begin to sleep 12-20 hours each day and may be difficult to awaken. Even simple activities become difficult, such as changing position, holding a cup, or sipping from a straw. As the fatigue and amount of sleep per day intensifies, the patient's awareness of immediate and even familiar surroundings begins to fade.

Caregivers assisting with daily physical tasks must remain sensitive to the patient's feelings.

Allowing the patient to sleep without interruption is essential as the body and mind decline. Keep in mind however that a patient's sense of hearing is believed to remain intact up until the time of death. Therefore, even if the patient appears unresponsive, presume all verbal communications can be heard.

Mental Confusion or Disorientation

During the progression of terminal illness, a patient's level of awareness often changes frequently and unexpectedly. As the body adjusts to a slower metabolism, vital internal organs also slow down, including the brain. When a patient becomes confused, it can be due to decrease of oxygen to the brain resulting in the inability to recognize familiar people or places, or the current time of day or year. Also, patients may hear voices or see visions. This type of disorientation is common.

As mental capacity declines, the patient may no longer speak or answer questions, and their responses may be slow and difficult to comprehend. Responding to or openly conversing with people who can't be seen in the room by others is common. Often these people are ones who have already died. Hallucinations and visions, especially if they are of deceased loved ones, can be comforting to the patient and the caregiver.

Caregivers and visitors are encouraged to always identify themselves and speak softly and calmly to the patient, while not placing expectations on the patient. A reassuring voice and gentle physical presence provides

much comfort. Caregivers should never negate what a patient is saying or seeing, or debate with them. This confused state becomes the patient's reality. It is often a pleasant and comforting experience and may be a sign that the patient's mind is at peace with joyful and happy thoughts. Attempting to convince a pleasantly confused patient that a loved one isn't there can make that person agitated or combative.

If the patient begins to express, verbally or non-verbally, upsetting or disturbing experiences, caregivers are encouraged to gently stroke their arm or hold their hand, while speaking calmly in a soft reassuring voice and reminding them of who you are, where they are, and what day it is.

During periods of confusion, a patient's favorite music or prayer may help to provide familiarity and comfort.

Restlessness

It is common for patients to become restless or agitated and make repetitive motions. For example, they may pick at the air, bed sheets or clothing. While these movements and actions may seem pointless and do not make sense to caregivers and visitors, they can be a sign of decreased oxygen to the brain or of physical stress such as pain, nausea, distended bladder or constipation.

During periods of restlessness, caregivers must remain calm and stationary as they assess the needs of the patient. Caregivers must refrain from the desire to interfere or restrict a patient's restless motions, but instead strive to protect the patient from physical injury. Proper pain and symptom management is crucial to soothe a restless patient.

Restlessness can also be a sign that the patient is experiencing emotional stressors such as anxiety or spiritual distress. Praying with the patient or calling clergy to the bedside to meet one on one with the patient may help to alleviate patient fears and instill a sense of peace and confidence. Caregivers may also need to give the patient permission to 'let go' so that rest may follow.

In some cases, a patient may experience 'terminal delirium' during the last days or hours of life. Terminal delirium is defined by heightened restless activity and intense confusion that is often accompanied by hallucinations and aggressive behavior such as striking out or screaming at caregivers, or attempting to climb out of bed or leave the room. Keeping the patient safe and protecting from injury is the top priority. Utilizing medications prescribed by the patient's physician specifically to treat terminal delirium also assists in alleviating these distressing symptoms. Non-medical interventions include keeping the room safely, but not brightly, lit (bright light can increase restlessness) and maintaining a quiet room by avoiding loud noises and multiple visitors.

continued in next issue of Lifespan News



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Pictures/video may be taken at this event and maybe be used on the web, publications and/or other media.

If you would rather your image not be included, please contact Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Main Office.

Our Auction is Getting Closer!

Every year at the Annual Celebration of Life Dinner in May, we have a wonderful variety of items for the Silent Auction and Tin Can Drawing. We need your help to make sure this happens! We are looking for items that will bring in large auction bids, such as:

- ◆ Accommodations at tourist destinations (Traverse City, Orlando, Chicago, etc.)
- ◆ Golf packages
- ◆ Restaurant gift cards (Red Lobster, Max & Erma's, Andiamo's, etc.)
- ◆ Family-friendly places to visit (Great Wolf Lodge, Dave and Buster's, etc.)
- ◆ Sports event tickets (Tigers, Red Wings, Lions, Pistons, etc.)
- ◆ Movie packages (gift certificates with or without dinner)
- ◆ Specialty / department store gift cards



Monetary donations will be put to good use; donate any amount and an auction item will be created in your name. Please call the Eileen at 734-524-0162 for more information!

"Lights for Life" Tree Remembrances

The following is a continuing list of donations made in support of Lifespan's Lights for Life Tree which stood along I-275, at Grand River, December 6 through the first week of January. Look for this project to continue each year during the Christmas season. Many thanks to all.

IN MEMORY OF: ★ David L. Gutman, given by Len and Harriet Gutman ★ John and Mary Birosh, given by Mr. and Mrs. Byrl Smith ★ Florence DuVal, Milden Wallace, given by Lois Sheeran ★ Patrick Cogan, given by Patty Cogan ★ Lona Ingraham, Albert Ingraham, Anne Seng, Frank Seng, given by Bill and Linda Seng ★ George Yezwick, given by Virginia Yezwick ★ Ida Glaza, given by Elizabeth Glaza ★ Ann Murtagh, Julia Barylski, given by Margaret Barylski ★ Margaret Gibbons, Therese Tomilo, Matthew Tomilo, given by Mary Tomilo ★ Sylvia Fary, Frank Fary, Margaret Stricker, Joseph Stricker, Matthew Fary, given by Frank and Joanne Fary ★ Vicenda, Louis, given by Lillian Colosimo ★ Dolores Ann Neam, L. Craig Folk, Anthony J. Neam, Sr., Peter J. Neam, Anna N. Neam, given by Judy Folk ★ Jill Milosch, Jeff Milosch, given by Geraldine Milosch ★ David Scott, given by John and Mary Martin ★ Robert Menninger, Jean Coffey, given by Mary Ellen Menninger ★ Rosalind Ann Nichols, given by Charles Oldani ★ Fr. Leo Lulko, Deacon Art Van Brook, given by Colleen Woodcox ★ Stan and Bette Burbank, Chester and Theresa Cousino, given by Jerry and Sally Cousino ★ Antoinette Boccomino, Rosina Boccomino, given by Ann Marie Pagano ★ Jacob Brink, Jamie Wagner, given by Nancy Oaks ★ Anthony Troskey, given by Jerry and Marlene Troskey ★ Dr. John Joyce, given by Joseph Maclean.

IN HONOR OF: ★ Sullivan Family, given by Dr. and Mrs. Paul Sullivan ★ Jenna, Luke, Pierce, Dominic and Damian (our grandchildren), given by Rick and Sharon Neal ★ Agnes Decker, given by Elizabeth Glaza ★ Gerald and Donna Decker, given by Paul and Susan Kowalski ★ Friend of Life, Thomas Ensch ★ Friend of Life, Della Cullins ★ Marvin Kliman, Peter and Augusta Brengman, given by Michael Kliman ★ Patricia L. Kelly, Mary Cassar, given by Colleen Woodcox ★ Friends of Life, Thomas and Irene Tharp ★ Emory Jensen (5 months), Phoebe Keach (1.5 years), given by Marilyn Kohls ★ Tom McSweeney, Julie King, given by Nancy Oaks ★ Friend of Life, Anne Stouffer ★ Friend of Life, James Clement ★ Friend of Life, Sharon Cisco ★ Friend of Life, Howard Ring ★ Sonny Krochmal, Stanley Krochmal, Nellie Krochmal, Mildred Andreoff, given by Nancy Andreoff ★ Friends of Life, Dr. and Mrs. James Laidlaw ★ Henrik Eugene Sekelsky, given by Wielki and Gig Kellly ★ Friends of Life, James and Phyllis Mulholland ★ Friend of Life, Marilyn Hewitt ★ Friend of Life, Conrad A. Calvano, Sr. ★ Friend of Life, Yvonne Speer ★ Friend of Life, P. A. A. Najor ★ Friend of Life, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jablonski ★ Friend of Life, Dan and Nancy Vecchioni ★ Friend of Life, Daneen Roberts ★ Friend of Life, Sylvia Gee.

Used Book Sale!

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Our Book Sale will be held at St. Mary Church in Royal Oak, **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 10-12th, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, July 13th, 10-3p.m.** For more information, call Mary 313-885-8238.

From the President's Desk

Dear Pro-life Friends,

As I mentioned in a previous *Lifespan News* issue, we will be addressing hospice care and educating our members on different aspects of hospice care and its providers. We will also try to address some of your concerns. As a registered nurse, I have been with patients and their loved ones when the end comes. Although we know that someone we love is dying, it is not always easy to accept or understand the process of dying and what happens as the end approaches. What we are sure of is that we are losing someone we love, we will miss them, and we really do not want them to leave us.

There is a need for all of us to understand the dying process when we see a loved one at this stage. You will find an article on hospice beginning on page 11. It is the best article I have read on this serious subject.

"Embracing the Journey," by Cristen Krebs, addresses the process of dying with clarity and a full understanding of what happens to the human body at the time of death. This article will help families understand the death of the human body. You will be able to question doctors, hospital personnel and hospice caregivers as to what is happening in the care of your loved ones. You will have more knowledge when confronted with difficult decisions, sometimes required, at the end of a person's life. You may not need this article today, but keep it and refer to it when the time comes. Due to its length, the second half of the article will appear in the next issue of *Lifespan News*. If you have any questions regarding hospice, please write to me at the office or email me, and I will try to answer your concerns in the next issue.

On a lighter note, I would like to thank all those who participated in our *Movement in Motion* Bus Trip to Washington, D.C. As always, Lynn Gura did an outstanding job coordinating this project, and with the help of her husband, Jeff, got everyone off, even as the snow was falling. Thank you, chaperones and participants alike for your dedication and support of LIFESPAN and standing up for LIFE.



Diane Fagelman, President

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
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Other

Name _____ Phone _____
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Please complete this form and return with your donation to: Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305. For more information, call 734-524-0162. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

Donations have been made—

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Diane and Jerry Fagelman

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Donations may be made in memory of 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.



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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.

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DATED MATERIAL

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How should you speak to your children about abortion?

By Fr. Frank Pavone

At the start of the sermon, I asked for a volunteer from among the youngest, smallest members of the congregation. Sharon, who was about six, came forward. I had her stand next to me facing the people and asked her, "Sharon, are there people out there who are bigger than you?" "Yes!" she exclaimed. "Are there people out there who are older than you?" "Yes!" she exclaimed. "Are there people out there who are stronger than you?" "Yes!" she exclaimed. "Are there people out there who are more important than you?" "No!" she declared, with even more conviction in her voice. All the other children understood the same thing.

And thus they understood the key problem in the abortion tragedy. Abortion builds on the lie that the smallest and weakest among us have less value and can even be discarded.

Teaching children about abortion is not as difficult as many think. Children are particularly receptive to the message of equality of all people, and to the truth that might does not make right. They have a keen sense of justice and fairness. They know what it means to need protection from dangers they can neither withstand nor understand. They know what a baby is, and they know it is wrong to kill a baby.

Furthermore, they have not been around long enough to practice the mental gymnastics and exercises in denial that are necessary for developing and maintaining a pro-choice position.

It is not necessary to teach children the details of reproduction before they learn that abortion is a bad thing. The basis for teaching about abortion is not the reproductive system, but the dignity and worth of every human person, whether that person is big or small, young or old, healthy or sick, wanted or unwanted, convenient or inconvenient.

The basis for teaching young people about abortion is the same basis on which we teach that the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" applies to any other category of people.

Some may be afraid to use the word "abortion" with children, reasoning that as someone once told me, "they don't understand all the aspects of it." Let's face it—nobody does. We do not aim to teach them "all the aspects." The key point with children is that when they hear the word



"abortion," they know it is something bad, something that kills, something to be avoided. Education is not just concepts. We influence children not only in how they think about abortion, but in how they feel about it. They should be trained to reject it, and to see it as a part of the list of injustices and evils in the world rather than part of the list of rights, freedoms and choices. Even before adolescence, the immoral nature of *abortion*, surgical or chemical, can be gradually explained in terms of Biblical morality and the sanctity of human life.

Some express a concern that children will be traumatized if we tell them that abortion kills babies. I once sat in on a staff meeting at which a proposal was made to set up a sign on church property that said, "Abortion Kills Children." The staff voted down the proposal on the basis that it would give nightmares to the school children who would see it. A few days later I was in that same school, and in the corridor of the first and second grade students I saw posters on the wall, made by the students themselves. The posters had skeletons coming up from the grave, people falling off an abyss, and various other nightmare scenes, with the message: "DRUGS KILL." "SAYING YES TO DRUGS IS LIKE SAYING YES TO MR. DEATH."

Isn't it curious how selective we can sometimes be about which messages we think will frighten our children...

The pro-life message will not harm our children. What will harm them, however, is the "pro-choice" mentality,

continued on page 2