

Lifespan *news*

Volume 37 Number 6

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

August 2008



Right to Life - LIFESPAN

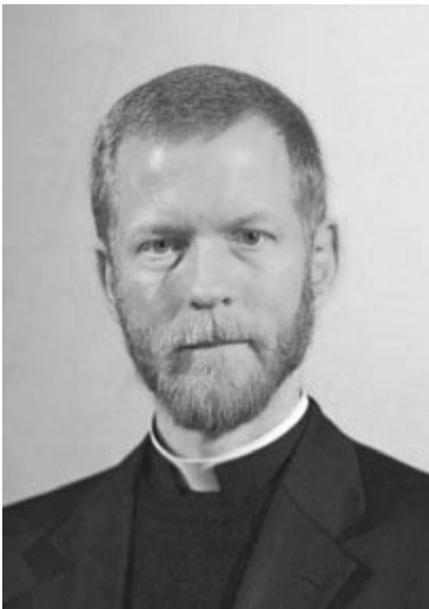
Legislative Breakfast

Saturday, September 20, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Registration: 8:15 a.m.

Burton Manor

27777 Schoolcraft • Livonia, Michigan
(south side of I-96 service drive, between Inkster and Middlebelt)

Stem Cells and Cloning: Understanding the Scientific Issues and the Moral Objections



Rev. Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk holds degrees in Philosophy, Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology and Chemistry, in addition to a PhD in Neuroscience from Yale University. He is currently Director of Education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Father Tad's presentation examines the basic biology of stem cells, considering the distinction between adult and embryonic stem cells as well as the ethical and moral questions regarding the use of embryonic stem cells v. alternative sources of stem cells. He is an expert on embryonic stem cell research, and his remarks will be particularly helpful as we prepare to vote on the issue here in Michigan in November.

*It is critical to be involved in the pro-life movement
and be an advocate for change.*

*For more details, call 248-478-8878 or 734-422-6230;
see page 8 for registration information.*

News Notes

Promoting death: analyzing the language of euthanasia, suicide advocates

Even the most despicable ideas can be made palatable when euphemisms are used to spin them. That's why abortion advocates call themselves "pro-choice" rather than "pro-abortion." It's also why they talk about "terminating a pregnancy" rather than "killing a baby." Controlling the language not only controls the argument, it often determines the outcome of the argument.

Proponents of euthanasia understand the power of language in shaping debate. Therefore, instead of using the term "physician-assisted suicide" to describe the practice they advocate, they use euphemisms like "death with dignity" and "end of life choices" to sugarcoat the reality of the killings they have in view. They know the term "physician-assisted suicide" does not poll well, so they try to disguise the real nature of what it is they are championing.

Since people are inherently uncomfortable with the notion that those trained in the healing arts would aid and abet the killing of their patients, euphemisms are used to conceal the true nature of what's involved. Everyone wants to die with dignity. Thus, like abortion, killing oneself with a doctor's assistance becomes just another "choice." Many in the medical community share complicity in this deception, and, although doctors were once trained to "do no harm," they are now fostering it through the deceptive use of rhetoric.

—Ken Connor, *LifeNews.com*, May 27, 2008

Michigan abortions down over three percent, to lowest level since 1979

New statistics, released from the Michigan Department of Community Health, show the number of abortions dropped in 2007. The number of abortions in Michigan is now at its lowest level since 1979, when the state health department first began tracking figures. The report shows 24,683 abortions were done in Michigan during 2007 compared to 25,636 Michigan abortions in 2006, a drop of 3.7 percent or 953 abortions. Since 1987, there has been a 49.7 percent decrease in the number of abortions performed in Michigan annually.

—*LifeNews.com*, May 23, 2008

Oregon will pay to kill, but not treat

Barbara Wagner is suffering from lung cancer in the state of Oregon. Her oncologist prescribed a medication to slow down the growth of it, but she was turned down by her insurance. "Treatment of advanced cancer that is meant to prolong life, or change the course of this disease, is not a covered benefit of the Oregon Health Plan," read her notification letter. She was informed that the plan would cover doctor-assisted suicide if she wished to go that route.

Wagner was shocked, "To say to someone, we'll pay for you to die, but not pay for you to live, it's cruel."

Dr. Walter Shaffer, medical director of the state Division of Medical Assistance Programs, which administers the Oregon Health Plan, attempted to defend the plan's decision, "We can't cover everything for everyone," he said. "We try to come up with policies that provide the most good for the most people."

Oregon healthcare practitioners have been observing a sizeable shift in policy in the way recurrent cancer is treated in the state, increasingly, say local oncologists, sufferers of recurrent cancer are not receiving coverage for chemotherapy.

Bioethicist Wesley J. Smith said he wasn't surprised. "We have been warning for years that this was a possibility in Oregon. Medicaid is rationed, but assisted suicide is always covered."

The drug manufacturer, however, came to Wagner's rescue and said they would give her the medication for free.

—*Life Sciences*, a publication of *California Nurses for Ethical Standards*, Summer 2008

Human cloning firm, Advanced Cell Technology, may be going out of business

Advanced Cell Technology has been a thorn in the side of the pro-life movement for years with its efforts to engage in human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. But now, the biotech firm appears close to going out of business, and it appears advances in ethical alternatives may be the reason why.

A *Boston Globe* report indicates the firm filed a report with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The paper says ACT doesn't have enough cash to continue operating after July 31 without raising significant amounts of money or cutting most of its operations. It reported \$17 million in liabilities and only \$1 million in cash on hand and assets. That means it may be forced to file for bankruptcy protection.

Noted bioethics attorney and author Wesley J. Smith says he thinks the advances in alternatives to embryonic stem cell research are hurting companies that engage in morally dubious and ineffective research like human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. "I think what killed ACT was the iPSCs. Once normal skin cells could be turned into pluripotent stem cells, the air began to leak out of the cloning balloon," he said. "ACT's 'breakthrough of the month' routine (I exaggerate only a little) couldn't match the reality that was happening in labs with iPSCs from Japan to America."

—*LifeNews.com*, July 26, 2008

Pearls of Wisdom

A Miracle from Within

by J. C. Willke, M.D.

A story that I first heard 25 years ago is worth re-telling. It was from Dr. J. A. MacDougall of St. John's, New Brunswick. It happened right after World War II before we had any effective treatment for tuberculosis. Back in those days, when a person got active TB, we put them in a tuberculosis hospital and isolated them from the rest of the community, for they were contagious.

This story is about a 23-year-old woman. She was seriously ill with TB. Her husband had brought a mild case back home with him from the war and she had caught it. She had literally no resistance and now was rapidly losing ground as the infection took its toll. The lower lobe of her right lung had an enlarging tuberculosis cavity in it. She was weak and losing weight. The doctors had tried everything they knew and they had finally admitted that they were licked.

It was December. The doctor went in to tell her that medically there was no hope. The decision lay with God. She asked just one thing: "If I'm still alive on Christmas Eve, I'd like your promise that I can go home for Christmas." She had weighed 125 pounds, but was down to 87, and her fever ranged from 101 to 103. She looked terribly ill but always smiled.

The doctors had tried a new method of injecting air into her abdominal cavity in an attempt to push her diaphragm up so as to collapse that part of the lung. It was known then that if you could collapse the lung so that the cavity was compressed and closed, that sometimes nature would then take hold and the lung would begin to heal. The attempt to inject air, a so-called pneumoperitoneum, nearly killed her and they gave up for a bad try. With this, her last hope was gone, and they had told her that she was going to die.

But Christmas came, and a promise had been made, so, with great misgivings, they let her go home, instructing her to shield her mouth and her breathing from her loved ones. She came back to the hospital late Christmas Day. Every day thereafter her condition grew just a little bit worse and yet she didn't die. To the doctors' continuing amazement, she hung on. At the end of February, she was less than 80 pounds.

And then a new complication — she became nauseated, even without food in her stomach. And what did they

discover? It was ridiculous, but she had become pregnant when home on Christmas Day. But she was so ill, so weak, she couldn't possibly have conceived — her body wouldn't have been up to it. But she was pregnant. The test was positive. There she was on the very outer frontier of life herself, and she now held within her body another life!

Legally, medically, an abortion could have been done back then, for it certainly imperiled her life, but she and her husband were against it; the doctors were against it. And, in this case, the abortion might well have killed her. Besides, the doctors thought her body would reject the baby.

But one week passed, and then another. Never once did the doctors doubt that she was dying. But, for some totally unexplained reason, she kept living and she stayed pregnant. March became April, became May, and became June. And then a totally unexpected and incredible thing happened. Her temperature began to go down. For the first time they noted some slight improvement in her condition, and then a little more, and a little more.

She began to eat. She gained a little weight, and then chest x-rays showed that the enlargement of the cavity in her lung had stopped. More than that, another x-ray showed why. Her diaphragm was being pushed up against the lungs, collapsing the lower lobe. And who was doing the pushing? The baby in her womb!

Nature was doing exactly what the doctors had been unable to do. It was pressing the sides of the deadly hole together — the baby was saving his mother. The baby did save her, and at birth the baby was normal and healthy. By then the tuberculosis cavity had closed and the mother was markedly better. A few months later she was sent home.

Dr. MacDougall, who told this story and cared for her, said, and let me quote him: "That child didn't destroy his mother — he saved her. Call it the will of God, call it human love, call it the mystical quality of motherhood, the turning in upon her to fight still more because she still had more to fight for; call it what you will — it happened. I still wonder at what she did and at the unfathomable force it signifies."

—*Life Issues Connector*, July 2008

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Is it just me or does everyone reading this also feel the crumbling of the foundation of this great land called United States of America?

No building, large or small, can withstand the erosion of its foundation. When a foundation crumbles, the building will fall.

Our country's foundation is breaking apart and softening. Its walls are softening because we are losing our purpose and soul. Our narcissistic society has produced individuals who think only of what is good for themselves and not of what is good for society; they equate individual rights as "anything goes."

So why do we as citizens of this great country think we can maintain this great society while practicing destructive behaviors? I am thinking of destructive behaviors such as pornography, same sex marriage, drugs, alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, etc.

The greatest erosion factor, however, is abortion. Why? Abortion, though argued as a "personal rights" issue, attacks the very fiber of who we are as a society. With one decision by the Supreme Court, the smallest, most vulnerable members of this great nation were targeted for destruction as "unwanted." The Supreme Court took us down the path of selective killing for convenience.

Since 1973, this thinking has permeated the fabric and foundation of our society. No longer is the human person respected and revered as important just because he or she exists. They are looked upon in some very influential circles as leeches and destroyers of the planet. And because of this, the respect of the human body and the person within can be dismissed as unimportant just as the Supreme Court implied in *Roe v. Wade*.

When a mother can destroy the baby in her womb—a little person with his or her own DNA (not of her body)—well then, what is to keep the scientist from rationalizing that killing embryos for someone else's gain is acceptable? Or a young, scared girl from throwing her newborn in a plastic bag in the dumpster?—after all an abortionist could have destroyed this child before delivery with no ramifications of murder.

These are just some of the examples of our crumbling foundation. Since the 60s, I believe we have become less and less civilized—killing the weakest of our human family is proof!!

Let's take back this country, and build up the foundation. Let's continue to educate the young so in the future we can build strong, God-loving families and bring back a respect for the human person that is so needed in this great country. Please remember this when entering the voting booth! Let the repairing of our foundation begin!!



Diane Fagelman, President

Message from...

Michigan Nurses For Life

Everyone wants to see treatments and cures for severe and/or debilitating conditions and diseases, and no one more than the members of Michigan Nurses for Life. But doing so is less about "coming out of the stone age" and more about ethical research methods.

When the prohibition against using human embryos as research material was instituted by both the federal government and our state of Michigan, it was understood that such a prohibition was, and remains, appropriate since no benefit came to the human subject of such research and, in fact, destroyed the life of that embryo. Nothing has changed.

Those who would seek to use the living, human embryo as research material reject the fact that this human life has value beyond its use as raw material for research. The notion that a moral dilemma has been created by "left over" human embryos in infertility clinics does not demand their destruction, but rather begs the question as to why or how the protocols for infertility treatment result in more human embryos than can be used.

The positive results coming from research on adult stem cells have proven effective over and over again. Adult stem cells are any stem cells that do not come from the human embryo and are found throughout the body, including cord blood and placental tissue. Treatments for such things as heart disease, leukemia, anemia, disease of the eye, some paralysis conditions and on and on have been devised using adult stem cells and are being used every day. Some of our returning military members, whose limbs have been broken or shattered in conflict, are being successfully treated with adult stem cells.

Embryonic stem cell research is taking place all over the world, including our own country, and yes, in our own state. It is privately funded. So far, positive results have been sadly lacking. ***The facts are clear—using adult stem cells has proven effective, using embryonic stem cells has not.*** Removing prohibitions against this research will not make it any better, but will change the Michigan constitution, ***making it possible for such research to be funded by public funds.*** The issue of destroying human embryos for research is less about finding cures for disease and more about who will pay for it.

—Diane Trombley, President
Michigan Nurses for Life

Lifespan's Candidate Survey

Please ask your pastor for permission to have our Candidate Survey issue available for your church's membership. It is legal for churches to do this. Our September/October *Lifespan News* will contain the survey of candidates for the General Election on November 4.

The Educational Center for Life has a few copies left of the *Catholic Voter's Guide*, or, you may contact catholicsanswersaction.com or 1-800-890-0461.



Co-Sponsored By:

Assumption Grotto
Catholic Church, Detroit

Belleville Church of God

Christ Church of Redford

Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church, Livonia

Church of the Holy Spirit
(Catholic), Highland

Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church
Bloomfield Hills

Full Gospel Temple
Westland

Grace Chapel
Farmington Hills

Holy Name Society
Warren

Knights of Columbus #3160
DeLaSalle Council
Eastpointe

Madonna University, Livonia

National Shrine of the Little
Flower (Catholic), Royal Oak

North Pointe Baptist Church
Warren

Our Lady of Loretto
Catholic Church, Redford

Peace Lutheran Church
Waterford

Romulus Wesleyan Church

19th Annual

LIFE CHAIN

National Life Chain Sunday

October 5, 2008 • 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

LIFE CHAIN will be held along several routes, including the following (more are added almost daily; call for updates):

- ☆ Main St. and Five Points, downtown **Belleville**
- ☆ Woodward Ave., from 11-12 Mile Rds., **Berkley/Royal Oak**
- ☆ Telegraph Rd., at Ford Rd., north to Hass St., **Dearborn Heights**
- ☆ Gratiot Ave., at Six Mile Rd., **Detroit**
- ☆ Halsted Rd., just north of 12 Mile Rd., **Farmington Hills**
- ☆ 9 Mile Rd. and Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**
- ☆ 14 Mile Rd., west of Utica Rd., **Fraser**
- ☆ M-59 at Milford Rd., **Highland**
- ☆ Farmington Rd., btwn. Lyndon and I-96, **Livonia (12 - 1 p.m.)**
- ☆ Middlebelt, Jamison (2 blks. s. of 5 Mile Rd.) to 6 Mile Rd., **Livonia**
- ☆ Gratiot Ave., from 15 to 16 Mile Rds., **Mt. Clemens**
- ☆ Pontiac Trail and Maple Rd., **Walled Lake**
- ☆ Ryan and 11 Mile Rds., **Warren**
- ☆ Intersection at Wayne and Warren Rds., **Westland**

St. Anselm Catholic Church
Dearborn Heights

St. Colette Catholic Church
Livonia

St. Genevieve Catholic Church
Livonia

St. James Catholic Church
Ferndale

St. John Bosco Catholic Church
Redford

St. John Lutheran Church
Fraser

St. Kenneth Catholic Church
Plymouth

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Walled Lake

St. Maurice Catholic Church
Livonia

St. Priscilla Catholic Church
Livonia

St. Regis Catholic Church
Bloomfield Hills

St. Sabina Catholic Church
Dearborn Heights

St. Veronica Catholic Church
Eastpointe

St. William Catholic Church
Walled Lake

Trinity Lutheran Church, Warren

Ward Evangelical
Presbyterian Church
Northville



Thousands of participants will stand on the sidewalks in witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs deliver the messages that *Abortion Kills Children*, *Adoption is the Loving Option*, *Abortion Hurts Women*, *Pray to End Abortion* and *Life—The First Inalienable Right*. This peaceful, prayerful event will provide a visual statement of unity by our church community. Our 19th annual LIFE CHAIN is scheduled in conjunction with National Life Chain Sunday. Will YOU join us this year on October 5? More co-sponsoring churches and groups are joining every day; call for updated information, 248-478-8878.

Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund





detroit

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 Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)
 Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed
 Mary Cascos, Office Manager

Democracy is not a spectator sport

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing (Edmund Burke).

Surveys show that very few young people vote, and many do not know who their senators and representatives are, how they are elected or what their duties are. Democracy is not a spectator sport...if we do not participate in the process, we will get a government shaped by others who do not share our values and morality. If our democracy appears sullied or tainted, we need only look at our own actions or inactions as citizens because, in the end, it is we, as individuals, who are collectively the United States of America (Ernest Ohlhoff).

Please make sure that your children and grandchildren are registered voters and that they take an active part in the upcoming elections. Continue to pray for our government officials, learn from history, study the issues of the day and exercise your most precious freedom...VOTE!

wee care

A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN
 Educational Fund
 29200 Vassar St., Ste. 545
 Livonia, MI 48152-2193
 Phone 248-478-8884 • Fax 248-478-8854
 Karen Patrosso, Director



"Summertime and the Living is Easy"—or at least that's what the song says—

Easy unless you are all alone in the world with no one but your precious newborn.

Easy unless your family has abandoned you—emotionally, physically and financially.

Easy unless the baby's father has decided that he doesn't love you or his child and is nowhere to be found.

And easy unless you are trying to do it all—go to work, provide for your baby and give her all the love she deserves.

Embryonic stem cell proposal on ballot

The embryonic stem cell debate will be on the November ballot. Please inform your family and friends that if this proposal wins, we will be spending OUR tax dollars to destroy untold thousands of lives in embryonic stem cell research. To this day, not one cure has been assigned to all the destruction of embryos that is privately being funded, whereas thousands of lives have been saved through non-destructive, adult and umbilical cord stem cell research. Consider the effects of this proposal and vote wisely. Tax money should not be allowed to fund this deadly research.

Summer garage sales

Summer is a time to visit garage sales. If you happen to notice some gently used baby items, why not buy them and donate them to your local pregnancy center and possibly let the seller know that if she has any unsold items at the end of her sale she may want to donate them herself. Having the local crisis pregnancy centers' phone numbers would also be great so you can hand them out as you go.

Many people are not aware of the pregnancy centers in their area and that they are always looking for donations especially during the summer months.

You may also be able to barter a little and let the seller know that you would be willing to buy whatever she has left over for a reduced price. Be bold and be willing to stand up for those precious babies who cannot stand up for themselves. The phone numbers of pregnancy centers on the east side of Detroit are: Pregnancy Aid, 313-882-1000 and Imago Dei, 313-372 8803.

That describes a very sweet, young lady who came to our office asking for just diapers, but when we heard her story, we filled her arms with so much more—clothes, bedding, toiletries, wipes and, of course, diapers. She stood there with tears rolling down her cheeks and asked if she could give us a hug.

Tragically, this story is repeated over and over at Wee Care, but, because of your generosity and love for our babies, we are able to help these moms and their precious little ones. God bless you!

—Karen Patrosso, Director, Wee Care

PS: Congratulations are in order for a very special member of our Wee Care family—CHRISTOPHER POLASKY has recently graduated from Stevenson High School!

Chris, the son of Debbie and Mike Polasky, is responsible for office maintenance—not an easy task when our offices are on the 5th floor! A wonderful young man, who is loved by everyone—Congratulations, Chris, and good luck at Schoolcraft!!

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

oakland/macomb

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Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 8-4; W 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Lynn Gura, Tanya Wrenn Ofc. Staff

Fair fun

We have a very few slots open at our Lifespan booths at the State Fair and Troy Daze. If you have never staffed one of our tables, this would be a perfect time to try it. You will be surprised at how supportive people are and how quickly the time passes.

Please consider this opportunity, and give the office a call to sign up.

Entertainment opportunities

The books are here and ready for pick up. If you pre-ordered your 2009 book, you should be receiving an email or a postcard letting you know.

If you did not pre-order and would like a book or two (they make great Christmas gifts), just give us a call and we will set one aside for you.

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.

Annual Legislative Breakfast

Lifespan's Legislative Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 20 (see front page for details.) We have a wonderful program designed to empower each of us to talk intelligently about the differences between embryonic and adult stem cell research. Those attending this breakfast will know HOW TO VOTE on Tuesday, November 4, on the ballot proposal regarding embryonic stem cells. (See *Ballot business* above.)

State Fair

Volunteers are needed to work at our pro-life educational booth at the Michigan State Fair. The WW/DR shift is Thursday, August 28 through Labor Day, Monday, September 1. If you have not done this before, you will be paired with an experienced worker. Our presence is important because many people only know what they see or hear from the media regarding abortion and euthanasia. Many churches do not address these issues either. At the Fair, we have the opportunity to share the realities of

Membership reminders

As you all know, we are making a concerted effort to maintain and increase our membership in Lifespan. These are hard times for everyone and your membership renewal is critical to our efforts.

Please look at the mailing label on this newsletter. Next to your name, you will see a date. That date represents the last time you renewed your membership in Lifespan and is good for one year.

For example, if the date says 8/22/07, it means that your renewal is due on 8/22/08. If it says 4/3/06, you were due to renew on 4/03/07.

Without you, we can do nothing. With you, we can continue until all life is valued and protected.

Ballot business

Please be sure to read any ballot proposal very carefully before you vote. A proposal to change our Michigan state constitution to allow the use of embryonic stem cells for research purposes will be on the November ballot.

If you find the use of very early human life as research material not in keeping with your pro-life philosophy, you will not want to support this measure.

We have lots of information about the ballot question in particular and embryonic stem cell research in general at the office. Give us a call.

these Life issues and suggest legislative action. Our fetal models are a big hit with the children who are sometimes learning their first biology lesson at our booth. Fairs are FUN and ENLIGHTENING—you won't be disappointed! Call 734-422-6230.

Life Chain

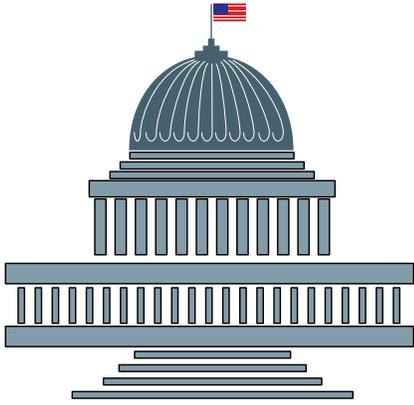
We are now contacting the churches who have participated in the National Life Chain previously and those who have shown an interest in joining us this year. REMINDER: If your church is on a busy street, it's possible for a Life Chain to be formed right in front of your church. Forming a Life Chain in your immediate area may attract more church members. To be even more effective, you can invite other churches around you to join. Life Chain is such a simple, but effective, way to educate the public and to save lives. LIFESPAN will supply the signs. Call 248-478-8878.

Fairs and festivals

If your church, school, group or club is having a meeting, fair or festival, why not invite LIFESPAN to have a booth. We could bring the fetal models which are always the "best part" to the children and their families when they visit our educational booths. Help us to help others know the "facts" and dispel the "fiction" about the Life issues which the media reports.

Entertainment Books

Purchase a 2009 Entertainment Book for \$20, and receive a 2008 book FREE. Call 734-422-6230.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Contact Information

President

President George W. Bush
The White House
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Opinion Line 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5
Fax Number: 202-456-2461
e-mail: comment@whitehouse.gov
Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3121
www.senate.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202-224-3121
www.house.gov/
Dear Congressman/Congresswoman (last name):

Governor

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
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Opinion Line: 517-335-7858
e-mail: migov@aol.com
Dear Governor Granholm:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
www.senate.mi.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
www.house.mi.gov/
Dear Representative (last name):

The Journey Must Continue

Dr. J.C. Willke, M.D., of Life Issues Institute, Inc., wrote "The Journey Must Continue," in Life Issues Connector, April 2008. He gave a concise summary and analysis of all the U.S. Supreme Court Decisions on abortion in the past 35 years. This information is important for all of us defending the pro-life cause. (The publication allows that "Articles may be reproduced with acknowledgement of their source." We thank them for this permission.)

1973 Roe v. Wade, Doe v. Bolton

These two cases "legalized abortion through the entire nine months of pregnancy in all fifty states for any reason at all. In *Roe v. Wade*, during the first three months, the abortion was a decision between a woman and her doctor. During the second trimester, the decision could be made only to protect the woman's health. It was in the third trimester that would allow the protection of fetal life but the companion decision, *Doe v. Bolton*, "struck down literally all restrictions on abortion. It effectively legalized abortion on demand for nine months."

1976 *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth* ruled 1) that the husband had no "veto power" over the abortion decision, 2) that parents of an unmarried pregnant girl had no say in their daughter's decision to have an abortion, 3) that "laws to prohibit salt poisoning (late-term type of abortion) were unconstitutional.

1979 *Colautti v. Franklin*—said the state may protect the fetus that has reached viability (ability to survive outside the womb) but left the determination up to the abortionist doing the abortion. This ruled out any protection for late-term unborn babies.

1980 *Harris v. McRae*—benefitted the pro-life side, declaring that the government, federal or state, has no legal obligation to pay for "medically necessary" abortions, except those necessary to save the life of the mother. This meant that the Hyde Amendment preventing federal funds from being used for abortion was now constitutional.

1981 *H.L. v. Matheson*—favored the pro-life side, ruling that it was constitutional for a state to require that parents of a minor daughter be notified of her decision to abort. However, they had "no right to protect the life of the child over their daughter's abortion decision," even if their daughter's decision might be dangerous to her life and health. (This is a violation of parental rights and responsibility required for all other medical decisions.)

1983 *City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*—ruled 1) informed consent for the pregnant woman was not required, 2) that mandatory hospitalization for second trimester abortions was unconstitutional, and 3) requiring the "humane disposal of fetal remains" was unconstitutional. (This decision was the only

continued on page 10

Yes! I will attend Lifespan's Breakfast, Saturday, Sept. 20!

Send me ___ tickets @ \$20.00 each
___ tickets @ \$10.00 each (students 21 or younger); \$___ total enclosed

Name (s) _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Area Code/Phone _____

Please send a complete list of names and addresses for all people for whom you are ordering tickets. Make checks payable, and mail to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152.** Reservations are required by **Friday, September 12.**



Deadline: Monday, December 1, 2008 (**NOTE—NEW DEADLINE!**)

The theme of the Student Video Contest is open to any pro-life issue. Each video submitted should be between 5-10 minutes long and may be submitted on either DVD or VHS tape.

Prizes:

- 1st place \$500 savings bond
- 2nd place: \$200 savings bond
- 3rd place: \$100 savings bond

The top three prizes will be featured on **YouTube**. The first-prize entry is also eligible for reproduction on the LIFESPAN **MySpace** page.

Rules: Any student in grades 9-12, in public, private or home-school, who resides in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County and/or

is a member of Right to Life - LIFESPAN, regardless of residency, is eligible for the contest, except for students in the immediate family of a board member of Lifespan. Entrants are required to submit a written explanation of their video in no more than 50 words, answering the following questions:

What pro-life message are you expressing?

How did you impart this message through your video?

Why is this message important to you?

Each entry must include, on a separate sheet of paper, NEATLY PRINTED, the title of the video, the student's name, address, phone number, age and grade, name of school, names of any participants in the video, and the names of his/her parents or guardian.

All entries **MUST BE RECEIVED** by Monday, December 1 and mailed or delivered to: **Student Pro-Life Video Contest 2008, Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Ste. 545, Livonia, MI 48152.** For additional rules or more information, call **Chris at 734-306-6028** or **Lynn at 248-816-1546.**

Student Essay Contest



ELIGIBILITY:

Any student in grades 9-12, in public, private or home school, who resides in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County, OR who is a member of Right to Life - LIFESPAN, regardless of residency, is eligible for the contest except for students in the immediate family of a board member of Right to Life - LIFESPAN.

RULES:

1. The topic of the pro-life essay entry must feature one or more aspects of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, human embryonic stem cell research or human cloning. The essay must be titled.
2. The essay shall be a minimum of 500 words, a maximum of 1000 words. No poems will be accepted.
3. The essay should be typed, but may be legibly handwritten.
4. Each entry must be the student's original work. One entry per student.
5. On the BACK only of the last page of the essay, the student must PRINT neatly his/her name, address, phone number, age and grade, name of school, plus the names of his/her parents or guardian.
6. Each entry becomes the property of Right to Life - LIFESPAN, and each student who enters the contest assigns copyright for the entry to Right to Life - LIFESPAN.
7. The essay shall be judged on content and style.
8. All entries shall be considered by impartial judges selected with experience in the content. Judges reserve the right to award no prize winner if no entry is deemed meritorious of the prize.
9. Decisions of the judges shall be final.
10. All entries must be received by **November 3, 2008**, and mailed or delivered to: **Student Essay Contest 2008, Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152.**

PRIZES:

First: \$500 Savings Bond Second: \$200 Savings Bond Third: \$100 Savings Bond

Prizes will be awarded at the Rally for Life, January, 2009. The first-prize winner shall also be invited to read the winning essay at the Rally, and the winning entry shall be printed in *Lifespan News*. Call Lifespan's Main Office **248-478-8878**.

The Journey Must Continue

continued from page 8

exception to the requirement of informed consent for all other surgery).

1986 Thornburg v. American College of Ob and Gyn—ruled that laws requiring informed consent for abortion were unconstitutional.

1989 Webster v. Reproductive Health Services—ruled in a slightly more pro-life direction when it 1) broadened restrictions on taxes to pay for abortions, 2) ruled that “an abortionist must use tests to determine viability rather than merely using his own clinical judgment.”

1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey—ruled 1) informed consent was no longer unconstitutional, 2) parental notification of a minor’s abortion was no longer unconstitutional, 3) twenty-four hour waiting periods before having the abortion were now constitutional, 4) the trimester scheme was abandoned, 5) the court now spoke of an “undue burden” test, 6) spousal notification remained unconstitutional.

1995 The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban—the ban, passed in Ohio, was struck down.

1996 The Partial Birth Abortion Ban—passed by Congress and vetoed by president Clinton, was struck down. A second attempt was also vetoed a few years later.

2000 Stenberg v. Carhart—the court struck down partial-birth abortion bans in Nebraska and Wisconsin.

2007 Gonzales v. Carhart—the court finally upheld a federal ban on partial-birth abortion when it voted 5-4. The deciding vote was Justice Kennedy, who had been “on the pro-abortion side prior to this.”

In Dr. Willke’s *Analysis of the Supreme Court Decisions*, he compares these decisions to be “something of a roller coaster.” *Roe* and *Doe* began with the slide down until it “hit bottom” with the *Akron* decision which decided that even humane disposal of fetal remains was unconstitutional. Slowly it has moved back uphill with the *Casey* decision which allowed: 1) women’s right to know laws, 2) parental notification and consent, 3) protection for the newly born infant, 4) medical and hygienic inspection of abortion facilities, 5) requirements for ultrasound and others. With the result that as many as 2/3 of the states passed some or most of these protections. He concludes that there has been a “decrease in the total number of abortions in the U.S. from 1.6 million to 1.2 million annually, and this in the face of an enlarging population base.”

With the *Gonzales* Decision forbidding partial-birth abortion, he notes that it “marks a remarkable turn in our direction...in all previous decisions, the unborn baby had been referred to as “potential life”...This life is now openly acknowledged...Post abortion stress is discussed as a reality...The actual mechanism of the destruction of the child is detailed for the first time.”

If *Roe v. Wade* were to be reversed, the issue would be decided by the states. He predicts that 1) one third of the states would protect the unborn from conception or nearly so, 2) one third would sharply limit abortions and 3) one third would permit abortion on demand. He predicts that, “The people of this nation would slowly become accustomed to the fact that abortion can be, and in many areas is, prohibited, and will realize that the sky didn’t fall when abortion was forbidden. They will realize that we can welcome unborn babies back into our lives.

Editor’s Note: It is fairly clear that the future of the pro-life movement lies in the cases brought before the United States Supreme Court. The future of those cases lies in the hands of those justices sitting on the Court. The future of the make up of the Supreme Court lies in the hands of the next president. The future of the next president lies in your hands. Vote wisely.

Vicariate-Wide Respect Life Gathering

Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Flores will be speaking **September 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at St. Thomas More Parish, 4580 Adams Rd., Troy.** The goals of this meeting are to collaborate efforts on Life issues and become acquainted with each other. All parishes and schools of the Vicariate are invited to have a presence at this meeting. For more information, contact Elaine at **248-647-2222.**

Calendar of Events

August 16 Teen Game Show
August 22-September 1 Michigan State Fair
August 25 Deadline, Bowling for Life Pledges
September 16..... Respect Life Gathering, p. 10
September 20.....Legislative Breakfast, pp. 1, 8
October 5Life Chain, p. 5
October 6Registration deadline for General Election
October 18Cider Walk, p. 11
October 24 *Abortion Experience* Conference, back page
November 1 (by 2 p.m.).....Deadline for mailed absentee ballot requests for General Election
November 3.....Deadline for Student Essay Contest, p. 9
November 4.....General Election
December 1.....Deadline, Student Video Contest, p. 9

Educational Center for Life

We now have the DVD of the pro-life movie *Bella*. If you’d like to borrow this powerful and moving story, call the office at **248-816-8489.** *Bella* opened here in theaters last fall.

Also available is a new book: *Changed—Making Sense of Your Own or a Loved One’s Abortion Experience*; by Michaelene Fredenburg. “Many women, men, grandparents, siblings, other family members and friends are seeking to make sense of their own or a loved one’s abortion experience. Whether you have personally experienced abortion, someone close to you has, or you are seeking to sensitively and compassionately communicate with others about abortion—this book is a safe place to begin. You are not alone.”

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540
Phone 248-816-8489 • Fax 248-816-9066

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

CASH RAFFLE

\$1,000 GRAND PRIZE!!

Only 500 tickets will be sold

Drawing to be held November 17

Tickets are \$50 each and will be available soon

Call your local Lifespan office for more details

Donations have been made—

In celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of:

Mr. and Mrs. John Colucci

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hoelscher

Given by: Mr. and Mrs. George Borovsky

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Holscher

Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Doug Bradley

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Patrosso

In loving memory of:

Stanley Gross

Given by: The Hesch Family

Sally Camilletti

Given by: Val and Josie Colantoni

Gene Wilson

Given by: Robert and Santine Krueger

Dorothy Cencer

Given by: Winifred Glass

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.

CIDER WALKERS WANTED!

Volunteers to serve on the LIFESPAN Cider Walk Planning Committee.

Event to be held October 18, 2008 at Paint Creek Trail, Rochester Municipal Park.

Areas of help needed: Facility and arrangements, sponsorships, promotion, publicity, provisions, manpower, registration and project treasurer. The planning committee will be provided office assistance from our Lifespan staff.

Call and sign up at Lifespan's

Oakland/Macomb Chapter, 248-816-1546.

Crisis hotline numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office, pp. 6-7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number **800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigayle Ministries **586-326-0459**. 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**.

Lifespan News

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www.rtl-lifespan.org



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.

CHANGES BROUGHT BY THE ABORTION EXPERIENCE

*This conference will address the personal effects of abortion
and the skills needed to aid in healing men and women*

SAVE THE DATE !!

Friday, October 24, 2008

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital - Oakland
44405 Woodward Avenue, Pontiac, MI

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Vincent Rue, Director, Pregnancy Loss, Jacksonville, FL

Dr. Valerie Lukasik, Psychologist, Dearborn, MI

Michelle Yax, Director, Mother & Unborn Baby Care Pregnancy Center, Southfield, MI

Sponsored by

Educational Center for Life and Michigan Nurses for Life

More details in the September/October *Lifespan News*

For more information, call 248-816-8489

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