

Lifespan *news*

Volume 35 Number 8

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

Nov./Dec. 2006



Paula Anne Dillon Ervin
1915 - 2006

We lost our dear friend and co-worker in the cause of life on October 9, 2006. She passed peacefully out of our world into her heavenly home to join her husband, Bob, who left us in 2002. Paula leaves behind her six children and their spouses as well as 32 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

Paula was a founding member of People Taking Action Against Abortion, which later became Lifespan, and finally, Right to Life – LIFESPAN, Inc. She has held positions of Lifespan board member, Wayne West/Downriver Chapter board member, Lifespan policy writer, committee member and writer of church notes which were sent throughout Wayne County. Paula was active in the pro-life movement before the infamous *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision was handed down in 1973. After that decision made abortion legal, she rededicated herself and continued to work tirelessly to educate others to the reality of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

She was a prolific writer espousing the pro-life message in letters to editors, senators and representatives and presidents. She also began our “Committee of Correspondence” so others would also be encouraged to write their own letters. After extensive research, she authored a wonderful pro-life book in 1985, *Women Exploited*. She was one of the first to bring attention to the emotional pain women suffer after their abortions.

Paula was our mentor and was always a voice of reason and wisdom in any gathering. She began her formal devotion to the pro-life cause in the basement of Gloria Klein’s home, where she was secretary to People Taking Action Against Abortion. Informally, her entire life as a young woman, wife, mother, grandmother and citizen showed her devotion to the God-given principle of defending Life at its most vulnerable stages.

We knew Paula to be a woman of integrity, passion and strong opinions. She had much compassion and love for the people affected by abortion, especially the direct victims...babies and women. She didn’t mind expressing her beliefs in a straightforward manner, but she also said,

“We must always work for change as Christ would want us to.” In keeping with that belief, her compassion was not limited to her pro-life colleagues; she always said we should never judge the heart of another (the opposition), but also never back down from our commitment to the truth. In 2005, Paula received Lifespan’s first lifetime achievement award with the added blessing of the National Right to Life Committee.

Paula Ervin has left us with a great legacy. Part of that legacy is seen in her family, as by example she and Bob showed them pro-life in action as a part of their everyday lives. The impact of Paula’s belief reaches out to the entire world.

We have been blessed by knowing our dear friend, Paula, and we will miss her greatly. We celebrate her life and her legacy and we take comfort in knowing that she has gone on to be with Bob in their heavenly home.

An immeasurable blessing

By Susan Bromley

Patrick and Michelle Ervin started out with a dining room table with six chairs.

It was large enough for them and their three children—Dillon, Jackie and Shannon. But when they took in two foster children, Annie and Nathan, they needed a bigger table. They got a table that would seat eight, and they made Annie and Nathan permanent members of the family through adoption.

Still, there was one empty chair at the table.

"Michelle said, 'God says we need to fill a seat,'" says Patrick now, sitting on a sofa in their spacious home.

Fill it they did, adopting Ryan, now a happy 2-year-old.

"No more kitchen tables," says Patrick, smiling.

Renay Rath, director of communications at Adoption Associates, Inc., notes that November is National Adoption Awareness Month.

"People would be surprised to learn what an immeasurable blessing adoption is," says Rath. "There's this feeling that an adopted child isn't your real child or there is a difference. When a couple adopts a child, that is their child. This is the way their family was meant to be built."

The Ervins understand the hesitancy toward adoption, explaining it's the unknown. But they feel they were called to do it and couldn't imagine their family any other way.

Patrick Ervin had previous experience with adoption and with foster children. His parents had nine foster children through the years and adopted his two sisters, one locally and one from Vietnam.

Patrick and Michelle Ervin wed almost 16 years ago and began having children soon after—first Dillon, now 14, then Jackie, now 12, followed by Shannon, 9. After Shannon was born, they thought they were done—but six months later, Michelle knew she wanted more. However, having had difficult pregnancies, she did not want to go that route again. By the time Shannon was two-and-a-half, Michelle

was desperate for another child.

"We had room and love to give," says Patrick.

Direct placement adoption was not working out well for them. Because the Ervins already had three children, they were not considered ideal candidates by many birth mothers who wished for a childless couple to place their baby with.

The Ervins instead started their journey by becoming foster parents. Annie and Nathan, half-siblings, came to them in 1999.

"When Annie came through our door, I knew we'd adopt," says Patrick. "I knew this little girl would be here forevermore."

Annie was 5, just 10-months older than Shannon. The Ervins call the pair "Irish twins" and say they are not only sisters, but friends. Nathan was just 2-months-old, and would soon light up the house with his smiles.

"We had to learn what the sensitivities are," says Michelle of the fostering and adoption process. "In the end, everyone wants to be a child in a family where you are loved and valued for who you are and not how you got there."

Annie and Nathan's adoptions were complete in January 2002. But still, there was that empty seat at the table.

The Ervins connected with Adoption Associates, but were one of 74 families waiting to adopt. They created a profile for themselves for prospective birth mothers, telling about themselves, their five children, and their family life.

At first, their profile was not open to all races. They had some reservations about transracial adoption and Michelle acknowledges she was worried about how family, friends and strangers would react. They prayed about it and worried that they wouldn't be chosen.

Michelle remembers praying one day about transracial adoption and finally saying, "That's it, fine, but I want a baby by Christmas!"

Although they opened the profile to become available to all races,

Christmas came and went and there was no baby. But on January 12, 2004, the phone rang. It was a new name on the caller ID from Adoption Associates. Shaking, Michelle picked up the phone.

A voice on the other end told her a healthy, black male child was born on the weekend.

"I started crying," says Michelle. "They told me he had been due on Christmas. This was my baby."

Ryan had to spend a few days in foster care before the Ervins were allowed to pick him up in Grand Rapids, with workers handing him into their waiting arms and saying the words they longed for: "Here is your son."

On the way home, they stopped at a store, where a clerk asked Michelle how old her baby was and upon hearing 9-days-old, told her, "You look good."

Her response: "Yes, I do."

Michelle has also had strangers tell her Ryan looks just like her.

"I love it," she says smiling. "He's my baby."

The Ervins don't feel the need to make any explanations. There are none necessary. This is their family.

"Our family is like any other—we have good days and bad days," says Michelle. "(Adoption) doesn't make you special. People say, 'Oh, you're so good,' but when you're kissing them good night, they're your kids. We just want to be a normal family."

And they are—no matter the color of anyone's skin, no matter how they joined the family. Their children all feel likewise. When asked what it is like to have adopted siblings, the answers range from 'it's cool,' to 'fun,' to 'good.'

"It's not any different than having a sibling who's blood," says Dillon. "Annie, Nathan and Ryan are the same as Jackie and Shannon. I never even think about it."

Sister Jackie adds, "It's fun to adopt. Even though you're not blood or whatever, it's always fun to have another sibling."

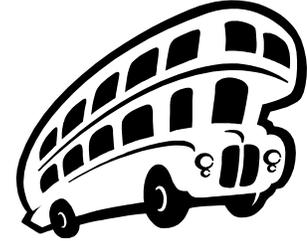
—The Citizen, October 25, 2006



Right to Life-LIFESPAN Oakland/Macomb Chapter
is sponsoring

MARCH FOR LIFE *A Movement in Motion*

Youth Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.



**ATTENTION: TEENAGERS (12-18 YEARS OLD)
COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS!**

The U.S. Supreme Court decided two abortion cases on January 22, 1973: Roe v. Wade, challenging a Texas abortion law, and Doe v. Bolton, challenging a Georgia abortion law. Together, the cases struck down all state laws restricting abortion in the U.S. and replaced them with a national policy that legally permits abortion for any reason during the entire 9 months of pregnancy!

Since that 1973 decision, over 47,000,000 babies have lost their lives to abortion. Entire generations have been denied their basic right to LIFE!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Be a voice for these unborn babies by participating in the March for LIFE! Join the Movement in Motion determined to stop the violence and shape a better America where there is truly LIFE, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all!

Call the Right to Life – LIFESPAN Oakland/Macomb Chapter office today at 248-816-1546 for more information about the three buses we have going to D.C. and to get a registration form mailed to you!

Just so you know: Bus 1 will do the Washington After Dark Tour on Sunday night and tour Ford's Theatre/Museum on Monday morning, Bus 2 will attend Sunday Mass at 4:30 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine and then go to the Youth Rally and Mass on Monday morning, and Bus 3 will have a relaxed evening at the host church on Sunday evening and go to the Youth Rally and Mass on Monday morning.



Group tours have been arranged for all three buses for the Washington Monument and the U.S. Holocaust Museum's permanent exhibit on Sunday. All three buses will stay at the same host church on Sunday evening.

Pearls of Wisdom

The Tiny Foot

By Dr. Frederic Loomis

Two years after I came to California, there came to my office one day a fragile young woman, expecting her first baby. Her history was not good from an emotional standpoint, though she came from a fine family. I built her up as well as I could and found her increasingly wholesome and interesting as time went on, partly because of the effort she was making to be calm and patient and to keep her emotional and nervous reactions under control.

One month before her baby was due, her routine examination showed that her baby was in a breech position. As a rule, the baby's head is in the lower part of the uterus for months before delivery, not because it is heavier and "sinks" in the surrounding fluid, but simply because it fits more comfortably in that position. There is no routine "turning" of all babies at the seventh or eighth month, as is so generally supposed, but the occasional baby found in a breech position in the last month not infrequently changes to the normal vertex position with the head down by the time it is ready to be born, so that only about one baby in 25 is born in the breech position.

This is fortunate, as the death rate of breech babies is comparatively high because of the difficulty in delivering the after-coming head, and the imperative need of delivering it rather quickly after the body is born. At that moment the cord becomes compressed between the baby's hard little head and the mother's bony pelvis. When no oxygen reaches the baby's bloodstream, it inevitably dies in a few short minutes. Everyone in the delivery room is tense, except the mother herself, in a breech delivery, especially if it is a first baby, when the difficulty is greater. The mother is usually quietly asleep or almost so.

The case I was speaking of was a "complete" breech—the baby's legs

and feet being folded under it, tailor fashion—in contrast to the "frank" breech, in which the thighs and legs are folded back on a baby's body like a jack-knife, the little rear end backing its way into the world first of all.

The hardest thing for the attending doctor to do with any breech delivery is to keep his hands away from it until the natural forces of expulsion have thoroughly dilated the firm maternal structures that delay its progress. I waited as patiently as I could, sending frequent messages to the excited family in the corridor outside.

At last the time had come, and I gently drew down one little foot, I grasped the other, but for some reason I could not understand, it would not come down beside the first one. I pulled again, gently enough but with a little force, with light pressure on the abdomen from above by my assisting nurse, and the baby's body moved down just enough for me to see that it was a little girl—and then, to my consternation, I saw that the other foot would never be beside the first one. The entire thigh from the hip to the knee was missing and that one foot never could reach below the opposite knee. And a baby girl was to suffer this, a curious defect that I had never seen before, nor have I since!

There followed the hardest struggle I have ever had with myself. I knew what a dreadful effect it would have upon the unstable nervous system of the mother. I felt sure that the family would almost certainly impoverish itself in taking the child to every famous orthopaedist in the world whose achievements might offer a ray of hope.

Most of all, I saw this little girl sitting sadly by herself while other girls laughed and danced and ran and played—and then I suddenly realized that there was something that would save every pang but once, and that one thing was in my power.

One breech baby in 10 dies in delivery because it is not delivered rapidly enough, and now—if only I did not hurry! If I could slow my hand, if I could make myself delay those few short moments.

would not be an delivery, anyway. No one in all this world would ever know. The mother, after the first shock of grief, would probably be glad she had lost a child so sadly handicapped. In a year or two she would try again and this tragic fate would never be repeated.

"Don't bring this suffering upon them," the small voice within me said. "This baby has never taken a breath—don't let her ever take one. You probably can't get it out in time, anyway. Don't hurry. Don't be a fool and bring this terrible thing upon them. Suppose your conscience does hurt a little; can't you stand it better than they can? Maybe your conscience will hurt worse if you do get it out in time."

I motioned to the nurse for the warm sterile towel that is always ready for me in a breech delivery to wrap around the baby's body so that stimulation of the cold air of the outside world may not induce a sudden expansion of the baby's chest, causing the aspiration of fluid or mucus that might bring death.

But this time the towel was only to conceal from the attending nurses that which my eyes alone had seen. With the touch of that pitiful little foot in my hand, a pang of sorrow for the baby's future swept through me, and my decision was made.

I glanced at the clock. Three of the allotted seven or eight minutes had already gone. Every eye in the room was upon me and I could feel the tension in their eagerness to do instantly what I asked, totally un-



It
easy

aware of what I was feeling. I hoped they could not possibly detect the tension of my own struggle at that moment.

These nurses had seen me deliver dozens of breech babies successfully—yes, and they had seen me fail too. Now they were going to see me fail again. For the first time in my medical life I was deliberately discarding what I had been taught was right for something that I felt sure was better.

I slipped my hand beneath the towel to feel the pulsations of the baby's cord, a certain index of its condition. Two or three minutes more would be enough. So that I might seem to be doing something, I drew the baby down a little lower to "split out" the arms, the usual next step, and as I did so the little pink foot on the good side bobbed out from its protecting towel and pressed firmly against my slowly moving hand, the hand into whose keeping the safety of the mother and the baby had been entrusted. There was a sudden convulsive movement of the baby's body, an actual feeling of strength and life and vigour.

It was too much. I couldn't do it. I delivered the baby with her pitiful little leg. I told the family the next day, and with a catch in my voice, I told the mother.

Every foreboding came true. The mother was in a hospital for months. I saw her once or twice and she looked like a wraith of her former self. I heard of them indirectly from time to time. They had been to Rochester, Minn. They had been to Chicago and to Boston. Finally I lost track of them altogether.

As the years went on, I blamed myself bitterly for not having had the strength to yield to my temptation.

Through the many years that I have been there, there has developed in our hospital a pretty custom of staging an elaborate Christmas party each year for the employees, the nurses and the doctors on the staff.

There is always a beautifully decorated tree on the stage of our

little auditorium. The girls spend weeks in preparation. We have so many difficult things to do during the year, so much discipline and so many of the stern realities of life, that we have set aside this one day to touch upon the emotional and spiritual side. It is almost like going to an impressive church service, as each year we dedicate ourselves anew to the year ahead.

This past year the arrangement was somewhat changed. The tree, on one side of the stage, had been sprayed with silver paint and was hung with scores of gleaming silver and tinsel ornaments, without a trace of colour anywhere and with no lights hung upon the tree itself. It shone but faintly in the dimly lighted auditorium.

*For the first time in my
medical life
I was deliberately
discarding what I had
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for something that I felt
sure was better.*

Every doctor of the staff who could possibly be there was in his seat. The first rows were reserved for the nurses, and [at that] moment the procession entered, each girl in uniform, each one crowned by her nurse's cap, her badge of office. Around their shoulders were their blue Red Cross capes, one end tossed back to show the deep red lining.

We rose as one man to do them honour, and as the last one reached her seat, and we settled in our places again, the organ began the opening notes of one of the oldest of our carols.

Slowly down the middle aisle, marching from the back of the auditorium, came 20 other girls singing softly, our own nurses, in full uniform, each holding high a lighted candle, while through the auditorium floated the familiar strains of

"Silent Night." We were on our feet again instantly. I could have killed anyone who spoke to me then, because I couldn't have answered, and by the time they reached their seats I couldn't see. And then a great blue floodlight at the back was turned on very slowly, gradually covering the tree with increasing splendour: brighter and brighter, until every ornament was almost a flame. On the opposite side of the stage a curtain was slowly drawn, and we saw three lovely young musicians, all in shimmering white evening gowns. They played very softly in unison with the organ—a harp, a cello and a violin. I am quite sure I was not the only old sissy there whose eyes were filled with tears.

I have always liked the harp, and I love to watch the grace of a skillful player. I was especially fascinated by this young harpist. She played extraordinarily well, as if she loved it. Her slender fingers flickered across the strings, and as the nurses sang, her face, made beautiful by a mass of auburn hair, was upturned as if the world that moment were a wonderful and holy place.

I waited, when the short programme was over, to congratulate the chief nurse on the unusual effects she had arranged. And as I sat alone, there came running down the aisle a woman whom I did not know. She came to me with arms outstretched.

"Oh, you saw her," she cried. "You must have recognised your baby. That was my daughter who played the harp—and I saw you watching her. Don't you remember the little girl who was born with only one good leg 17 years ago? We tried everything else first, but now she has a whole artificial leg on that side—but you would never know it, would you? She can walk, she can swim, and she can almost dance.

"But, best of all, through all those years when she couldn't do those things, she learned to use her hands so wonderfully. She is going to be one of the world's great harpists. She is my whole life, and now she is so happy and here she is!"

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detroit

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 Detroit, MI 48224-2248
 Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)
 Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed

Membership drive

Ask a friend to become a member of LIFESPAN. Membership is the backbone of this organization. It allows us to keep the Detroit office open so we can continue to spread the pro-life message to a city that desperately needs to hear the truth. Membership is also beneficial to you for you will be kept up-to-date on all the Life issues by receiving our outstanding publication, *LIFESPAN NEWS*. So if you know family or friends who are not members, show them a copy of our newsletter and have them send in the membership form on page 15, or call the office, and I can send out information on our organization and a membership envelope. God bless you for all your efforts on behalf of LIFE. Call today 313-640-8534.

livingston

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

Supreme Court rejects request for 'Doe' abortion review

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a request from Sandra Cano, the Georgia woman who was used as the plaintiff in the 1973 ruling that created a "health" exception for abortions, to reconsider the case.

Cano had sought the review because she said she was bullied by American Civil Liberties Union lawyers into participating in the case and argued science and medicine have changed dramatically from three decades ago.

Her case, *Doe v. Bolton*, along with the more famous *Roe v. Wade*, established the legal basis for the abortion industry in the U.S. *Roe* struck down state bans on abortion procedures, but *Doe* created the health exception, which allows pro-abortion doctors to provide abortion on demand for virtually any reason, at any stage of pregnancy....

Cano testified before Congress in 2005 about her situation. Here is her scathing testimony, in which she accused "wicked attorneys" of using her to advance a radical agenda:

Thanksgiving Prayer by Mary Cascos

*As the seasons change and leaves turn to brown,
 As they float to the earth and cover the ground,
 Let us reflect on the year too swiftly passed by,
 And thank God above for our joys and our cries.*

*Our Lord is beside us through happiness and sorrow.
 He is a steadfast friend through today and tomorrow.*

*We have had moments of pure joy, when our hearts take a leap.
 We have had times of great sorrow, when the valleys were deep.*

*Yet we know God is constant, His promises He keeps.
 His presence is with us during valleys and leaps.*

*For we don't know the time we may have on this earth.
 And like the leaves that fall, we too become dirt.
 Each day is a gift which comes from above.
 May we keep the grace going by our actions of love.*

*Let us thank God by our witness to our LIFE-giving choice.
 For we are God's hands, His feet and His voice.*

*When our life is done and our victory complete.
 As we see God's face and rest at His feet.
 May we rejoice in the fact that we did what we could
 To bring the gift of life and love to the earth.*

... I am Sandra Cano, the former "Doe" of Doe v. Bolton. Doe v. Bolton is the companion case to Roe v. Wade. Using my name and life, Doe v. Bolton falsely created the health exception that led to abortion on demand and partial birth abortion. How it got there is still pretty much a mystery to me. I only sought legal assistance to get a divorce from my husband and to get my children from foster care.

I was very vulnerable—poor and pregnant with my fourth child, but abortion never crossed my mind. Although it apparently was utmost in the mind of the attorney from whom I sought help. At one point during the legal proceedings, it was necessary for me to flee to Oklahoma to avoid the pressure being applied to have the abortion scheduled for me by this same attorney. Please understand even though I have lived what many would consider an unstable life and overcome many devastating circumstances, at no time did I ever have an abortion. I did not seek an abortion nor do I believe in abortion. Yet my name and life is now forever linked with the slaughter of 40-50 million babies.

I have tried to understand how it all happened. How did my divorce and child custody case become the basis by which bloody murder is done on infants thriving in the wombs of their mothers? How can cunning, wicked lawyers use an uneducated, defenseless pregnant woman to twist the American court system in such a fraudulent way? Doe has been a nightmare. Over the last 32 years, I have become a prisoner of the case. It took me until 1988 to get my records unsealed in order for me to try and find the answer to those questions and to join in the movement to stop abortion in America. When pro-abortion advocates found out about my efforts; my car was vandalized on occasion and at another time, someone shot at me while I was on my front porch holding my grandbaby.

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oakland/macomb

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Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Lynn Gura, Tanya Wrenn, Ofc. Staff

Presents for LIFESPAN

There is an old song that goes, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth..." Well, we don't want two teeth, but we really would like to double our membership. That sounds like a tall order, but if each of you reading this item in the Oakland/Macomb Chapter column could get just one person to join LIFESPAN, we would indeed double our impact, abilities and outreach.

We need new members, folks who can read our newsletter, come to our events and promote the culture of life in our society.

Please, think of your friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers—everyone—and ask them to join LIFESPAN. Better yet, tuck a gift membership into their Christmas stocking—it is truly a gift that gives many times over. See page 13 for a special gift membership offer—only \$5!

wayne west/downriver

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

Thanksgiving message

As the Director of Wayne West/Downriver Chapter of Lifespan, I'd like to thank our Board of Directors, Pastors, Benefactors, Members, Church Reps and Volunteers for your loyalty to Lifespan and trust in me. Many of you have been members since the late 1960s, and some of you are new as recently as October, 2006. We share the same commitment to stop the "culture of death" that permeates our nation. We've enjoyed successes together and cried together over disappointments. Yet, we live in an exciting time as we have the opportunity to change the course of history. We live in freedom. We can speak-out against injustices and stand-up for our beliefs. We can change hearts with understanding, change minds with education and change laws with legislation. Abortion will be abolished just as slavery was abolished. We can win! We will win!

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Entertainment Books 2007

Books are still available in the Wayne West/Downriver office. Thursday, December 21 is your last chance to get a book for the holidays. Cost is reduced to \$20.

Christmas greetings

*M*agic in the air
*E*legant wrappings
*R*inging bells
*R*ibbons of red, silver and gold
*Y*ellow-haired angels on the top of the tree

*C*herished loved ones home for the holidays
*H*appy faces everywhere
*R*ipples of chocolate on cakes and in cookies
*I*cing on cookies
*S*ilver tinsel on the tree
*T*imeless memories shared with all
*M*usic, familiar and timeless
*A*lleluias raised on high
*S*easons blessings to all of you
from all of us at Oakland/Macomb

Membership renewals

Membership letters are in the mail. Please respond as quickly as possible so we can meet our financial obligations on time.

Pro-life jewelry

We have a large collection of prolife jewelry which makes wonderful Christmas presents at affordable prices. They make great stocking stuffers.

Envelope stickers

It is estimated that 8-10 people see each piece of mail. Therefore, you could help the prolife cause by attaching a prolife message to each piece of your mail. We have several new envelope stickers with different philosophical sayings--three sheets for \$1.00, eight stickers per sheet. Come in to see them or call to order yours; send a check including postage, and we'll mail them to you.

Bumper stickers

We have a great selection of bumper stickers, including static ones that can be displayed on inside car windows which are easy to peel off if leasing a vehicle.

Christmas greetings

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you who support Lifespan with your prayers, donations, and valuable time as volunteers. May your Christmas be blessed with love and joy, and your New Year filled with happiness, good health and cheer.
—Pat



For the special people on your holiday gift list or any gift list!



Worth-Waiting-For Chastity Bracelets

Clear Crystal Beads
with Heart Charm
\$25

Love Life Bracelets

Primary, Pastel or Custom Colors
with choice of Cross or Feet Charm

Bracelets made with Swarovski crystals,
Sterling Silver beads and block letters.
Specify size: 7". 7-1/2", or custom

Your Choice:

Cross Charm: \$25
Feet Charm: \$28

To place your order, call Educational Center For Life at 248.816.8489
For custom orders call Mary at 248.398.6658

Your purchase benefits Educational Center For Life!

The Tiny Foot

continued from page 5

As we spoke, this sweet young girl had quietly watched approached us, her eyes glowing, and now she stood beside me. "This is your first doctor, my dear—our doctor," her mother said. Her voice trembled. I could see her literally swept back, as I was, through all the years of heartache to the day when I told her what she had to face. "He was the first one to tell me about you. He brought you to me."

Impulsively, I took the child in my arms. Across her warm young shoulder I saw the creeping clock of the delivery room 17 years before. I lived again those awful moments when her life was in my hand, when I had decided on deliberate infanticide.

I held her away from me and looked at her.

"You never will know, my dear," I said, "you never will know, nor will anyone else in all the world, just what tonight has meant to me. Go back to your harp for a moment, please—and play "Silent Night" for me alone. I have a load on my shoulders that no one has ever seen, a load that only you can take away."

Her mother sat beside me and quietly took my hand as her daughter played. Perhaps she knew what was in my mind. And as the last strains of "Silent Night, Holy Night" faded again, I think I found the answer, and the comfort, I had waited for so long."

—An article from "Celebration of Life,"
a newsletter on life issues

Shoppers, beware!

In doing your holiday shopping, please remember that many corporations are ardent financial supporters of Planned Parenthood, the world's largest promoter and provider of abortions. Among many corporations are: Circuit City (retail electronics), Nieman Marcus (retail stores), Nike (athletic apparel), Wal-Mart (retail stores), Whole Foods (supermarkets).

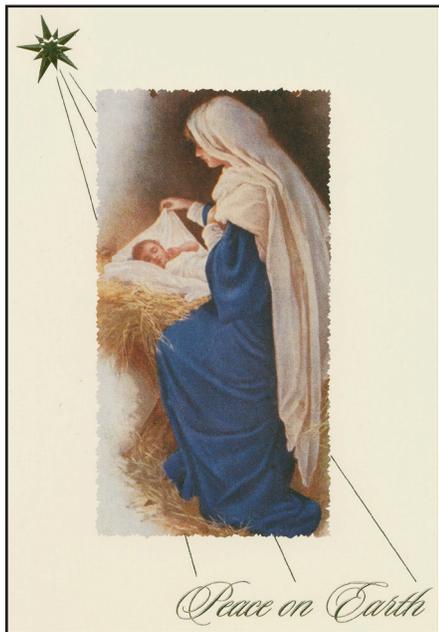
To obtain a complete, copyrighted boycott list of Planned Parenthood corporate supporters, send a \$19.75 check to **Life Decisions International, P.O. Box 75161, Washington, D.C. 20013; 540-631-0380; www.fightpp.org**. Information is provided in the list to write corporate CEOs to protest their support of PP.

The list may also be perused at your local Lifespan office.

Christmas Cards 2006



Your purchase represents support for pro-life activities during the coming year. To place an order, arrange for pickup at a location near you and / or for more information, call your local Right to Life - LIFESPAN office: Detroit 313-640-8534, Livingston 810-220-5433, Oakland / Macomb 248-816-1546 or Wayne West / Downriver 734-422-6230.



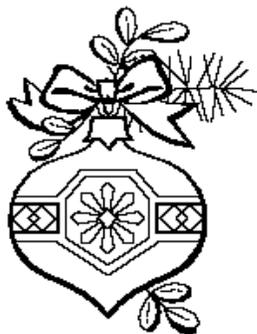
A Precious Moment

Mary gently cares for the newborn Child as the golden rays of a star illuminate the scene. Peace on Earth and the star are in gold foil. A gold foil-lined envelope is included. Actual size: 5-5/8" x 8"

\$16.00 per box of 20

Verse:

*May His gentle coming
fill our hearts
with peace, hope, love
and a reverence for Life.
Merry Christmas*



Holy Family

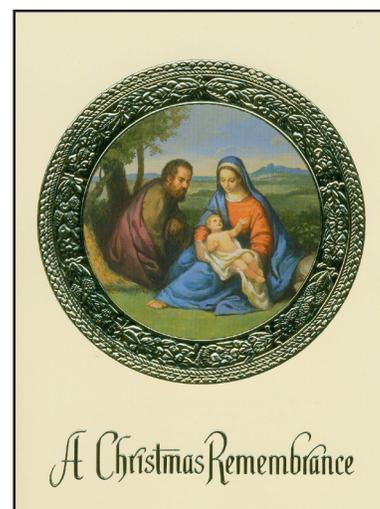
The Holy Family is depicted in an outdoor scene with Mary and Joseph gazing lovingly at the Infant Jesus. The border around the illustration is embossed gold foil. A matching envelope is included.

Actual size: 5" x 6-3/4"

\$7.00 per pkg. of 10

Verse:

*As we pause to celebrate
the birthday of our Lord,
the Giver of all Life,
we also celebrate the love
that brings us all together.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*



Mary and Infant

Mary looks adoringly at the Infant Jesus. This card is a unique watercolor in shades of blue with silver foil and includes a silver foil-lined envelope.

Actual size: 5-5/8" x 8"

\$16.00 per box of 20

Verse:

*May all the blessings of the Infant Savior
be yours this Christmas
and may His Divine Presence
enrich your Life throughout the New Year*

Other Christmas cards from previous years are also available in packages of 10.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Addresses

President

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
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

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202-224-3121

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman
(last name):

Governor

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
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

Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837

Michigan Law on Partial-Birth Abortions Gets Appeals Court Hearing

A federal appeals court held a hearing October 26 on a Michigan law that would prohibit partial-birth abortions in the state. The Legal Birth Definition Act is a different approach to stopping the gruesome abortions by defining birth in a way that makes the abortion procedure infanticide under state law.

Last September, the Eastern District Court declared Michigan's statute unconstitutional, but Eric Restuccia, an assistant Michigan attorney general, told the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the law blocks just one abortion procedure and should be reinstated.

She also added, according to an *Associated Press* report, that Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has told county prosecutors not to apply the law to other types of abortions.

The district court ruled the ban was vague and would apply to more than one abortion method, a point ACLU attorney Brigitte Amiri told a three judge panel from the appeals court during the hearing.

"This law is an absolute ban on almost all abortions," Amiri claimed.

The Northland Family Planning abortion business filed the lawsuit against the Legal Birth Definition Act and sought an injunction preventing the measure from being enforced. The ACLU of Michigan, the pro-abortion Center for Reproductive Rights in New York, and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America joined the case.

In September, U.S. District Court Judge Denise Page Hood ruled the ban can't be upheld because she claims it puts an "undue burden" on obtaining a legal abortion.

But, previously, Cox, said a ruling by the Supreme Court helps the state's case.

"While this matter has been on appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court is-

sued its opinion in *Ayotte v. New Hampshire* which held that a federal court has a duty to give effect to the constitutional applications of a statute consistent with the legislative intent," Cox said.

"That is exactly what the Attorney General Opinion I issued last April did," Cox explained.

Cox sets forth three arguments defending the ban: He says the ban applies only to the partial-birth abortion procedure, he says his AGO is binding on prosecutors, and he said the court should defer to the Michigan Supreme Court before ruling on the constitutionality.

However, Amiri told the court that Cox's opinion is not binding on future attorneys general who may try to use the abortion prohibit to targets abortion practitioners who use other abortion methods.

Hood claimed the law is vague and its exception for the life of the mother is unconstitutional.

"The act does not describe any specific procedure to be banned," Hood wrote. "The act also does not distinguish between induced abortion and pregnancy loss."

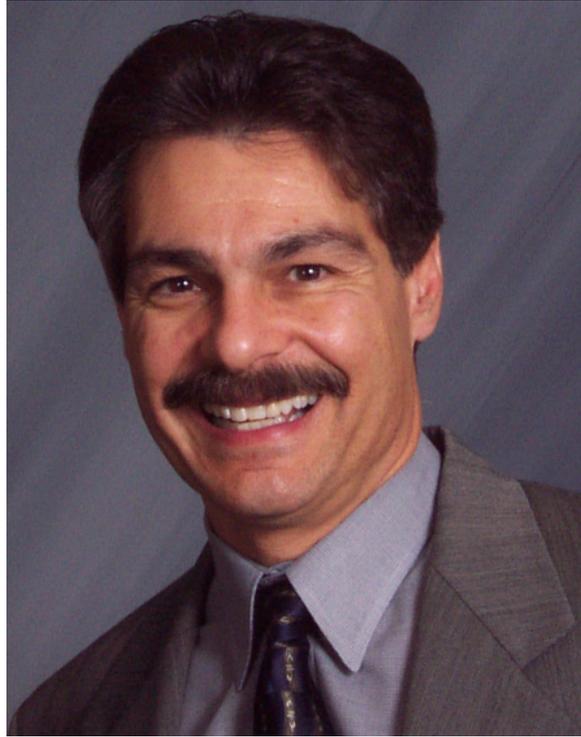
The state legislature gave final approval to the Legal Birth Definition Act in June 2004 after Governor Jennifer Granholm vetoed the bill. Pro-life groups obtained the signatures of over 460,000 people to bring the measure before the legislature in a veto-proof form.

While President Bush signed a Partial-Birth Abortion Ban into law, the federal version differs from Michigan's in that it expressly bans the partial-birth abortion procedure while the Michigan law relies on a definition of the birthing process.

Federal courts struck down attempts by Michigan lawmakers to ban partial-birth abortions in 1997 and 2001.

—*LifeNews.com*, October 26, 2006

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?



We are very excited to announce that

Dr. Ray Guarendi

will be the guest speaker at Lifespan's

Mother's Day Dinner
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007

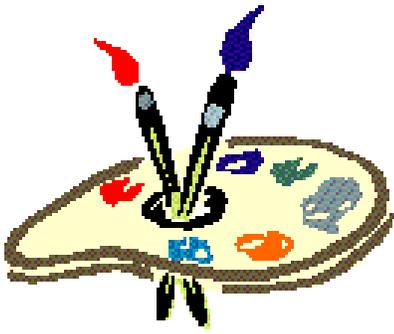
Dr. Guarendi is a speaker, author and host of "The Doctor is In," a lively talk and radio call-in show dealing with parenting, family and life issues in a straight forward and often humorous way.

Spread the News and Save the Date!

You don't want to miss this event.

You can get a sneak preview by tuning in to Ave Maria Radio, 990 AM, Monday-Friday, noon to 2:00 p.m.

Look for reservation information in the next issue of Lifespan News or call 248-816-1546.



Student **PRO-LIFE** Art Contest

**High School Students
Grades 9 - 12**

in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and
Livingston Counties

Theme: Celebration of Life!

*Artwork to reflect pro-life issues involving
family life, children, babies,
the handicapped or the elderly*

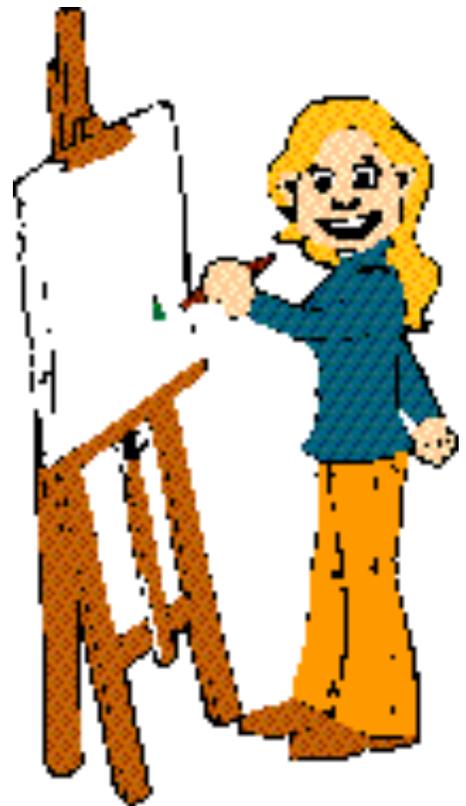


First Prize: \$1000 savings bond
Second Prize: \$400 savings bond
Third Prize: \$200 savings bond

For complete rules and eligibility requirements,
go to "Events" on
Right to Life - LIFESPAN's website
www.rtl-lifespan.org

**All entries must be received by
Wednesday, March 14, 2007**

Right to Life - LIFESPAN
248-478-8878





Letters from Santa

For only \$5, Santa will send your child a personalized letter, printed on colorful holiday stationery. \$2 from each letter will be donated to Right to Life - LIFESPAN. Santa's letter includes a special treat recipe that your child will be able to make with you. Your child will be delighted to hear from Santa and you'll be helping other children as well.

Personalized Santa Letter Order Form

Return this portion, along with \$5 (check or money order to Janice Priest) for each letter ordered to:

Priest Family Productions, 144 Auburn, Inkster, MI 48141-1253, 313-277-0800; Lovely@2clowns.com or ORDER ONLINE @ 2clowns.com! Order by December 14th.

Name of person ordering: _____

Area Code/Phone: _____

Child's Full Address: _____

Name of Child: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____ Grade: _____

Child received a letter before? _____

Teacher: _____

Special Awards: _____

List 3 siblings or friends: _____

Items on the wish list: _____

Chore (s)he does: _____

Any additional donation to Right to Life - LIFESPAN? _____

Calendar of Events

- Dec.....Christmas Cards & Entertainment Book Sales
- Dec. 14.....Letters from Santa, p. 13
- Jan. 21.....Rally for Life, back page
- Jan. 20-23.....March for Life Bus Trip, p. 3
- Jan. 22.....March for Life, Washington, D.C.
- March 12.....Baby Showers, p. 13
- March 14.....Student Art Contest Deadline, p. 12

Lifespan Gift Membership - Only \$5!

Give holiday gift memberships to people you feel would benefit from reading Lifespan News. We'll send the recipient an attractive gift card.



Gift Membership(s) For:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Gift From:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Make check payable and mail to: Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Ste. 545; Livonia, MI 48152.

Shower Time!

Lifespan is planning its 18th annual Baby Shower to benefit crisis pregnancy centers on **Sunday, March 11**. Continuing this tradition of caring for mothers and their babies, born and yet to be born, Lifespan will host ap-



proximately 50 baby showers simultaneously at different church locations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston Counties. Showers are usually held from 2:00-3:30 p.m., but may also be held after church services or simply as a gift drop-off shower. If you or your church would like to co-host a baby shower, please call us at 248-478-8878.

Wee Care is desperately in need of diapers – sizes one, four and six. If you can help with a donation, please call 248-478-8884. Thank you!

Lifespan News

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President & Editor - Diane Fagelman

Layout/Design - Marge Bradley

Contributors: Patricia and Robert Holscher, Diane Trombley

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What's Up With the Youth?

Attention: Teens, Parents, Youth Pastors/Ministers, Youth Group Leaders/Coordinators, High School and Middle School Teachers, Principals, and Volunteers

Did you attend a **LIFE CHAIN** on Sunday, October 1st? The area that I stood at with my husband and church group was covered well with teens, young adults and families. Most of those who passed by us honked their horns or gave us "thumbs up" in support of our presence there. The day before, I worked with some of my closest friends and their daughters on decorating and baking sugar cookies in the shapes of baby feet, hands and hearts. The delicious "pro-life" cookies were put into baggies and each bag contained a little note that stated *Abortion Stops a Beating Heart*. I handed them out to everyone who got a LIFE CHAIN sign from me on Sunday. The LIFE CHAIN participants were not only pleased with the beautiful weather that afternoon, but were happy to receive a special treat!

On the back page of this newsletter, you will find information about the annual **Rally for Life** to be held at **Madonna University from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 21, 2007**. For those of you who are unable to come with us on the Movement in Motion Youth Bus Trip to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life, this would be a good opportunity for you to bring your family and friends to join with other pro-life people to celebrate the precious gift of Life and to also remember those who have been affected by abortion—the babies, Moms and Dads.

The **Movement in Motion** Youth Buses are filling up rather quickly! Please call me to get a Registration form, Liability Release form, and a Rules of Conduct form so you can sign up! The seating on each bus is "first come, first serve." If you sign up after the buses are full, then your name will go on the waiting list in case of cancellations. Call me at the office **248-816-1546** or at home **248-340-2400**.



DID YOU KNOW that there is a pro-life search engine on the web? The search engine is a privately-held company in Chicago founded and managed by two good guys! They make donations to pro-life charities from revenue generated from their site. Use www.prolifesearch.com for all your Internet search needs just like you would use Yahoo or Google. A minimum of 50% of all net profits are donated to pro-life charities around the world. By simply searching, you are supporting a culture of LIFE and, at the same time, finding what you want on the Internet!

Be sure to look for information in the next newsletter about the upcoming **"Born to be a Lady" Teen Fashion Show** that will be held at St. Michael Church in Southfield on **Sunday, March 18, 2007, from 1:45-4:00 p.m.** It is for tween and teen girls (10-18 years old) and it will focus on modesty in appearance and attitude.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family—it's a great day to be thankful to our parents for saying YES to giving us our LIVES!

*Your friend FOR LIFE,
Lynn Gura, Youth Projects Coordinator*



Dear Friends,
You may have heard about our mom on the radio. She was homeless, living in a car with her two children and pregnant with twins. She told her story

to a man of deep faith, and he immediately promised to help her. He made calls. One group helped with housing; a radio station collected baby items and we received an e-mail, "Was there anything we could do to help?" Because of YOU, we were able to provide the warm blankets, the tiny clothes, the onesies, bibs & booties, diapers and wipes and so much more (including two beautiful, new snowsuits for the twins!)

Every day at Wee Care, you are instrumental in helping make these little miracles take place. You touch hearts and change lives. Our moms not only receive their beautiful layettes, but they also receive the gifts of hope and your love for them and their precious babies.

It's almost Thanksgiving. How do I begin to thank you for all you do? Like the moms who receive their packages, I am speechless. I have received so many grateful hugs in your name, and only wish I could wrap my arms around all of you and express MY gratitude. May God bless you as only He can for all you do for His tiniest miracles. Have a beautiful Thanksgiving surrounded by your loved ones—it doesn't get any better than that!

*Karen Patrosso, Director 248-478-8884
Wee Care, A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN*

Doe Abortion Review

continued from page 6

I am angry. I feel like my name, life, and identity have been stolen and put on this case without my knowledge and against my wishes. How dare they use my name and my life this way! One of the Justices of the Supreme Court said during oral argument in my case, "What does it matter if she is real or not." Well, I am real, and it does matter. I was in court under a false name and lies. I was never cross-examined in court. Doe v. Bolton is based on a lie and deceit. It needs to be retried or overturned. Doe v. Bolton is against my wishes. Abortion is wrong. I love children. I would never harm a child and yet because of this case I feel like I bear the guilt of over 46 million innocent children being killed. The Supreme Court is also guilty.

The bottom line is I want abortion stopped in my name. I want the case which was supposedly to benefit me, be either overturned or retried. If it is retried, at least I will have an opportunity to speak for myself in court, something that never happened before. My lawyers at The Justice Foundation have collected affidavits from over one thousand women hurt by abortion. We have filed those affidavits and a Rule 60 Motion to reverse Doe which is now on its way to the Supreme Court through the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. I am also giving you a copy of my affidavit in the case. Millions of babies have been killed. Millions of women have been hurt horribly. It is time to get my name and life out of this case and it's time to stop the killing.

—World Net Daily, October 11, 2006

**Donations have been made—
In loving memory of:**

Paula Ervin

Given by: Wayne West/Downriver Board of Directors
and Lifespan Friends
Margaret Spas
Diane and Jerry Fagelman
Pat and Bob Holscher
Laurie and Rick Masiarak
Barbara and Horst Schmid
Glen and Pat Rossow
Theresa Covington
Norma Hardenbergh
Jean Martell
Helen Kleinbrook
Linda I. Seng
Patrick and Mary Carter
Clara and James Mueller
Diane Trombley
St. Michael Parish Ushers
The Crew of Venom
Mary A. Marks
Bob and Cindy Babcock
William and Sharon Armbruster
Tom and Joyce Meyer
Carmen and Joe Mosquera
Lauren and Alan Wakenhut
Michael and Marcia Cooney
Floyd and Rita Virant
Walter and Cecilia Slonina
John and Jane Liddle
Laura Ulrich and Tom Goodman
Rose Rogers
John Broderick
Mark and Lee Cady
Lou and Rose Brohl
John and Bev Bettega
Rich and Maureen Dreslinski
Mark and Debi Amato
Friends of Paula in honor of her work
on behalf of the unborn
Eleanor and George O'Connor
Pauline Sturtz
Jack and Jean Vandenberg
Marge and Joe Daratony
Yvonne Speer
Jeanette Mortens
Joe and Jean Leblanc
Marge and Doug Bradley
Karen Patrosso

Helen M. Bitonti

Given by: Ray and Marlene Vincent

Betty Mitchell

Given by: Michelle Mitchell
Mel Mitchell
Annette Frederick
Karen Patrosso

James M. Murphy

Given by: John V. Bosley

Kenneth J. Scott

Given by: Elizabeth and Gerald Scott

Mildred Smith

Given by: Tanice and Larrie Fox

Noro Trombley

Given by: Chuck and Julaine Niehaus
The Condron Family
Helen Kleinbrook

Fred Babcock

Given by: Wayne West/Downriver Board of Directors
and Lifespan Friends
Pat and Bob Holscher
Laurie and Rick Masiarak
Yvonne Speer
Jim and Dorothy McGrath
Marge and Doug Bradley
Diane and Jerry Fagelman

Albert Kisner

Given by: Wayne West/Downriver Board of Directors
and Lifespan Friends
Pat and Bob Holscher
Diane and Jerry Fagelman
Dorothy Robbins
Marge and Doug Bradley

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.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Membership Form

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

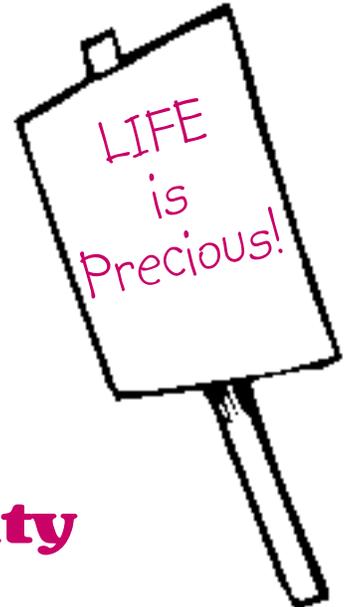
_____ Annual Membership \$ 20.00 _____ *Angel in the Waters* Special Membership
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 10.00 \$40 or more; (call a Lifespan office for details)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

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

Rally for LIFE

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



Madonna University

(corner of Schoolcraft and Levan, in Livonia)

January 21, 2007 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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

Bring your families, friends, neighbors, co-workers!



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

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



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