

Be a Patron or Place a Photo Ad  
In LIFESPAN'S Resource Book, p. 8

# Lifespan *news*

Volume 45 Number 3

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

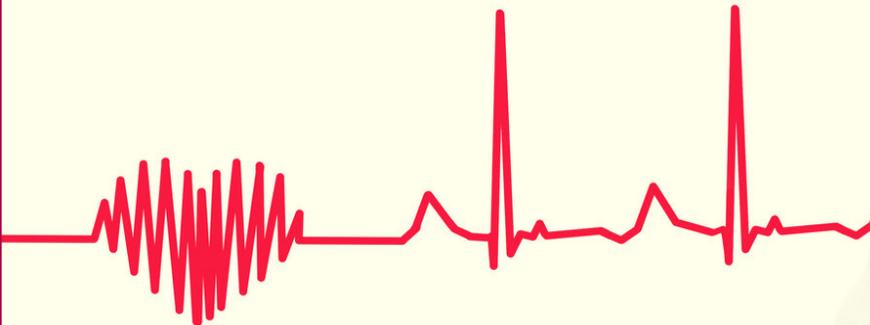
April/May 2016

**You are invited  
to  
LIFESPAN'S  
Celebrate Life  
Annual Dinner and Silent Auction**

**Tuesday, May 3**

**San Marino Club  
Troy, Michigan**

**Special Guest: Comedian David Dean**



*See page 3 for more details and Dinner Reservation form*

# Forty-Three Years After *Roe*, Hope Is Alive



By Robert P. George

I just noticed that the little reflection I wrote on the anniversary of the tragedy of *Roe v. Wade* has been shared more times than anything else I've ever posted. I am grateful to everyone who shared it. The abortion license is continuing to gnaw at the conscience of our nation, as the Republican Ronald Reagan and the Democrat Robert P. Casey, and the saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, told us it would. At some level most Americans—including those who do not yet dare to acknowledge, even to themselves, the justice of the pro-life cause—know that killing the unborn is not the answer. We must love mother and child equally, limitlessly, and unconditionally, and never pit the alleged good of one against the other.

In 1973, seven supremely fallible men in black robes purported to settle the abortion question. Supporters of the abortion license cheered. Pro-life citizens were, they insisted, “on the wrong side of history.” (Sound familiar?) Legal, publicly-funded abortion was, they claimed, “enlightened” policy. It was required for women's equality, reducing the welfare rolls, and “social hygiene.” Resistance was futile. All the young people were for it. Only a few elderly priests and some back woods fundamentalists were still against it. The priests would soon die out and the “fundamentalists” were already marginal. The churches would get on board—several already were as members of the “Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights”—and stay on board. Soon abortion would be integrated fully into American life and no one who mattered would question it. In a few short years, it would no longer be an issue in American politics and most people would forget that it ever was.

But the pro-life movement kept faith with abortion's tiny victims. In the great civil rights struggle of the post-segregation era, a grassroots movement kept the flame burning and kept hope alive. We refused to abandon the unborn to the “tender mercies”—or women to the ghoulish “compassion”—of the abortionists at Planned Parenthood and the like. We had little

support among the wealthy, powerful, and influential. Wall Street hoped we would go away. The media were playing for the other team. The intellectual elites mostly sneered. But janitors and school teachers, factory workers and stay-at-home moms, insurance salesmen and office workers and cashiers at the grocery store, and retired people from all walks of life refused to leave the field. They prayed and protested and counseled on sidewalks in front of the abortion mills. They pounded the marble floors in the legislative chambers. They built pro-life pregnancy centers across the nation to provide material, moral, and spiritual support for our pregnant sisters in need (and so often in fear).

And guess what? Young people came flooding into the movement. Brilliant, courageous, dedicated, determined young men and women. “I survived *Roe v. Wade*,” they declared, “but *Roe v. Wade* will not survive me.” And they meant—and mean—it.

In the meantime, science marched on, confirming and reconfirming and reconfirming yet again the biological fact of the humanity of the child in the womb. The anti-scientific posturing about the impossibility of knowing “when life begins” became more and more implausible, to the point that it now sounds ridiculous.

And that is for the simple reason that it is ridiculous. Serious, intellectually competent defenders of abortion no longer claim that abortion is not, or cannot be known to be, the violent killing of a human being in utero.

And sometimes they reprimand their fellow abortion supporters for continuing to talk such nonsense. Peter Singer, for example, speaks plainly of abortion as the taking of human life and warns those who try to rest the “pro-choice” case on that denial that they are placing their (and his) cause in jeopardy. The late Ronald Dworkin candidly (and accurately, if chillingly) described abortions as “choices for death.” People like Singer and Dworkin want to build the case for abortion on the idea that no one has dignity or a basic right to life merely on the basis of his or her humanity. Merely to be a

*continued on page 11*

*Right to Life - LIFESPAN's  
Celebration of Life Dinner & Silent Auction  
Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

*San Marino Club  
1685 East Big Beaver Road  
Troy, Michigan*

- ★ *Silent Auction begins 5:30 pm*
- ★ *Dinner served 7:15 pm*
- ★ *\$10K Raffle Drawing 9:00 pm*

**Back by Popular Demand**

*Special Guest: David Dean*



David Dean has been blessed with the gift of making people laugh on a full-time basis for over 25 years. Comedy that is family-friendly, fast paced, and most importantly: appropriate. Not corny, but appropriate.

David honed his talent in the late 80s at the famous Second City School of Improvisational Comedy in Chicago. It was there that he learned to think quickly on his feet and respond to his audience. He was so well-received the first time he spoke at a LIFESPAN dinner, that we have had repeated requests to bring him back. We are pleased to provide this opportunity.

David and Betsy, his wife of over 25 years, live in Huntington, IN and have two adult children, Hannah and Alex.

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**Dinner Reservations:** \$50 per person/\$475 per table of 10. Students (under 21) \$25 per person  
Advance reservations by Friday, April 22.

Yes, I (We) plan to attend. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations. (Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper).

Seat with \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



*For Dinner reservations, please make checks payable and mail to:  
Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G, Troy, MI 48084  
For information, call 248.816.1546*

*Photos/videos may be taken at this event and may be used on the web, in publications and/or other media. If you would prefer that your image not be included, please contact Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Main Office at 734.524.0162 or mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org*

## From the President's Desk



*Talk about the child  
in the womb as the  
human person  
he/she is.  
That person is alive  
with his/her own  
DNA, present the  
moment the egg and  
sperm unite.  
That is TRUTH that  
cannot be denied.*

**T**RUTH! "Word Book" defines truth as: 1. A fact that has been verified. 2. Conformity to reality or actuality. 3. A true statement. 4. The quality of being near to the true value.

Keeping this in mind, I think of abortion, and how people have been lied to about it. Ignoring facts and lying to our citizens started with the early anti-life organization called "NARAL" (National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws). Their whole purpose was to change state laws on abortion. The goal of the radical feminists at the time (1968) was to get abortion-on-demand for women throughout the U.S. They did this by lying to the American public. They lied about how many women were dying by back alley abortions.

They lied about how the Catholic Church was trying to control their lives. In Dr. Nathanson's book, *Aborting America*, he points out how they just threw out a figure on abortion deaths and then presented it to the news media, which, with their liberal bent, took it for truth. He also pointed out how they knew of anti-Catholic sentiment in the country, so by telling people the pope was trying to get into their bedrooms, it would help change public opinion on abortion. It was a lie, taken as truth.

Two other well-publicized lies were the cases brought to the Supreme Court that would allow abortion on demand from conception to delivery. Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff in *Roe v. Wade*, claimed she was pregnant due to rape and challenged the state law of Texas which prohibited abortion—it was a lie—she was never raped.

Then we have Sandra Cano, the plaintiff in *Doe v. Bolton*. In her testimony to Congress she stated, "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. 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." So you see, another lie, brought to the court by ambitious attorneys—Sandra never sought to have an abortion.

Why do I bring these facts to you? I know how discouraging it is to persevere and work towards ending abortion and bring respect for human life back to the preborn child, the disabled, the sick and the elderly. We are sometimes cautious about speaking out, but we must always move forward with enthusiasm and purpose.

We can only counter the society of deceit by speaking the truth. When you hear someone say, "a woman should have a right to choose," counter immediately—"yes, but choose what? A woman may have the right to smoke or drink alcohol, but she should not have a right to kill her child." Talk about the child in the womb as the human person he/she is. That person is alive with his/her own DNA, present the moment the egg and sperm unite. That is TRUTH that cannot be denied.

We must be the beacon of light in the world of darkness. If we do not speak the truth, who will? It starts with our circle of family, friends and acquaintances. Start in TRUTH, and we will change hearts and minds. May God give us in the pro-life movement the strength to persevere!

*Diane*

Diane Fagelman, President  
Right to Life - LIFESPAN

*Where do the candidates  
stand on pro-life issues?  
Watch for LIFESPAN's  
July newsletter.*

## Pearls of Wisdom

# Congresswoman Writes Amazing Letter to Amy Brenneman, Who Doesn't Regret Aborting Her Baby

By Steven Ertelt

Last week, TV actress Amy Brenneman told the women's magazine *Cosmopolitan* that she has never regretted her abortion.

Brenneman said she felt prompted to tell her story after asking Nancy Keenan, the former president of the radical pro-abortion group NARAL, why the pro-abortion movement is losing support while the pro-life movement is gaining it.

"She answered with one simple word: 'stories,'" Brenneman said.

"This makes sense to me. I am a storyteller by trade, after all. I believe that we connect and learn by the specifics of stories, our own and others'."

"I have never, not for one moment, regretted my abortion. My husband of 20 years and I became parents when we had built a home to nurture our children. Indeed, being a parent has only strengthened my commitment to reproductive justice as access to legal abortion allows children a fighting chance to be born into families that desire them and can support them," she said.

Now, Rep. Diane Black, a Tennessee congresswoman, has written an open letter to Brenneman. Black was a registered nurse for 40 years. Her letter follows:

I read with interest your February 29th column in *Cosmopolitan* magazine about your personal experience with abortion. While we approach this sensitive issue from different viewpoints, I thank you for sharing your story. I agree that women, regardless of their opinion, should talk honestly about this matter. I also know that some who, like me, identify as pro-life and oppose abortion have not always conveyed that opinion with the compassion and empathy that should be afforded to this topic on both sides of the debate, and for that I am sorry.

Like you, I know what it is like to be single, pregnant, and uncertain of what the future holds. I was carrying my

youngest child to term when my first husband left me amid the demons of alcoholism. Later, in my career as an emergency room nurse, I met other young women in this same precarious position. I believe that the pro-life community has a responsibility to those women. It is why I have long supported the work of my local crisis pregnancy center and other nonprofits that offer real, tangible help to women in this very situation—everything from diapers and formula to counseling and prayer.

I want you to know that I agree with you on the need to defend every woman's right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." As you and I know, this has not historically been the case and I am keenly aware of those whose shoulders I now stand on as a woman who cannot only vote but can also serve in Congress.

I want every young girl, including my two granddaughters, to be able to—as you say—"choose their destiny." I believe that protecting those rights, however, starts with protecting the most foundational right of all: the right of a preborn, human being with a beating heart to see the light of day. A young woman cannot choose her destiny if her life is cut short in the womb.

When we frame abortion as a means of female empowerment, we don't tell the full story. Indeed, studies show that abortions worldwide disproportionately impact baby girls. Consider a 2012 report in Britain's *Daily Telegraph* on abortion practices in India, where there are believed to be as many as eight million cases of female sex-selective abortion over the last decade, a phenomenon that is now affecting the country's overall gender ratio.

I say this not to shame any

woman who has made the difficult decision to have an abortion but rather in hopes of raising the consciousness of this nation so we can enact needed protections for these members of the human family.

Specific to your concerns on the Texas abortion law now in question before the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Whole Woman's Health vs. Hellerstedt*, I readily admit my own bias. That said, I believe the standards you call "onerous" and "unnecessary" to be quite modest.

As you know, the disputed Texas law has two key provisions. First, it requires abortionists to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles so that a patient receiving an abortion can be quickly transferred in the event of complications and, secondly, it requires abortion clinics to abide by the same safety standards and licensing requirements as other outpatient surgery centers in the state. To be clear, the law does not attempt to legalize abortion at any stage of pregnancy.

I passionately believe in protecting the unborn, but I also believe equal attention must be devoted to protecting their mothers. While I disagree with the choice of abortion, I do not believe any woman should lose her life at the hands of an unregulated, unsafe abortion clinic or a fly-by-night abortion doctor. That is what this law aims to prevent.

It is my hope that women's advocates—and you are certainly a needed and influential one—will take a deeper look at this law and applaud these commonsense standards rather than attempt to turn back the clock and strip them away.

Sincerely, Diane Black  
—LifeNews.com, March 8, 2016



# LIFESPAN Chapter News

Oakland/Macomb Counties

## Volunteers are the Best

Congratulations to Karen Schenk, Oakland/Macomb's Volunteer of the Year!! Karen was recognized for her tireless efforts as our church representative to St. Mary of the Hills Catholic Church on the 19th of March at our Volunteer Luncheon. Karen has done everything and anything at her parish to promote a Respect for Life. Christmas cards, carnations, candy, guest speakers, literature distribution, membership drives—you name it and she has done it. We are so grateful to Karen, and her family, for her dedication.



## More Volunteers

Next month, students from Bishop Foley High School will be at the Oakland/Macomb office to participate in Foley's *Be the Difference Day*. This will be the fourth year these wonderful young people will help out while learning more about what it means to be pro-life. They have helped us with everything from tying ribbons and tags for our Mother's Day carnations to counting signs from Life Chain, to sorting books for a book sale. This year we have a special project for them. We have a storeroom that needs some cleaning and straightening. Young backs and

arms and legs will be most helpful for moving boxes and crates. (Don't tell them—let's keep it a surprise!)

## Speaking of Volunteers...

We have a small project in mind here at the Oakland/Macomb office. We would like to be sure that local funeral directors have a supply of LIFESPAN'S memorial cards. If you are interested, give us a call, 248-816-1546.

## Old Fears, New Reality

It is said that Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law, would begin making law. He may have had a point.

## Make Up Your Mind

*Cosmo* magazine just can't make up its mind. They recently published an editorial condemning a bill introduced in Indiana that would protect unborn babies with Down Syndrome from abortion and in the same internet issue praised Madeline Stuart, a 19-year-old Australian who has Down Syndrome who has won a contract to model bridal wear.

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1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540

Phone: 248-816-1546

e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9-3

Diane Trombley, Director/Ofc. Mgr.

Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff & Youth Director

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Wayne County

## Mother's Day

"Motherhood is the greatest potential influence either for good or ill in human life. The mother's image is the first that stamps itself on the unwritten page of the young child's mind. It is her caress that first awakens a sense of security; her kiss, the first realization of affection; her sympathy and tenderness, the first assurance that there is love in the world."

—David O. McKay



## At LIFESPAN, We ♥ Moms!

Many area churches will have LIFESPAN Mother's Day silk roses and Mother's Day pens available for donation. This is a simple and poignant way that you can honor the Moms in your life. According to the U.S. Census (2013), there are approximately 82.5 million moms in the United States. This isn't even counting the aunts, grandmas, cousins, friends and, yes, fathers who take on the important role of mothering a child. Be sure to stop by the LIFESPAN tables after services to make a donation that helps to preserve life and honor mothers, and take the "moms" in your life a rose and/or pen.

## There Is an App For That!

Are you pregnant? Is your baby under one year old? Would you like to get texts that actually tell you what is happening week by week as your preborn baby develops? Would you like to get texts that let you know what you should expect in the first year after your baby is born?

There are many apps that are available for both iPhones and Android phones. One app that is popular is text4baby. You can find out more information by calling our office.

There are many resources available to women who are pregnant or have recently had a baby. Especially to those who have an unplanned pregnancy and may have limited income or strained circumstances. Please call our office for more information: 734.422.6230.

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32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 210, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone: 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116

e-mail: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-2:30; Friday Closed

Eileen Brandt, Director

Anne Marie Morin, Office Assistant

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## Wee Care

### Today at Wee Care!

A call came in—"twins were born today and have no bed to sleep in"—

A call came in—"Can anyone use a bassinet and a Pac 'n Play?" Thank you, God!

A call came in—a social worker has 10 babies who need supplies (that's 60 sleepers, 50 receiving blankets, 70 onesies, etc.)

A call came in—"We had a baby shower for Wee Care—can you use some supplies?" Thank you, God!

A call came in—Mom just had back surgery, dad is sick, no one is able to work—they desperately need diapers—

A call came in—"Hey, just saw a drugstore having a sale on diapers—can you use any?" Thank you, God!

A call comes in—"Please pray for my niece, she is considering an abortion."

A call comes in—"I would like to stop by and show you a picture of my granddaughter—the one who was to be aborted, but you gave me information for my son and you prayed." Thank you, God!

...and so goes a day at Wee Care!



Thank you for all you do to make this program work! With no funding, it truly is a little miracle (actually a BIG one) that we are able to help over 600 babies each year because God sends us angels like you! Thank you, God!

*Love, Karen*

**A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund  
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305**

**Phone: 734-524-0165 • Fax: 734-524-0166**

**Office Hours: By appointment; Karen Patrosso, Director**

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

## Youth Update

*continued from back page*

in the mail to you. I will need your name and mailing address. Yes, I did say mailing address—the "ancient" way of sending out mail! :) Just send me an e-mail and put



VOTERS GUIDE FOR YOUNG ADULTS in the subject line. We are still working some kinks out of the change-over for our e-mail to a new server and our website, but please visit our website by going to [www.miLIFESPAN.org](http://www.miLIFESPAN.org) and also send a friend request to us on Facebook! You can look us up on Twitter too and "follow" us @miLIFESPAN!

Here is a link of a blog article regarding "legal personhood," posted February 19th on *LifeSiteNews*. I think you will find it very interesting and you will want to share it with others. The shockingly bloody history of "legal personhood": <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/the-shockingly-bloody-history-of-legal-personhood>

*Note: There are skulls stacked up on the front page but no images of blood—just so you know!*

Have a great month ahead! —Lynn Gura, Youth Director

**Lynn Gura, Youth Director  
Right to Life – LIFESPAN Educational Fund  
Phone: 248-816-1546 • Fax: 248-816-9066  
e-mail: [youth@rtl-lifespan.org](mailto:youth@rtl-lifespan.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lifespan.officialpage](http://www.facebook.com/lifespan.officialpage)**

**The LIFESPAN \$10K Raffle** is coming up soon—on May 3rd. You still have a chance to order your \$50 tickets today! You can even get some friends to buy a ticket with you! See the form on page 10 for more details and get your ticket before they run out!

## Put your special photo in LIFESPAN's Resource Book



Purchase a special ad to recognize the accomplishments of someone special! It's a great way to acknowledge a graduate, retirement, anniversary, 1st Communicant, scout troop, special teacher, etc.! Purchase a 1/8-page ad to feature your children, grandchildren or other special someone in Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Educational Fund Resource Book 2016. **Photo Ads are tax-deductible!** Fill out the form for photo ads below and send \$40 with a non-professional photo, along with the names of those pictured, or other desired caption, to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305**. All picture ads must be received by **April 8, 2016**. If you would like your pictures returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you prefer to e-mail your photo, you may send them in JPEG format to **mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org** (with "LIFESPAN Photo" in the subject line) and mail your check to the above LIFESPAN address. For more information, call

Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Main Office at 734.524.0162.

### Yes! Please include my photo in LIFESPAN's 2016 Resource Book!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of people in photo (or other caption) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My photo and check are enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ My photo will be sent by e-mail; enclosed is my check.

Ad Seller's Name (if name is other than above) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Be a LIFESPAN Patron!

Gold Patron \$100

Silver Patron \$50

Bronze Patron \$10

Memorial Patron \$10

Please PRINT name(s) exactly as you wish them to appear. Names of patrons in each of these categories will be listed on separate pages in the Resource Book 2016. **Patron Ads are tax-deductible; make checks payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund.** Deadline for submission is April 8, 2016.

Patron Name(s) - Gold, Silver or Bronze \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Patron Name(s) (deceased): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Seller's Name (if name is other than above) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



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

### UPCOMING EVENT AT A LIFESPAN PARTNER CHURCH:



#### How to Protect Yourself & Loved Ones! End of Life Medical Decisions & Ethics

Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10:00 am to Noon • St. Irenaeus Parish Hall

Learn what you need to do to ensure your values are respected and medical care provided in a manner that you desire. Prepare to have these conversations before a health care crisis arises!

Jason Negri - patient advocate, author and Catholic attorney - will discuss advanced medical directives, difficult medical decisions, the current health care landscape, and how our Catholic faith should guide us.

No cost event with hospitality at 9:30 am.

To register, contact Cindy at (248) 656-8720 or email [christianservice@stirenaeus.org](mailto:christianservice@stirenaeus.org).

For more information, call Patrick Barkey at (248) 760-2528.

# British Government Encouraging Women to Give Birth to Disabled Babies to Harvest Their Organs

By Micaiah Bilger

British government officials are considering a new program to encourage women to consider giving birth to babies diagnosed with fatal illnesses, rather than have an abortion, so that the babies' organs can be harvested after they die.

The *Express* reports that transplant surgeons proposed the new measure at a British National Health System conference because of a massive shortage of organs for transplant. The group of surgeons argued that sick children in the UK are dying because organ transplants are not available, according to the reports.

The *Sunday Times* describes how the proposal would work:

Women pregnant with severely disabled babies could be supported by the NHS to carry the child to full term in order to increase the number of organs for donation.

Some defects or disorders, which mean a child cannot survive after birth, can be detected early in pregnancy. One defect, anencephaly, in which the child's brain fails to develop, can be spotted by a scan as early as 12 weeks.

Under the proposals, pregnant women discovered to be carrying such babies would be supported through the remainder of their pregnancy, allowing the child's organs to develop fully. They would give birth as normal and key organs would be removed from the baby once it had been certified dead.

About 230 babies with anencephaly are aborted every year in Britain. Only a dozen are born alive.

Over the past two years only 11 babies under two months old have become organ donors.

According to the *Express*, the option of organ donation would not be raised until the mother says she is certain that she wants to have an abortion. The NHS also said it would not encourage or pressure anyone to donate their baby's organs.

The *Daily Mail* reports more on the proposal: "In some cases, where donation has been agreed, babies could be certified brain dead but their bodies kept alive by artificial ventilation. Surgeons could then remove organs from these so-called 'heartbeat babies' when they are fresh, maximising what can be used and the chance of successful transplant."

An NHS committee has been established to explore the proposal and other ways to increase organ donations for children, the report states.

Many are concerned about the ethical implications of the proposal. While encouraging women to give birth to severely disabled babies rather than abort them is a good thing, the proposal comes with its own set of problems.

First, it treats human life as a commodity; and, second, it does not account for what would happen if the baby does not die soon after birth. While conditions such as anencephaly and Trisomy 18 often are fatal within a few hours after birth, some babies live for months or

years with medical treatment. Under the new proposal, will these babies targeted for organ donations be given the same medical treatment as any other human being, or will they be left to die so that their organs can be harvested? The fact that women who have decided to have abortions will be the ones encouraged to consider donating their babies' organs after birth seems to imply that these babies are unwanted and could be denied basic human rights.

Dr. Trevor Stammers, director of bioethics at St. Mary's University, called the proposal "a ghoulish suggestion" in a statement to the news media.

"It would be frankly abhorrent if transplant doctors were to ask women whose unborn children have been diagnosed with severe defects to let their baby go to term for the sole reason that its body can be raided for its organs," Stammers said. "The concept reduces the baby to nothing more than a utilitarian means to an end—a collection of spare parts—rather than respecting life for its own sake."

"Yes, I know those organs can potentially save the lives of others, but at what cost to our humanity?" he continued.

An online poll at the *Express* on Tuesday afternoon showed more people opposed the proposal than supported it, with 42 percent saying "It's awful and ethically wrong" and 42 percent saying "it's up to the individual."

The proposal comes on the heels of shocking undercover videos in America showing Planned Parenthood officials selling aborted babies' body parts. The videos have led to numerous state and federal investigations, as well as legislation to defund the abortion business of taxpayer dollars and ban the trafficking of aborted babies' body parts in the U.S. —*LifeNews.com*, March 9, 2016

**LIFESPAN'S Baby Shower** for pregnancy help centers in March was a great success. Seventeen pregnancy help centers benefited from the overwhelming generosity of 35 local congregations!

- ◆ 33 Drop-Off Showers
- ◆ 2 Traditional Showers

Yet again, Metro Detroit shows it loves moms and babies! Pictured below are just some of the many generous donations given—these at Our Lady of Loretto Church, Redford. Thank you, everyone, and God bless you!



**In Memoriam: Justice Antonin Scalia**



With the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia, on February 13, the nation lost a brilliant legal mind, a steadfast defender of the Constitution and a true conservative.

Those who knew him personally describe a man who cherished his wife and family, practiced his faith, and had a great wit and unending

compassion.

To the consternation of many, he clearly stated that the right to an abortion was found nowhere in the Constitution and, along with dozens of legal experts, felt that the *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973 was improper. He maintained, from a legal view, that allowing for abortion was clearly a matter for each individual state to decide and that the Court erred in finding such a right within the Constitution.

At a time when so many challenges to the Constitution are being brought before the Supreme Court, his voice for the rule of law will be sorely missed.

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

**In Memoriam: Dr. Carolyn Gerster**

*“And finally, let it be said of us that, in the midst of death, we brought life, and to all life, we brought love.”*



Those words, as remembered by National Right to Life Vice President Tony Lauinger, from an address given nearly 40 years ago by Dr. Carolyn Gerster summarize a philosophy of life she fully embraced and beautifully articulated in word and deed.

Dr. Gerster, National Right to Life’s fifth president, died in her Phoenix-area home, Thursday, January 28. She was 88.

To tell the story of Carolyn Gerster’s involvement and leadership of National Right to Life is, in many ways, to tell the story of National Right to Life itself. Dr. Gerster was there for 43 of the 48 years of the organization’s existence, first as Arizona director from 1973-2011, and then as Honorary Director from 2011 until her death.

Over the course of the next 43 years, Dr. Gerster would serve in a number of leadership positions for National Right to Life: Executive Vice President (1973-1975), Chairman of the Board (1975-1978), President (1978-1980), Vice President for International Affairs (1980-1999) and Vice President for Medical Ethics (1999-2011).

Her devotion and dedication to National Right to Life, Arizona Right to Life, and the entire pro-life movement was remarkable. But they become awe-inspiring when you discover that she did all of this while she and her husband, Dr. Josef Gerster, raised five sons and maintained a thriving internal medicine and cardiology practice in Phoenix.

For her life, and for all that she did on behalf of Life, we are forever grateful.

—Excerpted from *National Right to Life News Today*, February 2, 2016

**LIFESPAN’S Garage Sale!**

**Thursday, May 19th - Saturday, May 21st**

**May 19 - 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**  
**May 20 - 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**  
**May 21 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**36709 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia**  
 (next to Roosevelt Elementary School)

**Items needed for garage sale!**

Please call Anne Marie 734-422-6230  
 for drop-off and volunteer information.  
 (Not accepting clothing or over-sized items)

**Volunteers needed to price and work the garage sale!**

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**MAIN OFFICE**  
 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305  
 Phone: 734-524-0162; Fax: 734-524-0166  
 email: mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org  
 website: www.miLIFESPAN.org



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AprMay16

## 43 Years After Roe, Hope is Alive

*continued from page 2*

human being is not enough. To be a person—a creature with worth and interests that count (Singer) and rights (Dworkin), one must acquire or attain other features or qualities. That is, I believe, bad philosophy—and incompatible with the basic principles of our civilization and polity; but at least it does not rely on denying basic facts known to anyone who has taken the trouble to acquaint himself or herself with modern human embryology and developmental biology.

I believe I know how the story ultimately ends. I've had a peek at the last page of the book. But that's a matter of faith. And I cannot predict where we will go in the short to medium or even medium to long term. Nor do I have any idea how long the "long-term" will be. I don't know how long the little corpses will continue to pile up or the hearts of so many other victims of abortion, including (by their own testimony) many women who have sought or submitted to abortions, will continue to be broken. I do not believe that the future is determined or that history has definite trajectories or "sides." Truth and justice, however, do have sides—right and wrong sides. And we should deeply care about being on the right side, even in circumstances in which there is little ground for hope of success or victory anytime soon. But when it comes to protecting unborn babies and their mothers, we are, thank God, not in such circumstances. Evidence is everywhere that our prayers and efforts are availing. Hearts are turning. Young and old are gaining strength, confidence, and courage. They are committing to the cause, deepening their commitment to the cause, finding their voices. We shall overcome.

*Robert P. George is the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University.*

—*First Things*, January 23, 2016



*The most precious jewels  
you'll ever have around your neck  
are the arms of your children.*

~ *Unknown* ~

## Donations have been made to LIFESPAN— In Honor of the Birthday of:

**Jean Wolf**

*Given by: Erin Rybicki*

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**Ray Weingartz**

*Given by: LIFESPAN, Inc. Board Members  
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Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by LIFESPAN in your name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because... You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Right to Life - LIFESPAN will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local LIFESPAN office.

## 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 preborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you our newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual/Family                      \$ 30.00                      \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Right to Life - LIFESPAN**  
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## YOUTH UPDATE

*Dear Friends—Young People, Parents, Teachers, Principals, Professors, School and Church Youth Group Leaders and Groups, Directors of Religious Ed, Deacon, Pastors, Priests and all others who work with Young Peeps!*

Although the 2016 “Movement in Motion” Youth Bus Trip to DC in January was cancelled due to the severe winter weather in DC and the surrounding area, there were local gatherings happening on the day of January 22nd to remember the fateful, terrible decision that was made in 1973 by the U.S. Supreme Court in two cases—*Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which together made it legal in our country to get an abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy for whatever reason.

One of the pictures is of a dear family I know who live in VA (the Simons) who were able to attend the March



in DC for the first time as a family. The other pictures are of the Crusaders for Life Detroit group, based out of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Sterling Heights. The Crusaders were supposed to go on the trip with me and my husband on Buses 2 and 3. Seeing as we couldn't go, Bobby and Sam Smith promptly organized a prayer rally outside two abortion clinics and then afterwards, everyone got together to celebrate the gift of Life with pizza



and a speaker. Annie Fournier and Bobby Smith are with Rebecca Kiessling in one of the pictures.

Some of you will be 18-years-old by the time voting takes place in November. Please be sure to register so you can take part in this process. It is your right and privilege to vote as an American citizen. Although Right to Life-LIFESPAN is not a political organization, we do have a Voter's Guide to help give guidance to anyone who



wants it. Let me know if you are interested in receiving a copy when it is published, and I will be happy to put it

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