Happy Father's Day!

Lifespanawa

Volume 32 Number 4

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

June 2003

We Salute Mother of the Year 2003 Dorothy Cencer

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, we are honoring our Mother of the Year 2003, Dorothy Cencer. She and her husband, Tom, live in Farmington Hills, and attend St. Gerald Catholic Church. Dorothy was nominated by Steven Kowalski, a former neighbor. Printed below is Steven's nomination letter.



Kenny was my buddy, a couple of houses away in our Livonia neighborhood. He was just one of the guys. Though Kenny couldn't run faster or jump higher than the rest of the boys on the block, just making these movements made him feel part of the gang.

Even climbing basement stairs with Kenny was fun. Kenny's leg muscles weren't strong enough to walk up so he'd crawl on all fours. I would imitate him—anything to turn stair climbing into an adventure. In a family afflicted with Muscular Dystrophy, perhaps Kenny knew the inevitable, even in pre-school.

I am sorry to say a wheelchair replaced me as a constant companion of Kenny's. Rather than stay Kenny's friend, as my parents prodded, I did what many five-year-olds would do: Find someone else to run, jump and throw a ball with.

What does Kenny have to do with my 2003 Right to Life – Lifespan Mother of the Year nomination? Well, while I was abandoning Kenny as a friend, his mother, Dorothy Cencer, never left his side. Dorothy had lots of practice. Of the seven children—all sons—born to Tom and

Dorothy Cencer, five had MD and spent many of their years in wheelchairs. Kenny was the youngest of the bunch. God called five boys home before they were out of their teens: Richard, David, Timothy, Ronald and Kenneth. For several decades now, Dorothy and Tom and their other sons, Steve and Tom Jr., haven't had to go outside the family to find a Communion of Saints in Heaven.

We live in an era in which women choose to abort babies who are considered an inconvenience. The Cencers were open to life even though chances were their next offspring might not have been perfect in man's eyes. They always trusted, however, that all babies are perfect in God's eyes.

continued on page 5

News & Notes

Child abuse

Legalizing abortion was supposed to help reduce child abuse since it was assumed most abused children were unwanted at birth. This theory has been disproved by scientific studies as well as by the evidence that child abuse has sharply increased since abortion became legal.

In 1973, when abortion was legalized in the U.S., there were 167,000 cases of child abuse and neglect reported. In 1980, there were 785,100 cases—an increase of 370%. In 1987, there were 2,025,200 cases of child abuse reported—an increase of 1112%!

—U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center of Child Abuse and Neglect; National Analysis of Official Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

Risk of psychiatric hospitalization rising

The American Psychological Association (APA), which has consistently lobbied in favor of abortion rights, has frequently insisted that abortion is a benign experience that predominately brings relief to most women. Some APA members, such as Nancy Adler, of the University of California, have argued that abortion is so common that if it did cause emotional problems, the nation's psychiatric wards would be filled with the evidence.

Now, a new study published in the latest issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)* shows that such evidence does exist. A review of the medical records of 56,741 California medicaid patients revealed that women who had abortions were 160 percent more likely than delivering women to be hospitalized for psychiatric treatment in the first 90 days following abortion or delivery. Rates of psychiatric treatment remained significantly higher for at least four years.

According to the *CMAJ* study's lead author, David Reardon, Ph.D., a common complaint among participants in post-abortion recovery programs is that when they raised the issue of their past abortions while seeking mental health care, their therapists dismissed abortion as irrelevant. "Therapists who fixate on the 'abortion is benign' theory, either out of ignorance or allegiance to defensive political views on abortion are doing a great disservice to women who need understanding and support," said Reardon, who recently co-authored a book, *Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*. "This study, based on objective medical records, validates the claims of tens of thousands of women in post-abortion recovery programs."

—*Pro-Life Infonet #2971, May 13, 2003*

Doctor warns parents, teens

Every day a silent epidemic strikes 8,000 American youngsters, said Meg Meeker, M.D., and it is killing and physically and psychologically crippling hordes of America's children. "In 2003, we are living in the midst of a public health epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases amongst 12-18-year-old children, and an epidemic of depression related to much of the promiscuous sexual activity amongst our youth," Meeker said."What I have seen in my beautiful quiet and suburban northern Michigan practice is occurring nationwide, and when I turned to the medical literature two years ago to see if what I was experiencing was unique, I found that the Centers for Disease Control talks about the hidden epidemic of 15 million Americans getting a new sexually transmitted disease every year, and two-thirds of them being in people under 25."

According to *The New England Journal of Medicine*, one in five Americans twelve years and older test positive for genital herpes. After just one episode of intercourse, 46 percent of teenage girls contract the human papilloma virus (HPV) and 14 percent of them will go on to develop signs of cervical cancer. More women's lives are lost to cervical cancer every year than to AIDs. In 1960 there were just two sexually transmitted diseases (syphilis and gonorrhea). After 20 years of teaching young people how to use condoms, we now face at least 30 sexually transmitted diseases among 12-18-year olds.

We have the answer. It is abstinence education. Many opponents of abstinence say it doesn't work. It does work—all the time. The kids are willing to learn it. Are we willing to teach it?

—Excerpted from "The Caleb Report," Life Decisions International March-April, 2003

Summer Series at St. Aidan Church

St. Aidan Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., north of Six Mile in Livonia, is hosting a Summer Series entitled Helping the Family Live Christian Values in Society. The first in the series will be presented **Wednesday**, **June 18**th, **at 7 p.m.**, in the Activity Center. The speaker will be Teresa Tomeo, Christian radio talk show host and media consultant. Her topic will be *Making a Difference in the Media*. Come and learn what a difference just one voice can make. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. For more information, please call Karen 734-464-0279.

Lifespan News

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21ST ANNUAL "BOWLING FOR LIFE"

SPONSORED BY

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Sunday, July 27, 2003 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

WOODLAND LANES

33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia

BOWL 3 GAMES FREE!

PRIZES!!!!

GRAND PRIZES FOR MOST MONEY COLLECTED

1st Prize.....\$200 Savings Bond

2nd Prize....\$100 Savings Bond

3rd Prize......\$75 Savings Bond

4th Prize.....\$50 Savings Bond

5th Prize......\$50 Savings Bond

ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR HIGH SCORES WITH HANDICAPS

High Game for Men 14 years and older.....\$100 Savings Bond

High Game for Women 14 years and older.....\$100 Savings Bond

High Game for Children 7 - 13 years old......\$100 Savings Bond

High Series for ages 7 and older.....\$100 Savings Bond

CHILDREN'S BUMPER BOWL....ELIGIBLE FOR GRAND PRIZES

All bowlers receive a free gift certificate

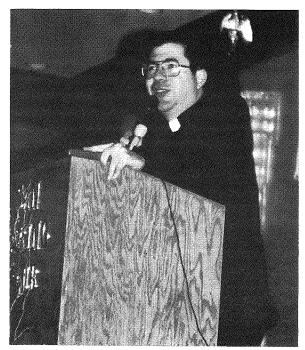
Bowlers with \$50 in pledges receive gold plated prolife jewelry

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES, AT LEAST \$50 MUST BE IN THE LIFESPAN OFFICE, 27592 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MI 48150 BY MONDAY AUGUST 18, 2003

For sponsor pledge sheets or information call Lifespan 734 422-6230

LIFESPAN NEWS/June 2003

Mother's Day Dinner 2003



Fr. Frank Pavone's inspiring talk challenged pro-lifers to "speak up!"

Dear Friends,

I am proud of the honor bestowed on me. It is a Mother's Day gift from "The Guys" (all seven of them).

Thank you for the elegant plaque, which I shall cherish, the beautiful bouquet of red roses, which has been placed at Mary's statue—St. Gerald's, and for the Marshall Field's gift certificate, which I shall put to good use.

The entire evening was just wonderful!!

Love, Dorothy Cencer



Steven Kowalski with Dorothy Cencer, whom he nominated for Mother of the Year, and Diane Fagelman, President of Lifespan



Fr. Gerald McEnhill, Dorothy and Tom Cencer



A wonderful evening was shared by over 600 Dinner attendees

Mother of the Year 2003

continued from front page

"Jerry's Kids" is an internationally known slogan for MD. And, while Jerry Lewis should be commended for his Labor Day Telethon which raises millions of dollars each year for MD research, nothing compares to the around-the-clock care Dorothy gave her kids.

Many parents look forward to the day they can take photographs or videotape their children attending the high school prom and making the long-awaited walk across the graduation stage. For five of the Cencer children, walking was out of the question in their teens, let alone dancing.

The boys couldn't play organized sports, but they loved their hometown teams, especially the Red Wings—long before it was fashionable to call Detroit, "Hockeytown."

Through it all, Dorothy never lost her Catholic faith. She never got mad at God. Despite all her responsibilities at home, she was always a regular at church functions.

Dorothy wanted a Catholic education for her children, including the boys with MD. It wasn't uncommon to see her carry her children up the three flights of stairs at St. Michael School before their special needs, and lack of an elevator and ramp, made attendance there impossible.

Jesus said pick up your cross and follow me. Dorothy, a tiny woman with a heart as big as any, knew that also meant pick up your sons. And to think, sometimes we dread changing our baby's next diaper.

Many parents push their children to church. Dorothy was no different, but she did it literally, and her boys grew to love the sacraments, just like she did.

Fortunately, the boys grew up in an era when doctors still made house calls. Their spiritual doctors at St. Michael, Fathers Forish and Partensky also made regular visits.

Dorothy was a leader in the St. Michael Women's Guild and a joy for other members to be around. She loved the camaraderie of monthly Friday Night Pinochle Parties at Guild members' homes. Dorothy didn't win every hand, of course. It was the only place you'd hear her complain about the cards she was dealt.

Tom and Dorothy never brought attention to their sacrifices, following our Lord's commandment in *Matthew, Chapter 6*. Still, the Detroit area would come to know some of the family's suffering. It wasn't uncommon for a local TV news crew to show up at a Cencer family funeral Mass and record some of the proceedings.

Now that is Reality TV.

Tom and Dorothy were well-liked parents on the block. They always seemed to have a smile as well as kind and encouraging comments for the neighbors' children.

Dorothy could have taken it easy in her retirement from "motherhood," but her moth-

ering nature extended to nursing homes in the western suburbs where she volunteered many hours for the sick and elderly long after her last child with MD passed away.

When Tom and Dorothy bought a retirement home in North Carolina, she was very active in her church's Christian service activities.

The Cencers returned to the Detroit area in recent years where it's easier to see their sons, Steve and Tom, and grandchildren.

Fr. McEnhill, the priest at St. Gerald Church in Farmington, lights up when he hears Dorothy's name, knowing the trials she has experienced and the witness she is to her faith.

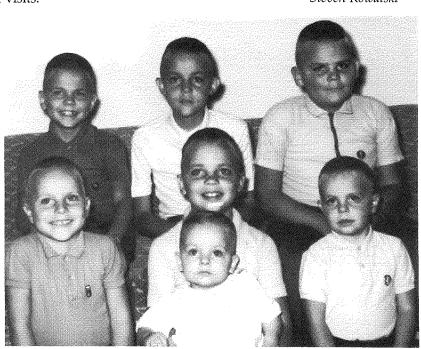
"Dorothy attended daily Mass at St. Gerald until a fall in the winter put her in the hospital," Fr. McEnhill said. Not as mobile, but back at home after the hospital stay, she usually makes it to St. Gerald for Sunday Mass. Fr. McEnhill brings her Communion from time to time, and Dorothy proudly pulls out the family photo album, showing pictures of the children, living and deceased.

Her love of life, like the photos, is also on display. "She keeps her smile and sense of humor; she's good with puns," Fr. McEnhill said of Dorothy. "To have such a good spirit despite the tragedies in her life, she is a real fighter."

Dorothy's initials, D.C. are already taken by a city, the District of Columbia, the home of our nation's capital. She should have a street in Livonia named after her. For now, I'll have to settle for thinking about her when I see a wheelchair ramp.

People call her "Dot" for short, but she made a much larger mark than that on everyone she touched, especially her five deceased sons who no doubt are smiling down on her. Though her boys had their share of suffering, God blessed them with a Saint for a mother.

—Steven Kowalski



The Cencer Boys Back Row: Tom, Dave, Rick; Middle Row: Tim, Steve, Ron; Front Row: Ken

Welcome, Christine Calleja!

The Main Office of Lifespan is very happy to introduce our new staff member. Christine has been with us since March and has already shown herself to be a valuable asset.



Since graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in marketing, I have been searching and open to working at an organization whose mission is aimed at doing good works for the community. I think it's safe to say, that I've found a good home here at Right to Life - Lifespan!

I grew up in Farmington Hills, as an only child to Helen and Pat Bonansinga. My wonderful parents raised me with a strong work ethic and appreciation for all human life. I've been truly blessed with great parents.

My journey to date has included living in Irving, Texas; Tampa, Florida and Brussels, Belgium. These were great experiences, but I felt the need to come back to my family here in Michigan in 1999. My father passed away in the fall of 2002 from pancreatic cancer, mercifully taken by a heart-attack before his first scheduled chemo. It was then that I returned to my search for a rewarding career.

My life soared to new heights when I met my husband, Bob Calleja. We were married at the National Shrine of the Little Flower in September of 2001, and we are very grateful to the Church for its pre-marital preparation and teachings. Bob is my constant fan and guiding light in both good times and bad.

I am very happy to be part of such a great organization, working with such devoted and loving people. It is my hope that any skills and talents I possess will serve the Lifespan organization well, now, and into the future.

—Christine Calleja

What's Up With the YOUTH?

Dear Friends of LIFE!

As the school year ends, and we look forward to the summer months, my thoughts and prayers will be with you. I have enjoyed meeting you, and hope I have been of some help. Please keep

reading and growing in your knowledge of life issues. I hope all of you have subscribed to the *Lifespan News* to

keep up-to-date on life issues and local events in which you can participate.

Thank you to the pro-life students at Detroit Catholic Central, Brother Rice, Mercy, U of D Jesuit, Notre Dame Prep and Madonna University for your help and attendance at the Mother's Day Dinner! Wasn't Fr. Pavone awesome! Maybe you can invite your pastor to join Priests for Life. I know how important your encouragement is to your pastors, teachers and parents as you share your zeal for the sanctity of human life! Keep up the good work!

We won't be meeting in May—August, but we'll try to meet the second Friday in September at the Troy Lifespan office. I hope my computer will be working by then. If you are wondering why you haven't heard from me for the past few weeks—that's why!

Before you seniors graduate, tell your parents you would like them to send you the Lifespan College LIFESavers survival care package to your dorm (see p. 14).

God bless you, strengthen you and keep you. Count on my prayers, and remember to call Lifespan if you need anything!

In Christ, for LIFE,

Kim DiSalle, Youth Coordinator





Happy Father's Day to all our Wee Care Dads...

To the ones who help organize Giving Trees and deliver to our office the heavy bags and boxes overflowing with beautiful baby clothes—

To the ones who sacrifice and donate monetary gifts, making it possible for our doors to remain open—

To the ones who swallow their pride and call us when they can't provide for their little ones—

And to the grandfathers who find themselves bringing up another generation due to circumstances beyond their control—

May God bless the dads who teach, nurture, play with, provide for and love their children.

May He bless the fathers who lovingly care for a sick child or who face the heartbreaking loss of losing a child.

May He bless the father who frantically calls us asking what he can do when his baby is about to be aborted, and then has to deal with the anguish of hearing that he has no legal rights to stop the abortion.

And finally, may He bless the new dad who cradles in his arms a new life and feels his heart swell with love like he has never felt before!

May all of our dads, grandpas and great-grandpas know how very much they are needed, loved and cherished! Happy Father's Day!

—Karen Patrosso, Director Wee Care (248) 777-2727 A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

Anti-abortion display draws protest

Members of the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church in Green Oak Township put up 2,000 crosses. Each cross represents two of the 4,400 abortions performed daily in the United States. The crosses were placed by members of the church's youth group: Sara Rzeppa, Youth Director, Brooke Belisle, Theresa Milhizer and Margaret Porter.

By Kevin Shopshire DAILY PRESS AND ARGUS

pro-life display at Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church in Green Oak Township is drawing some criticism from people who drive by.

As part of a traveling display provided by the Oakland and Macomb County Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan, the powerful display is composed of 2,200 white crosses that serve as traditional grave markers.

Each cross represents two abortions performed daily in the United States.

"It just gets people to thinking," said Patrick Flynn, administrative assistant at the church. "This display is not intended to offend."

"It is intended to educate and to help reach out to those who are hurting either directly or indirectly from abortion," he said.

Township Supervisor Mark St. Charles said he has received several complaints about the display, and the township's ordinance enforcer has been to the church twice to check out the complaints. However, it does not violate any township ordinances.

"It may be offensive to some people, but they are not violating the sign ordinance," he said. "It's private property, and it's a free speech issue."

Abortion is a very emotionally charged issue, and it has also become a major political issue, deciding many elections. But Flynn said the church is looking at it from a more humane and Christian standpoint with the goal of stopping the culture of death in this country.

"It's not really to pit one side against the other," he said. "We are Catholics. We are Christians. We are committed to loving one another and the truth."... The display went up last week and will come down Saturday [May 10]. The first occurrence of vandalism occurred sometime Wednesday evening [May 7] when the large sign accompanying the crosses was spray-painted with the words "pro-choice." However, Flynn said someone called the phone number of the Lifespan Chapter Thursday afternoon [May 8] threatening to destroy the display.

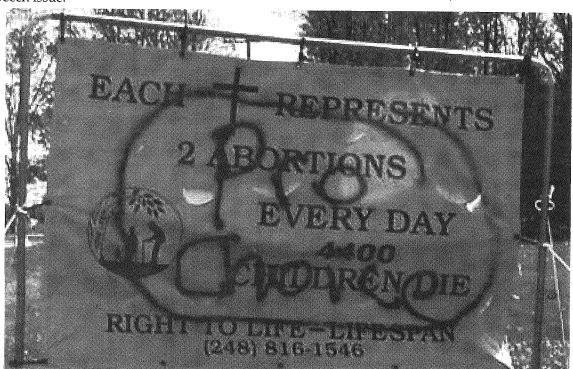
Flynn said the Green Oak Township Police were notified of the situation. "We kind of thought there might be," Flynn said. "...We're committed to this issue."

Flynn said some people have actually stopped at the church to complain. "A woman actually came in and demanded we take it down," Flynn said. "She was very angry, and it turned out to be a plea for help. She was suffering from the bitterness of an abortion 30 years ago."

Lifespan is an educational organization dedicated to the preservation of all human life from conception to natural death. It has been around for some 30 years, but Lifespan of Livingston County has just been established. Father William Thomas of Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church was one of the people who helped the chapter get off the ground.

-Livingston County Daily Press and Argus, May 9, 2003

Editor's note: The cross display forces people to come to grips with the reality of abortion. It may make people uncomfortable. We do not do this out of anger, however, but out of love—to save lives. Human beings die because of abortion. If there is a place in your community that would be willing to display these crosses, please call Lifespan's Oakland/Macomb Chapter, 248-816-1546.



detroit

17336 Harper PMB 293, Detroit, MI 48224-1980 Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone) Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed Mary Cascos, Office Manager

Bouquets of thanks

Our annual Mother's Day Flower Sale was a great success. We wish to extend our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to all of our church volunteers. Because of your kindness and generosity we are able to continue in our efforts to protect all LIFE—born and unborn.

Helpers of God's precious infants

A prayer vigil will be led by Bishop McNabb on Saturday, June 21, starting with a 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Clare of Montefalco Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. (The parking lot is off Mack.) Participants will go to St. Veronica's parking lot and walk to 8 Mile Rd. while praying the rosary, singing and walking to two abortion clinics. No signs and no confrontation allowed. This is a prayerful, peaceful vigil. Afterwards, there will be a benediction, followed by refreshments at Assumption Grotto Church. Some of the benefits: saving lives, recharging your enthusiasm to defend the lives of the unborn and the blessings that will come to you for this wonderful witness for LIFE. The vigil will end at 10:30 a.m.

Father's Day reflection

Occasionally, I get a call in the Detroit Office from a father who desperately wants the woman he loves to carry their baby to term. Because of the law, he has very little say in the matter. The woman has the power over life and death, and the man can only be supportive. We cry together, and I offer a prayer that his child is spared and the mother changes her mind. Let us pray for all the fathers who will never get a chance to play ball with their sons or sing songs to their daughters because of abortion. And let us thank our own fathers for giving us LIFE.

Garage sales

Summer is a time for garage sales. Are you up to your neck in clutter after your spring cleaning? Why not use that unwanted junk and turn it into someone else's treasure and at the same time help save lives by donating your proceeds to Detroit Lifespan. Get your family, your friends and your church involved. Also, remember that while you are out there shopping at other garage sales, keep your local crisis pregnancy centers in mind, and pick up a few gently-used baby items to donate to them. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

livingston

P. O. Box 1532, Brighton, MI 48116 Phone 810-220-LIFE (5433) Judy Zabik, Director

2000 white crosses

Two thousand white crosses were recently placed on the lawn of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, in Hamburg, commemorating the deaths of the unborn. They apparently caused quite a stir in the community. See p. 7 for the story which appeared in the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus.

Mother's Day flower sale

We sold carnations after services in area churches. The monies are still being totaled at this writing, but it looks like the sale was a great success! Thanks to everyone involved in this fundraiser, especially those of you who tied little pro-life notes on EACH carnation!

Father's Day Lifesaver sale

Lifesaver candies will be offered at area churches, after services, as our Father's Day fundraiser. Dad's are a part of LIFE too!

Dresser ministry continues

A low-style dresser was donated, placed at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Hamburg and filled to over-flowing with baby items! The dresser and contents will be donated to Pregnancy Helpline for a needy mother. Two more dressers have been donated to continue this ministry!

Fowlerville Fair

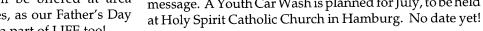
The annual Fowlerville Fair will be held July 12-20. We will have a Lifespan booth at the Fair. Youth groups from several local churches will assist us in this informational endeavour. It is a perfect way for our youth to attain any community service hours they may need.

Pastors' luncheon

We are planning a luncheon for area pastors, tentatively scheduled for this Fall. Our guest speaker will be Dick Thompson of the Thomas More Law Center in Ann Arbor. The main purpose will be to inform the clergy of the dos and don'ts and cans and can'ts of political messages from the pulpit. The alternate purpose will be to have dinner with many friends!

Car wash

We are always in need of funds to promote our pro-life message. A Youth Car Wash is planned for July, to be held



Inapter News

oakland/macomb

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Phone 248-816-1546 • Fax 248-816-9066

e-mail: rtllspan@htdconnect.com Office Hours: M-F 9-3

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

Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff

Dinner delights

What a wonderful evening our Mother's Day Dinner provided to all who attended. From the Auction, to the delightful Mother of the Year, to our wonderful speaker, good food and the company of friends, new and old, it was truly an evening to remember.

Whenever an event of this magnitude is presented, the list of people to thank is almost endless. It would be impossible to thank everyone by name because someone would surely be left out. So, Oakland/Macomb would like to thank everyone who helped, whether you had planned on it or someone simply tapped you on the shoulder and said can you do this or that.

Each of you performed a vital function—and helped us who were responsible for the Dinner from losing our minds!! A heartfelt "Thank-you" to one and all.

Lifesaver Iollipops

We are offering Dads something new this year. In the past, we have had chocolate bars for dads. (You have noticed, haven't you, that most dads have a terrible sweet tooth!!) This year, we will have Lifesaver lollipops. They will be attached to a card that says, "Life is Sweet, Thanks, Dad!" We seem to make a really big fuss over Mother's Day, but Father's Day tends to get a little less attention. The steadying hand on the seat of our first bicycle, the patient lessons on pitching and hitting, blocking and tackling are driven by a quiet strength and love that turns little kids into strong, responsible adults. That is what Dads do.

Counting crossses

It seems that our cross display is touching the nerves of a lot of people. Our display at Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg was vandalized, and we received more than one nasty phone call in the office. It is really curious how expressing the choice for life upsets those who claim to be for the right to choose. It appears that the only choice they will tolerate is their own. Three cheers to those faith communities who have the courage to display the crosses.

Love letters

You shouldn't say "I love you" unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.

wayne west/downriver

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

21st annual "Bowling for Life" Bowl 3 games free...

Many of our members have expressed regret that they can't do more for Lifespan because of work or family commitments. Perhaps the "Bowling for Life" FUNdraiser on a Sunday afternoon might be your way of helping.

For starters, the bowling chairman's job is open, and fresh ideas to make this event more fun for the participants and more successful financially are needed. The office will help wherever possible. No experience is necessary.

Teens from youth groups could support this pro-life cause and have the satisfaction of doing something important in the pro-life movement. Parents and their kids can enjoy an afternoon of fun by bowling together for an important cause, "helping to save babies."

League bowlers would add some expertise and professionalism to this annual event and enjoy fellowship and show support for the LIFE issues.

Bumper Bowl has been added where parents can bowl with their kids. Children are eligible for the Grand Prizes and door prizes. This is always a fun-filled afternoon with other pro-lifers, and you don't have to be a good bowler to

win exciting prizes. Sponsors can pledge by pin or a set amount of money per game. Example: \$1.50 per game pledged...bowler bowls 3 games...amount due \$4.50. OR...\$.01 per pin pledged...bowler scores 450...amount due \$4.50. By collecting pledges, you can bowl 3 GAMES FREE and WIN U.S. SAVINGS BONDS. Woodland Lanes, Livonia, is reserved for Sunday, July 27, from 2 to 5 p.m.

GRAND PRIZES in bonds for the most pledged money collected are: 1st prize...\$200; 2nd prize...\$100; 3rd prize...\$75; 4th prize...\$50 and 5th prize...\$50.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES in bonds are: High game scores (with handicaps) for men, women and children...\$100 in each category. High series score including men, women and children (with handicaps)...\$100.

To be eligible for any of the above prizes, at least \$50 in pledge money must be turned into our office no later than Monday, August 18, 2003. As an added incentive, gold electroplated pro-life jewelry will be awarded to anyone turning in at least \$50 in pledges.

All bowlers will receive a gift certificate donated by area merchants. Please call Lifespan at the number above for pledge sheets or further information.

Start your ovens

Lifespan church representative, Donna Kempfer, from St. Thomas a'Becket Church in Canton, will be hosting the **Father's Day Bake Sale on June 14 and 15** at that church. All Lifespan bakers from the Plymouth/Canton area are especially invited to participate. Baked goods may be left at the church or at the Lifespan office in Livonia. All proceeds go towards Lifespan's educational projects.





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: President@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

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

Dear Representative (last name):

Committee Hearings

LANSING ACTIVITY has really picked up this last month! I've been making weekly trips to Lansing in order to testify and submit written testimony in support of the following bills. The pro-life presence is severely underrepresented during these committee hearings, and it is my honor and privilege to represent Right to Life – Lifespan. I believe it is a good sign of the times when our state legislators are regularly meeting about subjects that are near and dear to us. —Christine Calleja

Legal Birth Definition Act

Senate Bill 395 & House Bill 4603 Committee Hearings April 29, May 6

Summary: The bills, which are identical, would create the Legal Birth Definition Act to define "perinate" and specify that a perinate must be considered a legally born person for all legal purposes. Specifically, the bills would do the following: categorize "perinates" as persons for legal purposes; provide criminal, civil and administrative immunity to a physician, who performs a procedure resulting in the perinate's injury or death if the physician had determined that the procedure was necessary to save the mother's life; and report various legislative findings having to do with Roe v. Wade. "Live" means demonstrating one or more of the following biological functions when any anatomical part of the human being is known to have passed beyond the plane of the vaginal introitus: a detectable heartbeart; evidence of breathing; evidence of spontaneous movement.

Who's Who: Judiciary Committee, Senators Cropsey (Chair), Patterson,

Schauer, Brater, Sanborn, Bishop, Bernero, Major Counsel and Representatives on the Committee of Family and Children Services.

Pro-Life support/testimony: Right to Life - Lifespan submitted written testimony for SB 395 and both written and oral testimony for HB 4603 (C. Calleja), Michigan Catholic Conference (Paul Long) testified, and Right to Life of Michigan testified (Ed Rivet).

Pro-Choice support/testimony: Planned Parenthood submitted written and oral testimony (Judy Caranjeth); ACLU of Michigan submitted written and oral testimony (Wendy Wagner); a representative of National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) testified in HB4603; National Organization of Women (NOW), Michigan Pro-Choice Education Network, Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Section, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, all submitted written testimony opposing the bills.

Observations & Amendments:

SB 395 narrowly passed committee with a 4-3 vote. HB 4603 was more widely accepted with a 9-3 vote for adoption. The major areas of concern were regarding the health of the mother versus the perinate, the term "perinate," and any ramifications to the physician.

In the Michigan Senate

On May 1, the Michigan Senate passed, 24-12, the Legal Birth Definition Act, SB 395. The LBDA will redefine legal birth so that a child has the protection of legal personhood once any part of





that child is visible outside of the mother's body. The bill does not restrict a specific abortion procedure, but will effectively prohibit partialbirth abortion.

In the Michigan House

By a lopsided, veto override majority, the Michigan House of Representatives voted 74-29, May 8, to approve HB 4603 and effectively ban partial birth abortions by declaring a child to be legally born once any part of that child is delivered outside his or her mother.

The bill represents the third attempt by the Michigan Legislature to ban partial-birth abortions. Two earlier bills, passed by the Legislature and signed by former Gov. John Engler, were struck down by the courts as overbroad.

HB 4603 now goes to the desk of Gov. Jennifer Granholm who will likely veto any pro-life bill that reaches her.

Supporters of the legislation could enact it without the governor's signature either by overriding a veto or through a citizen's initiative petition. (The two-thirds majorities in both the House and Senate needed to override are unlikely.) If a sufficient number of signatures were gathered (about 200,000), the legislation would be presented to lawmakers, who could enact it by simple majority without the governor's signature.

ACTION: Contact Gov. Jennifer Granholm and urge her to sign HB 4603. You can reach her office at Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, P. O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909; phone 517-373-3400; fax 517-335-6863.

Stem Cell Research

House Bill 4507 Committee Hearing May 13, 2003

Summary: House Bill 4507 adds a new section to Part 26 of the Public Health Code, regarding Data, Information and Research. Section 2685a would prohibit the use, for research purposes, of any cells or tissues from a live human embryo, fetus or neonate that were obtained in violation of section 2685 of the Code. This includes a ban on importing cells or tissues from out-of-state facilities.

Who's Who: Representatives Ward, Hune, Cattney, Robertson, Van Regenmorter, Woronchak, Hart, Rocca, R. Johnson, Ehardt (Chairperson), Vander Veen, Adamini, Wojno, Hardeman, O'Neil, Gillard, Clack.

Pro-life support/testimony: Rep. Hoogendyk presented the bill to House members. Ed Rivet from Right to Life of Michigan provided oral testimony, noting the success of adult stem cells as an excellent source versus another person's embryonic cells which may be rejected. A quote was offered from John Gerhardt, pioneer in stem cell research, to that same effect. The viability of stem cells from the umbilical cord and placenta; and that being paid for eggs/embryonic cells is an incentive for some to do so.

Non-verbal support came from the Michigan Catholic Conference and Right to Life - Lifespan.

<u>Pro-choice support/testimony</u>: Kelly Hamilton from National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) opposed the bill, suggesting it would

hinder reproductive care, the woman's right to donate as being her medical decision, and that embryos are critical and unique to curing diseases.

Non-verbal opposition from National Organization of Women (NOW) (Jean Doss) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (W. Kandel).

Observations & Amendments: Rep. Ruth Johnson specifically challenged Kelly Hamilton regarding the umbilical cord and post-birth cells as viable sources, in which the response was a healthy, "Yes, that would be a viable source!" Rep. Wojno guestioned Ed Rivet as to whether this bill would restrict the use of stem cells from the umbilical cord and/or a spontaneous miscarriage from being used for research purposes. In both cases, this bill would not restrict said uses. Rep. Adamini inquired of Rep. Hoogendyk if this would have any possible federal impact, and the response was yes, perhaps due to this bill now prohibiting inter-state embryos from entering Michigan. Rep. Ehardt added Amendment H1 to make the language of the bill remain consistent with 2685a. This amendment was adopted.

This bill, which would make it illegal to import stem cells from destroyed human embryos into Michigan for research purposes, was approved by the House Health Policy Committee by a 11-4 vote. It now goes to the full House.

ACTION: Please contact your state representative and urge strong support for HB 4507. You can find contact information for your representative at http://www.house.state.mi.us



Michigan women no longer must prepay for abortions

This legislation was drafted to provide consumer protection to women who are considering abortion. The law clarifies that abortionists cannot collect payments before abortions are performed—payments which could impel women to have abortions.

Legislation prohibiting prepayment for abortions was introduced in the Michigan legislature to clarify the meaning of "abortion-related services" in the Informed Consent law. The legislation was drafted to stop abortionists from collecting payment for abortion services until after the 24-hour waiting period has expired. It was signed by former Governor John Engler and was to take effect on March 31, 2003.

A legal settlement was reached ending the requirement for women to prepay for abortion services in Michigan. The settlement, reached by the New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights and the Michigan Attorney General's Office, is a victory for women.

-- Pro-Life Infonet #2959, April 29, 2003

Unborn Victims of Violence Act

The terrible murder of Laci Peterson and her unborn son Conner in California have drawn public attention to a degree beyond any previous unborn victim case. As permitted by California law, local authorities have brought two homicide charges in the case—which 84% agreed with in a nationwide poll of registered voters (only 7% said a single homicide charge was appropriate). Yet, if this crime

had occurred in any of 24 other states, only a single homicide charge would have been permitted.

Moreover, unborn children currently DO NOT EXIST in the eyes of federal or military criminal law. Thus, if Laci Peterson had been a uniformed member of the U.S. armed forces, murdered on a military base, only a single charge would have been possible. Under current federal law, if a criminal who commits a violent federal crime (for example, interstate stalking and assault, or a terrorist bombing) that wounds a pregnant woman and kills her unborn child, he is not charged with that loss of human life.

There is one reason that such injustices continue: Pro-abortion groups, such as National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), have blocked unborn victims laws in many states, and they have blocked the federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act since 1999 in the U.S. Senate. (The House passed the bill in 1999 and in 2001, and would readily pass it again.) This bill would allow an appropriate criminal charge to be brought for the harm done to any unborn child during the commission of a violent federal crime.

Now, the U.S. Senate must act.

On May 5, Sharon Rocha, the mother of Laci Peterson and grand-mother of Conner Peterson, and five other members of the immediate family, sent a letter to the prime sponsors of the bill, asking Congress to pass it as a "tribute to Laci and Conner...in their memory." (See their letter at www.nrlc.org). Here's how you can help pass this bill now:

◆ Please do whatever you can to generate calls, faxes, and e-mails to ALL U.S. senators, urging them to support immediate action to pass the

Unborn Victims of Violence Act. You can find guidance on how to contact your Senators on this specific issue at this website:http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/issues/alert/?alertid=1985751&type=CO

or, by going to the National Right to Life (NRLC) website at www.nrlc.org, and clicking into the "Legislative Action Center."

- ♦ Not only pro-life senators, but also senators who support legal abortion, should be urged to support this bill, because: (1) The bill specifically does not affect legal abortion, but only violent federal crimes that injure or kill unborn children; (2) 26 states already have unborn victims laws and they have had no effect on legal abortion; and (3) many state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have ruled that such laws do not conflict with the Supreme Court decisions requiring legal abortion.
- ♦ All senators should be urged to OPPOSE an alternative proposal ("substitute amendment") that will be proposed by opponents of the bill. This hostile amendment would provide an increased ("enhanced") penalty for a federal crime if it interferes with a "pregnancy"—but without recognizing the unborn child as a legal victim, or allowing any kind of homicide charge on behalf of a murdered unborn child. In their letter to Congress, the family of Laci and Conner wrote: "We have not only lost our future with our daughter and sister, but with our grandson and nephew as well." If senators vote for the "one victim" amendment, they will be saying in effect, "There was no grandson, no nephew, no second body on the beach in California-because these types of crimes really have only one

victim—the pregnant woman. If she survives the assault, then nobody has really died."

- ♦ Send a short letter to the editor of your local newspaper, making the same points. NOTE: It is best to avoid the legalistic term "fetal homicide." The preferred terms are "unborn victims of violence" and "unborn victims laws." The formal name of the bill in Congress is "The Unborn Victims of Violence Act," but at the request of the family of Laci and Conner, it is also now referred to as "Laci and Conner's Law."
- ♦ Call the hosts or producers of local talk-radio shows and urge them to schedule interviews or debates on the unborn victims issue. NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson and other NRLC spokespersons are available for interviews or debates on this issue.
- ♦ Please send any response received from a member of Congress on this issue, or any press report on the position of a member of Congress, to the Federal Legislation Department at NRLC at e-mail address Legfederal@ aol.com (preferred), OR by fax to 202-347-3668, or by mail to 512-10th Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20004.

For much more information on the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, see the NRLC website section on unborn victims at http://www.nrlc.org/Unborn_Victims/index.html

—National Right to Life Committee Congressional Alert, May 14, 2003

Must U.S. facilitate suicide with federally controlled drugs?

By Burke J. Balch, J.D., Director of National Right to Life Committee's Department of Medical Ethics

On May 7, 2003, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral argument on an appeal from Oregon Federal District Court Judge Robert Jones' April 17, 2002, opinion. Judge Jones overturned Attorney General John Ashcroft's ruling that federally controlled drugs may not be used to assist suicide in Oregon, the only state whose laws specifically authorize it.

Although it is dangerous to make predictions based on judges' questions at oral argument, those from Judge Clifford Wallace seemed generally sympathetic to the Ashcroft position, while those from Judge Richard Tallman seemed generally sympathetic to Oregon's pro-suicide position, according to a May 8 story in the Portland Oregonian.

Of greatest concern to pro-life and disability rights opponents of assisted suicide, however, were questions from Judge Donald Lay. According to the *Oregonian* story, Lay's questions focused on procedural issues, suggesting that there were technical flaws in the suit brought by Oregon and other plaintiffs against the Ashcroft ruling.

If the appellate court rules for or against the Ashcroft directive on the merits, the case will undoubtedly be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in that case might resolve the issue as early as 2004. Because the Ashcroft ruling has been prevented from taking effect by court orders during the litigation, a swift decision by the Supreme Court offers the best prospect for its implementation. This would bring protection to the lives of those in Oregon who might become victims of assisted suicide facilitated by lethal prescriptions of federally controlled drugs.

If, on the other hand, the lawsuit is thrown out on procedural grounds, a new lawsuit without the technical flaws would be filed at the district court level. Since that lawsuit would then have to be again tried at the lower-court level, and then once more appealed to Ninth Circuit, a final ruling by the Supreme Court—and implementation of the Ashcroft directive—could be delayed for years.

The use of narcotics and other dangerous drugs is generally prohibited by federal law except when a doctor prescribes them for a "legitimate medical purpose." On November 5, 1997, then-Drug Enforcement Administra-

tor Thomas Constantine announced that since assisting suicide is not "a legitimate medical purpose[,]... prescribing a controlled substance with the intent of assisting a suicide" violates federal law.

However, on June 5, 1998, Clinton Administration Attorney General Janet Reno partially overruled Constantine's decision. She agreed that "adverse action" might be warranted "where a physician assists in a suicide in a state that has not authorized the practice under any conditions, or where a physician fails to comply with state procedures in doing so." However, she said federally controlled drugs could be prescribed to kill patients when legal under state law. Oregon is the only state whose law specifically authorizes lethal prescriptions.

On November 6, 2001, Attorney General Ashcroft issued a decision reversing Reno and reinstating the prior uniform federal policy against the prescription of federally controlled drugs to kill patients. However, this policy never took effect, because of court orders by District Judge Jones.

NRLC Executive Director David N. O'Steen, Ph.D., commented, "The American people do not want their federal government to facilitate euthanasia. We strongly support the position of Attorney General Ashcroft and the Bush Administration that federally controlled drugs should be used to cure and relieve pain, not to kill."

Informative Websites

www.michiganlegislature.org
This website provides information on
Michigan legislative sessions and
laws.

thomas.loc.gov

Maintained by the Library of Congress, Thomas offers a searchable database of congressional activity from 1969 to the present.

www.nrlc.org

National Right to Life's site has up-todate information on pro-life issues, federal legislation and voting records. Two Additional Locations— Locations— in Livingston County!



LIFE CHAIN OF Metro Detroit

National Life Chain Sunday ber 5, 2003 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

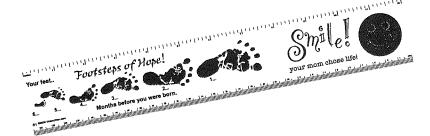
October 5, 2003 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

On Woodward Ave., from 10- 12 Mile Rds., in Royal Oak, Huntington Woods and Berkley On Gratiot, at 6 Mile Rd., in Detroit

On Gratiot, from 13 to 16 Mile Rds., in Roseville and Mt. Clemens
On Middlebelt Rd., from Jamison (2 blks. s. of 5 Mile Rd.) to 7 Mile Rd., in Livonia
At intersection of Wayne and Warren Rds., in Westland
At Michigan Ave. and Grand River to Fowler, in Howell
At Grand River and Main to Hacker, in Brighton

Thousands of participants will stand in witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care, as it has for the past 13 years. The signs we hold deliver the messages that **Abortion Kills Children**, **Adoption is the Loving Option**, **Abortion Hurts Women**, **Pray to End Abortion** and **Life**, **the First Inalienable Right**. It can, and will, make a difference if we stand together!WE NEED YOU. Will <u>YOU</u> stand with us on October 5? Help STOP abortion and the devastation it causes! Gather your family, friends, neighbors and fellow church members to join LIFE CHAIN. Call (248) 777-9090.

COLLEGE LIFEsavers



Do you have a son, daughter, niece or nephew, grandchild, sister, brother or friend going off to college in August or September? When he or she gets to their dorm, it is likely that they will find a "gift" box on the bed or the desk. These boxes frequently contain a candy bar, a toothbrush, a phone number from the local pizza delivery store and other such goodies. Unfortunately, more and more often they also contain the telephone number to the local Planned Parenthood clinic, and sometimes, birth control devices printed with a message to "be careful."

We, at Lifespan, would like to give your students a real gift package when they begin their college adventure. We would like to send a gift package that could turn out to be a real "gift of life" for some of our students.

If you provide Lifespan, Oakland/Macomb Chapter 248-816-1546, with the name and college address of your favorite student and \$5.00 for shipping, we will send him or her a Lifeline Gift Pack which will include:

- ★ A pro-life T-shirt
- ★ A pen with the notation "My Dad Loves ME"
- ★ A flexible 12-inch ruler that shows the accurate development of a baby in the inch increments
- ★ A button bearing the slogan, "Abortion is Mean"
- ★ A "Tiny Feet" lapel pin
- ★ A wall poster and bookmark, each of which shows a baby's hand

being held safely by an adult's hand and the words, "Take my hand, not my life."

- ★ Two short educational pieces from Feminists for Life (appropriate for men too)
- ★ The e-mail address for American Collegians for Life
- ★ And last, but not least, a roll of Lifesaver candies—a reminder that life is sweet and to be savored



Donations have been made— In loving memory of:

Sally Ehlen

Given by: Cathy and Donna

Robert Ervin

Given by: Tom and Nancy Ervin

Tommy Baier

Given by: Pat and Bob Holscher Wayne West/Downriver Board and Friends

In honor of:

Paula Ervin

Given by: Tom and Nancy Ervin

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 of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

2004 Entertainment Book presale

Order and pay for a 2004 Entertainment Book for the reduced price of \$30 and receive a 2003 Book FREE, through June 30. Call your local Lifespan office, pp. 12, 13.

Calendar of Events

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LIFESPAN NEWS/June 2003

June 14, 15 Father's Day Candy Sale, pp. 8,9
June 14, 15Father's Day Bake Sale, p. 9
June 15 Happy Father's Day!
June 18 Making a Difference in the Media, p. 2
June 21 Abortion Clinic Prayer Vigil, p. 12
July 12-20 Fowlerville Fair, p. 12
July 27Bowling for Life, p. 3
Aug. 15-Sept. 1 State Fair
Oct. 5 Life Chain, p. 14
-

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks to all who made our Mother's Day Dinner such a great success. To the committee—Well Done! Your metro Detroit pro-life organization, Lifespan, is vibrant and progressive—thanks to its strong volunteer leaders. I would like to thank the Dinner Committeethey did a marvelous job.

- ♦ Irene Tharp—Dinner Chairman who pulled it all together—from invitations to registration
- ♦ Diane Trombley—Media and registration
- ♦ Lynn Gura—Invaluable help in the Oakland/Macomb
- ♦ Marge Bradley—Update and lay-out of Resource Book; processed ads
- Christine Calleja—Arranged photos and ads; compiled statistics and created graphs for Resource Book
- ♦ Pat Holscher—Invitations
- ♦ Kay Brown—Hospitality
- ♦ Kim DeSalle—Organized teen assistance during event

Auction Committee

- ♦ Phyllis Sullivan—Co-Chairman
- ♦ Mary Beth Ritter—Co-Chairman
- ♦ Judy Ward—Collected and organized items

Special Acknowledgements

- ♦ Viviano's—Beautiful flower arrangements
- San Marino Club—Delicious food and beautiful accommodations

To the many others who worked behind the scenes our grateful appreciation and best wishes. We may not know all of your names, but God does, and He will remember your work.

May God bless you for all your sacrifices.

Dione

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Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

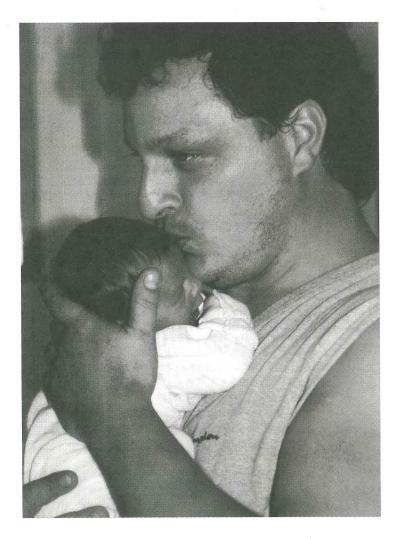
Right to Life - Lifespan believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect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

Working contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings. Annual Membership \$ 20.00 Student/Senior Member \$ 10.00

 Monthly pledge	\$
Other	\$

rogeener			
Name	Phone		
Address	City	Zip	
Please complete this form and	return with your donation to: Right to Life - Lifesp	an, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite	127,

Livonia, MI 48152-3736. For more information, call 248-777-9090. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.



Happy Father's Day, Dad!!

You taught me how to love you by

The way that you loved me;

And by your unseen sustenance,

To see what you could see.

You gave to me through who you were

The gift of what I am.

Your pride in me is now my pride;

Your faith, my caravan.

Your life does not conclude with death,

Nor will it end with mine,

For all the lives I touch, you touch,

And so on through all time.

Music: The Marsh of Rhuddlan Sequenced by: Barry Taylor Copyright by: Nicholas Gordon

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Wayne West/Downriver Chapter 27592 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150-2203

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