

Lifespan *news*

Volume 32 Number 7

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

November, 2003

Rally for Life

Sunday, January 18, 2004

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Madonna University, Livonia



Join us to hear inspiring speakers and live music.

Enjoy the fellowship of other pro-lifers.

Be inspired to change hearts and minds and save lives!

Celebrate LIFE with us!

News and Notes

Pro-abortion labor union

A national labor union is drawing criticism for co-sponsoring a pro-abortion march that abortion advocacy groups have planned for April, 2004.

Next year, the major pro-abortion organizations are planning a march in Washington in order to promote abortion and raise grassroots awareness about the upcoming presidential election. This by itself may not seem so surprising since the march is sponsored by the likes of the National Organization for Women (NOW), National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), the Feminist Majority and Planned Parenthood.

What makes some heads turn is that one of the sponsors listed for this event is the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

This isn't the first time AFSCME has lent its name to pro-abortion efforts. AFSCME is mentioned as one of the organizations that make up the leadership council of the Pro-Choice Educational Project. Other groups mentioned include the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the AFL-CIO, American Federations of Teachers, the NEA and the YWCA.

To let AFSCME know how you feel on this issue, contact them at 1625 L Street, NW; Washington, DC 20036-5687.

—LifeNews.com, August 21, 2003

Democrats' 2004 Convention gets pro-abortion backing, chairman

Flexing their political muscle within the Democratic Party, the pro-abortion political action committee EMILY's List contributed more than \$250,000 recently to help the party put on its 2004 convention in Boston. The pro-abortion group backs only Democratic women candidates and the donation helps guarantee their influence in the party. Pro-abortion New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson was appointed as the chairman of the convention. All of the current Democratic candidates for president are pro-abortion.

—LifeNews.com, September 8, 2003

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Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla

Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla was a wife, mother, doctor and most of all a martyr for the love of life who gave her life that her child may live.

At the age of 15 she prayed this prayer, "I promise You, to submit myself to all that You permit to happen to me. Let me know only Your will." From the age of 15 until her death at age 39, she lived this prayer. When two months pregnant with her fourth child, it was discovered that she had a uterine tumor. She chose to have the tumor removed, willingly and knowing that this would put her life in serious danger, but that her child would live. After giving birth to Gianna Emanuela in April of 1962, Blessed Gianna suffered in great pain for the next week and then died of septic peritonitis. In April of 1994, Blessed Gianna was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

The society of Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla would like to come to your parish to give a free presentation at all the Masses promoting holiness in the family and the sanctity of life. Parishioners will be invited to venerate her relics before and after all the Masses. If you are interested in more details, please contact Brooke Belisle at 810-231-9199, ext 209. For more info on Blessed Gianna, you may go to www.gianna.org.

What's up with the YOUTH?

Dear Friends for Life,

The Lifespan Concert has been rescheduled for January 31st, 6-10 p.m. Three of the four bands said they thought January would be better for them, and we want to make sure this is a successful event! A new Christian rock band called "S7" from Warren will play, as well as Rugged Cross (Christian Rock) and St. Joseph's Parish band (yes, they rock!). I'm waiting for Semper Fi from Troy to get back with me; please pray that they will be able to make the January concert! St. Anastasia Church will host us at their community center.

Many pro-life clubs at various schools have already started promoting the March for Life trip! We will be staying at the Catholic University of America gym again, and we all look forward to it! See back page of this newsletter, and contact the Oakland/Macomb office.

Congrats to Shrine of the Little Flower for their impressive steps forward in starting a pro-life club at their high school!

—In Christ for Life, Kim DiSalle, Youth Coordinator



Entertainment Books

The 2004 Entertainment Book costs only \$30 and makes a great gift! Call your Lifespan office today!—Detroit 313-640-8534; Livingston 810-220-LIFE; Oakland/Macomb 248-816-1546; Wayne West/Downriver 734-422-6230.

Michigan Nurses For Life



Dear Colleagues,
Your response to the letter sent to you asking that you send in your membership dues was really outstanding. We heard from so many of you that we are getting a better idea as to who is really interested in keeping abreast of life issues that impact our professional lives.

One such issue is the life of Terri Schiavo, which seems in great jeopardy. Terri is a young woman who suffered what some experts claim was an unexplained "lack of potassium" causing her to succumb to a "persistent vegetative state." For the past 10 years, even though a legal settlement provided the funds, Terri's husband has refused to allow her to have the therapies necessary to re-teach her to chew and swallow and retain muscle tone. Her parents have waged a long legal battle for their daughter's life, which, by the time you read this, they may well have lost. On October 15, by judicial order, Terri's feeding tube will have been removed and Terri may well have starved to death. Keep in mind that Terri is not on a vent, responds with direct eye-contact and smiles to the voices of her parents and the nursing staff. The justification for all this—the husband's contention that Terri would not want to live if artificial means were being used to keep her alive. This is just the "bare bones" of this story, but the implications for all of us are truly frightening. Where do nurses fit into this picture? What can we do to assure the dignity and protection of those for whom we care? When, if ever, is care futile? And how do we watch while the smile of a woman unable to communicate fades and becomes the slack-jawed face of death?

Our November meeting, November 11th, at 7:15 p.m., will feature Dr. Lorna Cvetkovich, a board-certified ob/gyn physician at Caritas Center for Women in Ann Arbor. She will help us understand amniocentesis and the implications for the woman and her family when it shows a problem with the baby. Linda Sipos, who was encouraged to abort her baby when amnio showed a problem, will describe her experience.

Our meetings are open to the public and are held at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 1100 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Continuing Education Credits are awarded to nurses.

Love Life,

*Diane Trombley, President, Michigan Nurses for Life
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G; Troy, MI 48084-3540
248-816-8489 • Fax 248-816-9066*

Calendar of Events

Nov.-Dec. Entertainment Book Sales
Nov.-Dec. Christmas Card Sales
Nov. 5 Student Essay Contest Deadline, p. 3
Nov. 11 Nurses for Life Meeting, p. 3
Dec. 14 Letters from Santa, p. 3
Jan. 18 Rally for Life, front page
Jan. 22 March for Life, back page
Jan. 31 Teen Concert, p. 2

Student Essay Contest

ELIGIBILITY:

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

RULES:

1. The topic of the pro-life essay entry must feature one or more aspects of abortion, infanticide or euthanasia. The essay must be titled.
2. The essay shall be a minimum of 500 words, a maximum of 1000 words. No poems will be accepted.
3. The essay should be typed, but may be legibly handwritten.
4. Each entry must be the student's original work. One entry per student.
5. On the **BACK** only of the last page of the essay, the student must **PRINT** neatly his/her name, address, phone number, age and grade, name of school, plus the names of his/her parents or guardian.
6. Each entry becomes the property of Right to Life - Lifespan, and each student who enters the contest assigns copyright for the entry to Right to Life - Lifespan.
7. The essay shall be judged on content and style.
8. All entries shall be considered by impartial judges selected with experience in the content. Judges reserve the right to award no prize winner if no entry is deemed meritorious of the prize.
9. Decisions of the judges shall be final.
10. All entries must be received by **noon, Wednesday, November 5, 2003**, and mailed or delivered to: **Student Essay Contest 2003, Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152.**

PRIZES:

First: \$1000 Savings Bond

Second: \$400 Savings Bond

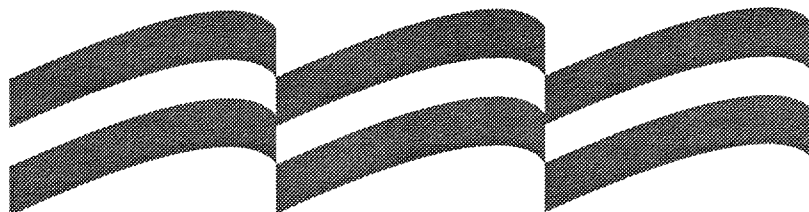
Third: \$200 Savings Bond

Prizes will be awarded at the Rally for Life, January, 2004. The first-prize winner shall also be invited to read the winning essay at the Rally, and the winning entry shall be printed in *Lifespan News*. Call Lifespan's Main Office **248-777-9090**.



Letters from Santa

Imagine the look on your child's face when he or she receives a special letter from Santa this Christmas! For only \$5, Santa will send your child a personalized letter printed on colorful holiday stationery. \$2 from each letter will be donated to Right to Life - Lifespan. Santa's letter includes a special treat recipe that your child will be able to make with you. Your child will be delighted to hear from Santa, and you'll be helping other children as well! Please place your order **before December 14th** to ensure timely delivery. Include name of person ordering, address, phone; name of child, age, sex and grade of child; teacher's name; special awards; names of three siblings or friends; items on child's wish list; chores he/she does. Send this information, along with \$5 (check or money order) for each letter ordered to: **2clowns.com—Priest Family Productions, 144 Auburn, Inkster, MI 48141**. For more information, call **313-277-0800**.



LEGISLATIVE

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

Dear Governor Granholm:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-1837

Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

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

Dear Representative (last name):

Governor Vetos

Legal Definition of Birth Act

Using as an excuse that the measure did not contain an exemption for a woman's health, Jennifer Granholm vetoed the Legal Birth Definition Act.

Her action came in spite of a poll showing that 88% of Michigan people questioned supported the legislation.

Because of the incredibly broad definition of health that is used, people in favor of partial-birth abortion know full well that including the word *health* opens a loophole in any legislation on abortion that makes such legislation meaningless. In these cases, *health* does not mean the absence of disease but rather a "feeling of well-being" regarding the woman's emotions, finances, psychological comfort and place in society. This is how the World Health Organization defines *health*, and it is the same definition that the Supreme Court used in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade/Doe v. Bolton* decisions on abortion.

Even more to the point, countless physicians and professional medical associations have stated that rather than protecting a woman's health, the partial-birth procedure places her health in jeopardy.

There are now two options open to assure the passage of the Legal Birth Definition Act.

1) Override the governor's veto. This requires 2/3 of the votes in the Lansing House of Representatives and the Lansing Senate. The measure was initially passed 74-28 in the House and 25-11 in the Senate. An override vote in the House would be 74 votes and in the Senate 26 votes. More support would have to be obtained to secure a 2/3 majority in both houses.

2) Start a state-wide **initiative petition** in Michigan to have the measure

voted on by the residents of the State of Michigan. There have been at least two other initiative petitions begun by pro-lifers in Michigan (parental consent and tax funding of abortion). Both of these efforts resulted in pro-life legislation becoming law without input, or interference, from the governor.

As of this issue of the *Lifespan News*, it is not known which, if either of these alternatives will be attempted. We must remember that a *federal* measure that would ban partial-birth abortion will soon go to President Bush who has promised to sign it into law. Those groups who support partial-birth abortion have already indicated their intention to challenge the new law and ask that the Supreme Court hear the case. Any decision from that court would impact on legislation enacted here in Michigan.

Given that Ms. Granholm received heavy financial backing from several pro-abortion organizations in her bid for the governor's office here in Michigan, pro-lifers were not really surprised by her action, but were clearly saddened that this small measure of protection will be withheld from unborn babies.

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-to-date information on pro-life issues, federal legislation and voting records.



UPDATE



UAW Backs Away From Abortion

As was reported last month in *Lifespan News*, the UAW had included insurance payment for elective abortions for its members during negotiations with Detroit automakers. This demand was not made known to rank and file UAW workers until the information was leaked to the press.

It is not known if negative reaction to the demand was the reason for its removal from consideration, but it is known that petitions, phone calls, pickets and demands from members that "the bargaining committee stay focused on issues that refrained from compromising the integrity of the union" had an impact. The union has refused comment as why the item was removed from the bargaining issues.

In past polls, union members have shown that they do not want their funds used to pay for insurance for abortions.

Thanks to all *Lifespan* members who called or wrote your UAW representatives to voice your opinion on this issue!

One Nation Under God

The Supreme Court agreed, on October 14, to rule on the constitutionality of one of the most familiar rituals in school classrooms—students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The justices, who begin their daily sessions with heads bowed as the marshal intones, "God save the United States and this honorable court," accepted a case that places the court at the center of a public controversy.

Justice Antonin Scalia, who has made clear his view that the pledge is constitutional, will not participate, raising the prospect of a 4-4 tie. Activists on both sides of the church-state divide immediately forecast one of the most significant, and wrenching, rulings in the court's modern history.

The case is an appeal by a California school district of a decision that has been the subject of national debate since the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco issued it 16 months ago. The court agreed with Michael Newdow, who objects to the pledge his 9-year-old daughter's teacher leads daily.

The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments in the pledge case in February or March and decide the matter by early next summer.

Meanwhile, the 9th Circuit ruling, which prompted Congress—with President George W. Bush's support—to reaffirm its commitment to the pledge's "one nation under God" wording, is on hold pending the court challenge.

The Constitution guarantees there will be no government "establishment of religion," wording that has come to mean a general ban on overt government sponsorship of religion in public schools and elsewhere.

And under a Supreme Court ruling dating to the World War II era, students cannot be compelled to recite the pledge against their or their parents' wishes. The issue now before the court is whether it is unconstitutional for a teacher to lead students, even if they are willing, in saying the pledge.

"As a father, it's important that my child should be able to choose which religious beliefs are most appropriate without the government weighing in,"

stated Newdow, who says he is an atheist.

The Supreme Court's action had several unusual elements that could affect the outcome. One was the decision by Scalia not to participate in the case. He did not explain why, but Newdow had challenged Scalia's impartiality based on remarks Scalia made at a Religious Freedom Day observance this year. Scalia said the issue would be better decided by lawmakers than judges.

—Excerpts from *Detroit Free Press*
October 15, 2003

Bush Administration Pursues Human Cloning Ban

President Bush is vigorously pursuing a complete ban on all forms of human cloning at the United Nations.

Last year, a coalition of countries, led by France and Germany, sought a partial ban on human cloning that would have prohibited reproductive human cloning but allowed it in research where human embryos are cloned and killed to obtain stem cells.

President Bush and pro-life groups oppose such "clone and kill" proposals because the research involves the destruction of unborn children.

The Bush administration led an effort against the proposal and it was postponed for one year.

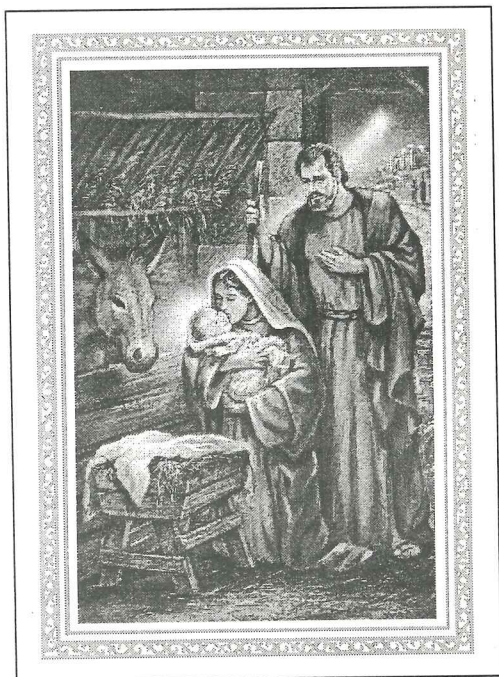
Now, Bush is backing a new effort sponsored by Costa Rica that would ban both forms of human cloning. It is similar to legislation proposed in Congress that enjoys the support of pro-life organizations and is backed by 40 other nations.

Other nations will likely lobby Costa Rica and its allies to open up the proposal for amendment to allow destructive research-based human cloning.

LifeNews.com, September 18, 2003

Christmas Cards 2003

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



Holy Family

Traditional scene of the Holy Family in the stable is expressed in rich tones of blue, olive green and brown with embossed gold foil border and includes a gold foil-lined envelope

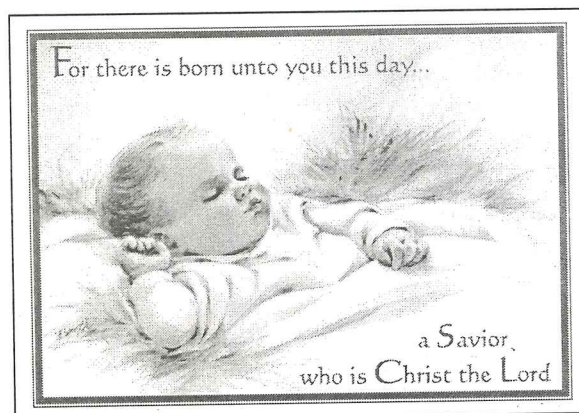
Actual size: 5-5/8" x 8-1/8"

\$15.00 per box of 20

Verse:

*May the love of the Holy Family
rekindle in our hearts
the comfort of hope
the warmth of peace
and the joy of Life*

Wishing you a Merry Christmas



Infant Jesus

Card depicts the sleeping Infant in soft pastels of gold and brown. Envelope has an oval opening through which the face of the Infant can be seen

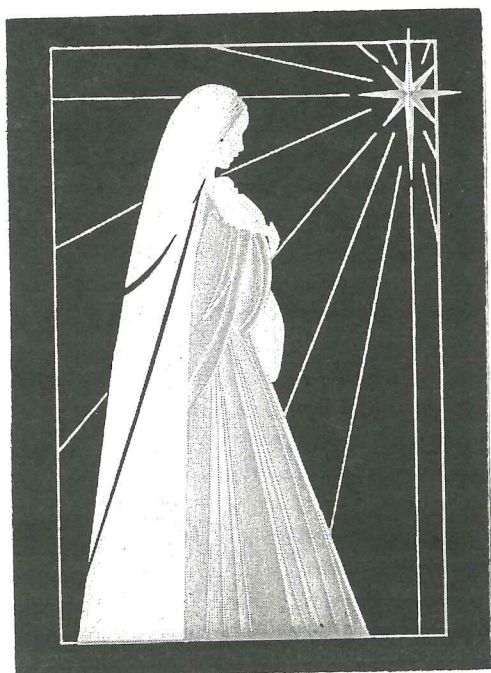
Actual size: 4-7/8" x 6-3/4"

\$6.00 per pkg. of 10

Verse:

*As we rejoice
at the birth of the Infant Savior
may our hearts be filled with love
at the wonder of God's gift of Life*

*Blessings to you at Christmas
and all through the year*



Radiant Star

Elegant card with white and silver embossed figure of Mary holding the Infant, with navy blue background, radiant star and silver-lined envelope

Actual size: 5-1/2" x 7-3/4"

\$15.00 per box of 20

Verse:

*One shining star
to make the world bright
One infant child
on that wonderful night
One little prayer
for those we hold dear
May the Creator of Life bless you
all through the year*

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

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

Pro-Life Breakfast

"This was the best one yet" "Excellent performance" "Very informative" these were some of the comments we heard at the conclusion of Lifespan's Annual Pro-Life Breakfast that was held on Saturday morning, October 11th, at Burton Manor in Livonia.

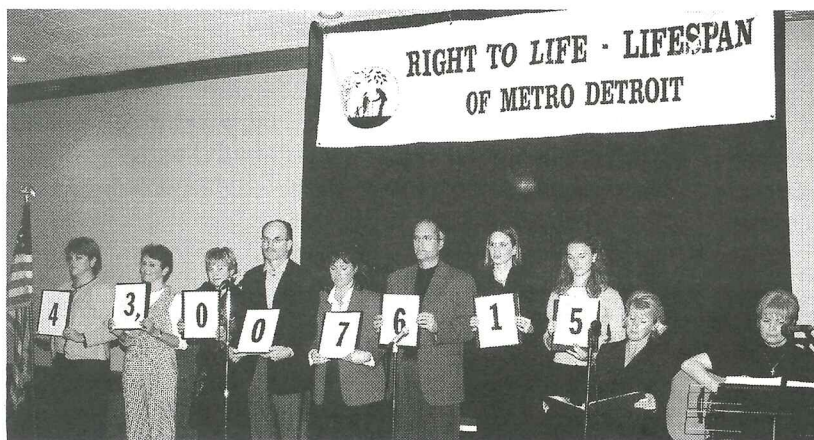
Michigan State Representative William J. O'Neil gave an update on pro-life legislation. He has introduced a bill that would close some of the loop holes when pregnant teens seek an abortion without parental consent. This is House Bill 4478 which would amend the Parental Rights Restoration Act. HB 4478 proposes 24 guidelines a judge must consider before granting a waiver of parental consent to an abortion for a minor. This bill has passed in the House and is now in the Senate committee. **ACTION: Write your State Senator and urge passage of HB 4478.**

A very moving and inspiring presentation called *Life Stories* was given in dramatic reading and song by a cast of



ten people who portrayed well-known personalities involved in the *Roe v. Wade* decision and its aftermath. The presentation exposed the fact that many things were not true in the events that led to the *Roe v. Wade* decision. All members of the cast were excellent. One of the personalities portrayed was Phil McCombs, a writer for the *Washington Post* who experienced the personal tragedy of abortion. His son, if he had been born, would have been named Thomas. There were tears in many eyes when the presenter, reading from an article written by McCombs that expressed guilt and repentance, said "....there was no room on the Earth for Thomas."

Dennis Kasprowicz, long-time member of Lifespan, was Master of Ceremonies. Dennis kept the program running smoothly by recognizing the legislators who attended, introducing the speakers and performers and challenging the audience to speak out on pro-life issues.



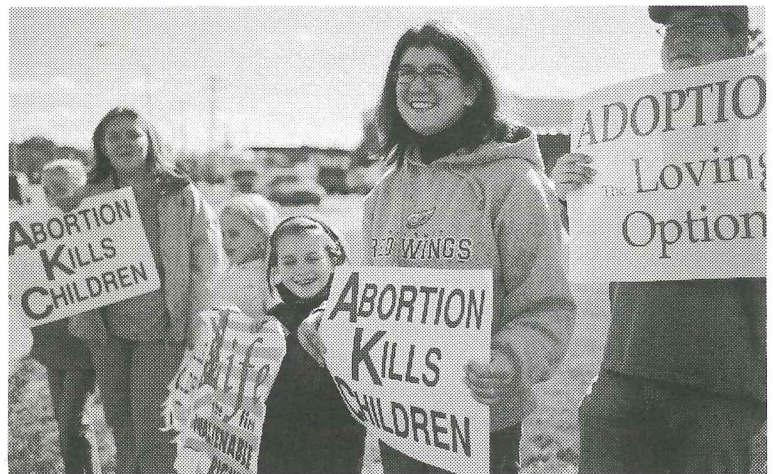
Life Chain

Since the international Life Chain's founding in 1987, it has spread to over 900 cities and towns in the United States and Canada. More than 8000 Chains have been built. Since its inception, no pro-life participation has been cited for an illegal act, so far as the National Life Chain office is aware.

Right to Life - Lifespan started the very first Life Chain in Michigan in 1989. This year, Lifespan members and friends took part in ten local Chains involving thirteen cities.

It was inspiring to see the thousands of people from our area who stood prayerfully to peacefully protest abortion on demand. It is very humbling to know that you are just one small part of over 900 Chains—all standing at the same time with the same messages all across North America. Many of you expressed feelings of tranquility and spirituality as the cars passing by honked their horns or gave a "thumbs up" gesture. The mood was overwhelmingly positive.

The Life Chain has come and gone for another year. For those who participated in this international event, we thank you, and for those who couldn't come, we will welcome you next year!





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

Life Chain 2003—A success

About 160 angels came out to witness to the people of Detroit. We received many friendly beeps from passing cars. Thanks to all who came and especially to Bob Johnson and Assumption Grotto Church for hosting this important event. God will bless all who publicly proclaim their outrage at abortion.

Christmas cards

We have beautiful religious Christmas cards with a pro-life message this year. This is one of Detroit's most important fundraisers and supports our ongoing efforts to spread the pro-life message. If your church does not have a Lifespan Representative and you would like to help the cause, please call us today—313-640-8534. All it takes is an article in your church paper, which we provide, and a willingness to help distribute these beautiful cards.

livingston

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

Life Chain Sunday

Brighton, Howell and Fowlerville had a great turnouts this year! The young and not so young (!) stood silently along downtown streets in beautiful weather with our pro-life signs to be read by passersby in our communities. Articles in the local paper and announcements on the radio surely helped to increase participation. Many thanks to all who showed up. We look forward to even more people next year!

Pregnancy Helpline Open House

The new offices of Pregnancy Helpline were thrown open to supporters and the curious Sunday, October 4, right after the Life Chain. Crowds of people toured the new facilities at 7743 W. Grand River, Suite 101, in Brighton. Refreshments and live music by "Living Water Acappella" were provided. The beautiful offices and examination rooms were a delight

Entertainment Books

The 2004 Entertainment book makes a great Holiday gift for those you love, including yourself, of course! For just \$30.00, you receive 50% off at many of your favorite stores and restaurants. If you only use the Kroger certificates, you will pay for your book—so why not buy two? Help Lifespan by calling the office today at 313-640-8534.

Thanksgiving prayer

Lord we thank you for all your many blessings this year.

For family and friends we hold most dear;

for a bountiful harvest which our hands have planted,

For warm homes and food

that we sometimes take for granted.

Lord we thank you for all those who work so hard

For the unborn, the handicapped

and all society will discard.

We thank you for those who stand at Life Chains and come to Rallies to proclaim their witness for Life that our society seems to disdain.

Lord we thank you for those foot soldiers who stand in front of clinics day after day.

Give them strength and courage to keep fighting, we pray. Let heaven hear their prayers and their song,

Encouraging women from doing what is wrong.

Lord we thank you for Life which only you can give; May many hearts be touched today so babies might live.

to behold. Medical Help Needed: Nurses wanted to train on the new sonogram machine, if you can donate your time call: 810-494-LIFE.

Baby bottle boomerang

Empty baby bottles were made available to several churches in the area to be passed out to members. Parishoners take them home, fill them with any loose change for a month, then return them. We then donate the bottles full of money to Pregnancy Helpline. At this writing, the loose change (and some paper money!) is still being counted, but it looks to be a tidy sum! Thanks to all who "boomeranged!"

Movie star to speak

Jennifer O'Neill, star of stage and screen, will be the guest speaker at Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner next May. Plan on being there to hear her speak on her pro-life conversion.

Christmas cards

We are pleased to offer beautiful pro-life Christmas cards for sale. They are currently available at certain Livingston County churches. If you are interested in having them available at your church or group, please contact us. Help Lifespan distribute these cards by selling them to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.



oakland/macomb

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

Phone 248-816-1546 • Fax 248-816-9066

e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 8-4; W 9-3

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

Excellent Entertainment

Our 2004 Entertainment Books are proving to be very popular this year. We have them in the office, and you can call and have us put one aside for you. The cost is \$30.00, and there are lots of new participants this year. They make great Christmas gifts.



Christmas cards care

As usual, our Christmas cards are really beautiful this year. Have you ever thought that sending a Lifespan Christmas card is a very caring gift? First, it sends a lovely message to your friends and loved ones. Secondly, the little notation inside the card indicates that it came from a person who loves life and appreciates the lives of all of

wayne west/downriver

27592 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150-2203

Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116

e-mail: wwdr@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: M-Th 10-4; F Closed

Patricia Holscher, Director; Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Staff

Annual Pro-life Breakfast and Legislative Update

What a wonderful event!! All who attended were moved emotionally by *Life Stories*, which is an informative and entertaining new pro-life program, presented in a Readers Theatre format. This was a beautiful and rewarding experience. If you missed this program and would like to view it, call our office, and we'll let you know where they will be performing. See additional remarks on page 7.

Also, Rep. William J. O'Neil, Michigan House of Representatives, gave an update on pending legislation. See pages 4 and 5 for legislative action.

The following prayer was written by Reverend Richard Osebold, Pastor of St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Redford, who gave the invocation.

God, Creator of the world, we praise You and thank You for all of Your wonderful works. Who but You could create the human hand with its marvelous movements? Who but You could fashion eyes which allow us to see the beauties of nature? Who but You could construct the heart that beats non-stop for

God's creations. Thirdly, purchasing our card provides an opportunity to help Lifespan keep our doors open and our lights on. It helps us spread the message of Life to our young people and provides a resource for women facing a problem pregnancy. If you think this 3-in-1 gift is as special as we do, call the office, **248-816-1546** to order yours today.

E-mail entreaty

We are still hoping that all you folks in Oakland and Macomb Counties will send in your e-mail addresses so that we will be able to get time-sensitive messages to you as quickly as possible. As with our membership list, these addresses will NEVER be given to anyone else so you don't need to worry about advertisements for fishing reels, mortgages, vacations in faraway places or how to increase your vocabulary. These addresses will be used strictly for sending you information that will help you be informed and aware of what is happening in our state and federal governments and in our organization. Please e-mail us your e-mail address so we can put you on the list.

Simple smiles

As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.

50, 70 or 100 years? Who but You could devise the human brain with its vast capacity to store information and to process it? Who but You could establish one's DNA which is unique and different for each individual and at the time of conception becomes the blueprint for all that will develop? None of this is our own doing, but it is Your precious gift. We stand in awe of the miracles of human life. Bless us today as we gather to celebrate the right to this life. May our respect for life be intensified by the words and messages shared at this breakfast. Bless the food we are to receive that it may fuel our energy to work at safeguarding this right to life, and strengthen our resolve to protect it in all stages from conception to natural death. God of all, with confidence, we place ourselves in Your care now and forever. Amen

Card distributors

The 2003 Christmas cards are very beautiful—with a religious theme and pro-life verses. When shown, these cards will sell themselves. We need more members who will show them at work, group meetings, churches or from their homes to neighbors, family and friends. If cards are being sold at your church, please volunteer to help. See page 6.

Membership renewals

Letters are in the mail requesting membership renewals. When possible, please respond promptly as reminders are costly and time-consuming. With your prayers and financial support, we are able to continue our educational activities.

Old Woman's Poem

When an old lady died in the geriatric ward of a small hospital near Dundee, Scotland, it was felt that she had nothing left of any value. Later, when the Nurses were going through her meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Ireland. The old lady's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the *News Magazine of the North Ireland Association for Mental Health*. A slide presentation has also been made based on her simple, but eloquent, poem. And this little old Scottish lady, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this "anonymous" poem winging across the internet—goes to show that we all leave "SOME footprints in time."

An Old Lady's Poem

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?

What are you thinking when you're looking at me?

A crabby old woman, not very wise,

Uncertain of habit, with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles her food and makes no reply.

When you say in a loud voice,

"I do wish you'd try!"

*Who seems not to notice the things that you do, And forever
is losing a stocking or shoe...*

Who, resisting or not, lets you do as you will,

With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill....

Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?

Then open your eyes, nurse; you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,

As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.

I'm a small child of ten...with a father and mother,

Brothers and sisters, who love one another.

A young girl of sixteen, with wings on her feet,

Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.

A bride soon at twenty—my heart gives a leap,

Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.

At twenty-five now, I have young of my own,

Who need me to guide and a secure happy home.

A woman of thirty, my young now grown fast,

Bound to each other with ties that should last.

At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone,

But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.

At fifty once more, babies play round my knee,

Again we know children, my loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead;

I look at the future, I shudder with dread.

For my young are all rearing young of their own,

And I think of the years and the love that I've known.

I'm now an old woman...and nature is cruel;

Its jest to make old age look like a fool.

The body, it crumbles, grace and vigor depart,

There is now a stone where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,

And now and again my battered heart swells.

I remember the joys, I remember the pain,

*And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years, all too few, gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, nurses, open and see,
Not a crabby old woman; look closer, see ME!!*

Remember this poem when you next meet an old person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within...We will one day be there, too!



Wee Care

Dear Friends,

If you and I sat around the table on Thanksgiving and we took turns saying what we were thankful for—your dinner would be cold and

Christmas would be here before I was finished!

Once I had thanked God for my precious family, my cherished grandchildren, my treasured friends and all of the gifts He has given me—my thoughts would have to turn to all of you and what you have done for my other love—my sweet, little babies in the Wee Care program.

Your love and concern for these special little ones touches my heart and the hearts of all the moms. You give them material goods, you give them hope and you give them love when they need it the most.

Thank you for helping the little three-year-old who was so excited when we gave him a couple matchbox cars and a cuddly Barney dinosaur as well as some warm winter clothes after he escaped a house fire and saw everything he loved destroyed.

Thank you for helping the couple who for the first time had to ask for help after the dad was laid off and the mom had to quit her job when she had to go on bedrest to protect the little one growing inside of her, who was so anxious to be born.

And thank you for helping the young girl who was so frightened. She was alone. She was scared. She was afraid of childbirth, and she was so worried about how she would provide for her baby. When the social worker called and asked for material goods for her, she also asked if we could call her as she was so depressed. We did. We spoke about the cute sleepers, the diapers and the warm snowsuit and blankets that she would receive. We spoke about the hospital and its reputation for such caring nurses on the maternity floor. We spoke about her precious little guy and the very special bond between mothers and sons and the overwhelming love that she would feel when she held him in her arms.

And we spoke about YOU—how much you care—how much you do. I told her about all the love and time that went into crocheting the beautiful afghan that she would receive. I told her about the cute Brownies who had so much fun at the dollar store choosing the little gifts for her. And I told her about baby showers and giving trees at Christmas—how much work they are, but how much joy they bring both to the moms receiving the gifts and the people purchasing them—often with a social security check!

She was so touched that strangers cared so much about her and her baby. It was at that point that I could sense that

she was beginning to relax, to laugh and to realize that she wasn't so alone anymore.

As I said, I could go on and on until Christmas with stories of our moms and their little ones and all the ways I am grateful to you for helping me help them.

Just know that a special prayer will be said for you on Thanksgiving from me, and, I am sure, from hundreds of moms whose lives you have touched. May God bless you! Have a beautiful Thanksgiving! Love, Karen

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

Donations have been made— In loving memory of:

Emmanuel L. Debono

Given by:

Wayne West/Downriver Board & Lifespan Friends

George Yezbick

Given by: Kenneth & Mary Down

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.

From the President's Desk

My sincere thanks to Pat Holcher and her staff for all the work they did on our Annual Pro-Life Breakfast; it was a fabulous event.

For those of you who were unable to attend, the *Life Stories* presentation was a very powerful educational program. It historically looked at some of the people who were instrumental in making the abortion debate what it is today and why this issue is a matter of Life and Death. It pointed out the lies, the deception, the pain and the tragedy of abortion on demand in this country.

I often ponder whether this country will ever be able to put financial consideration aside and do what is necessary to stop the "killing fields." I'm afraid we have a long way to go. The lies and deception seem to run deeply and destructively in this country's soul. So many of our future citizens are lost, so much pain has been caused to their mothers, and the Granholms of the land keep vetoing pro-life bills that attempt to protect human life. People elect movie stars when they could elect solid, honest and principled pro-life candidates instead.

This points out the need for us to work even harder to get our family and friends involved. Encourage yours to join the pro-life movement; help them become knowledgeable about the issues. Speak out; write your legislators; write letters to the editor; wear your feet pin to stimulate discussions. In these ways, you will be able to help change hearts and minds and save lives!

—Diane Fagelman, President

Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office listed on pages 8 and 9. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hot line number **800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigayle Ministries **586-326-0459** or Casa Vitae **248-559-5407**.

For post-abortion counseling, call PACE **734-455-5255** or Project Rachel **888-722-4355**.

For those with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice **734-464-7810**; Cranbrook Hospice **248-334-6700**, or Hospice of Michigan **888-HOM-5656**.

Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, offers pastoral guidance to persons considering abortion or assisted suicide. If a relative, friend or even yourself are in need of this counseling assistance, call **800-281-2102**.

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 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 \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736**. For more information, call **248-777-9090**. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

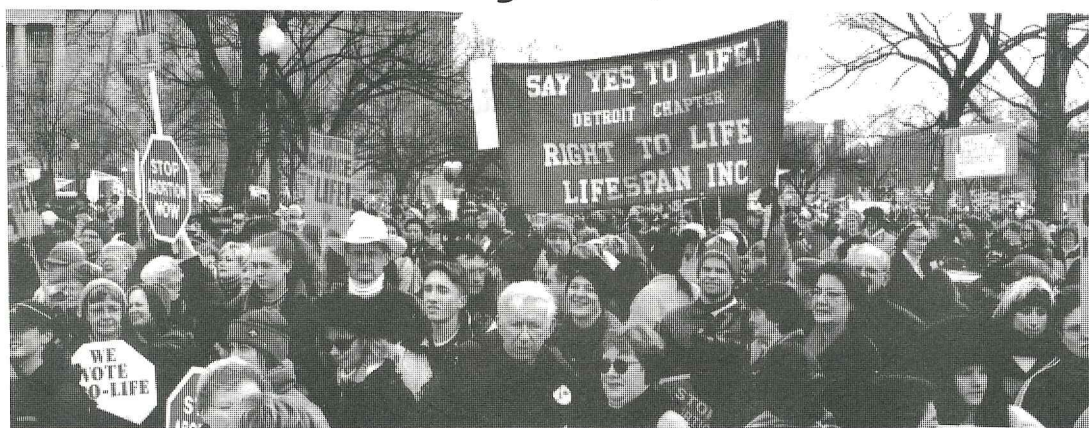
Be a Voice for the Child in the Womb!



**Get on Lifespan's bus for a
two-day trip to Washington, D.C.**

March for Life

January 22, 2004



Bus departs from Troy/Livonia on January 21; returns January 23

For reservation information, call Right to Life - Lifespan 248-816-1546

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