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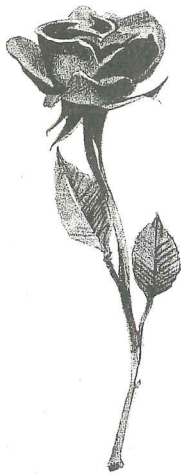
Mother's Day Message
p. 8

Lifespan *news*

Volume 30 Number 3

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

April/May 2001



*Right to Life - Lifespan
cordially invites you to attend its
Eleventh Annual Mother's Day Dinner*

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001
6:00 p.m. Silent Auction — 7:00 p.m. Dinner*

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

*Featured Speaker: Diana Píntar
"Women's Influence in the Pro-Life Movement
and How It Relates to the Family"*

*Emcee: Teresa Tomeo, Media Commentator
Honoree: Mother of the Year 2001, Cindy Gauvin*

*\$40 per person; \$350 per table of 10
Please make reservations by May 1*

For more Dinner information, see page 3



News Notes

Hudson's, Mervyn's, Target...

We are thrilled to pass on the great news that Target Corporation, formerly known as Dayton Hudson Corporation, and which includes Dayton's, Mervyn's Hudson's, Marshall Field's and, of course, Target stores, is no longer on the Life Decisions International boycott list as a corporation that supports Planned Parenthood. (Planned Parenthood operates the nation's largest chain of abortion facilities.)

More information will be forthcoming in Life Decisions *The Caleb Report*, and we will pass those details on to you in our next newsletter.

Thank you for making this victory possible!

More good news—the Harley-Davidson Corporation is also no longer a boycott target.

This is a good "F!"

According to Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL), Michigan ranked dead last out of all 50 states in offering abortion services. Because there are only 36 abortion clinics in just 11 of Michigan's 83 counties, NARAL gave us an "F." (For comparison, there were 70 abortion clinics in Michigan in 1992.) We do good work!

When is a child a child?

In the last few days of his time in office, Bill Clinton allowed a regulation to the Protection of Human Research Subjects statement of Health and Human Services.

In this rule, are some definition changes. One of these includes calling a baby after birth a "fetus" until it is determined she will live by "independently maintaining a heartbeat and respiration," and only when this determination is made is the baby considered a "child" under this HHS regulation.

Several pro-life representatives, including Jim Barcia (D-MI), sent a

letter to Secretary Tommy Thompson, indicating that, "If this rule is allowed to proceed, the position of the federal Department of Health and Human Services with regard to "human research subjects" will be that babies born alive are not necessarily children. This cannot and should not be the position of an agency tasked with defending children and protecting life." The rule, scheduled to go into effect March 19, 2001, has been delayed for 60 days.

—Pro-Life Infonet, March 23, 2001

Culture of life

In a ceremony to inaugurate the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., President George W. Bush lauded the Pontiff and his support for a "culture of life."

"The culture of life is a welcoming culture, never excluding, never dividing, never despairing and always affirming the goodness of life in all its seasons," Bush said before an audience of cardinals, bishops, clergy and laymen. "In the culture of life, we must make room for the stranger."

"We must defend in love the innocent child waiting to be born," he said in defense of the Catholic Church's pro-life stance. Bush, a Methodist, praised the pope as "never more eloquent than when he speaks for a culture of life."

This drew a burst of applause from the audience who rose from their seats for a long ovation. Only a few, including Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) who opposed Bush's reinstatement of a ban on taxpayer funding of groups that promote or perform abortions overseas, and his niece Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, remained in their seats. Schlossberg's husband's New York based firm created the interactive, educational exhibits at the Cultural Center, which aims to help visitors explore questions of spirituality through simulations and exhibits.

—Pro-Life Infonet, March 23, 2001 and
Yahoo News/Reuters March 22, 2001

Pro-Life Breakfast

All are welcome to attend the Pastors' Prolife Breakfast on Saturday, April 28, 8:00-11:15 a.m.—pastors, priests, rabbis, clergy spouses, religious school principles and teachers, lay leaders—all who want to be encouraged and motivated.

This tri-county interdenominational event will be held at the Best Western Sterling Inn, Banquet and Conference Center, 34911 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights (sw corner of Van Dyke and 15 Mile Road).

Dr. Laurence White, Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Houston, will speak on "The Soul of America."

Cost of the breakfast is \$12/person before April 7th. After April 7th, it is \$15/person. For more information and/or reservations, call Mary Walden 248-624-9387 or Mary Lou Temple 248-626-4076.

Baby Showers

Thank you pastors, hostesses and all "who came bearing gifts" to one of the 38 Lifespan Baby Showers. The pregnancy help centers were truly grateful for your generosity to the moms and their babies.

Calendar of Events

Apr. 27 Auction donation deadline
Apr. 28 ..Pastor's Breakfast, p. 2
May 8 ... Mother's Day Dinner, p. 3
May, 12, 13 Mother's Day
..... Flower Sale, pp. 6, 7
Aug. 21-Sept. 3 State Fair
Oct. 7 Life Chain

Lifespan News

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Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

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Right to Life - Lifespan
Cordially Invites You to Its

Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 8th

6:00 p.m. - Silent Auction

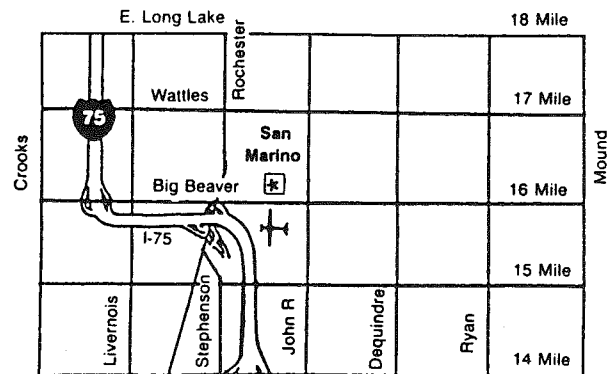
7:00 p.m. Dinner

San Marino Club
1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy

Honoring Lifespan's Mother of the Year 2001
Cindy Gauvin

Silent Auction and speaker sponsored by
Educational Center for Life
Donate Auction items by calling (248) 816-8489

SAN MARINO CLUB
1685 EAST BIG BEAVER, TROY 48063
689-4615



With Featured Guest Speaker, Diana Pintar



Inspiring. Encouraging. Motivating. These abilities have all been used to characterize **DIANA PINTAR**, this year's Mother's Day Dinner speaker.

A true "home-town girl," Diana Pintar was raised in southeastern Michigan and has been extremely active in the Christian community, serving her church in a variety of roles, including teacher, workshop leader, retreat speaker and coordinator.

In 1986, Diana found herself "suddenly single" after a 20-year marriage and was forced into the secular workplace for the first time in her adult life. She has explained that her divorce felt like the end of life as she knew it. Her faith enabled her to find meaning and purpose to this difficult time in her life. Mrs. Pintar will speak to the issue of "Women's Influence in the Pro-Life Movement and How It Relates to the Family."

Diana is remarried to Mike Pintar, a veterinarian, and they have four adult children.

Dinner Reservations: \$40 per person/\$375 per table of 10 (one check only, please)

Number of dinner reservations _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ Advance reservations required by May 1.

(Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper.)

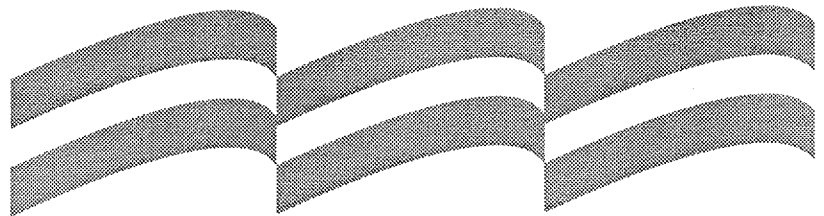
Seat with _____

(Table arrangements will be determined by date of receipt of paid reservation in the Main Office.)

Make checks payable, and mail to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia MI 48152.

For further information, call (248) 777-9090.

(Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible.)



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 John Engler
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3400
Opinion Line: (517) 335-7858
e-mail: migov@aol.com

Dear Governor Engler:

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):

Granholt restricts use of RU-486 in Michigan

Known as the abortion pill and mifepristone, RU-486, has been under wide scrutiny since it was approved by the FDA last September. Call it what you like, but Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm still calls it abortion.

Granholm issued her opinion March 13 in response to Michigan Department of Community Health Director James Haveman's question of whether RU-486 constitutes an abortion.

Granholm, a Democrat, cited the Social Welfare Act, the Parental Rights Restoration Act and the Public Health Code in determining that "the intentional use of mifepristone to terminate a woman's pregnancy for a purpose other than to increase the probability of a live birth, to preserve the life or health of the child after live birth, or to remove a dead fetus, and not as a contraceptive, constitutes an 'abortion.'"

As regulated by the state, women under the age of 18 who wish to have an abortion must have permission of one guardian or a judge, and they must receive information designed by the state, including pictures of fetal development at least 24 hours before the abortion.

A Students for Choice spokesperson, Jennifer Anderson, said Granholm's recent opinion puts more restrictions on women, and this is a curious stance for a pro-choice attorney general. She speculated that it may have been a political decision considering the state's Republican governor and Legislature.

University of Michigan Students for Life President Andrew Shirvell said he is pleased with Granholm's opinion. "We view this as a positive change that Michigan views [RU-486] as a form of abortion. Her ruling is correct—it should be regulated under the same rules as a surgical abortion," he said. "It's very different from other forms of contraception. The job of the pill is to expel the fetus from the uterus."

—Whitney Elliott, *Daily News Writer*
March 15, 2001

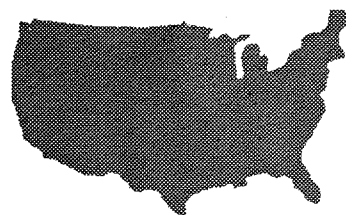
Death of an Unborn Child

By votes of 32-0 in the Senate and 84-21 in the House, the Michigan legislature has approved a law that would make it a felony, punishable by life in prison, to assault a pregnant woman with the intent of killing an embryo or fetus. The bill now goes to Governor Engler, who is expected to sign it.

The bill was opposed by some groups. Planned Parenthood spokesperson, Judith Karandjeff, spoke in opposition to the bills on the grounds that they might have implications on a woman's right to abortion. "This legally separates a woman from her fetus," she said, and might have the effect of conferring "personhood" on an unborn child.

The law was prompted to close a loophole in the Michigan law that provides for a felony charge for assaulting a pregnant woman with the intention of causing a stillbirth or a miscarriage.

Michael Fletcher, convicted of killing his wife, Leann, was to have been charged in the death of their unborn child. The charge was dropped when it was determined that Leann had not actually given birth.



Mexico City Policy

On his second day in office, by way of an Executive Order, President Bush restored the "Mexico City Policy," first put in place by former President Reagan in 1984. It remained in effect during the first Bush presidency but was rescinded, by Executive Order of Mr. Clinton on his third day in office.

The policy requires that private overseas organizations, to be eligible for funding under the U.S. population control aid program, must agree not to perform abortions (except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest), and not to "actively promote abortion as a method of family planning"—for example, by campaigning to weaken or repeal the pro-life laws of foreign nations—either with U.S. funds or any other funds. In other words, if they promote abortion by means of counseling, perform abortions or work to change laws in the foreign country, they would be ineligible for U.S. money. It is not unusual for the government to attach conditions on organizations receiving tax money from the U.S.

One population official, expressing his outrage at the policy, actually explained it quite well. He said, "It is not about protecting federal money from abortion. It is really about being completely anti-abortion and trying to do everything you can to sabotage any organization that is in any way promoting abortion."

Expressing their anger and disgust over President Bush's reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy that

prohibits U.S. tax dollars from going to family planning organizations that counsel, promote or provide abortions, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) have introduced legislation, the Global Democracy Promotion Act, that would not make such organizations ineligible for U.S. aid, "solely on the basis of the health or medical services they offer," as long as they don't violate the laws of the U.S. or of the country in which they are being provided.

Opponents of the policy are also considering invoking the Congressional Review Act that permits the House and Senate to pass legislation rejecting regulations issued by federal departments and agencies.

Capitol Hill battle lines

Congress will debate a number of abortion bills this term. Among them:

- Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, (R-FL), has introduced legislation that would make it a crime for anyone other than a parent to transport a minor across state lines for an abortion.

- Rep. Lindsey Graham, (R-SC), introduced a bill that would make it a crime when a fetus or embryo is injured or killed in a violent crime against a pregnant woman. Under current law, only the woman is recognized as a victim of a violent act. Sen. Mike DeWine, (R-OH), is expected to introduce similar legislation.

- Bills sponsored by Sen. Tim Hutchinson, (R-AR), and Rep. David Vitter, (R-LA), would require that a physician prescribing RU-486 be authorized to perform abortions and have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, restrictions the FDA does not require.

Legislative Liaison

We thank **Jim McLaughlin** for his service to Lifespan as our Legislative Liaison since January, 1998. Jim was instrumental in changing the mind of at least one legislator to the pro-life cause. He visited Lansing and testified before different committees on pro-life legislation. He developed a good rapport with the legislators and they welcomed him.

We will miss Jim, although he will continue to be active in Lifespan and continues as church representative at St. Linus.

We wish to welcome **Mark Cabrera** as our new Legislative Liaison. He will be promoting support for pro-life legislation and promoting defeat of pro-abortion and pro-euthanasia legislation in the Michigan Legislature and U. S. Congress.

Mark is no stranger to politics as he helped in his brother's campaign against a pro-abort incumbent state representative. Although unsuccessful in the race, the Cabrera family gave her a good fight.

Mark is vice president of Empire Financial Mortgage in Canton. Mark and his wife, Rendie, have a four-year-old daughter and a baby due in April. Mark has lived and worked in New York and Los Angeles as a song writer and producer. Mark agreed to become our Legislative Liaison because he wants to serve Christ in this way.



Chapter

Office hours

MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

Showers of Love

Continuing the tradition of caring for both the mother and child (born and yet to be born), Lifespan held its 12th annual Baby Shower to benefit local pregnancy help centers. We want to thank the Detroit churches which helped mothers in crisis decide to keep their babies; these moms are grateful because they received "a little help from their friends." Thank you and God bless—Christ the King, Assumption Grotto and St. Clare of Montefalco. Also thanks to St. Clare of Montefalco's

school children and Girl Scout Troop #327 for their baby gift donations.

Mother's Day roses

If you belong to a Detroit church and your church does not sell silk roses to "Thank Mom" for life on Mother's Day, please volunteer to help with our main fundraiser. All it takes is organizing a few of your friends to help sell, contacting your pastor for permission and publishing an article in your church paper. This fundraiser is the Detroit Office's bloodline, and helps us to continue to spread the pro-life message. Call us at 313-640-8534.

Mother's Day Dinner

Reservations are still being accepted for our wonderful celebration of Motherhood, to be held at the fabulous San Marino Club in Troy, on May 8. For information, call 248-777-9090.

Office hours

MWF 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.

Reality check

And they call some of these people "retarded."

A few years ago, at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally challenged (or both) assembled at the starting line for the 100 yard dash.

At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race, to finish, to win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they

all turned around and went back...every one of them. One girl with Down Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.

After all, please keep in mind that a candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.

Counting crosses

The Cross display, available to everyone, is back in the office for a very brief rest before going back on display. They have been from Hillsdale to Richmond and from Grosse Ile to Roseville and all points in between.

Easter Bible reflections

Easter is the Christian celebration of Resurrection to New Life. Let us take some time to do a little Bible study on what God says about LIFE—for God is the Supreme Judge—not the U.S. Supreme Court.

- The Bible condemns murder: Exodus 20:23; Proverbs 26:16
- God's view of the beginning of Life: Jeremiah 1:4-5; Psalms 139:13; Genesis 25:21; Galatians 1:15; Luke 1:15, 26-38
- The personhood of the fetus: Genesis 25:21-23; 2 Samuel 1:5; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:36, 41
- The silence of the saints: Ezekiel; Proverbs 24:10-12; John 10:9-16
- Forgiveness: John 1:9

Detroit Office

17336 Harper PMB 293
Detroit, MI 48224-1980
(313) 640-8534
Fax (same as phone)

This really seems to bring home the message that abortion kills children in a very powerful way. If you are interested in arranging for the display in your area, call the office.

Auction activities

WE NEED AUCTION ITEMS! Everyone knows somebody who has something that would be the perfect addition to the Mother's Day Dinner Silent Auction. Use your imagination—gardening tools, books, makeup, fancy dinners out, pictures, paintings, root canals (yes, root canals!), boats, condos, vacations, manicures, trips to the vet, babysitting, air miles, groceries—the list goes on and on. Think up something different and call Judy or Mary Beth—248-816-1546.

Oakland/Macomb Chapter

Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(248) 816-1546
Fax (248) 816-9066

News

wayne west/downriver

Office hours

M-Th 10-4; F Closed
Patricia Holscher, Director
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

Mother's Day Dinner

Lifespan's Mother of the Year has been selected from your nominations and will be honored at our Mother's Day Dinner. We always have such outstanding speakers and this year we've done it again in the person of Diana Pintar. She has a long list of credits which include being a conference and retreat speaker for Women in Action, a workshop leader of Winning Women and a well-known spokesperson for Milk 'n Honey Services. You won't want to miss this exciting speaker; see page 3.

Bus! Bus! Bus! We have reserved a school bus to take dinner guests to the San Marino Club in Troy. The bus holds 40 people and reservations will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call the office for cost and pick-up points.

Resource Book 2001

Don't miss the opportunity to be listed as a patron in the "Book of Life," better known as our Resource Book.

- Gold Patron \$100
- Silver Patron \$50
- Bronze Patron \$10
- Memorial \$10
- Nurses for Life (any amt.)

Deadline for these ads is April 16. If each member bought or sold an ad, this would be a very successful fundraiser for Lifespan's Main Office.

Thanks

Our thanks to St. Mary Parish in Wayne for another outstanding bake sale. Parish and Lifespan bakers really outdid themselves. The buyers were so generous and the special treats went quickly. We sincerely thank those who helped earn \$1926 for our Wee Care program and for our treasury (which always needs extra help at this time of year.) Our special thanks to Fr. Jack Baker who allows his parish to hold this event annually to help Lifespan with their pro-life work. Your loyalty to the right to life movement never falters. Note: Readers, if you are willing to bake in the future for bake sales held in different parishes for Lifespan, please call—we always need volunteers.

Mother's Day tribute

Now is the time to order silk-like, long-stemmed roses for your school or church. They are tagged, "Thanks, Mom, for Life," come in various colors and can be taken out on consignment. The rose, a symbol of Life, is a tribute to mothers on their special day. Roses and a variety of pins on cards with appropriate Mother's Day greetings are also available in the office.

Help Wanted Ad

Chairperson for 19th annual Bowling for Life on a Sunday in July. Office help provided. No experience necessary. Call 734-422-6230.

Mass for the Unborn

Mass for the Unborn is celebrated on the first Thursday of each month at St. Raphael Church, Garden City, 5:00 p.m. A holy hour follows with prayers to end abortion.

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27592 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(734) 422-6230
Fax (734) 422-8116

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

The crocus is blooming, the robins are back and singing—springtime is all around us. Flowers will soon bloom, bringing color to the dark winter landscape—God's poetry to the world—His handprint on the earth. Spring is the season which depicts, like no other, the symbols of new Life and the importance of the renewal of Life in our every day world.

As I ponder this fact, I was reminded of the gathering of our volunteers this past week. On Saturday, March 10, our Oakland/Macomb Chapter hosted a Volunteer Luncheon, and on Thursday, March 15, our Wayne West/Downriver Chapter hosted a Volunteer Dinner. Each chapter honored Lifespan's wonderful volunteers who help us in our work. As I looked across the rooms at both events, I saw old and new faces—happy faces—faces of the men and women who are the flowers of the pro-life movement. All ages, different sexes, different races, different religions, different professions, but all bringing to the Garden of Life their own uniqueness, their own colorful personalities, their talents and their LOVE for LIFE.

To each and every one of you, THANK YOU, for all your dedication and hard work. Without you, there would not be a pro-life movement. I thank God for all of you; I pray that He will grant you and your families many blessings.

It is time, in spring, to rededicate ourselves. Let's nourish and maintain our beautiful pro-life garden of volunteers—their brilliant colors beautify the metro Detroit area with love for all of God's creations.

A Loving Mother's Day Message

Thank You, God,
For pretending not to notice that one of
Your angels is missing and for guiding her to me.
You must have known how much I would need her, so
You turned Your head for a minute and
allowed her to slip away to me.
Sometimes I wonder what special name You had for her.
I call her "Mother."
To think of not having her with me is unbearable.
I don't know what I would have done without her all these years.
She has loved me without reservation—whether I deserved to be loved or not.
Willingly and happily, she has fed me, clothed me, taught me, encouraged me,
inspired me, and with her own special brand of gentleness reprimanded me.
A bit of heaven's own blue, her eyes reflect hope and love for
You and her family. She has tried to instill that love in us.
She's not the least bit afraid of work. With her constant
scrubbing, polishing, painting and fixing,
she has made every house we've lived in a beautiful home.
When I'm confused, she sets me straight. She knows what matters
and what doesn't. What to hold on to and what to let go.
You have given her an endless supply of love.
She gives it away freely yet never seems to run low.
Even before I am aware I have a need,
she is making plans and working to supply it.
You gave her great patience. She is the best listener I have met.
With understanding and determination she always
seems to turn a calamity into some kind of success.
She urges me to carry my own load in life but
is always close by if I stumble under the burden.
She hurts when I hurt. She cries when I cry. And she will not
be happy until she has seen a smile on my face once more.
Although she has taught me to pray, she has
never ceased to invoke Your richest blessings upon me.
Thank the other angels for filling in for her while she is away.
I know it hasn't been easy. Her shoes would be hard to fill.
She has to be one of Your greatest miracles, God, and I want to
thank You for lending my mother to me.

—Author unknown



A Clean Page

A child's life is a blank page.
You, that child's parent, write upon it.

What will the first words be?
"Shut up! Get out of my sight!"
"Look at the mess you've made!"
"Go play, don't touch."
"Now see what you've done!"
"Beat it! Scram!"

These words teach fear.
They register unwantedness.
They say, "I don't love you."
Let your words teach gentleness
and beauty.

Let them supply high moral principles,
Courage to meet life's disappointments,
Pride in a job well done,
Faith in a mighty God,
Love.

"Beautiful, son, you did a fine job!"
"Come, look at the lovely sunset."
"Do you know how this works?"
"Don't worry, we'll clean it up."

—Author unknown

The "real" Wonderful People

The bumper sticker on my van reads: "Choose Life." Oftentimes, I have wanted to add to those words so that instead it would read as follows: "Choose Life—Thank Heaven, My Child's Birthmother Did!"

My husband and I are very blessed and overjoyed to be the adoptive parents of a beautiful, bright and sweet two-year-old girl as well as an adorable, happy and playful seven-month-old baby boy. We feel that our precious children are truly a miracle not only in our lives, but in both of our families as well. We, like many other adoptive parents, have often been told what "wonderful people" we are for adopting our children, or that we have done such a "wonderful thing" and that our children are so lucky.

Our usual response to this is: "Thank you, but we are really the lucky ones to have been given such beautiful children." We both know that the "truly" wonderful people here, are our children's birthmothers. Without them, we would not have the family we had always wanted and had prayed for, for so long. Very importantly too, we know that both of our birthmothers may have even been encouraged by at least one person to just go and

have an abortion and simply get rid of their difficult situation—but they did not. Instead, they chose to love the babies growing inside of them and gave them life.

Not only did they choose to give their babies life in a society that wrongly believes death is an acceptable solution to problems, but they also had the strength and courage to give them the kind of life that they knew they couldn't, through the option of adoption. Though our birthmothers may have easily or automatically chosen life for our children, we know for certain that their decisions to make adoption plans were not easy in any way. They were decisions filled with heartache and tears, along with a special strength and selflessness that many people wouldn't have, but which enabled them to make such a tremendous personal sacrifice for the sake of their children. Sure, it was easy for my husband and I to welcome a precious newborn baby into our home with open arms, especially after years of our own heartache and frustration. We were able to leave the hospital with our bundle of joy while our birthmothers had to leave with empty arms and undeniable feelings of grief from their deep loss. We can only hope and pray that God will bestow upon them peace and happiness just as they have brought to us.

God worked a miracle in our life through them, and that is wonderful. This makes them wonderful too. They gave our children life (instead of death) and so unselfishly entrusted them to our care forever. May we always remember and pray for the birthmother—that "wonderful person"—the next time we congratulate someone on the adoption of a child. That child may not have all he or she has or maybe even be alive, if it weren't for one special giver of life!

—Carol Gianfermi
Lifespan Oakland/Macomb Member



Spring! At last! The tulips are timidly poking their leaves through the cold ground—The sun has returned to brighten our days—Little children everywhere are beginning to play outside—Everywhere you look—new life is taking place—from flowers to the most precious births of all—that of newborn babies.

Every spring at Wee Care, we are inundated with phone calls asking for help for so many little ones. Please, remember our babies and their moms as you welcome this beautiful season of new life!

Happy Spring!

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care (248) 777-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

Cloning

continued from back page

So what happens when the clone you ordered is not the person you expected? Will you be able to send it back? Could we have the ultimate two-tier society, where "types" society favors are reproduced while those seen as burdens are aborted? Or, in the Third World, left to die of curable diseases?

The peril lives in renegade scientists making these decisions on our behalf. While some countries have banned cloning, others haven't, leaving many scientists free to play God—without the permission of the human race. Secrecy surrounds the area because many scientists are terrified that public opinion will go against them.

...A U.S. poll found that three out of four people objected to cloning to allow infertile couples to have children or clones created to save the life of the person cloned. Nine out of 10 were against cloning to allow gay couples to have children, or parents to re-create a lost child, or to create genetically superior human beings. If ever there was a case where mankind needed to get together internationally and form a worldwide policy, this is it. But we couldn't stop the atom bomb or genocide, could we?

—The Irish Times, March 15, 2001

Touched by the Truth

It's remarkable how a fantasy-based, sometimes sappy TV show featuring angels disguised as ordinary folks can pack more profound truth into one hour than a month of nightly news programs! That's precisely what writer/producer Martha Williamson accomplished in a recent episode of *Touched by an Angel* called "The Empty Chair." Bucking the Hollywood establishment and its "pro-choice" ethic, Ms. Williamson displayed unmatched courage and insight into the aftermath of abortion.

As newlyweds in Boston, Betsy and Bud Baxter wanted nothing more than to work together on a television show. An offer from an Omaha station to co-host "Breakfast with the Baxters" seemed their first big step on the road to fame and happiness. Fifteen years later, when new station owners abruptly cancel their show, the Baxters are devastated by the loss of their jobs, of their dream, of all that had given their life meaning, and, apparently, of all that had been holding them together.

They bitterly vent their disappointment and grief at each other until the arrival of stranded travelers (the angels Monica and Andrew) give Betsy and Bud the chance to tell their stories separately to a compassionate listener. It's not long before the underlying problem surfaces—the unspoken issue that stood between them since accepting the Omaha job: that the only child they'd ever conceived was "lost" shortly before moving there.

When Betsy learned of this pregnancy, she spontaneously bought a little baby jumper. Bud reacted negatively to the news. He thought only of how a child could disrupt their career plans on the eve of their first big break. When Bud left for several days to attend a friend's wedding, Betsy dutifully took care of the problem with an abortion. She told Bud only that she had "lost" the child.

Betsy tried to conceal her grief, submerging it in work. The sorrow and pain did not go away, but silently,

stealthily robbed her of joy, of sleep, of the ability to feel close to her husband, of the ability simply to relax and open herself to life.

Bud is torn between wanting to know if their child was aborted and wanting to avoid the question, to protect Betsy and himself from painfully confronting what they had done. Bud struggles to forget, and bristles at the first hint of a discussion of their loss.



His reaction is common; surveys have shown that up to 80% of marriages/relationships end in the months following an abortion. With dawning understanding, however, Bud tells Andrew: "Irony, isn't it? You make all these plans for the future and then one day it's the wrong future and you don't have what you sacrificed for."

Betsy has always understood the full weight of the sacrifice she made for the sake of their marriage and their career: "You know, Monica, they can talk all they want about politics and choices and rights. I did. And then you're in that room and you're putting your clothes back on and you know that when you walk out that door, you're leaving a piece of your soul behind that you'll never get back."

Overly dramatic? Time and again, women who've experienced abortion, describe a similar wrenching loss of part of themselves, their spirit or their soul. (Numerous examples can be found at www.hopeafterabortion.com, a website supporting the Project Rachel post-abortion ministry.)

Post-abortion anguish can be seen on many websites. On www.afterabortion.com, for example, predominantly "pro-choice" women try to support each other in their grief. This site even contains a section called Media Warnings—programs and movies to avoid because some situation or remark in them could break through post-abortion coping mechanisms to trigger emotional and psychological crises. Warning entries seem to include everything relating to babies, happy families and, of course, abortion.

Betsy has wrongly concluded that a lifetime of sorrow is simply "the price you pay" for aborting a child. Monica gently corrects her: "It's the consequence of a choice, but it's not a punishment from God. That's not how He works." Monica reminds Betsy and Bud of the truth that so often eludes those involved in an abortion: God cherishes them and does not reject them for having rejected His gift of a child. He asks only that they open their hearts to Him, so He can heal them and make them whole again. God wants them to find consolation and joy in His love and in their mutual love for Him and one another.

How was Martha Williamson able to give flesh and life to this essential truth, and all the hurt and sorrow, the anger and lashing out, the loneliness and terror of the abortion aftermath? The episode was inspired by her own experience following an abortion. Through post-abortion counseling, she has found forgiveness and peace—and she offers this story so women contemplating abortion will seek a life-affirming solution for themselves and their children.

She deserves our support and encouragement. Write *Touched by an Angel*, c/o CBS/MTM Studios, 4024 Radford Ave., Studio City, CA 91604 or e-mail her at fanmail@touched.com. The telephone comment line is 323-575-2200.

—*Life Insight*, November-December, 2000
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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. Please send donations to your local Lifespan office.

Bill Knapp's Coupons

Bill Knapp's Restaurant generously supports community projects with their Community Support coupon program, and our participation in it has spanned over 15 years. Currently, we are in the process of saving coupons for a printer and a TV/VCR for Lifespan's Wayne West/Downriver Chapter. Through April 30, Bill Knapp's will DOUBLE coupon points!

Thank you to the following donors of coupons in the past few months: Wilhelm, St. Roch Church, Babik, Rytel, Miller, Dell Eva, Moening, Lirette, Werner, Kleinbrook, Modes, Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church, Cousino, St. Linus Church Seniors, St. Raphael Church, Fabian, Phillips, Lohrengel, Ladouceur, Roy, Archer, O'Connell, Hessling, Sudeck, Bettega, Moran, Papsun, Trombley, Mullins, Gura, Schmid, Bowker, Masterson, Behaeghe, Riley, Hoffman, Sobieck, Pattenaude, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Sporka, Renaud, Mosquera, Astalos, Pender, Adamick, Lemming, MacDonald and other anonymous donors.

Please continue to save these coupons for us. When you present your check to the cashier at any Bill Knapp's Restaurant, ask for a Community Support Coupon. (At a few Knapp's Restaurants, the customer's receipt serves as the "coupon.") Send the coupons/receipts to: **Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152.** Every coupon point helps!

Entertainment Book special offer

For every 2002 Entertainment Book pre-ordered from May 1-August 1, you will receive a complimentary 2001

Values book. The new 2002 Entertainment Book will cost only \$30, a reduction in price of \$10.

For more information, and/or to order your 2002 book, call your local Lifespan office: Detroit Office: **313-640-8534**; Oakland/Macomb Chapter: **248-816-1546**; Wayne/West Downriver Chapter: **734-422-6230**.

Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office listed on pages 6 or 7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number **1-800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Casa Vitae at **(248) 559-5407** or Abigayle Ministries at **(810) 326-0459**.

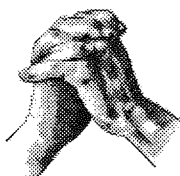
For post-abortion counseling, call P.A.C.E. at **(734) 455-5255** or Project Rachel at **(888) 722-4355**.

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

Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, also offers pastoral guidance to persons considering abortion or assisted suicide. If a relative, friend or even yourself are in need of this counseling assistance, do not hesitate to call **800-281-2102**.

Lord of Life

Lord, Teach me to be Generous. Teach me to serve You as you deserve, to Give and not to count the cost; to Fight, and not to heed the wounds; to Toil and not to seek for rest; to Labor, and to ask for no reward, except that of Knowing I am Doing Your Will.
—St. Ignatius of Loyola



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.

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Cloning is a threat to our humanity

By Kate Holmquist

The Raelians are a U.S.-based cult preparing the human race for the arrival of superior aliens. They boast of funding scientists who will be the first to clone a human being, perhaps this month. In an appeal to human sympathy, Raelians plan to resurrect a dead 10-month-old boy and place him in his grieving parents' arms.

The Raelians promise the very thing Christianity promises through faith—eternal life. But they promise the reverse also—to create lives acceptable to them. And who decides whose life is acceptable? And how will the Raelian miracle baby feel when he finds he was not welcomed into the world as his unique self but as a copy of someone else? The competition to be the first scientist to clone a human is our decade's version of the moon race. Perhaps this year Neil Armstrong's "one step for mankind" will be echoed with the first steps of the first cloned baby. What we won't see are the thousands of deformed rejects.

Human cloning is the Pandora's Box of the 21st century. On the surface, comparing those who seek to destroy life with those who wish to create it seems ludicrous. You cannot compare the noble intentions of the cloning industry with those of mass murderers. However, what these self-appointed gods have in common is the folly of believing that they have a right to make decisions for the rest of humanity.

And there is always the risk that not all cloning scientists will have noble intentions. One of those hoping to be the first to clone a baby is Italian doctor Severino Antinori who pushed ethical boundaries when he enabled a 62-year-old woman to become a mother through embryo implantation. By offering infertile men an alternative to donor sperm, the opportunity to spawn their own genetic stock, Antinori convincingly presents himself as a compassionate life-creator. Who dares argue?

On an emotional level, it makes sense to do all that is medically possible to help an infertile couple have a child.

Intellectually, however, we need to ask whether everything in life can be fixed. Sometimes we have to live with infertility, just as with death. Are the needs of a minority of infertile couples worth the risk of turning humanity into a lucrative product line? When we accept that people are products rather than individuals we change our definition of what it is to be human. At worst, we are de-humanizing everyone by making each and every one of us replaceable.

Grieving parents of dying children are already collecting tissue samples for future cloning. This puts our entire concept of life and mortality up for grabs. Because what makes us human is our need to come to terms with mortality, our need to grieve and to accept the random nature of who lives and who dies.

To be human is to be a unique creation based on chance: the attraction between two people and the genes coming together with a roll of the DNA dice. With cloning, the father sees the birth of his twin. While we imagine this happening in the context of warm family relationships, the potential reality is that those who don't want to bother with relationships may narcissistically re-create themselves. Single women who become pregnant with donor sperm are already doing this to a degree.

Children's rights are never discussed in this context. If a child is cloned to provide bone marrow for a sibling with leukemia, we are assuming we have the right to conceive a child not out of love, but out of need. How will such children feel when they discover that it was their marrow, and not them, that was desired?

Children die. We die. Resurrection by harvesting a woman's egg and inserting into its nucleus the DNA of the person being copied, only brings back a copy-cat body and certain genetically based personality traits. Those who favor cloning argue that clones would be no more like or unlike their hosts than twins are. Personality is about 50% genetic and 50% environment. Even identical twins inexplicably differ in their personalities.

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