

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Pro-Life is Winning

When you are in the middle of the battlefield, sometimes it is easy to lose perspective on the big picture. Perhaps you stand outside your local abortion mill several hours a week, watching women go in and end the lives of their babies, and you wonder, “Am I making any difference?” (Spoiler: YES you are! 40-Days for life reports over 13,300 babies saved and 86 abortion mills closed in the ten years 40-Days-for-Life has been a peaceful presence on the sidewalk since 2007.) Or perhaps like me, you wonder if you are just “preaching to the choir” in your efforts to proclaim the message of life... maybe you even endure negative feedback from those closest to you for your “strong position” on life issues.

In the words of Fr. Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life, “It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!” The crucifixion precedes the resurrection. A few “resurrection sightings”:

Earlier this year, it was reported that only 926,190 abortions were performed in 2014. Every abortion is a travesty; however, this is the first time since 1974 that the number of abortions performed in the United States dropped below one million. This is a 42% decrease from the high of 1.6 million abortions in 1990. Abortion rates and ratios are at their lowest point since 1973. We are making a difference because more and more women are choosing life for their children.

We are making our voices heard in the voting booth as we elect more pro-life candidates each election cycle, which has resulted in pro-life legislation passed and pro-life policies enacted, at both federal and state levels. State legislatures are passing more laws to protect unborn children who can feel pain, and to prevent the killing of unborn babies by gruesome dismemberment abortion. States laws are being enacted to require that women seeking an abortion be given the opportunity to view an ultrasound of her unborn child.

Four states now require that women seeking a chemical abortion (RU-486) must be told that if she changes her mind after the first step in the process, it may be possible to reverse the effects of that chemical abortion. There are a few hundred children living today because their moms sought help and did not complete the abortion process.

While seventeen states had measures this year to legalize assisted suicide, every one of those efforts failed. This battle is by no means over, but that is a huge victory.

Public opinion is shifting towards life. A recent Gallup poll found that 54% of Americans think abortion should be illegal or legal only in a few circumstances, compared to 42% who think abortion should be legal under any or most circumstances.

The most exciting news is that the life side is winning as we see more and more young people getting involved. Their enthusiasm, new ideas, and boldness will have an impact on generations to come.

The energy, enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication of every pro-lifer will bring us much closer to that inevitable day when abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and the devaluing of innocent human life join slavery in the ash heap of history. We will keep tomorrow alive—both in the day-to-day battle and the long-run vision for America. Life is precious.

Birth Control and Abortion

Last month we addressed the difference between the “Abortion Pill” and the “Morning After Pill.” This month we will address how some birth control methods are “abortifacient.”

The Pill, The Patch, and the Depo-Provera Shot

All of these methods introduce artificial hormones/chemicals into the women’s bodies that:

- aim to prevent ovulation, although “breakthrough ovulation” is possible;

- thicken cervical mucus which inhibits sperm passage; and
- make the lining of the uterus hostile to implantation if ovulation occurs.

Because life begins at fertilization, this third method, preventing implantation, causes an early abortion.

(Also, these chemicals are excreted in the woman's urine and thus are in the water supply. Studies have shown male fish exhibiting female traits like enlarged breasts, and recent studies have shown a decrease in male sperm count; might this be related to our boys and men ingesting artificial female hormones in the drinking water?)

IUD – Intra-Uterine Device

- The IUD is a T-shaped plastic or copper device that also has contraceptive hormones. It works much like the pill, making the uterine lining inhospitable to implantation of the early zygote, thus causing an abortion.

Barrier Methods (Condoms and Diaphragms)

aim to prevent the sperm from entering the woman's uterus/fallopian tubes and uniting with the egg. While not abortifacient, these methods separate the sexual act from the procreative purpose; sort of like eating a delicious meal and then vomiting so the body does not get any nutritional benefit from the ingesting of the food. Society needs procreation to survive, just as the body needs food to survive; to separate the enjoyment of either food or the marital act from its intended purpose is wrong. .

Your Little Miracle Could be Someone Else's Cure

Before your baby is born, the umbilical cord is a lifeline. After your baby is born, that lifeline can give birth to hope® for others.

When a patient with leukemia, lymphoma or other life-threatening diseases needs a transplant, cord blood may be an option. A doctor will look for a donor or a cord blood unit with a tissue type that matches the patient's as closely as possible. Today, 14% of transplant patients receive cord blood that was generously donated to a public cord blood bank.

The blood in your baby's umbilical cord blood can be used to treat patients with blood diseases like

leukemia. You could help save a life by donating your baby's cord blood to a public cord blood bank. Give birth to hope® by donating cord blood. Heroes are born every minute because a baby's umbilical cord blood could save a life. Thousands of critically ill patients with blood diseases like leukemia and lymphoma are in urgent need of a life-saving transplant. Umbilical cord blood, which is typically thrown away, is rich with the blood-forming cells that can give blood cancer patients hope for a cure. Donating your baby's cord blood to a public cord blood bank can help patients get the transplants they need.

Cord blood donation is safe and free - Cord blood donation is completely safe for you and your baby. No blood is taken from your baby. It's only taken from the umbilical cord itself after your baby is born. Your labor and delivery plan will not be affected. And when you donate your baby's cord blood to a public cord blood bank there are no collection or storage costs. Learn how your decision could save a life; visit:

<https://bethematch.org/support-the-cause/donate-cord-blood/cord-blood-is-changing-lives/>

Recently Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco joined the growing list of hospitals participating as part of the California Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program, a statewide public program to capture a genetically diverse bank of cord blood units available to anyone for lifesaving transplantations. For a list of hospitals participating in this program see:

<https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cordblood/gift.html>

CRISPER-CAS9 A Scientific Advance, or Bioethics Disaster?

In late July, the MIT Technology Review published a report that [a team of scientists at Oregon Health and Sciences University have successfully created genetically-modified human embryos](#). Using a technology known as CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) which enables scientists using a technique referred to as Cas9 (an enzyme capable of cutting both strands of DNA) to do "gene-splicing," editing the genome of anything from bacteria to humans. Researchers "[changed] the DNA of a large number of one-cell embryos" in a way that demonstrated "that it is

possible to safely and efficiently correct defective genes that cause inherited diseases” possibly including hemophilia, sickle cell anemia, and several forms of cancer, as well as HIV/AIDS.

So what’s wrong with this development? What could possibly be wrong with “correcting defective genes?”

Life begins at fertilization - Well first off this type of research involves the deliberate use and destruction of human beings at the earliest or embryonic stage of life. Much like embryonic stem cell research, our youngest brothers and sisters, the embryonic babies, are sacrificed in the name of science.

Frequency of “Off-Target Cuts” - Dr. Keith Joung of the Joung Lab of Massachusetts General Hospital has safety concerns about the breakneck speed of research, and possibility of CAS9 off-target cuts. He reports a frequency of off target cuts with mutation frequencies as low as .1% to as high as 60%. Even low-frequency of off-target cuts could potentially be dangerous if they accelerate a cell’s growth and lead to cancer.

Germ Line Modifications - CRISPR-Cas9 can also be used to genetically modify the germ line, i.e. by introducing foreign DNA into the gametes or early embryo, which would be passed on to any future children and future generations.

Unpredictable Environmental Effect - Not only could this modification be done in the human germ line, other organisms could have their genes modified and the change spread rapidly through the organism population, possibly leading to the disappearance of an entire organism population. Thus this technique could wipe out a disease carrying mosquito, or eliminate invasive plants – a good thing. However the consequences on the entire ecosystem or altering or eliminating an entire population of an organism are worrisome. Other pests could emerge, or predators higher up the food chain could be affected. Or the sequence inserted in the original organism could mutate and target unwanted parts of the genome with unpredictable results.

And it’s not only pro-lifers or “culturally-nervous Christians” who are disturbed by what CRISPR-

Cas9 and germ-line editing portend. In early 2016, the Obama administration’s Director of National Intelligence, Lt. General James Clapper, listed gene-editing technologies like CRISPR as a potential “weapon of mass destruction.”

As the saying goes “It’s not nice to fool {with} Mother Nature.” Let’s be very cautious what we allow science to explore. Pandora’s Box is not just a mythological phenomenon.

Around the Office

Charity payroll deduction campaigns will soon be starting, including United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign. Please remember California Right to Life Educational Fund when completing your pledge card or online application. If you need any assistance in designating us as your charity of choice, contact our office 925-944-5351 e-mail info@calright2life.org

We are planning on upgrading our website using WordPress. We are looking for either a tutor/website developer to assist our Administrative Director in getting the new site up and running, and /or possibly a student volunteer who would like service hours to develop our website. . If anyone is familiar with WORDPRESS and would like to help us in this update please contact our office.

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see www.calendarforlife.org

5th Annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children - Saturday, September 9, 2017
Pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies and other memorial sites dedicated in their honor. Please join us for the memorial service. To find a location near you, visit: <http://abortionmemorials.com/sites.php>

40-DAYS FOR LIFE – Sept. 27-Nov. 5, 2017
See: <http://40daysforlife.com/> for a location near you.

LIFE CHAIN – October 1, 2017 in most locations.
For a location near you, see: <http://lifechain.net/>

Caring Not Killing Conference– November 18, 2017 Biola University, La Miranda CA – Protecting

yourself, your family and others. Save the Date,
more details to follow.