

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Established 1981

June 2018

Saving the Life of the Mother

Reflection by Cecelia Cody

I'm sure many of us have struggled with the difficult issue of an abortion to save the "LIFE of the mother." We are not talking about just protecting the HEALTH of the mother (a term that could include "mental health" and so easily becomes a catch-all to justify almost all abortions.) Pro-abortionists try to make us out to be so cruel - as if we are going to "sacrifice the mother" to save the baby. What if the very LIFE of the mother is truly at severe risk? We in the pro-life movement of course aim to "Save Them Both" as our objective. But how?

Dr. Anthony Levatino MD has the perfect response. He says, "Our goal is to terminate all pregnancy with a live birth." If the mother's life was in serious danger, and she will die if the "pregnancy isn't terminated" we would terminate the pregnancy via a C-section delivery of the baby. The baby may not survive because perhaps the baby is too pre-term/not-viable, however the baby doesn't die from an abortion, but rather the double effect of trying to save the life of the mother. Our objective is always to "Save Them Both." We can never do evil that good may come of it.

Library Corner

Babies of Technology: Assisted Reproduction and the Rights of the Child

by Mary Ann Mason and Tom Ekman

It is January 2009 and Natalie Suleman aka "Octomom" has given birth to Octuplets, through in-vitro fertilization. UC San Francisco Medical School and Hastings School of Law had come together to offer a seminar to discuss several of the facets of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART.) The ART industry was already realizing there needed to be limits and regulations, and if the industry didn't address and "self-regulate" then the government will.

Fast forward to 2018 and millions of children have been born in the United States with the help of these cutting-edge reproductive technologies, much to the delight of their parents. However very little attention has been expended on setting in place any sort of regulation. The United States – and even more so California, has become a major fertility tourism destination. And without clear protections, the unique rights and needs of the children of assisted reproduction are often ignored.

Babies of Technology focuses on the child in an effort to stimulate discussions regarding regulating the fertility industry. Controversies addressed include:

- Donor anonymity that prevents millions of children from knowing their genetic origins.
- What about genetically enhanced babies?
- Career women saving their eggs for starting a family later in life.
- Third World women renting their wombs to the rich as surrogates. What happens if the baby is handicapped, and then the "contracting couple" decides they don't want the baby?
- Meanwhile, the unregulated fertility market continues to develop as a multi-billion-dollar industry.

This deeply-considered book asks the question and offers answers to the urgent questions: Who will protect our babies of technology? What are their rights? What are the risks? What limitations ought to be enacted to protect these precious babies?

We recently added a copy of this book to our library, or it is available at Amazon.com

**Caring Not Killing
DVD of Conference at Biola
University**

November 18, 2017

We recently acquired the full set of DVDs of the recent conference “Caring Not Killing: Protecting Yourself, Your Family, and Others held last November at Biola University. If you would like to borrow the DVDs please contact our office. A few of the high points of the day:

Several speakers shared a perspective on assisted suicide from the perspective of a disabled person.

Cristen Krebs spoke on the topic of palliative care and hospice, and raised several red flags regarding caution in choosing a hospice, and the questions to ask.

Dr. Paul Byrne MD, a neonatologist and pediatrician was perhaps the most “scary” presentation I’ve ever heard! He is a speaker, author and expert on brain death/organ donation. The gist of his presentation is that you are NOT necessarily dead when the doctors come to take your organs. The advent of organ donation has led to the change in the definition of “death” from Pathos (pathology) as in the cadaver lacks all Bios, to a determination based on several, but not all brain function tests, in which there may still be brain stem reflexes. It is even possible to have a declared death, and the transplant team opens the chest and see the beating heart in a “deceased” donor who has been declared “brain dead.”

Brian Johnson spoke about the real implications of legalizing assisted suicide, and what we can do. Assisted Suicide is NOT natural; it is not just letting people die. It is the opposite of compassion, it is the utilitarian dismissal of lives through a ruthlessly efficient intentional killing. The process is designed to kill an individual who is not dying, but someone, perhaps the person himself thinks (s)he should be dead. All of the benefits supposedly derived from medical killing can better be attained through other medical and ethical interventions. As an example, pain management or intervention and counseling for the depressed and lonely.

Alexandria Snyder, Executive Director of Life Legal Defense Foundation concludes the series with a presentation on how we can protect ourselves through legal documents like the POLST form (check all boxes for full care!) and Advanced

Directives, especially the importance of having a strong individual as your health care power of attorney or proxy. Don’t leave anything to chance, make sure the proxy is well defined, and that have a through discussion with your proxy so the person knows your wishes; your life may depend on it!

Our Day at the Mall

By Cecelia Cody

Sometimes an Information Table for Life can be slow, and then there are days like this one! It started slow, and then....

Our first memorable visitor was a young lady in her early 20s. She approached our table and said, "I'm pregnant." The volunteers responded –“Congratulations, how far along are you? "Four weeks, but I'm not sure what I'm going to do.” One volunteer picked up a 10 week fetal model and said, "Your baby has had a heartbeat since about twenty days." The other volunteer then showed the lady some pictures in the “What They Never Told You About the Facts of Life” blue pamphlet. The gal went over and looked at the fetal model set, and we gave her several pamphlets. She just kept saying, "My baby has a heartbeat," and as her friend approached the table she proclaimed, "My baby has a heartbeat." (Might we have helped her make the RIGHT CHOICE? I'd like to think we planted a really good seed: "My baby has a heartbeat.")

A few minutes later a lady with cutest little two year old guy stopped to share her story of seeing the sonogram at Planned Parenthood. Seeing his little feet she decided, “This is going to be tough; however, I'm going to have this baby.” She even shared that she knew Planned Parenthood wasn't supposed to let her see the sonogram. How fortunate that protocol was breached! Do you wear your precious feet pin? This little guy’s feet on the sonogram saved his life, maybe wearing a precious feet pin you might save a life too!

Several pre-school/early elementary age children came over to the table along with a Dad who was "cautious." about our table and display, so I'd hazard a guess fetal development wasn't a topic discussed in this family. A little girl maybe four years old looked at the set of fetal models and pointed to third of five and said "That is a person!"

Out of the mouth of a child! This little girl knew what seven Supreme Court Justices were unable to determine in the infamous Roe v Wade decision... she told us very definitively, "That is a person," as she pointed to a very early stage baby.

At just one table we experienced:

- * Seed planted, a life saved - my baby has a heartbeat,
- * Story of life saved by the mommy seeing the feet of her son on a sonogram,
- * And even a preschooler knows "that's a person."

Judge Rules California's Assisted Suicide Law Unconstitutional

by Life Legal Defense Foundation

A California judge ruled that the California state legislature acted outside the scope of its authority when it enacted the End of Life Option Act, which allows physicians to prescribe lethal drugs to their patients.

The Act's sponsors introduced the bill in a special session of the legislature convened by Governor Jerry Brown to address Medicaid funding shortfalls, services for the disabled, and in-home health support services.

Life Legal attorneys appeared in court on May 15th to argue that the End of Life Option Act, which decriminalizes physician-assisted suicide, is not related or even incidental to the stated purpose of the special session. Suicide is not health care.

Riverside Superior Court Judge Daniel Ottolia agreed, holding that "the End of Life Option Act does not fall within the scope of access to healthcare services," and that it "is not a matter of health care funding."

Life Legal filed a motion for judgment on the pleadings in March 2018, arguing that the law should be overturned because the manner in which it was passed is unconstitutional. We have argued from the outset that suicide has nothing to do with the provision of health services.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra opposed our motion, stating that legislation passed during special sessions is presumed to be constitutional. The Attorney General also argued that Life Legal's plaintiff physicians do not have standing to challenge the End of Life Option Act.

Judge Ottolia ruled that doctors do have standing to bring challenges on behalf of their patients, especially in this case, as terminally ill patients would face significant difficulties filing their own lawsuits against the Act.

"We are pleased with today's ruling, which reinstates critical legal protections for vulnerable patients," said Life Legal Defense Foundation Executive Director Alexandra Snyder. "The court made it very clear that assisted suicide has nothing to do with increasing access to health care and that hijacking the special session to advance an unrelated agenda is impermissible."

Stephanie Packer, who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, was present at the hearing. After the End of Life Option Act was implemented, Stephanie's insurance company denied coverage of life-saving chemotherapy treatment, but said it would pay for "aid-in-dying" drugs, which would cost \$1.20.

Stephanie has spoken out against assisted suicide in California and other states, saying, "I am so grateful that California's assisted suicide law was overturned today. The bill's proponents tout dignity, choice, compassion, and painlessness. I am here to tell you that nothing could be further from the truth. Choice is really an illusion for a very few. For too many, assisted suicide will be the only affordable 'treatment' that is offered them."

Calendar of Events

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

VOX VITAE CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE CAMP 2018

July 8-13 | Alhambra, CA

Vox Vitae Catholic Pro-Life Camp (for teens 14-19) fosters a deep love and understanding of the Catholic faith, equips teens to be courageous and

active voices for life. Visit voxvitae.org or call 213-395-8977

Survivors 21st Annual ProLife Boot Camp!

July 23 - August 2 | San Francisco Bay Area

Do more than "Be pro-life" --- "Act pro-life!"

<http://www.survivors.la/annual-summer-bootcamp/>

Humane Vitae 50th Anniversary Conference

July 27-28 | Ontario, California

1-877-332-2637 info@celebratehv50.com

<https://celebratehv50.com/hv50-conference/>