

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE

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AROUND THE OFFICE

A special thank you goes out to all who have recently sent in donations to assist in our valuable work. Without your ongoing donations we would not be able to be there for the following people who we recently served:

The phone was quite busy in March with students looking for guidance and assistance on school projects, term papers and speeches. Our most exciting project related to the schools is an upcoming Debate for Life at a Bay Area public high school. We hope to proclaim the message of life to 300 senior high school students through this debate.

We continue to work with pre-abortive women, helping them to "Choose Life." We have also received several phone calls from women, each of whom has made the unfortunate decision to abort her child and is now seeking a way to resolve the inner trauma of what she has done in killing her baby. We have been able to put these women in contact with a wonderful project, "Rachel's Vineyard." If you would like more information on this project, please contact our office for a pamphlet that explains the experience.

The recent passage of the Federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act, and the litigation regarding the Partial Birth Abortion Ban has brought us many media opportunities. We have been quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle and Contra Costa Times as well as appearing on several television newscasts and the local radio. If you've ever thirsted for your chance to stand in the media spotlight, contact our office and we will train you and prepare you for future media opportunities. We especially need people outside the San Francisco Bay Area and medical personnel able to explain the more technical aspects of the abortion procedures.

California Right to Life Education Fund continues to offer a public information mall table at our local shopping mall in Concord. We did two events in the past month and talked to over 100 people, providing pamphlets, bumper stickers, bookmarks and other pro-life materials to those who approached our table. The teens of our organization did a great job staffing the table, getting a bit of

"on the job training" from our more experienced table volunteers. If you are interested in assisting in this project, or starting a mall table in your area, let us know.

TERRI SCHIAVO UPDATE

Last fall, one of our main newsletter articles focused on the plight of Terri Schiavo, a woman in Florida who has become a poster child for end of life issues. We would like to provide an update of the status of her situation....

Terri has been moved by her husband, Michael, to a different nursing care facility, where she is restricted to her room, with security personnel stationed at her door at all times to prevent any unauthorized person from seeing her. Attorneys for Michael Schiavo have implied that Terri's parents recently mistreated her during a visit, since Terri was allegedly found afterwards, disheveled with puncture wounds on her arm. Her parents vehemently deny that they had anything to do with this incident. In any event, the accusation alone has led to a new "No Visitors At All" policy for Terri. Please pray that Terri and all those in similar situations be treated with respect and love.

(More details can be found at www.terrisfight.org.)

CONGRATULATIONS JOY!

You may recall our intern last summer, Joy Jacobs, who wrote several of our newsletter articles. We are pleased to announce that on May 16, Joy will receive her degree in Journalism with a minor in Health Care/Medical Ethics from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she is a member of the journalism honor society Kappa Tau Alpha.

Joy will be interning with Family Research Council in Washington, DC, this fall. During the summer she hopes either to intern with the Willherstone Forum, also in Washington, DC, or to work for a newspaper near her family's home in Southern California. Be on the lookout for her byline in the journalistic arena and know you first saw her name here in this newsletter. Congratulations, Joy!

Readers' Corner

A new feature we hope to include in upcoming newsletters is a review of a book that is of interest to the pro-life community. If you have recently read a book you would like to review for this column contact us at callife@calright2life.org

Waiting With Gabriel

by Amy Kuebelbeck
Loyola Press 2003

I just finished the saddest and most joyful book I've ever read in my life! (Saddest and most joyful... she speaks a paradox.) The book is "Waiting with Gabriel" by Amy Kuebeleck. The book is about a baby, "Gabriel" who is diagnosed at 5 1/2 months gestation with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, a fatal condition in which the left portion of the heart never develops.

The only hope for these wee ones is either a heart transplant or the "Norwood" procedure of three surgeries, named after the doctor William Norwood who developed it, in which the surgeon redirects the blood flow so as to hopefully give the wee one a bit of a chance at life. The family in this book decides against either of these options, and chooses "comfort care."

The book chronicles the diagnosis, discerning, preparing for and actual birth to death, and burial and beyond experience of Gabriel's family. It is very touching -- not a BART book, unless you don't mind others seeing your tears.

Recently at one of California Right to Life's Sunvalley Mall table sessions, a woman came by and told us that she had aborted her baby because it had a "serious defect." One of our mall table volunteers commented to the woman, "At least the baby would have died in your loving arms." This was the case with Gabriel, who, as his birth/death announcement said, "died peacefully.../surrounded by people who love him. He knew only love." How much better to die peacefully in the loving arms of his mother than by being torn to shreds (or having his brain sucked out) by an abortion!

The author/mother of Gabriel writes about her decision to carry Gabriel to birth rather than having an abortion. She explains that to abort would have actually increased the grieving; however with birth and holding Gabriel in her arms she knew him and loved him.

I recommend the book...yes it is a difficult read, yet it is so touching and filled with joy as this family deals with the sorrows, "anticipatory grief" and so beautifully deals with the life experience. I especially recommend it for anyone whose preborn baby is diagnosed with a "fatal" or "possibly fatal" handicap. The book gives a wonderful view of the option of birth and life, even a life of only a very short duration.

Dawn Loewen Perry.... ..RIP

By Sharon Arata

We said goodbye to an avid pro life advocate and California Right to Life supporter on Easter, 2004. Surrounded by her husband, Tim, a retired US Navy Captain, and her five children and their spouses, Dawn Loewen Perry succumbed at the age of sixty-three to cancer. She had been diagnosed in August, 2003. Dawn fought her cancer valiantly, but complications with infections overcame her in her final days. At her memorial rosary vigil and Mass at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville, California, Dawn was commemorated for her beauty; musical and artistic talent, athletic prowess; love for her husband and their business; devotion to her children and their various talents; and her deep, abiding faith. Dawn Perry was an invaluable teacher in the St. Isidore's high school Confirmation program and was determined to impart to her students the scriptural fullness of the faith as well as the unequivocal necessity of accepting full-spectrum sanctity of life.

Quote of the Month

You Wouldn't Even Ask -- Why We Must Vote Pro-Life First If a candidate who supported terrorism asked for your vote, would you say, "I disagree with you on terrorism, but where do you stand on other issues?" I doubt it. In fact, if a terrorism sympathizer presented him/herself for your vote, you would immediately know that such a position disqualifies the candidate for public office -- no matter how good he or she may be on other issues. The horror of terrorism dwarfs whatever good might be found in the candidate's plan for housing, education, or health care. Regarding those plans, you wouldn't even ask. So why do so many people say, "This candidate favors legal abortion. I disagree. But I'm voting for this person because she has good ideas about health care (or some other issue)." Such a position makes no sense whatsoever, unless one is completely blind to the violence of abortion.

- *Father Frank Pavone, Director, Priests for Life*

WORDS CAN CHANGE HEARTS

The vocabulary we use, the words we proclaim are critical to our effort; words are powerful tools. Words frequently carry loaded meanings and often are shaped and color the value system of those we are speaking with. The use of the word “*pro-choice*” is no accident by those who favor abortion. It is the last major argument they have; that a woman has a right to choose. Every time we call them pro-choice, we reinforce their argument and help them kill more babies. Therefore, we must always call them **pro-abortion**.

In addition, there are other more subtle words to use. For example, it would be better not to speak of “*doing*” abortions, but rather of “**committing**” abortions. To do so immediately places a cloud or stigma over the abortion. People sometimes speak of experimenting on an embryo and then “*destroying it.*” Do not use this phrase. This human embryo is experimented upon and then he or she is “**killed.**” There is a dramatic difference in how well the pro-life message is conveyed, depending on what terms are used.

This month we have compiled a list of phrases to improve your ability to communicate the pro-life message, along with an explanation of why one phrase is preferred. Many of you are probably already using some of these, while others you may not be aware of. What words we use affect the receptivity of the hearer to the message. Lives hang in the balance; we must do everything we can to protect the lives of the most vulnerable in our society.

Let us begin with one we are all familiar with... as we detailed in a previous newsletter:

Say: **Fertilization**

NOT: *Conception*

REASON: Fertilization is an exact biologic term. The term conception has been blurred in many peoples’ minds to define the start of life as implantation at one week of life.

Say: **Mother**

NOT: *Pregnant woman or even “expectant mother”*

REASON: Mother is a much softer word than woman; it conjures up images of love and compassion. The mother is not expecting to become a mother, she already is a mother! The only change over time will be her method of holding the baby; currently she cuddles the baby in her womb, and in

the future she will hold the precious wee one in her arms.

Say: **Place her baby in a pair of loving arms**

NOT: *Give her baby away.*

REASON: To “give her baby away” can sound negative and uncaring. It is a painful separation. “Place her baby in loving arms” connotes a gifting of a precious baby to another.

Say: **Human Life**

NOT: *Person*

REASON: Whether or not something is human or alive is definitive; you can point to the preborn child and say, “This is human. This is alive.” Personhood, on the other hand, is a legal term that can be defined by the government in many different ways.

Say: **Womb**

NOT: *Uterus*

REASON: Uterus sounds like a medical term, whereas womb has a warm, motherly connotation.

Say: **Kill an unborn baby**

NOT: *Terminate a pregnancy*

REASON: Every pregnancy is terminated one way or another, hopefully by the birth of a live child! “Kill” also emphasizes the aspect of destroying life, whereas “terminate” simply means “end.”

Say: **Abortion mill or Killing center**

NOT: *Abortion clinic*

REASON: “Clinic” usually refers to a place of healing, but not in this case.

Say: **Abortionist**

NOT: *Abortion provider/Doctor*

REASON: Doctors strive to heal their patients, not kill them. “Provider” means someone who supplies a good to another. “Abortionist” is more accurate and justly involves a negative connotation.

Say: **Abortion**

NOT: *Procedure*

REASON: Procedure sounds like an action necessary to diagnose an illness or a required surgery to correct a disease. Pregnancy is not a disease that needs to be cured.

Say: **Killing a baby during delivery**

NOT: *Partial-birth abortion* (as a term all by itself)

REASON: The great majority of people in the US do not know what partial-birth abortion is. Accordingly, many are not opposed. It is much

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more effective to say “killing a baby during delivery” in conjunction with any reference to PBA. I was talking to a news reporter earlier this week, and when I explained the procedure for “Partial Birth Abortion” she was horrified to learn that a baby already in the process of delivery was being killed.

Say: Chemical Abortion

NOT: Medical Abortion

Reason: Chemical abortion, i.e. RU-486, is accurate and has a negative connotation (recall Holly Patterson, September 2003 R.I.P.) Medical abortion is vague and implies healing, which is inaccurate.

Say: Abortifacient pills

NOT: Emergency contraceptives

REASON: Call them what they are. Morning after pills, “Plan B” or similar products have abortifacient effects.

Say: Right to Life/Pro-life

NOT: Antiabortion

REASON: Use the positive term rather than emphasizing what we are “against.” “Anti” anything sounds negative, and “antiabortion” does not explain our positive motivation.

Say: National Organization for (some) Women

NOT: National Organization for Women

REASON: Always qualify this. They are NOT the largest group of women by far. They are actually a rather small organization, which has only two major thrusts: pro-abortion and pro-lesbian.

Say: Disqualifying issue

NOT: Single issue

REASON: The term “single issue,” in recent years, has acquired a very negative meaning. “Disqualifying issue” is much more descriptive and accurate.

Say: School based sex clinics

NOT: School based health clinics

REASON: Calling them sex clinics is accurate. Don’t disguise this by using the word health.

Say: Fetal Handicap

NOT: Fetal Deformity

Reason: Handicap calls forth in our minds “I want to help.” Deformity calls forth revulsion, turn away, “I don’t want to look.”

Say: Protective legislation

NOT: Anti-abortion laws

REASON: “Anti” conjures up images of confrontation. Pro-life people aren’t against

anything, they are for the life of the mother and child, so “protective” is proper.

Say: Human embryo implants

NOT: Fertilized egg implants

REASON: Using the term “fertilized egg” dehumanizes this single cell human being. Besides, this stage lasts only one day. On day two, cell division occurs. The proper term to use is “embryo,” or better yet, “living human embryo.”

Say: Research cloning/clone and kill

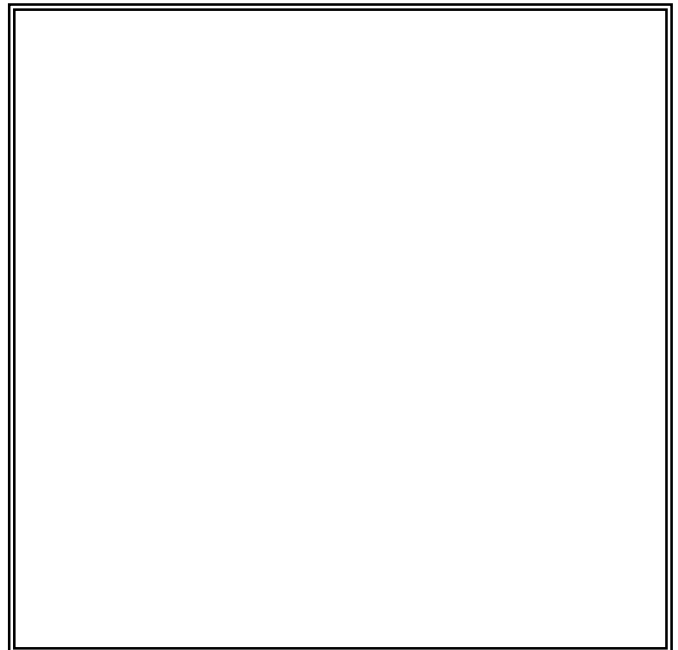
NOT: Therapeutic cloning

REASON: Cloning is cloning. In this case, a living human is experimented upon and then killed. A more accurate term for this is research cloning. It is certainly not therapeutic.

Say: Birth dearth

NOT: Population explosion

REASON: There is no population explosion. All the Western nations, and increasingly many third-world nations, now have birthrates sharply below replacement level. The problem before the mid-century will not be too many people, but too few young people to take care of too many old people.



Your donations are greatly appreciated, and your support makes possible our ongoing efforts in pro-life education, including information tables, pamphlets, media appearances, and our website at www.calright2life.org.

Thank you!