

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-4343
(925) 944-5351

E-Mail: callife@calright2life.org

Web Site: www.calright2life.org

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Welcoming Pope Francis

As the smoke cleared from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel and we heard the words “Habemus Papam” – We have a Pope - the pro-life community rejoiced in welcoming Pope Francis.

The Catholic Church has long been a strong ally in the fight to protect all life from conception to natural death. Francis’ most recent predecessors, Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, used their papacies to further strengthen the Catholic Church’s teachings on life issues from reproductive technologies and abortion, to assisted suicide, and direct euthanasia. And whereas a single priest, minister, rabbi or imam preaching from the pulpit reaches those who are sitting in the pews, when the Pope speaks, the whole world tends to pay attention. Having a staunch advocate for the voiceless only serves to strengthen our efforts in the protection of all innocent human life from fertilization to natural death.

When Pope Francis was Cardinal Bergoglio of Buenos Aires Argentina, he had no problem standing up against his own government. In rejecting abortion regulations adopted by the head of the government of Buenos Aires, the Cardinal noted: “The abortion is never a solution. We listen, with support and understanding from our place to save two lives: respect the human being small and helpless, they can take steps to preserve your life, allow birth and then be creative in the search for ways to bring it to its full development.”

Addressing the situation of unwed mothers in Argentina less than a year ago, he made the following comment to his priests: *In our ecclesiastical region there are priests who don’t baptize the children of single mothers because they weren’t conceived in the sanctity of marriage. These are today’s hypocrites... those who separate the people of God from salvation. And this poor girl who, rather than returning the child to sender (i.e. abortion), had the courage to carry it*

into the world, must wander from parish to parish so that it’s baptized!

In a 2007, in presenting a joint statement with the bishops of Latin America, then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio called abortion the “death penalty for the unborn.” In that speech, he said, “[I]n Argentina, we have the death penalty. A child...can be condemned to death.”

Regarding the dignity of the elderly and the importance of resisting euthanasia, as Cardinal-Bishop of Buenos Aires, he stated, “Even if euthanasia is not legal in many countries, it is being actualized covertly through attitudes of exclusion and abandonment” of the elderly.

He further called euthanasia and assisted suicide a “culture of discarding,” saying, “In Argentina there is clandestine euthanasia. Social services pay up to a certain point; if you pass it, ‘die, you are very old.’ Today, elderly people are discarded when, in reality, they are the seat of wisdom of the society.” He added, “The right to life means allowing people to live and not killing, allowing them to grow, to eat, to be educated, to be healed, and to be permitted to die with dignity.”

As Pope Francis already made pro-life headlines on his first full day. A report out of Rome stated, “Francis offers his second blessing as Pope to a pregnant woman.” The new Pope prayed for nearly a half-hour at the altar of Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major. “Before leaving he greeted a married couple and gave his blessing to a woman, who is five months pregnant.”

As Pope Francis begins his ministry as the Bishop of Rome in earnest, we look forward to this new voice joining us on the global stage to advance a culture of life in our society both here in America and around the world.

Abortion: “death penalty for the unborn.”
- Pope Francis

There's An App for That

Brad Mattes, Executive Director
Life Issues Institute Inc.

Today's technology has apps for staying in touch with friends and family; monitoring weather; tracking exercise; keeping up on the latest news; and much more. Now, there's a new app designed to help mothers-to-be keep a record of their pregnancies.

WebMD has developed a free app that's highly interactive and vividly illustrated to guide women through pregnancy. One of its many features is a graphic illustration of the baby as he or she forms throughout each trimester. Imagine looking at an image of the baby at the earliest stages and learning that the tiny heart has already started beating. (To listen to the heartbeat of a baby at 6.5 weeks from conception, visit the website www.lifeissues.org and place your cursor over the heart icon.)

The diagrams of the app are very educational and show each stage of development week-by-week. A mom-to-be can discover fun facts about what's taking place as this life grows inside her womb. One of the neatest features is how personal the experience can be. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- A Symptom Tracker where mothers can log their symptoms, everything from nausea to strange dreams
- A "My Body" feature that tracks weight and blood pressure
- Reminders for appointments, checklists and a place to make notes for questions to ask the doctor
- Quizzes and tips to help educate on a wide range of pregnancy facts
- Custom Counters, including one to track the number of kicks in a session, as well as one to time contractions
- Specialized content for twin pregnancies is also available

This essentially creates a virtual journey of the pregnancy experience from conception to birth. In fact, one of the more novel suggestions is to create a "Baby Belly Slide Show" by taking a photo of the mother's growing belly each week. Moms can also journal, allowing them to keep memories of the positive pregnancy test, first sonogram and celebrating at the baby shower. On a more serious note, this app can also

aid doctors in assessing the health and well being of both mother and child throughout the pregnancy.

According to WebMD, the app offers "hundreds of doctor-approved multimedia information and advice tailored to each week of pregnancy." Therefore, the information is medically sound, reliable and factual. You can access more information about the app on the WebMD website at:

<http://www.webmd.com/pregnancyapp>. It is also available for free on the iPhone AppStore.

How can anyone defend abortion after experiencing this app? If all women were exposed to this life-affirming information, I can only believe that the likelihood of a woman choosing abortion would substantially decline. It clearly shows some of the earliest markers of life, most dramatically when the tiny heart first begins to beat. This can become yet another resource that we can use to help women see and fully appreciate the value of life.

Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?

Make sure they get the facts first!

A LIFE depends on it...

1-800-712-HELP (4357)

The Pill Kills

"If you turned on the news in 2002, you would have heard about the Women's Health Initiative Study," according to Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, breast surgeon and assistant clinical professor at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. "For women, it was a great revelation. The study discovered that hormone replacement therapy caused breast cancer. At that time there were 30 million women on hormone replacement therapy. That same year, 15 million women stopped taking these hormones, just because they heard of this study." By 2007 the incidence of breast cancer in women over 50 had dropped by 11%.

Hormone replacement therapy and the oral contraceptive pill have a similar makeup of estrogen except for one significant fact: the birth control pill is much stronger. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 82% of U.S. women between the ages of 15-44 have used the Pill. When Lanfranchi went to medical school in the 1970s, the risk for women of

getting breast cancer was 1 in 12. By the 1990s, this risk had increased to 1 in 8.

“I began to notice that my patients were getting younger and younger,” she said. “Whereas before they had been in their 50’s, now they were in their 30’s. I started to look for a reason why.” Lanfranchi noticed that many of her patients had been on the Pill for a long time, starting at a fairly young age.

Breast cancer is the only major cancer that is on the rise. In 2007, the International Agency for Cancer Research, which is part of the World Health Organization, classified the Pill as a Class 1 carcinogen, putting it in the same group as arsenic, asbestos, formaldehyde and plutonium.

In 2006, Dr. Chris Kahlenborn published a study on breast cancer in the journal *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, one of the world’s most prestigious medical journals. “I became interested in this subject 18 years ago,” Kahlenborn said. “It seemed odd that the oral contraceptive pill could be prescribed so commonly.”

Kahlenborn did a meta-analysis of 23 studies. He discovered that a woman who takes the Pill for six months or more before having children increases her breast cancer risk by 44% over the national average. The risk was greatest for women who used the Pill for four years or more before ever having children.

“This means that 4,000 women every year under 50, who otherwise would not get breast cancer, get it if they are using the oral contraceptive pill,” Kahlenborn said.

The media embraced the hormone replacement therapy studies and reported on the harmful effects of estrogen in water systems, as well as the deformation it causes in fish. But the silence on the Pill’s harmful effects and its link to breast cancer is deafening and insulting to women.

Effects of the Pill

Source: thepillkills.com

- The Pill makes your blood clot. For women who have never smoked, do not have diabetes or hypertension, the Pill still doubles the risk of heart attack. Those who smoke have 12 times the risk of heart attack. *NEJM* 2001; 345:1787-93
- Women on the Pill have over twice the risk for stroke. *JAMA* July 5, 2000; 284: 72-78.

- The risk of lung blood clots is two to three times higher for women on the Pill. *BMJ* 2011;343:d6423
- Women on the Pill are more likely to develop lethal infections such as HIV and HPV. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome* 1999; May 1 21 (1):51-58
- There is a 320% higher risk of triple-negative breast cancer in women on the Pill, which is the most deadly form of breast cancer to treat. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2009;18(4):1157-65
- Women who use the Pill for five to nine years have twice the risk of cervical cancer. *Lancet* 2002;Mar 30;359(9312):1085-92
- The Pill increases the risk of liver cancer in women by 50%. *IARC* 2007 Monograph 91.

For Natural Family Planning alternatives to the birth control pill see:

Marquette Method nfp.marquette.edu

Sympto-Thermal Method ccli.org

Creighton Method creightonmodel.com



783 babies spared from abortion through God’s mercy during the last 40 days for life campaign held February 13-March 24, 2013! Those are 783 stories of children -- made in God's image and likeness -- who were so close to becoming another statistic. But because of your prayers and your courage to be there for their moms, they have life.

Calendar of Events

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

EAST MEETS WEST IN SAN FRANCISCO

**Friday, May 31,
6:30-9:00 pm**

**First Universalist Unitarian Center
187 Franklin Street, San Francisco**

Dust off your sari, put on your dancing shoes and bring an empty stomach to "East Meets West in San Francisco," a fundraising event for the completion of "Petals in the Dust: India's Missing Girls," a film about female infanticide and foeticide, practices that have led to the biggest genocide in India's history.

Come for a fabulous evening of music, dance, wine, food, silent auctions. Guests will also get a sneak peek of some clips from the film.

Attire: Indian or Western party clothes.

More information about this event is available at <http://www.eventbee.com/v/eastmeetswestinsf>

Important Phone Numbers

**Know someone who is pregnant
and might need help?**

1-800-712-HELP (4357)

Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>

**End of Life issues...Advance Directives
Patients Rights Council 1-800-958-5678**

Website: www.patientsrightscouncil.org

WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same "no-exceptions, no excuses" beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.

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