

# **CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND**

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*Established 1981*

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## **Experiences at the Pro-Life Mall Table**

By Emilia Calderon

*This month we invite one of our most faithful volunteers to share her experience at the Mall Table. Emilia is a seventeen year old homeschooler from a family of ten. Along with her brother Johnny, they draw other teens to the table in droves.*

Under the artificial lights of the Sun Valley Mall, we sat; tranquilly blinking behind the pro-life table, we all openly acknowledged the simple fact that it was a slow morning. Little did we know that this peaceful morning was merely the beginning of an altogether exciting and uplifting day at the pro-life mall table.

While we contentedly chatted away the time, we were approached by a mother and daughter who (after carefully observing our neat array of fetal models) divulged to us the plight of a friend of theirs, whose story made our display of particular interest to them. At the age of sixteen, their friend was ambiguous as to whether or not her three-month-old unborn child should live. Armed with select bookmarks, bumper stickers, and pamphlets from our available stock, the two ladies assured us with grateful certainty that with their bulging purses newly supplied, their friend would soon be a fair way on the path leading to life. Pleasantly affected by this encounter, we began to feel that we had cause to hope for perhaps a bit more interaction with the busy shoppers who flew past us with occasional stealthy glances at our extraordinary table; we were not disappointed.

Among the regular flow of rushing shoppers, a man with a sideways cap, sagging denim pants, and a large crystal in one of his ears, was noticeably peering at our table with obvious captivation from the nearby descending escalator. Suddenly, he boldly faced us and exclaimed an appalling and obscene ejaculation against abortion. Astounded, we simply ogled him from our seats, wondering how to respond to his very shocking statement. However, the impassioned young man was not finished.

“We all need to respect all living things,” he explained as he continued to energetically step up the declining escalator in order not to disappear from our sight. “Babies are living beings!! I love children! I love children!” Timorously smiling, we nodded in agreement at his profane yet truthful attestation. As a parting sign, he lifted his fists close to his face and gave us two thumbs up! His amazing remarks and endearing gesture left us stunned yet bizarrely encouraged. To receive support from a person who— by his attitude and apparel— seems to be the last person to stand for justice, is always supremely surprising.

Thinking that the day possibly could not be more eventful, a middle-aged woman stepped toward our table and rested her eyes upon the quiet fetal models and the gutsy bumper stickers. She presently took us into her confidence as she told us her awful and inspiring story. Years before today, she had aborted a child who was forced upon her; having

suffered depression, pregnancy complications, infections, and other frightening yet common side effects of abortion, she learned the hard way that abortion could never be the so-called “women’s health care.” Now, with a family of two small children and a dutiful husband, she speaks at gatherings and churches about her experience; she informs young people about the dangers of that legal atrocity that is hidden under the inaccurate title of “women’s health care.” Although she impressed upon us her sincere appreciation for our pro-life efforts, we acclaimed her with much feeling for using her own life as a painful yet true example to witness for our inalienable right—LIFE!

What began as a slow morning, transformed into an exciting and truly poignant day at the mall. Saturdays cannot get better when we witness to the truth in the struggle to protect life, especially with experiences at the pro-life mall table!

*If you would like to join Emilia and her fellow volunteers, contact this office at 925-944-5351.*

## **Talking Points on Major Issues**

*You are out having coffee with a few friends and one of the “hot button” pro-life issues comes up. You want to defend the defenseless, but what to say. Below are a few key talking points on some current issues.*

### **Pregnancy and post abortion healing**

Our first issue is perhaps the saddest to encounter, yet the easiest to MEMORIZE a quick response. If you hear of a woman contemplating abortion, or suffering from the pain of a past abortion, PLEASE refer her to the CareNet help line 1-800-395-HELP (4357.) Memorize this number... it should be as easy to remember as your own telephone number!

Our office has bookmarks and business cards with this number. Do you pray outside an abortion mill? Do you sidewalk counsel? Contact our office for some of these cards and bookmarks. This is the “911” of the ongoing abortion crisis... spread the word!

### **Embryonic Stem Cell Research.**

- ***Embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) destroys human lives to “advance science.”*** The process of extracting stem cells from the embryo destroys it. An embryo is a human being at its earliest stage of life.
- ***ESCR is utilitarian, not humane.*** It is immoral to kill human embryos for their stem cells just as it is unethical to kill human babies for their organs. Civilized people do not do such things.
- ***Destructive ESCR has had no medical benefits to date.*** Touted as the best way to find dramatic medical cures, destructive ESCR has produced zero medical successes while destroying human life. In addition, embryonic stem cells have proved unstable in medical experiments and are difficult for scientists to control and preserve.
- ***Destructive ESCR is massively over-hyped.*** Not one person has been treated with

embryonic stem cells (ESC). Despite extravagant claims that ESC will treat nearly every disease or injury known to mankind, ESC have proven too dangerous in animals — developing into deadly tumors — to even attempt clinical trials in humans.

- ***Ethical alternatives to destructive ESCR exist in the triumphs of adult stem cells.*** In contrast to the failure of destructive ESCR, adult stem cells provide nearly miraculous results. Adult stem cells from blood, bone marrow, cord blood, and other sources are already treating a wide array of diseases, including juvenile diabetes, lupus, bladder disease, heart disease, liver disease, sickle cell anemia, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, and stroke damage. *Seventy-three diseases or disorders have been successfully treated with adult stem cells thus far.*

Focusing on adult stem cells avoids ethical dilemmas and provides opportunities for more successful treatments for patients. Yet the hype over destructive ESCR has deprived alternative research of funding — research that directly helps patients rather than funding the latest fad. Devoting federal dollars to the questionable practice of destructive ESCR is both scientifically unwise and ethically unjust.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(For the latest information, see [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org))

### **40 Days for Life September 26-November 4**

Several of our members are involved in this wonderful project. If you would like to join our “prayer warriors” or sojourn with a group to Sacramento, contact this office.

See [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) for a detailed description of this project. The California locations are Sacramento and Orange. If you do not live near one of these areas, but would like to be part of an email network, contact this office. You will receive updates and prayer suggestions throughout the campaign.

### **Life Legal Defense Foundation Banquet Saturday, November 10**

Keynote Speaker Dr. David Prentice on Stem Cell Research Bellevue Club in Oakland. Contact Mimi Streett: [streett@fastmail.fm](mailto:streett@fastmail.fm) or (707) 224-6675.

### **Hispanic Pro-Life Conference November 25**

St. Mary Cathedral, San Francisco. For further details e-mail our office at [callife@calrifght2life.org](mailto:callife@calrifght2life.org) and we will forward additional info as it becomes available.

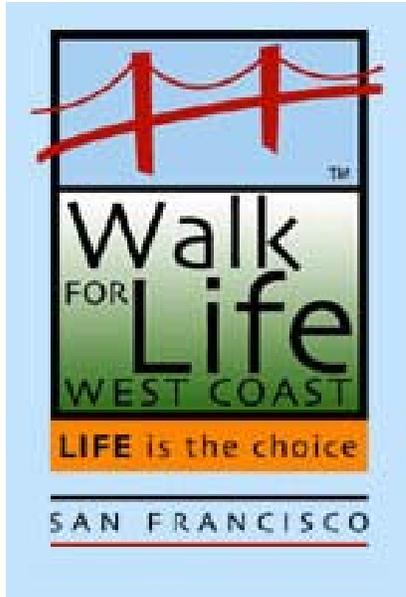
### **National Conference on Men and Abortion November 28-29**

Sponsored by Vicki Thorn's National Organization of Post-Abortion Reconciliation & Healing (NOPARH). This 2-day conference will be held at St. Mary Cathedral. Details to come.

## **Interfaith Service at St. Mary Cathedral Friday, January 18**

As in past years, the Interfaith Committee for Life plans an Interfaith Service at St. Mary Cathedral the evening before the Walk for Life. Details to come.

## **4th Annual Walk for Life West Coast January 19, 2008**



11:00AM speakers at Justin Herman Plaza at 11 a.m. followed by the Walk beginning at noon. If you have participated in the past you know what an inspirational experience this annual event is.

Mark your calendar now for the 2008 West Coast Walk for Life and plan to join us for the biggest pro-life event on the West Coast! Over 20,000 people participated in last year's walk! An even bigger crowd is expected in 2008.

Meet at Justin Herman Plaza at the Embarcadero, dress warmly, wear comfortable shoes, and bring a bag lunch. For further information, please visit: [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com).

### **Our Expanding Library**

*As space allows we will be reviewing one of our recently acquired library items. This month the video series "Choose Life, Choose Love - Sex and Catholic Youth."*

**Choose Life, Choose Love -Sex and the Catholic Youth** – is not just for “Catholic” youth. Any teenager, and any parent or adult that works with teenagers would benefit from viewing these videos. There is one tape for parents/adult facilitators and one for youth. The tapes are a series of discussions/presentations by Sister Kieran Sawyer S.S.N.D. encouraging participants to make a personal choice to refrain from premarital sexual activity and thus to avoid the spiritual, emotional, and physical problems that come with premarital sex.

The parents video is divided into two sessions of 45 minutes summarizing the material in the youth video and discusses the adult's role in helping youth make moral choices in our sexually confused world.

The youth video is six 20-minute presentations. The youth learn about L.I.F.E. –Love-Infatuation-Friendship-Exploitation. The section on “Contraception” is my favorite part of the presentations! Sister Kiernan cuts through the “abstinence vs. protection” dilemma in a clear and informative manner.

I would recommend using the videos as a guide to preparing your own presentations; a research tool rather than using during a presentation.

Young people today need and want accurate information about dating, sexual identity, and relationships to aid in making decisions. Adults are looking for a framework for presenting honest and accurate information. Choose Live, Choose Love responds to both these needs.

*To borrow the videos and the Facilitator's Guide contact our office at 925-944-5351.*

## **Around the Office**

**A special thank you to all who sent in donations during the “dry days of summer.”** We were able to replenish our supply of pamphlets, precious feet pins, silicon bracelets and other materials that we provide to teachers and students doing classroom presentations, and distribute at mall tables (Concord, Napa and soon in several other locations). We have expanded our selection of pamphlets as well as replenishing the low stocks of many of the more popular ones. However the money ran out before our cupboards were fully stocked. Please consider sending us a few dollars to help offset this ongoing expense?

**Combined Federal Campaign / United Way Payroll Deduction Drives** are coming to an employer near you. Please consider designation a portion (or all?) of your contribution to California Right to Life Educational Fund. Feel free to contact this office if you have any questions. This continues to be one of our major sources of funding.