

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Compassionate and Consistent: The “No-Exceptions” Pro-Life Philosophy

Pro-Life Wisconsin published a timely reminder of exactly what the “no exceptions pro-life philosophy” means. It is our pleasure to reprint it here for you:

Totally banning abortion makes some people uncomfortable. We’ve been told time and again there are unique situations for which abortion is the best option. If a lie is repeated often enough, people begin to accept it as truth. Such is the case with the erroneous notion that abortion must be permitted in cases of rape, incest, fetal deformity, or a perceived threat to the mother’s life. A principled commitment to the protection of innocent human life, in all circumstances and at all stages of development, is compassionate and consistent.

Not even in the case of rape or incest? Rape and incest are both criminal acts, and in our system of justice we punish the criminal. We do not punish the victim, nor do we punish the criminal’s children. We are told that if a pregnancy results from an act of rape or incest, the compassionate response is to offer the traumatized woman an abortion. No woman should be “forced to carry that monster’s child,” we are told. The trauma of sexual assault is very real. But why compound such severe trauma with the additional trauma of abortion? The compassionate response to rape and incest is to meet the real needs of the mother. Providing life-affirming medical, financial, and emotional care meets these needs.

Not even in cases of fetal deformity? When abortion is used to solve the problem of a disability, it is discrimination of the most severe kind. These children are not merely discriminated against for their disability; they are killed because of it. Abortions in these cases raise frightening prospects, for if it is right to kill a disabled person in the womb, could it not someday be permissible

to kill a disabled infant? A disabled adult? The answer is clearly “no” in those cases; why is there any question when the victim is a child in the womb? Preborn children diagnosed with disabilities deserve to be treated with the same respect as people born with or without a disability.

Not even in the case of a perceived threat to the mother’s life? Medical operations such as the removal of a cancerous uterus or the removal of an ectopic pregnancy are moral even under Catholic teaching and are not considered abortions. Such operations are justified by the “principle of double effect,” because the death of the child is an unintended effect of an operation independently justified to save the mother’s life. They do not involve the intentional and willful destruction of an unborn child. Physicians must make their best effort to save both patients, giving equal care to mother and child. They should never be given a license to intentionally kill either of them. Finally, many abortionists believe the very condition of pregnancy itself is a life-threatening condition. Consequently, a “life of the mother” exception can become a massive statutory loophole through which to drive abortion on demand.

When those in the pro-life movement support abortion in exceptional cases, it is destructive to the whole movement. The point is to end ALL abortion. The child is ALWAYS an innocent victim. Once pro-lifers say there can be a “good reason” to kill a preborn baby, the foundation of the pro-life movement crumbles. The argument is lost. Either the preborn child is a person, or the child is not a person. Since the preborn child is a person, there can be no exceptions for abortion.

**Do you know someone who might be
considering abortion?
Make sure they get the facts first!
A LIFE depends on it...
1-800-395-HELP (4357)**

Study: Pregnancy Outcomes Influence Breast Cancer Risk

"[A]fter the Hiroshima atomic bomb exposed women to high doses of radiation, it was young, nulliparous (childless) women who later developed breast cancer while the older parous (with children) women did not." Angela Lanfranchi, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and President, Breast Cancer Prevention Institute.

MEDIA ADVISORY, Sept. 8 /Christian Newswire/ -- A paper recently published in the journal, *The Linacre Quarterly*, by Angela Lanfranchi, MD shows how different pregnancy outcomes influence breast cancer risk. She explains, in simple terms, the biological reasons for each risk. [1] Citing 52 years of research, she said the evidence shows that:

- "In utero, (the mother's) offspring produce hormones that mature 85 percent of the mother's breast tissue into cancer-resistant breast tissue." This accounts for the protective effect of full term pregnancy (FTP) that experts universally recognize.
- Delayed first FTP is associated with a temporary risk increase because it lengthens the period during the reproductive years when nearly all of the breast lobules are immature and cancer-susceptible and exposed to the cancer-causing effects of estrogen during menstrual cycles. However, in terms of lifetime risk, the mother will eventually benefit from the protective effect of FTP, provided it lasted at least 32 weeks.
- Short pregnancies that end before 32 weeks (except for first trimester miscarriages) leave the breasts only "partially matured" and "with more places for cancers to start."
- "Induced abortion is a recognized cause of premature birth.... and prematurity more than doubles breast cancer risk if it is before 32 weeks."
- Most first trimester miscarriages do not raise risk because "inadequate levels of the pregnancy hormones" during an abnormal pregnancy do not stimulate breast growth and "leave the mother's breasts unchanged."
- Among women experiencing breast cancer during pregnancy, those who had FTPs had the longest survival rate in comparison to women

who miscarried and had "slightly shorter survivals," and those who chose abortion and had the "shortest survivals."

- "There is data that suggests that a woman who has a complete pregnancy and lactates within five years of an abortion has a lower risk of breast cancer than if a woman waits more than ten years before her first child is born."
- Hormonal contraceptives containing "estrogen-progestin combination drugs prescribed in any manner of delivery: orally, transdermally, vaginally, or intrauterine, increase risk."
- Breastfeeding reduces risk "in proportion to the length of breastfeeding."

Experts concede that an independent link between abortion and breast cancer makes good biological sense. [2]

"Women suffer tremendously when 'breast cancer awareness groups' keep us in the dark about breast physiology, especially when millions unwittingly damage their health by choosing abortion and combined hormone replacement therapy," said Karen Malec, president of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer.

"We encourage the public to send Dr. Lanfranchi's paper to the American Cancer Society and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Ask them if they can find any inaccuracies concerning the physiology presented in her paper. Challenge them to defend their position in the customary way - before their peers - by stating their objections in a letter to the editor of the medical journal."

The Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer is an international women's organization founded to protect the health and save the lives of women by educating and providing information on abortion as a risk factor for breast cancer.

References:

1. Lanfranchi, A. Normal breast physiology: The reasons hormonal contraceptives and induced abortion increase breast cancer risk. *The Linacre Quarterly* 2009;76:236-249. Available at: www.abortionbreastcancer.com/download/LQ_76_3_2_Lanfranchi.pdf
2. Endocrinology professor Joel Brind (Baruch College, City University of New York) wrote in the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* in 2005: "Researchers also widely admit to the biological plausibility of abortion as an

independent cause of breast cancer through the estrogen-mediated stimulation of breast growth in the absence of differentiation." [2] Brind J. Induced abortion as an independent risk factor for breast cancer: A critical review of recent studies based on prospective data. J Am Phys Surg Vol. 10, No. 4 (Winter 2005) 105-110. Available at: www.jpands.org/vol10no4/brind.pdf.

Pro-Life Boot Camp in Oakland

By Cecelia Cody

Saturday August 29, 2009 the Cathedral of Life conference Center in Oakland was "invaded" by over 150 youth eager to learn how to be "pro-life soldiers." The day began with the Joe Murray, conference organizer and youth minister for the diocese, welcoming the recruits with "Sir, Yes Sir" and I knew we were in for an intense day!

Bishop Salvatore Cordileone gave the keynote address. He highlighted several key points including that the two sides of any debate need to have the same noun; the discussion is between pro-abortion and anti-abortion, or pro-choice and anti-choice, not the common "pro-choice" and "anti-abortion."

And what is being chosen? To make a real choice, the person needs to have all the information, from fetal development to the consequences of the various choices. And what are the options? Have the baby and keep it, offer the baby for adoption, remain a single parent, marry the father of your baby. Abortion is only one choice, a "poor choice."

Abortion is an industry, a very profitable industry. And we are a threat to that profit whenever we stand outside an abortion mill and offer the women going in other "choices."

In the discussion on "equality of the sexes" we need to beware of the confusion between "sameness" and "equality." Equality—Yes! Sameness—not possible. Men can't have babies, so some could claim men are the oppressed sex because they can't be the bearers of life.

Being pro-life also includes a demeanor of respect for the body, as displayed in dress that is respectful and modest.

Dolores Meehan, co-founder of Walk for Life West Coast then shared her experiences and invited everyone to join her at the next Walk for Life West Coast on Saturday January 24, 2010... Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco.

Dolores reminded us that we must do everything in a spirit of love and humility. On humility, Dolores shared a line from St. Catherine of Siena... We only need to know two things: "there is a God, and you aren't Him."

"The only way to defeat evil is with love."

Dolores shared how the pro-lifers just walk along the Embarcadero praying, singing and having a nice stroll, and our opposition gets more and more upset at our spirit of love in the face of their anger and vicious attacks.

After the lunch break we were gifted with a truly awesome speaker, one of our own mall table volunteers, **Emilia Calderon**, who spoke youth to youth on how to talk to friends and classmates about abortion. She went through the most common arguments and how to launch "missiles of truth" and "shoot down the arguments." I'm sure we have all heard the one about using graphic signs, "Children shouldn't have to **see** this" to which Emilia responds "Children shouldn't have to **be** this." What more can we say?

Rev. Walter Hoye then shared his story of sidewalk counseling, his interactions with the City of Oakland and subsequent incarceration for his position. Rev. Hoye is the man who was willing to go to jail rather than give up his first amendment right to talk to women entering an abortion mill in Oakland. Rev. Hoye considers abortion to be "Black genocide." For more about Rev. Hoye visit his website: <http://www.issues4life.org/>

The long day ended with a testimony by Cathy Manzo sharing her experience as a college student having an abortion, the many years she suffered from the decision, and the healing she experienced through the Rachel's Vineyard experience. (For more information on Rachel's Vineyard see <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/>)

You, the donors of Ca. Right to Life Educational Fund had a MAJOR part in the conference. Your donations provided materials on all facets of the

life spectrum from fetal development and stem cell research, to euthanasia and abstinence literature. You provided pamphlets, bookmarks, stickers, silicon bracelets proclaiming “Life is Precious” and “Pro-Life.” The youth swarmed our information table like locusts all day, at every break. They came from as far away as San Jose, Stockton, Novato and San Francisco.... All eager to bring back whatever materials they could find to assist in their efforts.

Kudos and accolades go out to Mr. Joe Murray – youth minister of the Diocese of Oakland and Mr. Ed Hopfner – also of the Diocese of Oakland who put this first-rate boot camp together. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements of future pro-life boot camps. If you are not in the Oakland area, contact this office and we will put you in touch with someone who might be able to help you create a conference in your area.

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.