



Respect Life Ideas and Strategies for Parishes

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This Resource Guide has been compiled by the Green Bay Diocesan
Respect Life Advisory Board in order to promote and support Respect Life
activities in your parish.
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26 Ideas and Strategies for Respect Life Committees

1. Pray the rosary as a group or committee for life.
2. Participate in Rosary for Life at the two abortion clinics in the area.
3. Each month send baby congratulations (cards) to new parents in your parish or community.
4. Attend prayer services, rallies and rescues.
5. Write letters to legislators, state and federal, asking support for pro-life legislation; make available to parishioners Legislative Alerts so they can write too.
6. Purchase pro-life pamphlets, booklets, etc. for the parish bookrack in church.
7. Petitions for Life can be put at church entrances for people to sign.
8. Sell pro-life symbols: roses, red ribbons, lapel pins, etc.
9. Commemorate Roe vs. Wade decision in January with songs, prayers, etc.
10. Commemorate Respect Life weekend (first weekend in October) with special songs, prayers, etc.
11. Hold an ecumenical prayer service with other pro-life religion groups or anyone else supporting the cause.
12. Sponsor a pro-life ad in the newspaper.
13. Hang a large "life" banner in front of church during October and January.
14. On Mother's Day, sell long stemmed red roses.
15. Collect maternity and baby clothes to give to pregnant women in need. Have a baby shower for them in October.
16. Participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C.
17. Rent pro-life videos and view.
18. Follow the public debate; become informed. Communicate your information and concern to others.
19. Encourage anyone who has had an abortion to seek help from project Rachel.
20. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about your pro-life views.
21. Vote for candidates to public office who will best represent your views. Ask federal, state, and local representatives to support life-affirming legislation and thank them for their support.
22. Encourage people to vote for pro-life candidates.
23. Make personal visits to your public officials, legislators, etc.
24. Become informed about all life issues: nuclear war, euthanasia, hunger and the poor, capital punishment, etc.
25. Help at fairs, etc. with pro-life materials (handout).
26. Pray. Pray for the unborn, the legislators, for prisoners and their families, conversion of sinners, legislation, the culture of life to grow, etc.

NO. 2

Create a Local Respect Life Resources Guide”

It should list some or any of the following organizations and resources local to your area, similar to St. Bernard Parish in Appleton “You Are Not Alone.”

- ◆ Pregnancy Support Services, Adoption, Natural Family Planning.
- ◆ Post-Abortion Counseling, Domestic Abuse Centers, Assault Counseling, Alzheimer’s and Elderly Care Issues, Grieving Support, Elizabeth Ministry, and any parenting (moms) groups at your parish.

NO. 3

Provide Materials to Your Parish Staff for Bulletin

- ◆ brochures from pregnancy support resources
- ◆ guides to memorial services for premature babies, stillborns and infant deaths
- ◆ grief material to share with those who have lost a pregnancy/baby

NO. 4

Celebrate Mother’s Day

- ◆ hold a rose sale after Masses to benefit local pro-life efforts

NO. 5

Celebrate Father’s Day

- ◆ give Hershey’s Kisses to each dad as a thank you for giving Life (check with St. Pius in Appleton)

NO. 6

Plan Special Liturgies

- ◆ 1st Sunday in October (try to focus on non-abortion respect life issue)
- ◆ January to commemorate Roe v. Wade (focus on abortion)
- ◆ Banner – use in procession and place at front of church during Mass
- ◆ Prayer Card – in pews and have congregation join, hand out as people leave or place in bulletin
- ◆ Special Petitions – use NCCB materials or Choose Life ideas
- ◆ Bulletin Cover – be sure to provide a clear copy to your parish secretary well ahead of time
- ◆ Bulletin Inserts – use materials from the NCCB, Focus on the Family, Heritage House, Christopher’s, etc
- ◆ Decorate Your Bulletin Boards – poster from NCCB, quotes from clip art, get a teacher to help
- ◆ Place Flyers on Tables – if your church holds a social after Masses

Events and Projects – Detailed

- ◆ Roses Placed on the Altar or by Statue of Mary – in opening procession or as a part of offertory. 1 per year since Roe v. Wade or per 1,000 abortions per day, white roses for babies and pink roses for moms.
- ◆ Rosary before Masses – be sure to advertise ahead in the bulletin and contact whoever is in charge of weekly or monthly rosaries in your parish.
- ◆ Mother Teresa Quote – have a quote read after Communion.
- ◆ Procession of Birth Years – people born each year since Roe v. Wade.
- ◆ What Might Have Been – creation story with candles lit, followed by remembrances with candles extinguished.

NO. 7

Promote October as Respect Life Month

- ◆ decorate a bulletin board
- ◆ hold special liturgy
- ◆ collect items for local crisis pregnancy center
- ◆ participate in Bowl for Life. Recruit bowlers and parishioners to sponsor bowlers after Masses (benefit Mother & Unborn Baby Care)
- ◆ order Respect Life NCCB Annual Respect Life Packet of Resource Materials

NO. 8

Provide Pro-Life Literature and Prayers to Parishioners

- ◆ NCCB, Heritage House, Life Cycle Books, Priests for Life, etc.
- ◆ see literature list
- ◆ place in bulletin
- ◆ place in literature racks in back of church or social areas
- ◆ have committee members hand out as people exit church

NO. 9

Sell Pro-Life Christmas Cards

- ◆ profits pro-life organizations
- ◆ parishioners can select pro-life message or simple holiday greeting
- ◆ Life Expressions – Phone: 1 800-736-life

NO. 10

Benefit Local Crisis Pregnancy Center Visit Crisis Pregnancy Center -

- ◆ gather information for bulletin insert
- ◆ encourage parishioners to volunteer
- ◆ volunteers to clean donated items, wash donated clothes
- ◆ pick up donated items, meet with women in need, etc.

Events and Projects - Detailed

Sponsor a Baby Shower

- put cute invitations in the bulletin
- ◆ serve punch, cookies and maybe games
- ◆ have each “guest” bring something for baby

NO. 11

Sponsor a Local Dresser Program

- ◆ hang tags identifying items from a poster or tree
- ◆ encourage parishioners to pick a tag and return item
- ◆ fill dresser with everything a new mom needs for her new baby
- ◆ find a parishioner to donate dresser or hold fund-raiser to purchase one

NO. 12

Collect New and Used Baby and Maternity Items

- ◆ have a baby crib, bassinet, or decorated box at the entrance of church
- ◆ donate items to your local crisis pregnancy center

NO. 13

Collaborate with Religious Education Programs

- ◆ volunteer to show video and lead discussion regarding abortion
- ◆ inform them of the “Before You Were Born” materials available through the GB Diocese Dept. of Total Catholic Education and the “Choose Life” curriculum. “Before You Were Born” materials for primary grades
- ◆ “Choose Life” curriculum is also available
- ◆ Call Total Catholic Education, Green Bay Diocese at 920-437-7531 or 920-734-1112
- ◆ contact your local Catholic school or religious education coordinator
- ◆ donate “That’s Me in Here!” book to grade school libraries (St. Paul Books and Media)

NO. 14

Advocate for Legislative Change

- ◆ attend the Diocesan sponsored “Annual Legislative Briefing Day” (spring)
- ◆ start a phone tree where people pass the message of upcoming votes and each person contacts their legislator or write tasteful, pro-life letters to the editor

NO. 15

Distribute Pro-Life Information to Area Schools

- ◆ contact local schools (public and private)
- ◆ leave materials in library or with school nurse
- ◆ get brochures from your local crisis pregnancy center
- ◆ get newspapers from the Human Life Alliance (free if distributed to students)

NO. 16

Encourage Prayer in Your Parish

- ◆ lead or find someone to lead a rosary for life before Mass each month
- ◆ hold a prayer service on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade
- ◆ distribute family prayer sheets in bulletins
- ◆ Hold a Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

NO. 17

Publicize Project Rachel

- ◆ post-abortion reconciliation and healing program for all people affected by abortion
- ◆ have brochures available (in bulletin or on racks in back of church)

NO. 18

Participate in Roe v. Wade Memorial Events

- ◆ walks, vigils, life chains. etc.
- ◆ go to the March for Life in Appleton
- ◆ go to the March for Life in Washington

NO. 19

Encourage your Local Knights of Columbus Council to Hold a Pro-Life Essay Contest

- ◆ encourage students to participate
- ◆ share information with local teachers
- ◆ usually held in January each year

NO. 20

Hold a Teen Pro-Life Video Night

- ◆ show “The Right Choice” (available NCCB)
- ◆ display “New Generation” materials (available NCCB)
- ◆ serve popcorn etc.
- ◆ give away door prizes

NO. 21

Educate Parishioners about Euthanasia

- ◆ bulletin insert
- ◆ decorate bulletin board
- ◆ speaker or video at night or Sunday after Masses

NO. 22

Promote College Outreach

- ◆ “Feminists for Life” (NCCB ’96)
- ◆ help start a local chapter of Feminists for Life
- ◆ be sure the college health services have pregnancy help information, Feminists for Life have great brochures

NO. 23

Provide Educational Opportunities for Your Parish

- ◆ US Population Control Policy (NCCB ’98)
- ◆ Catholic view of reproductive technology
- ◆ killing the pain, not the patient video – “Assisted Suicide: The Catholic Perspective”
- ◆ end of life decisions video – “Final Blessings”

NO. 24

Sponsor a Poster Contest

- ◆ grade school or middle school- respect life theme – winners
- ◆ receive gift certificate to St. Patrick’s Book Store, and all participants
- ◆ receive a Dairy Queen Gift Certificate

NO. 25

Sell Roses for Life

We sell roses in January for LIFE in remembrance of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. We sell the roses at each Mass. We have Respect Life information, brochures, pamphlets, rosaries, baby feet pins, etc. for parishioners to have to have to raise the awareness of the sacredness of life.

We donate the money to LIFE cause such as the Diocesan New Life Fund, Love Life at St. Joseph’s parish, a program for women in financial need who choose to keep their baby and need assistance with their baby’s needs, etc.

Pray for the Unborn by Name

The Pastoral Plan of the National Conference of Bishops calls for “a public information and education effort to deepen understanding of the humanity of the unborn.” The following is one idea for deepening this understanding.

In order to foster society’s understanding of the humanity of the unborn, we should do everything we can to encourage Christian women to give temporary, prenatal names to their CHILDREN IN THE WOMB. Then, in the same way we pray for other members of the congregation when they are ill otherwise in need, the church would pray for its unborn children BY NAME. This would be a powerful way for us to demonstrate that we believe that a fetus is an individual human being who deserves the right to life.

There is a psychology behind this, call it the “psychology of name.” A name forges our identity as individuals distinct from others and is central to the formation of the bonds we make between us. Every member of every human society has a name so if we want society to think of an unborn child as one of its members, we need to take the lead in giving names to the unborn.

If giving a name to her unborn child helps a mother understand the humanity of that child then she will not likely seek an abortion. For this idea to be effective, a woman’s first contact with it must not come at the steps of an abortion clinic. She needs to hear about it long before she ever gets to that point. We need to make the idea of prenatal names so common to our culture that even women who have never been to church will embrace it. The goal is that every woman will want to give a prenatal name to the baby in her womb simply because we have made it popular to give the dignity and benefit of a name to the unborn.

Naming the child is even beneficial to the mother if she should have a miscarriage or the child is stillborn because it is an important step in the grieving process. In fact, it is an integral part of Project Rachel and other programs aimed at healing after the loss of an unborn child.

The idea that an unborn child would have a name is not foreign to Judeo/Christian thought. God called Isaiah BY NAME from his mother’s womb (Isaiah 49:1) and both John the Baptist (Luke 1:13) and Our Lord Jesus (Luke 2:21) were named before they were even conceived.

Since the prenatal name is temporary and can be changed at birth, the sex of the child need not be considered even if an engendered name is chosen. Of course there are many names that are not gender specific and even nonsense name are perfectly acceptable. The idea that one’s name can be changed has been embraced by God the Father (Abram to Abraham, Sari to Sarah) and Jesus (Simon to Peter).

If this idea makes sense to you, then I ask you to do three things.

- 1) First, pray about it. If it still makes sense, then proceed.
- 2) Second, implement it in you parish. Put a notice in bulletin. Talk about it to expectant mothers. If even one of them so wishes, pray for her unborn child by name when you as a parish bring your petitions before the Lord.
- 3) Third, send this idea to others who in turn can pray, implement and disseminate. If you have editorial skills or can otherwise express this idea better, feel free to make whatever changes you see fit. Print it out for those who don’t have email and forward it to those that do.

NO. 27

Read Mother Teresa’s Message

at Anniversary of Roe v. Wade or at nearest Sunday Mass in January

The world lost one of its most beloved advocates and protectors of life on September 5, 1997 – Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa was known for her unconditional love for the ill, frail, and homeless, but most of all her concern for the unborn. She will long be remembered not only for her love, but also for her ability to speak the truth. She received a standing ovation in a moving speech before the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. Here is a part of Mother Teresa’s message from that day:

“But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child... If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? Jesus gave even his life to love us. So the mother who is thinking of abortion should be helped to love... to respect the life of the child.

By abortion, the father is told he does not have to take responsibility at All for the child he has brought into the world. Any country that accepts abortion Is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get whatever they Want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”

On January 22, 1998, we will mark the 25th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, which brought us abortion on demand. In these last 25 years, 37 million babies have been aborted. That also means that 37 million women are hurting from their abortion decision. We cannot forget the men involved, who also feel emotional pain for any involvement they may have had in an abortion.

To mark this anniversary, we ask you to pray together the prayer for life card in the pews... (or whatever your parish has in mind, bring a baby item to next week’s Mass, take a tag from the Dresser Program, consider a donation to our local crisis pregnancy center, write a letter to your Senator asking him/her to vote to ban partial birth abortions, etc.).

Please check today’s bulletin for more information on how you can make a difference.

NO. 28

Hold a Procession of Birth Years Event at a Liturgy

One person born each year since 1973 walks in wearing a tag with their birth year. Each person carries a white rose symbolizing the babies aborted that year and a pink rose symbolizing the mothers who did not receive the support they needed to choose life and may still be hurting today due to their loss.

Opening song and greeting as usual followed by:

“In today’s Mass, we emphasize the sanctity of life. Young adults, teenagers, children and babies will represent their birth year since January 22, 1973, when abortions were legalized by

Events and Projects – Detailed

the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade. Since that time, over 37 million unborn babies have died due to abortion. 37 million surpasses the population of 11 Midwest and Western states. Please be seated.”

Instrumental music is played while procession begins with oldest (1973) first. Participants place roses in a vase and line up across the front of church, oldest to youngest.

Then the narrator can do one of many things. Lead a pro-life prayer, comment on our responsibility to help mother’s in need, direct parishioners to a bulletin insert which identifies ways to help end abortion, or a bulletin insert with a family prayer service to end abortion, etc.

Or participants can hold onto their roses until they are all lined up and the narrator can invite them to place roses in the vase. *“Roses will now be placed in vases by Mary’s altar. The white roses symbolized the many lives from their age group that have been cut short by abortion. The pink roses symbolize the many women who may still be hurting due to their loss.”*

NO. 29

Sponsor a Rosebud Campaign

The ROSEBUD CAMPAIGN is the collection of gently used and new baby items that are donated to women who (instead of choosing to end the baby’s life through abortion) have chosen life – even amidst the most difficult financial circumstances. The women who receive the donations are in desperate situations but realize the sacredness of life that God has given them. One teenage girl in this area had a baby and she kept it in her bed to sleep, because she had no crib or bassinet. Through donation of the Rosebud Campaign she received a new bassinet for the baby to sleep in. The little bit that it took - made a world of difference.

A number of parishes in the area are beginning this campaign because of the positive difference they are making in families’ lives. The couple that volunteered to coordinate and run this program has just received the Gaudium et Spes Award from the Diocese of Green Bay. A Diocesan award that is granted to people who are making a Christian difference and living out their faith.

This campaign asks very little from each of you – but as a community we can make an overwhelming difference!

Over the next few weeks we will be having the kick off of the Rosebud Campaign. In this short time we are hoping to collect a ton of donations for the babies. The bulletin will give you an idea of what is needed and whom you can call if you have questions. If you have baby clothing, used furniture, car seats or even if you would like to give “diaper change” (monetary donations) it will all be given to the Rosebud Campaign. So if you are spring-cleaning and come across an old crib – we know a place that could really use it and we even have pick up/delivery. Although the campaign kickoff is only a few weeks long...this program will be a continued effort.

So, please be generous and support LIFE, and our parish Rosebud Campaign...Your new or used baby item will make the biggest difference to someone’s life. Thank you for your generous and life-giving donations!

Events and Projects – Detailed

(Supplemented by bulletin inserts. We highlight a two-week period at the end of January. We also display pro-life materials.)

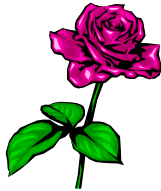
Parish: St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 2771 Oakwood Drive, Green Bay, WI 54304-1618
Phone: 920-499-1546. Contact: Tina Pallini, 920-497-1541.

ROSEBUD

A Way to Support Women & Children in Need

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is beginning a pro-life project called **ROSEBUD**. The purpose of Rosebud is to provide **spiritual** and **material support** to local women facing crisis pregnancies.

Within our own communities there are many women who face crisis pregnancies, these women often choose life for their unborn babies, but are unable to provide the material necessities required to care for their children. It is at this point that our help is needed.



We ask for you to **pray** for these women and their children. Ask God to give them the strength and support they need and for us to be a supportive community for them. Also, we ask for your new or gently used infant donations

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many.

★ ★ ★ **BABY ITEMS NEEDED** ★ ★ ★ ★

Baby Clothes

Booties/Socks

Crib Pads

Crib Sheets

Onesies

Baby Mittens

If you have any questions/comments, need an item picked up, or are willing to help sort clothing, contact Tina at 497-1541.

NO. 30

Hold a Caring-for-Life Walkathon:

We have a 2 mile walk around the church grounds. Money is pledged ahead of time for walkers the day of the walk and also collected at the end of Mass for people that cannot walk and would care to donate. Each year we choose three organizations concerned with life issues that we donate funds to. (St. Joseph's Home – Two Rivers, Pro-Life WI, Healthy Families – Green Bay, Love Life – Green Bay, Peter's Pantry – Manitowoc, Elizabeth Ministry – Appleton, Denmark Community Cupboard, Sponsor youth to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., etc.) Annual event in September. Contact: Joyce Cisler 920-684-1913, St. James Parish, Cooperstown. Phone: 920-863-2585.

NO. 31

Provide a Kisses for Mom and Dad Program:

October Respect Life Month - 2 candy kisses are wrapped in lace ties with a message – “Thanks Mom and Dad for choosing life.” Handed out by the youth to Moms and Dads after Mass.

NO. 32

Hold a Seed/Prayer Project:

When you are pro-life, Springtime is a year round season. Attached is a packet of flower seeds as a gift to you. We ask you to renew your dedication to the pro-life work and your prayers as well to bring in new life.

After a long and cold winter, it is encouraging for Spring to finally arrive. Springtime is the beginning of new life – Tulips are budding, buttercups are blooming and the grass around us is green. We are reminded of God’s love for new life and new beginnings.

When you are pro-life, springtime is a year round season. Everyday we work to bring respect for new life in this world. New life needs fresh soil. Pull out the weeds and get the ground ready for a new life.

Attached is a packet of flower seeds as a gift to you. As you plant your seeds and watch your flowers grow we ask you to renew your dedication to the pro-life work and your prayers as we all try to bring in new life.

NO. 33

Raise Money for New Life Fund

A Diocesan Aid to Women and Infants

Project Description: The purpose of the NEW LIFE FUND grant program is to provide “last resort” funding to pregnant women who have encountered essential expenses related to their pregnancy, adoption procedure or necessities during the first year of their child’s life which they cannot handle. The NEW LIFE FUND should only be offered when other services or funds are unavailable.

Establish Elizabeth Ministry at Your Parish



Each of these is developed so that women can minister with one another in a caring manner.

Elizabeth Ministers are not counselors or experts.

They are women who are willing to share their presence, stories, and experiences in the hope that these will support, encourage, console, and at times bring healing.

Pregnancy Support

- ◆ General Pregnancy
 - First Time Pregnancy
 - Subsequent Pregnancy
 - Large Family
 - Pregnancy Later in Life
 - Pregnancy After Miscarriage or Infant/Child Death
- ◆ Pregnancy Complications
 - Bed rest
 - High Risk Pregnancy
 - Prenatal Testing Concerns
 - Fetal Abnormality Issues

Celebration Of Birth

- ◆ General Birth
 - First Time Birth
 - Subsequent Birth
 - Large Family
 - Raising Child
 - Choosing Adoption
- ◆ Special Birth Outcomes
 - Multiple Births
 - Delivery Complications
 - Post-partum Depression

Grandparent Support

- ◆ General Nurturing as Grandparent
- ◆ First Time Grandparent
- ◆ Grandchild Joined Family by Adoption
- ◆ Long – Distance Grand parenting
- ◆ Grieving Grandparent
- ◆ Grandparent Facing Obstacles
- ◆ Rejected Grandparent
- ◆ Grandparent Raising Grandchild
- ◆ Grand parenting Unwed Child’s Baby
- ◆ Grandchild Placed for Adoption
- ◆ Grandchild Aborted

Miscarriage & Infant/Child Death

- ◆ Miscarriage
- ◆ Infant or Child Death
 - Stillborn
 - Multiple Birth Loss
 - SIDS
 - Illness
 - Murder

Fertility & Infertility

- ◆ Waiting to Conceive
 - Without Known Infertility
 - With Known Infertility
- ◆ Accepting Inability to Conceive
- ◆ Accepting a Childless Life
- ◆ Fertility Transformations
 - Onset of Menses
 - Hysterectomy
 - Menopause

Adoption

- ◆ Considering Adoption
- ◆ Waiting to Adopt
- ◆ Adoption Loss
- ◆ Celebration of Adoption
- ◆ Birth Mother

Infant or Child Crisis

- ◆ Premature Birth
- ◆ Intensive Care Nursery
- ◆ Special Needs
- ◆ Child Illness

Family Support

- ◆ Gift & Resource Kits
- ◆ Meals
- ◆ Childcare
- ◆ Housekeeping
- ◆ Transportation

Promote Easels for Life Campaign

This is a Diocesan approved four-week campaign that highlights the scientific, governmental, personal and religious reasons why we must believe and understand based on facts, that life is a right. The campaign is positive and based on truth. This is perfectly suited for a respect life campaign for parish use.

The Easels for Life Campaign is completely photocopy ready. The next ten pages include the Four Easel posters with supporting bulletin inserts that can be used over a four week campaign to positively promote the respect for all human life.

Prepared and developed by:
Christina Pallini, Roseann Raupp and Donna West
(St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Respect Life Committee)

EASELS

FOR

LIFE

“SEEK TRUTH”

CAMPAIGN

SEEK TRUTH CAMPAIGN

In the next four weeks our parish will focus on the Truth as it pertains to the issue of Life. Each week an easel will highlight a particular life message. A bulletin insert will further explain the easel message in detail. Then, each week another easel with bulletin supplement will be added until a total of four easels are completed by the end of October.

The intention of this “Seek Truth” Campaign is to reawaken our souls and to raise our awareness to the culture of death that has permeated our society. Because of this daily influence, we have become desensitized to the horrors of abortion, we are changing our values in accepting euthanasia and a constant majority of Americans believe in the death penalty. Truth has become fringe and “a new truth” is evolving from lies.

The purpose of this campaign is to revisit the LIFE issue and support it with information from our Catholic Church, the United States Declaration of Independence and scientific evidence.

We hope the result of this campaign will be to EMPOWER you with reliable information that will ultimately result in a deeper prolife commitment and living out the Gospel of Life.

The four easels will highlight the following:

- ◆ *SCIENCE proves Life begins at Conception*
- ◆ *All are Created Equal*
- ◆ *It is our Obligation to Alter the Situation*
- ◆ *Choose Life.*

SCIENCE

PROVES

LIFE

BEGINS AT

CONCEPTION

SCIENCE PROVES - LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

It is a proven, scientific fact that life begins at conception. Scientists and medical texts agree that a new life begins at conception. *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology* states that “The intricate processes by which a baby develops from a single cell are miraculous...This cell [the zygote] results from the union of an oocyte [egg] and sperm. A zygote is the beginning of a new human being... human development begins at fertilization ...each of us started life as a cell called a zygote.”

Foundations of Embryology concludes that, “it is the penetration of the ovum by a spermatozoa and the resulting mingling of the chromosomal material each brings to the union that culminates the process of fertilization and initiates the life of a new individual.

Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant also emphasizes that, “every time a sperm cell and ovum unite, a new being is created which is alive and will continue to live unless its death is brought about by some specific condition.”

Also, in *Biological Principles and Modern Practice of Obstetrics* it says that, “The term conception refers to the union of the male and female pronuclear elements of procreation from which a new living being develops...The zygote thus formed represents the beginning of a new life.”

There are many medical texts that prove that life begins at conception. With this information it is evident that RU-486, an abortion and embryonic stem cell research all are killing a new life. This is Truth. Let us seek truth.

K.L. Moore. *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology* (2nd Ed.). Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Publishers, 1977, pp. 1 & 12 J.P. Green Hill & E. A. Freidman, *Biological Principles and Modern Practice of Obstetrics*. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Publishers, pp. 17 & 23. E. L. Potter, M.D. and J. M. Craig, M.D. *Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant* (3rd Ed.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1975, p. vii. Bradley M. Paten, M.D. *Foundations of Embryology* (3rd Ed.), New York City: McGraw-Hill, 1968, *The Facts of Life*, B. Clowes, Ph.D., Chapter 6

ALL

ARE

CREATED

EQUAL

2. **ALL ARE CREATED EQUAL**

The Webster Dictionary defines equality as the condition of being equal, especially of having the same political, social and economic rights. If we are all created equal, an unborn child is equal to you and me. Based on the Declaration of Independence it is a life. Let us put into practice consistently and across the board the very principle in the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever, any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it...”

-The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776.

We have to be concerned about all of the people not just some of the people, not just those who are convenient to welcome. We include the youngest and the smallest—the eldest and the unwanted. The life issue is not based on faith only; it is grounded in our country’s formation. Still, some people think a zygote or an embryo, an unborn baby, a disabled person or a patient with a terminal illness is no longer an asset to society.

If our country professes equality...we need to stand up for human beings who cannot stand up for themselves...the unborn, the disabled, the weak...the equal.

Stand up for what is right. Stand up for what is truth.

Let us seek truth.

IT IS OUR
OBLIGATION
TO
ALTER
THE
SITUATION

3. IT IS OUR OBLIGATION TO ALTER THE SITUATION

Our Nation's laws and God's law state that killing is immoral. We cannot exist in peace if we compromise our moral beliefs due to lack of knowledge, political correctness or discomfort. Society and the media have distorted the truth and would have each individual define his/her own truth. This is relativism. But, there is absolute truth. We must find the courage to defend what is right.

A perfect example of this is the statement, "I personally do not agree with abortion, but we cannot take away a woman's right to have an abortion." Is it acceptable to decide for ourselves what is truth? *All of these methods kill a life: Embryonic stem cell research -- Abortion -- death penalty -- some "birth control" methods -- Euthanasia -- Infanticide.*

The 5th commandment states THOU SHALL NOT KILL. As Catholic citizens, we know that no one has a right to kill another human being.

In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* it is stated (2258) "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves that creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

Truth and Justice are not served by silence. We have the freedom and responsibility as citizens and Christians to defend life. We are the Church and The Catholic Church is a Pro-Life Church. Let us defend Life. Let us seek truth.

“CHOOSE

LIFE.”

4. **“CHOOSE LIFE.”**

Psalm 39:13 states that *“God formed us together in our mother’s womb...He knows the days that are allotted to us.”* Each of our days are His. He has a wonderful plan for our life. He knows each of us by name and we are made in His image. Each one of us reading this began life as an embryo. So from the moment that we are conceived until our natural death, God is in charge.

God also gifted us with free will to choose to follow Him. Ecclesiasticus 15:14-18 states that *“He himself made man in the beginning, and then left him free to make his own decisions. If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power.”* He has set fire and water before you; put out our hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him.”

Deuteronomy 30:19 states, *“I am now giving you the choice between life and death...and I call heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Choose Life.”*

Pope John Paul II tells us, *“Every human person – no matter how vulnerable or helpless, no matter how young or how old, no matter how healthy, handicapped or sick, no matter how useful or productive for society – is a being of inestimable worth created in the image and likeness of God. This is the dignity of America, the reason she exists, the condition for her survival – yes, the ultimate test of her greatness: to respect every human person, especially the weakest and most defenseless ones, those as yet unborn.”*

– Pope John Paul II on September 19, 1987

Jesus said, *“The reason I was born, the reason why I came into the world, is to testify to the truth. Anyone committed to the truth hears my voice.”* (John 18:37) Let us seek truth.