

Lifelines



January 2009

www.midlandrtl.org

Children Are Dying

By: Jennifer Rey

Millions of children are dead.

Why?

For convenience.

Since the infamous Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, America has exercised the so-called “right to privacy” by committing murder in the womb. The current tally is nearly 50 million abortions (www.nrcl.org).

Abortion is wrong and we know it.

If we do nothing, we cooperate with the pro-abortion agenda.

During this month, we need to renew our dedication to defending life. Get involved with Right to Life groups. Pray outside abortion clinics. Volunteer at crisis pregnancy centers. Call your legislators; let them know what you expect of them. (any other things that you can think of ☺) Above all, pray. This is our most powerful weapon.

Pray for the unborn.

Pray for pregnant women in crisis.

Pray for those who perform abortions.

Pray for those who support abortion.

Pray for all of our elected officials.

Pray for America.



Start Thinking...

If you're in high school, now is the time to start thinking about entering our Oratorical Contest. Just write a 5 – 7 minute speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research or human cloning, present it to a panel of judges and win cash!\$ Contact us for more details.

Putting our Beliefs into Action

Right to Life of Midland County has become aware of two young women who had baby girls this month and are in need of baby items. Meet the moms and babies at a baby shower we are having for them on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at St. Brigid Parish Hall, 207 Ashman, from 1pm – 3pm. Please let us know if you can come! 835-2222 or midlandrtl@yahoo.com. If you can't make our shower, baby items can be dropped off at the prayer vigil on January 22. (See article below)

Prayer Vigil Mourning 36 Years of Legal Abortion

Join us on the steps of the Midland County Courthouse for prayer to end legal abortion in our country. Pastor Roger Saltee of Sanford First Baptist Church will lead us as we mourn the lives lost since the *Roe v Wade* Supreme Court decision. The candlelight vigil will start at 5:30pm and then move across the street to the First United Methodist Church for light refreshments until 6:30pm. Baby items for moms in need will be accepted and appreciated. We will also have postcards you can fill out expressing your opposition to FOCA.

F.O.C.A.

What is F.O.C.A.? It's the Freedom of Choice Act, and President Elect Obama promised Planned Parenthood that one of his first orders of business as President of the United States would be passing this legislation. What would the Freedom of Choice Act mean for our country? If made a law then all present limitations on abortion would be lifted which will result in the following:

1. All hospitals, including Catholic hospitals, will be required to perform abortions upon request. If this happens, Bishops vow to close down all Catholic hospitals, which amounts to more than 30% of all hospitals in the United States.
2. Partial birth abortions would be legal and have no limitations.
3. All U.S. tax payers would be funding abortions.
4. Parental notification will no longer be required.
5. The number of abortions will increase by a minimum of 100,000 annually.



Perhaps most importantly the government will now have control in the issue of abortion.

This could result in a future amendment which may force women by law to have abortions in certain situations (rape, down syndrome babies, etc) and could even regulate how many children women are allowed to have.

Needless to say this information is disturbing, but sadly true. As Catholics, as Christians, as anyone who is against the needless killing of innocent children, we must stand as one. We must stop this horrific act before it becomes a law.

We are encouraging everyone to join this Internet movement of prayer and fasting. Say a novena (9 days of prayer) along with fasting starting on January 14th. For Catholics, the prayer of choice will be the rosary with intentions to stop the FOCA. For non Catholics I encourage you to pray your strongest prayers with the same intentions, also for nine consecutive days.

The hope is that this will branch and blossom as to become a global effort with maximum impact. We have very little time so we all must act quickly. Just do three things:

1. Encourage friends and family to commit to prayer for the stopping of FOCA.
2. Send a postcard to your state senators and representative asking them to vote NO on FOCA. We will have postcards available at our January 22 vigil as well as a link to a pdf file on our web site.
3. Start the novena on January 14th and pray for nine consecutive days, ending on January 22.
4. Please also fast for at least two days during the novena.

Remember that with God all things are possible and the power of prayer is undeniable. If you are against the senseless killing of defenseless children then the time is now to do something about it!

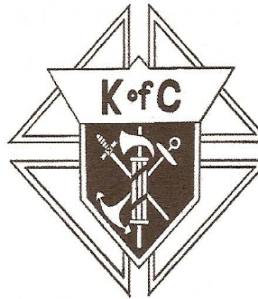
Knights of Columbus

GRAND KNIGHTS

Dennis Taylor
St. Agnes

Mike Grekowicz
Father DuRussel

Tom Erickson
Cardinal Hickey



FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Frank Cieszlak
St. Agnes

Paul Card
Father DuRussel

Bruce Grant
Cardinal Hickey

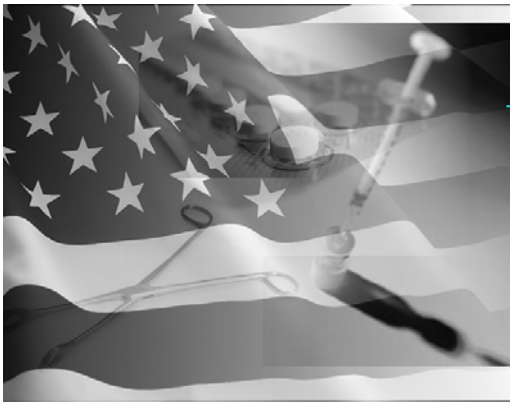
St. Agnes Council No. 8043 of Sanford
Father Henry P. DuRussel Council No. 2141 of Midland &
Cardinal Hickey Council No. 14056 of Midland
Support the work of Right to Life of Michigan!

Danger in the Womb – A Catholic Perspective

By: Jennifer Rey

Defending life does not mean only fighting against abortion.

Children in the womb are also killed by abortifacients and so-called “contraceptives.” In the fight against abortion, pro-lifers must not forget those whose lives are taken by these.



The truth behind methods such as “the Pill” is hidden by their supporters. Clarification is badly needed.

First, a true contraceptive tries to prevent ~~conception/fertilization~~. It does nothing to prevent implantation (in the uterus). Thus, true contraceptives attempt to stop life *before* it begins.

A true contraceptive is defined as a drug or device that prevents the union of the sperm and egg (fertilization).

True contraceptives include sterilization, condoms, cervical caps, contraceptive sponges and diaphragms.

Even though these methods do not actually take a life, they are still morally wrong since they close the conjugal act to life, thus separating the two purposes of the conjugal act: unitive and

procreative. This clearly violates God’s command to “be fruitful and multiply.”

Second, there are methods that lie in between the classification of true contraceptives and true abortifacients. These act both as true contraceptives and perform some of the actions of a true abortifacient.

These are most effective because of their three-fold action: 1.) they suppress ovulation, 2.) they try to prevent fertilization, and 3.) if the first two fail, they try to prevent implantation, thus killing the child.

A true contraceptive/abortifacient thus attempts both to stop life *before* it begins and *after* it begins.

True contraceptives/abortifacients include all “emergency contraceptives” (“MAPs” or “Morning After Pills,” plan B, ECs or “Emergency Contraceptive Pills”), all forms of “the Pill,” Norplant and Depo-Provera.

Third, true abortifacients do nothing to prevent conception/fertilization; rather, they try to prevent implantation or kill the implanted embryo. Thus, a true abortifacient always attempts to stop life *after* it has already begun.

A true abortifacient is defined as a drug or agent that induces an abortion. It prevents implantation of the child in the uterus, kills the unborn child shortly after implantation or kills the child later in the pregnancy.

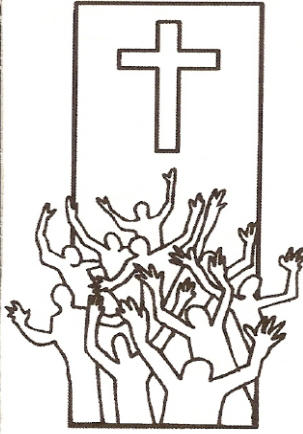
True abortifacients include RU-486 (“Abortion Pill”) and IUDs (intrauterine devices).

Many people, including devout Christians, do not realize the effect and gravity of “contraceptives.” The majority of so-called “contraceptives” kill children. Even when they do not kill, it is a direct violation against life.

The fight against abortion must continue, and it must include a fight against contraception. Contraception disrupts the unity between husband and wife. This tears apart the family, the building block of society. Without marriage that is open to life, society will continue to tear itself apart.

Editor’s Note: The above article was submitted by Jennifer Rey, a student at Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH. Right to Life takes no official stance on the use of contraceptives. If you would like to submit an article for consideration in our newsletter, please send it to midlandrtl@yahoo.com and cite “newsletter article” in the subject line.

Midland Area Catholic Churches



Assumption BVM Parish
3516 Monroe Road
Midland MI 48642
989 631-4447

Saint Brigid Parish
207 Ashman Street
Midland MI 48642
989 835-7121

Blessed Sacrament Parish
3109 Swede Avenue
Midland MI 48642
989 835-6777

Respecting Life from Womb to Tomb

Know What You Believe

The Basic Question: Why is abortion wrong?

A Succinct Response by James M. Hostetler, JD, SFO, an instructor in legal studies and human life studies at the Franciscan University of Steubenville:

“Abortion is wrong because the unborn child is a human being and a person. As persons we have dignity -- being created in the image of God, and endowed by God with reason and free will. Persons have an inalienable right to life, meaning that God alone has the right to determine when life begins and when it is to end. Though we have the power, we do not have the right -- and thus it is unjust -- to deny the unborn child the right to life. To quote Abraham Lincoln, ‘we do not have the right to do what is wrong.’ ”

YES! I want to be a member of Right to Life of Midland County, Inc!

Enclosed is payment for: New membership or Renewal:

\$5.00 Student, \$8.00 Senior, \$12.00 Single, \$18.00 Family,
 \$25.00 Silver, \$50.00 Gold, \$75.00 Platinum, Extra Donation _____

YES, make our Right to Life funds do more! Send my newsletter by e-mail to my address below.

I am not able to donate at this time, but I want to continue receiving Lifelines in my mail.

YES! I would like to volunteer my time!

Send me information on:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending monthly meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Roe v Wade Vigil (January 22) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being a public spokesperson for RTL | <input type="checkbox"/> High school oratorical contest (Spring) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making phone calls for membership drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Highway cleanup (Apr, July, Sept) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making phone calls to lobby politicians | <input type="checkbox"/> Midland County Fair Booth (August) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making Get Out The Vote phone calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Chain (October) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Rummage Sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working on newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on Life Dinner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baby Shower for Pregnancy centers | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinating Community Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being a church representative for _____ | Church |

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Gifts and membership to Right to Life of Midland are non-tax deductible for income tax purposes.



Memorable Quote

"Simple morality dictates that unless and until someone can prove the unborn human is not alive, we must give it the benefit of the doubt and assume it is (alive). And, thus, it should be entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

- Ronald Reagan 1982

**Your 2009 Right to Life of Midland County, Inc.
officers and board members are:**

**President: Joe Sheffbuch, Vice President: Donna Simons,
Secretary: Lorie Shane, Treasurer: Joanne Bober,
Board Members: Julia Hoving,
Stephanie LaFramboise, Liz Pahl**

Right to Life of Midland County, Inc.

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Midland, MI 48641-0463

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Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 22, *Candlelight Vigil*, 5:30 p.m., Midland County Courthouse steps.

Saturday, January 31, *Baby Shower*, 1:00-3:00 p.m., St. Brigid Parish Hall, 207 Ashman.

Thursday, February 12, *Monthly Meeting*, 7:00 p.m., Library Conference Room A.

Thursday, March 12, *Monthly Meeting*, 7:00 p.m., Library Conference Room B.

Thursday, March 19, *High School Oratorical Contest*, location and time TBA. Open to all Midland County High School youth. Write a 5 – 7 minute pro-life speech for a chance to \$100. Check our website, www.midlandrtl.org or contact Liz, tpahl8@hotmail.com for details.

Thursday, April 9, *Monthly Meeting*, 7:00 p.m., Library Conference Room A.