

## “Every Life is Worth Living”

### Theme of October as Respect Life Month Issued by U.S. Catholic Bishops

“An elderly man whose health is quickly deteriorating; an unborn baby girl whose diagnosis indicates she may not live long; a little boy with Down syndrome; a mother facing terminal cancer—each may have great difficulties and need our assistance, but each of their lives is worth living. Our worth is based not on our skills or levels of productivity. Rather, we discover our worth when we discover our true identity found in the unchangeable, permanent fact that we are created in God’s image and likeness and **called to an eternal destiny with Him.**”

“When we encounter the suffering of others, let us reach out and embrace them in love, allowing God to work through us. This might mean slowing down and **taking the time to listen**. It might mean providing respite care or preparing meals for a family facing serious illness. It might mean simply being present and available. And of course, it always means prayer—bringing their needs before the Father and asking Him to work in their lives.”

*In times of suffering, let us have the courage to accept help that others genuinely want to give, and give the help that others need.*

“Let us learn to let go of our own standards of perfection and instead learn more deeply how to live according to God’s standards. He does not call us to perfect efficiency or material success; He calls us to self-sacrificial love. He invites us to embrace each life for as long as it is given—our own lives and the lives of those He has placed in our paths. Every life is worth living.” [Reflections for Respect Life Month, October 2015, Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley, OFM Cap, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities]

### CNN Poll: America Becoming Pro-Life!

The latest poll (mid-September) reveals that 58% oppose all or almost all abortions. But most media outlets do not report that. Instead, the headline was “Guns, immigration, abortion are increasingly important to voters.” And immigration was given the focus of the reporting.

Even though pro-lifers have made the argument many times that America is becoming more and more pro-life, ordinarily we read/hear about the “pro-choice” majority. The next time someone says that, point to the latest CNN poll and the many other polls that all lead to the same conclusion. [Dave Andrusko, *LifeNews.com*, 9/14/15]

*Pope Francis: “It is God who gives life. Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother’s womb.”*

### National Life Chain Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

This year, many parish groups across the nation will be participating in their local one-hour Life Chain. In 2014, 1550 cities and towns held Life Chains.

LIFE CHAIN is **not chiefly a demonstration**, and its witness is not intended for the viewing public only. It also ministers to its own participants—to those who call Christ their Lord and hold pro-life messages that declare abortion a grave evil that defames the name and holiness of God (Leviticus 18:21).

As a result of indifference toward the sacredness of human life, there have been the mindless surgical killing and mutilation of over 45 million preborn Americans, plus untold millions who have fallen victim to abortive chemicals and medical neglect.

During the Life Chain hour, idle chatter, frivolity, and both verbal and physical responses to motorists, while understandable, are discouraged. LIFE CHAIN is a time for prayerful self-analysis, repentance, and serious commitment to helping end abortion in our nation.

To participate, check with your local church for place and time. (Several Life Chains are planned for New Jersey)

### Pro-Life College Students Educate Others

The Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) is a mobile display that has reached millions of students on college and university campuses in the US and Canada since 1998. The exhibit juxtaposes images of aborted embryos and fetuses with images of victims of historical and contemporary genocides and other injustices. This project is the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform’s premiere mass media outreach.

“**You’ve saved my future children from possible abortion**” said one student after viewing the GAP images. Other students report that GAP changed the way they think about pregnancy & abortion. The photos help them realize that embryos and fetuses are not blobs of tissue and that abortion is not a morally inconsequential act.

Genocide is defined as “The deliberate and systematic destruction of a national, racial, religious, political, cultural, ethnic, or other group defined by the exterminators as undesirable.” That definition readily applies to abortion – “unwanted” unborn children that are now being destroyed at the rate of nearly 1 out of every 3 conceived. And they are being terminated in an elaborate network of killing centers, called “health clinics.” (continued on page 2)

## Racial Disparity in Abortions?

The U.S. abortion rate has been declining since the late 1980s, yet the rate for black women is nearly five times higher than the white rate. In NYC, more black babies are aborted than born. In Georgia, where whites outnumber blacks 2 to 1, more than 53% of abortions involve black babies. Hispanic households are comparable to black ones in finances, sexual activity and use of birth control, yet Hispanic women choose to abort at a rate much closer to that of white women than black women. **For women with similar incomes, black women still have significantly higher rates of abortion.**

Hispanic marriage rates are comparable to those of whites, which is not the case among blacks. Most Hispanic children are raised by two parents, while most black children are not. Many black women may be choosing to abort because they don't believe the father will be there to help raise the child.

The last Census results revealed that Planned Parenthood is targeting minority neighborhoods. 79% of its surgical abortion facilities are located within walking distance of African American or Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods.

[[http://www.protectingblacklife.org/pp\\_targets/](http://www.protectingblacklife.org/pp_targets/)]

"If liberal activists and their media allies are going to lecture America about the **value of black lives**, the staggering disparity in abortion rates ought to be part of the discussion." [Jason Riley, *Wall Street Journal*, 9/16/15]

## Planned Parenthood Scandal Continues But We Wouldn't Know it from the News

Since July 14, the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) has released over 16 hours of footage exposing Planned Parenthood's practice of harvesting aborted baby parts. In those past two months, ABC, NBC and CBS have only aired one minute and 13 seconds of these videos (with audio) during their news shows. And these didn't include the most graphic parts of the videos – not even blurred or pixelated images of babies' hands and legs picked apart.

The networks say they don't show graphic imagery, but that isn't so for many other topics they cover, including video of the 3-year-old who drowned while fleeing Syria. The networks haven't covered a single Planned Parenthood video release in more than one month – despite petitions from the MRC and pro-life leaders. ["Censored: Networks Air Just 1 Minute of 16 Hours of Planned Parenthood Expose' Videos," Katie Yoder, *LifeNews.com*, 9/14/15]

## Pro-Life College Students *(continued from p. 1)*

There is, of course, a consensus in the scientific community that human life begins at the instant a human egg is fertilized by a human sperm. The widely used medical textbook *The Developing Human, Clinically Oriented Embryology*, 6th Edition, states at page 2 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 ...." At page 18 this theme is repeated: **"Human development begins at fertilization...."**

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*"The look on my professor's face when he asked if I saw the disgusting display outside and I told him I helped organize it: Priceless!" Oakland Univ student sponsor of GAP*

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Students interested in getting involved can contact [Maggie@ProLifeOnCampus.com](mailto:Maggie@ProLifeOnCampus.com). Also, see "2015 Virginia Pro-Life Boot Camp" on Facebook.

## Catholic Bishop Calls on Congress to De-Fund Planned Parenthood

In Maine, Bishop Robert Deeley is calling on Congress to de-fund Planned Parenthood in light of the nine videos exposing their organ harvesting business. In a statement, he said, "The videos are shocking. Our elected officials should act to cease funding Planned Parenthood. I call on those who distribute the resources from the taxes we all pay to examine this issue **and remove any funding which supports such evil as the harvesting of organs from an unborn child.**"

He added, "The videos clearly display the dehumanizing effect that abortion and the scandalous trade of human body parts have on women who have abortions and the unborn whose lives are ended before they see light. This is not health care for women."

In 2013, Pope Francis said, "I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or 'modernizations'. **It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life.**"

"Nearly two months ago, a veil was lifted giving Americans a window into the true heart and soul of Planned Parenthood and implicating the organization in the alleged trafficking of aborted babies' tissue and organs. This callous disrespect for innocent life is heartbreaking. Investigations are underway now, but there are more than enough lingering questions to stop the money flow to this abortion giant while Congress conducts a full review of its activities," Rep. Diane Black said. [*LifeNews*, 9/14/15]