

This is the Month for Celebrating Moms ... and Moms to Be

Moms and the Lives They Bring Into the World Must be Cherished

We Catholics believe that every human life has great value. That goes for the poor, minorities, immigrants and the disabled. Christian compassion is extended to all, no matter what their condition, or stage of development.

*Where there is a mother, there is unity,
there is belonging,
belonging as children.*

Pope Francis

Compare that to the views of Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood that now performs more than 300,000 abortions each year, many on babies from low-income and minority families. A well-known eugenicist, Sanger wrote and spoke frequently about how certain groups of **human beings were less valuable** than others. She feared her nasty racist view would be exposed, as recorded in a 1939 letter to an ally: "We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population." Which is exactly what she set out and succeeded in doing.

Planned Parenthood is largely the reason why black babies are aborted in America three times more often than white babies, and Hispanic pre-borns are killed 1½ times more often than whites. In fact, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research compiled by TooManyAborted.com, "**Abortion is the number one killer of black lives in the United States**. More than HIV. More than heart disease. More than cancer. Abortion snuffs out more black lives than all other causes of death combined."

Sanger's thoughts about the poor, immigrants and others were just as ugly. In her book *Pivot of Civilization* she described them as "human weeds," "reckless breeders" and "spawning ... human beings who never should have been born." Sanger also advocated getting rid of people with diseases & disabilities through sterilization and segregation, describing these "morons" as "**a dead weight of human waste**."

Sanger's writings show a clear contempt for human lives, one that continues to play out at Planned Parenthood today. Through its abortion practices, Planned Parenthood pushes the dangerous view that not all human beings are equal or deserving of protection. [M. Bilger, *LifeNews.com*, 4/24/17]

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Cherish Even Sickly or Elderly Folks

As we get older, we get more prone to sickness and inability to do things for ourselves. Yet **every human life has great value**, regardless of a person's health condition.

In this regard, the campaign to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide has been wisely rejected by most policy-makers in our society because **suicide is a terrible tragedy**, a corruption of the healing art, one that a compassionate society should work to prevent.

But assisted suicide proponents like the deceptively-named group "Compassion & Choices" (C&C) have renewed their aggressive nationwide campaign. C&C is infiltrating medical associations and urging them to abandon their long-held opposition and adopt a position of neutrality. The move to neutrality by medical associations in Oregon, Vermont, and California helped pave the way for **legalization of assisted suicide** in those states. Now the American Medical Association is considering whether to change its decades-long position against assisted suicide to one of neutrality. [continued on page 2]

Forgiveness for Those Who Would Have Been Moms & Those Who Know About It

Post-abortive women and men are considered directly injured by abortion. The memories and the regrets can linger for years.

The "extended wounded," i.e., virtually anyone who is remotely involved with an individual who aborts, can suffer adverse effects from the abortion. Related individuals need an outlet for the stress and grief that abortion can bring to their hearts. The level of extended pain often relates to their involvement in the abortion decision. Those who participated/encouraged an abortion can feel a **deeper level of guilt** than those who didn't have an influence on the choice. Even for the latter, it is heartbreaking to discover the abortion years later and come to grips with the fact that their loved one did not turn to them in their time of need or trust them with their secret.

Friends are valuable when they actively listen. Listening gives value back to the person and allows the pain and grief to come out of the hiding places of their hearts. It will also help identify their feelings of anger, regret, shame, and guilt. A friend may never know what to say so just listening may be best. **Friendship and comfort go a long way**.

Whenever the extended wounded are in pain, they must be told that healing is possible and they have a right to [continued on page 2]

Cherish the Sick [continued from page 1]

One way to counter the C&C effort is to **ask your own doctors** their position on assisted suicide. If they oppose it, thank them for their stance and urge them to speak out against the practice with their medical associations, their state legislature and with Congress. If the answer is "support," try to change their minds--and if they won't, find a new doctor, letting your former doctor know why you left.

Euphemistic terms like "aid in dying," "compassion," and "choice" cloak the reality that assisted suicide is a deadly act: doctors prescribing a lethal drug for suicide by overdose. Far from fostering compassion or choice, **assisted suicide fosters discrimination** by creating two classes of people: those whose suicides we work hard to prevent and those whose suicides we assist. Evidence shows that legalizing assisted suicide can reduce access to quality end-of-life care, put pressure on patients and their families, and open them up to abuses from insurance companies, among many other dangers.

Your help is needed to expose these and other dangers. Equip yourself with fact sheets, videos, and other resources available from U.S. Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org/toliveeachday, www.patientsrightscouncil.org, and www.patientsrightsaction.org.

[Greg Schleppenbach, 4/21/17, www.usccb.org]

Forgiveness [continued from page 1]

grieve despite the fact that the child wasn't their own. God's blessing of healing can start with the extended wounded and migrate to the post-abortive individual and the entire family! [Sydna Masse is director of Ramah International post-abortion counseling ministries. Based on *Ramah's Voice*, 4(5), Sept./Oct. 2003.]

Forgiveness from God and Forgiving Others.

Here are some helpful Scripture verses:

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|---------------|-------------------|
| Psalm 32:1-17 | Psalm 86:5 |
| Psalm 103:2-4 | Isaiah 1:18 |
| Micah 7:18-19 | Mark 11:25 |
| Matthew 5:23 | Matthew 18:21-22 |
| Acts 3:19 | Ephesians 4:31-32 |
| 1 John 2:9 | Romans 14:10 |

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

This organization continues to visit college campuses nationwide with its Genocide Awareness Project (GAP), comparing abortion with genocide, and using graphic photos. This approach generates lots of student interest, dialogue... and protests by others. One pro-life student leader reported: "Most of those who disagreed with us could not give reasons to support the idea of abortion as a "moral right." They simply assumed the **unborn are not human beings.**" [CBR *Communique*, March 2017, AbortionNo.org]

Serena Williams Writes to Her Unborn Baby

[Katie Yoder, *LifeNews.com*, 4/24/17]

Although many in the media praise abortion, some Hollywood and sports stars are starting a new pro-life trend: celebrating their unborn babies on social media.

Tennis star Serena Williams is the latest to join the team. She recently posted an Instagram picture of herself lounging at the beach. In the caption, the 35-year-old penned a heartfelt message to her unborn baby:

My Dearest Baby, you gave me the strength I didn't know I had. You taught me the true meaning of serenity and peace. I can't wait to meet you. I can't wait for you to join the players box next year. But most importantly, I am so happy to share being number one in the world with you.... once again today. On @alexisohanian bday. from the world's oldest number one to the world's youngest number one.

- Your Mommy

Would a Prayer Vigil Poster Offend You?

The very first 40 Days for Life vigil was held during Lent in Aberdeen, Scotland. (Some of the participating students are shown in the photo.) But other students at Aberdeen University complained and circulated petitions to have the **40 Days posters removed** from the Catholic chaplaincy on their campus.

As the Aberdeen Feminist Society put it, "it is deeply inappropriate to display posters encouraging people to take action outside maternity clinics. Our campus is a place for discussion, but displaying material that appears to condemn those who have had abortions is actively harmful."



But what did the posters actually say? The posters were the **standard message of prayer and fasting** for an end to abortion. A spokesman for the local Catholic bishop refused to budge. "The decision by the Catholic chaplaincy to display a poster advertising a peaceful pro-life vigil cannot in any way be deemed harmful or distressing," he said. "**The 40 Days for Life vigils are peaceful, yet poignant reminders of the tragic reality of abortion.**"

Despite the complaints, the university administration said it could do nothing. The chapel building belongs to the Catholic diocese, "and as such, is not a university-owned or managed facility." [www.40DaysForLife.org]

Sadly, had the university controlled the building, it seems the misguided complaints would have prevailed.