

Abortion Hurts – Stop the Pain

What does an unborn child feel during an abortion?

- By 20 weeks of fetal age, all of the baby's body systems are working.
- The baby can hear and recognize the mother's voice. The baby can even hear you!
- The baby breathes and also swallows amniotic fluid.
- The toenails and fingernails are growing.
- An unborn child at 20 weeks is fully able to feel pain.

Medical experts speak clearly to the pain experienced by the unborn child during an abortion:

- "The neural pathways are present for pain to be experienced quite early by unborn babies." - Steven Calvin, perinatologist, University of Minnesota
- "At 20 weeks, the fetal brain has the full complement of brain cells present in adulthood, ready and waiting to receive pain signals from the body, and their electrical activity can be recorded by standard electroencephalography (EEG)." - Dr. Paul Ranalli, neurologist, University of Toronto
- An unborn child at 20 weeks gestation "is fully capable of experiencing pain... Without question, (abortion) is a dreadfully painful experience for any infant subjected to such a surgical procedure." - Robert J. White, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neurosurgery, Case Western Reserve University



20-week unborn baby

Missouri Right to Life proposes legislation to stop the pain.

This year Missouri Right to Life's priority legislation will be a ban on abortion at 20 weeks of gestational age. This legislation passed in 2010 in Nebraska, and Planned Parenthood and National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) have chosen, at this writing, not to challenge it in the courts.

Imagine how many babies could be saved with this legislation!

Here is the most up-to-date information from the Missouri Department of Health on the number of unborn babies that could be saved if this legislation is passed in Missouri. In 2008, there were 447 babies killed during the 17th - 20th weeks of gestational age, 91 babies killed at 21+ weeks of gestational age, and 12 babies killed in an unknown age category above 21 weeks of gestational age. These numbers indicate that, if Missouri bans abortion after 20 weeks of gestational age, 103 babies could possibly be saved, plus a percentage of the little ones in the 17-20

weeks range. In our lifetime!

Your help is critical . . . and, as you always do, we know you will answer the call!

We will need your help to assure that the incumbent and the newly-elected legislators understand the urgency of passing this legislation in the 2011 legislative session. Let's send a message to the Missouri Legislature that "Abortion Hurts - Stop the Pain." Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 5th, to come to Jefferson City to lobby your legislators on this life-saving legislation. We need you, your friends, and your family to be here on April 5th. You will want to be a part of this historic effort!

From the President ~

2011 - The Hope and The Promise

I'm sure that many of you, like me, stayed up until the wee hours of the morning after the November 2 election rejoicing in every pro-life victory - and they were numerous. While there were several disappointments, the many victories of MRL PAC-endorsed candidates and NRLC PAC-endorsed candidates ensures a pro-life majority in the U.S. Congress and strengthens the pro-life majorities in Jefferson City. (See Dave Plemmons' article.)

These victories give us great hope that the U.S. Congress will prevent the abortion funding and health care rationing currently in Obama's health care legislation either by repealing the bill or defunding it until repeal is possible. We are equally hopeful that the strong pro-life majorities in Jefferson City will follow last year's great legislative session with additional life-saving measures.

This year's priority legislation for MRL prohibits abortion after 20 weeks gestation, the point at which an unborn child can feel pain. With the help of many newly-elected pro-life legislators from both sides of the aisle, we are hopeful that the pro-life majorities in both houses will also make this legislation a top priority.

Along with the great hope that we have for this year, we also renew our promise to you, the pro-life citizens of Missouri, to be vigilant and diligent in our efforts to advance the cause of life. In addition to working for passage of good legislation, we will continue our opposition to any proposal that opens the door to taxpayer funding of unethical research.

From the Vice President ~



Steve Rupp

Life Caravan to the March for Life in Washington D C – January 23 -25, 2011

Every year on the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, thousands of Missourians board buses headed for Washington D C to witness to the sanctity of life. They join hundreds of thousands of fellow Americans from every corner of the United States in the annual "March for Life." They are there to remember the tens of millions who have lost their lives to abortion. They are there to

pray for the mothers and fathers who chose to end the lives of their own children. They are there to change their country by changing the hearts of her people. They are there to end abortion. Who are these people?

They are dedicated pro-lifers who have been coming to the March for over 30 years. They are high school and college students who are the future of America. They are the people who have always called themselves pro-life, but have never done anything about it and decided that now is the time. They are ready for their first bus trip. So, what is the bus trip like?

You have to get up early on a cold January morning, pack a few things to eat and drink, grab your pillow and head out to meet the bus. You get to your seat and are struck by how little room you have.

While we made great headway in 2010 adding protective language on some bills that could involve unethical research, we know that this issue will remain a challenge. We will continue to work with all legislators to educate them on this issue and ask them to provide protective language wherever necessary.

We are greatly encouraged by the position of the incoming pro-life freshmen legislators on this and on all life issues.

Fulfilling our promise to you is our mission. But we can't accomplish it without a promise *from* you.

- * Promise that you will keep our work and our staff in your daily prayers.
- * Promise that you will support our work with your presence at our Pro-Life Action Day on Tuesday, April 5, at the State Capitol.
- * Promise that you will send a check to Missouri Right to Life today in the enclosed envelope - even if you can only afford \$5 or \$10 - and respond as generously as you can in these difficult times to our appeals throughout the year.

During this Christmas season, it's good to remember that the greatest hope and promise to the world was made flesh with the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. May we offer all that we do to the glory of His Holy Name. May the blessings of Christmas be with you and yours.



Pam Fichter

You realize that you are going to be on the bus for the better part of three days. Where are you going to put your legs? Nowhere. Does the seat recline? Not really. Is it going to be this cold the whole way? Probably. (I should have brought a blanket.) Am I going to be able to sleep? Sitting up at a forty-five degree angle with no leg room? Sleep? Hah! I'm not going to be able to shower for three days? That's right. Phew! My neck and back are going to be killing me. Is there still time for me to back out?

But then you come to the realization that those things are all part of the pilgrimage that you're taking. Sure, it's uncomfortable, but that's part of the sacrifice. Yes, you don't get much sleep, but that gives you more time to spend with the great people on the trip with you. And, yes, you will not smell great without a shower for three days. No redeeming qualities there. Stinky is stinky -- but at least you won't be the only one! Certainly you will be whipped when you finally get home, but imagine the peaceful sleep you'll have that night knowing where you've been and what you've experienced.

If you've gone on the trip in the past, you know that you have made a difference in this fight. If you haven't gone -- go! You will have a tremendous feeling of accomplishment. You'll make new friends. You will help to save babies lives. You'll be a part of history.

God bless! And see you on the bus!

THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW . . .

SAVING BABIES AFTER AN ABORTION STARTS

The Pro-Life Action League has announced a new alliance with Resurrection Medical Center and The Women's Center in establishing a protocol for assisting women who change their minds after initiating a second trimester abortion procedure. This partnership is the first-of-its-kind in Chicago and can be a model for Catholic hospitals around the country.

"Recently, our sidewalk counselors have seen several women who have changed their minds about abortion, and who wish to continue their pregnancies even once the late-term abortion procedure has started," said Ann Scheidler, vice president and director of sidewalk counselor training for the Pro-Life Action League. "This new process enables us to provide the most comprehensive medical care and emotional support for the pregnant woman who is facing this stressful situation."

The protocol was developed by the League, Resurrection, and The Women's Center, a crisis pregnancy center in Chicago.

In preparation for setting new guidelines, the Pro-Life Action League arranged for Dr. Anthony Levatino, a former abortionist and practicing gynecologist from Las Cruces, N.M., to advise the hospital's physicians and staff on the procedures involved in a later-term abortion and the reversal of the process.

The newly established protocol involves the following:

When a pregnant woman encounters a sidewalk counselor and indicates she has had a change of heart, she will be directed to The Women's Center. The trained counselor at The Women's Center has a designated phone number to alert the emergency room at Resurrection that the women will be arriving shortly.

The emergency room at Resurrection will handle the initial evaluation and paper work. The woman is transferred to the obstetrics department where the necessary procedures will be done. If needed, the hospital will refer the women for prenatal care.

The Women's Center will continue to follow up with the pregnant woman throughout her pregnancy and the delivery of her baby, meeting any emotional and material needs as they arise.

Pro-Life Action League 11/30/10

PEDIATRICIANS VOICE 'DISGUST' AS PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION 'INVENTOR' MOVES IN NEXT DOOR

After a notorious late-term abortionist moved in next-door, a group of Ohio pediatricians are giving vent to their outrage, calling the move "a slap in the face" to a group that has nurtured children in the area for decades.

Late-term abortionist Martin Haskell has closed his Cincinnati abortion clinic and reopened in the suburb of Sharonville, mere steps away from Liberty Sharonville Pediatrics. There, parents would have to enter a common driveway and pass by Haskell's surgical abortion facility to get to the pediatric office. The abortion mill even shares a sign with the pediatricians' office next door.

Dr. Steve Brinn, M.D., was so upset that he wrote a letter to the editor that appeared in the Cincinnati Inquirer on Saturday, November 27, expressing his opposition to the abortion business.

"Imagine our shock and disbelief, when we learned that an abortion clinic was opening in the building 50-feet from our front door. Why would a clinic performing abortions be so insensitive to a group practice treating children for 31 years? To have a group of OB/GYN doctors terminating fetuses just outside our door, to force our mothers and their babies to drive through a common driveway, driving by the front of an abortion clinic, in order to park in our lot to have their babies cared for is an atrocity.

"We are here to prevent infant diseases, and they are here to end infant lives. We may not have the legal right to get them to move but we will do anything in our power to vocalize our personal disgust with their mission," Dr. Brinn wrote.

Haskell is perhaps best known for his claim — believed to be false — that he invented the gruesome and now illegal partial-birth abortion procedure. Today, a modified version of that procedure, which exploits a loophole in the law, is in wide use by Haskell and other late-term abortionists.

The pediatrician of 31 years called the decision to locate the abortion mill nearby "a slap in the face to any physician who treasures saving lives and helping kids ... to have to know what's going on right over there." He said his calls to Sharonville mayor Virgil Lovitt have yet to be answered.

LifeSiteNews.com 11/29/10

SURVEY SHOWS 31 ABORTION CENTERS CLOSED IN LAST 12 MONTHS



While the pro-life movement longs for the day unborn children can be protected from abortions under the law, a new survey of abortion centers nationwide shows it is possible to make a difference now.

Despite the United States Supreme Court having allowed virtually unlimited abortions throughout pregnancy for any reason via the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions, the pro-life community has been successful in getting abortion centers to close.

Noticing a recent rash of closure and wanting to know concrete figures, pro-life nurse and blogger Jill Stanek asked Operation Rescue for some hard data. The pro-life group provided figures showing 31 abortion businesses closed in the last 12 months while 9 new abortion facilities opened — for a net drop of 22 abortion facilities. Stanek provided new numbers from the organization of the total number of abortion centers across the country.

"As of now a total of 689 surgical abortion clinics remain in the US, from a high of almost 2,200 in 1991," she indicated. "This number does not include abortion mills that solely commit medical abortions, i.e., distribute the abortion pill, RU-486."

Since 1991, more than two-thirds of abortion centers have closed that were operating nearly 20 years ago.

Earlier this month, Planned Parenthood of Lawrence quietly closed its abortion facility near the University of Kansas. The abortion center in Youngstown, Ohio closed after 34 years of doing abortions. Additionally, the abortion center run by Arkansas abortionist William Harris closed in July and he passed away in September. The Michigan abortion business where embattled abortion practitioner Alberto Hodari forced a teenager to have an abortion against her will has closed as well.

And, in one of the bigger victories for the pro-life movement, the abortion center in Maryland where a young woman was killed in a botched abortion has closed for good.

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Election 2010 - Some Pain, *Much Gain*

Dave Plemmons, Missouri Right to Life PAC Chair

One thing is certain. No one can say this election year was boring!

Missouri Right to Life PAC was involved, in varying degrees, in what may have been an unprecedented number of races this year. Early in 2010 we began researching candidate positions, voting records, public statements, etc., to determine who was eligible for endorsement. In many cases, it came down to some tough calls.

Tough calls have been abundant in recent years due to the complex nature of the voting records of Missouri legislators. Frequent readers of *MRL News* will understand that with the emerging biotech issues facing lawmakers, challenges tend to emerge as well. MRL PAC must score those votes on sensitive budgetary problems with the same merits used on abortion-related legislation. When human life - at any stage - is threatened, pro-life advocates must be responsive to our mission and to you, our members, by telling the truth. Thank you for standing with us during these challenges.

Now that the results are in, we have much to celebrate. Several pro-life congressional seats, and one U.S. Senate

seat, have held amidst strong challenges. At least three state senate seats have made unambiguous turns towards stronger pro-life positions. MRL PAC-endorsed candidates turned back 10 incumbents! When endorsed pro-life candidates ran against someone with a mixed record, an anti-life position, or no response to our survey, 57 of them won, compared to 20 losses. Of those losses, 13 were against incumbents. So even though there is a little pain, MRL PAC still had victories in over 80% of endorsed races!

It is crucial that all of us stay connected with both pro-life incumbents and the newly-elected committed to protecting innocent human life. They need us, and we need them. You will hear from those who say "social issues" should take a back seat. You must - we all must - insist that the voiceless are not ignored. Make no mistake, there is still much to be done.

These victories belong to you, the MRL membership. They belong to the children and families that will benefit from future legislative protections passed by an increasingly pro-life General Assembly and hopefully, Congress. They belong to the great number of pro-life volunteers that made calls, walked neighborhoods, and worked polls for their candidates. They belong to all of us who realize the war isn't won until the killing stops.



Welcome and Welcome Back!

Missouri Right to Life Legislative Chair Gerard Nieters, Legislative Liaison Susan Klein, and all of MRL welcome the new and the re-elected members of the Missouri General Assembly back to our state capital.

With new leadership in the Missouri House and the Senate and a historic number of new legislators, anticipation is building for great things to come! In our conversations and meetings with the new legislators, they are dynamic and ready to move on the pro-life values on which they ran. The new leadership has a history of moving pro-life legislation through the process in order to protect innocent human lives. We congratulate Sen. Rob Mayer and Rep. Steve Tilley on their top leadership positions, and Missouri Right to Life looks forward to working with the leadership teams in both the House and the Senate.





Memorials

*In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend,
these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.*



In Memory of:

*Robert Welch
Leonard Figas*

Given by:

*Hannibal Chapter - MRL
Agnes Piontek
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In Memory of:

*Agnes Dee Kendrick
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*Charles Schulze
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In Honor of:

Mrs. Lucille Edmonds

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Missouri Right to Life encourages you to consider a gift in memory of or to honor a family member or a friend.

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No government funds.

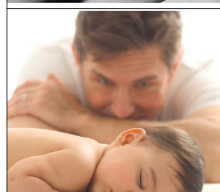
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**It is thanks to your support
that Missouri Right to Life
continues its life-saving work!**

**Please donate now by
returning a gift in the
enclosed envelope.**

We are truly grateful!



Help Save Lives

Every Time You Shop at Schnucks!

Now you can support the *Missouri Right to Life Education Fund* without even writing a check! The eScrip Program is a simple, automatic way to direct a percentage of your Schnucks® purchases to the MRL Ed Fund — *every time you shop!*

eScrip can direct tens of thousands of dollars into pro-life educational programs across our State. It's fast, easy, and free to use, so sign up today.

1) Ask for an eScrip card from any Schnucks store; call to activate the card and direct its proceeds to "Missouri Right to Life Educational Fund, 65102." You may also obtain a card by calling MRL directly at (573) 635-5110 or (314) 434-4900.

2) Present your eScrip card every time you check out at Schnucks, and the MRL Ed Fund receives a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you!

Schnuck Markets are located across St. Louis, Washington, Columbia, Jefferson City and Cape Girardeau.

CELEBRATING LIFE

The East Central Area Chapter - Missouri Right to Life once again took part in Washington MO's Town & Country Fair Parade. The parade is held in conjunction with the state's third largest fair, the Washington Town & Country Fair. The parade typically has over 150 entries, and East Central Area Chapter has often participated in the event.



ESSENTIALS FOR A PRO-LIFE SUMMER

Fair booths, festivals, and parades -- all part of summer activities for Missouri Right to Life regions and chapters! And Western Region takes this to heart. Here Beth Sykora, a Western Region and an MRL State Board member, is pictured taking her turn in the booth at the Hispanic Festival, September 12, in downtown Kansas City.



TEACH ME

For many years, Eastern Region's South County Chapter has fulfilled the mission of educating the public on pro-life issues through their billboard project. To the left is their most recent billboard that informs commuters of the danger and the connection between abortion and breast cancer. This billboard is located in the St. Louis area, southbound on Interstate 55, one mile north of the Interstate 270 interchange.

Christmas Alert for On-line Shoppers!



You Shop -- We Earn!

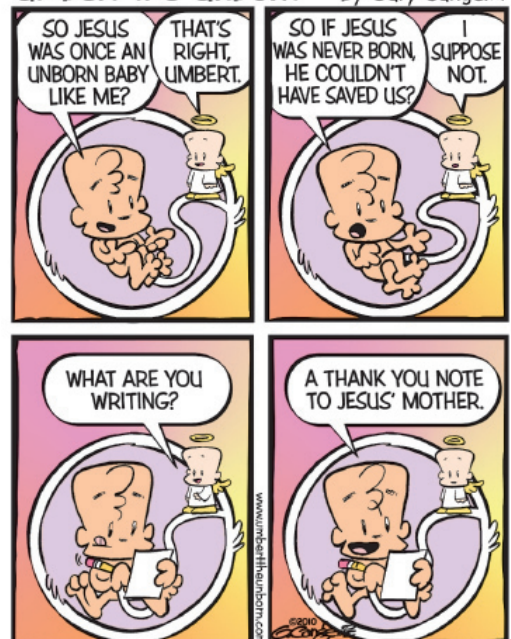
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Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



A Christmas View of Abortion: The Bible's Clear, Indirect Pro-Life Message

by Andrew Tallman

"The Bible says nothing directly about abortion." Have you ever heard this claim before? I know I have. And the uncomfortable truth is that, in a certain sense, it's accurate. The deliberate termination of a pregnancy is not directly addressed anywhere in scripture.

On the one hand, this could mean that the practice is merely a matter of personal choice, having been left alone by even God Himself. On the other hand, this could also mean that the culture for which the Bible was written was so deeply affirming of childbearing that the idea of aborting a baby would have been literally inconceivable to them. After all, there are no commands in the Bible to breathe, presumably because Jewish culture is staunchly pro-air.

But even if the Bible doesn't quite give us a definitive proclamation on the overall question of abortion, that doesn't mean it says nothing relevant at all. One of the key points of contention in this debate is whether the fetus is a person and, if so, when in gestation this occurs. Most pro-lifers believe it's at conception, but those who believe abortion is morally acceptable think this happens at some later stage of pregnancy such as implantation, quickening, viability or birth.

Until the other day, I would have said the Bible was somewhat indeterminate on this issue. But now, I would be as bold as to say that it plainly teaches us that a fetus is a person at most within the first four weeks of gestation and, more likely, even within the first few days after conception. If so, then Christians who haven't previously realized this would have to acknowledge that even early term abortions end the life of a person. And this would, in turn, affect the advice they give to others who might currently be contemplating abortion, even perhaps their own daughters. Let me show you what I found for the first time the other day.

I was reading the Christmas story in Luke 1 and 2 when I made what were for me several new observations. First, I noticed that Luke (a doctor and scholar) specifically tells his audience (Theophilus) that he has thoroughly investigated everything he is about to write and that he has decided to "write it out for you in consecutive order" (1:3). Unlike the other Gospel writers, Luke will tell us his story in the form we modern readers best comprehend: chronologically. This means we can rely heavily on the order of things in any of our conclusions. I know this may not seem very important, but stick with me for a moment and you'll see why it matters.

Reading on, we learn that Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) has become pregnant and secluded herself for five months, hiding her very late-in-life first pregnancy from everybody, even her close family (1:24). Then Luke tells us

that the angel Gabriel makes his famous visit to the engaged virgin Mary in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy (1:26). These time references are no coincidence.

Continuing to read, Gabriel tells Mary that she is going to give birth to the Messiah and name him Jesus (1:31-33). In the process of answering her rather understandable question about how this may be so, Gabriel uses the not-quite-as miraculous pregnancy of her elderly cousin Elizabeth as evidence that this can really happen. And once more, as if for emphasis, we have the time reference as he declares that Elizabeth is in her sixth month of pregnancy (1:36).

After all, there are no commands in the Bible to breathe, presumably because Jewish culture is staunchly pro-air.

After his departure, Mary immediately went as fast as she could (1:39) to the hill country to see her cousin, presumably to both verify the news (remember Elizabeth's seclusion) and to share her own story. When Mary comes close enough to greet her, Elizabeth feels her baby (John the Baptist) leap in her womb with joy at the presence of his Messiah and Mary (1:41-44). By any reasonable standard, this shows that the fetus, John, is a person at this moment and nothing less.

But John is close to his third trimester by now, and even the most strident pro-choice person will usually concede that third trimester abortions are heinous for essentially this reason. Roe v. Wade even affirmed this idea. So nothing observed thus far is particularly persuasive on the subject of abortion. But that's when I saw something that I hadn't ever considered before.

Whose presence is John leaping at? Well, obviously the (much younger) fetus, Jesus. Yet Jesus must be only in his first trimester when John recognized him through the Holy Spirit.

But perhaps the trip from Nazareth to the hill country took a while. A terrain map of ancient Israel would lead us to think this journey takes a few days at most, plus the text clearly says she went "with haste" (1:39). But perhaps some longer time frame is involved here that might extend the likely age of fetal Jesus. Luckily for us, we needn't guess. The text itself answers these questions if we just keep reading.

After Mary sings the Magnificat (1:46-55), Luke tells us she stayed with Elizabeth for about three months before returning home (1:56). Immediately after she departs, John the Baptist is born (1:57). In the following chapter, the

much more famous narrative of Jesus's birth is told. But the key facts have already been laid out with the precision that only a medical doctor would include.

Working solely with the calendar of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Luke has told us that Jesus was a person with sufficient individual identity that His cousin could recognize him through the assistance of the Holy Spirit (1:41-44). But Luke has also told us that when this occurred, Jesus could only have been a maximum of four weeks old and probably was much younger than that.

Gabriel announced the conception to Mary in Elizabeth's sixth month (1:26). Thereafter, Mary traveled to the hill country (1:39), where she stayed for about three months (1:56) before leaving prior to John the Baptist's birth (1:57). This means that fetus Jesus must have been less than four weeks old when she arrived, a maximum given the parameters. But, given the fact that she went immediately and in haste (1:39), a much more likely reality is that He was only a few days old (perhaps not even implanted yet) when John recognizes Him. Mary certainly wouldn't have even been able to know by ordinary means that she was pregnant yet.

So the pressing point of all this analysis is not that John (in his third trimester) was a person in the womb when he leapt for joy. The unavoidable and much more forceful point is that Jesus was in the very earliest portion of His first trimester when He was recognized by John as a person. And unless Jesus is not a human child, this means that all children are people at this early stage.

I realize that all of this will be of very little interest to those of you who either do not care about the Bible or else do not care whether the fetus is a person. I also know this doesn't really do much to address the question of the legality of abortion, since the basis of my investigation is a faith text.

But for those tens of millions of Christians who every year celebrate this story and also believe that early term abortion is compatible with their faith, the point seems embarrassingly clear: It is no longer honest to say that we can't know whether the first trimester fetus is a person.

So as we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the birth of our Savior this year, I have a simple question. Since we now know that Jesus was somewhere between a few days and a few weeks gestation when he was recognized in scripture as a person, then who or what is it in the young woman's womb today if not a person—and somebody's grandchild?

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38th Annual March for Life

St. Louis Metro Area



Stand Up! Speak Up!

January 23-24-25, 2011

Travel to Washington, DC on one of our Missouri Life Caravan buses leaving from throughout the St. Louis metro area. For registration and bus information, call 314-434-4900 or email lifecaravan@missourilife.org. Or visit www.missourilife.org.

Washington, DC

Kansas City/ St. Joseph Metro Area

2011 March for Life Pilgrimage

Be part of history.

January 22-23-24-25, 2011

Get geared up because we're leaving bright and early for the 38th annual March for Life Pilgrimage! You'll be a part of a gathering of over 350,000 pilgrims in Washington DC to give a voice to the most defenseless and exploited people in our country. For questions, please contact the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese Respect Life Office at 816-756-1850 or email nordhus@diocesekcsj.org.

For trips that may be available from other areas of the state, contact MRL at 573-635-5110 or email righttolife@missourilife.org

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