



*Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.*

Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012

## Pro-Life Groups File Lawsuit Against MOSIRA

Gerard Nieters, MRL Legislative Director

Missouri Roundtable for Life and Missouri Right to Life have joined with Missouri citizens to file a petition with the Cole County Circuit Court seeking a declaration that the MOSIRA bill is void and a legal nullity.

To understand why the petition was filed to declare the Missouri Science Innovation and Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA) ineffective requires a little history lesson.

As a result of litigation against the tobacco companies for deceptive trade practices in the 1990s, Missouri has been receiving settlement payments in the millions of dollars since 1998 and will continue to receive payments for years to come. Some of those settlement funds have been used over the years to fund life science research. Recognizing the advent of embryonic stem cell research and cloning, Missouri Right to Life was instrumental in the passage of 196.1127 in 2003 which has prevented public funds distributed by the Life Sciences Research Board from being used for unethical research such as human embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), cloning, or aborted fetal research.

In 2006, Amendment 2 to the Missouri constitution passed by the narrowest of margins to protect the biotech industry's right to clone and kill human embryos. Pro-cloners spent 30 million dollars in a deceptive ad campaign to convince Missouri citizens to pass a Missouri constitutional amendment to protect their right to do what they already had a right to do. Despite their denials, the main purpose of Amendment 2 was to gain access to public funding of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) and human cloning. Fortunately for pro-lifers, Amendment 2 failed to include a funding mechanism for human cloning and ESCR.

Since the passage of Amendment 2, the biotech industry has been trying to access public funds through the Missouri Technology Corp. which would handle the distribution of all money to be allocated to life sciences research, including those funds coming from the Life Sciences Research Trust Fund. This

is merely an attempt by biotechnology to avoid the prohibitions of 196.1127.

Until this most recent special legislative session, MRL has stood alone in opposition to "Big Bio's" efforts to obtain public funding of unethical research. First, MRL opposed any funding of human life science research for fear that it would allow for funding of unethical research, especially given the passage of Amendment 2 into the Missouri constitution.

On January 15, 2009, the Court decided in Missouri Roundtable v. Steelman that, despite the language of Amendment 2 and the language of section 196.1127, the legislature has the power of appropriation of state funds. The Court did not find section 196.1127 unconstitutional. Based on that decision, MRL has promoted the inclusion of the 196.1127 protective language in every economic development and appropriation bill that provides for funding of human life sciences research ever since.

Sadly, in the 2011 special session, the Missouri legislature passed and the Governor signed SB7 (MOSIRA) which would provide for the payment of state funds through the Missouri Technology Corporation without the protective language that MRL sought. The language of SB7, however, made its implementation contingent upon the passage of SB8 (Aerotropolis/China Hub) during the same special legislative session. SB8 did not pass in that session and thus it is MRL's position that SB7 can not become effective.

Despite the contingency clause in SB7, the Governor signed the bill stating he would ignore the contingency clause and act as though SB7 is valid, effective legislation. If SB7 is not challenged, the bill is scheduled to become effective on January 19, 2012. Because of the government's anticipated actions in violation of the statute, MRL is participating as a Plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the implementation of SB7. Please pray for success and stay tuned!

*(See the MRL website, [missourilife.org](http://missourilife.org), for more information on MOSIRA)*



*Thanks to You!*



*During this holy season we again remind ourselves of how important you are to us.*

*You and we together are the family of Missouri Right to Life.*

*Without you the work would be so much more difficult.*

*Thank you for all your efforts to defend life, keep this special ministry in your prayers, respond to our pleas, and make the donations that keep the mission alive.*

*May the babe in the manger bless you abundantly at Christmas and in the New Year!*

# THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW . . .



## Abortion Express Train Derailed!

To the surprise of many, an attempt

by Senate Democrat leaders to fast-track a funding bill laden with pro-abortion provisions ran into an immovable procedural wall - erected by a group of pro-life senators with the strong encouragement of National Right to Life.

Pro-abortion Senate Democrat Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) attempted to move to the Senate floor a so-called "mini-bus" - a measure combining three different appropriations bills. This combo bill contained seven different provisions objected to by National Right to Life.

Among other offensive provisions were sections that would have removed an existing ban on government funding of abortion in the District of Columbia, removed a long-standing ban on coverage of abortion in federal employees' health plans, and earmarked \$40 million for the United Nations Population Fund.

In addition, the bill contained a provision authored by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) that would have prevented any future president from curbing funding of pro-abortion organizations overseas. The last three Republican presidents have denied overseas family-planning funds to private organizations that perform or promote abortion (the so-called "Mexico City Policy").

Senate rules do not allow appropriations bills to be combined in the way that Reid attempted, except by "unanimous consent," meaning that each senator had the right to object and prevent the combination bill from advancing. Such "unanimous consent" has been achieved in the past, for other multi-bills that did not contain pro-abortion provisions. But pro-life Senator David Vitter (R-LA) took to the Senate floor to deny Reid the "unanimous consent" that was required. Vitter was joined by other pro-life senators, including Jim DeMint (R-SC), Rand Paul (R-KY), and Mike Lee (R-UT).

"National Right to Life commends Senators DeMint, Vitter, Paul, Lee, and their allies for courageously derailing the Abortion Express Train," said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson.

NRL News 11/16/11

## Radiation therapy patient has healthy birth after baby encased in 1.5-tons of lead

Thanks to her doctors' ingenuity, a British mom facing the unfathomable choice of accepting life-saving radiation therapy or saving her baby's life was able to do both.

Instead of facing the usual pressure to abort or allow her child to die, Sarah Best luckily found doctors both pioneering and willing to help save both her life and the life of her son.

Best was only four months pregnant when she was diagnosed with mouth cancer that required both radiation and chemotherapy, according to the *Daily Mail*. The drastic treatment became necessary when the cancer, much of which was removed by doctors as a tumor from her tongue, spread to her lymph nodes.

But the paper reports that thanks to a custom-built 1.5-ton shield of lead protecting her baby bump, Best has given birth to a healthy baby son - and has been declared cancer-free herself. Best gave birth to her son Jake immediately after her treatment, starting labor only minutes after finishing her last round of chemotherapy.

The mom said the outcome was "a huge relief." "I just feel incredibly lucky that I was able to have the treatment," she said.

Oncologist Dr. Lydia Fresco, who helped design and build the four-inch-thick shield, told the *Mail* that the case was "extremely rare."

"As far as published cases go, she was the only woman in the world to have this combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy while pregnant," said Fresco. "Because her cancer was highly aggressive it would have been much more likely to

recur if she had not had the treatment. Radiotherapy is most effective for preventing cancer recurring six weeks after the tumor is removed, so we had to treat Sarah when we did.

"The lead shields were used to prevent any radiation from reaching the fetus and all the tests on Jake indicate that he is perfectly healthy."

LifeSiteNews.com 11/18/11

## Siri Sends Women to Pregnancy Centers, Not Abortion Clinics

Technology has been instrumental in moving public opinion on abortion. From the advent of ultrasound technology, which provides stunning glimpses into life in the womb, to iPad applications that allow a pregnant mother to track her baby's development, the pro-life movement has benefited from greater awareness of the humanity of the unborn child. Now, the latest model of Apple's iPhone provides women with alternatives to abortion when making related abortion searches on its new voice-directed Siri technology.

Siri serves as an electronic personal assistant that responds to voice commands for owners of the iPhone 4S. Abortion advocates were outraged to find when Siri was asked questions related to abortion, the phone responded with a list of pregnancy resource centers instead of local abortion facilities.

Despite the persistent efforts of abortion advocates to drown out the positive alternatives to abortion provided by pregnancy centers, the iPhone 4S has chosen to highlight them.

The story broke after abortion advocates tested the phone in New York City, the city New York magazine labeled "The Abortion Capital of America," where over 40% of pregnancies end in abortion (according to the Department of Health). The iPhone's willingness to showcase pregnancy centers stands in stark contrast to the City of New York, which earlier this year sought to place hefty restrictions on their operation.

LifeNews.com 11/29/11



*Christmas blessings to you*

*From the President ~*

## The Empty Manger

What if the manger was empty? What if the child had not been born?

While discussing abortion with a group of teenagers, I asked what justification for abortion would be acceptable. Would a pregnant, unmarried teenager be justified in aborting her child? What if this teenager were poor and would have great difficulty raising a child by herself? What if she were in danger of losing her life if she continued the pregnancy? Many of those teenagers thought an abortion was justified in that situation.

And then I told them that they had just agreed to abort Jesus Christ. The manger would be empty.

Mary was probably a teenager, definitely of modest means, unmarried, and in danger of being stoned to death. While we know that abortion never crossed her mind, many mothers today choose to abort in similar circumstances. And sadly, the teenagers in my discussion thought that an abortion was justified.

Gloriously, Mary embraced God's plan for her life, and Joseph answered God's call to be the earthly father of Our Savior.

Tragically, mothers in this country choose to abort over a million times each year and thousands of times in Missouri. A mother might be under tremendous pressure by those around her to abort. Perhaps she is threatened with violence or frightened about an uncertain future. Perhaps she has been influenced by those who tell her that an unborn child is not yet a person, only a blob of tissue.

My prayer for this Christmas season is that every Missouri mother confronting an unplanned pregnancy will turn to those who will tell her the truth about the life of her unborn child. That she will see an ultrasound of her child's beating heart. That she will talk to a counselor at one of the many crisis pregnancy centers throughout Missouri and get whatever help she needs. I pray that each and every one of those mothers will choose life, and abortion in Missouri will end.

I pray that these mothers will be like Mary and embrace the life within them in spite of their circumstances and realize that there are options that protect both her and her child.

How blessed are we that over two thousand years ago, a young mother in challenging circumstances gave birth to a child.

*"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."*

*Luke 2:11-12*

*Blessings,  
Pam Fichter*



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# Adult stem cell research goes forward in leaps and bounds.

## Geron's embryonic stem cell work grinds to a halt.

by Peter Saunders, M.D.

*Ed. note: Originally posted on 11/16/11 at Christian Medical Comment, a UK-based organization and blog*

It has been an amazing week in the field of stem cell technology with five big stories hitting the news all at once. New doors of therapeutic promise are opening whilst at the same time other doors are slamming shut.

I recently highlighted a *New Scientist* editorial, "In praise of stem-cell simplicity," which gives a fantastic overview of exciting new avenues in ethical stem cell research which are opening up [www.newscientist.com/article/mg21228343.200]. But the speed of new developments has increased by leaps and bounds just in the last few days.

Stem cells are naturally occurring cells in the body which have the capacity to develop into a variety of specialist cells. They have been recognized for well over a decade as having huge potential in the treatment of diseases where there is tissue or cell loss – such as diabetes, Parkinson's disease, spinal injury, and heart disease.

The reason stem cells are so controversial is that the harvesting of embryonic stem cells involves the destruction of existing embryos, and yet some British scientists have for years maintained that they are essential for research.

On the other hand, other scientists have argued that stem cells derived from ethical sources (adult stem cells, umbilical stem cells, and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) are safer than embryonic stem cells and have greater therapeutic potential.

Both adult stem cells (from bone marrow and other body tissues) and umbilical stem cells are already used in treatment for a wide variety of haematological and other conditions. By contrast the first clinical trials using embryonic stem cells have only just recently begun.

In addition to this, iPS cells, which appear

to have all the characteristics of embryonic stem cells, can now be produced by stimulating ordinary body cells to revert to an earlier developmental stage without having to destroy embryos.

What has happened this week is that there have been some fantastic advances in using stem cells from ethical sources whilst at the same time a huge setback for embryonic stem cell technology. It appears that ethical stem cell research is opening more and more doors whilst unethical research using embryos is foundering. These developments are another nail in the coffin for the misinformation and hype that the British public have been fed by the British press on these issues for so long.

For the first time, adult stem cells from patients' own hearts have been shown to improve heart failure.

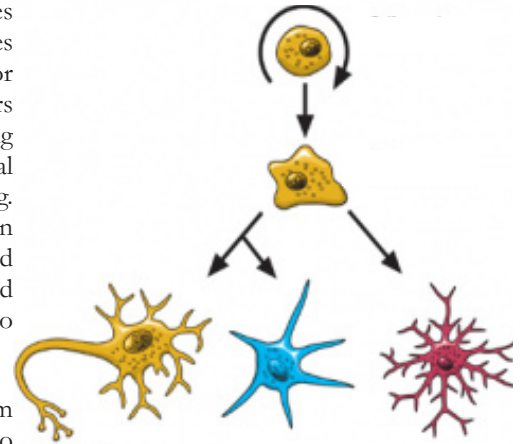
### For the first time, adult stem cells from patients' own hearts have been shown to improve heart failure.

In the research, carried out at the University of Louisville and published in the *Lancet*, the heart's blood-pumping efficiency in 14 patients who responded to the stem cell treatment increased from 30.3% to 38.5% whilst at the same time the amount of dead heart muscle tissue decreased by 24% over four months. Seven control patients who did not receive the stem cell treatment showed no improvement.

Second, the doctors behind the world's first transplant of an artificial windpipe made from a patient's own stem cells are to begin clinical trials next year on a stem-cell "bandage" for mending torn knee cartilage.

Professor Anthony Hollander of the University of Bristol, who helped save the life of a Colombian woman, Claudia Castillo, with the transplant of a tissue-engineered windpipe, will lead a team treating patients with torn knee cartilages,

a common problem among sportspeople. The doctors aim to transplant stem cells derived from a patient's bone marrow on to a damaged knee joint, where it is hoped the cells will act like a repairing bandage to mend the tissue.



Third, embryonic-like stem cells have been isolated from breast milk in large numbers. The discovery raises the possibility of sourcing embryonic stem cells for regenerative medicine without the need to destroy embryos.

Peter Hartmann at the University of Western Australia in Crawley and his colleagues first announced the discovery of stem cells in breast milk in 2008. Now they have grown them in the lab and shown that they can turn into cells representative of all three embryonic germ layers, called the endoderm, mesoderm, and ectoderm — a defining property of embryonic stem cells (ESC).

Embryonic-like stem cells have previously been discovered in amniotic fluid and in the umbilical cord, but this is the first time they have been discovered in an adult. Chris Mason of University College London has said, "If they are truly embryonic, this would be another way of getting stem cells that would not raise ethical concerns."

Fourth, Scientists at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine have demonstrated that baby mice in utero can heal their mothers' heart disease (See "Foetal stem cells can repair

mother's heart"). They found that foetal stem cells from the placenta, which they had marked with green fluorescent protein, traveled to the pregnant mother's heart and were transformed into a variety of cells to repair cardiac damage. This may help to explain a phenomenon seen in previous studies where one in two women with peripartum cardiomyopathy spontaneously recovered after pregnancy.

The director of cardiovascular regenerative medicine at the institution, Dr. Hina Chaudhry, has described it as "an exciting development that has far-reaching therapeutic potential." The findings, which are published in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation Research*, could help researchers find a stem cell treatment for heart disease.

Finally, the company doing the much-heralded first trial on embryonic stem cell therapy is discontinuing further stem cell work.

Geron, a pioneer in stem cell research that has been testing a potential spinal cord injury treatment, said late Monday that it's halting development of its stem cell programs to conserve funds. It is seeking partners to take on the programs' assets and is laying off 66 staff, 38% of its entire workforce.

"At long last after 10 years of unremitting hype, reality has caught up with embryonic stem cell claims. If Geron is abandoning this project, it is because it is simply not working, ..."

Those scientists who have been singing the praises of embryonic stem cells most loudly are, perhaps predictably, expressing their disappointment. The firm is claiming that its decision is "purely financial" but John Martin, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at University College London has said, "The Geron trial had no real chance of success because of the design and the disease targeted. It was an intrinsically flawed study... The first trials of stem cell that will give an answer are our own in the heart. The heart is an organ that can give quantitative data of quality."

Josephine Quintavalle from the group CORE (Comment on Reproductive Ethics) was rather more frank: "At long last after 10 years of unremitting hype, reality has caught up with embryonic stem cell claims. If Geron is abandoning this project, it is because it is simply not working, despite the millions of dollars and hot air that has been invested in the promotion of this research."

So in summary, this has been a week where ethical stem cell research has marched on whilst embryonic stem cell work has ground to a halt. What were perhaps always blind alleys are now closing, but new highways of promise are opening ever and ever wider.

The best and most effective treatments are also ethical treatments. Maybe that is the most important lesson to learn from all this.

*Dr. Saunders is a former general surgeon and CEO of Christian Medical Fellowship, a UK-based organization with 4,500 UK doctors and 1,000 medical students as members. This article originally appeared on his blog, Christian Medical Comment, accessed at <http://pjsaunders.blogspot.com/>.*



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gleam  
between  
two  
eternities."**

~ Thomas Carlyle

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For information or to request a confidential consultation, contact Pam Fichter at 573-635-5110 or by email at [pam.f@missourilife.org](mailto:pam.f@missourilife.org).

## Memorials



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

In honor of Carol Hubecky

by Tom Hubecky

In memory of Joseph Wiesner

by Delores Chapie

In memory of Joseph Wiesner

by Mary Vickery

In memory of Dora Grgurich

by Stephen Grgurich

In memory of Charles & Cecilia Wilson

by Rita Villinger



*Missouri Right to Life thanks those who honor their deceased loved ones or who celebrate an important event by making a gift to MRL.*



## Missouri Right to Life Education Fund

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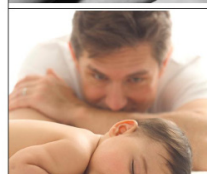
Missouri Right to Life Education Fund provides support to Missouri Right to Life for educational activities such as a portion of our newsletter, funding for educational materials for fair booths, a slight amount for legislative lobbying, and other purely educational activities. As a result, any donations to Missouri Right to Life Education Fund are tax-deductible and a powerful incentive for larger gifts by pro-lifers who can afford them. However, your gift of any amount will enable the Education Fund to continue its commitment to life! Your tax-deductible donation in any amount can be returned in the enclosed envelope.

Missouri Right to Life Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization approved by the IRS. Donations are tax-deductible.

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Tri-County Right to Life, the Missouri Right to Life chapter in Northwest Missouri, and college students from the Catholic Newman Center, walked and handed out candy and help numbers in the 2011 Northwest Missouri State University homecoming parade.



## 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.



## A Successful Statewide Chapter Meeting



Executive Director Patty Skain talks with those attending the Statewide Chapter Meeting, while President Pam Fichter looks on. Pam must be enjoying Patty's comments -- or the good turnout at the gathering!



Some of those attending the Statewide Chapter Meeting on November 12th. MRL Chapter officers and members, those interested in starting chapters in their communities, the MRL State Office staff, and the State Board of Directors shared tips and helpful information, a day of camaraderie, and lunch provided by the staff and board.

### January 22, 2012 ~ Remembering Roe v Wade

Come along with other pro-lifers to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life.

Or join others in your local community for events commemorating this tragic anniversary.

#### Bus Trips to March for Life, Washington, DC

**Missouri Life Caravan** - The annual bus trip to Washington, DC's March for Life, January 22-24. Call MRL-Eastern Region, 314-434-4900, or MRL State Office, 573-635-5110, or e-mail [LifeCaravan@missourilife.org](mailto:LifeCaravan@missourilife.org) for more information.

**Sedalia Chapter** - 2012 Right to Life Trip to Washington DC, January 21-24. E-mail David Fall at [dfall@gogremlins.com](mailto:dfall@gogremlins.com) or call 660-221-6138 for more information.

**Springfield/Cape Girardeau** - January 21-24, five buses will leave from Springfield and also pick up passengers in Cape Girardeau. Please call 573-334-7298 or e-mail [kkeesee@charter.net](mailto:kkeesee@charter.net) for more information.

**Washington MO** - January 20-24. Please call 636-239-5883 or e-mail [bill.gegg@att.net](mailto:bill.gegg@att.net) for more information.

**Western Region** - Please call 816-353-4113 or e-mail [mrl-wr@att.net](mailto:mrl-wr@att.net) for information.

#### Local Events

**Barton County Chapter** - Jan. 22nd, 2:00 p.m., Memorial Hall, Lamar. Guest speaker State Rep. Mike Kelly, and a presentation by Life Choices Pregnancy Resource Center.

**East Central Area Chapter** - Jan. 23rd, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., Candlelight Memorial Gathering at two locations: 5th &

Jefferson in Washington, MO and at the Courthouse Square in Union, MO.

**Mid Missouri March for Life** - Jan 18th, 7:00p.m. Dinner, St. Martin's Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 Rt. T, Jefferson City. Guest speakers Shawn Carney, co-founder of 40 Days for Life, and Dr. Alan Keyes. Jan. 19th, 10:00a.m. March to the Capitol. Guest speakers Dr. Keyes, Bridget Van Means, President of Thrive, and Coach Dave Daubenmire. Proceeds benefit the Women's Help Center, St. Raymond's Society, and 40 Days for Life. For more information, call 571-403-2977.

**Monroe City Chapter** - Ecumenical prayer service and candlelight march in Monroe City. The prayer service is at the K of C Hall starting at 5:00 p.m. and the march will follow. Contact Charlotte Schneider 573-735-2082 for information.

**Sedalia Chapter** - Jan. 22nd, 12 noon, Annual Memorial at the Pettis County Courthouse. Guest speaker Missouri Right to Life President Pam Fichter.

**Western Region** - January 22nd Candlelight Vigil for Life, 23rd & Noland Rd., 6:00 p.m. Contact Linda Vansandt, 816-252-2486, for information.

January 23rd Prayer Vigil for Life, noon to 1:00 p.m., Ilus Davis Park (north side), 400 E. 9th St., Kansas City, MO. Contact the Missouri Right to Life Western Region office for more information, 816-353-4113.

**Save the date ~ Missouri Right to Life Pro-Life Action Day**

**Tuesday, March 27  
State Capitol, Jefferson City**



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### A Christmas Eve Reflection

by Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

Most people believe in God. But all too many are afraid to approach Him. They are convinced He exists, but are not convinced that He is on their side.

Questions like What does God expect of me? or How does He want me to worship Him? remain unsolved mysteries.

Moreover, the thought of approaching an unseen, almighty Being who fills the universe in all its parts is both puzzling and scary.

Christmas is meant to change all that.

Christmas is God in human language, God revealing Himself by becoming one of us, so that He can tell us plainly who He is.

Some are afraid to approach an almighty Spirit ... but who is afraid to approach a little baby? God becomes a little baby tonight, to call us all to come near to Him.

God comes at Christmas to reveal that He is indeed on our side, that He conquers our enemies, and that what He expects of us is to follow the teachings of that child who grew up to proclaim the Gospel.

We live in strange times, because even though God made Himself a little baby, some are even afraid of that. Abortion is the primordial evil of our day for many reasons. One reason is that it rejects even the child, the chosen way God invites His people to draw near to Him.

The birth of every child reflects the joy of the birth of Christ and the meaning of Christmas. Let this New Year bring the world closer to reverence for every birth, every child, every life.

