



Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SIDEWALK

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Here's a letter that a young woman left at a 40 Days for Life vigil site, simply addressed "to the sign people":

To the sign people -

My friend had left me the use of her apartment as she was away ... perfect because it was right where the clinic was!

The next day, I saw you people lining up with signs ... I watched from the window every day and all day you were there! Different folks each time.

I had this idea in my head that abortion picketers were extremists ... no "normal" person would do that sort of thing. Yet you did not look extreme ... more ordinary.

Tuesday was my pre-procedure appointment. Used the wrong entrance and had to walk past you. So what, I thought. Who cares? They don't know me or where I am going. As I walked past (hurriedly!), my legs felt like they weighed a ton. What was going on? Are these people intimidating me? Do I need to feel ashamed as I walk past? The receptionist told me to "ignore them" when I asked about you.

Every day I watched you. One day I thought for sure no one would be there. Weather forecast was calling for severe winds and rain. There in the afternoon, amid strong winds which were blowing the signs over the head and onto the grass, you stood. All day!



Kathy Forck and grandson Caden at Columbia Planned Parenthood on the first day of the fall 40 Days for Life.

know would also care to "stand for me."

It's a crazy world we live in ... but some seem to know how to see the good in it. Thanks!

The next day I took a walk and followed you in the direction where everyone seemed to go. It was a church. After everyone left, I went inside and saw all the signs, flyer. Impressive set-up, I thought. They seem organized in their purpose!

On Friday was my appointment for my procedure. I was suddenly terrified of what was to be. My heart was almost beating out of my chest...

Anyhow, I want to let you know that I decided to keep my baby...

The reason I decided to leave you this note is to tell you that what you did was good. I felt I owed it to you for all the days you stood there in hope that others would take notice. I noticed. In turn it gave me hope that others I



Valiant pro-lifers singing praises on a rainy day as they stand opposed to abortion at the Springfield Planned Parenthood.

St. Louis-

Brian in St. Louis says one of the prayer volunteers approached a young woman as she was pulling into Planned Parenthood and offered to take her across the street to Thrive's mobile medical unit.

Patricia, the volunteer – who gives credit to the Holy Spirit for this turnaround – said the woman was surprised but grateful for the alternate opportunity provided by Thrive.

"Sometimes," Brian said, "all it takes are the prayers of some faithful volunteers and a brochure to help women realize that there ARE other options besides the abortion agenda of Planned Parenthood."

GOOD NEWS ~

DAY 15 (October 9, 2013)

167 babies saved from abortion

**Thought
you'd
like to
know...**



The Special Privilege of being the parent of a child with Down Syndrome (Excerpt)

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. It is a time when scores of advocacy organizations and individuals across the country do their utmost to raise awareness about this genetic condition.

I was thinking about awareness and how unaware I was about Down syndrome prior to the birth of Sadie, my second daughter, almost 15 years ago...

In particular, because such a high percentage of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted — estimates run as high as 90% — I thought I'd use this post to talk to the mothers carrying babies with Down syndrome....

So, to the mother who has recently been told by her doctor that her unborn baby has Down syndrome, here's what I would like her to know:

You will love your baby. Really. You have received many subtle and not so subtle negative messages about individuals with this condition. These messages are distorted; they are not the truth. The truth is that you will fall in love with your baby, just as you would any of your children.

It is very normal to feel fear and sadness when you receive the news. You might be tempted to abort your baby because of this fear and sadness. But if you do abort her, your fear may go away, but the sadness will remain. Always. However, if you bring your baby to birth, you will discover that your fear was more daunting than reality, and your special baby will transform your sadness into joy! Be not afraid!

Maybe you worry that you could never "handle" a child with special needs, that you are not that type of woman.

Though, of course, all children are different and have their own gifts and challenges, I can say from my experience that caring for my daughter is a piece of cake. That is not to say there are not challenges, but there are with any child. You grow with your child; neither you nor anyone else automatically becomes "that type of woman." But you can do it!

Perhaps you feel overwhelmed with information about Down syndrome. Though the chances of having certain health issues are greater with Down syndrome, it doesn't mean your child will have them. Many of these issues, including heart defects, are treatable. My daughter had a heart defect and had open heart surgery to correct it at the tender age of 3 months! She came through it with flying colors....

You might wonder how does one care for a baby with Down syndrome. Aside from ensuring that your baby is healthy, in every way your baby is a baby first, and needs everything else that babies need: love, sleep, feeding, holding, diaper changes, tender words, playing, bathing, hugs, and kisses. She or he will eventually smile and have giggles, sit up, stand, walk, run, play, learn to read, do math, and learn many other things. She or he is also likely to have a great sense of humor!

There is so much more to say, but I hope these points have been helpful and made you more aware. If you remember nothing else from these few thoughts, please remember that there are no human words to convey the joy your child with Down syndrome will bring to you. Don't let anyone talk you out of this very special privilege!

NRL News Today (Eileen Haupt)
10/02/13

New campaign launches to pass 20- week abortion ban in America's late- term abortion capital

In a historic effort to become the first city in America to ban late-term abortions beginning at 20 weeks after fertilization, the campaign "ABQ Voters For Late-Term Abortion Ban" launched on October 7.

On November 19, the citizens of Albuquerque will cast their votes on the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection

Ordinance, which is supported by 54% of the people, according to a recent ABQ Journal poll. A grassroots coalition gathered 27,000 signatures in just 20 days to place this ordinance on the ballot.

"While putting forth this ordinance has been a local grass-roots effort, this election has important national implications. We believe that the good people of Albuquerque will rise to the occasion and do the right thing to protect these babies who are just a few short weeks or, in some cases, days from birth," stated Tara Shaver, Chairperson of ABQ Voters For Late-Term Abortion Ban.

New Mexico is one of only nine states that allow post-viability abortions. It lacks abortion laws that provide even basic safety standards or informed consent, making its abortion policies more akin to those found in Communist China and Korea than in the rest of America. The largest late-term abortion clinic in the U.S. — one of only four in the nation — operates in Albuquerque.

LifeSiteNews.com 10/07/13

In Obamacare controversy, don't forget the unborn!

With all the controversy swirling around Obamacare, we should never forget what this law will do to lead to more abortions and denial of life-saving medical care.

Abortion: National Right to Life was the first organization to point out that every federal taxpayer will be helping to subsidize insurance plans in the new federal and state health exchanges that cover elective abortions. This is true even if you live in a state that has voted against using taxpayer dollars directly for abortion.

Rationing: The law gives federal bureaucrats the power to impose rationing standards on all health care providers that would require them to deny some lifesaving treatments even if the patient is willing and able to pay for it.

Violations of conscience rights: Under Obamacare, even those with conscience objections will be forced to help subsidize abortion coverage with their tax dollars; others are being told to pay for what is objectionable to their faith.

National Right to Life 10/03/13

The Power of You and the Power of Prayer

With an hour between appointments, I decided to go to the St. Louis Planned Parenthood abortion mill to pray. I was disappointed that only a handful of people were there. The 40 Days for Life Campaign had started that week, and I had hoped to see more people.

It was a beautiful day - perfect in so many ways. Yet standing outside of the largest provider of abortion in Missouri, the blue skies and the warm breeze couldn't relieve my sadness that the lives of so many babies had ended in that cold brick building. The latest numbers from 2011 show that over 5,500 children had been aborted inside those doors.

I picked up a sign and began praying - for the workers who participated in such evil, for the abortionist who stopped those little hearts from beating, for the security guard who was trying to prevent the sidewalk counselor from telling the truth to those entering the driveway. I prayed for the fathers who were with their wives or girlfriends; I prayed for those frightened mothers - most of them so young. I prayed in gratitude for the brave sidewalk counselors, the handful of other people praying, and for the wonderful mobile ultrasound unit from Thrive parked across the street. And I prayed for more people to come to pray.

And that's when God reminded me of the power of prayer. A van pulled up, and fifteen people got out to join us on the sidewalk. These were familiar faces - people I knew. These people were with Missouri Right to Life's East Central Chapter and had come to Planned Parenthood to pray. How happy I was to see them!

I had to leave soon after they arrived to be at my next meeting, but I thanked them for their witness and their courage to take a public stand for life. I later learned in an update from the Chapter that during their two-hour prayer time, there were three babies saved! Brian Westbrook with 40 Days for Life filled in the details of one of those young mothers who changed her mind about having an abortion. Here's the update from Brian.

"Just yesterday (September 27), 15 volunteers from the East Central Missouri Right to Life group stood in prayerful support near Brad Baumgarten, an intern with Coalition for Life, during his shift as a sidewalk counselor. Brad was taken by surprise when one of the cars exiting Planned Parenthood stopped in the driveway, and the man in the driver's seat rolled his window down, exclaiming excitedly, 'She changed her mind!' Brad learned that the man had been able to talk the young woman in the seat beside him out of having an abortion!

"Brad, along with all of the volunteers present on the sidewalk, cheered and celebrated over the life that had just been saved! Before pulling away, the driver turned towards our volunteers and thanked them graciously for their prayers."

How great is God to use our prayers and our witness to save one of His little ones!

That is the power of you; that is the power of prayer.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

*Blessings,
Pam Fichter*



Pam Fichter



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Enterprise Ethics

Remember “Star Trek: The Next Generation”?

By Chelsea Zimmerman

One of my favorite television shows when I was younger was “Star Trek: The Next Generation.” Lately I’ve been watching some old episodes of the series on Netflix. Recently I was very surprised and impressed with an episode called “Ethics” and the way it dealt with the issue of disability and assisted suicide.

The episode opens with Lt. Worf getting his spinal cord crushed by a couple of barrels in the cargo bay. As it turns out, there is still no cure for spinal cord injury in the 24th century. Devastated by his diagnosis, Worf asks Comm. Riker to help him perform ritual suicide because, “When a Klingon can no longer stand and face his enemies as a warrior, when he becomes a burden to his friends and family, it is time for the Hegh’bat. Time for him to die.”

The real heroes of the episode are Riker and Counselor Troi who refuse to let Worf give up on his life. At one point, Riker confronts the wounded Klingon and reminds him of all the people on the ship who consider him a friend and owe him their lives and to think about how they might feel about his dying. But Troi definitely has the best line of the whole show when she tells Worf, “Maybe it’s time you stop lying here worrying about your honor and started thinking about someone else. Like your son.”

When an otherwise able-bodied person has suicidal tendencies we consider it a cry for help, a sign that they are not emotionally or psychologically stable. Why does that view change when the suicidal person is sick or disabled?

The experience of a traumatic, life-altering injury or disease affects a person mentally and emotionally just as it affects them physically. Your whole world suddenly changes and, as few people can really relate to such an experience, very often you are alone in that world with all its pain and challenges – envying the physical freedom of others (or your pre-injury self) and feeling slightly worthless or at least inadequate by comparison. A great tragedy occurs then when you are

Death with dignity is not an event; it is the natural result of having lived with dignity.

further isolated by people who, in misguided compassion, pity you for all that you can’t do or the pain you must endure, and justify your feelings of worthlessness.

While some people think that they are doing the loving thing by helping their loved one die, what they’re really doing is affirming the other in their fear and misery. How is that loving? Instead, the sick and disabled who ask for assisted suicide should be encouraged to rebound from feeling so hopeless and shown what they still have to live for. As the late, great Fr. Richard Neuhaus beautifully put it:

“As long as we are alive, we have all the life there is.” Whether we find ourselves terminally ill, permanently disabled, or facing some other permanent or transitory hardship, there is still some joy to be found amid the struggle. Suicide prevention should not be limited to the able-bodied.

Back aboard the Enterprise. When he’s told by Picard to have some respect for his friend and his Klingon customs,

Riker makes another excellent point: “I can respect his beliefs, but he is asking me to take an active part in his committing suicide.” This is the eyeless “I” of assisted suicide; it does not consider the consequences to others. “Death with dignity” is hailed as an exercise in personal autonomy, but the people claiming this “right” do not act alone. They require assistance — a coarsening of some other person’s conscience.

I don’t have the right to ask or demand something that may hurt others. There is a reason why most doctors oppose “physician-assisted suicide.” Their job is to heal, not kill. As Dr. Crusher put it, “the first tenant of good medicine is never make the patient any worse.” You can’t get much worse than dead. Now, some will argue that assisted suicide is about alleviating pain, but palliative care in the 21st century has come so far as to be able to eliminate virtually all physical pain. No, assisted suicide is not about pain control; it’s about the illusion of personal control even over death.

Death is not a right. It is an eventuality that will visit us all. There is nothing dignified about withholding water and food or injecting poison into a person’s bloodstream when they are at their lowest point (or the Klingon custom of taking a knife to your own heart). Death with dignity is not an event; it is the natural result of having lived with dignity.

Finally, I really appreciate how the writers handled the reality of life after a spinal cord injury. More than once it was mentioned that people with SCIs can and do live very “normal”, active post-injury lives. It is true, and the majority of us with spinal cord injuries (and many other disabilities, for that matter) choose to live with our disability and find that there’s still quite a lot to enjoy about our lives.

That being said, ultimately in the show Worf ended up regaining all of his mobility — through a risky and purely experimental procedure. But, that did lead to a pretty great speech on medical ethics by Dr. Crusher.

This episode of Star Trek was a breath of fresh air to come across after what the entertainment industry has put out portraying this issue in recent years.

Chelsea Zimmerman is the Missouri Right to Life Lifeline and multimedia editor. She blogs at ReflectionsofaParalytic.com.

Every so often people ask us

how to avoid making contributions to organizations that support abortion, embryonic stem cell research, or other anti-life activities. One source of information for this is American Life League which has researched charitable organizations to learn their current positions. They released their research in August 2013.

American Life League’s information may be accessed at <http://www.all.org/charities>.



The Missouri Right to Life Legislative team is in the process of writing legislation for the 2014 session of the Missouri General Assembly. After a successful year in 2013, we have great hopes for MRL legislation in 2014!

One of MRL's priorities is to address the need for stricter abortion clinic inspections. With the horrors of the revelations at the Gosnell trial in Pennsylvania, the reports concerning an abortionist in Texas, and the number of ambulances arriving at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood, now is the time to seek legislation to require stricter inspections of abortion clinics and to ensure that abortionists are not allowed to decide viability of a baby.

We will also continue our work to prevent our tax dollars from funding human cloning and embryonic stem cell research under the guise of economic development. We are reviewing multiple ways to address this.

Fatherhood Forever

Helping men find hope and healing after abortion

By Kevin Burke

Jason Baier is featured in one of the chapters of my book on men and abortion entitled *Redeeming a Father's Heart*. Jason's story is a harrowing account of his experience of learning the exciting news that his longtime partner was pregnant ... only to find that the mother of his child saw abortion as the only solution.

He was powerless to stop her.

After the abortion, he was devastated and tried to find help. None of the counselors, psychiatrists, or medical professionals he saw acknowledged the reality of post abortion trauma in women, let alone men. In their assessments they ignored the abortion and put him on psychiatric medication that failed to treat his underlying condition ... a heart broken by abortion grief and loss. This ignorance by mental health and medical professionals can be deadly.

One evening when he could no longer stand the pain, Jason sat poised with a bottle of sleeping pills in his hand, filled with anger, grief, and despair and wanting to end his life. Thankfully at that very moment he experienced a miracu-

Pastoral Associate, Priests for Life

lous infusion of God's peace and love, leading him to drop the bottle of pills and pour out his heart to the Lord.

Jason realized he needed to learn about post abortion suffering and find resources for his own healing. He wanted to reach out to other men who regretted



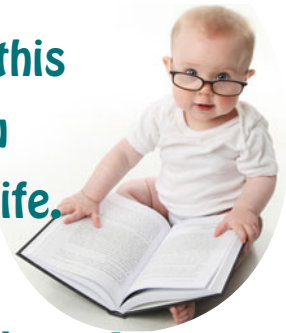
their participation in abortion and were isolated in their pain and at risk. Jason understood that after abortion many men feel powerless, confused, and isolated with feel-

ings and symptoms that not only affect them personally, but also impact them as husbands, fathers, and in the workplace.

Jason developed the website FatherhoodForever.org for men suffering after abortion. He later had a powerful healing experience on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat which, together with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, is part of the Priests for Life Family of Ministries.

Recently Jason decided to entrust

Your name is in this book. It says you helped save my life. You're just awesome! Thank you!



And, of course, we will continue to seek ways to offset Obamacare, the rationing of our healthcare, and being forced to pay for abortion drugs.

Please pray for us! These are all mighty heavy goals! But we are up for the challenge with your support.

Make note of the next Pro-Life Action Day – March 11, 2014, at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City, MO. Mark your calendars, mighty prayer warriors, and plan to be there!

his excellent website to the Campaign, which was already expanding its outreach to men. We are excited that Fatherhood Forever has now been incorporated into the Silent No More Awareness Campaign for men who Regret Lost Fatherhood.

Such men are becoming a powerful force in the pro-life movement as they attend healing programs and speak out publicly. They effectively proclaim the need for fathers to defend the life of the unborn children entrusted to them, no matter how difficult the circumstances, and call men suffering after abortion to healing.

...I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose LIFE...

Western Region honors Pro-Life Youth of the Year at Stand Up For Life Banquet



Ania Bishop is the recipient of MRL-Western Region's Pro-Life Youth of the Year Award presented at the Stand Up For Life Banquet on September 12th. Congratulations, Ania! She is shown here with her parents, Steve & Ellen Bishop.

Pro-Life Across Missouri

save date

Thru Nov. 3, 2013

40 Days for Life in Columbia, Kansas City, and St. Louis. 40 Days of Prayer for Life in Springfield.

Jan. 21 - 23, 2014

Missouri Life Caravan to the 41st **March for Life** in Washington, DC.

Registration form available soon. Look for it at the MRL website, missourilife.org.

March 11, 2014

MRL Pro-Life Action Day and Youth Workshop, Jefferson City

Your Pro-Life Voices . . . Anywhere! Anytime!



(Left) Johnson County Chapter-MRL thanks their great volunteers who worked their table at the Univ. of Central Missouri "Get the Red Out" celebration. Connie Plemmons and Michael McCormick take their turn getting the pro-life story out!



(Left) MRL member Ann Saladin spoke at the National Right to Life Convention 2013 about the Girl Scouts of America's involvement with Planned Parenthood. Ann has been at the forefront of studying their position, and she has joined others across the country to inform the pro-life public of the latest developments.



MRL member Maggie Bick shares the good news at the Missouri Right to Life booth at the Midwest CPAC Conference.



East Central Chapter-MRL once again showed their pro-life commitment at the Washington, MO Town & Country Fair and Parade. Their Choose Life banner is now displayed on Rt. 100 east of Washington.

ELECTION OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE DELEGATE-AT-LARGE

Every two years, MRL members elect a Delegate-At-Large to represent them on the Board of Directors. This is in addition to the participation encouraged at the chapter, region, and state board levels. It is again time for members to elect their representative to the board.

To cast a vote, please check the box next to a name. Vote for only one candidate. If there are two members in the household, boxes are provided for each. Use this ballot to vote; do not copy it. Your name, address, and member number appear on the back of the ballot.

The candidates nominated to serve the 2014-2016 term are:

1st Voter 2nd Voter Each member may vote for only one candidate.

- ☐ ☐ **Beth Sykora.** Beth has been involved in pro-life work for the last fifteen years. She currently serves on the Missouri Right to Life State Board of Directors. She is also an active member of the MRL-Western Region Board of Directors. Beth has attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. numerous times and also the National Right to Life Convention for several years.
- ☐ ☐ **Pam Manning.** Pam is currently the *Missouri Right to Life News* editor. She served on the MRL-Eastern Region board for 18 years, including several years as its chairman. She has served on the Missouri Right to Life State Board for 30 years, including four years as president. She has served as the 2nd and 3rd Congressional District MRL PAC coordinator and was the MRL PAC chairman for six years. She is the current Delegate-at-Large.
- ☐ ☐ **Peggy Bull.** Peggy has been an active Missouri Right to Life member for 40 years. She currently serves on the MRL-Mid-state Region Board of Directors and the Missouri Right to Life State Board of Directors. She is the past MRL Education Chairman. Peggy has also been active with MRL PAC.

The ballot must be received by December 31, 2013. Clip and return it to:
Missouri Right to Life, P. O. Box 651, Jefferson City MO 65102

Memorials & Honorariums

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

In honor of Gerald & Carol Smith
50th Anniversary

Given by Jan Boyle

In honor of Norma & Jim Bright
60th Anniversary

Given by Marilyn Berglar

In memory of Alicia Marie Brauer

Given by John & Audrey Brauer

In memory of Gail Carter

Given by Jan Boyle

In memory of Alice Fasnacht

Given by Jan Boyle

In memory of Rita Hamilton

Given by Donald & Shirley Andrews

In memory of Cynthia Kneibert

Given by Maria S. Green

In memory of Joan Pfeifer

Given by Allen & Kay Brillhart

In memory of Sr. Evlyn Schnieders

Given by Irene Smith, Mary James, Donald & Shirley Andrews,
Clarence & Shirley Stiefferman

In memory of Marvin Selsor

Given by Margaret Heying, George & Pat Kaiser

In memory of Mildred Tichacek

Given by Doris Callahan, Joe & Sandy Witte, William & Barbara Peasel, Frank & Kelly Stanek, Judith Goedeker Sulz, Joseph & Amy Goedeker, William & Donna Cureton, Joseph & Clarissa Georgevitch, Leonard & Elizabeth Westhoff, Katherine Bauer, Max S. Kaiser Jr., Jerome & Jackie Duffey, O'Brien Family, Michael & Cathy Goedeker, Gregory Stocker, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hoff, Harry & June Nichols, Mel & Carol Sitner

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



*And Missouri Right to Life gives thanks
to you for your support of our mission
with your generous gifts!*

Jackson County Voters

(Kansas City, MO Area)

Vote “NO” on Question No. 1! Your vote is crucial!

The Jackson County Legislature has proposed a local ballot issue (Question No.1) for the November 5, 2013, election. With its passage, an additional sales tax of 0.5% would be imposed in Jackson County for 20 years to establish a ***medical research and development institute***. (Complete explanation at missourilife.org)

There is no pro-life protection in the proposal! It could very well include human embryonic stem cell research which begins with killing human beings in the embryonic stage in order to obtain their stem cells. Cloning human embryos is seen as a way to obtain these cells.

Missouri Right to Life opposes this ballot proposal!

Go to the polls! Get as many pro-life people as possible! Vote “NO!”

This is the only issue on the ballot for the whole of Jackson County. Voter turnout will be very light!

Vote “NO” on Question No. 1 on November 5th!