



LIFE TIMES

Value of Life Contest 2008 Essay by Johanna Meinecke

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“Your baby has fingernails,” a girl says standing outside an abortion clinic in the movie Juno as the title character walks into the clinic to have an early term abortion. As Juno waits in the waiting room she watches the other people around her, some scratching with their fingernails, some drumming on the table with their fingers. They all have fingernails and Juno runs out, unable to go through with having an abortion.

What is abortion? Abortion is the killing of a human life. Even with all the scientific information available there are still some who question whether it is a human life that is killed during an abortion. The answer is yes, it is a human life that is being killed. This is because life begins at conception. “I have learned from my earliest medical education that human life begins at the time of conception. I submit that human life is present throughout this entire sequence from conception to adulthood and any interruption at any point constitutes a termination of a human life,” states the late Dr. Jerome LeJeune, genetics professor at the University of Descartes in Paris. (www.justthefacts.org) Even with clear statements like this so many people refuse to believe it is an actual baby growing in the womb because it does not look like everyone else. Just because a baby does not have all the fully formed parts of a body does not mean he is not alive. He is alive from the moment of conception for at that moment he has his own form of DNA. Therefore, his life is sacred and should never be in danger of being snuffed out by any type of abortion. However, since this is the time when the baby’s life is most at risk from abortion, this essay examines why the killing of a first trimester preborn baby is just as wrong as killing a preborn baby 16 weeks or older.

What happens through weeks one to four of pregnancy? According to the website www.pregnancy.org, many things happen. First, the sex of the baby is determined. This happens immediately upon fertilization. Also a neural tube forms; it will develop into the nervous system. Already the baby has the foundation for thought, senses, feeling, and more! The heart and primitive circulatory system are rapidly forming. While still in its beginning stages, this is the very life support systems that will carry the child throughout his life. (www.pregnancy.org/pregnancy/fetaldevelopment1.php)

An even closer look at the growth of a baby shows that at day 20 foundations of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system are already established. At day 21 the heart begins to beat. By day 28 the backbone and muscles are forming. Arms, legs, eyes and ears have begun to show. Day 30 the heart is pumping increasing quantities of blood through the circulatory system. By day 35 five fingers can be discerned in the hand. The eyes darken as pigment is produced. On day 40 brain waves can be detected and recorded. Finally, by day 42 the liver now takes over the production of blood cells and the brain begins to control movement of muscles and organs. (www.prolifeforum.org/brochures/firstnine.asp) All this development has occurred, and this is only at six weeks after conception, yet this baby could be killed at any moment.

The United States has always striven for the ideal that people should be treated equally no matter what their color, height, or weight may be. Yet through abortion people kill babies who already have heartbeats, feet, and brain cells, all parts of a human being. Yet these babies are killed simply because they don’t look like a typical human being. Babies in fact should be protected under anti-discrimination laws. What if a soldier came back from war; he had lost a leg and an arm; he was deaf, dumb and blind because of a bomb that went off near him. He would be given a medal, and rightly so; he would not be considered “unhuman” and slaughtered. However, how is his situation different from a developing baby in the womb, especially one that is in the early stages of life?

Another argument for early abortion is a baby cannot feel so it is not wrong to kill it. This is commonly heard. However, even if the baby could not feel pain, abortion would not be justified, although a baby at 25 weeks can feel pain. Scientists have not been able to completely prove a baby can feel pain before that time, although some say it is likely. (www.godandscience.org/doctrine/fetal_pain.html) However, the question of whether or not the baby feels pain can justify the act is irrelevant; it just adds to the horror of abortion. Just because the nerve goes dead in a finger or an arm, do we cut it off? Say a person was paralyzed; do we chop them up and suck their brains out? Paralyzed people also cannot function without the help of others and might be a burden to those having to take care of them, just like the baby needs the help of a mother to function while in the womb. Still we do not kill the paralyzed people just because they cannot function without the help of someone. Technically, however, according to the abortionists it would be alright to kill paralyzed people because they cannot feel pain and also like a fetus depend on someone else for their life support. That is why when abortion was made legal more happened that just the right to kill a baby. We lost respect for human life and that is now translating not just to babies but adults, children and teens. (continued on page 2)

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PRO-LIFE EVENTS IN SOUTHERN INDIANA	
January	
•5 th Signature Ad Deadline	
•8 th Board Meeting	
•20 th -23 rd March for Life	Washington, DC
•22 nd Roe v. Wade Anniversary	
February	
5 th Board Meeting	
13 th Deadline for Value for Life Contest	
March	
5 th Value of Life Contest	

From the President

Dear Pro-Life Supporter,

You will see a new signature at the bottom of this letter. Having served several years ago as the president of RTL of Southern Indiana, I hope it will not be an unknown signature to you. Once again I am serving as president of our local group.

The recent political events in our country may have brought dismay to those in the Right to Life movement. Certainly we appear to have now elected a totally pro-abortion president. This will likely make it much harder to promote our belief in the sanctity of life. He has promised to sign into law the FOCA bill. The Freedom of Choice Act will in essence negate previously passed laws at every government level that promote the sanctity of life and limit abortion on demand.

Yes, this is discouraging to those of us who have been fighting this 'war' against the Roe v Wade decision in 1973.

However, it should make us even more determined to wage this battle on all fronts. One of the ways we can continue to do this is by educating our citizens to the sanctity of human life. And one of the ways we do this is our annual Value of Life contest in March. This contest involves children from our local schools (public, private, Christian, or Home School) in various ways and on various levels. We have smaller children who do posters depicting some aspect of the Value of Life. Older youth write essays and upper grades enter oratory or scholarship levels. Monetary prizes are awarded at every level.

This event is one way that we can introduce our youth to the Sanctity of Life and encourage them to stand firm for the cause of Life. Several years ago our local oratory winner won state and went on to place third in the national competition.

I am sure you caught the words 'monetary prizes' in the earlier paragraph. We award approximately \$4,000 in prizes each year. This is a large chunk of our annual budget and takes a toll on our program. We are asking this year for 'over and above' contributions to be designated for the Value of Life contest. Would you as an individual, a family, a church, or a business be willing to sponsor a level or simply to donate to the funding of the contest? Having the prizes funded outside of our general fund would be a tremendous help to our organization. Introducing our youth to the Value of Life and educating them to the Sanctity of Life has become one of the goals of our group.

Are you willing to stand with us and support this event with your donation? Any amount would be appreciated. Should we get large donations from individuals, churches, or

businesses, we will certainly acknowledge these contributors in our program. Please call our office for more information or simply make your check out to Right to Life of Southern Indiana Educational Fund, note it is for the Value of Life contest, and mail it to our office address. All contributions to this fund are tax-deductible and we need to receive your gift as soon as possible. We will certainly be grateful to you for your help with the funding of our contest. The date for this year's contest is March 5th. Please join us at Wesley Chapel UMC on State Street in New Albany to see what your gift has helped to bring about.

God bless you as together we pray and work to promote the Sanctity of Human life in our Southern Indiana area.

Sandra K. Naugle, President

(Essay cont. from page 1)

It is obvious how little respect people have for human lives when we look at different forms of abortion.

First, there are abortions that are performed by taking medication such as Methotrexate (MTX). This pill which for many years has been used to treat cancer is now also used to kill the baby. Methotrexate works by stopping embryonic cells from dividing and multiplying. The mother receives a dose of this drug from the abortion clinic and within a short time the baby is killed in a process much like a miscarriage. Only this miscarriage is intentional. (www.fwhc.org/abortion/

[mtxinfo.htm](#)) Many women like this and other forms of chemical abortions because they seem more 'private.'. However, the results and effects are the same; a human life is killed.

The more gruesome abortions are surgical ones. Two types of surgical abortions are vacuum aspiration or suction curettage. In vacuum aspiration the baby is torn apart by a vacuum. In abortion caused by suction curettage the process is very similar. However, this form of abortion is more commonly used in the first trimester. In suction curettage the baby's body parts are sucked down a tube, or the baby is

sucked up whole. The remaining parts are scraped out of the uterus with an instrument called a curette. The baby's parts end up in a jar or bowl. (www.spuc.org.uk/ethics/abortion/methods)

With all the information available about abortion it seems strange that so many are performed. However, the biggest reason for this is that people are just apathetic. Many people know that abortion kills babies, yet they just don't care. They especially don't care if the abortion is performed on a baby who is not fully formed. Even people who tend to lean more pro-life often believe that abortion is alright up through

the first 16 weeks of pregnancy. However, "A person's a person no matter how small," as Dr. Seuss wrote; that small person is alive enough even to have fingernails. However, until people start accepting this fact millions of babies will continue to be killed.

In Memory of:
Francis Nicholas Hesse

from Susan Barton



6th Annual Value of Life Contest

\$1,000 in SCHOLARSHIPS

\$1,000 in PRIZES

Right to Life of Southern Indiana is proud to announce the 6th Annual Value of Life Contest to be held Thursday, March 5, 2009. The contest consists of 5 levels of competition giving students from kindergarten through college undergraduates a chance to show their speaking, writing and artistic skills. This contest is designed to encourage young people to research the life issues and develop their pro-life convictions.

◆ **SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION – Graduating High School Seniors & College Undergraduates**
Two \$500 Scholarships

Requirements include a written summary of your pro-life activities, two letters of recommendations from adults familiar with your pro-life activities, and a 500-750 word essay addressing one of the following two topics below:

Living your pro-life beliefs – what are your pro-life beliefs and how do you live them?

Communicating the pro-life message – what is your pro-life beliefs and how do/can you communicate that message?

◆ **ORATORY CONTEST – High School Juniors & Seniors**

\$200 First Place – \$100 Second Place – \$50 Third Place - \$25 Award for all additional participants

Participants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on **abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research**. The winner will advance to the state contest to be held Saturday, April 25, 2009 in Indianapolis. The winner of the state contest will advance to the national contest to be held June 18-20, 2009 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

◆ **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - 9th through 12th grade students**

\$50 First Place - \$25 Second Place - \$10 Third Place

Students can use either a standard 35mm or digital camera to take 8"x10" glossy photos of people depicting a pro-life message.

◆ **ESSAY CONTEST – Level 1: 5th – 6th Grades, Level 2: 7th – 9th Grades, Level 3: 10th – 12th Grades**

\$50 First Place – \$25 Second Place – \$10 Third Place

Students are to research and write an original 300-500 word pro-life essay on one of the following topics: **abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research**.

◆ **POSTER CONTEST – Kindergarten – 4th Grade**

\$25 First Place – \$15 Second Place – \$10 Third Place

Size: 11" x 17" (max.) – Topic: *Family is togetherness*.

The Contest is open to all students attending school or residing in Clark, Crawford, Floyd and Harrison counties, including home-school students. Complete information, including official contest rules, topics, and application forms for all categories may be obtained by calling the Right to Life of Southern Indiana office at 812-945-1116 or by email at rtlsoin@att.net.

Deadline for entries is Friday, February 13, 2009

Scholarships and all contest prizes will be awarded during the Oratory Contest. The Oratory Contest will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at The Center, Providence Retirement Home, 4915 Charlestown Road, New Albany, IN. The contest begins at 6:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to arrive no later than 5:30 p.m.



Right to Life of Southern Indiana, Inc.
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812-945-1116
 Email: rtlsoin@att.net
 Website: www.indianalife.org

Join us for our Board Meeting on Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 pm at Wesley Chapel UMC. For information, please call the office at 812-945-1116.

MISSION STATEMENT
 To educate citizens regarding the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death

THE CRISIS ...

291 abortions were performed at the EMW Women's Surgical Clinic in Louisville for November 2008.. The count listed below does not include the abortions performed at area hospitals.

For the year the number of abortions is **3,624.**

1/3 of the women who enter EMW have cars with Indiana license plates. *Source: Right to Life of Louisville*

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



Volunteers promoting Life: Howard Shrewsbury, handyman extraordinaire; Rebecca Paris, decorator and pro-life store developer; Mary Soos, pinch-hitting mail assistant.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the *Value of Life* Contest: bake cookies, prepare drinks, set-up, essay judges, poster judges, photography judges.

PRAY FOR:
 March for Life, January 22, 2009, the anniversary of Roe vs Wade

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
 And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.
 I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,
 Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by
 the Resurrection of Your Son.
 I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
 Today I commit myself
 Never to be silent,
 Never to be passive,
 Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
 I commit myself to be active in the Pro-Life movement,
 And never to stop defending life
 Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,
 And our nation once again becomes
 A nation with liberty and justice
 Not just for some, but for all,
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director, Priests for Life

Our life is a gift from God.
What we do with it is our gift to God.