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Expose the Deeds of Darkness: Why Activism Is Everyone's Thing *by Kortney*

Blythe, www.rockforlife.org

Activism is everyone's thing
Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

—*Ephesians 5:11*

I s t h i s y o u ?

"I'm pro-life. I would never have an abortion. But I'm not a n a c t i v i s t ."

Well, I'm glad you're against child-killing. But it's not enough to say you are against abortion. You must live what you believe. You may not be a hold-a-sign-and-engage-in-public-debate activist, but every Christian should take a stand against abortion. Call it activism, education or ministry, but when genocide is occurring in our nation, we must do more than identify with the o p p o n e n t s o f i t .

Our world is in darkness
Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. They know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. *Psalm 82:4-5*

When we are persecuted for our stance on abortion (or for righteousness sake), it can be discouraging. Who doesn't want to be liked and accepted? But we must not fear rocking the boat when our fellow human beings are drowning in the devil's d e c e p t i v e l i e s .

There are millions of people

who are broken and hurting, starving for the truth. They try to fill a void by giving themselves away sexually. When the consequences of their actions hit them, and a baby is created, they try desperately to find a way out. They end up covering up one sin with another by killing their child. The darkness around them gets thicker and harder to overcome, the longer and deeper they dive into perpetual sin.

We are the light—**You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.** *Matthew 5:14-16*

Have you ever been in a totally pitch-black room and noticed that even the tiniest amount of light makes a huge difference? Even with all the evil that permeates our society, the light of faithful Christians living out their faith will shine blindingly in the faces of those who walk in darkness. And while the light may be painful to look at initially, it will ultimately set them free from their slavery to this world and its fruitless p l e a s u r e s .

When a woman walks into an abortion mill to kill her baby, sometimes all she needs is someone to stop her and say, "Please don't do this. I will help you. There's a better way." She may cuss at you, flip you off or act like she doesn't care, but I've heard countless testimonies of women who say that when the clinic warned them of protesters outside and urged them to just ignore them, they secretly hoped that there would be someone there who would offer them hope and an alternative to the horrifying thing they were about to do. Your first words to a friend who confides in you about her unplanned pregnancy could mean the difference between life and death for her preborn child.

Commanded to act—**Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter.** *Proverbs 24:11*
Love your neighbor as yourself. *Matthew 19:19*

Anyone can make an emotional appeal to elicit action from an audience, but when God says to love and serve others, it's not a suggestion; he commands that we do so. James tells us that religion that is pure and undefiled before God is this: "to look after orphans and widows in their distress" (James 1:27). Who are the orphans, if not the preborn children whose parents are considering tak-

ing their lives? Is not a desperate woman who has been abandoned by the men in her life a type of widow? The pro-life cause encompasses all of God's commands to us regarding our fellow man — to love our neighbor, to feed, clothe and care for the "least of these" (*Matthew 25:44-45*), and "to act justly and love mercy" (*Micah 6:8*).

Different parts of the same body—**Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function.** *Romans 12:4*

I am not implying that every person must do one certain thing to combat the culture of death; quite the contrary. There are many different facets of the pro-life movement in which you can contribute. You can sidewalk counsel, volunteer at a pregnancy help center, give financially, educate others, engage in the issue politically and perform many other types of activism.

The snowball effect of Roe decriminalizing abortion on demand has meant wider acceptance and championing of other pro-death agendas — euthanasia, assisted suicide and embryonic stem cell research — to name a few. This means there are even more niches where you can use your specific skills and gifts for the Kingdom of God.

Conflict of Interest? Too Much Hurry? Or Both? *By Hans E. Geisler, MD, KM, "Certified in Health Care Ethics", Retired Gynecologic Oncologist, Indianapolis*

According to LifeSiteNews.com, Friday, August 7, 2009, three prominent Catholic organizations released an "action alert" the last week of July. Their message was that Roman Catholics should urge their congressional representatives to pass health care reform "without delay". The three groups were Catholic Charities USA, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Catholic Health Association (CHA).

Much to my surprise and, I believe, probably much to the surprise of many Roman Catholics, the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocesan paper, "The Catholic Key" on August 6, revealed that the CHA is a trade organization and is for-profit. The president of CHA, Sr. Carol Keehan, D.C., has a yearly salary of \$856,093 while three of her executives make more than \$300,000 each per year. With salaries like that and yearly expenses of \$17,660,797 for CHA, one wonders whether CHA's goals are entirely "altruistic" according to Jack Smith, editor of the "The Catholic Key." Mr. Smith was quick to point out that there is nothing wrong with being a trade organization but, when the CHA makes a statement of support for health care legislation that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, will cost well over a trillion dollars a year; in the current version of the

legislation, supports federal funding of abortion; and, according to many economists, will bankrupt the United States, one does have to have some question concerning the wisdom behind CHA's support of President Obama's health care bill.

Furthermore, for the first time ever in the history of Catholic Charities USA, that organization, on July 20, was given a federal contract for aid relief totaling \$100,000,000. This came from the Department of Health and Human Services, administered by HHS Secretary,



Kathleen Sibelius. Ms. Sibelius, nominally a Catholic, was adamantly pro-abortion and did her best to stymie any pro-life legislation in her state during her tenure as Governor of Kansas. Father Larry Snyder, the President of Catholic Charities USA, on July 31, did issue a statement explicitly denying any backing for health care legislation which would, in any way, support abortion. However, accepting money from the federal govern-

ment, in any form, always comes with a caveat. Rarely does the government give away any amount of money and not eventually ask for or even demand a "quid pro quo" in return. "Let the buyer beware" would seem to be a valid statement in the case of accepting federal funds for the first time. For instance, a number of Catholic and other Christian colleges and universities, such as Franciscan University of Steubenville, Christendom College, Hillsdale College, Wheaton College and the new Wyoming Catholic College, to name only a few, have eschewed taking any federal funds for the simple reason that they do not wish to be dictated to by the federal government in any way. A wise decision, it seems.

I believe that we have, in general, a good health care system in this country. In saying that, I realize that that system is by no means perfect and, I agree, that there are parts of it that need reform. It is a fact, however, that people are so attracted to the quality of U.S. health care that they come from all over the world to be treated here in places, (and the list that follows

will be woefully incomplete, but, I hope, will be representative,) such as the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the various facilities of the Mayo and Cleveland Clinics, the Indiana University Medical Center, and even various excellent private hospitals here in our own Indianapolis community and elsewhere in the U.S.

Why, for instance, is the current national health care system in France under such attack both from its physicians, other health care workers who work in it and the patients who have to access it for care? (Wall Street Journal, August 7, 2009: "France Fights Universal Health Care's High Cost.") Why are the waiting lists so long in Canada and Great Britain to have hip replacements, heart surgery, etc., etc? Why do the elderly, in those countries, many times wind up having only palliative rather than curative care for diseases for which excellent treatment is available? Is it possible that rationing of health care is a problem in certain nations?

I don't purport to have all the answers but I do know that, if we are going to fix U.S. health care, it behooves us to take enough time to do it correctly. Rushing legislation through, just so that the President and Congress can pat themselves on the back

Essay by Rachel Eldridge, New Albany, Gr. 9

A skull crushed. Perfect arms and legs ripped from the body. The dismembered body parts thrown disrespectfully into a trashcan or incinerator. It sounds like a torture scene from an unbelievably grotesque horror film, but in reality this happens to hundreds of Americans every day. Surprisingly, there are some who have no desire to stop this genocide. There are even those who wish to keep it going. This is murder of the unborn. This is abortion, killing more than one million of our nation's babies each year.

This atrocity of tearing a baby apart limb by limb is known as the dilation and evacuation method (D&E) of abortion, and it is the standard for killing a baby who is 24 weeks into his life. This is especially poignant because I was *born* at 24 weeks, grouping me with — yet setting me horribly apart from— the over 16,000 children who were killed at the same age. While my parents and doctors were doing anything and everything to help me live, other parents and doctors were doing just the opposite to another child—doing whatever it took to end the baby's life.

Abortion advocates consider the uncancerous tumor. That “tissue” is a “the expulsion of a nonviable fetus.” because if a 24-week-old baby had been cruelly aborted, he could have for me to even think about, it is even sense pain at just eight weeks gestation, which means that most abortions don't want to inflict pain upon others, so what moves a mother to abort her



born merely a blob of tissue, likening it to a human being. Abortion is also defined as Sometimes it is hardly of the “nonviable,” been given the chance as I was, instead of survived. And while all this is very painful more painful for the baby. Babies begin to tion, which means that most abortions don't want to inflict pain upon others, so baby?

Many assume abortions are commonly performed following acts of incest or rape crimes. Interestingly enough, only about 1% of all abortions are due to these reasons. Women rarely become pregnant in these circumstances, and when they do, they often choose to carry the child to term. Just 6% of abortions are due to health problems of the mother or baby. The main cause of abortion? “Social reasons.” The baby was killed simply because he wasn't wanted or because becoming a parent wasn't convenient. There are many times when kids aren't convenient for parents, but does that mean it's fine for Mom to kill the kids whenever it's getting a little too rough on her? Of course not. And in cases when this actually does happen, the mothers are convicted of murder. This is ironic since, if the same mother had killed her children a few years earlier, it would have been “okay.” Instead of ending up behind bars, she would have been just one of thousands of women “exercising her rights” in the form of abortion.

But abortion is not okay. It is cold-blooded murder that sometimes occurs for quite petty and selfish reasons. The truth is that all babies deserve to have a chance at life, no matter what. A baby is a baby, not a blob of tissue.

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for having done something no other Administration or Congress has done previously, does not strike me as an action that is either prudent or wise. In order to avoid a bitter and protracted fight over federal funding of abortion, the abrogation of “conscience clauses” and to really fix the problems which cur-

rently exist in the administration of health care in the U.S., so that everyone in this country will be able to receive the highest quality health care available anywhere, let's take our time, debate all the issues involved thoroughly and get it right. That way, we can, to the best of our ability, make

sure that no one will be denied quality care; avoid bankrupting our grandchildren and the generations which will come after them; and be able to be certain that Catholic and other health care professionals will be able to follow the dictates of their conscience; and lastly, and most impor-

tantly, that the lives of the unborn, the disabled, those patients with chronic, protracted illnesses and the elderly, all, in other words, who have no one to stand up for them, will be protected and be able and eligible to receive the best health care that the U.S. can offer.

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Join us for the monthly Meeting on Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 pm at Holy Family Catholic Church, 129 W. Daisy Lane, New Albany. 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 July 2009.. The count listed below does not include the abortions performed at area hospitals. For the year the number of abortions is **2,294**.

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?

Lanesville Heritage Weekend
Need volunteers to coordinate the booth. The Organizer's "job description" is to find volunteers to work the booth (so it is preferable that this person be familiar with the community and churches), help set up and break down the booth, and just make sure everything runs smoothly while the booth is open. Ideally it would be nice to have two people coordinate/Organize and work together.

Volunteers needed to share the pro-life message by giving informational materials and 'Little Ones' to everyone interested.

Don't forget to check our the Right to Life of Southern Indiana website. Posted are pro-life activities, latest news, links to other pro-life websites, Teens for Life, and more.

www.righttolifeofsouthernindiana.com

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PRO-LIFE EVENTS IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

September
1 st Board Meeting
11 th -13 th
Lanesville Heritage Weekend
October
6 th Board Meeting
8-11 th Harvest Homecoming
November
3 rd Board Meeting