

Caring for the living – born and unborn

by Dwight Widaman

What does it mean to be pro-life? That's a question I've been asking myself since before my late mother-in-law, Aleta, developed dementia after surgery for a broken hip. Seeing Aleta's care in a Versailles, Mo. nursing home up close, I came to appreciate the tireless hours and meager pay of her care-givers; the cheery smiles of volunteers and the dedication of my in-laws to ensure a tender and dedicated treatment befitting such a wonderful woman.

While many people think of being pro-life as singularly dedicated to saving the life of a child from abortion, it's much more. Yes, it is about unborn babies—we must never lose sight of that. There are many fine organizations that provide counseling and medical assistance to women in crisis pregnancies. But it also includes shelters which give women "breathing room" before they feel pressured by family or friends to abort their child. These women may be fleeing an abusive situation or economic crisis.

How about organizations working to end the sex-trafficking of young girls? Then there are the organizations that teach life-skills and provide training to help women end a cycle of poverty. Self-sufficiency empowers women to take control of their lives, gain confidence and make good decisions.

Pro-life also means prayerfully seeking the Lord about adopting a child or serving as a foster parent. There are many state programs and ministries crucial to finding children homes. Then there are the ministries that deal with the emotional effects of a mother's (and father's) decision to terminate a pregnancy. These women must be shown Christ's unconditional love. They don't need finger-pointing condemnation, but a hand offering help and understanding.

And, ultimately, as we work together to build a culture that respects life at all stages, it also means speaking truth and working to promote laws that respect life, protect women and children, and provide safeguards for our disabled and elderly. Legislation still makes a big difference.

Respect Life Special Guide Page 10

RESPECT LIFE

My broken cup: Finding hope, healing

Beatrice Fedor | LifeNews.com

December 20 was the 13th anniversary of my second abortion. January is the 20th anniversary of my first abortion.

This morning, my two-year-old son broke my "Mom" coffee cup. It reminds me that abortion broke my mother's heart all those years ago. Two little shards broke off from the cup, just where I

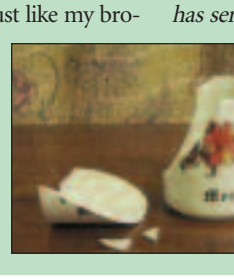
put my lips; a reminder of all the kisses I never gave my two children lost to abortion.

Rest in peace Alicia and Gabriel, you will never be forgotten. Mom loves you and fights the scourge of abortion in your memory now.

My cup has been broken, but it is filled with blessings. I am reconciled with God and with myself. I have been married eight years to a wonderful man and last month, I gave birth to our fourth child (I'm nursing her while writing this post).

I don't want to throw my Mom cup away. It is broken but it isn't shattered in a thousand pieces. It is possible to mend it, just like my broken heart was mended. I wish all women who had an abortion could feel that hope, that as long as they are beating, our hearts can be mended and filled anew with the blessings of motherhood.

LifeNews Note: Beatrice Fedor



Duggars to receive Students for Life's Defender of Life award

LiveActionNews - Students for Life of America has announced that Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar have been chosen as recipients of their 2013 Defender of Life award. Famous for their TLC television show 19 Kids and Counting, the Duggar family is a bold witness to life in America, where the average fertility rate is around 2.06 (slightly below replacement level, meaning that women are not having enough children just to replace themselves and their partner).

The Duggars have been personally open to life, welcoming 19 children and 3 grandchildren into the world since their marriage. They have also witnessed in their pro-life convictions in politics. Jim Bob

served as a state representative in Arkansas for four years, and the Duggars have spent much of 2013 rallying their community to support current pro-life legislation, Amendment 1, in their state.

The Duggar family has been criticized for every facet of its public, pro-life position. Jim Bob and Michelle have been mocked by abortion advocates for having as many children as they do, even though abortion advocates claim to stand on a woman's right to "choose" the size of her family (this apparently does not apply when a woman chooses to have more than average).

Pro-abortion organizations have even petitioned TLC to take 19 Kids and

raise awareness of and ultimately put an end to the destructive one-child policy in China.

The Duggars' witness to the preciousness of human life, even in the face of discrimination and disagreement among opponents, places them in league with some of the most effective defenders of life in America today. Jim Bob and Michelle will be present at the upcoming Students for Life of America conference in Washington, DC this January to accept the award.

Lauren has worked for great organizations such as Texas Right to Life and Students for Life of America. She is a graduate of Ave Maria University, where she studied Classics and Theology. Her husband and children are the greatest blessings in her life.

Nursing student witnesses abortion, rethinks position

A student nurse began having doubts about her position after witnessing an abortion. Author Jeff Lane Hensley quotes her in his book "The Zero People."

"I was for abortion, I thought it was a woman's right to terminate pregnancy she did not want. Now I'm not so sure. I am a student nurse nearing the end of my OB-GYN rotation at a major metropolitan hospital and teaching center. It wasn't until I saw what abortion really involves that I changed my mind. After the first week in the abortion clinic several people in my clinical group were shaky about their previously positive feelings about abortion. I now know a great deal more about what is involved in the issue. Women should perceive fully what abortion is how destructive an act it is both for themselves and their unborn child. Whatever psychological coping mechanisms are employed during the process, the sight of a fetus in a hospital bedpan remains the final statement."

Back to the student nurse's testimony: "I used to find rationales, the fetus isn't real. Abdomens aren't really very swollen. It isn't alive. No more excuses... I am a member of the health profession and members of my class are now ambivalent about abortion. I now know a great deal more about what is involved in the issue. Women should perceive fully what abortion is how destructive an act it is both for themselves and their unborn child. Whatever psychological coping mechanisms are employed during the process, the sight of a fetus in a hospital bedpan remains the final statement."

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Slavery is back

Although just one tool of an effective strategy, recent legal remedies by the Kansas and Missouri legislatures to vigorously prosecute "johns and pimps" and recover victims have been laudable as both states now have average laws to address this tsunami.

The recovering of victims and the rehabilitation of the same are two different methodologies, neither of which are easy to identify or resource.

Commercial exploitation of children is a pandemic and as a Christian community we must ask what cause and effect dynamics are accelerating this phenomenon and what is our response? Moral compromise and indifference is numbing. A blush has become rare. Denial, desensitization and despair are dulling clear and steady resolve. Understanding the plight of the victims of sexual exploitation and rescuing them out of this river of hopelessness is not simple and is resource intensive. Equally we need to understand and confront the forces that are throwing these victims into the river up stream.

It was only ten years ago that a hand held apple was still an edible fruit. Emerging mobile technologies and social networking have exacerbated the availability of highly graphic and addictive sexualized images. "Sexing" has become commonplace among youth. With ever increasing bandwidth and speed, the internet with all of its good applications, has become the home of hard core illegal obscenity with 1/3 of cyber traffic being pornography. Remember the simple song "be careful little eyes what you see...?" Newly minted internet domain extensions such as .xxx affiliated and .porn have gone mainstream. The cyber wars rage, lending more prophetic weight to one of the names of the evil one as "prince of the

power of the air" Eph. 2:22

These visual sensual assaults have had the effect of shredding to our cultures moral fabric and public safety. As NYPD detective Vernon Giribeth taught, pornography is the fuel that acts as a catalyst for fantasy driven criminal behavior.

In September 2013 the Kansas City Star headlined "ONLINE ADS FUEL ILLICIT LURE," reporting KC ranking second only to Houston in percentage of men responding to sex ads, teeming with unmet demand for sex with prostitutes who advertise on the Internet, reports show that 106,624 Kansas City area men were responding to commercial sex ads each day.

Sexual immorality is nothing new. Sexual defilement within the covenant of marriage is not an obscure doctrine. The New Testament uses the word "sexual immorality" forty times and clearly commands repentance, purity and fidelity in marriage. Ancient Rome was known for sexual promiscuity yet in the face of depravity the early Christian Church upheld sexual purity central to a devout faith and community health. The Church was and should still be the voice proclaiming the beauty and virtue of procreative sex in the covenant of marriage and clearly confronting the immorality of sexual deviant behavior.

The growing scourge of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation if unabated will rapidly dismantle what is called in the law "Crimes Against the Public Morals" and "Community Standards." Let us be resolved to be the "salt and light"; for it is here at precisely this point that the battle rages and the faithfulness of the soldier tested.

Do I believe there is hope? Yes, most certainly. In spite of a reluctant prodigy, Nineveh's judgment was pronounced, yet abundant mercy was realized. There is hope. I have seen one set to flight a thousand in this battle. God is jealous for His people and His mercy is near to those who call. Pray about what you can do, and then act to protect yourself, your children, families and community from this fellowship.

Eph 5:11-17 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light; for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Whoever he watch, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

References: (1) KC Star Sep 2013 Online Ads Fuel Illicit Lure
(2) NCMEC Annual report 2012
Phillip Cosby is State Director, American Family Association of Kansas and Missouri



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is Jan. 19

How can you get your community more involved in defending the sanctity of human life? Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 19, 2014 is your perfect opportunity.

Since 1983, Americans have observed Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS) as a day to celebrate the intrinsic value of all human life. This important day also provides an opportunity for pregnancy centers to share about the work they do to bring life-affirming resources to their communities and to empower women and men to choose life for their unborn children.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is held on the Sunday in January that falls closest to the day on which the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973.

How can your church minister to women experiencing unplanned and unwanted pregnancies?

- Invite a pregnancy resource center (PRC) client to share a personal testimony during the sanctity of life Sunday morning service about how she received Christ and how it has changed her life. Ask your local PRC director to help with providing a client, unless someone in your church would share a testimony.
- Host a baby shower for a PRC. Ask the center if there are one or two clients as well as

the center director who could attend and accept the gifts on behalf of the center. Give the client(s) an opportunity to share their story.

- Invite a Sunday school class to "adopt" a woman in a crisis pregnancy who is willing to interact with the class. Shower her with love during the pregnancy, and provide her with a crib, clothes, and other items the baby will need. Mentor her throughout the pregnancy. Older women can meet with her regularly to help teach her what it means to be a mother.
- Meet with the principals of the local middle and high schools. Find out the pregnancy statistics at that school, get his suggestions on what the church could do to help change those statistics, and act on his/her suggestions.
- Host a Friday or Saturday night event for pregnancy resource center clients. Include a nursery with fun activities for children. Focus on the love of God. Make it a fun event. Show an appropriate movie, serve popcorn, or play games. An ongoing Bible Study or ministry could result.
- Start an abortion recovery bible study one night a week at the church. Inform and invite women from other churches to attend. Participants must be allowed to meet in a private room and their names remain confidential to the rest of the church. The pastor leads a memorial service at the end of the 13 week course. Only participants and their guests attend. Ask the local PRC to provide a leader for the class or train someone in your church to teach the class.
- The week prior to Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, visit the pregnancy center as a group, gather outside the center, pray for the clients' salvation and decisions for life, and pray for wisdom and protection for the staff

and volunteers. Each participant should take a pack of diapers, sizes 1-5, to help stock the center's clothes and supplies closet.

- On SOHL Sunday have displays set up in the church foyer with representatives from adoption agencies, foster care agencies, pregnancy resource centers, community social services, maternity homes and childcare agencies.
- Take a special offering, include the center in the church budget, or begin a baby bot-

te program for the local PRC, maternity home or adoption agency on SOHL Sunday.

- Host a public adoption forum with local speakers, including adoptive parents, adoptees, families that want to adopt, professionals with expertise in adoption and others who wish to attend.
- Work more information on SOHL or Pro Life resources are found at North American Mission Board, www.namb.net or Lutherans for Life, www.lutheransforlife.org

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Pro-Life Students Brave Cold Temperatures to Pray to End Abortion

Braving sub-freezing temperatures and a wind chill hovering around -2° F, dozens of high school students from across Kansas sang hymns and knelt in prayer for an end to abortion outside of the South Wind Women's Center abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas this morning.

The students were joined by Congressman Tim Huelskamp, who knelt on the icy sidewalk with them in prayer.

A smaller group of abortion supporters gathered across the clinic's driveway and shouted, blew whistles, and shook noisemakers in an effort to drown out the prayers and hymns put forth by the pro-life women. The contrast between the chaos that the abortion supporters attempted to create and the prayerful demeanor of

students and to local activists to see a U.S. Congressman as concerned about the lives of innocent children that are brutally cut short at abortion clinics like this. We applaud Congressman Huelskamp for his commitment to the pro-life cause.

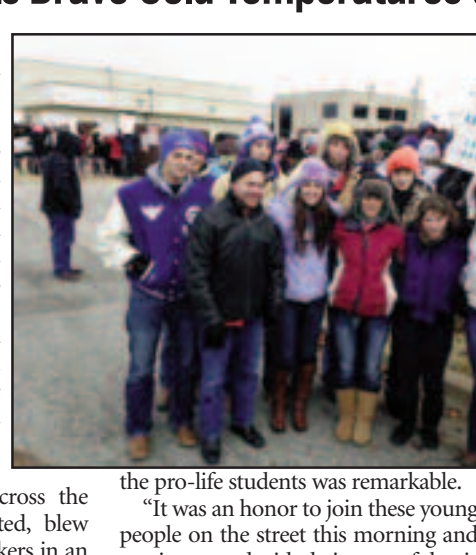
Several news reporters and cameramen covered the event, which was organized by students from St. John's Catholic High School in Beloit, Kansas, who traveled 2½ hours to Wichita to rally and pray at the abortion clinic.

High school students in states such as Nebraska, South Carolina, and Colorado are also participating in a similar Catholic School for Life rallies at abortion clinics in their home communities.

On the topic of community outcomes, it reports that Planned Parenthood offers numerous suggestions to reduce the number of abortions, none of which involves abstinence. Instead, it suggests "sex education" that begins in kindergarten.

"While many things factor into the pregnancy rate, the fact that the TPR continually declined as Planned Parenthood facilities closed – and reached its lowest point in recorded history two years after disaffiliation of the last two remaining facilities – was a significant confirmation that Planned Parenthood's presence and its 'evidence based' sex education programs are not a necessary component to reducing teen pregnancies," the report said.

The report noted that the disures happened because of "education and activism against Planned Parenthood."



TEEN PREGNANCY DROPS AS PLANNED PARENTHOOD VANISHES

New study reveals abstinence more popular without abortion industry influence

Communities looking to reduce their teen pregnancy rates perhaps should consider one move before all the others: closing down any Planned Parenthood business.

This is because a new study of one region of the country shows that as Planned Parenthood operations shut down and moved out, the teen pregnancy rate plunged by almost half.

The study comes from the pro-life American Life League, but it uses government figures to reach its conclusions. It analyzed one section of the nation – the Texas panhandle region – where over the course of several years 19 Planned Parenthood businesses closed or left.

The result? Teen pregnancies dropped from 43.6 per 1,000 girls to 24.1 among a stable population of about 13,000 teen girls aged 13-17.

"People don't realize that Planned Parenthood must work hard to replace

the 43 percent of its customers it loses each year," said Rita Diller, national director of ALL'S STOPP International project. "It normally does this by promoting sexual promiscuity to teens. This study suggests that when Planned Parenthood leaves, teens are more likely to embrace chastity."

She continued: "We know that the pro-abortion first-response will be 'consider the source.' But the American Life League is not the source; the source is the official records of 16 counties within the Texas panhandle. From 1994 through 2010, Planned Parenthood facilities in these counties went from 19

to zero. In the same period, the teen pregnancy rate dropped almost in half, from 43.76 per 1,000 to 24.1 per 1,000. ... Those aren't our numbers; those are government numbers."

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U.S. Abortions on the Decline, CDC says

(WNS) - From 2001 to 2010, the number of reported legal abortions in the United States fell by 9 percent. The number of teenagers getting abortions dropped most significantly, probably due in part to the overall drop in teenage pregnancies. For that 10-year period, the abortion rate among teenagers fell about 30 percent. The number of abortions in New York City alone remains incredibly high: 83,750 in 2010. That amounts to 694 abortions for every 1,000 live births. Other city health reports have shown that almost 40 percent of pregnancies in New York end in abortion. Most shocking in the CDC's New York numbers: 82 percent of abortions in the city were performed on African-American or Hispanic women.

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