

# Lifespan *news*

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May, June 1995



## Congratulations 1995 Mother of the Year *Margaret Williams*

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, we are honoring our 1995 Mother of the Year, Margaret Williams. She and her husband, John, live in Farmington Hills and attend St. Gerald Church. Margaret was nominated by her daughter, Wendy Acree. We want to thank the judges who had the difficult task of selecting our Mother of the Year from among so many deserving nominations. Printed below is Wendy's nomination letter.

I am sure if you had enough time to read them, our family could come up with thousands upon thousands of reasons we would love to see our Mother honored as "Mother of the Year." I will do my best to condense them for your consideration.

My mother and father have eleven children, each single births, approximately 14 months apart. Ranging in age from 22 to 37, four boys and seven girls. They also have eleven grandchildren, seven boys and four girls, ranging in ages from 14 to 6 months.

One of the most remarkable things about my mom that most people, even those outside the family, notice first is her smile...and it's almost always there even during a crisis. It can brighten the worst of circumstances, and many times it has...it's really beautiful.

Our mother is truly remarkable, not only as a "mom," but any undertaking she pursues flourishes.

She did not work outside the home until each of her eleven children were old enough to attend school. Until that point, she focused her attentions on giving each of us some of our fondest memories. Each week she would plan some special trip for us, fun and educational, such as: Greenfield Village, Henry Ford Museum, General Motors Proving Ground, Kellogg's, etc. I can't imagine packing all of us up, let alone spending the day with many times eight of us, maintain her sanity and smile all the while.

We hand painted sheets and pillow cases, made plaster molds, dried leaves, collected rocks and shells, made Ukrainian Easter eggs, handmade candles and candy, you name it, whatever our mother was interested in, however diversified, soon became a family project for all of us!

On her own she also pursued other special interest such as: building a couch, henceforth, referred to as "The Couch," gardening, shelves in our music room, making homemade root beer, wine and yogurt, interior decorating—remodeling every room of our 13-room farm house at least once, sewing, ceramics, macrame, canning pickles, fruit and vegetables, her energy is unbelievable!

*continued on page 4*

# NEWS NOTES

## Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the largest provider and promoter of abortion in the United States, has announced a \$750 million fund-raising drive to increase the number of its clinics from 1,000 to 2,000. The drive will be launched in 1995 and is expected to meet its goal by the year 2000. The organization's director of development, Bob Bason, said that some of the money would be used to open clinics in Russia, South America and Africa.

—*International Right to Life Federation, Winter 1994/1995*

## Fired for pro-life button

DeAnn Supple was fired in August 1994 from Dave's Surefine grocery store in Manchester, Iowa for wearing a pro-life button. Her employer had demanded that she remove the button with a depiction of a live 17-week-old unborn child in its mother's womb, but Supple refused because she had made a religious vow to wear the button in support of the sanctity of human life.

To compound her trouble, she was denied unemployment benefits by a Job Service of Iowa representative. The Virginia-based Rutherford Institute took her case and asked for a hearing before Administrative Law Judge Thomas Rowe. He also denied Supple unemployment benefits, labeling her action as "misconduct."

Rutherford then asked the Iowa Employment Appeal Board to consider Supple's request. "The appeal board ruled in Supple's favor, resting its decision squarely on Supple's First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion," said Rutherford attorney Dean Whitford.

—*Christian American, March 1995*

## Law upheld

In a landmark opinion, the U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit, upheld the state of Washington's law forbidding assisted suicide (euthanasia). That law had been

passed by that state's legislature and upheld by a statewide referendum. It had been struck down by a district court judge who used earlier decisions on abortion to create, for the first time, a constitutional right to be killed by a doctor.

Writing for the majority, Judge John Noonan totally rejected the district court's opinion, and went on to establish a strong precedent. He ruled that the earlier court decision "lacked foundation in recent precedents and in the traditions of our nation." Judge Noonan reaffirmed the state's interest in "the protection and preservation of human life... That includes protecting the poor and minorities from exploitation." The court also noted a keen interest in "not having physicians in the role of killers of their patients." Noting that such laws would exert psychological pressure on the elderly to consent to their own death, and that the state must maintain a specific interest "in protecting all of the handicapped from social indifference and antipathy."

—*Right to Life Educational Foundation April 1995*

## Who's kidding whom?

Abortionist Elizabeth Karlin wrote in the *New York Times Magazine*: "I don't do abortions because it's a filthy job and somebody has to do it. I do them because it is the most challenging medicine I can think of. I provide women with nurturing, preventive care to counteract a violent religious and political environment... There is only one reason I've every heard for having an abortion: the desire to be a good mother."

—*American Life League Communique April 7, 1995*

## Heroine

When three months pregnant, Clementina Geraci learned that her breast cancer, diagnosed a year earlier, had spread, although it had apparently been eradicated by surgery and chemo-

therapy. She was told that if she was going to fight this cancer aggressively, she would have to have an abortion. She chose to carry her baby to term, and Dylan Geraci Winn was born in November 1994. Clementina passed away on March 6 at age 34. May her soul rest in peace.

—*American Life League Communique April 7, 1995*

## Abortion ruling

In a break with other federal courts, a judge in Wisconsin struck down a portion of the 1994 federal abortion-clinic-access law (FACE). Judge Rudolph Randa said a section of the law that bans nonviolent physical obstruction of clinics is unconstitutional. The ruling is likely to be appealed.

—*TIME, March 27, 1995*

## Retraction demanded

Providence Hospital, a Catholic hospital in Southfield, operated by the Daughters of Charity, has demanded that *Crain's Detroit Business* publish a retraction for reporting that the hospital would send its ob-gyn residents to neighboring hospitals for abortion training to maintain its ob-gyn accreditation.

After the story appeared in the February 20, 1995 issue of the Detroit business newspaper, Providence Hospital asked *Crain's* to retract the story, saying it would never permit its residents to be trained in abortion. Brian Connolly, president of Providence, said in a prepared statement: "Providence Hospital does not now, has not, and will not train or provide training for its residents to do elective abortions. The ruling by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education will not change the fact that all obstetrical procedures performed at Providence are and will continue to be performed within the guidelines set out in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services."

—*The Wanderer, March 2, 1995*

# Pope Proclaims "Gospel of Life"

By Richard M. Doerflinger

Pope John Paul II published his 11th papal encyclical on March 30, urging opposition to a "culture of death" reflected in contemporary trends on abortion, euthanasia, human experimentation and capital punishment. Parts of the 194-page document seemed directly relevant to Oregon's law on assisted suicide.

The encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae* ("The Gospel of Life"), declares that the inviolability of human life at all stages is at the heart of the Christian message—in short, that "the Gospel of life" is "an integral part of that Gospel which is Jesus Christ himself" (§78). It solemnly reaffirms Catholic teaching against the direct killing of innocent human beings, abortion and euthanasia (§§57, 62, 65).

But the pope also challenges developing societies which see legalized abortion and euthanasia as victories for individual freedom. In a passage with clear application to the approval of euthanasia laws in the Netherlands and Oregon, he laments cases where "the original and inalienable right to life is questioned or denied on the basis of a parliamentary vote or the will of one part of the people—even if it is the majority."

When personal autonomy becomes an end in itself without regard for "the inviolable dignity of the person," he argues, even democracy "effectively moves toward a form of totalitarianism. The state is no longer the 'common home' where all can live together on the basis of principles of fundamental equality, but is transformed into a tyrant state which arrogates to itself the right to dispose of the life of the weakest and most defenseless members, from the unborn child to the elderly, in the name of a public interest which is really nothing but the interest of one part." In such cases, "the appearance of the strictest respect for legality is maintained, at least when the laws permitting abortion and euthanasia are the result of a ballot in accordance with what are generally seen as the rules of democracy. Really, what we have here is only the tragic caricature of legality; the democratic ideal, which is only truly such when it acknowledges and safeguards the dignity of every human person, is betrayed in its very foundations" (§20).

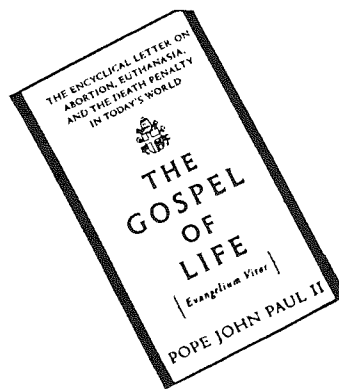
Decrying an "ethical relativism" which celebrates deadly choices like euthanasia so

long as they are approved by popular vote, John Paul II poses a question: "Everyone's conscience rightly rejects those crimes against humanity of which our century has had such sad experience. But would these crimes cease to be crimes if, instead of being committed by unscrupulous tyrants, they were legitimated by popular consensus?" (§70).

Some Oregonians have expressed frustration that a ballot measure approved in November by 51% of the state's voters is now tied up in federal court, due to claims that the measure neglects constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection for defenseless people with severe disabilities and terminal illnesses. Pope John Paul II provides an extended moral argument as to why popularly approved measures should be subjected to such impartial review in light of principles of justice.

"Democracy cannot be idolized to the point of making it a substitute for morality or a panacea for immorality," he argues. "Fundamentally, democracy is a 'system' and as such is a means and not an end. Its 'moral' value is not automatic, but depends on conformity to the moral law to which it, like every other form of human behavior, must be subject: In other words, its morality depends on the morality of the ends which it pursues and of the means which it employs. ...Even in participatory systems of government, the regulation of interests often occurs to the advantage of the most powerful, since they are the ones most capable of maneuvering not only the levers of power but also of shaping the formation of consensus. In such a situation, democracy easily becomes an empty word (Id.).

—*Life at Risk, A Chronicle of Euthanasia Trends in America*, April, 1995  
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Mr. Doerflinger is associate director for policy development at the Secretariat for Pro-life Activities, National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

See page 12 for more excerpts from *Evangelium Vitae* on euthanasia.

## Mother of the Year

*continued from page 1*

It was sometime around having the eighth child, my mom and dad located "her" dream house in Farmington Hills. A 13-room farm house with six bedrooms! My mom prayed about this house every day for a full year until we eventually moved in. It sold twice to other parties only to fall through just prior to closing both times. We refer to this as my "Mom's House Miracle." There were many other miracles to follow, but this was one of her greater works due to prayer.

During our school years I don't ever recall her being upset over grades, etc. As long as she was assured we were doing the best we possibly could she was happy with us. She always promoted education and reading...which in turn led to mom's first job outside the home.

This always amazes me, my mom sold encyclopedias for World Book and Childcraft and did it so well she worked her way up to being one of the best division managers in the country...selling encyclopedias! We benefited greatly from her new found career as a family, new microwave, TVs, VCR, bike, watches, etc., also many family trips.

My mother has always been a very optimistic person in the most difficult of situations. This is something I feel myself and brothers and sisters have truly benefited from inside the family, but it is also what makes her so dynamic in her career. During her years with World Book she was asked to speak publicly on many occasions and received several top company awards throughout the 18 years she worked with them. I think they recognized the same thing our family always knew, she's great!

Both of my parents are really patient, easy-going people. I can't count the number of children/young adults my parents have raised along with their own children. I would be hard pressed to think of a time when one of us had not brought home a friend who was not getting along with their parents, or just had no place else to go, they all seemed to gravitate to our house: Arlene,

Stacey, Lisa, Jeremy, Rose, and Dan, just to name a few, not to mention relatives between homes, etc. And every one of them was treated like one of the family. Just as a side note to show how comfortable they were made to feel, one of my older sister's friends moved in after my sister had married and moved out; she stayed with us for close to a year!

One of the most touching things I've ever watched my mother go through was the care of her dying mother, who died in August of 1993, from cancer. My mother cleared a room out and moved her into our house to better care for her. She prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner, cleaned and cared for her with such love, and again patience. My grandmother had a great independent spirit that sometimes could be difficult to deal with, but my mother always managed to finesse her way through the toughest of situations with a great deal of grace. One morning my mom prepared Nana a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast, it wasn't what she wanted to eat, so my mom prepared her toast and jelly. That isn't what she wanted either—this went on until she landed a basted egg, at which time I, with an average level of patience, was ready to scream, my mother helped her eat and kept smiling the whole time. I'll never forget this. I don't think Nana did either, because her daughter's name "Margaret" was her last word, and the last person she saw, who held her when she died...my mom.

She also cared for my father's mom until she passed away the next year from Alzheimer's. She bathed her, ran groceries over to her and kept her company. The day my grandmother died, my mother was out of town preparing to receive a large company honor on stage in gratitude for her years of service and a retirement party...she never did get to attend, she flew home.

There is nothing I can imagine she would not do or sacrifice for one of us, she has proven it time and time again. We hope this qualifies her for Mother of the Year and even if not, she always will be to us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

—Wendy Acree,  
on behalf of the Williams Family

## Mother's Day Dinner

Our annual Mother's Day Dinner on May 9 was an outstanding success. Four hundred fifty pro-lifers gathered at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills to hear Jean Garton and honor our 1995 Mother of the Year, Margaret Williams.

Joe Wade Formicola, of WXYT Radio, our Master of Ceremonies, kept the program running smoothly. We were blessed with the prayers of Bishop Kevin Britt, Archdiocese of Detroit, and Rev. Ray Scherbarth, Pastor of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Birmingham. Thanks also goes to Lesley Melville who provided the dinner music, our soloist, Sharon Klein PUNCHES, and Judy Vigliotti, our photographer.

Margaret Williams, our 1995 Mother of the Year, and her husband, John, were honored guests at the dinner. She was awarded a plaque, a dozen roses and a \$100 gift certificate to J.C. Penney's.

For providing all our guests with a relaxed and delightful evening, we thank Kay Browne and her hostesses and the Mother's Day Dinner Committee.



The sixth annual LIFE CHAIN of Metro Detroit will be held on Sunday, October 1, 1995, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Right to Life-Lifespan will be co-sponsoring the event this year with WMUZ Radio.

Thousands of people will again line the sidewalks of Woodward Avenue from 7 to 13 Mile Roads, holding standardized, pre-printed signs with pro-life slogans. Our local LIFE CHAIN is held in conjunction with National Life Chain Sunday.

Last year 7500 people from over 200 churches participated in this peaceful, prayerful event. Fifty-three churches have already pre-registered for this year's LIFE CHAIN.

If your church or organization is planning on attending, please call (313) 533-9090 for a registration form. Individuals are also welcome.

## Evangelium Vitae

*continued from back page*

consciousness and a shortening of life, "if no other means exist, and if, in the given circumstances, this does not prevent the carrying out of other religious and moral duties." In such a case, death is not willed or sought, even though for reasonable motives one runs the risk of it: There is simply a desire to ease pain effectively by using the analgesics which medicine provides...

Taking into account these distinctions, in harmony with the magisterium of my predecessors and in communion with the bishops of the Catholic Church, I confirm that euthanasia is a grave violation of the law of God, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person. This doctrine is based upon the natural law and upon the written word of God, is transmitted by the church's tradition and taught by the ordinary and universal magisterium. Depending on the circumstances, this practice involves the malice proper to suicide or murder.

(66) Suicide is always as morally objectionable as murder. The church's tradition has always rejected it as a gravely evil choice. Even though a certain psychological, cultural and social conditioning may induce a person to carry out an action which so radically contradicts the innate inclination to life, thus lessening or removing subjective responsibility, suicide, when viewed objectively, is a gravely immoral act. In fact, it involves the rejection of love of self and the renunciation of the obligation of justice and charity toward one's neighbor, toward the communities to which one belongs and toward society as a whole. In its deepest reality, suicide represents a rejection of God's absolute sovereignty over life and death as proclaimed in the prayer of the ancient sage of Israel: "You have power over life and death; you lead men down to the gates of Hades and back again" (Wis. 16:13; cf. Tb. 13:2).

To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called "assisted suicide" means to cooperate in and at times to be the actual perpetrator

of an injustice which can never be excused even if it is requested...Even when not motivated by a selfish refusal to be burdened with the life of someone who is suffering, euthanasia must be called a false mercy and indeed a disturbing "perversion" of mercy. True "compassion" leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear. Moreover, the act of euthanasia appears all the more perverse if it is carried out by those, like relatives, who are supposed to treat a family member with patience and love, or by those such as doctors, who by virtue of their specific profession are supposed to care for the sick person even in the most painful terminal stages.

The choice of euthanasia becomes more serious when it takes the form of a murder committed by others on a person who has in no way requested it and who has never consented to it. The height of arbitrariness and injustice is reached when certain people such as physicians or legislators arrogate to themselves the power to decide who ought to live and who ought to die. Once again we find ourselves before the temptation of Eden: to become like God, who "knows good and evil" (cf. Gn. 3:5). God alone has the power over life and death: "It is I who bring both death and life" (Dt. 32:39; cf. 2 Kgs. 5:7; 1 Sm. 2:6). But he only exercises this power in accordance with a plan of wisdom and love. When man usurps this power, being enslaved by a foolish and selfish way of thinking, he inevitably uses it for injustice and death. Thus the life of the person who is weak is put into the hands of the one who is strong; in society the sense of justice is lost, and mutual trust, the basis of every authentic interpersonal relationship, is undermined at its root.

(67) Quite different from this is the way of love and true mercy, which our common humanity calls for and upon which faith in Christ the Redeemer, who died and rose again, sheds ever new light. The request which arises from the human heart in the supreme confrontation with suffering and death, especially when faced with the temptation to give up in utter desperation, is above all a request for companionship, sympathy and support in the time of trial. [*Evangelium Vitae*, §§64-67]

## Speakers' Workshop

It's here! In response to a great demand, the Educational Center for Life and Oakland County Chapter of Lifespan are sponsoring a tri-countywide Speakers' Workshop.

The workshop will cover the following topics: How to give a pro-life presentation, the Lifespan story, abortion, teen chastity and euthanasia. We have had many requests for training covering all of these topics.

This is your chance to learn how to educate people about life issues, whether speaking one-to-one or to a large group. Please mark this date on your calendar: **Saturday, June 17, 1995 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The workshop will be held at **St. Mary's School in Royal Oak**, a convenient and central location for all of us.

Some of our best speakers will be present to teach the ropes, as well as some excellent training tapes.

Call Linda at the Educational Center for Life at (810) 816-8489 to register.

### 25th Anniversary

Right to Life - Lifespan formerly known as People Taking Action Against Abortion (PTAAA), was founded on an icy night in November 1970. Join us in recognizing the unselfish dedication and service of those who have worked to promote and restore the Right to Life.

If you have any photos, clippings or memorabilia from these 25 years, may we please borrow them? Watch your newsletter for more details or call (313) 533-9090 for more information.

## Calendar of Events

Speakers' Workshop ..... June 17  
Father's Day ..... June 18  
NRL Convention .... June 29, 30, July 1  
Wayne West/DR Bowling ..... July 30  
Oakland Bowling ..... August 19  
Wayne County Fair ..... July 25-30  
State Fair ..... August 22-September 4  
LIFE CHAIN ..... October 1  
Legislative Breakfast ..... November 4  
Detroit Rally ..... January 21, 1996  
Baby Shower ..... March 10, 1996  
Mother's Day Dinner ..... May 7, 1996



# Chapter

detroit

## Office hours

MWF 10-2; TTh Closed  
Carol Smith, Chairman  
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

## Baby Showers

We would like to thank Assumption Grotto, St. Scholastica and St. Clare of Montefalco churches for hosting showers in our 6th annual Baby Shower for area crisis pregnancy centers.

Many beautiful gifts were received; many women were grateful for this help in bringing their precious children into the world.

Regina Teens for Life again came through with luscious baked goods and help in sorting.

## Bouquets of thanks

Our annual Mother's Day silk rose sale was a great success. We wish to extend our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to all our church volunteers. Because of your kindness and generosity, we are able to continue in our efforts to protect all life—born and unborn. A special thanks to Betty and Archie Queen who are our rose coordinators and who use their basement for storage. May God continue to bless you for all that you do for His children!

## Garage sales?

Summer is a time for garage sales. Are you up to your neck in clutter after your spring cleaning? Why not use that unwanted junk and turn it into someone else's treasure and at the same time help save lives by donating your proceeds to the Detroit Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan. Get your friends, neighbors and, possibly, church involved. Let us know about it a month in advance, and we can publish it in our *Lifespan News* notes. Call (313) 874-0432.

### Detroit Chapter

5930 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202-3516  
(313) 874-0432

## Office hours

M, Th, F 9-3; T, W 1-7  
Diane Fagelman, Chairman  
Theresa Koehler, Ofc. Mgr.  
Mary Murphy, Adm. Asst.  
Clare Schneider, Secretary

## Flowers and candy

Our Mother's Day flower fundraiser was very successful this year. We sold over 7000 flowers! Thank you to all the volunteers and church representatives who worked so hard cutting tags and ribbons and selling.

If your church is interested in selling candy bars for Father's Day, please call Clare at (810) 816-1546 to place your order.

## Fairs, festivals

The Oakland Chapter is beginning a series of educational programs this summer. We want to be out in the community each month, presenting life issues at local city, school and church festivals, fairs and picnics. We will come to churches, community centers, libraries,

schools, small groups, large groups. We want to EDUCATE. We need your help to schedule and publicize these events. If you can schedule an event, or want to learn how to speak (see information on Speakers' Workshop, p. 5), please call Theresa or Mary at (810) 816-1546.

## Bowl for Life

The Oakland Chapter is having its first Bowl-for-Life-A-Thon on Saturday, August 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Clawson-Troy Elks on Big Beaver between Rochester Road and John R. This is a great late summer family or group activity. If you would like to bowl or get any of your church groups involved, please call Theresa at (810) 816-1546. We still need committee members to help with this project; please consider getting involved.

## Be a "Cross Bearer"

There is a nationwide effort by churches and schools to visually demonstrate the number of abortions daily in the U.S. by placing thousands of crosses on their lawns.

Our Chapter is attempting to raise \$6,000 to purchase a quality set of plastic crosses for use throughout the metro area.

Thank you to the following "Cross Bearers" so far: Monica Bandemer, Mary Hoover, Anne Laporte, Cam Lidey, Florence and Edson MacDonald, Theresa McCall, Charles Rivetto, Cynthia Yanik, and Lorraine and Russell Mabry.

The Cross Project is still welcoming committee members and will need a place to store the crosses once they are purchased.

We invite you to be a "cross bearer" by sending your donation to: **Right to Life - Lifespan, Oakland County Chapter, 1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084.** For more information on the Cross Project, please call (810) 816-1546.

## Computer whiz needed

If you have word processing or data entry experience, call us; we need you!

## RU-486

Consumer boycott postcards are now available. Call Clare at (810) 816-1546 to place an order for yourself or your church.

### Oakland County Chapter

Coventry Place  
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G  
Troy, MI 48084-3540  
(810) 816-1546

oakland

# News

## Office hours

M-Th 10-4

Patricia Holscher, Chairman  
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

## 13th Annual Bowling for Life

The Wayne County West/Downriver Chapter has reserved bowling lanes at Woodland Lanes, Livonia, for Sunday, July 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. for our 13th Annual Bowling for Life FUNdraiser. By collecting pledges, you are eligible to bowl 3 GAMES FREE and WIN SAVINGS BONDS.

You don't have to be a good bowler to participate because sponsors can pledge you by pin or by a set amount of money per game. Don't be shy. Over



the years, it's been proven that friends, teachers,

neighbors, family and Lifespan members are usually happy to make a pledge to benefit Lifespan. (We regret that donations are not tax-deductible.)

GRAND PRIZES for the most pledged money collected are:

- 1st prize...\$200 bond
- 2nd prize...\$100 bond
- 3rd prize...\$75 bond
- 4th prize...\$50 bond
- 5th prize...\$50 bond

ADDITIONAL PRIZES: High game scores (with handicaps) for Men, Women and Children...\$100 bond in each category. High series score including Men, Women and Children (with handicaps)...\$100 bond.

To be eligible for any of the above prizes, at least \$50 in pledge money must be turned into our office no later than Monday, August 28, 1995. A gold electroplated feet pin will also be awarded to all who have \$50 in collected pledges.

All Lifespan bowlers will be awarded a gift certificate to an area restaurant, bowling establishment, theater or Christian book store.

Call Lifespan (313) 422-6230, Marie (313) 728-5856, Amy (313) 274-1435 for further information and pledge sheets. See you on July 30th!

—Marie Gonzales  
Bowling Chairman '95

## Mother's Day Dinner

Wasn't the dinner super? Jean Garton was so good and challenged each of us to increase our efforts to protect the threatened lives of unborn babies, the handicapped and the elderly. It was great seeing so many new and old friends. The feeling of fellowship and love permeated the room filled with pro-lifers who shared a common bond, the protection of innocent fellow human beings. Won't you join us in our pledge to exhilarate our lobbying and educational activities to restore protection and dignity for all Life, born and unborn. Call to see how you can help.

## In appreciation

Our Mother's Day Rose Tribute was very successful. 18,000 silk roses tagged, "Thanks, Mom, for Life" were distributed in area churches and schools by our church representatives and volunteers. Our thanks to all of you who helped in making it possible for family members to honor their mothers and loved ones on their "special day" with a single rose, the symbol of the Right to Life Movement.

Wayne County, West and Downriver Chapter  
27578 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150-2203  
(313) 422-6230



Educational  
Center for Life

## Office Hours

M, T, Th, F 10-3

Phyllis Sullivan, Director  
Linda Seng, Office Manager

Educational Center for Life (ECL) has never been busier. The word is out—ECL Knows the Facts of Life. Chastity is in, and we are the experts in teaching and promoting it. In the first quarter of this year, alone, we have distributed nearly one hundred Molly Kelly videos and packets to curriculum advisors, health educators, teachers, counselors, priests and ministers.

On Friday, March 31, ECL ran a booth at the Crisis Pregnancy Center Training Session in Livonia.

We also held a booth at the Abstinence Education Conference for Public School Officials and Youth Workers, in Lansing on April 3.

We have been busy in the schools these past few months. On April 3, Diane Trombley spoke to Our Lady of Sorrows school, and on May 26, she spoke to St. Hugo's eighth grade.

ECL distributed materials at the Youth 2000 Conference at Marian High School on May 5-7.

Our materials were very popular at all events. Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped us at these educational booths.

All of this places huge demands on our budget; if possible, please respond to our current need with a tax-deductible donation. You will be saying "yes" to life, and you will be part of restoring some sound moral values to our country.

## Remembrances

In memory of Carol Baker, requested by Elizabeth C. Bachmann, Marjorie C. Jewell and Betty J. Holmes.

Educational Center For Life  
Coventry Place  
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G  
Troy, MI 48084-3540  
(810) 816-8489



# Legislative



# Update



could hypothetically build up a permanent intolerance for any and all of her unborn children.

You can contact the following Congressmen and request that they hold hearings to examine the risks of RU-486:

**Rep. Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.**  
Chairman, House Commerce Committee  
and

**Rep. Michael Bilirakis**  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health & Environment  
House Commerce Committee

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 224-3121

## Welfare Reform

Welfare reform in general is not a pro-life issue. But pro-lifers need to pay attention to welfare reform because it may kill thousands of babies.

The danger to unborn children is occurring through welfare changes that deny Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) assistance for babies born to unmarried mothers under 18 and, secondly, that require a "family cap" denying AFDC assistance for children born to mothers who are receiving AFDC for an older child. Almost 50% of AFDC recipients live in states that fund abortion on demand with state dollars. Thus, live children will not be funded, but abortions will be free.

Lifespan does not have an official policy statement on the "teen mother's child exclusion" and the "family cap

child exclusion." Some of our members support the current system of welfare and others support thorough reform. Pro-family leaders hope that the government will cut off payments to unmarried teenage mothers—thereby discouraging illegitimacy. But almost all agree that welfare reform will trigger a rise in abortions.

According to Denise Cocciollone, head of National Life Center, Inc., targeting these special classes of children for denial of aid will increase abortions. The typical client of a crisis pregnancy center is unmarried, young and has no idea how to financially care for a newborn child. Often the boyfriend, other friends, and sometimes the parents, are pressuring her to have an abortion. "Directing these girls to available alternatives is a major part of our effort to save lives. If direct aid for these children is cut off then many more unborn babies will die," she asserted.

The teen mother's child exclusion and family cap child exclusion are being opposed by National Right to Life, pro-life leaders in Congress, the U.S. Catholic Conference and Catholic Charities USA. Helen Alvare, public information director of USCC's Pro-Life Secretariat, said, "There is no justification for depriving some children of their lives now...in the hope of some possible future gain."

Pro-life champion John Cardinal O'Connor of New York is vocal in his opposition as well.

The House has already passed welfare reform legislation containing these two provisions. Several Senate committees are now working on their version of the bill.

No matter what you think about welfare or welfare reform, consider the fact that even one abortion is too many.

For more information, call Lifespan's Main Office at (313) 533-9090.



## Tips on writing to your legislator

1. Address the envelope and official properly.
2. Include your own address.
3. Be brief and to the point (one subject per letter).
4. Be factual - Be informed.
5. Try to include bill numbers and popular names - if possible.
6. Don't be rude or threatening.
7. Be persistent - expect a form response. If you're unsatisfied, reply to the form letter and ask for a more specific response.
8. Thank your officials when you approve of their actions.

## Correction

In the March, April 1995 issue of *Lifespan News*, readers were asked to write letters to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education opposing their pro-abortion mandate that every ob-gyn residency training program in the country must include induced abortion training.

The address was listed incorrectly. The correct address is:

**John C. Gienapp, Ph.D.**  
ACGME Executive Director  
515 N. State St., Suite 2000  
Chicago, IL 60610

# FIVE UNBORN CHILDREN OF GOD

## RIGHT TO LIFE

### 1980

**F**ifteen years ago, the bodies of five fetuses were found in Oakland County. Those responsible stated the bodies were mistakenly placed where they were found. Regardless of how the infants met their deaths, it was felt that their humanity should be recognized and burial be provided.

Through the courtesy of A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Directors and White Chapel Cemetery, the tiny bodies were laid to rest in a brief and simple ceremony on May 2, 1980.

The following reflection was written by Paula Ervin after the service...

The plot of ground had been donated by Memorial Park, and the casket had been donated by the funeral home in a silent gesture of compassion for the nameless human beings who were being interred there together. One was an eight-month "preemie," found in a plastic container outside a doctor's office. Four were declared by the coroner to be of "five-month's gestation or less" and were found in a storage locker—all in Oakland County. The police had said carefully that it appeared "no crime had been committed."

Ten silent women gathered at the site with two clergymen—one a Catholic priest, one a Lutheran minister. One of the women held a lively two-year-old in her arms. The priest remarked that he had always thought life was a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved, though it was plain to see some people thought they had solved a problem this way. He reminded the small assembly that they must not judge, but rather pray and work for something better. He led in the Lord's prayer, also asking, in the ancient words, for "eternal rest" and "perpetual light" to shine upon them.



The minister referred to the tiny dead as "unknown children" relating them by inference to the unknown soldiers whose lives are memorialized by a national tomb and honor guards. He said that these too were victims of a war, but they were not the only victims. There is always more than one, he said. The mothers and fathers who had willed them to die were even sadder and more needful of our prayers. Several of the women wept—some in

gratitude for the adopted children who had conferred motherhood on them. One wept in remembrance of the life she had brought into the world on that very day several years ago but who had lived three days and died. One wept out of gratitude for the strong happy son whose birthday was that day.

When the minister finished, one of the women suggested a hymn, and they sang "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." The voices rose uncertainly in the soft air and some weren't sure of the words, but a couple were strong sopranos and they carried the rest along. As they sang, each passed by the small white casket and laid on its lid a single red rose—symbol of life.

It was a sunny joyous morning, fragrant with spring; white clouds floated in a bright blue sky. Somewhere a bird sang bravely. And the little group went to their waiting cars leaving the white casket on its green carpet of grass with the bright flowers on its lid. And it was quite alone...

*Paula Ervin, author of "Women Exploited—the other victims of abortion," is a board member of Right to Life - Lifespan, Church Representative Coordinator and Committee of Correspondence Chairman.*

## "Adopt a Billboard"

Over the last several years, millions of metro Detroiters have seen Lifespan's pro-life messages on billboards and buses and in 1994 heard it on the radio. This annual educational project has been very successful in telling the truth about abortion and offering loving alternatives.

This year's billboard campaign consists of having a rotary bulletin positioned on metro Detroit's main arteries. It will move to a new location every sixty days. This gives us six different locations during a one-year period. This plan enables Lifespan to reach a large target audience. The total cost of this year's project is \$36,500. Will you, your family, church or organization "Adopt the Billboard" for a day for only \$100, or a week for \$700? But you can help by making a donation in any amount. Won't you also help us pick the billboard slogan? Below are some suggestions, or fill in your own favorite. For information, call (313) 533-9090. Please send your contribution to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152. Donations are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ Every Third Baby Dies From Choice
- ☐ Abortion Stops a Beating Heart
- ☐ Abortion—The Choice That Kills
- ☐ Adoption—A Life-Giving Option
- ☐ The Greatest Destroyer of Love & Peace is Abortion
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation to Lifespan's Billboard Campaign  
 "Adopt for a day" \_\_\_\_\_ "Adopt for a week" \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



More precious than a priceless painting, more beautiful than a breathtaking sunset—the image of a mother cradling her baby in her loving arms. Our Wee Care mothers provide the loving arms, and you special people, provide the clean, soft clothing that enfolds their infants.

I hope that you have all had a wonderful Mother's Day and that every day is filled with the love, security, contentment and happiness like that found in a mother's arms.

Please, don't forget our babies during these beautiful spring days. We desperately need new and "gently-used" clothing (especially size newborn to 6 mos.), receiving blankets and plastic baby bath tubs. Thank you!

—Karen Patrosso, Director, Wee Care  
A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan  
(313) 533-2727

## Bill Knapp's Coupons

We have just redeemed 59,000 Community Support coupon points for a display board for the Oakland County Chapter. Our next project, for which we have already accumulated approximately 30,000 points, will be an extension piece for our display boards so that they will be self-supporting.

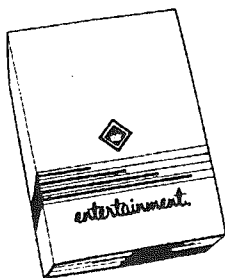
Many thanks to the following donors of coupons in the past two months:

Kacher, Pernak, Smith, Konopka, O'Connell, Renaud, Cousino, Kamrath, Condon-Duncanson, St. Maurice Parish, Veit, Kwiatkowski, Queen, Bosley, Gill, Majewski, Bergmooser, Mizyboriski, Reuter, Rodge, Lucas, Bleecker, Sudeck, St. Linus Seniors, Freda, Tschirhart, Hall, Lupo, Langan, Wilhelm, Doyle,

Dreslinski, Jenuwine, Pawlowski, Albert, Dell'Eva, Martinuzzi, Kleinbrook, Spas, Grougan, Nye, Sterbenz, Whalen, Murphy, Dattilo, Church, Konti, Purcell, St. Sabina Queenship of Mary Guild, Sands, Barylski, St. Perpetua Church, Kournoian, Astalos, McLaughlin, McCarthy, Kubik.

When you present your check to the cashier at any Bill Knapp's Restaurant, ask for a Community Support Coupon. Please send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152. Thank you!

## entertainment'96



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Detroit Chapter (313) 874-0432  
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Wayne West/Downriver Chapter  
(313) 422-6230

## Remembrances

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide.

A bequest in your will to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died. A memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased.

Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

- In honor of Penni LaBute, requested by Delores J. Beitz.
- In memory of Gerard Marks, requested by Michelle K. Garms.
- In memory of Eleanor Hesch, requested by John and Margaret Grossa.
- In memory of Rev. Walter Markowicz, requested by Clare Schneider.
- In memory of Ellen Kirn, requested by Lynd and Joanne Allen.
- In memory of Joseph Lupo, requested by Bob and Pat Holscher, Archie and Betty Queen.
- In memory of George Kolbe, requested by St. Aquinas Athletic Association.
- In memory of Joan Jann, requested by Pat Holscher and Linda Kournoian.

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President/Editor - Ann Sands

Desktop Publisher - Marge Bradley

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MAIN OFFICE

28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127

Livonia, MI 48152-3736

(313) 533-9090



## Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

Right to Life - Lifespan believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly pledge	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Member	\$ 7.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$100 & above)	\$ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach at the dotted line and return to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.  
Donations are not tax-deductible.

# Pope John Paul II on Euthanasia

## Excerpts from the Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*

*Editor's Note: The numbers refer to the section numbers in the encyclical itself.*

(64) Today, as a result of advances in medicine and in a cultural context frequently closed to the transcendent, the experience of dying is marked by new features. When the prevailing tendency is to value life only to the extent that it brings pleasure and well-being, suffering seems like an unbearable setback, something from which one must be freed at all costs. Death is considered "senseless" if it suddenly interrupts a life still open to a future of new and interesting experiences. But it becomes a "rightful liberation" once life is held to be no longer meaningful because it is filled with pain and inexorably doomed to even greater suffering. Furthermore, when he denies or neglects his fundamental relationship to God, man thinks he is his own rule and measure, with the right to demand that society should guarantee him the ways and means of deciding what to do with his life in full and complete autonomy. It is especially people in the developed countries who act in this way: They feel encouraged to do so also by the constant progress of medicine and its ever more advanced techniques...In this context the temptation grows to have recourse to euthanasia, that is, to take control of death and

bring it about before its time, "gently" ending one's own life or the life of others. In reality what might seem logical and humane, when looked at more closely is seen to be senseless and inhumane. Here we are faced with one of the more alarming symptoms of the "culture of death," which is advancing above all in prosperous societies, marked by an attitude of excessive

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*... "assisted suicide" ... must be called a false mercy and indeed a disturbing "perversion" of mercy.*

---

preoccupation with efficiency, and which sees the growing number of elderly and disabled people as intolerable and too burdensome. These people are very often isolated by their families and by society, which are organized almost exclusively on the basis of criteria of productive efficiency, according to which a hopelessly impaired life no longer has any value.

(65) For a correct moral judgment on euthanasia, in the first place a clear definition is required. Euthanasia in the strict sense is understood to be an action or omission which of itself and by intention causes death, with the purpose of eliminating all suffering...Euthanasia must be distinguished from the decision to forego so-called "aggressive medical

treatment," in other words, medical procedures which no longer correspond to the real situation of the patient either because they are by now disproportionate to any expected results or because they impose an excessive burden on the patient and his family...To forego extraordinary or disproportionate means is not the equivalent of suicide or euthanasia; it rather expresses acceptance of the human condition in the face of death.

In modern medicine, increased attention is being given to what are called "methods of palliative care," which seek to make suffering more bearable in the final stages of illness and to ensure that the patient is supported and accompanied in his or her ordeal. Among the questions which arise in this context is that of the licitness of using various types of painkillers and sedatives for relieving the patient's pain when this involves the risk of shortening life. While praise may be due to the person who voluntarily accepts suffering by foregoing treatment with painkillers in order to remain fully lucid and, if a believer, to share consciously in the Lord's passion, such "heroic" behavior cannot be considered the duty of everyone. Pius XII affirmed that it is licit to relieve pain by narcotics even when the result is decreased

*continued on page 5*

**Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit**  
Wayne County, West/Downriver Chapter  
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Livonia, MI 48150-2203



Address Correction Requested

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