

Free Copy

Happy Father's Day!

Lifespan *news*

Volume 25 Number 4

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

June 1996

Congratulations! 1996 Mother of the Year *Mary O'Brien Callaghan*

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner on May 7th, we honored our 1996 Mother of the Year. She was nominated by her son-in-law, Patrick Lynch. Reprinted below is the letter of nomination.

I am writing to submit the name Mary O'Brien Callaghan for Mother of the Year. Mary is my mother-in-law and, in that capacity, we have been related for 18 years. I have been aware of Mrs. Callaghan since my childhood days as an elementary student at Holy Name high school years at Brother Rice. Mr. Callaghan served on the faculty of each school and Lynch children were classmates among the best known members at each school. In fact, Mrs. Callaghan was somewhat of a living legend in the Birmingham area.

Mary is an accomplished singer and musician. She performed at the College level as an organist and choir master at several Detroit area churches. She has performed with the Birmingham Musicale for many years. Additionally, Mary has taught private piano lessons to countless young people over several decades. She is a highly regarded musician and teacher who has always demonstrated a special appreciation for the classics. Mary is a pillar of her community, having donated hundreds of hours to the aged in local nursing homes. She has done these things without fanfare. But, her quick wit, wonderful knack for story telling seldom allow her to go unnoticed. While Mary is well known for the above-mentioned accomplishments, she is perhaps best known for being a mother.

Mary O'Brien Callaghan has devoted all of her adult life to motherhood. To her, motherhood has truly been a vocation. In motherhood, Mary O'Brien Callaghan has been an unparalleled success. You see, over the



continued on page 4

Inside:

- **Fatal Euphemisms**
page 3
- **Veto Update**
page 5
- **LIFECCHAIN**
page 8
- **Death is natural—assisted suicide isn't**
page 9

ACTION NOTES



Hippocratic Oath

A framed color print of the Hippocratic Oath, entitled "A Pledge to My Patients," is produced by Isidore Ltd; it "stresses the physician's obligation to guard the sanctity of life and avoid involvement with abortion and euthanasia," said Steve Fowler of Isidore Limited.

It is being marketed to hospitals and medical institutions, but also makes a nice gift for a family doctor. Contact: Isidore Limited, P. O. Box 2757, Kirkland, WA 98083; phone: (800) 448-0624.

RU 486 boycott

Hoechst Roussel drug company, the maker of RU 486, has recently completed a merger with Marion Merrell Dow. Hoechst Roussel's name has been changed as a result of this merger to Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc. (HMR).

RU 486 is part of a two-drug abortion technique that kills a developing unborn baby after her heart has already begun to beat.

In response to the merger, almost every major pro-life, pro-family organization has renewed its efforts to support a consumer boycott of HMR products.

In order to have a clear and direct effect on profits of this company, we should concentrate on a few of their biggest drugs.

In addition to the consumer boycott, all pro-lifers are encouraged to write to HMR and express dismay at their role in manufacturing and distributing this deadly drug that targets unborn babies. Write: **President Richard Markham, Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc., P.O. Box 9627,**

Kansas City, MO 64134-0627.

Note: Since an individual patient's health and safety take priority, in some cases a physician may not wish to prescribe a substitute drug.

Teachers Saving Children

Teachers Saving Children, Inc.-National (TSC) is an organization of pro-life teachers and other concerned citizens committed to establishing among professional educators' organizations a respect for all human life from conception to natural death.

For more information, contact TSC at P.O. Box 125, Damascus, OH 44619; phone: (330) 537-2546

Reach out to priests

Priests for Life, headed by the Rev. Frank Pavone, has many good brochures designed for outreach to both priests and laity, explaining the need for pro-life action as well as simple ways to involve both you and your pastor in the cause for life.

Send \$3.00 for a set of 10 sample brochures to: Priests for Life, P. O. Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314.

See article by Fr. Pavone on the back page of this newsletter.

Pro-Life doctors

The following addresses are provided for those who are interested in contacting these organizations: **Doctors for Life**, 39 Tealwood, St. Louis, MO 63141; and **American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists (AAPLOG)**, 850 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

Revised RU 486 Consumer Boycott List

Prescription

| <u>Drug</u> | <u>Use</u> | <u>Substitute</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cardizem | calcium channel blocker | generics available |
| Seldane | antihistamine | Claritin or Hismanal |
| Claforan | antibiotic | substitutes available |
| Lasix | diuretic | generics available |
| DiaBeta | diabetes | Micronase, generics |
| Nicoderm | smoking cessation | Habitrol patch, Nicotrol, Pro-Step |

Have you ever observed a person humbling herself and asking for help, or perhaps accepting help from someone who has forgotten the old adage, "there but for the grace of God, go I"?

At Wee Care, when we give a new mom a layette, we try to pass on all of the love and concern you, our loyal benefactors, have for her and her precious baby.

Instead of a paper bag filled with discarded baby items—she is given an infant bath tub (used, but scrubbed until it shines) filled with warm blankets, new and "gently-used" tiny clothing and at least one completely new "home-from-the-hospital" outfit.

The little baby bath tub is a small gesture, but it seems to mean so much to the new mom. It tries to convey the message that she is not just the next person in line, but instead, that she and her baby are very special, and that time was taken to lovingly assemble all the sweet little baby items that she will need.

Tucked in amidst the bottles, rattles, and usually a teddy bear, is our letter informing her where she can receive further help and reminding her how much we do care for her and her sweet baby. And when I say "we," I speak for all of you special people who continue to provide funds, clothing or prayers for our precious little ones. Thank you!

PS: There is a never-ending need for clean infant tubs!

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care (313) 533-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

Lifespan News

June 1996 Vol. 25, No. 4

Published eight times a year, irregularly
President & Editor - Ann R. Sands
Layout/Design - Marge Bradley
Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit is a non-profit organization, and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers. Donations are not tax-deductible.

MAIN OFFICE
28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127
Livonia, MI 48152-3736
(313) 533-9090



Concocting fatal euphemisms for the 21st century

By Greg Erlandson

Hoovering.
As in to vacuum.
That's a new term I just picked up from my teen connection in Los Angeles. It's high school slang for getting an abortion.

A girl makes a mistake and then gets herself hoovered.

Just when you think the language has sunk about as low as it can go in masking the essential act of abortion, a new word comes along to show you how wrong you are.

And yet, as slang goes, it has a certain aptness, if only unconsciously. Vacuuming out the uterus of its new life is a pretty good graphic description of what happens. It also communicates the emotional content of the deed. We are expelling trash, a waste product, unwanted dirt. The expression captures in a chillingly crude way the dehumanization that is abortion.

*A girl makes a mistake and then gets herself hoovered—
Just when you think the language has sunk about as low as it can go ... a new word comes along to show you how wrong you are.*

I would hope that none of us is really surprised that those young enough to have themselves survived their own mother's constitutional right to choose, yet old enough to have been relentlessly propagandized on the rightness of this deed, would settle on such a euphemism for destruction.

Those people who sincerely wish abortion would go away as a political issue—even people of conservative moral character who have come to feel

the battle is lost, or perhaps not even worth winning anymore—must ask themselves if they are comfortable with such a phrase and the mind-set that created it.

Do they think abortion is the suctioning of so much dirt? Our children have concocted this slang term because they have too well understood the message society is sending on the moral unimportance of abortion. Is this the society we want to live in? Can we bear to live in it?

What must astound even those who have grown to accept that abortion is here to stay are the values that abortion-on-demand has communicated to our young people. To create through rhetorical sleights of hand and willful biological obtuseness such callousness is a nightmare in the making.

All of which makes me wonder what euphemisms will come into vogue if and when higher courts confirm a recent federal court's discovery that the U.S. Constitution has been hiding within its amendments the right to have a physician help you to kill yourself.

Surely this horror will get its own slang, its own shorthand to hide the enormity of this newfound liberty.

Will Grandpa and Grandma—by which I mean you and me—be “put to sleep,” “cashed in,” “sent to the farm”? Will we be “recycled with extreme prejudice”? Will the ministrations of Dr. Jack Kevorkian's lethal fumes followed by burial come to be known as “gas and grass”?

How long will it take all of us to get used to the idea that a physician will be allowed to make the call when we must “permanently check out”? How long before “medicide” becomes a line item on hospital bills?

Too few of us now seem horrified that hospitals, health care providers and insurance companies are suing to be allowed the right to pull the plug on patients. Not even one juror at Dr. Jack's last trial could stand up and say that administering a lethal dose of

carbon monoxide gas is no more a pain reliever than a bullet to the head or a pillow on the face.

We are already tolerating such horrors—a wife is suing to cut off life support to her still conscious husband, a son going to court to protect his father from the lethal mercy of his mother—that it should not take long for our language to reflect this spreading moral stupor.

Not even one juror at Dr. Jack's last trial could stand up and say that administering a lethal dose of carbon monoxide gas is no more a pain reliever than a bullet to the head or a pillow on the face.

And so, when our children send in the Grim Reaper wearing a white coat and a stethoscope, what language will they use to tell their friends that they had to let Granddad go? Will anyone be ashamed to admit that it was either Mom or their bank account? After 30 more years of fear disguised as tenderness, and selfishness disguised as choice, will there be enough outrage left to reject such fatal “kindness”? Or will the final solution be described as the necessary downsizing of the family tree, a hoovering of kith and kin?

—Our Sunday Visitor, April 7, 1996
Reprinted with permission



Greg Erlandson is Editor-in-Chief of Our Sunday Visitor

Mother of the Year

continued from page 1

course of her first 22 years of marriage, Mary gave birth to 18 children. This large number of children was testimony to Mary's deep Catholic faith and strong Irish heritage. But, perhaps most of all, it was the result of her unselfish love of her beloved John and her children. With a steadfast love of God and her family, Mary endured the many hardships associated with raising such a large family. Imagine grocery shopping for so many without the benefit of a car. Imagine doing laundry for so many without benefit of a washer or dryer. Imagine the expense of clothing and shoes, medical bills and dental bills. Imagine the task of preparing meals, bathing and changing babies, maintaining a beautiful home and getting to know each of your 18 children as well as you know yourself. Mary did all of that, and more. And, she did it with style. Nowadays, many claim it is too difficult to raise the average 2.3 children and send them off to college. Mary Callaghan, how-

ever, sent all 18 of her children off to college. Today, many of her children have masters degrees, several have Ph.Ds and all have made significant contributions to society while maintaining a strong devotion to their parents and each other. All Mary's children have an appreciation of music and the arts. They also demonstrate that never-give-up attitude and sense of fierce loyalty we so often associate with large families. These things, they learned, in large measure, from their mother.

There is never a guarantee that life will be easy. But, most parents will tell you they could endure anything short of the death of one of their children. Mary O'Brien Callaghan has endured this agony twice.

Mary took on the role of mother seriously and with enthusiasm. She now enjoys the position of Matriarch to one of Michigan's largest families. As Matriarch to the Callaghan family, Mary has never missed a birthday or other significant event in the lives of her children, their spouses, her 60 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She still gathers her family

around her to celebrate every holiday and special event.

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty wrote the following: "The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body. The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creatures. God joined forces with mothers in performing this act of creation... What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?" It could have been written about Mary O'Brien Callaghan.

My mother-in-law is a woman with amazing talent, energy and devotion. Because she has used these gifts to be a mother, I believe she should be mother of the year. In my estimation, she is mother of a lifetime.

—Patrick Lynch



John and Mary Callaghan Family

*Left to right, seated: Dr. Edward, Bridget, Margaret, Patricia, Paul, Clare, daughter-in-law Gale, with husband Patrick, Kathy, John and Joseph
Standing: Kevin, Mary, John, Mary, Bill, Teresa, Brian, Jim and Christopher*





Chapter

Office hours

MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Carol Smith, Chairman
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

Bouquets of thanks

Our annual Mother's Day rose sale was a great success thanks to all our dedicated church representatives. Our sincere and profound gratitude for all you do to help us in our efforts to protect all life—born and unborn. A special thanks to Betty and Archie Queen who helped coordinate and distribute hundreds of roses.

Graduating seniors

Congratulations to the graduating seniors of Regina Teens for Life: Joy Demata,

president; Rachel Cascos, vice-president; Nicole Marogi, secretary; Rose Quijano, treasurer; Anna Bodley, membership; Louise Allen, political action; Cherrie Amardio, Jenny Demick, Christine Duncan, Kristen Montavani, Alison Sheardy and Kristine Trewyn. May your new adventures be filled with success, happiness and love. Continue to stand up and speak out for the unborn, elderly and handicapped for the world desperately needs to hear the truth. Lifespan is very proud of all of you.

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Betty Queen for 80 years of life! Betty has been an active member of Lifespan from the very beginning and has continued to dedicate her life to the pro-life movement. Although she was finally able to retire as our office manager a couple of years ago, she still

remains very much involved by being on call for advice, coordinating and distributing Christmas cards and roses, and being recording secretary for the Detroit Chapter board. We thank God for giving us Betty for 80 beautiful years and pray that He will continue to bless us with Betty's untiring dedication and love for many, many more years.

Condolences

Lifespan is saddened by the death of Ruby Seigel, the wife of Ron Seigel, a board member of the Detroit Chapter. Ron is a very talented published author and a staunch supporter of all life—unborn, handicapped and elderly. Our prayers are with you, Ron, during this time of loss.

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

Office hours

M, T, Th, F 9-2:30; W 9-6
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Mary Small, Secy./Ofc. Mgr.
Diane Trombley, Vol. Coor.
Theresa Kochler, Memb. Coor.
Clare Schneider, Nwsltr. Coor.

Dandy Mother's Day Dinner

No doubt we all enjoyed the Mother's Day Dinner. This is such a special event. Lots of people, united by their belief in the right to life, gathered together to enjoy each other, learn from our speakers, honor our mothers and celebrate life.

A very special thank you goes out to everyone who helped with this year's event.

If you could not attend this year, mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 6, 1997.

Sad statistics

The following comparisons are terribly sad, but sometimes seeing numbers like these in print help us to understand how great the need for our continued efforts really is.

Deaths in America Annual Totals

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| ABORTION | 1,529,000 |
| Heart Disease | 734,000 |
| Cancer | 537,000 |
| Pneumonia/Flu | 82,000 |
| AIDS | 42,000 |
| Auto Accidents | 42,000 |
| Other Accidents | 48,000 |
| Suicide | 32,000 |
| Firearms Murder | 17,000 |

*Statistics from National Center for Health
Statistics U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
published in World Almanac 1996*

Dad's delight

If you are offering candy bars in your area for Father's Day, don't forget to call in your order (810) 816-1546.

Festival fun time

Festival and fair time is approaching, and we will need lots of help with our booths and displays. Call (810) 816-1546 to volunteer.

June joy

Congratulations to all of our graduates, brides and grooms, and a very special Happy Father's Day to all our dads.

Sometimes we focus so closely on moms that dads seem to be a little overlooked.

That isn't really the case because we all realize that without all of you providing the love and guidance our children need, the world would be a poorer place indeed.

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

News

Office hours

M-Th 10-4

Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

Garage & bake sales

Barb Schmid, Lifespan's Canton city coordinator, will have a garage sale on Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8. Jewelry, tools, working appliances, furniture, wallets, purses, scarves, knick-knacks and toys sell well. No clothing, please. Call if you can pick up or donate items or help with pricing and selling, (313) 422-6230 or (313) 981-3442.

Calling all bakers! Barb is also hosting a bake sale at St. Thomas A' Becket Church on Father's Day weekend, June 15 and 16. All proceeds are being donated to support Lifespan's educational programs. Favorite recipes can be dropped off at the Lifespan office on Schoolcraft at Inkster on Saturday morning, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or may be delivered to the church's back entrance on Saturday, 1-4 p.m. and Sunday before and after all the Masses. Call (313) 422-6230 or (313) 981-3442.

A million thanks...

I have the deepest respect for our board members, church reps and volunteers who constantly work behind the scenes quietly and efficiently to help make every pro-life project this chapter undertakes a smashing success.

Our 1996 Resource Book was willingly supported by

churches of different denominations, doctors, nurses, pro-life advertisers and members.

Those of you who attended the Mother's Day Dinner were treated to a great evening with guest speaker, Dr. Pamela Smith and Mother of the Year, Mary O'Brien Callaghan.

And, of course, our wonderful helpers for the Mother's Day silk rose sale who put "Thanks, Mom, for Life" on 17,500 flowers so that other members and supporters could graciously distribute and obtain them on Mother's Day.

As chairman, I cannot thank you enough for your constant help and support.

"Bowling for Life"

Our "Bowling for Life" FUNdraiser is set for Sunday, July 28, 2-5 p.m., at Woodland Lanes in Livonia. By collecting pledges, you are eligible to bowl 3 GAMES FREE and win U.S. Savings Bonds in the following denominations: GRAND PRIZES for the most money collected are: 1st Prize...\$200, 2nd Prize...\$100, 3rd Prize...\$75, 4th Prize...\$50, 5th Prize...\$50. ADDITIONAL PRIZES: High Game scores (with handicaps) for men, women and children...\$100 in each category. High Series score including men, women and children (with handicap)...\$100.

To be eligible for any of the prizes, \$50 in collected pledges must be in the Lifespan office, 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by Monday, August 26, 1996. All bowlers will receive a free gift certificate donated by neighborhood businesses.

Can we count on you to join us? I hope so! For forms, call (313) 728-5856 or (313) 422-6230.

—Marie Gonzales, Bowling Chairman

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

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

There is a theory that we spend our lives searching for the peace that we felt in the womb. This must be an outdated idea or the unborn are simply unaware of the danger they are in. After all, the womb is the most dangerous place in the world.

In the U.S., only two out of three make it out alive and the stats are even worse in other countries. Some babies must think they're home free with their legs kicking and arms flailing only to be brutally slaughtered by a so-called doctor in a partial-birth abortion procedure (see page 5).

In the graphic video *Silent Scream*, the unborn baby obviously is aware of the danger, but there is nowhere to run and nowhere to hide from the abortionist's tools.

In church, we turn to those around us and say, "Peace be with you" as we shake hands. Maybe we're congratulating each other for making it out of the womb alive. Thirty-something million haven't been as lucky.

Yes, I believe that most of us spend our lives searching for peace. But over 4000 babies a day find out the hard way that there is no peace in the womb.



Sponsored By:

Right to Life - Lifespan

Co-Sponsored By:

AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center
Livonia

Another Way Pregnancy Center
Novi

Berkley Christian Church

Bethany Christian Services
Madison Heights

Bethel Baptist Church
Roseville

Canton Free Methodist Church

Community Bible Church
Waterford

Cornerstone Baptist Church
Roseville

Covenant Community Church
Redford

Crisis Pregnancy Information
Center, Berkley

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Bloomfield Hills

Divine Child Catholic Church
Dearborn

Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Redford

First Baptist Church of Wayne

Five Points Community Church
Auburn Hills

Grace Evangelical Fellowship
Lincoln Park

Harvest Temple Worship Center
Farmington Hills

Hope Lutheran Church
Warren

Macomb Christian Church
Shelby Township

Melvindale Crisis Pregnancy
Center

Memorial Church of Christ
Livonia

New Life Christian Assembly
Church, Detroit

New Life Community Church
Westland

North Pointe Baptist Church
Warren



LIFE CHAIN

of Metro Detroit

National Life Chain Sunday

October 6, 1996 - 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Woodward Ave.

From 7 Mile Rd. to 12 Mile Rd.



Thousands of people will be lining the sidewalks of Woodward Avenue from Seven Mile Rd. to Twelve Mile Rd., all silently holding uniform, pro-life signs stating **ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN, ABORTION HURTS WOMEN, JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS, ADOPTION: THE LOVING OPTION**. This is what is known as a LIFE CHAIN. This peaceful, prayerful event will provide a visual statement of unity by the metro Detroit church community. Our seventh annual LIFE CHAIN is scheduled in conjunction with National Life Chain Sunday. Will you invest one afternoon to help save a lifetime? Call (313) 533-9090 for details or complete the form below and mail to LIFE CHAIN Committee, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152.

**Yes, we are interested in participating in LIFE CHAIN.
Please send us more information.**

Your Name

Phone

Church Name

Phone

Your Address

City

Zip

Northfield Hills Baptist Church
Troy

Orchard Hills Baptist Church
Novi

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Catholic Church, Plymouth

Our Lady of Victory Catholic
Church, Northville

Peace Lutheran Church
Waterford

Resurrection Catholic Church
Canton

Right to Life of
Allen Park/Melvindale

Right to Life of
Central Macomb

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic
Church, Grosse Pointe Park

St. Clement Catholic Church
Center Line

St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic
Church, Bloomfield Hills

St. James Catholic Church
Ferndale

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
St. Clair Shores

St. John Fisher Chapel
University Parish, Auburn Hills

St. John Lutheran Church
Rochester

St. John Lutheran Church
Taylor

St. Justin Catholic Church
Hazel Park

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Walled Lake

St. Maurice Catholic Church
Livonia

St. Patrick Catholic Church
White Lake

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic
Church, Grosse Pointe Farms

St. Perpetua Catholic Church
Waterford

St. Sabina Catholic Church
Dearborn Heights

St. Thomas A'Becket
Catholic Church, Canton

Southpoint Community
Christian Church, Woodhaven

Wayne Wesleyan Church

Wyandotte Christian Church

Death is natural; assisted suicide isn't

By Maggie Gallagher

In New York, a federal appeals court ruled, on interesting grounds, that doctors have a right to help terminally ill people commit suicide. Rather than embracing a right to die, the court ruled that a ban on suicide violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution; that is, it had no "rational relation" to any legitimate state interest.

The judges' reasoning constitutes a particularly broad slap in the face of many Americans concerned about our march toward euthanasia. When a court chooses to apply the rational-relation standard, the law is almost always upheld. But not this time.

There is no difference, the court argued, between withdrawing life support from a dying person and hastening the end of a patient's life with drugs. "What interest can the state possibly have in requiring the prolongation of a life that is all but ended?" the judges asked.

I have an answer. There is in my mind a distinct difference between the act of withdrawing medical treatments when they can no longer help and the act of taking a life—just as there is a line between a doctor giving dying patients painkillers, knowing they might (or might not) hasten their death, and deliberately injecting a lethal overdose.

The state has an interest in maintaining that sometimes fine line, because it is the line between civilization and savagery. What we are protecting is not only the life of the patient, but also our own horror of killing.

A recent column of mine opposing physician-assisted suicide ("Don't make doctors into killers," March 11) provoked a flood of letters from outraged readers. Many wrote to tell me of watching friends and relatives suffer, often assuming, wrongly but indignantly, that I must never have witnessed a lingering death.

One particularly stands out: a Michigan man describing the travails of a woman with multiple sclerosis, confined to a nursing home these last 12 years. On his last visit, he noticed his friend's bed had been moved away from the window. She didn't

want to be reminded of the world out there, she said. "People like her deserve the right to end their awful suffering," he tells me.

The letter stands out because there is no indication in it that this woman wanted to commit suicide. It was instead my healthy correspondent who found the sight of her suffering unbearable.

"Death is not something that can be avoided or to be afraid of," another Michigan man chastises me.

But it's not dying that scares me; it's killing. Nor am I primarily afraid that someday someone might kill me. What scares me more is that I might get used to it, this business of deliberately taking a human life.

It's not hard. When respected authority figures such as judges and doctors begin insisting that our horror at the taking of a human life is irrational and hardhearted, the horror fades.

In the Netherlands (where euthanasia is legal), a government study found that a large proportion of "mercy killings" are done without the patient's consent. It hasn't caused society to collapse. These people were old, after all, and sick and unwanted. What does their murder matter?

Similarly, a new book by Daniel Goldhagen, "Hitler's Willing Executioners," shows how easily the ordinary German shed the veneer of civilization to participate in wholesale slaughter of life "unworthy of living." It's a hard lesson to swallow.

But consider another reminder, if we need one: This Easter week in churches throughout the country, passion plays are taking place, in which the congregation assumes the part of the mobs who surrounded Jesus, urging Pontius Pilate to crucify him. We play the part of those who wanted to kill Christ to remind us of the awful possibilities within each human heart.

Death, as my reader reminds me, is the natural and unavoidable fate of all of us. Killing, however, is strictly optional.

—*Detroit Free Press, April 5, 1996*
MAGGIE GALLAGHER © 1996 Maggie Gallagher. Reprinted with permission of UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE. All rights reserved.



We need your help

But this time we're not asking you to dig into your pockets. Simply participate in Lifespan's long-distance telephone program.

You'll enjoy up to 30% savings over other major long-distance carriers, but most importantly, Lifespan will receive a percentage of the total amount of your long-distance phone bill each month.

LIFESPAN BENEFITS AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU.

Just say YES. That's all it takes to help generate additional monthly income to help with office expenses and all of the many activities in which Lifespan is involved.

It's a unique opportunity we couldn't pass up, and one that you shouldn't either. That's why we're encouraging each and every one of our members and supporters to participate. Of course, the more people who sign up, the more income we can count on. You have nothing to lose and we have much to gain from this exciting, new Continuous Income Program.

There are no physical changes necessary to your telephone service. No special codes to be punched in or special sequences to remember. As a matter of fact, the only difference you'll probably notice is a LOWER MONTHLY LONG-DISTANCE BILL.

While you save on a service that you use everyday, Lifespan receives needed financial assistance each time you place a long-distance call.

Please call the Lifespan Wayne West/Downriver office at (313) 422-6230 for more details and to sign up.

Crisis pregnancy

Are you or someone you know experiencing a crisis pregnancy and don't know where to turn for help? There are numerous crisis centers in the metro Detroit area that are willing to help during these difficult times. Free pregnancy tests, personal counseling, material goods, medical and legal information, low-income housing references and much more can be obtained by just asking. Call for further information (313) 422-6230.

"Single Issue"

continued from back page

ent, any better? No! Yet where is the outcry? Why do those who do cry out get accused of being "single-issue" people? Have we somehow believed the lie that abortion is morally better than killing a seven-year-old? If seven-year-olds were legally killed, would those who spoke up be called "single-issue" people?

Because of the prayerful action of pro-lifers, many children have been saved from abortion. Ask those children if they think that being saved from abortion is a "single issue." No, for each of them it is every issue; it is life itself. For us, it is every issue regarding that child and everything that will ever touch his or her life. The child lives. The issue is his or her every need, blessing, mission, interaction, and contribution to this world! The issue is no less than the living image of God Himself.

Yes, in the end there is only one issue. The issue is **life**. And ultimately, life defended and affirmed is identical with that single issue called **love**.

—American Life League, Inc.
Pro-Life Bulletin Board, March 1996
Reprinted with permission

Editor's note: Fr. Frank A. Pavone is director of Priests for Life. See related article on page 2.

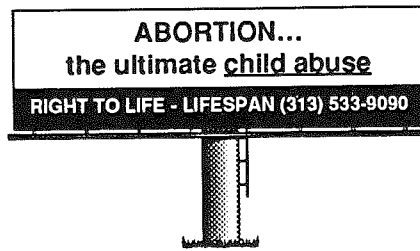
Registering to vote

In Michigan you may register to vote if:

- You are a United States' citizen
- You are at least 18 years old by election day
- You have lived in Michigan for at least 30 days before the election in which you are voting

To register, simply appear in person at any Secretary of State Branch Office, or at your city, township or village clerk's office. Fill out a form swearing you are who you are, sign your name, and that's it! Under special circumstances you may register by mail.

You may register at any time. However, you must be registered 30 days in advance of an election in order to vote in that election (by July 8, 1996 for the August 6 primary). If you have moved, notify the local clerk. If you move within Michigan during the 60 days before an election, you may vote at your former precinct in that election. You may only be registered in one precinct at a time.



Right to Life - Lifespan's billboard this year will be positioned on six different metro Detroit main highways. It will move to a new location every sixty days. The total cost of this year's project is \$36,500. So far, we have \$19,960.

We want to say a special "thank you" to the following donors who have contributed \$100 or more in the past month:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thewes, St. Maurice Church, Bernadine Pallas and the Wayne West/Downriver Chapter of Lifespan.

Will you, your family, church or organization "Adopt the Billboard" for a day for only \$100, or a week for \$700? You can help by making a donation in any amount.

For additional information, please call (313) 533-9090.

Please send your contribution to **Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152.**

Thank you!

Absentee ballots

According to Michigan law, you are eligible to vote by absentee ballot if one of the following applies:

- You are 60 years of age or older
- You will be out of town on election day
- You prefer to vote absentee because of illness, physical disability or religious tenets
- You are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- You are an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the one where you preside

To get an absentee ballot simply call or write to your city, township or village clerk and ask for an absentee voter application. Or, apply in person to the clerk and fill out a standard form. If you want the ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday before an election date. Your vote must reach your local clerk before the polls close on election day at 8:00 p.m.



Educational Center for Life

Recently, we attended the funeral services for Ron Seigel's wife, Ruby. All of us in the pro-life community offer our sincere condolences and prayers for Ron. Ron has been with us for many years speaking out for those with disabilities.

Ron speaks often in the name of Lifespan and the Educational Center for Life to remind us that those with disabilities need our support and assistance as much as the unborn.

We have, as a society, the ability to care for the disabled and the technology to make them feel wanted and worthwhile. We don't have to go back too many years, as Ron would remind us, to Germany when these people were among the first to be designated as undesirable.

Today, Dr. Death seems to be giving the same message with assisted suicide. Take a good look at who his victims are. Most are not terminally ill, but have disabilities.

It is time, not to debate, but vigorously discuss the assisted suicide issue with everyone. We feel this is the most critical issue of the day. Take time to talk with your parents, friends and relatives, and you will be surprised at the support for assisted suicide. Why do you think the disabled and the elderly feel they are a burden and don't think that Kevorkian is wrong? Just listen to the debate on medical costs and care and realize who they are talking about when it comes to high costs and unnecessary treatment.

At the Educational Center for Life, we have materials and videos on the death and dying issue, and we encourage you to take time to become educated yourselves first and then start talking with your friends. This is the *Roe* case for the born...don't stand by and let this happen again.

Again, our gratitude to Ron and all our speakers who have addressed this issue, and we hope, at the Center, to develop more workshops to assist you in defeating the passage of any assisted suicide legislation. We must be informed.

Educational Center for Life
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48064-3540
(810) 816-8489

Donations have been made In loving memory of:

Francis (Mike) Powers
Given by: Archie & Betty Queen

Barbara Pink
Given by: Archie & Betty Queen

Thomas Rhodes
Given by: Archie & Betty Queen

Charlotte DiVito
Given by: Archie & Betty Queen

Matthew J. Seger
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. J. Pawlak
Mr. & Mrs. F. Burnard
Adelia Pawlak
Mr. & Mrs. T. Busch
Robert & Joan Pawlak

Leo Assenmacher
Given by: Arthur & Rita Reuter

Lawrence Lark
Given by: American Community
Group Underwriting Service and
Actuarial Departments

In celebration of 80 years:
Happy Birthday, Betty Queen!
Given by: Mary & George Cascos

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...

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.

Bill Knapp's coupons

Our participation in the Bill Knapp Community Support Coupon program continues. We have accumulated approximately 40,000 points to be redeemed for a fax machine for the Wayne West/Downriver Chapter office.

Thank you to the following donors of coupons in the past few months: Lucas, Doyle, Stockhausen, Rybak, Dreslinski, Dell Eva, Lovend, Condit, Schultz, IHM Sisters, St. Raphael Parish, Werner, Konti, Mahoney, Poepppe, Behaeghe, Locke, Garden City Christian Center, Trombley, Rogers, MacDonald, McLaughlin, St. Linus Parish, Yarnevich, Ober, Marria, Kaza, Wilhelm, Tschirhart, Truchan, Freda, Bleecker, Kwiatkowski, DeSousa, Lesiak, Heimiller, Kelley, Grimes, Dow, Phillips, Yanik, Sanak, Morris, LaPorte, Valliere, Forgacs, St. Perpetua Parish, Grougan, O'Connell, Schwalm, Duncanson, Buecke, Angelides, Gibbons, Lenze, Astalos, St. Sabina Queenship of Mary Guild, St. Theodore Parish, Bosco, Bowker and anonymous donors.

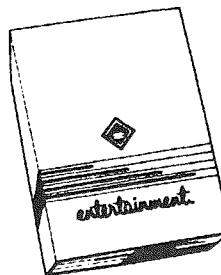
When you present your check to the cashier at any Bill Knapp's restaurant, ask for a Community Support Coupon. Please send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152. Thanks!

Convention

The National Right to Life Convention is being held in Alexandria, Virginia at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Mark Center, June 20-22. Call (703) 845-1010 for reservations.

Featured speakers include Camilla Hersch, M.D. Earle "Buddy" Lingle, R.Ph., Ph.D., Chuck Asay, Steve Benson, Kay and Charles James. Come and learn what you can do to confront our culture of death. Call (202) 626-8800 or (313) 533-9090 for information.

entertainment' 97



**Early Bird
Pre-sell
Two-for-One
★ Bonus ★**

Buy your
entertainment' 97
NOW and receive
an *entertainment' 96*

FREE! Early Bird customers will be among the FIRST to receive their *entertainment' 97* books this fall.

Three Detroit Editions

East ★ Northwest ★ West/Southwest
Save 50%

on almost everything; including dining, theatre, sports events, hotels, travel, car washes and more! A perfect gift idea!

Only \$40.

For every book sold, Lifespan earns \$8. Help us in this fundraiser, and sell *entertainment' 97* to your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers.

Available at Lifespan offices NOW!

Detroit Chapter (313) 874-0432
Oakland County Chapter (810) 816-1546
Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
(313) 422-6230

Calendar of Events

Garage Sale, Canton June 7, 8
Father's Day Candy Sale .. June 15, 16
Bake Sale June 15, 16
National Right to Life Convention
Alexandria, VA June 20-22
Deadline for Registering
to Vote July 8
Bowling for Life July 28
Primary Election Aug. 6
State Fair Aug. 20-Sept. 2
Garage Sale, Dbn. Hts. Sept. 6, 7
Legislative Breakfast Sept. 14
LIFE CHAIN Oct. 6

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.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 15.00
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 7.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
_____ Century Club (\$100 & above) \$ _____
_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

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.

Are you a "single issue" person?

By Fr. Frank A. Pavone

Begin speaking and acting against abortion, and it won't be long before you'll be called a "single-issue" person.

What the phrase means isn't exactly clear. Certainly, pro-lifers know that other "issues" besides abortion exist, and pro-lifers everywhere are in fact actively involved in addressing a host of other issues.

But precisely why do "other issues" exist and what is their importance? Other issues exist because people exist. If there were no people, there would be no issues and nobody to discuss them. The bottom line, in other words, is life. Any issue is important because life is important.

Why should we be concerned about unemployment? It is a concern because people have a right to make a living. Why do they have a right to make a living? Because they have a right to live!

Why is poverty also an important issue? It is important because people have a right to food, clothing and shelter. Why do they have a right to these things? Because they have a right to live!

It all comes down to life. That's why abortion is the key issue. Deny that a person has the right to live, and you undercut the importance of every other issue. It is impossible to speak up coherently about any issue impacting

human life if you are allowing the life itself to become a disposable item. Abortion is more than abortion.

The fact that abortion is a non-issue for many people is what makes the "single-issue" accusation so misplaced. It adds insult to the injury already inflicted upon the children (a fatal injury) and their mothers. "Why don't you take care of people already born?" we are asked. Our response is, "Why are you making the distinction in the first place? We speak more often of the preborn precisely because we are trying to **undo** the unfair distinction made between them and the born. The preborn have equal rights with the born, and we demand that those rights be respected in the same way."

*It is impossible to
speak up coherently
about any issue
impacting human life
if you are allowing
the life itself to become
a disposable item*

To accuse pro-lifers of not having concern for the born is as unfair as accusing prison chaplains of not having concern for those who are free, or helpers of the blind of not having concern for those who see! Having a universal concern for human rights

never excludes a person from having a specific focus on one group of people in need.

The preborn, furthermore, are most in need. Is any other group of people killed at the alarming rate of 4,400 a day, at set times and places, accompanied by the indifference of so many and by the efforts of others to make it seem so legitimate? These deaths are not accidents; these deaths are "authorized" by the government. Is there really another issue that shows such contempt of life, or another group of human lives so unable to defend themselves?

What would happen if tomorrow a policy were announced whereby 14-year-olds could be put to death at the discretion of their mothers? Would the policy last until sunset? Wouldn't people rise up in revolt? Then suppose those who had set the policy said, "Okay, we're sorry. That was a bad policy. We will push it back seven years. Only seven-year-olds may be put to death, at the discretion of their mothers."

Would that policy be any different? Would it be any better? Then suppose the policy-makers said, "Okay, we were wrong again. This time we'll push the age back another seven years. Boys and girls in the womb may be killed at the discretion of their mothers."

The first two cases were fantasy, but now—welcome to reality. Here's the key question: Is this policy any differ-

continued on page 10

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit
Wayne County, West/Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150-2203



Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Westland, MI 48185
Permit No. 294