

LIFESPAN *news*

Volume 46 Number 7

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

Sept./Oct. 2017

Invitation for 9th ~ 12th Grade Students, Young Adults and All Other Adults

ABOLISH ABORTION IN YOUR LIFETIME!



Featuring:

AUDREY NITZEL

Michigan Regional Coordinator of
Students for Life of America

"Defender of the Defenseless"

Date and Time: Friday, September 29th, 6:30-9:30 p.m. (*doors open at 6:00 p.m.*)

Location: Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights

Cost: \$7.00 per person or \$20.00 per family (*includes light snacks, beverages, speaker & movie called "VOICELESS" - go to www.youtube.com to look at VOICELESS: Official Trailer - rated PG13*)

PLEASE PAY AT THE DOOR!!!!

Registration Deadline: September 26th

We hope you can join us for this informative, inspiring and fun evening!

TO RESERVE A SEAT AT THIS EVENT AND FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Marilyn at 248-816-8489 or by email at info@edcenterforlife.org OR
Lynn at 248-816-1546 or by email at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org



*Presented by: Ss. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church L.I.F.E. Ministry
Sponsored by: Educational Center for Life and Right to Life-LIFESPAN Educational Fund*



Whose Baby is Charlie Guard, anyway?

Editor's Note: We include this article so that none will think that the child in London was an isolated case, or determined by a foreign medical system. It is happening here and will continue to happen until profoundly ill people are no longer dehumanized and thought of as property.

By Wesley J. Smith

The time has come for your baby to die," a doctor told the grieving parents of a catastrophically ill baby. No, this wasn't the ongoing Charlie Gard case — so prominent in the news today — in which United Kingdom doctors and judges have told Charlie's parents that their son's life support will be removed, no matter what they want. (Charlie has a rare terminal mitochondrial disorder.)

Rather, that blunt declaration was uttered in 1994 in Spokane, by a doctor to the parents of Ryan Nguyen, who — born at just twenty-three-weeks gestation — was on kidney dialysis and struggling for his life.

Then as now, doctors declared that further life-sustaining treatment of the child was "futile" and would only prolong his suffering. Then as now, desperate parents sought court relief against their son's being pushed into the grave sooner rather than later. But then, unlike now, a court in Ryan's case temporarily blocked the removal of treatment, pending trial.

The court never decided who had ultimate say over Ryan's care, his parents or medical professionals, because his treatment was transferred to a different doctor who did not view his case as futile. Ryan was soon weaned off dialysis and survived for more than four years, a time in which he was a generally happy, if sickly, child who liked to give "high fives." Had his original doctors successfully imposed their futile-care philosophy on their patient and his parents, Ryan would have died before he'd truly had a chance to live.

Before Baby Ryan's ordeal, the parents of "Baby Terry" — also born after twenty-three weeks gestation — faced a similar ordeal. The ethics committee at the Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Michigan weighed in on August 9, 1993, opining that to honor the parents' desire to continue Baby Terry's treatment "would be contrary to medical judgment and to moral and ethical beliefs of physicians caring for the patient" (my emphasis).

In other words, when it came to choosing between the values of the parents — based in large part on their religious faith — and the values of doctors and hospital bioethicists, the state argued that only the latter matters.



On that basis alone, a judge found Terry's parents unfit to make health-care decisions for Terry and stripped them of their parental rights. He awarded temporary custody to the maternal great-aunt, who had previously stated her willingness to obey the doctors. Before that could happen, the infant died in his mother's arms, aged two-and-a-half months.

In 2011, a similar struggle hit the headlines. Ten-month-old Joseph Maraachli was diagnosed with a terminal and progressively debilitating neurological disease. He was being cared for in a London, Ontario ICU when doctors told his parents, Moe Maraachli and Sana Nader, that they were going to withdraw all life-sustaining care.

Moe and Sana vehemently disagreed, and a bitter dispute erupted between them and the hospital's doctors and administrators over continuing Joseph's care. There were two areas of disagreement.

First, there was the hospital's stated intention to end all life-sustaining treatment. Second, when Moe and Sana asked doctors to perform a tracheotomy so that Joseph could be taken home, the doctors refused, claiming such a procedure was medically and ethically unwarranted.

Litigation ensued. The bitter impasse was broken when the American nonprofit organization Priests for Life paid to transfer Joseph to a hospital in St. Louis that was willing to perform the surgery. The operation was a success, and Joseph was brought home, where he died peacefully in his sleep five months later.

These, Charlie's, and many other similar cases I could recite, involving profoundly ill people of all ages, are examples of what is known in the bioethics trade as "futile care" or "medical futility" – or, as I call it, futile-care theory. FCT authorizes doctors to refuse or withdraw wanted life-sustaining medical treatment over the objections of family and patients when the doctors and/or a bioethics committee believe that the patient's quality of life makes that life not worth living – or, lurking in the subtext, not worth the resources required to sustain it.

A couple of important points need to be made: We are not talking about an intervention without a potential physiological benefit to the patient – a medical determination. Rather, FCT constitutes a value judgment. As bioethicist Dr. Stuart Youngner once put it, "futility determinations will inevitably involve value judgments about: 1) whether low probability chances are worth taking; and 2) whether certain lives are of a quality worth living."

Worse, FCT empowers strangers to make medicine's most important and intimate health-care decisions. Deciding whether to accept or reject life-sustaining care is one of the most difficult medical choices. Under FCT, a patient's decision – whether it be the desire of an infant patient's guardians or written in an adult patient's advance directive – matters less than institutional and professional opinions.

Given all that, Charlie Gard's heartbreaking situation is not surprising. However, until Charlie's case, the patient or family has always had the option of finding alternative care. The hospital refusing Ryan's dialysis did not seek to prevent his transfer. Neither did the hospital in the Baby Joseph controversy.

This is where Charlie Gard's case is breaking new and even more authoritarian ground. Not only are doctors and judges forcing Charlie off life-support; they are also declaring that their ethics rule over Charlie's life, even if the parents – Chris and Connie Gard – find alternative care. As far as I know, this is unprecedented in futile-care controversies.

Chris and Connie have raised more than \$1 million through crowdfunding to pay for Charlie to be flown to the United States for an experimental treatment that has shown some potential in other mitochondrial conditions. If that course proves impossible, they just want to take their baby home so he can die there instead of in a pediatric ICU. But the hospital administration refuses to permit Charlie to be discharged! And the courts have agreed, based on a determination of what doctors and lawyers believe to be Charlie's "best interests."

The only silver lining in this tragedy is that a very sick baby's life still has the power to move hearts. Not only have Chris and Connie received tremendous popular sup-

port internationally, but they are also being backed by two of the most visible leaders in the world: Pope Francis and Donald Trump.

The refusal to allow Charlie's parents to remove their baby boy from the hospital is an act of bioethical aggression that will extend futile-care controversies, creating a duty to die at the time and place of doctors' choosing. And that raises a crucial liberty question: Whose baby is Charlie Gard? His parents'? Or are sick babies – and others facing futile-care impositions – ultimately owned by the hospital and the state?

- National Right to Life News Today, June 5, 2017

The Struggle for Charlie Gard's Life

By Diane Trombley

It seems that summer is moving along at record speed and so are events that impact on human life.

There has been pretty heavy coverage in social media (next to nothing on main stream media) about a little 11-month-old boy in London. Charlie Gard has an inevitable fatal mitochondrial disease that has robbed him of most of his ability to respond to his surroundings.

Considering his case "futile," as is their legal right under the United Kingdom's national health care system, the hospital that has been home for Charlie for many months have offered no treatment for his condition.

Several months ago, his parents, hoping to find some kind of relief for their son, raised over a million dollars on a "gofundme.com account" to take Charlie to the United States for experimental treatment. A doctor here in the United States offered to try such treatment if Charlie could come to the US.

The hospital refused to allow Charlie to be flown to the US and until very recently refused to allow the doctor to come to London to see Charlie, maintaining it was not in his "best interest," again, legal under the United Kingdom's national health system.

The Court of Human Rights in London deemed Charlie to have no hope of meaningful improvement or recovery and therefore not a candidate for treatment, invoking the idea of "futile care." They wanted his respirator removed so that he could die.

Just two weeks ago, the US doctor was allowed to come to London to see Charlie and did an MRI. Unfortunately, by this time his brain was so damaged that the treatment that might have been effective six months ago was no longer an option. His parents, regretfully, asked that they be able to take Charlie home to die. **THE COURT SAID NO.**

Yes, you read that correctly. The court and the hospital would not discharge Charlie to his parents, offering a whole host of strange reasons, the most unfathomable of all being that his respirator machine might not fit through

continued on page 11



Legislative Update



Contact Information

President

President Donald Trump
The White House Washington, D.C. 20500
Opinion Line: 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5 Fax
Number: 202-456-2461
Web contact: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/
Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Gary Peters, Debbie Stabenow)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3121
Website/Email: www.peters.senate.gov/
Website/Email: www.stabenow.senate.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-224-3121
Website/Email: www.house.gov/
Dear Congressman/Congresswoman (last name):

Governor

The Honorable Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
Opinion Line: 517-335-7858
Website: www.michigan.gov/snyder
Email: Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov
Dear Governor Snyder:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
Web contact: www.senate.mi.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
Web contact: www.house.mi.gov/
Dear Representative (last name):

Snyder vetoes 'Choose Life' license plate

By Jonathan Oosting

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder on Friday vetoed a proposal to create a "Choose Life" fundraising license plate in Michigan, saying it would be inappropriate for the state to endorse a "political message" that could divide residents.

The GOP-led Legislature approved the bill this spring, and sponsor Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, called the governor's veto "utterly disgraceful."

In a letter to legislators explaining the veto, Snyder said he thought the plate carried a political message he feared could "bitterly divide millions of Michiganders."

"And that, in my view, is not appropriate for a state-issued license plate," he wrote.

Colbeck denied the license plate carried a political message despite its link to the controversial abortion issue, arguing life is a fundamental right that extends beyond that specific debate. He also disputed the governor's suggestion it would be divisive.

"The only way that holds any credence as a divisive message is if you somehow believe 'Choose Death' is a viable message — and it's not," Colbeck told *The Detroit News*.

"Choose Life" license plates are allowed in 29 other states, according to the National Conference for State Legislatures.

Colbeck, who announced this month he is running for governor, questioned whether there was any personal motivation behind the veto by Snyder, who cannot seek re-election due to term limits.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, a Midland Republican who may also run for governor in 2018, also said he was disappointed by Snyder's veto. Another potential candidate, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley of Portland, supported the license plate legislation but respects Snyder's decision, said spokeswoman Laura Biehl.

Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan testified against the proposed license plate in committee, arguing it would amount to "viewpoint discrimination" because it would only give voice to one side of a political debate.

"Women's health care shouldn't be a political issue," Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan said in a statement after Snyder's veto, suggesting "our opponents have unfortunately attempted to make it one."

Snyder "did the right thing" by rejecting the legislation, said Shelli Weisberg with the ACLU of Michigan.

"We don't think the state should really create that type of forum for controversial, one-sided political speech, and that's what this would have been," she said. "If you're going to open that forum, you have to do it widely."

continued on page 11



Walk For Life

Sunday, September 10, 2017 • 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Sumac Pointe Pavilion, 37401 Hines Drive, Edward Hines Park, Livonia

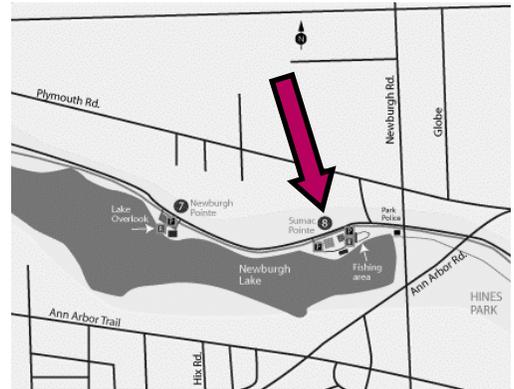
Walk for Life is an easy way for people of all ages to get involved by demonstrating support for the *Sanctity of Human Life across the lifespan* & a desire to make a difference in the lives of women & their babies.

It will take less than 90 minutes of your time, but its effect could literally last a lifetime!

Put your feet to your pro-life convictions & *Walk for Life*; you will directly *help LIFESPAN* advance its mission to impact & transform people with the love of life from conception until natural death.

Start collecting pledges of support from friends & family NOW!

- T-shirts included with registration; **PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED ****
\$20/adults, \$10/youth (13-17 years), \$5/child (under 13 years)
- **Additional pledges may be sent in after the *Walk for Life*, so keep collecting pledges**
- A *Walk for Life* pin to walkers who bring in \$100 or more in pledges.
- Two Tickets to *LIFESPAN*'s Fall Sign Painting Party to each of the first 2 walkers who collect the most pledges (above \$150), received by *LIFESPAN* by **October 2, 2017**.



***Registration fee guarantees your shirt, in your selected size, for registrations received by 9/1/2017. Limited selection of shirts/sizes will be available for those who are not pre-registered.*

We are a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible!

Questions: Call 734.422-6230 - Pledge Forms are available online at miLIFESPAN.org/Events

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017 - 1:00 pm
White Chapel Cemetery

For More Information, contact us:

mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org,
734.524.0162 or miLIFESPAN.org



2017 LIFESPAN Used Book Sale

Thanks so much to all the wonderful volunteers who came to help us with our Used Book Sale in July! We couldn't have done it without you!



LIFESPAN Chapter News

Youth Event

Elsewhere in our newsletter you will see a notice of a Youth Event being held at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. The event will feature a pro-life movie titled "Voiceless" which explores the reaction of a number of people to an unplanned pregnancy. This film was shown in front of the US Supreme Court on October 2, 2016. This was a first time the Supreme Court ever allowed a film to be shown in front of the court. The evening begins at 6:30pm and is expected to end at 9:30pm. We have asked Audrey Nitzel to speak at this event. She is the Regional Director of Students for Life of America and attended our Celebrate Life Dinner in May. She was so impressed by the participation of so many young people at the dinner that she readily agreed to speak at this event to help students start and maintain pro-life groups at their schools. Registration is necessary so please let us know if you can come!

Christmas Cards & Entertainment Books

As usual we have done our best to select Christmas

Cards that reflect "the reason for the season" and we think that we have found two beautiful cards. Many area churches will have the cards available or you can come to the office to select them. Remember too that Entertainment Books make great Christmas gifts and we have those as well.

Life Chain

It only takes an hour, but in that hour, your silent witness to the beauty of Life can mean the difference between life and death to a preborn baby. We may never know who we touch, or what minds we change simply by being visible to a passing motorist, but it has happened and will happen again. You may be the cause of that change.

"You cannot unwish me for I am assembled out of unforgettable". - Erin Van Vuren, contemporary California poet

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540

Phone: 248-816-1546

Email: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9-3

Diane Trombley, Director

Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff & Youth Director

Walk for Life

Put your feet to your pro-life convictions and **Walk for Life**; you will directly help LIFESPAN advance its mission to impact and transform people with the love of life from conception until natural death.

Sunday, September 10, 2017

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Sumac Pointe, Edward Hines Drive, Livonia

SAVE & Support!

It's time to SAVE! The 2018 Entertainment Books are at the Wayne County Chapter, NOW!

As a special bonus, when you pay your \$30, you will also receive the 2017 Entertainment Book which is good until December 30,

2017. That is TWO books for the price of one! Supplies of the 2017 Books are *extremely* limited and are given out on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Proud to be Pro-Life

It's a great time to be pro-life! Members of future generations *will exist* because of the pro-life work

that you support and do! Abortion totals are at their lowest levels since 1973. Women who had abortions are receiving hope and healing through post-abortion counseling and ministries.

The Millennial Generation is the most pro-life generation since 1973; this is evidenced by the hundreds of thousands of young people who attend the annual National March for Life. Social Media has allowed millions to spread the pro-life truth about abortions, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.

Keep on keeping on—YOU are making a difference!

Christmas Cards

It may seem too early to even think about Christmas, but we are ordering cards right now! They will be in our office and in local businesses, churches and faith organizations in October. Send a card that will mean so much to the people you care about, support LIFE and the work of LIFESPAN.

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 210, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116

Email: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: MW 10:30-4; TTh: 9-2:30; Friday Closed

Eileen Brandt, Director

Anne Marie Morin, Office Manager

Oakland/Macomb Counties

Wayne County





Wee Care

how many lives you have touched with your generosity and love!

Thank God for ultrasounds!

Yesterday, a social worker shared the story of one of her moms. She was a young, frightened college student who had no prenatal care and was considering a late term abortion. She had no idea what the procedure does and had no idea how developed her baby was. The social worker suggested having an ultrasound so that she could see her baby. As the technician began the ultrasound, the mom burst into tears - not one but two heartbeats and two perfectly formed precious babies appeared on the screen - a little boy and a little girl!

At that moment, the mom fell in love. She didn't know how she was going to go to school and provide for her tiny son and daughter, but what she did know was that she would give them life, protect them always and love them forever.

Today, she is back in school part-time. Some family members and friends are helping her, and she is more in love with her cherished twins than ever!

Thanks to you - we were able to give her clothing, bedding and lots of diapers and wipes! You will never know



Thank you and God bless you!
Love, Karen

A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone: 734-524-0165 • Fax: 734-524-0166

Office Hours: By appointment; Karen Patrosso, Director

All material and monetary donations to Wee Care are tax-deductible. Checks must be made payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund.

2017 Pro-Life Luncheon Registration Form

YES! I want to attend LIFESPAN's Pro-Life Luncheon! Reservations required by Friday, October 13th. ALL tickets will be held at the door.

____ Tickets @ \$25 each (Current LIFESPAN Members)

____ Tickets @ \$30 each (Non-Members, Free One Year LIFESPAN Membership Included!)

____ Tickets @ \$15 each (students 21 or younger)

____ I am unable to attend, but please use this donation of
\$_____ to help LIFESPAN in its work.

**Make checks payable to: Right to Life-LIFESPAN and send to:
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Suite 210, Livonia, MI 48150**

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If you would like to sit with anyone specific, please send in your registration forms together or list names here; tables seat maximum of 8 people (we will do our best to accommodate seating requests): _____

Photos/video may be taken at this event by LIFESPAN and may be used by us on the web, in publications and/or other media.

If you would prefer that your image not be included, please contact the Main Office: 734.524.0162



**Right to Life - LIFESPAN's
"MOVEMENT IN MOTION"
Youth Bus Trip 2018
to Washington, DC
for the 45th Annual March for Life**

Dates: Depart evening of January 18th & Arrive home morning of January 21st
7th-12th grade students and college students as well as Young Adults, Parents, Pro-Life Groups
and all other adults who work with young people are invited!
7th/8th grade students must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Cost is \$185.00 per person

Includes bus trip, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner & 1 Beanie Hat
LIFESPAN Beanie Hats are required for all Marchers to wear for identification purposes.
Deduct \$10.00 from the cost of the trip if you already have a hat.

Registration will begin September 1st and end October 15th
(or sooner depending on how quickly the LIFESPAN buses fill up)

For further information about the trip and to get registration forms,
please contact Lynn Gura, Youth Director, at
oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org or 248-816-1546.

**Michigan Nurses  For Life
2017 Conference**

End of Life Decisions: Who Will Make Yours?

Saturday, October 7, 2017 • 8:00 am - 12:30 pm
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital • Pontiac, Michigan



Death, Doctors and Dilemmas: A Nurse's Experience

Nancy Valko, RN, an Advanced Legal Nurse Consultant has over forty years of nursing experience. She has served on medical ethics committees, appeared on many radio and television shows and has written on these topics. She is a spokesperson for the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses.



Advance Directives: Protecting Yourself and Your Loved Ones

Jason Negri, JD, Assistant Director of the Patients rights Council speaks nationally on the practical and ethical aspects of end-of-life issues and provides training to those seeking to improve their ability to effectively communicate these issues. He has written articles and authored the booklet *Twenty Answers on End-of-Life Issues*.

Nurses: \$25 - General Public: \$20 - Students: \$15

Phone: 248.816.8489 • Email: info@mnfl.org
Web: www.mnfl.org • Register at: endoflifedecisions.eventbrite.com

Presented by:

Michigan Nurses for Life in cooperation with **Educational Center for Life**

A certificate of attendance will be awarded for nurses. The public is welcome.



2018 LIFESPAN RAFFLE

Maximum of 500 tickets will be sold
Donation: \$50 per ticket

1st Prize: \$7,000
2nd Prize: \$2,000
3rd Prize: \$1,000

- **Drawing Date:** May 8, 2018 at LIFESPAN’s Annual Dinner – 9:00-9:30 pm
- **Location:** San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy, Michigan 48083
- Winner need not be present to win

*** If fewer than 400 tickets are sold by the drawing time, the raffle will become a 50/50 drawing (the winning ticket holders will receive a percentage of half of all ticket sales).*

PICK-UP AT ONE OF OUR OFFICES:

LIFESPAN’s Main Office

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Suite 100
Livonia • 734.524.0162

Oakland/Macomb Chapter

1637 W. Big Beaver, Suite G
Troy • 248.816.1546

Wayne County/Downriver Chapter

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Suite 210
Livonia • 734.422.6230

ORDER BY MAIL:

Enclose check or provide credit card information and return to:

LIFESPAN Main Office

32540 Schoolcraft Road, Suite 100
Livonia, MI 48150-4305



Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Educational Fund
License No. R43493

*** Once payment is received, your tickets will be sent to you.**

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund is required, by law, to withhold appropriate taxes as designated by the IRS on cash prize winnings.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund 2018 RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

Number of Tickets: _____ @ \$50 each. Total Amount: \$ _____

- Check made payable to **Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund**
- MasterCard VISA Discover American Express **Your credit card will be charged by LIFESPAN Educational Fund*
- Account # _____ Expiration Date _____ Verification Code _____

Verification Code is 3-digit number on the back of the credit card

Bill To:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature (for Credit Card): _____

Name(s) on Ticket(s) (if different from above): _____

[] If sold out, please return money [] If sold out, please accept as a donation

Send order form and payment to:

LIFESPAN Main Office, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Suite 100, Livonia, MI 48150
734.524.0162 • mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org

LIFESPAN Use Only: Sep/Oct17

Ticket #(s): _____

Check #(s): _____

2017 LIFESPAN Christmas Cards

Your purchase of LIFESPAN Christmas Cards represents support for the pro-life activities, education and materials offered during the coming year.

To place an order, arrange for pickup at a location near you and/or for more information, call one of our chapter locations:

Oakland/Macomb County: 248.816.1546 or **Wayne County: 734.422.6230**

Joy

This beautiful card depicts the Holy Family and the Wise Men in stunning detail and bright tones with embossed and gold foil detail.

A green box with gold loop and gold foil-lined envelope complete this elegant Christmas greeting.

Inside Verse:

*ONE SHINING STAR TO MAKE THE WORLD BRIGHT,
ONE INFANT CHILD ON THAT WONDERFUL NIGHT,
ONE LITTLE PRAYER FOR THOSE WE HOLD DEAR,
TO BLESS YOU AT CHRISTMAS AND ALL THROUGH THE YEAR.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Actual size: 5.63" x 7.88"

\$17 per box of 20



Born to bring Hope

In a manger, the Infant Jesus is lovingly being watched over by His parents.

There is a white envelope to carry your message to loved ones.

Inside Verse:

*A Small Infant
Bringing Hope to the World*

Merry Christmas!

Actual size: 4.84" x 6.75"

\$7 per pkg. of 10

Both cards are made in the U.S.A.

Additional cards from previous years (at a discounted rate) will also be available on a limited basis.

Contact our offices for more information!

Struggle for Charlie Gard's Life

Continued from page 3

the door of the family home. Charlie will now die in the hospice selected by the hospital.

Do not ask me how the hospital and the courts in the United Kingdom could take control of Charlie's life and death in this fashion but they have.

Don't be so complacent as to believe that nothing like this could ever happen in the United States, because it can. Look no further than the recent efforts to improve our own health care. Partisan politics is preventing reform to our health care and could result in a single payer (government) system.

Update:

Charlie was transferred to a London hospice on July 28th where his respirator was removed and he died a short time later.

Snyder

Continued from page 4

It's not the first time Snyder has clashed with the anti-abortion lobby. The governor, who says he is personally opposed to abortion except in cases of rape, in 2012 vetoed legislation to restrict insurance coverage for the procedure.

Supporters argued the fundraising plate would have benefited women who have babies through unplanned pregnancies, supporting services like crisis pregnancy centers, homes for pregnant women, outreach to at-risk populations and campaigns to promote adoption and suicide prevention.

"These are noble causes; but having a private fund making funding decisions is a concern," Snyder said in his veto letter.

The legislation "is not about a license plate; it's about the State of Michigan making a political statement. And that statement arouses strong emotional reaction that divides residents of this state," he wrote.

Michigan offers 29 specialty license plates that help raise money for public universities, the Boy Scouts of America, breast cancer awareness, military veterans and other causes. The Michigan Secretary of State's Office said there were 228,571 specialty fundraising plates on the road as of late May, a figure that includes motorcycle versions.

- *The Detroit News*, June 30, 2017

Convention

Continued from page 14

husband were both journalists with a pro-choice mentality prior to learning more about the Gosnell case. The case is about an abortion doctor who performed illegal late abortions routinely, and also caused the death of two women

as a result of malpractice. The movie has to this date been funded over 2.3 million dollars. The McElhinneys are still accepting donations through the movie's website, www.gosnellmovie.com. Ann showed us the pre-screening on Friday night of the conference. The movie definitely had an influence on me that I hope other people viewing the movie will also experience. This movie, which will be officially released later in 2017, is a huge opportunity to reveal the reality of abortion's evil to the world. It inspires me to see people working so passionately towards bringing this message to the world.

One of my favorite workshops was given by Kelsey Hazzard of Secular Pro-life. Hazzard, a non-religious person, discussed how to defend the pro-life position without using religious arguments. Although I myself am a Catholic Christian, I believe that if we want to spread the pro-life message, we need to be able to reach every person where they are at in their stance. Many times pro-choicers will not listen to a Christian using the Bible in defense of pro-life beliefs. If science and basic morality are argued instead, pro-choicers are more likely to be convinced. Hazzard said to always be kind and respectful when speaking to people with different beliefs. After all, respect for other human beings is the central part of being pro-life. Brochures with arguments against abortions for non-Christians were available after the workshop. I grabbed a stack of them, which I plan to pass around in my community.

Overall, what I got out of this conference is that there are many ways to make an impact in the pro-life movement. However, whatever we choose to do, we need to do it with love. Being angry or calling people out for their past mistakes will only turn people away. This is the exact opposite of what we want. We can't assume that just because somebody is a Christian that they are pro-life, or if they are not a Christian, that they are pro-choice. If we really want to make abortion illegal, we need to change the hearts of the individuals in this country and back up our points with respectful, fact-based arguments. We need to be welcoming to everyone who may want to be part of our movement, in spite of differences, and unite behind one cause: defending life.

LIFESPAN News

Sept./Oct. 2017; Vol. 46, No. 6

President & Publisher: Diane Fagelman

Co-Editors: Christina Hansen & Diane Trombley

Right to Life - LIFESPAN is a non-profit organization and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers.



MAIN OFFICE

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone: 734-524-0162; Fax: 734-524-0166

Email: mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org

Website: www.miLIFESPAN.org

Christina Hansen, Office Manager

Four Myths About Doctor-Assisted Suicide

By Ezekiel J. Emanuel

In a little more than a week [November 2012], voters in Massachusetts will decide whether to allow doctors to “prescribe medication, at the request of a terminally ill patient meeting certain conditions, to end that person’s life.” A similar bill is being debated in New Jersey. Unfortunately, like so many health care questions, the debate about physician-assisted suicide is confused, characterized by four major falsehoods.

Pain

The fundamental claim behind arguments for physician-assisted suicide is that most patients who desire it are experiencing excruciating physical pain. The 1996 decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit supporting a constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide in Washington State summarized the conventional wisdom: “Americans are living longer, and when they finally succumb to illness, lingering longer, either in great pain or in astuporous, semi-comatose condition that results from the infusion of vast amounts of painkilling medications.”

But this view is false. A multitude of studies based on interviews of patients with cancer, AIDS, Lou Gehrig’s disease and other conditions have demonstrated that patients who desire euthanasia (in which a doctor administers a lethal drug) or physician-assisted suicide (in which the patient himself takes the lethal drug prescribed by the physician) tend not to be motivated by pain. Only 22 percent of patients who died between 1998 and 2009 by assisted suicide in Oregon — one of three states, along with Washington and Montana, where it is legal — were in pain or afraid of being in pain, according to their doctors. Among the seven patients who received euthanasia in Australia in the brief time it was legal in the ‘90s, three reported no pain, and the pain of the other four was adequately controlled by medications.

Patients themselves say that the primary motive is not to escape physical pain but psychological distress; the main drivers are depression, hopelessness and fear of loss of autonomy and control. Dutch researchers, for a report published in 2005, followed 138 terminally ill cancer patients and found that depressed patients were four times more likely to request euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide. Nearly half of those who requested euthanasia were depressed.

In this light, physician-assisted suicide looks less like a good death in the face of unremitting pain and more like plain old suicide. Typically, our response to suicidal feelings associated with depression and hopelessness is not to give people the means to end their lives but to offer them counseling and caring.

Advanced Technology

A second misconception about assisted suicide is that it is the inevitable result of a high-tech medical culture

that can sustain life even when people have become debilitated, incontinent, incoherent and bound to a machine. It is the “inevitable consequence of changes in the causes of death, advances in medical science, and the development of new technologies,” as the appeals court put it.



Simon Prades

es

But the ancient Greeks and Romans advocated euthanasia. In modern times, debate about legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide was revived with intensity in England in the late 19th century, after a famous debate at the Birmingham Speculative Club. The first such bill introduced in the United States was in 1905, before the discovery of antibiotics and dialysis, much less respirators and feeding tubes. If interest in legalizing euthanasia is tied to any trend in history, it is the rise of individualistic strains of thought that glorify personal choice, not the advances of high-tech medicine.

Mass Appeal

A third misconception about assisted suicide is that it will improve the end of life for everyone. After all, death afflicts everyone, and legalized assisted suicide would allow any individual to avoid an excruciatingly painful death. But the fact is that, even in places where physician-assisted suicide is legal, very few people take advantage of it. In Oregon, between 1998 and 2011, 596 patients used physician-assisted suicide — about 0.2 percent of dying patients in the state. In the Netherlands, where euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide have been permitted for more than three decades, fewer than 3 percent of people die by these means. And even if we add all the dying patients who even vaguely express an interest in assisted suicide, it amounts to much less than 10 percent. For the vast majority of dying patients, it will have no impact on improving the ends of their lives.

Whom does legalizing assisted suicide really benefit? Well-off, well-educated people, typically suffering from cancer, who are used to controlling everything in their lives — the top 0.2 percent. And who are the people most likely to be abused if assisted suicide is legalized? The poor, poorly educated, dying patients who pose a burden to their relatives.

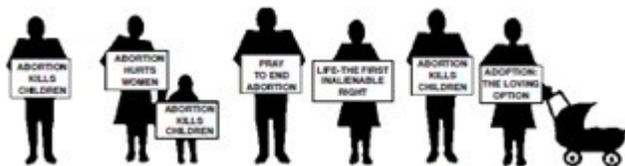
A Good Death

The last misconception about assisted suicide is that it is a quick, painless and guaranteed way to die. But nothing in medicine — not even simple blood draws — is

without complications. It turns out that many things can go wrong during an assisted suicide. Patients vomit up the pills they take. They don't take enough pills. They wake up instead of dying. Patients in the Dutch study vomited up their medications in 7 percent of cases; in 15 percent of cases, patients either did not die or took a very long time to die – hours, even days; in 18 percent, doctors had to intervene to administer a lethal medication themselves, converting a physician-assisted suicide into euthanasia. (In the states where assisted suicide is legal, and under the proposed Massachusetts law, this intervention would be illegal.)

Instead of attempting to legalize physician-assisted suicide, we should focus our energies on what really matters: improving care for the dying – ensuring that all patients can openly talk with their physicians and families about their wishes and have access to high-quality palliative or hospice care before they suffer needless medical procedures. The appeal of physician-assisted suicide is based on a fantasy. The real goal should be a good death for all dying patients.

- *The New York Times*, October 27, 2012



30th Annual LIFE CHAIN

October 1, 2017

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Thousands of participants will stand on the sidewalks in witness to their commitment to love and protect the preborn and their mothers. This peaceful, prayerful event will provide a visual statement of unity.

Join Right to Life - LIFESPAN and Co-Sponsor a Chain near you!

Call the Main Office at 734.524.0162 or visit miLIFESPAN.org for forms.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

In January, the front page of our newsletter asked the question, *What Do We Do Now?*

With the new administration in Washington D.C. promising to protect human life, we will be offering ideas for action by you. It will change with each newsletter, and, hopefully, will raise awareness for the need to protect human life at all its stages.

SEPT/OCT 2017

Please share the information below with your faith community, organizations, friends and family so that everyone is aware!

Did you know that Michigan has a Safe Haven act called the **Michigan Safe Delivery of Newborns Act**?

The Basics:

- Parents can anonymously surrender a newborn within 72 hours of birth to an Emergency Service Provider (ESP) - an on duty employee/contractor of a hospital, fire department or police station.
- The newborn is examined by a physician
- Any unharmed newborn is transferred to a child placing agency
- Parents may change their minds within 27 days of surrender

More Information:

- Visit WeeCare4Babies.org for links to the Michigan Department of Human Services website

SAVE THESE DATES! LIFESPAN EVENTS - 2017

National Day of Remembrance: Saturday, September 9

Walk for Life: Sunday, September 10

LIFE CHAIN: Sunday, October 1

"Movement in Motion" Bus Trip Registration: Sep 5 - Oct 31

Lights for Life Campaign: Starts in October

LIFESPAN Christmas Cards: Sales start in October

MNFL Annual Fall Conference: Saturday, October 7

LIFESPAN Pro-Life Luncheon: Saturday, October 21

LIFESPAN sends youth to the 2017 National Right to Life Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Walking in Another Person's Shoes and How to Fundraise: A Reflection from the National Right to Life Convention 2017

By Chloe Haikio

One of the panels I attended was "What to do After *Roe vs. Wade*" which was mostly about how to fundraise for pro-life foundations and how to pitch the idea of giving funds. Brian Cusak spoke about how to properly ask for funds, meet new people to donate, and how to keep an ongoing relationship with old donors. His advice could be helpful with fundraising for college groups looking to raise funds for various expenses in their pro-life club or perhaps so they can attend the March for Life and cover costs would be able to use this information.

The other talk I went to was given by a trauma therapist, Greg Hasek. According to him, most people who get an abortion have had some sort of trauma in their past. He also stated that most people are using their right brain, the side of the brain that controls emotion, when they decide to have an abortion. This is because of the panic that can be caused due to the trauma. They have a fight or flight response to an unexpected pregnancy and only know that they want relief. The abortion itself could cause trauma to both the man and woman. The man wants to fight to protect his partner and the woman wants to flee. In some cases, since the woman is in a panicked state and is unable to move, she might have the same kind of trauma that is caused by rape. Trauma is another cause for most cases of domestic violence. He has found that treating the past trauma also helps them to either mend their relationship and or help them to forgive themselves for the abortion.

Overall, what I got out of the conference is that everyone can be involved in the pro-life movement and have an impact in some way. I would encourage college students to get involved in any groups their school may have, and if there isn't already one, to get one started. Also, making people aware of the situation a woman considering an abortion may be going through helps to be a reminder that we should be compassionate while spreading the pro-life message. The women who feel they have no other option need even more love, and to be shown there are other options, such as adoption. We should be able to help with defending life in some way.

What the Pro-life Movement Should Be Doing in Today's World: A Reflection After Attending the National Right to Life Convention 2017

By Katie Moses

There is no more authentic message than standing up for the protection of life." These are the words of Wisconsin's pro-life governor Scott Walker, guest speaker at the 47th annual National Right to Life Convention. The convention took place this past weekend from Thursday, June 29, to Saturday, July 1, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The conference featured a wide variety of speakers heavily involved in the pro-life movement, including Ryan Bomberger, Ann McElhinney, and David Daleiden, the man who went undercover to expose Planned Parenthood's selling of aborted baby body parts. The three-day conference was a wonderful opportunity for me to learn more about how to become more involved in the pro-life movement, and more importantly, successful at reaching the hearts of people who may hold a different stance simply be-



Chloe & Katie meet Fr. Frank Pavone

cause they are misinformed. I would like to share some of the speakers talks that influenced me the most.

Of the various talks and workshops I attended on Thursday, I especially enjoyed hearing the conversion story of Bryan Kemper at one of the teen sessions. He grew up in a dysfunctional and abusive family. To deal with these problems, he started doing drugs in high school. One night he overdosed completely. "I should have died from all the drugs I had taken in," said Kemper. When Kemper was in the recovery room, a man took him outside and said to him, "You're worth so much more than this. You have value. God loves you." These words affected Bryan because nobody had ever told him he was worth something in his life, and they were exactly what he needed to hear. Bryan is now the founder and president of Stand True Ministries, a pro-life ministry, and is married with children. His talk goes to show how one person's act of love can have a huge impact on a person's life.

Another part of the conference that really impacted me was Ann McElhinney's discussion and introduction of the movie *Gosnell*, produced by her and her husband. She is also co-writer of the bestselling book, *Gosnell: The Untold Story of America's Most Prolific Serial Killer*. She and her

continued on page 11

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Recently a report on CBS entitled; "Behind the Lens" reported that the country of Iceland has eradicated Down Syndrome children! How? ABORTION!

It is a chilling report and depicts how far the world has fallen into the abyss of dehumanizing the imperfect or unwanted humans in our world. You can Google CBS or go to LifeNews.com for the full report. Two quotes I will share with you which will point out what I mean by chilling. Helga Sol Olafsdottir, who counsels women who have a pregnancy with chromosomal abnormality at Landspítali University Hospital, stated "We don't look at abortion as murder. We look at it as a thing that is ended. We ended a possible life that may have had a huge complication... preventing suffering for the child and the family. And I think that is more right than seeing it as murder - that's so black and white. Life isn't black and white. Life is grey." Then there is Hulda Hjartardottir, head of the Prenatal Diagnosis Unit at Landspítali University Hospital, who stated, "Babies with Down Syndrome are still being born in Iceland," "Some of them were low risk in our screening test, so we didn't find them in our screening."

They didn't find them - so what she is saying is that she couldn't kill them! This is the subtle philosophy of much of our genetic counseling throughout this world. It is especially prevalent in the US and has been for many years. This is why LIFESPAN does not support the March of Dimes and other organizations who promote and support a "search and destroy" policy when it comes to genetic counseling. Genetic counseling is done to find out the defective humans in utero. What happens when couples find out they are carrying a defective child, they are given "choices": keep the child or abort the child - that's it. Oh, there are some who can be treated in utero but that is a very low percentage. Also, some children can be carriers of the condition and may not be born with the condition,

i.e. the child in utero tests positive and child is born normal.

It is not easy to criticize non-profits like the March of Dimes, but criticize we must. There are positive things they do for children born, but they are still controlled by those whose words you read in the above paragraphs. They want to eradicate defective children. We will never live in a utopian society. Life is full of heartache, pain and inconveniences, so if we went along with the pure eugenics crowd, we would have to destroy all preborn children. One cannot "prevent suffering" in a lifetime. What we can do is create a society who will love, nurture and support all humans of age or defects.

Oh my, so much to do, so little time. Don't give up. Let's keep working for a better world for all of us - the preborn and born. Thank you for your continuous support. It's a matter of Life and Death.

— Diane Fagelman, President Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Donations have been made -

In Memory of:

Carol Horvath

Given by: Eric & Eileen Brandt
Wayne County LIFESPAN Board Members
Patricia Holscher

Kelsey Grace Liepa

Given by: Eric & Eileen Brandt

Mary McClorey

Given by: Maureen McClorey

Joseph A. Sosnowski

Given by: Patricia Holscher

Right to Life - LIFESPAN 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 preborn, 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	\$30.00	_____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member	\$20.00	

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: *Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305*. For more information, call **734-524-0162**.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Oakland/Macomb Chapter
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G
Troy, MI 48084-3540

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Royal Oak, MI
Permit No. 294



DATED MATERIAL



Right to Life - LIFESPAN's

Pro-Life Luncheon

October 21, 2017



**Featured
Speakers:**



Dawn Baker, LMSW

Michigan Pregnancy Counseling &
Adoption Service Line Director



Jeff Noble

Michigan Representative
District 20



**MICHIGAN HOUSE
REPUBLICANS**

**Registration at 10:30 AM
Program begins at 11:00 AM**

Why attend?

**O'Kelly Banquet Hall
23663 Park St
Dearborn, MI 48124**

SO MANY REASONS: You are pro-life. You want to know what to tell someone about adoption as the loving option. You want to be better prepared to answer questions about adoption. You are personally interested in adoption for your family. You want to know about the loving option for unplanned pregnancies.

Get legislative updates, too!

Pick a reason, or two, and register today! Call 734.422.6230 for more information!

See Registration Form on Page 7