

October – December 2014
Bulletin Inserts

October 4 – In this time of constant tinkering with the boundaries of life, in defining who will be born and who will die, Respect Life Sunday rises again to assert the value of each and every human life, created in the image of God, entitled to legal protection from conception to natural death.

October 11 - Ephraim Borowski, director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, spoke out against an Assisted Suicide Bill currently making its way through the Scottish Parliament: “It’s now a well- known cliché that the Holocaust didn’t begin in Auschwitz, it ended in Auschwitz. In terms of principle, it began with the belief that some lives are not worth as much as others, and that is precisely what we are faced with here.” **(Dr. Peter Saunders, NRL News Online, 2/2/15)**

October 18 - The date was Wednesday, June 17: summer’s promise of love and life was only days away. But on that date, blind hatred destroyed good, decent human lives. The Charleston church killer sat with a group of God-fearing humans for over an hour, unable to see the goodness before him and struck out in deadly violence. Is that different from those who see the undeniable humanity of a child on an ultrasound and then advocate for the right to violently destroy that innocent life?

October 25 – “Evidence has multiplied that some abortion providers do not regard babies born alive during abortions as persons, and do not provide them with the types of care that would be provided to premature infants who are born spontaneously. In some cases, such born-alive infants are even subjected to overt acts of deadly violence.” **(NRLC letter to Congress urging support of the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 3504)*, NRL News Today)**

November 1 – “Slavery is profoundly wrong because it is intrinsically unjust to relegate a whole class of human beings to the status of mere things for use; it was inherently unjust to deny the personhood, the equal fundamental dignity of African-American human beings, for the benefit of another class of human beings. By the same token, it is inherently and intrinsically unjust to relegate the whole class of unborn human beings to the status of non-persons, to the status of mere inconvenient burdens that can be directly killed or discarded for the benefit of others.” **(Patrick Lee, *Abortion and Unborn Human Life*)**

November 8 - In July, 1949, Leo Alexander, a psychiatrist with the Office of the Chief of Counsel for War Crimes at Nuremberg, described how the Nazis' shift in attitude toward human life led to the Holocaust. The parallel to today’s Culture of Death are obvious:

“The beginnings at first were merely a subtle shift in emphasis in the basic attitude of the physicians. It started with the attitude, basic in the euthanasia movement that there is such a thing as a life not worthy to be lived. This attitude in its early stages concerned itself merely with the severely and chronically sick. Gradually the sphere of those to be included in this category was enlarged to encompass the socially unproductive, the ideologically unwanted, the racially unwanted and finally all non-Germans.”

November 15 - Toronto Cardinal Thomas Collins responded to the Canadian Supreme Court's legalization of assisted suicide, stating in part that "Any society that authorizes killing people through assisted suicide and euthanasia has lost its moral compass," and adding that physicians are called to be "servants of healing and not agents of death." (NRL News Today, 2/11/15)

November 22 – There are an increasing number of documented cases in which patients diagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state awaken after years have passed. "'Persistent vegetative state' is not a diagnosis that can be made with certainty, and this means that sometimes we're getting it wrong, and people are being sentenced to the worst kind of death: condemned to starve and dehydrate while completely aware of what's happening, yet unable to speak out." (Townhall.com, *Erring on the Side of Life*, 1/20/15)

November 29 – In an article in the **Philadelphia Daily News**, Leah Flowers challenges the notion that "it takes courage to have an abortion," as a writer for the New York Times recently opined. Flowers says, "We can disagree on many aspects of the debate over abortion, but we cannot delude ourselves into believing that it takes more courage to destroy a growing fetus than it does to allow that child to be born." (NRL News Today, 12/29/14)

December 6 -Terming the Canadian Supreme Court's legalization of assisted suicide, "a terrible day of shame for Canada," Jim Hughes, president of Campaign Life Coalition, said the ruling sends a message "that the lives of the weak, infirm and vulnerable are not worth protecting" and the government "in essence decided that some people are better off dead than alive," giving power to the strong to end the lives of the weak. (The Washington Times, 2/8/15)

December 13 - Former Baltimore Ravens player O.J. Brigrance, now a victim of Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), told a Maryland legislative committee considering assisted suicide that, "'the thought that there would be a legal avenue for an individual to take his or her own life in a moment of despair, robbing family, friends and society of their presence and contribution to society deeply saddens me and is a tragedy," adding that he has done more for society in the eight years since his diagnosis than in his previous 37 years on earth. (NRL News Today, 3/11/15)

December 20 - As we prepare to adore the newborn Christ child, let us see what the humble shepherds and wise men saw: the image of God in a newborn child. This was the same child, though invisible in Mary's womb, who had been a human being from the moment of conception. His birth only changed His place of residence.

December 27 – All those who have contributed in any way to the pro-life movement should take comfort in recent statistics showing a decline of twelve percent in abortions nationwide. One reason, cited by a pro-life leader, is an entire generation of women who have seen a sonogram as their first "baby picture," leading to an increased awareness of the humanity of the baby before it is born. (Scranton Times Tribune, AP report, 6/8/15)

Prayer Suggestions

October 4 – For the eyes of all to be opened to the beauty of each of God’s children whatever their stage of life, we pray

October 11 – For those who make decisions about the right to life, that they may seek the Divine Spirit of Wisdom to guide them, we pray

October 18 – For all pregnant women, that they may accept whatever suffering is necessary to bring their unborn child to birth, we pray

October 25 – For those who are blind to the miracle of life in the womb, that they may come to see the humanity of the unborn child, we pray

November 1 - That we may see all people as children of God and work to protect their right to life, we pray

November 8 - For greater generosity in helping the pro-life movement achieve its goal of protecting the unborn, the disabled, and the elderly, we pray

November 15 - That all those entangled in the abortion industry may turn away from their deadly profession, we pray

November 22 - For those approaching death, that they may receive the comfort, care and respect they deserve, we pray

November 29 - That, as we begin Advent, we may continue to shine the light of truth about the sanctity of life onto a Culture of Death, we pray

December 6 - For all who struggle with disabilities that they may know the support of the community enriched by their presence, we pray

December 13 - For all women who have had abortions, that they may turn to our merciful God for comfort and healing, we pray

December 20 - As we welcome the Christ Child, may our hearts be open to see each child as a precious gift from God, we pray

December 27 - For all families struggling with an untimely pregnancy that they may seek from God the strength needed to protect their child's right to life, we pray