

2015 - Issue 3

DEUTERONOMY 30:19



NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE

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## A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

# "When They Say You Say": Tremendous Positive Response to EWTN / NRLC Five-Part Mini Series

By Ernest L. Ohlhoff

Eternal Word Television Network's (EWTN) airing of the five-part miniseries 'When They Say, You Say' during the first week of October was an outstanding success. The miniseries was a joint project of National Right to Life and EWTN.

This powerful miniseries is designed to prepare prolifers for addressing the tough question about abortion, euthanasia and other life issues. Whether you are talking to a friend over coffee or being interviewed by the media, now you will understand the true nature of the questions being posed and how to skillfully answer them.

Facebook pages around the county were heralding the miniseries. EWTN's own page reflected extremely positive responses. Each night the comments about the show on EWTN's Facebook page were over 500 "likes", and the last show received 880 "likes" and was shared 93 times!

"EWTN was proud to partner with the National Right to Life Committee on this one-of-a-kind program, which educates pro-life people on how to effectively engage pro-abortion people in dialogue that stands a chance of changing hearts and minds," said Doug Keck, President and Chief Operating Officer of EWTN. "We had a tremendous



Doug Keck

reaction to this series from our viewers who sent us letters and emails, and who flooded our social media sites. We hope many pro-life groups will purchase the series through EWTN Religious Catalogue so everyone they know can be better educated about the most effective way to reach out to others on this foundational issue!"

'When They Say, You Say' featuring Olivia Gans Turner is available on DVD from EWTN and should be part of every pro-life educational resource collection. The miniseries is expected to be aired again by EWTN early next year.

'When They Say, You Say' was created by Mary Spalding Balch and Olivia Gans Turner as a teaching Excellent show!!! Thank you so very much!!!

This is just so fantastic. And such a good presentation.

That's so awesome, so overdue, and yet so timely. Bravo!

I have it on now! What a GREAT show!!! LOVE IT!!! Please reshow it! PLEASE AND THANK YOU!!! LOVE YOU GUYS

Been watching from the start; just great! Very empowering!

tool which has helped thousands of individuals learn how to effectively answer tricky questions asked about life issues. The miniseries is based on an extremely successful workshop developed over the years and presented at numerous conventions.

National Right to Life and EWTN worked together for more than a year to bring this important miniseries to completion. NRLC is extremely grateful to all EWTN staff and management who made this series such a wonderful

Over the last three years, EWTN and NRLC have cooperated in a variety of activities. Mr. Keck has attended and participated in two National Right to

success.

National Right to
Life Conventions and
supports expanding



**Olivia Gans Turner on EWTN** 

cooperation between EWTN and NRLC.

NRLC president Carol Tobias, and other NRLC staff have been interviewed numerous times on EWTN's News Nightly and other EWTN programs.

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### **National News and Notes**

#### ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS MISSOURI SYNOD LUTHERANS STAND AGAINST SALE OF BABY PARTS

It would be easier to forget what we have seen, to erase from our memories and our minds what we have heard. But



the statements and actions of Planned Parenthood medical directors and technicians, captured on film and released by the Center for Medical Progress, are the kind we will not forget, the kind that cannot be unseen and unheard.

Like millions of Americans, including those in the Roman Catholic Church and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we have been shaken to the core by what we have witnessed: intact babies, at times still alive, having their body parts harvested as a commodity. We are shocked at the image of tiny hands and feet seen in a glass pie plate. We are horrified at what we have seen and heard. Such actions and attitudes have no place in our society.

While offensive, the degradation of the bodies of these infant human beings is unfortunately just the tip of the ice-berg. Those fetal tissue and organs are only available for sale because these babies are being killed through abortion. Over 57 million unborn children have been lost to abortion in our nation since 1973.

The toll of these lives lost is enormous. We are missing sons and daughters, siblings, spouses, coaches, scholars, mentors and friends.

This loss is symptomatic of a loss of respect for human life in our society today. In so many ways, our culture seeks to deny the humanity of the unborn, of the elderly or of someone with a disability.

Together, we stand firm and repeat that every human life is worthy of dignity and respect. We affirm our continued commitment to offer resources to help parents of any faith background who are in need of medical, financial or social service assistance both during pregnancy and after. We stand ready to assist any parent who wishes to make an adoption plan for their child.

Our commitment is to all life in all its stages from conception to natural death. For those men and women who participated in an abortion, we extend to you the words of Jesus: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden ..." (Matt. 11:28), and we invite you to experience hope and healing from your experience.

-The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis:

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## **Suggested Prayers**

**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

**January 3** – For all those struggling to bring the light of truth to a world enmeshed in the anti-life mentality, we pray

**January 10** – That more people will be called to work for justice for those whose right to life is threatened, we pray

**January 17-** For a deeper understanding of the gifts that each individual, born or unborn, contributes to society, we pray

**January 24** – May we continue working for liberty for the captive unborn by protecting their right to life, we pray

**January 31** – That God who formed us in the womb may assist us in increasing respect and gaining protection for unborn life, we pray

**February 7** – For those praying for unborn children, that they may not give up because they don't see the immediate results they seek, we pray

**February 14** – For those troubled with an untimely pregnancy that they may turn to God for love and support, we pray

"The common home of all men and women must continue to rise on the foundations of a right understanding of universal fraternity and respect for the sacredness of every human life, of every man and every woman, the poor, the elderly, children, the infirm, the unborn..."

Pope Francis' Address to Members of the General Assembly of the United Nations September 25, 2015



## Bulletin Inserts

eight years since his diagnosis than in his previous 37 years Professor) on earth. (NRL News Today, 3/11/15)

child, let us see what the humble shepherds and wise men other human beings. I do not mean for my description to saw: the image of God in a newborn child. This was the be provocative, but simply direct—blunt about facts. One same child, though invisible in Mary's womb, who had been need not presume that the human fetus has a right not to a human being from the moment of conception. His birth be killed in order to recognize that, as a descriptive matter, 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 **February 7**—"Whoever receives one such child in my name nationwide. One reason, cited by a pro-life leader, is an receives me... See that you do not despise one of these little entire generation of women who have seen a sonogram as ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold their first "baby picture," leading to an increased awareness the face of my heavenly Father." (Matthew 18:5,10) If Jesus of the humanity of the baby before it is born. (Scranton forbids the despising of little ones, it is not hard to imagine Times Tribune, AP report, 6/8/15)

**January 3** - The beginning of a new year is a good time to **February 14** - On the topic of men and abortion, syndicated re-commit our gifts and energies to obtaining the protection columnist Ruben Navarrette writes, "As I've only realized of new life that is under all-out siege in the womb. Let us lately, to be a man, and to declare yourself pro-choice, pray for a new year in the future when we may celebrate is to proclaim your neutrality. And, as I've only recently legal protection for the unborn.

**January 10 -** Roe v. Wade is the Supreme Court decision that gave birth to legalized abortion. It is time to take a new look at that historic ruling: Roe is a radical decision and a legally indefensible one. But what really makes Roe unbearably wrong is its consequences. The result of Roe and Doe has been the legally authorized killing of nearly sixty million Americans since 1973. Roe v. Wade authorized unrestricted private violence against human life on an almost unimaginable scale, and did so, falsely, in the name of the Constitution." (Law Professor Michael Stokes Paulsen, cited in "The Unbearable Wrongness of Roe," NRL News 1/16/14)

**January 17 -** Faced with the overwhelming impact of Roe v. Wade, many of us—maybe even most—flee from the facts. We deny that the living human embryo is 'truly' or 'fully' human life; ...or we proclaim uncertainty about the facts of human biology; or we proclaim moral agnosticism about the propriety of 'imposing our views on others'; or we throw up our hands and give up because moral opposition to an entrenched, pervasive social practice is not worth the effort, discomfort, and social costs. The one position not on the table—the one possibility too hard to look at—is that abortion is a grave moral wrong on a par with the greatest human moral atrocities of all time and that we passively, almost willingly, accept it as such." (Law professor Michael Stokes Paulsen in NRL News 1/16/14)

**December 13 -** Former Baltimore Ravens player O.J. **January 24 -** "After nearly four decades, Roe's human Brigance, now a victim of Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), death toll stands at nearly sixty million human lives, a total told a Maryland legislative committee considering assisted exceeding the Nazi Holocaust, Stalin's purges, Pol Pot's suicide that, ""the thought that there would be a legal avenue killing fields, and the Rwandan genocide, combined. Over for an individual to take his or her own life in a moment of the past forty years, one-sixth of the American population despair, robbing family, friends and society of their presence has been killed by abortion. One in four African-Americans and contribution to society deeply saddens me and is a is killed before birth. Abortion is the leading cause of tragedy," adding that he has done more for society in the (unnatural) death in America. (Michael Stokes, Law

January 31-"The right created by the Supreme Court in December 20 - As we prepare to adore the newborn Christ Roe is a constitutional right of some human beings to kill Roe creates a right for one class of human beings to kill other human beings." (Law professor Michael S. Paulsen in NRL News 1/16/14)

what he thinks of killing them.

been willing to admit, even to myself, that's another name for "wimping out." NRL News editor Dave Andrusko comments, "Like too many men, Navarrette accepts that he has no right to speak. Some men do this because they are browbeaten, but many others fall back on this excuse because it gives them freedom to stand on the sidelines and accept no responsibility for what happens to over One Million unborn children each and every year." (NRL News Online 8/10/15)

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#### Maggie Karner, R.I.P.

Nineteen days before she committed "assisted" suicide on November 1, 2014, Brittany Maynard recorded a video demanding that California legislators endorse assisted suicide—an enormous public relations coup for Compassion & Choices (formerly The Hemlock Society). Maggie Karner, who, like Brittany, suffered from a deadly brain cancer, posted a YouTube video two days before Brittany's death, encouraging Brittany to choose life for as long as she could.

Following her valiant fight with this deteriorative disease, Dr. Margaret Ann "Maggie" Karner passed away Friday at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford on Friday, September 25, 2015. She is survived by her husband and three daughters. Maggie was a tireless advocate of life, even before her diagnosis. Dr. Karner was awarded an honorary doctorate from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Maggie also enjoyed music, especially jazz, and was an accomplished vocalist and musician.

The Rev. Bart Day, executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission, recalled Maggie, saying, "Whether promoting abstinence in a classroom or leading a mercy medical team to a small village in Africa, Maggie maintained that each life - from conception to natural death - is a gift from our gracious God."

Maggie explained her stance on life in an article for *The Federalist* in October of 2014, "As for my cancer journey, circumstances out of my control are not the worst thing that can happen to me. The worst thing would be losing faith, refusing to trust in God's purpose in my life and trying to grab that control myself."

Lutherans for Life echoed her sentiment in an homage to Maggie following her passing, "However, before her departure to be with her Savior, she also understood better than most Paul's words in the next verse, "But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account" (23:4). The dignity of Maggie's death lay in the dignity of her dying, not on her own terms, but on God's."

As the Connecticut legislature was considering a bill to legalize assisted suicide, Maggie wrote in the Hartford Courant, "Like many Connecticut residents, I have wondered whether I would want my doctor to offer suicide as a



Maggie with Dr. Jim Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life

treatment for deadly cancer... I can tell you from personal experience that it is nearly as troubling as the cancer itself.

"You see," she continued, "I get strength and comfort from the knowledge that nobody is going to give up on me — medically, psychologically or holistically. Right now, I have the firm support of the state and my fellow citizens in my desire to live — no matter the cost or burden. If that were to change, the tiny knowledge that I might be straining my family, friends, doctors or community resources unnecessarily would be a heavy burden. The constant "option" for suicide would wear at my resolve and I fear, become an unspoken "duty" for me and others."

In *The Federalist*, Maggie addressed the notion of dying with dignity. "There isn't any dignity in cancer or other debilitating illness. In my own treatment, I've been poked, prodded, radiated, chemotherapied, and cut open

so many times that I stopped worrying about being dignified quite some time ago. Instead, I prefer to get my dignity by appreciating the dear people who care for me with their individual expressions of love and prayers on my behalf.

Maggie's daughter, Mary Karner, R.N., a trauma nurse, wrote about her mother's passing on her blog, "[T]he greatest honor of my life was to care for my mom in her last days...Let those fighting illness and disabilities know that they are precious, no matter what. They should never have to feel for a second that they might have a "duty to die" just because the option is available."



Death with Dignity

"I prefer to get my dignity by appreciating the dear people who care for me with their individual expressions of love and prayers on my behalf."

-Maggie Karner