



CONCEPTION SEMINARY COLLEGE

# “LIFERS”

PRAYING FOR A GREATER RESPECT  
FOR THE DIGNITY AND SANCTITY  
OF ALL HUMAN LIFE

ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2008

## A CONCEPTION AT CONCEPTION

The past semester has seen a flurry of pro-life activity here at Conception. In particular I am referring to the pro-life group, just recently conceived and established within the last few months. In its early stages (prenatal, one might say) the pro-life group has founded itself solidly on prayer, dedicating a weekly rosary every Monday to the end of abortion. Just as a child in his or her earliest stages has not developed more noticeable features such as fingernails and hair, so the pro-life group here has, from its conception, rooted itself in prayer, from which the visible fruits will only be seen as the group continues to grow.

Our simple hope is to contribute in any way possible to the end of our world's holocaust. For this to happen, we must ignite within ourselves a fire of love for our most helpless brothers and sisters. We must make this genocide a striking reality in our hearts, and not a distant echo in our ears. We must remember this tragedy not only in our hometowns, in our cities, but also here in Conception, MO, where at times it is easy to feel separated from the “real world.” For the cries of abortion are not, and cannot be contained by the walls of those dark and lonely buildings that claim “compassion.” They are heard in every corner of our nation and world, and in every soul.

As we prepare for Christmas, anxiously awaiting the birth of our Savior, I would urge everyone to remember those whose lives are not so safe in their mother's wombs as was our Lord's. Make a small pilgrimage to a local abortion clinic and pray a rosary, asking Mary to protect the unborn as she protected her only Son. In Des Moines, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Tulsa, Wichita, and all our other dioceses, let's be instruments of the Lord.

I'm reminded here of the popular Ben Folds Five song “Brick,” in which he begins “6 a.m., day after Christmas” and goes on to tell the story of that day

when he drove his girlfriend to get an abortion. This year on December 26<sup>th</sup>, there are countless others who will drive in the cold morning to an abortion mill just as Ben Folds did. The day after our Savior is born, children that are formed in His Father's image are going to be denied life.

While keeping the atrocity of this greatest sin of our nation, and our world, at the forefront of our minds and hearts, we also live in hope, because as Fr. Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life, often says: “It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!”

- Andy Mattingly,  
Kansas City – St. Joseph



### Braving the Cold

Since its inception a few weeks ago, the Pro-Life Group of Conception Seminary College has been able to participate in interesting and extremely cold events. On Saturday morning, November 15, about 20 students awoke even before the Monastic Community, heading off to attend a Rosary at Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, an abortion mill that on average completes about 30 abortions-per-weekend. Braving the freezing temperatures - and the occasional snow flurries - the group joined about twenty other pro-lifers already present at the mill to peacefully pray for life.

-Brian Carrillo, Wichita

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*O MARY, BRIGHT DAWN OF THE  
NEW WORLD, MOTHER OF THE  
LIVING, TO YOU DO WE ENTRUST  
THE CAUSE OF LIFE*



# "LIFERS"

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## How could anyone kill one of these?

When Fr. John Corapi speaks, I listen. He talks mainly on spiritual warfare and how the faithful should combat the evils that have been allowed to arise in our society. Just recently, I heard him bring up a very good point. He said, "As a society, we have become so immoral so as to endanger babies in the one place in all the universe where they should be safest: their mother's womb." I hope that as you read this essay, you too will be convinced that something **MUST** be done immediately to stem the mass murder that has been given the dignity of legal status under the "right to privacy."

I couldn't believe it. I was kneeling down and praying in church one day and the mom in front of me could not keep her kids quiet. They made all the usual sounds for kids age 2 and under. They cried, burped, aaaahed, and laughed at almost every part of the Mass. Yet it seemed that the mom wouldn't do everyone else the favor and take the kids outside for a moment.

And yet, while I was pondering this thought, I happened to stare down at one of them and his radiant blue eyes met mine. We kept the connection for about two seconds, after which, he smiled at me, giggled, and turned away to find something else on which he could fixate his short attention span. It was very cool in a way, because by looking him in the eye, I realized something. The Bible says that we should all be as children to inherit the Kingdom of God. It's right on. Here, bouncing around in front of me was the apex of all of God's creation. This little child, too naive yet to have any sense of what was going on around him, was perfect in every sense of the word. He had not learned hate, intolerance, bias, or anger. All he knew, literally, was love.

The way he looked around, there was no question. He loved everyone unconditionally, the way Christ loved us and still loves us. He smiled at everyone he saw and laughed joyfully for those who took the time to meet his young gaze. And when it was time to shake hands and wish everyone around us "peace," many people shook hands with him, and he judged no one. He was simply glad of the attention. And later on, when he was crying, the priest stopped the Mass and told everyone to listen quietly to the beautiful voice of the child. After listening for about 20 seconds, he said, "Isn't God wonderful? Even the little child is praising Him in his own way."

And, as I began to ponder how truly great and wonderful God is, a simple question entered my mind. Why would anyone in the world want to kill such a beautiful little being? Here this child is, made in the image and likeness of our very Creator and we want to kill ones such as this?! And what's even scarier is the fact that, using the "right to privacy," the mass murder of beautiful children such as the one in front of me has been around for over 30 years. And in those dark years, 47 million children have died. Today, one out of every four pregnancies will end in an abortion.

A few days later, I was talking with a good friend of mine who is of a different faith, but agrees with me totally on many issues. He told me that as he was cruising around YouTube one day and found a great pro-life video. It showed a child, not a fetus, but a *CHILD*, who was being aborted via a suction tube. It showed the child struggling hard, even backing itself up against the most inner part of his mother's womb and desperately trying to live, but to no avail. And as we sit back in our comfy chairs and legislate murder, it brings to mind the fact that we men and women were once as helpless as this. And if our parents had chosen death for any one of us, we would not be here today. I, for example, might never have typed this essay for you or you might never have been able to read this essay for yourself. The only difference is that there would have been no images to show the true horror of this legalized murder. You, or I, or both of us, would be gone in one instant, down a "white suction tube of death." Or maybe our parents might have had the doctor impale us through the brain upon birth or soak our tiny, developing bodies in salt in order to deprive us of our lives more slowly.

Either way, the child in front me lived. His parents made a decision for life. And here he was, still very helpless, but *ALIVE*. And as I watched him leave in the loving arms of his mom, I wondered how *ANYONE* could see fit to destroy such a beautiful gift of God, especially a gift that lives and breathes and knows nothing but LOVE.

Just recently, there was an article in the [Omaha World Herald](#) that showed a live, already-born baby who had been born just after the 21-week mark. The baby is alive, healthy, and is surviving against all the odds. God has sent us this child as a message. He wants us to know that we ARE indeed MURDERING HIS INNOCENT CHILDREN through the horrid act of abortion.

- Matt Niggemeyer, Omaha

### Planned Parenthood condemned for 'lethal gift certificates'

AP - Ken Kusmer (OneNewsNow.com)

INDIANAPOLIS - The nation's leading abortion provider is under fire for handing out gift certificates for its services.

Pro-life supporters say the scheme by Planned Parenthood of Indiana denigrates the holiday season.

The network of 35 clinics across the state announced it is offering holiday vouchers for basic health care services "or the recipient's choice of birth control method."

The organization decided to offer the vouchers because so many people are uninsured or are putting off health care because of prohibitive costs, said Betty Cockrum, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Indiana. Nearly 800,000 Indiana residents don't have health insurance, she said.

Planned Parenthood's annual exams for women, which include Pap tests and breast exams, typically cost \$58. The vouchers can be used for the exams, but also for insurance copays and for medication.

Opponents of abortion said Planned Parenthood was making a "mockery" of the holiday season.

"The tragedy is that almost 6,000 fewer children will be celebrating a first Christmas this year because they were aborted in Planned Parenthood's Indiana clinics," said Mike Fichter, president and CEO of Indiana Right to Life.

Planned Parenthood of Indiana operates abortion clinics in Indianapolis, Merrillville and Bloomington.

"They deserve coal in their stocking, not money for lethal gift certificates," said Sister Diane Carollo, director of the Office for Pro-Life Ministry for the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

But Indiana Health Commissioner Dr. Judy Monroe applauded the Planned Parenthood offer, calling it a "really meaningful gift."

Spokeswoman Diane Quest of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America said the Indiana branch is among a handful of its 99 affiliates that currently offer gift certificates or have done so in the past.

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