

THE LUMINARY

Lighting the Way to a Pro-Life Louisiana

SEX TRAFFICKING LEADS TO ABORTION

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Planned Parenthood**

SUMMER 2017

LOUISIANA



RIGHT TO LIFE

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Executive Insights

We know that, like us, you were saddened by the shooting earlier this summer of our good friend, U.S. Rep. and Majority Whip Steve Scalise. Steve has been a great friend to the cause of life for many years, and we continue to pray for his recovery.

Just weeks before the shooting we worked with Congressman Scalise, his office, and National Right to Life to pass legislation in the House of Representatives that would repeal and replace Obamacare. Thankfully, this legislation included many pro-life provisions, including the critical provision to defund Planned Parenthood.

The legislation then headed to the Senate. While we knew the hill to climb was steep since many Republicans disagree on how to reform health care, our conversations with Louisiana Sens. Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy left us hopeful. And as expected, the sledding has been tough. But as these challenges have mounted, we cannot

lose sight of how essential it is for the pro-life movement to accomplish these tasks while President Trump sits in the Oval Office.

On the other side of the pond we are seeing the results of a government-managed healthcare system where individuals are not given discretion to direct the care of their loved ones. In London, Baby Charlie Gard's parents were not allowed to transfer Charlie to another medical facility for additional treatment, even though they raised the money to pay for his care. Regardless of his condition or his life expectancy, his parents, not a court, should make decisions for baby Charlie's care.

Health care is a key pro-life concern. It is imperative that we replace Obamacare with a more pro-life healthcare system safeguarding the rights of the innocent and preventing the rationing of health care in our nation.

Benjamin Clapper,
Executive Director



Pro-Life Gumbo

New Pregnancy Center Opening Soon in Alexandria

A new crisis pregnancy center is taking shape quickly in Central Louisiana, and organizers hope it can officially open in the fall. The Cenla Pregnancy Center will be located at 1254 MacArthur Drive in Alexandria, next to the Louisiana Baptist Building.

The center will provide spiritual ministry and medical services, such as pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, as well as education, counseling and other support for pregnant women and new mothers. Local OBGYNs, a pediatrician, and others have volunteered to provide services, and the center plans to employ an executive director and other part-time workers.

The idea for the center came from First Baptist Church of Pollock and its pastor, the Rev. Brian Gunter. Quickly, the Catholic community and other pro-lifers got on board to make the project a reality. Articles of incorporation were signed in March, and the location was confirmed in May.

The center is open at the MacArthur location on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. to accept lightly-used items, with the exception of clothing, that pregnant women and their newborns may use. Donations of furniture can also be dropped off then. Financial gifts can be sent to 2201 Melrose St., Pineville, LA 71360. Visit the center's website at www.cenlapc.com



Peter Lemoine, an attorney from Cottonport, and Ed Tarpley, an attorney from Alexandria, watch as Brian Gunter, pastor of First Baptist Pollock, signs articles of incorporation for a pregnancy care center.



State's Admitting Privileges Law Decision Appealed to Fifth Circuit

On April 26, U.S. District Court Judge John deGravelles ruled Louisiana's admitting privileges law, Act 620, unconstitutional. On May 5, attorneys for the state filed a notice of appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

deGravelles' ruling came nearly a year after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a similar Texas law, and deGravelles cited that decision in his ruling. No hearing dates have been set in the Fifth Circuit.

Act 620, which passed the Louisiana Legislature in 2014 and was signed into law by then Gov. Bobby Jindal, would have required doctors who perform abortions in the state to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. Of the three remaining abortion facilities in Louisiana, court records show that only one of those would remain open if the law went into effect.

Other Court Action

In June, Louisiana officials urged U.S. District Court Judge Brian Jackson to dismiss claims in a lawsuit challenging seven pro-life laws passed by the Louisiana Legislature in 2016 and signed into law by Gov. John Bel Edwards. Lawyers for a Shreveport abortion facility and its doctors sued last July to block the measures, including one that extends the waiting period for many women seeking abortion from 24 to 72 hours. The state at that time agreed not to enforce the new laws pending a court decision.

The judge has not ruled on the state's motion to dismiss.

Abortion Rate drops 4% in 2016!

The number of abortions in Louisiana decreased by 4 percent from 2015 to 2016, according to preliminary figures provided to Louisiana Right to Life recently by the Department of Health. It was the second straight year abortion numbers have declined.

There were 8,972 abortions performed in Louisiana in 2016, down from 9,362 abortions reported in 2015 and 10,211 abortions reported in 2014. The number of abortions performed in the state had increased steadily from 2008-2014 as population numbers returned to pre-Katrina levels.

Even with numbers down nearly 14 percent since 2014, an average of 25 abortions were performed each day in Louisiana. Louisiana Right to Life will continue working hard to reduce these numbers until every baby is saved.



Caddo Parish had the highest number of abortions in a single parish with 3,189, and the Shreveport-Bossier area saw the most abortions performed - 3,963. Of those, 774 were performed in Bossier Parish, but the Bossier City Medical Suite has since closed its doors.

Out-of-state residents accounted for 15 percent (or 1,387) of all abortions. This number is up slightly from 2015, when 1,362 women traveled across state lines into Louisiana for the procedure.

Some Quick Facts:

- There were 8,972 abortions performed. That means there were, on average, 25 abortions per day.
- 34 girls under the age of 15 had abortions in 2016. Another 811 girls between the ages of 15-19 aborted their babies.
- The largest number of abortions - 2,668 - were performed on women between the ages of 25-29. There were also 1,127 women ages 35 and older who had abortions in 2016.
- Women categorized as "non-white" accounted for 70% of abortions performed in 2016.
- 85% of women who had abortions in 2016 were unmarried.
- Nearly 70% of babies were aborted within eight weeks of pregnancy.

exploitation
CHILD trapped
Trafficking smuggling
KIDNAP prostitution
fear despair
slavery INDUSTRY
dependency abuse

Sandy Cunningham,
Communications Director



There's A Common Link Between Sex Trafficking, Abortion

New State Law Could Help Young Victims Being Forced to Abort Their Babies

A girl – we'll call her Jane – was forced into the sex trade then forced to have an abortion by her older "boyfriend."

"Nobody asked me if I wanted the abortion. It was one thing to be forced to have sex, but when I was forced to kill my baby, I wanted to die, too," Jane said.

Jane's story is not uncommon. The sexual exploitation of persons under the age of 18 is becoming more and more common, even here at home. Cindy Collins, director of Pregnancy Help Slidell who also works with trafficked girls and women, said this generation is at risk.

"Traffickers make more money selling a person because they can sell her multiple times over a course of years. With drug trafficking, the drugs are sold one time," Collins said.

"Children are vulnerable due to age and culture, social media, internet access of traffickers, gangs, girls aging out of the foster care system, runaways, many reasons. This is a generation at risk for predatory relationships, trafficking, and forced abortion. We are seeing the evidence in the stories we hear and the young women we help."

According to non-government U.S. sources, the average age of sex trafficking victims is 11 to 14 years old.

Collins said trafficked girls and women are often forced to have sex with five to 35 men a day, and many have experienced multiple pregnancies, which can result in multiple abortions, often ordered by their traffickers.

Dr. Laura Lederer, a former senior advisor on Human Trafficking at the U.S. Department of State, published a study in 2014 that surveyed 107 sex trafficking victims. The study found 55 percent of participants reported having at least one abortion, 30 percent reported multiple abortions and one female reported having 17 abortions.

"That is a deep trauma, not only the abortion experience, but the deep feeling of regret because this is a life she never intended to live, and now it's taken the life of herself and her child, a second victim," she said following release of the study's findings.

Louisiana lawmakers recognized the seriousness of forced abortions in the sex-trafficking trade in 2011 when the body passed HB 636, better known as the "Signs of Hope Act." This law requires a "Forced Abortion Prevention Sign" to be posted in every Louisiana abortion facility and also created the Louisiana Woman's Right to Know website, further enhancing the state's Woman's Right to Know law, enacted in 1995.

The Louisiana Children's Code also requires that non-emancipated minors have

parental consent in order to get an abortion, but traffickers have had no trouble skirting that law. Jane's "boyfriend" didn't have a problem seeing to it that her baby was killed by abortion. Neither did the trafficker of another young woman helped by Collins' agency.

"A 'friend' of the boyfriend was going to take her to the abortion facility and act as the legal guardian," Collins recounted.

"(Traffickers or others) will pose as parents or legal guardians, and because the law has not been strict enough and the possibility of forced prostitution has been overlooked or misunderstood, the girl does not receive help," Collins said. "Also, she's been told if she does not abort she will lose her life. We've also been told by those we've helped that abortion facilities did not counsel them or help them."

The Louisiana Legislature addressed this problem this year, passing the Screening for Exploitation of Minors Before Abortion Act. Sen. Beth Mizell (R-Franklinton) authored the legislation that strengthens the law already in effect, requiring proof of identification from parents who give parental consent and requiring court-ordered counseling if it is suspected that the minor is a victim of criminal sexual exploitation.

Louisiana Right to Life played a key role in conceptualizing the legislation and lobbied the bill throughout the process in both the Senate and House. The bill was signed into law by Gov. John Bel Edwards on June 12 and took effect Aug. 1.

"The system has been abused. It wasn't always a parent. Providing the signature. Now, with a photo ID, you can make sure it's a parent; there is a trail to follow," Mizell said.

The bill also enhances the judicial bypass proceedings for emancipated teens or girls who can't provide parental permission. It gives the judge the ability to provide counseling and/or a Court Appointed Special Advocate and determine if the young woman is mature, informed, and attempting to get an abortion of her own free will or if there are other issues at play and the young woman has been victimized.

"This gives the judge the ability to find out if the girl is in need of a protective order," said Dorinda Bordlee, senior counsel of the Bioethics Defense Fund, which consulted on the legislation.

Collins is hopeful the new law will make a difference.

"This bill will provide protection for victims of human trafficking who otherwise have been overlooked or it was assumed they wanted an abortion," she said. "Even if just one young woman and her baby are saved from trafficking and abortion, this piece of legislation will have been well worth it."

Pro-Life Bills Passed During 2017 Legislative Session



SB 111, now Act 165
Authored by Sen. Beth Mizell, R-Franklinton

This law enhances parental consent requirements before an abortion to prevent fraudulent identification of adults claiming to be the girl's parents and strengthens screening for coerced abortion, crimes against the child, or sex trafficking during judicial bypass proceedings. Signed into law by Gov. John Bel Edwards on June 12; took effect on Aug. 1.



SB 128, now Act 243
Authored by Sen. John Milkovich, D-Shreveport

This law adds an additional layer of protection (crime/punishment) to prevent the sale of the dismembered bodies of babies after abortion. Signed into law by Gov. John Bel Edwards on June 14; immediately took effect.

Quick Facts

- Forms of sex trafficking include prostitution, pornography, stripping, and other sexual acts.
- 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are bought and sold across international borders every year and exploited for forced labor or commercial sex. Approximately 80 percent of these are women and children bought, sold and imprisoned in the underground sex service industry.
- It is estimated that 76 percent of transactions for sex with underage girls start on the Internet.
- Sex trafficking victims up to roughly 25 years old most often started as young as 14.
- Louisiana's Department of Children and Family Services reported sex trafficking cases rose 25% in 2016, about half of them minors who were being exploited for sexual purposes.
- The largest group of at-risk children are runaways, "thrown away," or homeless children who use survival sex to acquire food, shelter, clothing, and other things needed to survive on the streets. Traffickers often target children because they are easier to manipulate than adults.

40 Days for Life Louisiana campaigns will be held this fall – Sept. 27 to Nov. 5 – in Shreveport-Bossier, New Orleans and Baton Rouge. For details visit www.ProLifeLouisiana.org/40daysforlifela

Shanon Snyder
Projects Director



PRAYERS ANSWERED:

Bossier City Abortion Facility Closed for Good

Perseverance Pays off for Pro-Life Prayer Warriors, Sidewalk Counselors

40 Days for Life prayer warriors, Sidewalk Advocates for Life counselors, and members of Vita, a pro-life group from Shreveport's St. Joseph Catholic Church, have prayed and counseled for year outside the Bossier City Medical Suite and Hope Medical Group for Women in Shreveport. They've been a part of helping more than 100 mothers choose life. They've seen abortion clinic workers quit their jobs. They've witnessed the softening hearts of many escorts, hired by the abortion facilities to walk women inside and to counter the efforts of pro-life volunteers outside on the sidewalks.

But through the years the struggle to change hearts and minds has continued. For every unborn baby saved, hundreds more were aborted. Sometimes, volunteers grew weary.

Then a day like no other they'd experienced happened. The Bossier City Medical Suite closed for good.

"The closing of the abortion facility in Bossier is without a doubt the greatest thing to happen to the Shreveport-Bossier pro-life community ever," said Chris Davis, leader of the Shreveport-Bossier 40 Days for Life campaign. "We are absolutely thrilled that no more abortions will be occurring at this facility. This means about 1,000 babies per year will be saved."

40 Days for Life is an international, interdenominational Christian pro-life campaign currently in 715 cities across 44 countries. Over the course of 40 days, in both the spring and the fall, pro-life volunteers witness peacefully at local abortion facilities through prayer, counseling and education.

Davis has directed the Shreveport-Bossier 40 Days for Life campaigns since 2010. The group participates in spring and fall campaigns, which have alternated between the Bossier City Medical Suite and Hope Medical Group for Women in Shreveport, the area's other abortion facility.

"We have a solid group, about 20 or 30 members on the sidewalk at any given day," Davis said. "We regularly have about 200 who participate in both campaigns. Since I've started leading it, I've seen about 500 people join us."

Over the years Davis has reached out to pro-life organizations in the nearby Dallas area for help. Last summer, for instance, he hosted an event for volunteers that featured Joanne Underwood of Catholic Pro-Life Council of North Texas, Destiny de la Rosa of New Wave Feminists and representatives from Sidewalk Advocates for Life, an organization dedicated to training and equipping pro-life volunteers at abortion facilities to help women in crisis situations. Davis has brought in professional counselors to train sidewalk advocates for several years, growing a local group of volunteers able to properly counsel women heading into the abortion facility.

"The Sidewalk Advocates program dovetails nicely into 40 Days for Life," Davis said. "Sidewalk Advocates offers advice and legal support, which has been very helpful for us."

The Shreveport facility's abortion numbers are much higher than those at Bossier, but layout made the Bossier facility easier to maneuver for volunteers. Davis said the facility's driveway was located next to the sidewalk, making sidewalk counseling easier. Also, while many of the hired escorts were initially aggressive, volunteers were able to keep an ongoing dialogue with them and develop good relationships with many.

Those relationships helped keep volunteers, who sometimes became discouraged, faithful.

"Any time you're dealing with difficult things in life, there are ups and downs," Davis said. "It gets frustrating when you're not seeing any saves. But we've seen that our mere presence decreases abortion appointments by 75 percent. Women think, 'Maybe I will come back later,' but then some don't. That's encouraging. We believe God will end abortion in his time, but He will ask what we did to end abortion. That keeps us going."

When this spring's 40 DFL campaign began on March 1, the team had no idea what would transpire. By the end of the month, the abortion facility was closed. No one saw it coming.

Davis said a volunteer was praying alone on the sidewalk in front of the Bossier City Medical Suite when an employee driving away from the abortion facility stopped her car and told him workers had just learned that day would be the last day the clinic was open.

Volunteers called the facility to try and make appointments, but they were referred to the Shreveport abortion facility. A week later the website was down. Then the phone number was disconnected. Finally, a moving van showed up.

That was a huge day for the many volunteers who spent countless hours praying and counseling outside the facility. In June, the "Last Event Ever" was held on the same sidewalk to celebrate the facility's closure.

"The volunteers were very empowered by this development," Davis said. "We had more than 80 people come to the victory celebration, and now everyone is excited to start the fall campaign at the Shreveport facility. We're all very excited; we're working to see the same thing happen in Shreveport."

According to records, 7,482 abortions were performed at the Bossier City Medical Suite from 2006-2015. The clinic closed March 30 and was the second abortion center to close in Louisiana in the past few years. The Causeway Medical Clinic, which records indicate was owned by the same Texas-based group, closed in 2016.



Shawn Carney, president of 40 Days for Life, speaks at the victory celebration in Bossier.



40 Days for Life prayer warriors stand in front of the Bossier City Medical Suite during the spring campaign, before the facility closed.



Micaiah Bilger
LifeNews.com



David Daleiden: Planned Parenthood Has Been Exposed

Undercover Videos That Unmasked Planned Parenthood Discussed at National Convention

Hailed as the hero by pro-life advocates and despised by abortion activists, David Daleiden is the man of the hour in the national abortion debate.

Just two years ago few knew Daleiden’s name. But today he is widely regarded as the young man who exposed Planned Parenthood’s gruesome dealings in aborted baby body parts to the nation.

Recently, Daleiden described his undercover work to a large crowd at the National Right to Life Convention in Milwaukee, Wis.

“Today Planned Parenthood has never been more exposed for the monster abortion business that they really are,” Daleiden said. “Their mask is slipping.”

The undercover videos by Daleiden’s Center for Medical Progress have made a huge impact, prompting numerous state investigations and legislation to defund Planned Parenthood in 26 states and the federal government.

The videos led to “substantial eroding of Planned Parenthood’s credibility and reputation,” Daleiden said, referring to a quote from pro-abortion billionaire George Soros’s Open Societies Foundation.

The pro-life investigative journalist spent 30 months investigating the nation’s largest abortion chain before releasing more than a dozen videos that show the ins and outs of its abortion practices and partnerships with companies that trade in aborted babies’ body parts.

Daleiden caught top Planned Parenthood leaders on film negotiating prices for aborted babies’ brains, lungs, hearts and kidneys. His undercover videos show them joking about babies’ eyeballs falling out, talking about crushing babies’ heads, and explaining how they turn the baby in the womb before killing it to more easily harvest its organs.

He pointed out that none of the abortionists in the videos ever disavowed their statements; they do claim the CMP videos are deceptive, but they never say how.

“Planned Parenthood and their allies continue to murmur the lies that my videos are heavily edited,” Daleiden said. “In reality, my videos are heavily accurate.”

Daleiden talked about the abortion chain’s relationship with Stem Express, a company that collects and sells aborted babies’ body parts to researchers. Until recently, Daleiden said Stem Express advertised on its website that it would be “financially profitable” for abortion clinics to work with it on harvesting aborted babies’ body parts.

In the course of his investigation, Daleiden discovered a close relationship between Stem Express and Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, the largest abortion affiliate in the U.S. Daleiden said the affiliate kills about 18,000 unborn babies every year in abortions.

In its contracts with Stem Express, Daleiden said the company agreed to pay Planned Parenthood \$55 for every usable

specimen (aborted baby part). Some aborted babies yield multiple parts, but Daleiden said if each abortion yielded just one usable part, the affiliate would bring in \$1 million each year from baby parts alone.

“Stem Express advertised at abortion industry trade shows with brochures promising that body parts would contribute to the ‘fiscal growth’ of abortion clinics,” Daleiden said.

Daleiden said he has more videos from the National Abortion Federation conference, but a gag order from a judge is preventing him from releasing them. He said Planned Parenthood is “terrified” that the tapes will become public because they will further confirm that they illegally sold aborted babies’ body parts.

“Planned Parenthood desperately wants to silence me, shut down the videos and pretend like all this never happened,” Daleiden said.

Daleiden encouraged lawmakers to keep working to strip funding from the abortion chain and urged the Department of Justice to investigate Planned Parenthood. He said defunding Planned Parenthood will be a giant step toward protecting human lives from abortion in the United States.

“Without Planned Parenthood’s industrial scale, state-sponsored child killing will be consigned to the dustbin where it belongs,” Daleiden said.

He urged pro-life advocates to continue working to expose Planned Parenthood by sharing the undercover videos and telling their friends about Planned Parenthood’s top priority: aborting unborn babies.

“They are pulling out all the stops, ... pulling in all their last political favors to keep full-scale, government funded industrialized child killing,” Daleiden said. “If we keep steady, we can win. And we will win, no matter how much blood money Planned Parenthood reaps in, no matter how smooth and glittering their meticulous deception ... If we stay focused, we will hasten the day when there is no longer a price tag put on human life.”

(Article Courtesy of LifeNews.com. Visit www.LifeNews.com to keep up with the latest pro-life news.)

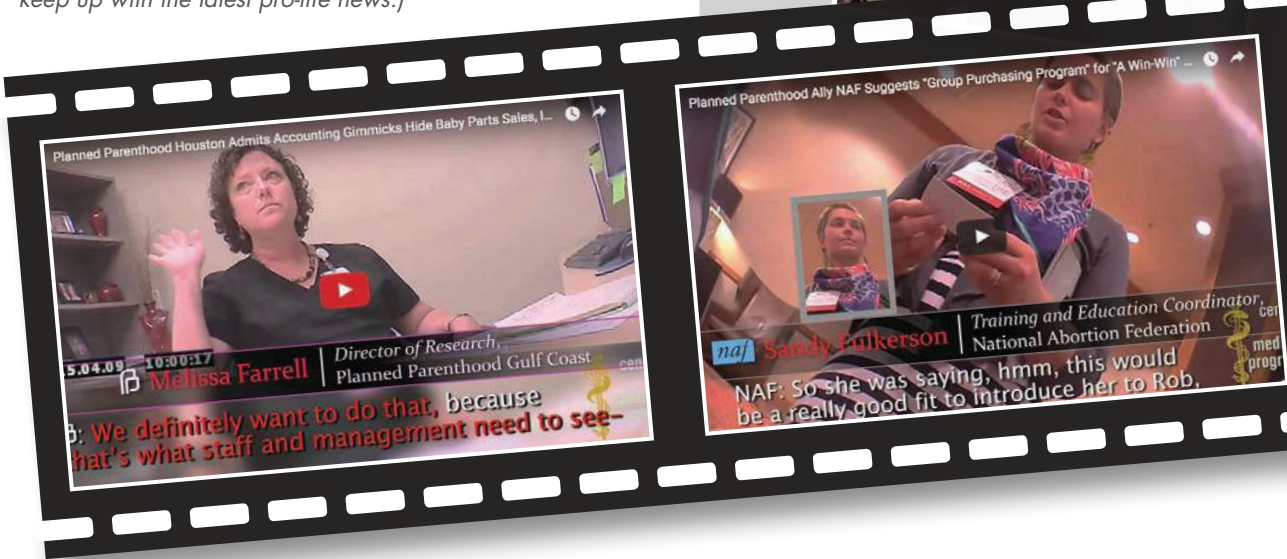
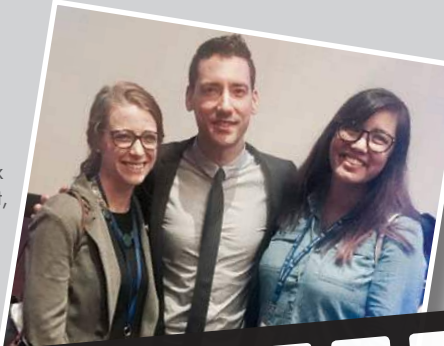
Planned Parenthood in Louisiana

Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast officials remain intent on expanding their abortion business in Louisiana, but thankfully they have been unable to succeed. Their gruesome nature was further confirmed in an undercover video recently released by the Center for Medical Progress. The video includes the words of Dr. Ann Schutt-Aine, director of abortion services for Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, casually saying that she may “pull off a leg or two” of an unborn baby during abortion.

In New Orleans: Planned Parenthood has opened its facility on Claiborne Avenue, but it still does not have an abortion facility license. To date, Planned Parenthood is not selling abortions at its facility, even though we know it is the group’s mission to do so. Previous documents have stated Planned Parenthood wants to perform 2,844 abortions in New Orleans every year.

In Baton Rouge: Planned Parenthood is renovating a building located near its current location on Government Street. Some reports have stated that Planned Parenthood does not plan to sell abortions there, but more remains to be seen as it progresses forward.

LARTL's Alex Seghers, left, and Krista Corbello with David Daleiden



By Bobby Schindler
President of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network



Terri Schiavo: A Perpetual Victim of America's Euthanasia Culture

Terri Schiavo. Her name — my sister's name — is seared into the national memory as the face of the right-to-life movement, but it's now been more than a decade since her death. Many are too young to remember her witness, or they have forgotten about it.

Terri was 26 when she experienced an anoxic brain injury after a still-unexplained collapse while at home alone with her husband, Michael Schiavo, who subsequently became her guardian. After a short period of time Michael lost interest in caring for his brain-injured but otherwise young and healthy wife, and he began living with another woman.

Terri was cognitively disabled, but she was not dying, and she did not suffer from any life-threatening disease. She was neither on machines nor "brain dead." To the contrary, she was alert, and at times she interacted with friends and family — before Michael warehoused and abandoned her in a nursing home and eventually petitioned the courts for permission to starve and dehydrate her to death.

It was this decision by Michael that made my sister's story a national story rather than simply a family story. It was this decision — to deprive my sister of food and water — that transformed our family's struggle. Rather than trying to work with Michael to care for and rehabilitate Terri as aggressively as possible, we now were battling against Terri's husband to fight for my sister's life.

After many years of legal maneuverings against my family, Michael finally testified that Terri allegedly told him before her collapse that she would not want to live in a brain-injured condition.

It was this hearsay evidence that led the media and others to deny Terri's right to life and instead speak of "end of life" issues and advocate for her "right to die." On the order of Judge George W. Greer, and despite the efforts of Saint John Paul the Great, a president, Congress, and a governor, Terri was deprived of water and food. On March 31, 2005, after 13 days, my sister died of extreme dehydration.

We couldn't save my sister, though millions of advocates did succeed in speaking for the fundamental dignity of every human life, regardless of circumstance or condition.

It was the trauma of our experience fighting for my sister that led my family to establish the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network 12 years ago, both in memory of my sister and in service to medically vulnerable persons today. Unbeknownst to my family at the start

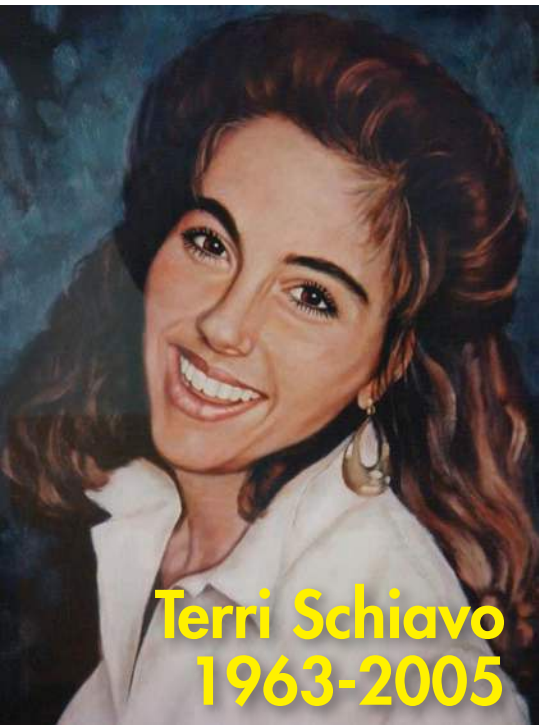
of our struggle, the method of Terri's death — the fatal denial of food and water — was not altogether uncommon. And it has become more routine in the decade since her passing.

My family's experience in fighting for my sister, and the experiences of assisting more than 2,500 patients and families through the Life & Hope Network over the past decade, have strengthened my resolve and my belief that we can do better as a culture, and for those requiring authentic medical treatment, than what our present attitudes and laws suggest.

It's why the Life & Hope Network affirms essential qualities of human dignity, including the right to food and water, the presumption of the will to live, due process rights for those facing denial of care, protection from euthanasia as a form of medicine, and access to rehabilitative care. Each of these were rights my sister was denied, and they are the rights of every patient who is often at risk or contested outright.

As we mark the latest anniversary of my sister's death, I'm hopeful that we can remember some of these genuine means of upholding human dignity. If we do, we can be assured that when we face crisis in our own lives and the lives of those whom we love, we will meet the moment with a dignity and grace that elevates us in our weakest moments — regardless of the outcome. That was the promise of medicine once, and it's what my sister continues to inspire me to fight for daily.

Bobby Schindler is president of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network, author of "A Life That Matters: The Legacy of Terri Schiavo," and an internationally recognized pro-life advocate.



What You Need to Know: Why Nutrition and Hydration Should be Standard Care

There are two critical questions to ask when a recommendation is made to withhold food and water:

- **"What will be the cause of death?"** If the answer is dehydration and starvation, and artificially-administered nutrition and hydration can be supplied and assimilated, then not supplying them is a form of euthanasia.
- **"Has the dying process begun?"** When death is imminent and/or the body is not assimilating the nutrients, the provision of artificial nutrition and hydration is not necessary. Death will follow from the underlying disease.

Today, nutrition and hydration should be defined as standard care, rather than a form of treatment that

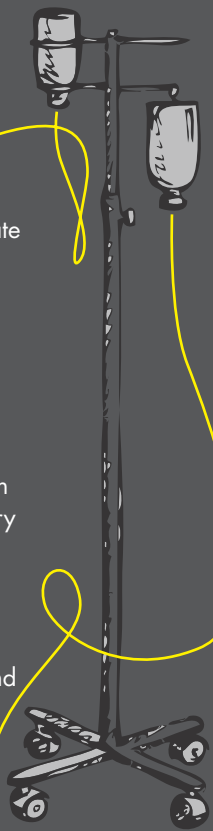
can be arbitrarily withdrawn. Many in the medical community have agreed with this definition, and even the late Pope John Paul II wisely noted the distinction between "medical procedures that may be burdensome, dangerous, or disproportionate to the expected outcome" and "taking away the ordinary means of preserving life, such as feeding, hydration, and normal medical care."

Just because one can no longer swallow does not mean they should not be fed and provided food and water. Many medical conditions may hinder one's ability to swallow for either a short or long period of time; this inability to ingest food does not mean the patient is terminal or that death is imminent. For short term use a feeding tube would be needed as a bridge to recovery, giving the patient enough nutrition in order to heal and be sent home. For

long-term use, a feeding tube would supply adequate hydration and nutrition in order to preserve life.

This differs from a terminally ill patient at the brink of death. At this point, one may desire only a few sips of water or very small amounts of nourishment. Their body systems are shutting down and they can no longer digest food. Typically, death is imminent in this situation, and assisted hydration and nutrition would be considered burdensome and extraordinary care.

The bottom line is this: All individuals, even those who have been certified as being in a permanent vegetative state, are worthy of particular respect and care. Taking away food and water, no matter how they are provided, is euthanasia if the purpose of doing so is to cause one's death.



PULSE Students Haven't Missed a Beat this Summer!

More Students Getting Involved in Pro-Life Training, Fellowships

From a weeklong pro-life training to a night of fun along the Bogue Falaya River, teens across Louisiana have been getting more involved in the pro-life movement this summer!

The annual PULSE Leadership Institute was held June 4-9 in Baton Rouge, and 60 high school students, college students and adult leaders from across the state grew in pro-life leadership and fellowship through classroom discussion and on-site activism (plus loads of fun activities!)

Students discussed abortion, adoption, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, disability discrimination in abortion, pro-life feminism and heroism, Planned Parenthood and real women's resources, third party reproduction, and pro-life legislation. They heard from several experts, including Bobby Schindler, Terri Schiavo's brother, and Brandon Buell, founder of Jaxon Strong. They also were inspired throughout the week by leading modern pro-life organizations such as Rehumanize International and New Wave Feminists.

Students heard testimonies from people impacted by abortion, practiced persuasion skills on the LSU campus, witnessed and prayed at the Baton Rouge abortion facility and learned about the resources pregnancy centers offer women in crisis. They also visited a nursing home and gave personal testimony in a committee room at the state Capitol.

Students left PLI ready to do more! Community PULSE teams, comprised of pro-life high school and college students who want to be involved in the movement, held and/or planned upcoming activities.

The New Orleans PULSE Team heard a presentation on human trafficking, given by Loyola Students for Life President Alex Lucas. Human trafficking is a huge problem around the world, including in New Orleans, and students wanted to learn more about it.

The Northshore PULSE Team held its first meeting in Covington at the Columbia Street Landing on the Bogue Falaya River. Students from a number of churches and schools in St. Tammany Parish discussed their overall vision for the team and chalked pro-life messages on the sidewalks in downtown Covington.

Does your area have a PULSE Team yet? Want to attend a PULSE Weekend event? Want to learn more about PULSE and what you can do as a pro-life teen? Contact Louisiana Right to Life Youth Programs Co-Directors Alex Seghers (alex@prolifelouisiana.org) or Krista Corbello (krista@prolifelouisiana.org) for more information.

In July, Louisiana Right to Life stretched its legs and hosted the first-ever Pulse Gulf Coast event for students in Fairhope, Ala. These Alabama students left the two-day event prepared to be pro-life leaders for their communities!

PULSE



PLI students in the Louisiana Capitol committee room



Northshore PULSE Team members

Why I'm Pro-Life...

36 years ago a woman was handcuffed, repeatedly beaten, and raped. This relationship, both physically and mentally abusive, lasted more than four years, and she had two children during this time. The woman endured the pain and suffering until she found a way to escape, then she took her children and fled to Louisiana.

She was alone, with no family or friends by her side. But she found a job and a home and took care of her children. One of those children later became my father.

My parents met in high school. In fact, my parents had me while they were in high school. Being a pregnant 18-year-old high school student, my mother was a perfect target for Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry. But she stayed strong, and I was born.

My parents got married shortly after I was born. My father started his own business, and my parents did not let the struggle of having a child keep them down.

Do you want to know why I am pro-life? I am pro-life because of what my grandmother went through to provide for her children, then what my parents went through to help me live. They struggled and sacrificed, all for their family.

- TJ Burgess , Metairie
Sophomore, Brother Martin High School



Pro-Life Persuasion Tip: Encountering a Hard Topic: Life of the Mother

In the last issue we discussed the hard topic of rape. Remember that although rape is only about 1% of the reasons why women choose abortion, it is vital that it is discussed with the utmost compassion and empathy for victims. Another hard topic is when someone says they support abortion in cases when the "mother's life is in danger."

Even for the pro-life person, it can be hard to reconcile these situations with a consistent pro-life stance. What about the value of the mother's life? What about the other children she would be abandoning if she dies? Shouldn't there be any exceptions in such a situation?

Dr. Anthony Levantino, a former abortionist turned pro-life OBGYN, helps clarify these situations with accurate medical information in a video interview, "Is Abortion Ever Medically Necessary," with Lila Rose for the organization Live Action.

When asked if there is ever a time a women should have an abortion to save her life, he answers by saying, "Nothing can be further from the truth. I spent 9 years working at a tertiary medical center (...) I saw hundreds of cases of really severe pregnancy complications: cancers, heart disease, intractable diabetes out of control, toxemic pregnancies out of control. I saved hundreds of women from life-threatening pregnancies, and I did that by delivering them (...) either induction of labor or cesarean section." He definitively states he never had to deliberately kill a baby in order to save the mother.

Speaking from the experience of performing more than 1,200 abortions, he proceeds to describe what is so

misunderstood about late-term abortions for women with complications.

The vast majority of life-threatening situations will not arise until 24-26 weeks of pregnancy, when the baby is near viability. In his experience, if a woman enters the hospital with a life-threatening complication for her and the baby, she will be stabilized and will undergo a C-section within the hour or so.

The problem with late-term abortions in life-threatening situations is that the woman may not survive the lengthy preparation time. For the abortion, the cervix takes anywhere between 24 and 72 hours to unnaturally dilate from pinpoint size to successful D and E capability.

Dr. Levantino admits, "Did every one of those children make it because they were pre-term? No. But every one of them had a chance, and most of them did make it."

Principle of Double Effect

There are a couple of cases where the death of the unborn child is an unintended effect of medical treatment, most commonly in the cases of ectopic pregnancy and chemotherapy for pregnant cancer patients. If the removal of the Fallopian tube for ectopic or the chemotherapy cause the death of the baby, these situations do not violate ethics and morality as long as the baby itself was not directly attacked.

As you yourself may have felt while reading this, the accurate medical information about Life of the Mother cases are not often discussed! If you want to hear more from the expertise of Dr. Levantino, visit AbortionProcedures.com.

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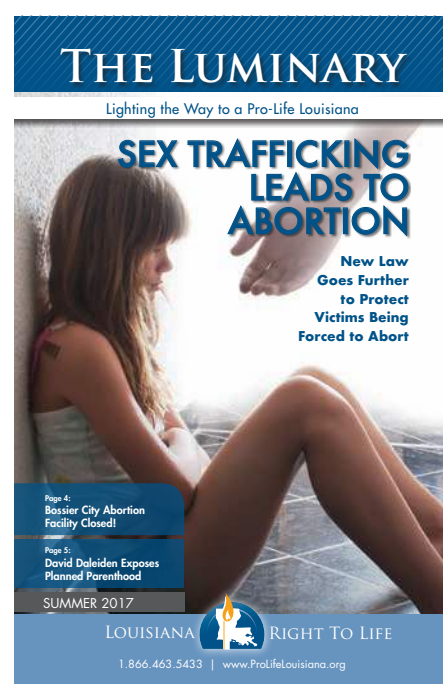
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The Luminary is a publication of Louisiana Right to Life, the state's premier pro-life organization founded in 1970 to restore the right to life in Louisiana through education, legislation, service, and activism. Louisiana Right to Life is a non-partisan and non-sectarian organization.

Currently running three times a year, *The Luminary* is received by our Luminary Members, Churches and Groups. To order additional copies, call or email us at info@prolifelouisiana.org

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