

The Dignity of Human Life

By Andrew Keuler, 9th Grade, 1st Prize

In order to truly respect all life, one must oppose abortion. Every human is created in God's image and as such, humans possess an innate dignity not present in other creatures, from the time of conception to natural death. To deliberately terminate a life God has made is "contrary to the dignity of the person and the holiness of the Creator" (CCC 2320). Essentially, abortion is a defamation of God and a crime against humanity.

Supporters of abortion may argue that unborn babies are not truly humans, but countless scientific studies have asserted that human life begins at conception. For example, Dr. Jerome Lejeune, often regarded as the father of modern genetics, once stated, "To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion . . . it is plain experimental evidence." In addition, a baby's heartbeat can be heard as early as six weeks into pregnancy. These facts clearly demonstrate that a fetus is a living human being.

Members of the pro-choice movement might say that abortion is the mother's choice because it is her own body. Why should it be her choice? For thousands of years, people have tried to determine the worth of human life. This process is patently impossible because the fact that we are created in God's image gives us all worth and makes us equal. Genocide in Rwanda and Yugoslavia, slavery in the United States, and the Holocaust were all the direct effect of people attempting to classify others as inferior or less worthy of the love and life God gives us. These examples of systematic persecution were induced by the same cause: a selfish desire to perpetuate the wants of oneself over those of the disenfranchised. The epidemic of abortion after *Roe v. Wade* is no different, as approximately 1.2 million helpless humans are killed each year. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, which actually identifies itself as a *proponent* of abortion, the total number of abortions committed since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 is as high as 50 million. That's potentially 50 million future citizens, scientists, teachers, parents, or siblings absent from the world. A future president could even have been aborted!

These egregious actions clearly need to be stopped. In the United States, a country based on majority rule, we have been given the right to voice our opinion. Throughout the nation, there are numerous pro-life organizations and it is imperative that we, namely the youth of the United States, not just be bystanders, but speak up for helpless infants. Although it may not always be considered "cool" to be pro-life or speak out against abortion, we should draw strength from the last Beatitude, "Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:10).