

Carpe Diem



F O R L I F E

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WE STAND AS GOD'S IMAGE BEARERS

by The Rev. Alan Hawkins

You can tell a great deal about a culture by its art. The creations that reveal its thoughts, its angst, its joys, its pains. We see this in our movies. Recently, I had a great movie critic attend a movie with me. She's my 17-year-old daughter. And we went to see *Aquaman*. I don't know if you know this, but the DC Comics and Marvel Comics movies have, over the past 20 movies, grossed nearly 17 billion dollars worldwide.

How many of you have seen *Aquaman*? It was okay.

I asked her, "What did you think about this movie?" And she said, "You know, there's two things. First of all, Jason Momoa is the cutest thing I've ever seen." Teenage daughter, movie critic. And the second thing she said is, "You know, these movies are all becoming very predictable." They all start off with an ordinary or even extra ordinary person who falls into some great calamity with an antagonist, which usually involves earth, humanity, or the universe about to be destroyed. Then the person, the guy or the girl, must discover their true self, their true identity, be renewed in that, and then at the very last moment, when everything is about to be devastated, they save all of creation.

The reason these movies are so popular is our desperate need of heroes. Our culture longs for heroes. And the reason is, we find some sort of identification in a person who discovers their true identity and does amazing things. They have to connect with their identity, their true identity, and it usually happens because someone or something speaks truth into them and

tells them, really, who they are. And we're desperate for that in ourselves. Which is why we pay again and again to see the same plot lines of movies, we want a hero.

But the Scriptures have also told us something heroic in us. It's told us that God, our true hero, has created us in His image and that, deep inside of you, you are more than a random

collision of biochemistry and biology. You are created *Imago Dei*, in the image of God. And because of that, you are worthy of eternal dignity and have an eternal destiny. And so many of us live our lives scraping by, hoping to find someone or something that can give us value and dignity in this world. It might be a job, a future, wealth. It might be relationships or legacy or power. But all along God's identity was formed in you before you were born.

My kids and I love to open our iPhones on our laptop and look at pictures from their youngest days to now. I have five children, ages 18, 15, 12, 11, and nine. The 18 year old to the nine year old, they all like to look at pictures of themselves as young children and to see their progression. And the reason is that they know they are more than just an image. They know they are a person and have worth and value, and the pictures reveal that. They are beautifully

and wonderfully made, as are you, based on Psalm 139.

You do not have to do great things to give you value. We are made great by God who has loved us for an eternity. I think that's a great truth for us to hear this morning. It's a truth that changes us. Because we have value as God's image bearers,

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we are speaking truth today to a culture about our unborn brothers and sisters, who are also worthy of our protection, our affection, and our consecration.

I recently read that the greatest cause of death in the year 2018 was abortion. Staggering numbers of more than 40 million people plus, created in the image of God, who lost their lives. Of all the forms of injustice, and there are many and they are horrible, such as trafficking, war, disease, poverty, all these things that wage against people created in the image of God and humanity. Still, of all of them, death by abortion is the greatest without a close second. This is one of the silent injustices of our day.

What is one of the mighty deeds of God that we heard in Psalm 78? That He has made us in His image. That He made you and I. That He placed in you His imprint, His character. That you have life.

What does Jesus promise us? Life, an abundant life.

This is one of the great reasons our very own American theologian, Jonathan Edwards, pondered a deep question. I know it's early in the morning, but you have to think deeply with me for just a second. Edwards said, "If God, who is eternal and has existed forever without a beginning, and all that we see and know is finite and temporary, what was God doing before anything was?" And Edwards concluded this, as have many greats in the Church--that God was immensely and deeply satisfied within Himself. The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father and the Spirit glorifies Them. And out of that great community of Trinity, out of that great love, creation overflowed and spilled out through the Son. And you, brothers and sisters, are the crowning point of God's creation, made in His image. And you, not the stars, are what bring Him joy.

Listen to God speak to the Prophet Jeremiah: "Before I formed

you in the womb, I knew you before you were born. I set you apart. I consecrated you." Friends, we have been destined for dignity. Created in beauty.

Ephesians 2:10. This reading is chock full of great theological premises, but the end says we are God's handiwork. We are His workmanship. We are His masterpiece. The Greek word *poiema*, means His poem, His literature, His art. You are such a beautiful sonnet to the Lord. You could even stretch out and say you're the song He sings in the universe.

We stand today and we march today for everyone born and unborn, because their lives are precious, since they were formed by God.

Lastly, this day, this weekend, we also speak truth to a culture with a confused value of life. So mixed up. So inconsistent. So arbitrary and so random. And often so unwilling to listen and hear the truth before them. Everyone old and young, unplanned, unwanted, un-needed, are in God's eyes beautiful. And because of that, they are worthy of our protection.

We stand and we march and we tell the mighty deeds of God. That before we are born we have been loved and made in His image. We stand before power and we sing along with this great song, fan into flame Lord creations design. All that Your image is, in us we refine. Glory to Father and glory to Son, glory to Spirit to three and one.

We stand and we march because our stand is powerful. Because we stand with all the company of Heaven. We stand with those lost to injustice. We stand against a culture of death. We stand and we say, this is not how it should be.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Creative Way to Donate to Anglicans for Life...

They say two things are inevitable: death and taxes! The first you don't control. But there are ways you can control the amount of taxes you pay—especially if you are 70 ½ or older and have an individual retirement account (IRA).

As we begin a new year, please consider making a gift to AFL from your IRA to reap important tax benefits, while also helping to save preborn babies' lives and to spare their mothers from the devastating effects of abortion.

Here's how it works. Federal legislation allows individuals 70 ½ or older to make gifts directly from their IRA to qualifying charities like Anglicans For Life. These gifts are excluded from your gross income, which means lower taxes for you. Your gift can also count as part of your required minimum distribution for 2019. This is an easy, convenient, and tax-beneficial way to make a gift from one of your major assets. To qualify for these benefits in 2019:

- ⇒ *You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of your gift*
- ⇒ *The gift must transfer directly from your IRA to Anglicans For Life*
- ⇒ *Your gift must be received on or before December 31, 2019*
- ⇒ *Your combined IRA gift(s) cannot exceed \$100,000 per year*

Seek your own legal and tax advice and instruct your IRA custodian to issue a check directly to Anglicans for Life!

As you may have noticed, this issue of the Carpe Diem focuses on events surrounding the 46th observance of January 22nd, a day that lives on in infamy, when the Supreme Court of the United States declared abortion to be legal.

While the annual acknowledgment of a woman's right to choose to end the life of her child is a somber and solemn occasion, we try to also make it a time when we honor, celebrate, and acknowledge the gift of life and the truth that every human being is made in the image of God, our Creator.

This was my 20th March for Life and as I look back on the events in January that are sponsored and organized by Anglicans for Life, I am once again in awe of God's grace and mercy and how every year our witness increases in numbers, enthusiasm, and dedication. For so many, once you have attended these events, it is like a pilgrimage to return to year after year.

Kathy Ciarlariello from Tallahassee Florida is one such pilgrim, who wrote afterwards for her church newsletter;

Our Anglicans for Life group huddled in the cold together waiting for the March for Life banner to make its way down the street. Once the cue was given, we stepped into a sea of people, holding our pro-life signs in the air. We were encouraged to see people of all ages, ethnicities, and denominations, walking shoulder-to-shoulder, sharing the same hope. A young boy with Down Syndrome rode on his dad's shoulders in front of us, and an elderly man pushed his wife in a wheelchair beside us. The prayers of many could be heard all around, and young people chanted, "We are the pro-life generation!" As we rounded the corner, we saw women with the Silent No More movement on the steps of the Supreme Court sharing their testimonies about the pain that resulted from their choice to end their pregnancies.

Since 2013, when Bp. John Guernsey (Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic) first invited the Anglican Church in North America bishops to join us at the March for Life, bishops have faithfully borne witness to the ACNA's commitment to the sanctity of life by participating in March for Life events. I am so grateful for their support for life-affirming ministry and hope you are inspired by them as well. (Bishops from other continuing Anglican groups are also always welcome to participate too!)

One of my favorite moments from this year was when Bp.

Bill Murdoch (Anglican Diocese in New England), who was attending the Summit for adults, asked if it was okay for him to come back in the evening to be there for the ySummit! I said not only was it okay for him to be there, but I asked him if he'd be willing to lead the prayers and anointing of the youth leaders and students, which he happily agreed to do!

While I had to leave the ySummit before the prayer time began, the pictures of him leading this special time of prayer brings me to tears every time I look at them. The Holy Spirit worked through Bp. Bill, and the hearts of so many young people were touched. His connection with them was evident the next day at the March for Life as I watched him interact with them.

As we waited for the March to begin, I was grateful for a few minutes to just stand there and take it all in - the wonder of 100+ Anglicans of all ages, laughing, praying, snapping photos,

L to R: Bp. Jim Hobby (Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh), Bp. Bill Murdoch, Georgette, and Bp. John Guernsey pose for our annual picture together!



and talking about the reality of abortion. This great group of people all gathered because one bishop (Bp. Guernsey) called us, here at Anglicans for Life, out of our comfort zone and into action. WE have been organizing Summits, the ySummit, bishops, services, and testimonies since 2013!

Thank you, Bp. John, and thank you to the great staff at the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, AFL, and the Falls Church Anglican AFL Chapter for partnering together to make

these annual events spectacular and memorable!

I hope you will take a moment right now and put January 23-24, 2020 on your calendar, if you are on the east coast. And if you live out west, on January 25th we will Walk for Life in San Francisco.

The importance of the March for Life pilgrimage was magnified as the news broke of New York's passage of its barbaric late-term abortion laws. The inappropriate lighting of the One World Trade Center is now serving to galvanize people to act on behalf of life, and so we begin 2019 with a clarion call to action - we hope you will join us.

For His glory,

Deacon Georgette Forney

And the Youth will Lead Them...

by Sammie Franks



God is good. That's really the only words that I have to say about the ySummit: Mobilizing Young Anglicans for Life. After a year of coming together with our planning team, made up of Anglican youth leaders, to work out all the kinks, and completing what seemed like an endless amount of work around the holidays, the ySummit brought 85 youth leaders, students, and parents together on January 17-18, 2019 in Falls Church, VA and Washington D.C. Let me just say again: God is good.

Our vision for the ySummit and March for Life was for youth in the Anglican Church to fully understand the worth of every human life, including their own. The event was centered around the Abundant Life that Jesus gives us – and we hit that message hard at the ySummit through worship, fellowship, and engaging speakers. The next day we joined hundreds of thousands of people at the March for Life, most of whom are under 25 years old, to advocate for every human life. Robbie Pruitt, pastoral associate and youth director of Christ the King Church in Alexandria, Virginia, said it better than I ever could: “I am for life, because Jesus, the author of life, is for life.”

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly (Jesus, John 10:10, ESV).



Students also spent time in intercessory prayer – that they would acknowledge God as the Creator, recognize those impacted by abortion, value the selfless act of adoption, and truly believe who God made them to be, so that they could serve Him.



Youth leaders were commissioned by the Rt. Rev. Bill Murdoch, who supported the ySummit from the beginning, and even made it a priority to be at the ySummit. Then, students were commissioned by their youth leaders to go out on Friday at the March for Life and advocate for human life, affirming that every human being is created uniquely from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and that God has never made a person He does not love. This was a powerful time of prayer and the Holy Spirit was present!

I had the privilege this year of speaking at the ySummit, sharing part of my story, and connecting our identities as children of God with being pro-life. I was reminded of an important ques-



tion that I wrestled with when I was a teenager; and I asked it of the students who attended: “Who are you, and why are you here?” Even in Scripture, we see clearly how often God’s people and even Jesus’ disciples forget the Truth – that they are God’s people, holy and set apart.

We do the same thing today. We stumble through our days hoping that we can figure out all the challenges and do all the things on our to-do list by our own willpower. But we aren't alone. We are God's people. That is who we are, and that is why we are here.

Craig Vickerman, rector of All Saints Anglican in Attleboro, MA, brought a group of students to the ySummit and the March for Life and said: "The fact that the next generation of kids will grow up understanding what it means to value life from God's perspective is HUGE." These students ARE going to



shift our culture – I am confident in that, and all I know is that I want to be a part of it. I want Anglicans for Life to be a part of it. And I want our Church to be a part of it. God is working – in the midst of the darkness that we've seen against us, the terrible laws that have been passed, and the opposition that's pushed harder than ever.... He is working. I am sure of that because He created life, He sustains it, and He died for each of us to have it abundantly.

On that note, we also were excited to launch our new youth ministry resource, Abundant Life: You Were Made for More, which equips youth leaders, partners with parents, and engages

teens in conversations about relationships and sexuality from a Gospel-centered, culturally-relevant approach. Visit YouWere-MadeForMore.Org for all the details. You'll see that the teachings in the curriculum are all rooted in who God created us to be, which is why this was such an essential part of the ySummit, too. I firmly believe that once students understand who they are (and Whose they are) the game is going to change. It begins by equipping them with their identities, because that's exactly what Jesus did for us in the Bible. We start with identity – and as we move toward becoming more and more like Him, we realize that, if we want to follow Him, we have to value what He values. And that's when we realize that each and every person has dignity and worth.

We are already SO excited for ySummit 2020 and look forward to having even MORE youth leaders, parents, and students



marching with us – standing for who they are and Whose they are and for the unborn children who were robbed of the chance to have that abundant life.

Please follow Anglicans for Life on social media and get connected with us if you'd like to

stay in the loop about the March for Life 2020. But for now, you can save the date: January 23-24, 2020!

I left the students who attended the ySummit with a promise, and it's the same promise that I will leave you with. In the midst of the culture of death and the fear that may surround you as you figure out who you are, why you are here, and what life is really all about – the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The war is already won! The war against these babies, the war for life, has already been won.

If you've been following the news concerning the abortion legislation being passed these past few weeks, you can see that the battle is still raging. Satan will do whatever he can to stop you from believing that who you are is powerful. Your story is powerful. Your identity is powerful. Your identity is powerful because of Jesus. If you agree with that, if you believe who God says you are, then you can get in the fight, knowing that your identity is established on what Jesus has already done.

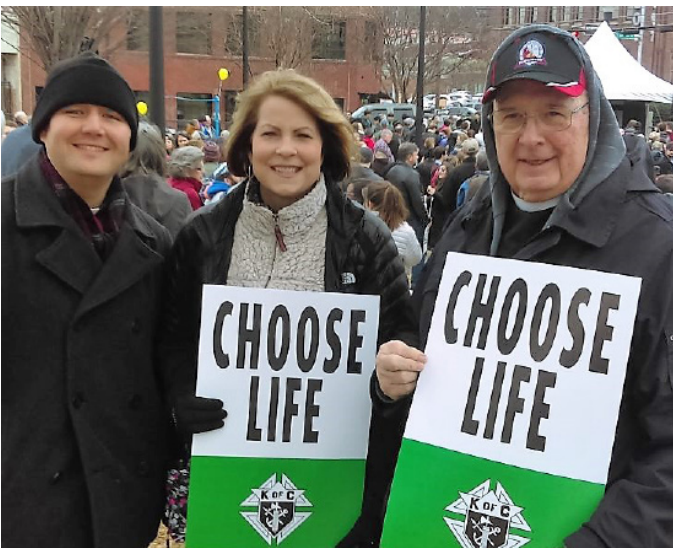
A Life Witness in Washington DC



Captions for pictures 1-7 on back page!



Rev. Joy Edwards, San Diego Walk for Life



The Birmingham, AL March for Life included the Rev. Steven Lanclos, Vicar of the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd, Pelham, AL, along with Bishop's wife Connie Jones and Archdeacon Woody Norman



The Rev. Richard Menees single handedly represented Anglicans while Georgette led a small contingency from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign at the 2019 Walk for Life in San Francisco.



Bishop Kevin Allen of the Diocese of Cascadia took a group of folks to the Walk for Life in Olympia, WA where they got a good position in front of the speakers and a statue in the rain!

Abortion-Harmed Society “In Desperate Need of Heroes”

Anglican Christians are ministering in communities where people struggle with anguish and harm caused by abortion but aren't sure that they can discuss it, according to speakers at an Anglican Church in North America gathering, timed alongside the national March for Life.

“We are in desperate need of heroes,” Canon Alan Hawkins preached at a worship service before the annual March. “Our culture longs for heroes: a person who discovers their true identity and does amazing things. A person who speaks truth into them and tells them who they really are.”

The 2019 Summit for Life was held January 17-18 at The Falls Church Anglican in Falls Church, Virginia. Sponsored by Anglicans for Life (AFL) and the Anglican Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. The event also featured a first-time “ySummit” which drew 85 registered young people on the night of the 17th.

“Deep inside of you, you are created *imago dei*, the image of God,” Hawkins stated. “You do not have to do great things to have value. We have value as God’s image bearers; we are speaking truth today to a culture.”

Hawkins words echoed Summit keynote speaker Ryan T. Anderson of the Heritage Foundation.

“We’re valuable based on our intrinsic worth, not our instrumental worth – what we can do for other people,” proposed Anderson. “We all have an equal claim to dignity.”

AFL President Deacon Georgette Forney explained the purpose of the annual Summit is to influence culture, communities, and churches by bearing witness to the cause of life.

“We are here to help the next generation make better choices about life,” Forney noted in her opening remarks to Summit participants. “You are here because God wants to move through you with people He will put in your path in 2019.”

“God made the human race of one blood,” shared Dr. Alveda King of Priests for Life. “We fight over race and politics, but we are one blood ... we can learn to live together as brothers and sisters.”

Abortion Recovery

Several speakers shared about their own experiences with abortion and how God used people in churches to bring healing to their lives.

“When the pastor speaks from the pulpit about [abortion] it frees people in the congregation to begin telling their stories,”

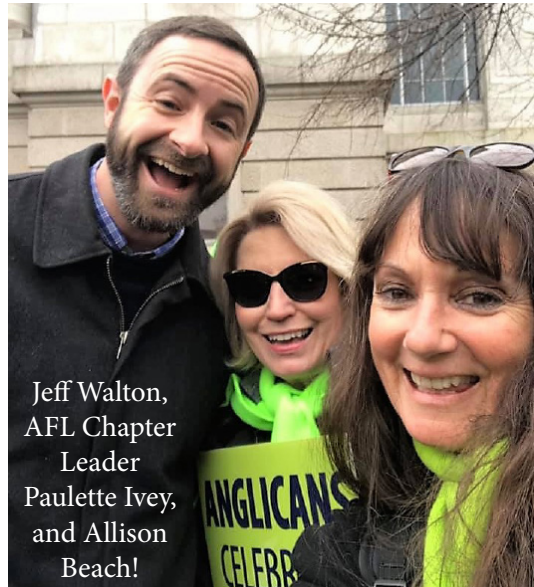
shared Sheila Harper, Founder and President of SaveOne, a ministry to post-abortive people facing mental and emotional anguish.

“It is just as much about men as it is about women, and about the families that suffer around the issue of abortion,” she continued. Harper shared about of her own abortion and those she has ministered among.

But, Harper explained, abortion recovery is often placed at the bottom of a church budget.

“This is the greatest resource that we have – people who have made this choice turning their life around,” Harper shared.

In a Summit workshop, Harper referenced Proverbs chapter 18 verse 21: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”



Jeff Walton,
AFL Chapter
Leader
Paulette Ivey,
and Allison
Beach!

“We’re speaking life or death; we can choose to use our tongue for evil or good. It’s our choice,” Harper said. Harper also quoted Revelation chapter 12 verse 11: “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

“We overcome the enemy by the word of the Lamb and by our testimony,” Harper shared. “I have power – given to me by God – to speak out what He’s done for me. But we cannot speak out our testimony until we are healed, and that is where abortion recovery comes in.”

Harper noted that it is “very common” for her to encounter women who have undergone multiple abortions.

“But when people are healed, it doesn’t happen again,” Harper encouraged. “How many people in our churches are walking around wounded? How many people are out there that we could bring around us because their voices are being added to what we are doing?”

Sustaining a Culture of Life

In his address, Anderson presented an overview of the state of sanctity of life laws and public opinion in the United States, expressing hope but also concern.

“I don’t know how long you can sustain a culture of life when you don’t have a theological grounding,” Anderson wondered aloud, commenting on the decline of religious participation in the U.S.

Anderson, who researches and writes about marriage, bioethics, religious liberty, and political philosophy at Heritage,

noted that the abortion rate continues a steady drop, down 2 percent during the most recent reporting year.

“We’ve cut in half roughly the number of abortions that took place at the peak,” Anderson reported. He credited changing hearts and minds and legal work as contributors to the declining abortion rate. “Pro-life laws save babies, it’s important to remember that.”

Anderson also noted progress towards life in American public opinion, citing a Marist public opinion poll reporting that 75 percent of Americans would support limiting abortions to the first trimester.

Despite this change in public opinion, the U.S. remains one of only seven nations that permits late term abortions, alongside North Korea and China.

Similarly, only 7 percent of millennials support abortion without any exceptions and funded by tax dollars – the position of the current Democratic Party platform – according to a survey administered by The Polling Company, inc./WomanTrend on behalf of the Institute for Pro-Life Advancement.

“I sometimes fear that these public opinion polls inflate our support based on how they are asked,” the Heritage Foundation researcher qualified, noting that survey results can swing wildly.

Anderson lamented the failure of a GOP controlled Congress to defund Planned Parenthood, despite having a President in office who said he would sign such defunding into law. According to NBC News, at least 34 percent of funding for the nation’s largest abortion-providing organization comes from taxpayer dollars, dispersed by the federal government, in addition to state funding.

“They shut down the government over a border wall, they weren’t willing to shut down the government over killing babies,” Anderson lamented about federal lawmakers.

Anderson was encouraged by recent appointments and confirmations of both U.S. district and circuit court judges, a development that he believes will result in incremental changes towards pro-life policies.

Bioethical Concerns

“As pro-lifers, we should care not just about killing life, but about how life is passed on,” Anderson stated. “There is a great danger to creating children in the laboratory, treating human subjects as though they are objects of human mastery – where we are the manufacturer, and they are the manufactured.”

Anderson reported that, troublingly, the number of children in foster care or waiting to be adopted increased between 2008-2012. During the past five years, the number has increased by more than 50,000. Anderson partly credits this rise to

the opioid epidemic, where families are less able to care for children.

“Ideally this number would be zero,” Anderson suggested. He noted that many faith-based adoption agencies have been “shut down by the government” for their insistence upon matching children with families that share their core beliefs.

“How do we help children find forever families when the government is shutting down the faith-based agencies that do some of the best work?” Anderson asked, noting that this comes as the U.S. experiences a 30-year low in fertility. Gradual increases in life expectancy, which had been steadily increasing, have reversed into decline for the past three years, mostly credited to “deaths of despair” such as opioid overdoses and suicides.

Anderson lamented that states “one by one each year legalize assisted suicide for the past four or five years.”

“People increasingly feel pressured to take their own lives,” Anderson observed, noting that it is cheaper to provide a fatal dose of barbiturates than it is to complete a round of chemotherapy. “There is an idea that we are no longer supposed to burden one another. That some lives are not worthy of legal protection.”

“Legalizing assisted suicide undermines...sound medicine, when doctors have the option of killing their patients. The more cost effective solution will be suicide, and people will feel pressured.”

“Human beings, embryos, in labs are treated as objects to be used, as products for us to use rather than gifts to be received.”

“123,000 children are waiting to be adopted in our foster care system...We should adopt these children. Yet the government is attacking Christian adoption agencies that do the best work.”

“Our general attitude now is that people who are too young, too old, too sick are less valuable than others.”

“When you hold your own child in your hands, the abortion nightmare becomes that much more horrific.”

Summit participants also heard from the Rev. Rick Bergh, a bereavement educator and counsellor from British Columbia.

Bergh noted that suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. and 9th in his native Canada. Bergh listed causes of suicide: a lack of purpose, suffering, and belief that the person is inflicting undue burden upon others.

“Church, do you think we can answer those questions from God’s word?” Bergh asked. “What do we do with elderly when bodies begin to fail and minds begin to wander?”

All the presentations discussed above are available on video at AnglicanTV on YouTube or Anglicans for Life’s website.

We Cannot Be Speechless!

by Deacon Georgette Forney

I'm rarely speechless, but I must admit the news of New York's Reproductive Health Act (RHA) being passed and instantly signed by Governor Cuomo left me without words. But I was apparently among the few who couldn't find the words to express my dismay, as I woke a day later to see countless social media postings decrying the new Reproductive Health Act.

I assumed it was because most of my friends and followers are pro-lifers, but everyone on AFL's staff reported a similar phenomenon! The only folks who didn't have posts reflecting outrage were our more liberal leaning friends and family.

I wondered why so many people, who are normally silent about the issue of abortion, were now posting their disbelief and anger. I can't help but think it is because, this time, the pro-aborts have gone too far! The pro-abortion lobby and politicians just stepped over the invisible line of acceptance of what America will tolerate.

The new law enshrines the right to abort (read: kill) babies right up to the moment of their birth. Now, the reality is that a number of states have laws allowing late-term abortions in certain circumstances, while most use viability as the standard. However, what New York has done is to ensure that when legalized abortion is overturned by the US Supreme Court and returned to the states to decide, their new existing law will allow abortions to continue unfettered.

The new law, in all honesty, is a reaction to the growing fear that *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton* will be overturned, based on the current make up of the US Supreme Court. This threat, real or perceived, is motivating and enflaming pro-abortion activism and aggression. And I believe it accounts for the celebrating and cheering seen as Governor Cuomo signed the bill, including the audacious action of lighting up the World Trade Center in pink.

In addition to all of this is the militant nature of the "Shout Your Abortion" women—sharing how awesome they feel about aborting their children, displaying graphic depictions of female body parts, and calling aggressively for the killing, rape, and abuse of anyone who is pro-life (including the President) – which was on display at the March for Women's Lives events nationwide.

These collective actions have led many of us to long for the days when their slogan—"safe, legal, and rare"—was seen as barely tolerable!

But why does the growing threat to legalized abortion generate this level of vitriolic response from people otherwise kind and compassionate, many of whom would consider themselves

religious? I believe it is based in their lack of belief that God really can and does want to forgive us for our sins. Without a saving faith in Jesus Christ, who took our sins upon Himself on the cross, what do you do with your sin? You defend it! You seek to protect and actually encourage others to sin with you. And you go ballistic when anyone calls that sin out, because inadvertently they are calling you out.

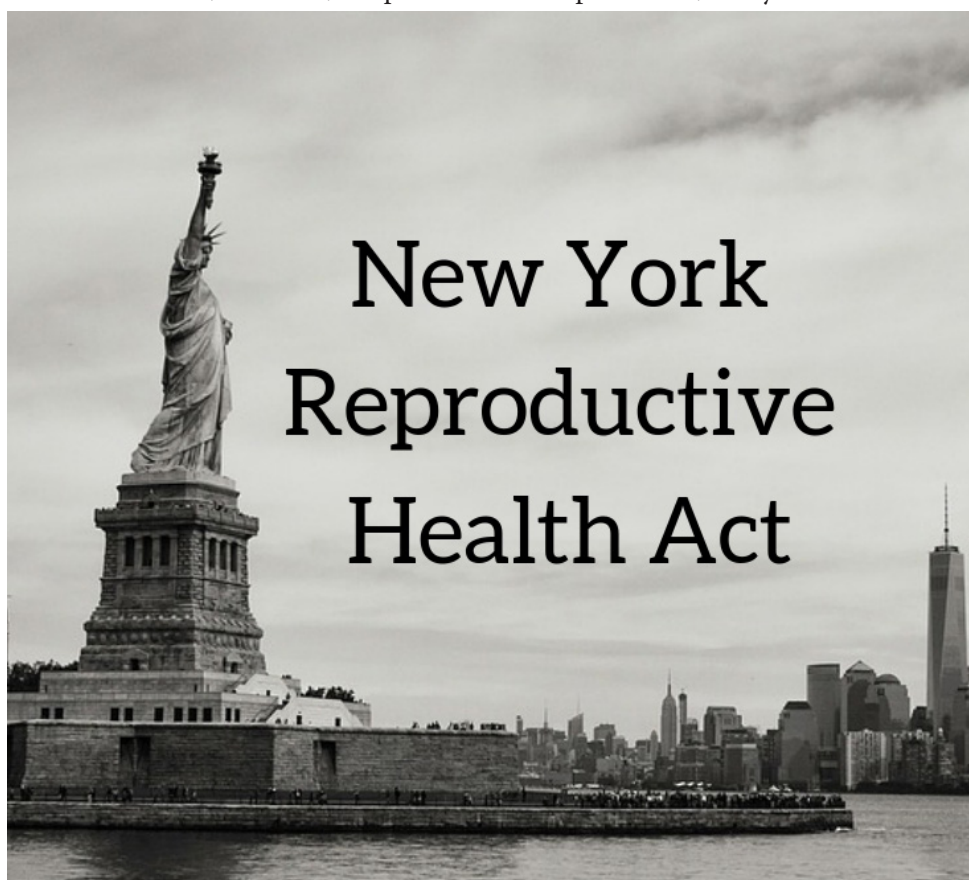
I firmly believe that passing new legislation to protect "access to abortion" is really about protecting those who have had abortions

from facing the truth—the despairing knowledge that they are complicit in killing their children.

I often wonder if I didn't know that God's love was greater than my sin of abortion, would I have had the courage to declare my actions as wrong? Knowing the power of the Cross has allowed me to bring my sin to Jesus. Without Jesus, what does one do with our sin? Deny it, claim it is good, and encourage others to join me in it?

So, what should be our response as the Church?

First, let's acknowledge the spiritual warfare dimension! This is



Death by Terminal Sedation

by Elizabeth Callahan

all about satan hating God, love, and life.
(John 10:10)

Second, we must not try and fight back in the flesh but by and through the power of the Holy Spirit, which means less time on social media and more time on our knees. (Zechariah 4:6)

Third, we need to be armored up and always praying (Ephesians 6:10-18) and fasting (Matthew 6:17-18) for the end of abortion.

Fourth, recognize that all the posts on social media, the news coverage, and the conversations or debates among friends and family can serve to “trigger” (a term used to describe sensations, images, or experiences that trigger a traumatic memory) many who have had abortions. Due to the traumatic nature of the abortion procedure and its aftermath, many women, men, and families will be fighting to protect abortion, because they don’t know or trust in God’s love and protection. For that reason, do not be surprised if they react in anger or very vocal support.

But it is because of these people that we cannot be speechless about these awful laws – they are being embraced and passed as a response to trauma and sin without a Savior! We as the Church must not see the legislation in New York as a defeat—we must see it as an opportunity to speak the love of Christ into the souls and hearts of those who have been hurt by abortion, who do not know that freedom can only be found in Jesus. We as God’s people must not remain speechless in the face of this horror, but we also cannot react in frustrated anger toward those who applaud evil; rather, we must speak the truth in love, knowing that without the Redemption found through Christ, you and I could be celebrating this terrible bill, too.

God have mercy on them. God have mercy on all of us. But, most of all, God, use this for Your Glory.

Please do not put your loved one in hospice. They drug patients up so they cannot talk, eat, or drink, and it’s not an easy death, nor a natural one. I have seen two loved ones die there (not immediate family) and both times it was not what the patient wanted. They don’t let the patients out of bed and instead smother them and their families with a kind of misguided caring. They leave books about dying all around, over medicate patients, and act like all this is normal. It is euthanasia, folks! Let’s open our eyes to the truth of what’s going on.

Patients can get pain control at home with visiting nurses without hospice, or they can go to a nursing home and live until they can die a natural death, not a hastened one. It’s a terrible environment and if you ask questions of staff about them speeding up the death by lots of medication, they will say it is the disease killing them. While it’s true, diseases do kill, we will never know how much more time we could have with our loved ones when their lives are cut short. There was no closure with my relative, no good byes, as they had her so medicated from day one in that house of death that she could not do anything. They regularly came in to give her more medication, even though she was not showing signs of pain in the first few days. They are hastening people’s deaths, and hospice staff members also do not like to be questioned—I was not treated well when I did so. Some—many, I think—people are dying from the cocktail they are given long before their disease would cause their demise. Some staff will deny this, but they are often very pro-euthanasia, by means of terminal sedation. Once they snow them under with drugs (and patients will not be there long before this happens) patients cannot eat or drink, so many are dying by dehydration and starvation.

Please choose a better way—life until natural death, with pain control but no terminal sedation. Terminal sedation kills people. Look it up if this term is unfamiliar to you—educate yourself. And, if you love your ill family member, I highly advise that you do not send them to hospice for an unnatural death. You will lose precious time together. I repeat, this is not a natural death. It’s also not pain free, because in both instances of my loved ones being in hospice there was a lot of moaning in the days it took for this so called “death with dignity” (not so) to happen.

You are dealing with misguided people with their own agendas, playing God. Please run, not walk, away from hospice. You will not regret allowing your loved ones to live out their lives, surrounded by family and loved ones, receiving appropriate pain control that does not render them unable to eat, drink, talk, or to finish up the business of their lives. They will be able to feel the love and care all around them and be called home in God’s time.

This experience has moved me to act for Life. I have gained experience in speaking with hospice staff and working caringly with family members, while the euthanasia process was happening. I have joined the Human Life Alliance and now hand out informational brochures to libraries, friends, and families. I want to share the message that life is sacred until its natural end.

Editor’s Note: Elizabeth’s passionate plea is based on her experiences but doesn’t reflect every hospice or healthcare provider.

Future Leaders of Anglicans for Life!

The Rev. James Linton, Rector at St. John's Anglican Church in Salt Lake City is a stalwart pro-life leader in his community. He recognizes the importance of sharing the truth of life and recently took two of his children with him along with this sign to the state capitol to witness to the legislators. I have a feeling daughter, Grace on the left and son, Augustine on the right are the future leaders of our Church and ministry!

Photo Captions from page 6

Photo #1 Kathy Ciarlariello, AFL Life Leader for St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral, Tallahassee, FL with husband Tony on the left and son Nick on the right. Shout out to Nick for being the AFL Banner Bearer!

Photo #2 The AFL crowd heading into the crowd of Marchers.

Photo #3 Group of students from New England modeling their new "YouWereMadeForMore.org" t-shirts!

Photo #4 Tony Blackstone with wife Joan asking a speaker an important question.

Photo #5 The Rev. Laird Bryson with wife Bitsy and Georgette celebrating Bitsy's goal of participating in the March for Life!

Photo #6 The Rev. Robbie Pruitt listening during discussion time.

Photo #7 AFL well represented in green!



Contact:

For information about
Anglicans for Life at your church!

In Honor

Anglicans for Life received a generous donation in honor of: The Rev. Robert & Jeanne Delgado who fought valiantly for life from the early days of NOEL from Mrs. Susan Delgado-Parks.

In Memory

Deacon Rebecca Spanos
made a generous contribution in memory of
Christie Louise Carter

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McKee
made a generous contribution in memory and
with thanksgiving for the lives of:
Masami Sakurada & Donald Hjortland



Look who made the front page of the Delaware State News! Mrs. Esther Clark, liaison with the Diocese of Northeast & Mid-Atlantic (REC) and Anglicans for Life. Way to go girl!!!

Anglicans for Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, supported by churches, individuals, & foundations. Your contributions allow AFL to uphold the biblical principles of Life. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation! A financial statement is available upon request.

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