

Essay # 20

Word count: 601

IN DEFENSE OF ALL LIFE



(My handsome brother, John Paul)

My brother John Paul is an eleven year-old boy who loves life. He is smart, energetic and clever. Like many other eleven year old boys, he enjoys music, sports, and having a good time with family and friends. It may take him a little longer to learn some things, but he was made in the image and likeness of God, created exactly as God intended. John Paul has Down Syndrome. It wrenches my heart when I try to comprehend the fact that 90% of babies who test positive for Down Syndrome in the womb, are aborted.¹ In this age, our nation is well equipped with the resources and tools to support the mothers, fathers, families, and the individuals who are affected by a disability. Why then, does abortion continue to take the lives of thousands of babies, with or without special needs? It is a deadly hypocrisy, one that's devastation is not limited to those who are personally involved. Mother Teresa once stated " The child is the most beautiful gift of God to a family, to a nation."² By legalizing and even pushing the crime of abortion, America continues to stray from the dreams that our founding fathers had for their great nation.

The lies and twisted logic of our society give the overall impression that life is disposable, that if a pregnancy is deemed inconvenient it can simply be ended. This ideology is especially discriminatory against babies with special needs. The sickening notion of sifting out individuals who are deemed unfit to live is not a new practice. It can be found throughout history, including under Adolf Hitler's regime. Interestingly, it is not pro-lifers alone that are speaking out about the numbers of pregnancies terminated simply because of the results of a prenatal test. Even a philosopher at Arizona State University identifies herself as being pro

¹ Bradford, Mark. "New Study: Abortion after Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome Reduces Down Syndrome Community by Thirty Percent." *Charlotte Lozier Institute*. April 21, 2015. <https://lozierinstitute.org/new-study-abortion-after-prenatal-diagnosis-of-down-syndrome-reduces-down-syndrome-community-by-thirty-percent/> Date accessed: 2/29/16

² Mother Teresa. "Statement By Mother Teresa Sent To the Cairo International Conference On Population and Development on Sept. 9, 1994." *EWTN*. September 9, 1994. https://www.ewtn.com/New_library/population.htm Date accessed: 2/29/16

choice, but found herself “angered and horrified” that abortion is seen as the only option when it comes to a diagnosis of Down Syndrome. In her paper, she expresses her sadness that “disability is deemed sufficient grounds for dehumanizing a being who had been, up until that point, embraced”.³ The fact that a common congenital disability would determine whether a baby lives or dies is an atrocious injustice. These children should be protected by our country’s constitution and embraced from the moment of conception. Fr. John Hardon, an advocate for life, linked abortion directly to the work of the devil because it is the destruction of God’s beautiful and unrepeatable creation.⁴

I am saddened by the reality of this evil in our country. I expect more from a government who claims to uphold “life and liberty for all”. More specifically, I do not want to continue to live in a society that does not treasure the lives of people like my brother. A society that claims to care for people with disabilities, but has no regard for their dignity while they are at the most vulnerable stage of development. In hopes that I might be a voice for these unborn children, I have taken advantage of an incredible opportunity to attend the March for Life in our nation’s capitol and also to participate in local events such as the annual Life Chain and 40 Days for Life. I hope to never lose an enthusiasm to stand up for the unborn or become tolerant of abortion as so many other Americans have done. I pray that I will be inspired to speak the truth courageously when it is needed and to be an instrument in restoring hope and ensuring that all life is treasured.

³ Manninen, Bertha Alvarez. “The Replaceable Fetus: A Reflection on Abortion and Disability.” *Disability Studies Quarterly*. 2015

<http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/3239/3831> Date accessed: 2/29/16

⁴ John A. Hardon, Father. “Demonology: The Strategy of the Devil in Demonic Temptations.” *The Real Presence Association*. 1996

http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Demonology/Demonology_001.htm Date accessed: 2/29/16