

## This I Believe

### Life

I believe in life. That sounds like such an obvious statement, but it really isn't for some people, depending on their perspective or views. I have had trepidations about sharing my story on life with you because the topic is so complex and emotional. You and I may not believe the same way. However, I hope you are willing to listen to my conviction or belief in life.

Ever since I was seven years old, which was in the 70's, I worked with my mother at the kitchen table sifting through embroidered red roses and tiny silver plated feet on plastic cards to stick on your lapel. We sold them at local parishes to raise money to stop abortion. On Saturdays, we would protest outside of video stores or hospitals, and, when I was a teenager, I would go to abortion clinics and pray, as well as counsel women against abortion. I was thirteen when I was put in the back of a police car and told I couldn't walk on the sidewalk outside of a clinic. I was afraid. Fear was prevalent inside and outside of clinics for the workers, patients, and protesters. Fear, as well as an array of other emotions, surrounds the issue of life.

As an adult, I have supported the Pro-life movement financially, and when I was pregnant with my third child, my beliefs on life were tested. Early in my pregnancy, my doctor performed a fetal protein test that told me my unborn child had Down's syndrome. The doctor said he would take another blood test, but it would be 2 weeks before I would get the results. My husband and I prepared ourselves for having a handicapped child. Actually, we resigned ourselves to the fact. Abortion was never an option for us. However, because abortion is legalized, a lot of women would have scheduled an abortion once they heard the initial news. Two weeks later, the blood test results came back negative, and several months later, we had a healthy child.

Abortion is different today. It is not only allowed in the first trimester but the second and third trimester. There are also partial birth abortions, and legislators in some states are considering making after birth abortions lawful. This means a woman can give birth to a child, a child that is alive and breathing, and a doctor can lawfully murder the child. The issue of abortion is volatile and has been a long-standing battle, but it also becomes more frightening every day.

In the 70's, my mother warned me that if we devalue life in the womb, we will come to devalue life outside of the womb. In other words, there would be a

slippery slope effect. She cautioned that people would question the value of a human being and determine whether that person should live, such as the handicapped and the elderly. Would a child born with a disability be euthanized? Would the elderly be euthanized because they were unproductive and a burden on society? Would a person basically be put to death out of convenience? Unfortunately, the day has come when a child could be killed outside the womb.

My fight for life will continue through signing petitions, contacting my legislators, and funding the Pro-Life movement. With the interest of enough students at Lewis, I hope to rekindle Students for Life on the campus and moderate the group. Above all, I couldn't be true to who I am as a human being without fighting for what I believe is morally correct, and that is that life begins at the moment of conception, and all life should be protected from the moment of conception until natural death. That is in our constitution. We have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The greatest atrocity in our world is abortion, the killing of the unborn and, quite possibly, the born. My crusade is to speak for the innocent who have no voice, and I hope my voice will be heard with a chorus of other voices. In the words of Mother Teresa, or St. Teresa of Calcutta, "Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life. Fight for it."

