

Fertility Care for Young Women

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO HELPING WOMEN APPRECIATE THEIR FERTILITY



When Life Begins

By : Teresa Kenney, APRN, CFCP

Did you ever ponder how completely amazing it is that we have been given the gift to co-create with God? We have been given the awesome power of creating an eternal life out of nothing. We are the only created beings in the universe with this power. The angels are powerful in wisdom and intelligence, yet cannot create life. God is Love, and Love in its purest form is always self-giving and life-giving. God is the image of this Love in His Trinitarian form. The Father loves the Son from all eternity; the Son loves the Father and gives the greatest self-giving sacrifice of Himself on the cross. This perfect Love between the Father and Son is the Holy Spirit,

which is poured out for us through the graces of the sacraments. God calls us all to this self-giving/life-giving love, whether we are married or we become a religious or a consecrated single person.

In the Sacrament of Marriage, the two become one in a very physical way, and their marriage or covenant is a sign of the free, fruitful, life-giving commitment they have made to each other. They give themselves so completely that out of their love comes new life. Of course, a married couple knows that it is not just the two of them that produce this unique human being. The man and the woman give the genetic material to form a new child, yet it is God that creates the human soul that joins with the body to exist for eternity. Married couples are creating the Kingdom of God by contributing new human beings to join in the eternal paradise God has waiting for us.

Life begins at the moment of conception. Conception happens in the woman in her fallopian tube. The genetic material in the head of the sperm and the genetic material in the ovum (egg) of the woman unite and form a never-seen-before, unique human person. From this moment on, the journey to the outside world is complex, wondrous delicate and amazing. For any of us who have had the opportunity to be a part of and learn of this process, we are forever changed and humbled by our Creator, who teaches us this undeniable Truth—that human creation is the product of Love, pure and simple.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Development of the Unborn Child	2
Words from a Modern Feminist	3
Quotables! Mother Teresa on Abortion	3
St. Gianna—Wife, Mother, Doctor, SAINT!	4
Resources	4

DID YOU KNOW????

Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in America. Seventy-eight percent of their clinics are in minority communities. Blacks make up 12% of the population but 35% of the abortions in America. Are we being targeted? Isn't that genocide? We are the only minority in America that is on the decline in population. If the current trend continues, by 2038 the black vote will be insignificant. Did you know that the founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was a devout racist who created the Negro Project designed to sterilize unknowing black women and others she deemed as undesirables of society? The founder of Planned Parenthood said, "Colored people are like human weeds and are to be exterminated." How is her vision being fulfilled today? Minority women constitute only about 26% of the female population (age 15-44) in the United States, but they underwent approximately 36% of the abortions. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, black women are more than three times as likely as white women to have an abortion. On average, 1,452 black babies are aborted every day in the United States. (From L.E.A.R.N—Life Education and Resource Network, www.learninc.org)

A newsletter dedicated to helping young women

The Development of the Unborn Child

Three weeks after conception:

Approximately 22 days after conception, a human heart is beating in the unborn child.

Prior to 8 weeks:

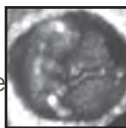
Just prior to 8 weeks gestational age, the first sensitivity to touch manifests in a set of protective movements to avoid a mere hair stroke on various parts of the embryonic body.

At 8 weeks:

Every organ is in place, bones begin to replace cartilage, and fingerprints begin to form. By the eighth week, the baby can begin to hear.

Between 6 and 10 weeks:

The fetal body bursts into motion, achieving graceful stretching and rotational movements of the head, arms, and legs.



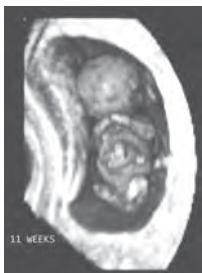
9 weeks

At 8 to 10 weeks:

The baby can “breathe” amniotic fluid and urinate.

At 11 weeks:

The baby can grasp objects placed in its hands; all organ systems are



11 weeks

functioning. The baby has a skeletal structure, nerves, and circulation.

At 12 weeks:

The baby has all of the parts necessary to experience pain, including nerves, spinal cord, and thalamus. Vocal cords are complete. The baby can suck its thumb.



11 weeks

By 14 weeks:

Structures for tasting are available and experts believe that a baby begins to taste at that time. Tests show that swallowing increases with sweet tastes and decreases with bitter tastes.



15 weeks

At 16 weeks:

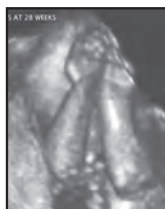
The baby can hear and respond to sounds. The voice of the mother is particularly powerful because it is transmitted to the womb through her own body.

At 17 weeks:

The baby can have dreams (REM) sleep.

Five to seven months:

The baby practices breathing by inhaling amniotic fluid into its developing lungs. The baby will grasp at the umbilical cord when it feels it. Most mothers feel an increase in movement—kicking and hiccups from the baby. Oil



28 weeks:
forearms

and sweat glands are now functioning. The baby is now 12 inches long or more and weighs up to one-and-a-half pounds.

Seven to nine months:

Eye teeth are present. The baby opens and closes his eyes. The baby is using four of the five senses—vision, hearing, taste, and touch. He knows the difference between



31 weeks

waking and sleeping. He can relate to the moods of the mother. The baby's skin begins to thicken, and a layer of fat is produced and stored beneath the skin. Antibodies are built up, and the baby's heart begins to pump 300 gallons of blood per day. Approximately one week before the birth, the baby stops growing and “drops” usually head-down in to the pelvic cavity.

“Approximately 22 days after conception, a human heart is beating in the unborn child...At 8 weeks, every organ is in place, bones begin to replace cartilage, and fingerprints begin to form. By the eighth week, the baby can begin to hear.”

Taken from “Fetal Development” (07-Jan-2003, <http://www.w-cpc.org/fetal1.html>) and “Life Before Birth: The Fetal Senses” by David B. Chamberlain, PhD (<http://www.birthpsychology.com>)

Ultrasound photographs by Thomas W. Hilgers, MD (from: Hilgers TW, The Medical & Surgical Practice of NaProTechnology. Pope Paul VI Institute Press, Omaha, NE, 2004.)



Words from a Modern Feminist

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere...

The Negro cannot win if he is willing to sacrifice the lives of his children for personal comfort and safety.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By: Dr. Alveda C. King,
Pastoral Associate, niece of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Here, we nobly speak of the quality of rights for all persons, action plans and non-violent solutions, while the rights of the helpless and the pre-born are continually violated in often the most violent acts imaginable.

Indeed, in America, since 1973, over 40 million American babies have been legally murdered. At least 13 million of these babies were Black. Two of these babies were mine.

Coupled with the blatant practice of euthanasia, and the open assault on marriage and family, we have lost and continue to lose millions of our children in this culture of death. Some may argue that a woman has a right to choose what she does with her body. She does, but where is the lawyer for the baby, who is like a helpless slave in the womb of his/her mother?

This letter is an open appeal to all people of good will, and today, especially to African American leaders, to stop the violence, to save the children, to restore the culture of life to America.

Please respond to the voices of the children! Visit our website today, to sign up to make a difference. It's www.priestsforlife.org/africanamerican. We would love to meet with you, to hear your heart on this vital issue. God bless you.

Yours for Life,

Dr. Alveda C. King, pastoral associate (niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)



“[Jesus] saith to them, “Suffer the little children to come unto me,, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God..”
Mark 10:14

“America needs no words from me to see how your decision in Roe v. Wade has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father’s role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts—a child—as a competitor, an intrusion, and an inconvenience. It has nominally accorded mothers unfettered dominion over the independent lives of their physically dependent sons and daughters.

“And, in granting this unconscionable power, it has exposed many women to unjust and selfish demands from their husbands and other sexual partners. Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being’s entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, “Notable and Quotable”, *Wall Street Journal*, 2/25/1994, p. A14

RESOURCES

*www.popepaulvi.com

*www.fertilitycare.org

*<http://www.chastity.com>

*<http://vocation-network.org>

*www.onemoresoul.com

*www.ewtn.com



St. Gianna—Wife, Mother, Doctor, SAINT!

Gianna Beretta was born in Magenta (Milan) October 4, 1922. Already as a youth she willingly accepted the gift of faith and the clearly Christian education that she received from her excellent parents. As a result, she experienced life as a marvellous gift from God, had a strong faith in Providence and was convinced of the necessity and effectiveness of prayer.

She diligently dedicated herself to studies during the years of her secondary and university education, while, at the same time, applying her faith through generous apostolic service among the youth of Catholic Action and charitable work among the elderly and needy as a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. After earning degrees in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Pavia in 1949, she opened a medical clinic in Mesero (near Magenta) in 1950. She specialized in Pediatrics at the University of Milan in 1952 and there after gave special attention to mothers, babies, the elderly and poor.

While working in the field of medicine-which she considered a "mission" and practiced as such-she increased her generous service to Catholic Action, especially among the "very young" and, at the same time, expressed her *joie de vivre* and love of creation through skiing and mountaineering. Through her prayers and those of others, she reflected upon her vocation, which she also considered a gift from God. Having chosen the vocation of marriage, she embraced it with complete enthusiasm and wholly dedicated herself "to forming a truly Christian family".

She became engaged to Pietro Molla and was radiant with joy and happiness during the time of their engagement, for which she thanked and praised the Lord. They were married on September 24, 1955, in the Basilica of St. Martin in Magenta, and she became a happy wife. In November 1956, to her great joy, she became the mother of Pierluigi, in December 1957 of Mariolina; in July 1959 of Laura. With simplicity and equilibrium she harmonized the demands of mother, wife, doctor and her passion for life.

In September 1961 towards the end of the second month of pregnancy, she was touched by suffering and the mystery of pain; she had developed a fibroma in her uterus. Before the

required surgical operation, and conscious of the risk that her continued pregnancy brought, she pleaded with the surgeon to save the life of the child she was carrying, and entrusted herself to prayer and Providence. The life was saved, for which she thanked the Lord. She spent the seven months remaining until the birth of the child in incomparable strength of spirit and unrelenting dedication to her tasks as mother and doctor. She worried that the baby in her womb might be born in pain, and she asked God to prevent that.

A few days before the child was due, although trusting as always in Providence, she was ready to give her life in order to save that of her child: "If you must decided between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child - I insist on it. Save him". On the morning of April 21, 1962, Gianna Emanuela was born. Despite all efforts and treatments to save both of them, on the morning of April 28, amid unspeakable pain and after repeated exclamations of "Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I love you," the mother died. She was 39 years old. Her funeral was an occasion of profound grief, faith and prayer. The Servant of God lies in the cemetery of Mesero (4 km from Magenta).

"Conscious immolation" was the phrase used by Pope Paul VI to define the act of Blessed Gianna, remembering her at the Sunday Angelus of September 23, 1973, as: "A young mother from the diocese of Milan, who, to give life to her daughter, sacrificed her own, with conscious immolation". The Holy Father in these words clearly refers to Christ on Calvary and in the Eucharist.

Gianna was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 24, 1994, during the international Year of the Family. Gianna was canonized on May 16, 2004.

Biography taken from www.vatican.va



Gianna Beretta Molla

Pope Paul VI Institute

For the Study of Human Reproduction
6901 Mercy Road • Omaha, NE 68106-2621
(402) 390-6600 • www.popepaulvi.com
Comments/questions: popepaul@popepaulvi.com