

## **LIFEtalk – Youth relevant**

Thank you \_\_\_\_\_.

### **YOUTH ARE BECOMING MORE PRO LIFE**

Did you know that the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the median age of first marriage for a woman is 25 years old?<sup>i</sup> Did you know that according to the Guttmacher Institute, 50% of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25?<sup>ii</sup> Strange coincidence? I think not. In fact, I think that as young people we could eliminate 50% of all abortions with one simple thing.

Anyone want to take a guess at what that is?

Chastity.

Despite everything we as youth hear, we are becoming more pro-life! Even in the anti-life media world of TV, movies, news, and music that tries to sell us sex, drugs, alcohol, and violence. Immorality is portrayed as acceptable, but we know it isn't. We know immoral actions have negative consequences. We live in a society that tells us: Why believe in God? You can have anything you want, do anything you want and have no consequences. Abortion: Have sex with no consequences.

Despite all of this we ARE becoming more pro-life. A national poll found that 72 percent of females of the class of 2006 wouldn't have considered an abortion if they became pregnant (Hamilton College Poll).

### **POLLS**

Why are we becoming more pro-life? Because as youth we are in the thick of it. We know what's going on! Most of us were born after January 22, 1973. We could have been legally killed. Abortion is legal and legal abortion equals murder. Legal murder? We've lost 1/4th of our generation, spouses and friends who could have been killed.<sup>iii</sup> Another CBS/NY Times poll shows that in 1993 49% of women ages 18-29 years old believed abortion "should be available to anyone who wants it." In 2005 that % fell to only 28% of women ages 18-29 years old believed "should be available to anyone who wants it".

A February of 2005 Harris poll indicated that the number of people describing themselves as “pro-life” is on the rise while those who say they are “pro-choice” is declining. We are becoming more pro-life.

The number of abortions has declined each year, an impressive 20% between 1993 and 2003. The number of abortions performed on minors has decreased 40% from 1990 to 2003 (Centers for Disease Control). Data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute shows that teenagers today are 40% less likely to have abortions than youth 15 years ago. The Centers for Disease Control indicates that this decline is partly due to youth abstaining from sex or delaying it until later in life. Also – an impact is pro-life legislation at the state level. Parental involvement laws reduce the number of abortions performed on minors by around 16% (Heritage Foundation).<sup>iv</sup>

A survey conducted by the New York Times, CBS News, and MTV showed that 62% of young Americans say abortion should not be permitted compared to 58% of older adults who give the same answers. 67% of high school seniors said abortion is either always (23%) or usually (44%) morally wrong. 31% thought abortion is a morally correct decision. An April 2004 Zogby poll found that 51.6% of 18-29 year-olds call themselves “pro-life.” Also the Zogby poll stated that 60% of 18-29 year-olds took one of three varying pro-life positions on abortion while only 39% agreed with the three pro-abortion stances.<sup>v</sup>

We know that we can do better than this! This has affected our generation more than any other. First because our friends are dying and if this doesn't call us to action the fact that YOU could have died and no one would have cared, SHOULD! Second we are growing up in a society saturated with the trash of violence, sex, drugs, and abortion. We deserve better!

## **TECHNOLOGY**

In spite of all that, God has blessed us today with so much to know the truth. We have the technology today which allows us to see pictures of the unborn as young as two months. We are able to perform operations on unborn babies while still in the womb. (**HOLD UP PICTURE of Baby Samuel**) Babies like baby Samuel-21 week old fetus who during surgery for spina bifida reached out his hand and squeezed his Dr's finger. (Pass the picture around)

## **TIME AND EXPERIENCE OF LEGALIZED ABORTION**

We also have time on our side. We have 35 years to look back to see the effects of abortion on our society. We know that as of 2006, eight medical organizations recognize that abortion raises a woman's risk for breast cancer (Abortionbreastcancer.com). According to a study published in the January 2006 Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, women who had an abortion had the highest rates of subsequent mental health problems including depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviors and substance use disorders when compared to those who gave birth or never became pregnant. We know that abortion can lead to Post-Abortion Stress Syndrome.

## **ECONOMICS OF ABORTION**

From time to time, abortion advocates will ask, "Without abortion, where would we put all of these extra kids?" They want us to believe that abortion is a necessary mechanism for ensuring that the U.S. population does not surge out of control. BUT . . .

In the U.S. today, fewer babies are being born, people are living longer than ever and more and more immigrants are coming in. As such, the population at large is growing much older. Did you know that an older population may pose a far greater threat to society than a supposed population explosion? Whenever a society fails to replace itself with sufficient numbers of young people, it becomes a society that cannot survive. Just look at social security. By the time we are ready to retire experts predict there won't be anything left. Fewer children today will equal fewer parents tomorrow which will equal fewer children still in the generations to come. Abortion has already eliminated tens of millions of people from the American tax base. Where there were more than four wage earners for every retiree in 1980, that number is estimated to be at 2 to 1 by 2020 and only one and a half to one by 2040. The result? You do the math. One worker for every retired person? Social Security taxes would be beyond imagination. So long as abortion wipes out the young people, we will be left with a society that is older and older, a society where grandparents far outnumber children and where almost no one is left to pay for it all.

## **DAVID & GOLIATH**

This is what is happening every day in our country; many of you already knew this and some of you have just begun to be made aware of these tragedies. Either way most of us are probably overwhelmed by it all and are left at a loss for what they can do. I hear it so often. How can we stand up against abortion? We're only freshman, sophomores, juniors, or seniors. At times it may seem like a David and Goliath because in fact it is. The pro-abortionists have control. They control the money, glamour, power, the media. They own the world. What do we have? We have the truth and we have Christ on our side. Some of you may be thinking yeah that's all nice and good but I'm just one person how can I make a difference. What can I do? How do I start? The answer is ONE.

I would like to share with you words from Mother Theresa: *(read slowly)*

### **The Answer is One**

I never look at the masses as my responsibility. I look at the individual.

I can love only one person at a time. I can feed only one person at a time.

Just One, One, One

You get closer to Christ by coming closer to each other.

And Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me."

So you begin...I begin.

I picked up one person-

Maybe if I didn't pick up that one person I wouldn't have picked up 42,000.

The whole work is only a drop in the ocean.

But if I didn't put the one drop in

The ocean would be one drop less

Same thing for you

Just being... One, One, One

### **How do you start?**

Start here in your youth group. Start with your friends. If they are your friends they will listen.

Say something nice to that pregnant girl in your school. Spare one hour a month outside of an abortion clinic praying with a couple of your friends. Wear pro-life shirts. Pray! When you give a presentation in class about abortion pray to the Holy Spirit and you will receive him. Christ will be by your side as you speak. When you wear a pro-life tee-shirt Christ will walk with you

in a deeper way that day. He will defend you. When you are mocked, threatened, or called a lunatic remember this,

“What so ever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters you did to me.” The unborn are most definitely the least among us: they have no voice, no money, no power, no right to live, and we can’t even see them. By giving them a voice we share in their tinyness. With love and admiration ring out the words of our former Holy Father: “Be not afraid... open wide the doors for Christ.”

### **(How to get involved)**

I would now like to invite up the Project LIFEtalk team who are going to share with you ways that you can get involved in the pro-life movement. *[or ways to make chastity work in your life if a chastity testimonial speaker is chosen.]*

### **(Conclusion) What will we tell our grandchildren?**

This is what our organization is about, teens uniting together to save our own generation one life at a time, and touching people through our witness one by one. With the momentum of the pro-life movement Roe v. Wade will be overturned. Can I have an AMEN? 50 years from now the abortion holocaust will be taught in school and describe the annihilation of 2-3 generations. Our grandchildren will want answers.

What will we say to our grandchildren when they ask us what we did to end this culture of death? Will we tell them that we were (slowly)

too busy,

or it wasn't the cool thing to do,

or I didn't want to press my views on others.

Do you think our grandchildren will understand these excuses.

I mean come on, after the obligations of school and homework there were just so many other important things to be doing right?

We had the highly demanding sports,

the highly demanding friends and let's not forget

that highly demanding boyfriend/girlfriend.

Are we going to tell them that we were too busy to speak up for the unborn because we had to keep up with

every trend at the mall and that we

couldn't miss a single episode of CSI or Heroes?

That we were too busy keeping our pets properly groomed twice a day,

had to spend at least 1 hour a day on Instant messenger in life altering conversations

and another hour on myspace or facebook.

Busy isn't it? Not that it's bad, I'm guilty of half of that myself. But let's look at this straight...

Do we need to convince our grandkids of our busy schedule, or that we didn't want to press our

views on others, even though abortion in itself is evil? I hope and pray that we aren't put in that

situation and we can tell them what we did to stand up for the unborn. I hope we can tell them

that we stood up for the unborn by wearing pro-life T-Shirts, giving pro-life presentations at

school, being Chaste, praying outside abortion mills and are able to share heroic stories of self

sacrifice for women we never knew, and children we'll never meet. Why? Because guys it

won't only be our grandkids who question us,

## **God will do the same.**

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Median Age for First Marriage: Census Supplementary Surveys, 2000-2001 and American Community Surveys, 2002-2003.

<sup>ii</sup> Abort73.com. Facts about Abortion. "Abortion Statistics" (taken from Alan Guttmacher Institute, [http://www.alanguttmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_induced\\_abortion.html](http://www.alanguttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html)), [http://www.abort73.com/HTML/II-A-abortion\\_statistics.html](http://www.abort73.com/HTML/II-A-abortion_statistics.html) 18 Aug. 2008.

<sup>iii</sup> Henshaw, Stanley K. and Kathryn Kost. "Trends in the Characteristics of Women Obtaining Abortions, 1974 to 2004" Guttmacher Institute Aug. 2008 (19). Tabulation of data obtained from the Guttmacher Abortion Provider Surveys, "Appendix Table 1. Number of legal abortions, by state of occurrence." Percentage obtained through number of total U.S. legal abortion and total number of U.S. births as provided by Guttmacher and U.S. birth rates. 22 Dec. 2008 <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0005067.html>.

<sup>iv</sup> New, Dr. Michael. "More Evidence of Abortion Declines Among America's Youth" National Right to Life Campaign. 2 March 2007. 12 Dec. 2008 [http://www.nrlc.org/News\\_and\\_Views/March07/nv030207.html](http://www.nrlc.org/News_and_Views/March07/nv030207.html).

<sup>v</sup> Ertelt, Steven. "Teens, Young Adults more likely to oppose abortion, want more limits." LifeNews.com. 27 June 2007. 12 Dec. 2008 <http://www.lifenews.com/nat3212.html>.