



NEWSLETTER



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August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 MEETING SOMERVILLE 7:00 PM	11	12	13	14	15 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
16	17	18	19	20 FALLOUT SOMERVILLE 6:00 PM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NEWS

Our next meeting will be held in Somerville on August 10. The meal will be served starting at 7 pm. We are pleased that Somerville has volunteered to host our meetings again.

St. Ann's in Somerville will be the host parish for the annual Diocesan Rural Life Mass, to be held on August 20. Fr. Uche has requested that we provide an Honor Guard for the Mass. The Mass starts at 6:00 pm, and will be held in their parish hall, due to the large crowd that usually attends this celebration. We will need to be there no later than 5:30 pm, in order to go over our part for the Mass. We will also need to help with the re-arrangement of the hall after the Mass, to set it up for the banquet to follow.

Looking ahead, Holy Rosary in Frenstat will be having their annual homecoming festival on Sunday, October 4. Music by Mark Halata and Texaiva will start at 10:00 am and last until the live auction begins at 1:30. There will be the usual rundown of things to do, eat, and buy at the festival. Bring a pocketful of money, and come out and enjoy the day.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, I started to write that by now all of you must have heard about the harvesting and selling of parts of aborted babies by Planned Parenthood, but I guess I may have been wrong. I took a quick look at the CBS, NBC, and ABC news websites, and low and behold, I could not find anything about the selling of the organs of unborn babies. There was one story on CBS that described the selling of the body parts as "videos showing Planned Parenthood leaders discussing the use of aborted fetuses for research." Only FOX News gave an accurate description of what was actually happening. So if you get your news from any of the 3 networks I have listed, maybe you didn't hear about it. To be fair, I didn't watch any of their nightly newscasts, so they might have had it on their nightly news.

Just to make sure you get an accurate description of this atrocity going on at these abortion clinics, the article on the back side of this newsletter, taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, pretty much give you an accurate description of what is going on. Makes you sick to your stomach. And we are paying for these butchers with our tax dollars. Goes to show how low our society has sunk.

Life Issues Forum: Providing Children by Discarding Them?

By Richard M. Doerflinger

July 31, 2015

The breaking news about Planned Parenthood's trafficking in the body parts of aborted children has attracted many appalled reactions, and rightly so. PP's medical director was caught on video, discoursing callously over lunch about adapting the killing procedure to obtain the "intact" organs that researchers want. More such videos are being released that will deserve a response – not least, perhaps, by Congress.

But even as that scandal garnered public attention, a smaller drama involving human life unfolded in Washington D.C. – smaller because few people "outside the Beltway" knew of it, and because it concerned the smallest of our fellow humans.

For a while this past month it seemed the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee would urge Congress, for the first time in history, to require American taxpayers to pay for creating, manipulating and destroying human embryos in the laboratory.

This of course was not how the proposal was described by its sponsor, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). She said her bill, S. 469, would give wounded veterans "the opportunity to have children." But the VA health system already covers all forms of fertility assistance – including some, like artificial insemination, not accepted by Catholic moral teaching. The one exception is that the VA system, like Medicaid and other federal health programs, does not cover in vitro fertilization (IVF).

The reasons for treating IVF differently are many. Most private health plans don't cover it (except in the minority of states that require such coverage), because it is a very costly "elective" procedure with a high failure rate. There are also more important problems, having to do with the dignity of children, women and families.

As practiced today, IVF involves an extremely high death rate for embryonic children. About 85% of those transferred to a woman's womb are never born alive. This does not count embryos that die in a Petri dish, are discarded as being of "lower quality," or are frozen for later use but don't survive the freezing or thawing process. This death rate has been alluded to by Pope Francis in some of his speeches against the "throw-away society" – and it is why Congress has barred federal funding for research using IVF at the National Institutes of Health since 1995. There is also growing evidence that the children who are born alive have a higher risk of premature birth and some birth defects than other children. And there are increased risks for women, especially those who receive high doses of drugs to make their bodies produce many eggs at once for the procedure. These women, whether they are "donors" or are providing eggs for a child of their own, may develop ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, a condition that can cause organ failure and even death. Families have also suffered when embryos produced in the lab are mixed up and given to the wrong parents – an abuse that occurs more than most people realize (see "In Vitro Fertilization: The Human Cost," at bit.ly/IVFHumanCost)

When other Senators learned of these problems they turned against the bill, or prepared amendments to address their concerns -- prompting Senator Murray to denounce their objections as "a partisan effort to attack women's health care," and to declare on the Senate floor that her colleagues want to "turn their backs on these wounded veterans."

The fact is that wounded veterans, and their children and spouses, deserve better than IVF. Let us hope that more politicians will come to understand that.

Mr. Doerflinger is Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishops' resource "[Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology](#)," and much more about their pro-life efforts, can be found at www.usccb.org/prolife.

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