



An International Network for Peace, Justice and Life

## Promoting a Culture of Life: Connecting Life Issues

As we work to protect the unborn, let us think about ways in which we can promote a true culture of life. Here are some inspiring thoughts to help us in thinking about life issues and how they are so very much connected.

### Abortion and poverty

Rachel McNair, PhD, Consistent Life Vice President, "Poverty and Abortion"

*Material deprivation is among the more vicious pressures to abort, and is especially exacerbated by people who take the attitude that poor women should not be having children to be a "welfare burden"...*

*Direct work to help people understand the horrors...of abortion will help to prevent poverty and other forms of violence.*

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (UK)

*No woman should be driven to abort her baby through poverty or social exclusion. Abortion simply allows society to get away with ignoring the problems facing women in crisis pregnancies. The compassionate response is to allow women, whatever their background, the resources necessary to bring up their children.*

Micaiah Bilger, Education Director, Pennsylvania Pro-life Federation.

*Pregnant women in poverty need better knowledge of and access to financial resources, not abortion. Women should not be forced to choose between a meal and a baby's life.*

### Abortion and war

Jack Hunter, "Pro-life Means Anti-drone," *The American Conservative*, October 26, 2012

*For pro-lifers, there must be a question: If life is sacred, how can we justify killing so many innocent children? Some might say, "Well, that's just war. We make mistakes."*

*Yet, I don't know a single pro-lifer who would agree with rectifying the mistake of an unplanned pregnancy by making yet another mistake in terminating that pregnancy. If we justify the killing of innocent children abroad because their lives are somehow worth less, how is this different from liberals who dehumanize the personhood of a fetus?*

Rachel Carson, pioneer of the modern environmentalist movement

*We cannot have peace among men whose hearts find delight in killing any living creature. By every act that glorifies or even tolerates such moronic delight in killing, we set back the progress of humanity.*

Colman McCarthy, *The Washington Post*, April 11, 1992

*Both the military ethic and the abortion ethic are grounded in the same belief: Life is cheap. Iraqi life. Fetal life...The language of the war lobby and the abortion lobby is from the same glossary of evasions. No one likes war, say the generals. No one likes abortions, says NOW. But let's keep the killing option, just in case.*

### Abortion and racism

Rev. Johnny M. Hunter, co-founder, Life Education and Resource Network (LEARN)

*Abortion is racism in its ugliest form.*

From Abort73.com, January 12, 2011

*Abortion, by the numbers, is a racist institution. That's not to say that all or even most of those who support abortion are racists. Nor does it imply that there are no racists among those who oppose abortion. This statement has nothing to do with agendas or intent. It has everything to do with the simple, undeniable reality that in the United States, abortion kills minority children at more than 3 times the rate of non-Hispanic, white children.*

Dr. Alveda C. King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*[Martin Luther King Jr] once said, "The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice the lives of his children for comfort and safety." How can the "Dream" survive if we murder the children? Every aborted baby is like a slave in the womb of his or her mother. The mother decides his or her fate.*

## Abortion and the death penalty

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life

*There is, indeed, [an] important connection between abortion and the death penalty, and my pro-life work throughout the world has shown me that opponents of abortion are very likely to be opposed to the death penalty as well. Certainly, they are not identical issues. There's a big difference between a criminal and a perfectly innocent baby. Yet at the same time, the difference is not so great as to obscure the equal dignity of both. As John Paul II declared in Evangelium Vitae, "Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity."*

Nicholas T. Wright, Anglican Bishop of Durham, England

*You can't reconcile being pro-life on abortion and pro-death on the death penalty. Almost all the early Christian Fathers were opposed to the death penalty, even though it was of course standard practice across the ancient world. As far as they were concerned, their stance went along with the traditional ancient Jewish and Christian belief in life as a gift from God, which is why (for instance) they refused to follow the ubiquitous pagan practice of 'exposing' baby girls (i.e. leaving them out for the wolves or for slave-traders to pick up).*

United States Catholic Bishops' Statement on Capital Punishment, 1980

*[The] abolition of capital punishment is also a manifestation of our belief in the unique worth and dignity of each person from the moment of conception, a creature made in the image and likeness of God.*

### Linking the life issues: A matter of human dignity for every life

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life

*What links the many issues of human life is that such life is sacred: it comes from God, it belongs to God, it returns to God. All human beings have equal dignity, and nobody may ever directly destroy the innocent. These principles apply whether we are talking about abortion, capital punishment, war, poverty, drug abuse, street violence, or any other of the multitude of problems we face in society.*

Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood administrator turned pro-life activist, in *LifeNews.com*, July 21, 2011

*I am pro-life. I believe in the protection of all life. I am against abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty. I am pro-quality of life. I believe all children deserve quality health care. I don't believe in reducing assistance benefits for those who are disabled or who have special needs....I abhor clinic violence. I have a genuine urgency to see every clinic worker and abortionist turn away from abortion. I do not believe harassment, violence, threats, or anything of the sort is the way we are to behave in this movement. . . . It's not just about "saving" the baby. It is about empowering the mother as well. I am not against abortion because it takes an innocent life — I am against abortion because it takes a life. Innocence has nothing to do with it. [Lives] are not more valuable because they are innocent. They will not always be innocent--but their lives will still hold the same value.*

Deacon Norm Carroll, Founder and Director of Consistent Life member group, Accepting the Biblical Christ, in his book *Miracles, Messages and Metaphors*

*O sainted Moses, you have told us to choose life by loving the Lord our God despite our desolate deserts. We understand this to mean that we must preserve and enhance all life wherever it is found. We shall cast down the walls of division erected through war, misunderstanding, self-doubt, hostility, and much more. We hereby consecrate ourselves to promote life from womb to tomb, and through this, we trust we shall find life and enter it with you in our eternal promised land.*

Mother Theresa, National Prayer Breakfast, attended by the President and First Lady, Washington, DC, February 1994

*I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?*

**Consistent Life Mission Statement:** We are committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in today's world by war, abortion, poverty, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia. We believe that these issues are linked under a 'consistent ethic of life'. We challenge those working on all or some of these issues to maintain a cooperative spirit of peace, reconciliation, and respect in protecting the unprotected.



### Consistent Life

*A Network for Peace, Justice and Life*

PO Box 9295, Silver Spring, MD 20916-9295

Toll-free 1-866-444-7245, Fax 413-485-2881

<http://www.consistent-life.org/> [info@consistent-life.org](mailto:info@consistent-life.org)