



For Life

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Taya, who was born with Down's, became darling of the modeling world



The camera just loves little Taya Kennedy. Wide-eyed, cheeky, engaged; she brims with the confidence of a natural performer. It is little wonder that she has taken the child-modeling world by storm.

The fact that 14-month-old Taya also has Down's Syndrome is quite incidental. She was selected, not to fulfill a quota, tick a box or adhere to the dictums of some politically-correct code of positive discrimination. Taya was picked because, quite simply, she is a star. 'Taya is an incredibly photogenic, warm and smiley child, and that shines through in her photographs,' says Alysia Lewis, owner of Urban Angels, the prestigious UK model agency that has signed her up.

'We only open our books twice a year and select just a few new children each season. 'The standard is high; the desire for places strong. Taya is one of 50 children we chose from 2,000 applicants.

'That she has Down's Syndrome did not enter the equation. We chose her because of her vibrancy and sense of fun. Not all children are comfortable in front of a lens and with a photographer looking at them—especially when they are so young. But Taya was so relaxed and happy. She was just what we were looking for.'

—by Frances Hardy,
excerpt from www.dailymail.co.uk/

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

—Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963
Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Legalizing Euthanasia by Omission and Making It a Doctor's Order

A problematic new end-of-life medical form is rapidly gaining ascendancy in U.S. healthcare. It is called the "POLST" document. The acronym stands for Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment.

The document consolidates on a single form provisions formerly dispersed over several documents: it acts as a living will specifying the scope of medical interventions a patient wishes in case of incapacitation; it makes specific provision for a do-not-resuscitate order (DNR); it has a box to check in the event a patient wishes to refuse treatment with antibiotics; and it allows a patient to designate a proxy decision maker.

Similar to other advanced directives, patients complete the POLST form when their capacities are intact and the document becomes effective when consciousness is compromised.

But different from older-type directives, the POLST document has provision for the signature of a physician (or physician assistant). This gives the designations on the document the force of an actionable medical order.

The POLST-type legislation removes the condition that a patient is terminally ill or diagnosed in a PVS before a refusal order is actionable.

In other words, the new law permits any adult patient to refuse any treatment at any time for any reason in the event they lack decisional capacity; and health care professionals, directed by a doctor's medical order, ordinarily would be (and are) required to carry out the order.

Although the law for strategic purposes is rhetorically formulated as bearing upon end-of-life medical decisions, it sets forth no requirement that a patient's refusal of life-support must be limited to end-of-life conditions.

—excerpt from *Zenit.org* (<http://www.zenit.org>)
DENVER, Colorado, AUG. 24, 2011

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From the Director

As 2011 nears its close, I am taking my lead for this column from *Time Magazine*. *Time's* Person of the Year 2011 is "The Protestor: from the Arab Spring to Athens, from Occupy Wall Street to Moscow." I too would like to honor the protestor of another sort. I would like to honor all those who stand up and witness for the dignity of the human person. These pro life witnesses are expressions of protest as well.

Wikipedia says, "A protest is an expression of objection, by words or by actions, to particular events, policies or situations. Protests can take many different forms ..." I like the word *expression*. People, dedicated to the human dignity given to each person made in the image and likeness of God, express this in so many diverse ways. They object to situations where dignity is denied to vulnerable persons.

There seems to be four consistent types of expressing objection against violations of human dignity in our diocese and around the world today. The four expressions are often called vigil, march, boycott and prayer. Catholics, along with people of other beliefs, express themselves about life and call for a change of heart for God's loved ones who are threatened.

Two vigils that come to mind are vigils kept at the bedside of a person who is dying and vigils kept outside the prison walls of a scheduled execution. The vigil with a dying person is not so much a public display, but a more private expression of support and love for someone who is dying. Society expresses its lack of respect for the dying person when a hastening of death is prescribed or a lack of suitable accommodations is available. People stand vigil in witness to the horrific judicial practice of state sanctioned killing. There is no interaction with the death row inmate but a witness to all involved that taking a life is not a validation of any human dignity, not even the victims of the crime. The dignity of the victim is inherent in their being not in the action of the state. ***I honor all those who hold vigil*** for human life in all its stages.

Marches are a very public way of expressing objection to a denial of human dignity. The annual March for Life where individuals come together in Washington DC and in smaller venues across our nation to denounce the legalization of abortion are very large and public expressions of human dignity brought into being at conception. "Before you were born I set you apart" (Jer 1:5). There are also marches to uphold people's dignity throughout their lives, such as marches for immigration reform, decommissioning of nuclear weapons, and ending war. Support for

the human person is also the purpose of marches to raise research and treatment monies for persons afflicted with disability or disease. ***I honor all those who march*** in witness and solidarity with persons whose lives are not valued in our world.

In our world of much consumerism, boycotts are another means of expressing a plea or demand for the humane treatment of workers. Human trafficking and assaults on the environment are two subjects of boycott that speak directly to the dignity of the worker. Human dignity is upheld when honest work is available without torture, disease and/or enslavement. ***I honor all those who boycott*** for those who do not have dignified work.

Prayer is often an integral part of vigils, boycotts and marches. It is also an expression of support for human dignity in and of itself. Bishop Lennon leads our diocese in prayer at our annual Mass for Life where every life God imagined is upheld. Almost daily Catholics and people who understand that life begins at conception pray near facilities that perform abortions. On January 1st the world expresses our common need for peace as we pray on the World Day of Peace. ***I honor everyone who prays*** for every person God has created.

I wish to honor every person who expresses objection to violations of human dignity. I realize that this column falls short of honoring everyone who stands up and witnesses for human dignity, but I hope to inspire all of us to see the great works of people living to love as God loves each beautiful human creation. 2012 promises innumerable opportunities *For Life!*

—Peggy Gerovac

Prayer Corner



God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we whom you have made steward of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

—*Mass for Giving Thanks to God
for the Gift of Human Life, Collect Prayer*

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“Wrongful Life” Lawsuits Become Prevalent in Israel



The October 26, 2011 edition of *New Scientist* reports that Israeli children with birth defects are increasingly suing medical authorities for allowing them to be born. Parents have brought such suits in the

past, and now the trend there is for suits to be brought in the name of the children themselves. These suits target medical professionals who are accused not of causing a disability but rather of failing to diagnose an already-existing disability before birth so that the child could be aborted.

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg, a medical ethicist from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, said, “I find it very difficult to understand how parents can go on the witness stand and tell their children ‘It would have been better for you not to have been born.’” Surely the damage to the child of hearing this from parents is far greater than any mere physical disability could ever be.

—www.consistent-life.org/weekly.html

Putting Trafficking Out of Business

A coalition of religious investors wants officials at 27 major U.S. companies to look deeper into the role human trafficking may play in the operation of their firms. The investors, who are members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and include about 80 Catholic religious congregations and health care providers, are asking companies like Costco, American Airlines and Kohl’s to stop doing business with suppliers who violate basic human rights and to train employees to recognize trafficked people in their midst. The I.C.C.R. correspondence, in the form of an investor statement, offers an explanation of the prevalence of human trafficking in various industries, describes in detail legislative steps taken to control it and outlines actions the coalition wants the companies to take in order to end demand for what is widely considered modern-day slavery. The statement, sent to clothing, food, travel and tourism, agricultural, technology and retail firms, was timed to coincide with the release of the 2011 Trafficking in Persons report by the State Department.

—excerpt from *America*, July 18-25, 2011

Pope Benedict: Educating the guardians of Creation

Dear friends, the Church, noting with appreciation the most important research and scientific discoveries, has never ceased to recall that respect for the Creator’s imprint in all creation, leads to a better understanding of our true and deepest human identity. If properly undertaken, this respect can help a young person to also discover talents and personal ability, and therefore help prepare them for a certain profession, which they will always try to perform in full respect for the environment. If fact, in his work, man forgets he is God’s collaborator, then he can cause violence to damage to creation which always have a negative impact on humans, as we have seen, unfortunately, on several occasions. Today more than ever, it has becomes clear that respect for the environment can not forget the recognition of the value of the human person and its inviolability at every stage and in every condition of life. Respect for the human being and respect for nature are one, but both can grow and find their right measure if we respect in the human being and in nature the Creator and his creation. On this, dear young people, I believe to find allies in you, true “guardians of life and creation.”

—2011-11-28 Vatican Radio

Church advocating human rights at the UN

With regard to two other elements proposed by the report as so-called “features of good practice” to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality—that is “increasing access to contraception and family planning” and addressing so-called “unsafe abortion for women”, the Holy See wishes to express its strong disagreement. My delegation believes that “... particular attention should be given to securing for husband and wife the liberty to decide responsibly, free from all social or legal coercion, the number of children they will have and the spacing of their births. It should be the intent of governments or other agencies to decide for couples but, rather, to create the social conditions which will enable them to make appropriate decisions in the light of their responsibilities to God, to themselves, and to the society of which they are part, and to the objective moral order.”

—excerpt from 2011-09-16 Vatican Radio

We Use Recycled Paper.

Interested in Coffee Talk?

Life issues are in the news in sound bytes on a daily basis.
There are emails and blogs of all sorts.

Would you like an opportunity to chat with other Catholics as well as a diocesan representative about what the Church says, plans, ponders, etc.?

Invite me to your group for a chat. It won't be a formal presentation. I'll bring the latest coffee. You bring the particularly interested boundaries like pro or social concerns from more than one parish, school, institution, etc.



Let's just sit together. that I know and the participants. I am groups that cross life and social justice and seniors or people

Give me a call and we'll coordinate schedules for an informal coffee chat over life issues.

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**One word or a pleasing smile is often enough
to raise up a sadden and wounded soul."**

—Therese of Lisieux

PRO LIFE OFFICE



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Pro Life - Diocese of Cleveland

- *More audio/visual links related to life issues*
- *Almost daily posting of diocesan local, national and international items of interest*
- *Action Alerts*

This is the fastest way to get breaking information and pass it on to others.

Put our link on your parish web page!

Prayer Service and Vigil for the Unborn and the End of Abortion

January 20, 2012

Beginning at 7 pm with Prayer Service
Vigil will continue until 1 am January 21, 2012

St. Hilary Parish
2750 W. Market St.
Fairlawn, OH 44333

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For Life-Extra

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Rest in Peace – Wangari Maathai

Wangari Maathai, Ph.D. Nobel Peace Prize Winner from Kenya, died of ovarian cancer on September 25, 2011. Best known for her work with the Green Belt movement and environmental activism, she organized women in poverty to be employed to plant millions of trees in Kenya.

From Norway's *Dagen* newspaper, December 7, 2004, interview: "When we allow abortion, we are punishing the women—who must abort their children because their men have run away—and we are punishing the children whose lives are terminated . . . I want us to step back a little bit and say: Why is this woman and this child threatened? Why is this woman threatening to terminate this life? What do we need to do as a society? What are we not doing right now as a society? A part of that answer lies in this House [pointing at the Kenyan Parliament building]."

Priests Urged To Preach on Poverty

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is urging priests across the country to preach about "the terrible toll the current economic turmoil is taking on families and communities." In a letter to his fellow bishops made public on Sept. 19, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York said, "I hope we can use our opportunities as pastors, teachers and leaders to focus public attention and priority on the scandal of so much poverty and so many without work in our society." Special resources and materials to assist in that effort are to be posted on a section of the U.S.C.C.B. Web site dedicated to unemployment and poverty. "Widespread unemployment, underemployment and pervasive poverty are diminishing human lives, undermining human dignity and hurting children and families," Archbishop Dolan said. "The common good will not advance; economic security will not be achieved; and individual initiative will be weakened when so many live without the dignity of work and bear the crushing burden of poverty."

—excerpt from *America*,
October 3, 2011

By the Numbers Happiness and Down Syndrome

Research published in the October issue of the American Journal of Medical Genetics found that families of people with Down syndrome report leading positive, satisfied lives.

79%

of 2,044 parents and guardians surveyed who said their outlook on life was more positive because of their child with Down syndrome.

97%

of siblings of people with Down syndrome who expressed feelings of pride about their brother or sister

—excerpt from *Our Sunday Visitor*,
October 16, 2011

Today I pray for the victims of Mr. Rhoades and for their families. I pray for the soul of Mr. Rhoades and for his family. I also pray that this will be the last execution ever to take place, in our state or anywhere else. In union with Catholic bishops throughout the country, I believe it is time for our nation to abandon the illusion that we can protect life by taking it. Ending the use of the death penalty would be one important step away from a culture of death toward building a culture of life."

—Bishop Michael P. Driscoll of Boise

Volume 18

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For Life is a quarterly publication of the Pro Life Office, Catholic Charities, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, as an educational service for the people of this diocese.

The mission of the Pro Life Office is to proclaim the sanctity and value of human life as a gift from God and the foundation of human dignity, and work to ensure the quality of life at all stages of existence. This office encourages a Consistent Ethic of Life approach in promoting reverence for life, which is rooted in the Gospel and teachings of the Church.

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A Men's World



A new book, *Unwanted Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls and the Consequences of a world Full of Men*, by Mara Hvistendahl (Public Affairs), has awakened the public to a social policy in China, India and other countries that has forced a radical shift in the world's popula-

tion balance: a decrease in live births of girls. Under China's one-child laws, for example, there is pressure in favor of male children, who can become future breadwinners and have higher social status.

Since the late 1970's, 163 million female babies have been aborted by families seeking a male heir. If nature is allowed to take its course, 105 boys are born for every 100 girls. Following human intervention, today India has 112 boys for every 100 girls. China has 121. Female empowerment, with the majority of women choosing to bear sons, has led to even more sex selection. An aimless population of young males is coming of age with not enough women available for each to marry. Societies in which men substantially outnumber women are unstable and violent. Unmarried men accumulate in the lower classes. Crime waves follow.

Does not this situation refute the absolutist feminist argument for abortion: that the only norm is the "mother's choice"? By this norm, she and/or her family are free to kill the child merely for being a girl. How can society allow that? If women have the same rights as men and if social order requires a balanced sex ratio, the law should intervene to protect the child—both as a young woman and as a human being.

—excerpt from *America*, July 18-25, 2011

Institute aims to find moral treatments for diseases

Center name for Blessed John Paul II promotes the use of adult stem cells in scientific research

Dr. Alan Moy is a man of science and a man of faith.

He can't separate the two, and he wouldn't want to.

That's why he started the John Paul II Stem Cell Research Institute in Coralville, Iowa.

The institute, started in 2007, aims to "create a faster and more streamlined process in doing research that will find cures and therapies exclusively using a variety of adult stem cells," according to its mission statement.

The institute also is developing research tools for therapies by using adult stem cells. In addition, it will increase the number of scientists and future medical practitioners who will work with adult stem cells, with an emphasis on bioethics that is consistent with the dignity of human life.

Pope Benedict XVI has given research into adult stem cells his blessing and encouragement.

—excerpts from *Our Sunday Visitor*,
September 10, 2011



Makes you go hmmm....

(A Column of Quotes)

"We have more rules that go into place when you buy a used car than when you buy sperm."

—Debra L. Spar, author of a book about "the commerce of conception," on the lack of information given out at fertility clinics and sperm banks.
Our Sunday Visitor, September 18, 2011

"In a mysterious yet real way, their presence awakens in our often hardened hearts a tenderness which opens us to salvation," he reflected. "The lives of these young people surely touch human hearts and for that reason we are grateful to the Lord for having known them."

—Pope Benedict at event with 200 youth with disabilities during World Youth Day

The Catholic Church says building peace is not just about bricks and mortar. It's about rebuilding the people and the human community. If you don't do that work, then the bricks-and-mortar stuff you rebuild today is going to be blown up tomorrow.

—Maryann Cusimano Love,
Associate Professor of International Relations,
Catholic University of America, Washington
(from an interview with U.S. Catholic, Sept. 2011)

"God doesn't value people and things like we do. Jonah loved a shade tree more than an entire city of sinful people. We love our dogs more than a terrorist. We love our cars more than a beggar on the side of the road. And sometimes, we love our money more than a child growing in a desperate teenager's womb. But God isn't like us ... And the book of Jonah tells us that He loves even the most sinful people and seeks to bring them into His merciful arms. And it's a love that seeks to touch all of his created children: that desperate teenager, the baby growing in her womb, even tyrants and terrorists."

—Dennis DiMauro, *Lutherans for Life Devotional for Day 23 of 40 Days for Life*,
October 20, 2011

57 countries out of a total of 196 countries worldwide have a death penalty in their system of law. The United States is one of the 57. Who do we accompany in the practice of state sanctioned killing? Afghanistan, China, Iran, North Korea, Thailand ... See the complete list at www.infoplease.com. You might be surprised.