

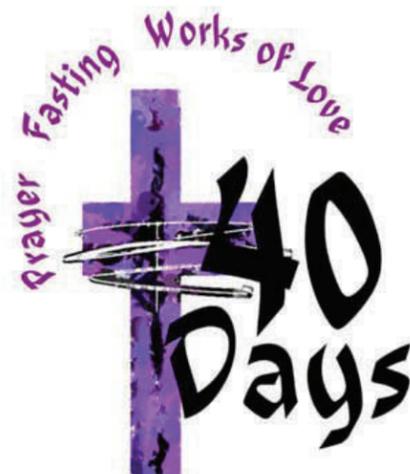


# For Life

## Pro Life Lenten Reflection

Do you call this a fast,  
 a day acceptable to the LORD?  
 This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:  
 releasing those bound unjustly,  
 untying the thongs of the yoke;  
 Setting free the oppressed,  
 breaking every yoke;  
 Sharing your bread with the hungry,  
 sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;  
 Clothing the naked when you see them,  
 And not turning your back on your own.  
 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
 and your wound shall quickly be healed;  
 Your vindication shall go before you,  
 and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard,  
 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,  
 you shall cry for help, and he will say: **Here I am!**

Isaiah 58:5-9a



## BACK AGAINST A ‘PUSHING THROWAWAY CULTURE’

### Is China the Harbinger of a Future World?

By Denise Hunnell, MD

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 12, 2014 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)) - On numerous occasions, Pope Francis has criticized the “throwaway culture” of the developed world. He is not speaking from a strictly environmental perspective -- encouraging people to reduce, reuse, and recycle. As we see in [his Jan. 13, 2014, remarks](#) to diplomats assigned to the Holy See, he is talking about a culture that diminishes the dignity of human persons and discards them like refuse:

“Unfortunately, what is thrown away is not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as ‘unnecessary’. For example, it is frightful even to think there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day; children being used as soldiers, abused and killed in armed conflicts; and children being bought and sold in that terrible form of modern slavery which is human trafficking, which is a crime against humanity.”

Is this burgeoning throwaway culture really unstoppable? Is China really the harbinger of a future world where human beings are universally considered disposable? What a terribly frightening prophesy. For this reason, Pope Francis could not stay silent. He boldly declared to the assembled Vatican diplomats that there must be a new focus on the dignity and value of every human person. He calls not only government officials but also for individual citizens of every nation to push back against a culture that only values human lives for their perceived utility.

With the same fervor of those trying to save the baby seals, or the old growth forests, or the clean air, Pope Francis calls each of us to safeguard the lives and dignity of every human person from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.

### South Sudan: Entire Communities at Risk of Starvation



Entire communities in South Sudan are at risk of starvation, according to a Church leader, who says fighting continues despite the ceasefire.

Monsignor Roko Taban Mousa said vast numbers of people are “in urgent need” across his diocese of Malakal which covers Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states, scenes of some of the worst fighting between government forces and rebel group.

Stressing the need for rice, maize, beans, sugar, oil and salt as well as clean water, he said: “The question of food is very urgent. People are on the edge of starvation and, if nothing happens, people will fall into that situation.

The monsignor said people had no access to healthcare at a time when malaria and diarrhea were on the rise.

“The need for prayer is very important. For those who have suffered so much, knowing that there are people who are praying for them will encourage them and give them back their hope.”

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## MANDATE UPDATE!

- Legal challenges to HHS Mandate
- 93 Cases Filed (Including over 300 Plaintiffs)
- 47 For Profit
- 46 Note for Profit (Including 2 Class Action Suits)
- Interesting Note\*:
- Amicus Briefs Supporting Hobby Lobby (59)
- Amicus Briefs Supporting U.S. Government (23)

\*An amicus brief is a document that is filed in a court by someone who is not directly related to the case under consideration.

**The cost of producing and mailing our For Life quarterly publication has increased over the years. Help defray some of our costs by sending us your e-mail address to receive future editions of the publication electronically and please consider making a donation to the Office for Human Life and Dignity. Thank you to everyone who has responded to this need.**

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## From the Director

**“This is the charity or fasting that our Lord wants! Charity that is concerned about the life of our brother, that is not ashamed – Isaiah said it himself – of the flesh of our brother. Our perfection, our holiness is linked with our people where we are chosen and become part. Our greatest act of holiness relates to the flesh of our brother and the flesh of Jesus Christ. Our act of holiness today, here at the altar is not a hypocritical fasting; instead it means not being ashamed of the flesh of Christ which comes here today! This is the mystery of the Body and Blood of Christ. It means sharing our bread with the hungry, taking care of the sick, the elderly, those who can’t give us anything in return: this is not being ashamed of the flesh!”**

This reminder is from a recent homily given by our beloved Holy Father. It directs us to the Gospel and reiterates the challenge of Christian love. In a results oriented culture, being focused on what we can give without concern for what is returned can be a real challenge. People may question or even suggest it is irresponsible. We may even hear grumblings in the recesses of our own heart. Yet, truly, this is the pastoral care piece of pro life ministry.

The Gospel calls us to see the inherent dignity in the murderer on death row, the drug addicted 23 year old mother of six, the homosexual person and even the wounded or disfigured person who feels alienated from other people through no fault of their own. When we really acknowledge their dignity we can volunteer to help in their struggles or be the friend or family member we are called to be. We may be their advocate when others treat them as less than human and even go so far as to threaten their life or the life of their unborn child.

Lent is a good time for us to reflect on our challenges to love as God loves. It may be a good time to challenge our own beliefs and actions toward beloved sons and daughters of God whom we find it challenging to love. We must love not just the ideal, but the real person in front of us.

*Peggy Gerovac*

### PRAYER CORNER

Holy Mary, Mother of Love,  
holding in your arms, the fruit of your womb,  
graciously look upon our earth and remove from  
it all that hardens our hearts and dims our eyes  
to the preciousness of human life, from the mo-  
ment of conception to natural death.

Through the example of your tenderness  
teach us the ways of compassion and love  
that we may build up the civilization of love  
among us and a society that is truly worthy of the  
human person.

Help us to reject all that contributes to a culture  
of death, and to work with others of goodwill  
in promoting the culture of life.

Bring us ever closer to your Son, so that we may  
know the fullness of life that he offers us  
and come to know that life more perfectly,  
with you, and all the angels and saints,  
in eternal life of Heaven.

Amen.

Day of Life Prayer from the Bishops of Ireland

### Planning Ahead.....

The **Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Serve** will take place from June 21 to July 4, 2014, a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. Thomas and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year’s Fortnight will focus on the freedom to serve the poor and vulnerable in accord with human dignity and the Church’s teaching.

### World Water Day is held every March 22.

Recognized by the United Nations and the global community, World Water Day reminds us that much of the world still faces a global water, sanitation and hygiene crisis, and that it is our urgent obligation to act.

- For **every \$1 spent** on water, sanitation and hygiene programs, there is, on average, a **\$4 return** in productivity.
- **783 million people** in the world do not have access to safe water. This is roughly **11 percent** of the world’s population.
- **2.5 billion people** in the world do not have access to adequate sanitation. This is **about 35 percent** of the world’s population.

Around **700,000 children die every year** from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation—that’s almost **2,000 children a day**.



### From the Arc

#### Disability Case at the U.S. Supreme Court- What You Need To Know

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear *Hall v. Florida*, a death penalty case concerning the definition of “mental retardation” (or intellectual disability (ID) as it is now called) that states may use in deciding whether an individual with that disability is protected by the Court’s decision in *Atkins v. Virginia*. In 2002, the Supreme Court ruled in the *Atkins v. Virginia* case that executing inmates with ID is unconstitutional.

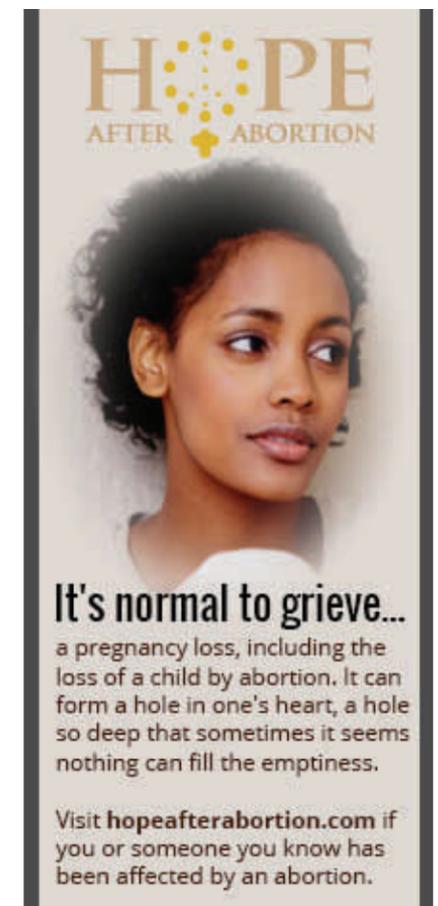
The Hall case is the first case the Supreme Court has taken on the issue of the death penalty for defendants with ID since the *Atkins* decision, which indicates that there could be a further clarification of states responsibilities under that decision. The Arc strongly believes that every individual with ID should be protected from the death penalty and applauds the Court’s decision to hear this case.

E-Newsletter from The Arc of the United States



**216-334-2966**

“Project Rachel, the Catholic Church’s ministry to those who have been involved in abortion, is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, and referrals to mental health professionals. Support groups and retreats may be offered in addition to individualized care.”





## DESIGNER BABY? GENETICALLY SUPERIOR?

What if you could choose your next baby to have the “least expected life cost of health care”? And would you prefer that baby to be a “likely sprinter” or a “likely endurance athlete?” Do you want her to have blue, green or brown eyes?

Richard Doerflinger, associate director of Pro-Life Activities as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told Our Sunday Visitor that Catholic teaching rejects all efforts to “select” a child based on predetermined traits. That practice treats children as “objects or commodities rather than as unique individuals given by God,” he said.

Indeed, *Donum Vitae*, the 1987 “Instruction on Respect for Human Life” from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith states:

“In reality, the origin of a human person is the result of an act of giving. The one conceived must be the fruits of his parents’ love. He cannot be desired or conceived as the product of an intervention of medical or biological techniques; that would be equivalent to reducing him to an object of scientific technology. No one may subject the coming of a child into the world to conditions of technical efficiency which are to be evaluated according to standards of control and dominion” (11 B 4c).

On October 18, the Holy See’s permanent observer to the United National, Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, touched on this topic during a meeting of the General Assembly’s Third Committee. “It follows that each child must be accorded in the first place the right to be born. This is a right, moreover, which must be protected equally—without discrimination on any grounds, including those of sex or disability or policies dictated by eugenics,” he said, according to an October 21 press release from The Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues.

Our Sunday Visitor November 2013 Edition

## “It’s a girl!”— could be a death sentence

When Asians migrated to Western countries they brought welcome recipes for curries and dim sum. Sadly, a few of them also imported their preference for having sons and aborting daughters. Female feticide happens in India and China by the millions, but it also happens in North America in numbers large enough to distort the male to female ratio in some ethnic groups 1–4.

Should female feticide in Canada be ignored because it is a small problem localized to minority ethnic groups? **No.**

Small numbers cannot be ignored when the issue is about discrimination against women in its most extreme form. This evil devalues women.

**Rajendra Kale MD**  
[www.cmai.ca](http://www.cmai.ca)

For For L’Arche and Faith and Light, I really believe, are the work of God calling each one of us, so that



those who have, for too long, been seen as useless or less than human, and sometimes have even been exterminated, may find their rightful place in the world, in the churches and

in all religions. Their beauty is their littleness and their greatness is a cry, a revelation of tenderness at the heart of creation.

By their very being they bring hope to our world and to each of us, if we could all, with and without responsibilities, but respond to their cry. In their hearts is a secret wisdom, the wisdom of tenderness, the wisdom of love, of communion, of hearts, the wisdom of laughter and of dancing, even the wisdom of folly, of breaking through the culture of normality and of what is «correct» into a new freedom. Yes, my prayer flows from this immense thanks for the humble hands of God who has called us forth so gently. Yes, it is all so beautiful that I stand or sit or kneel in awe. «God has dispersed the proud in their hearts and removed the powerful from their thrones, and he has lifted up those that are humble. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.» This is the song of Mary, (in Luke 3): it is the song of us all.

## PRISONS PROGRAM HELPS MEN COPE WITH PAST ABORTIONS

Deacon Don Battiston remembers the day well. It was a Tuesday, and he was on one his regular visits to prisoners at Okeechobee Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison located in the Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida. Five days earlier he had



attended a conference for prison ministers within the diocese led by Donna Gardner from the diocese's Respect Life Office and coordinator of Rachel's

Vineyard post-abortive healing ministry.

In her presentation, Gardner brought up a strong correlation between abortion and a life of crime among men.

"Before we began our Communion service, I passed out a sheet of paper to each of the men," he said. "On one side it said 'yes' and on the other it said 'no.' Then I said to them, 'Have you ever been negatively affected by abortion? That means your wife or your girlfriend or whomever had an abortion, and you paid for it, forced here to do it or helped here to get it.'"

### What happened next shocked him.

"Of the 75 or 80 men there, more than half said 'yes.'" Deacon Battiston said. "I went to Donna and told her we have to get something going on this."

"It is important for the men to realize that abortion is a soul wound and that only God can heal that," she explained. "Once we have understood who God is for each of those in attendance, then we work on understanding his forgiveness. It is only then that we invite the men to accept his forgiveness and accept that their child is in heaven.

Written by Eddie O'Neill published in the March 9, 2014 Edition of Our Sunday Visitor

## No Room for God

The more control we exert over our day-to-day choices—especially where questions of life and death are concerned—the less God thrives in our lives.

The root issue, of course, is that God is no longer finding a place at the table when it comes to issues of life or death. We walk down our roads of many options, deciding how we will live — or end — our lives, and in doing so, we seize control from the one who gave us life in the first place. As we persist in thinking that we are more capable and more knowledgeable than the one who created us, we edge him out of the picture. Be it building customized babies or choosing to be euthanized, we allow faith to take a backseat to personal preference. We leave no room in the car for God.

Taken from an Editorial in Our Sunday Visitor November 17, 2013

## Notable Quotes

"It is strange that minors are considered legally incompetent in key areas, such as getting married, but might (be able) to decide to die."

Archbishop Andre-Joseph Leonard of Mechelen-Brussels, on a bill in Belgium that expanded euthanasia to children.

**"We must not just be consumers of our Catholic religion; rather we must be practitioners."**

Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski

### [Maggie's Place](#)

Maggie's Place is a community that provides houses of hospitality for expectant women who wish to achieve their goals in a dignified atmosphere. Following Catholic social teaching, we recognize that we are responsible to and for one another. We challenge each other to strive toward personal growth, to welcome the gift of every person that enters our door, and to promote positive social change. In this way, we celebrate and provide for the next generation.

[maggiesplace.org](http://maggiesplace.org)