

Second Place, Isabel Alcorn-Blessed Sacrament

Dr. Seuss once said, “a person is a person, no matter how small” (“The Pro-Life News Source”). Even though most of Dr. Seuss’s books are silly, this statement shows that we should respect all life, no matter how young. Abortion and other forms of assisted suicide are wrong. These acts go against the culture of life, mercy, and love. I believe that life is a sacred gift from God that should be cherished and protected. As in the story of the Good Samaritan, we must reach out to those we might not know, but who need our help and support. By serving others, we can show them that life is a precious treasure that should never be destroyed intentionally. Jesus said in Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born I set you apart.” This quote shows that God has a plan for all of His children and that His plan is not abortion.

Sometimes opportunities arise that enable us to promote the culture of life. about a year ago, my family went to Holy name Church in Cincinnati on a Saturday morning at 8 a.m. for Mass. This is a special Mass held every Saturday that is dedicated to pro-life intentions. We found out about it from my brother who knew about it from his teacher at Covington Catholic High School. At the Mass, there were mostly older people and not many people there. The Mass was about an hour, but when it was over we could not leave yet because it was time to say the Rosary. Everyone in the Church followed the priest a few blocks down the street and stopped in front of a building. This particular Saturday was very cold and began to rain when we went outside. There in front of that building we stood in the cold rain and prayed the Rosary. There were cars that kept entering the gates and some that were leaving. This building was where abortions took place. When my mom told me this, I realized that abortion was so wrong and completely disrespects the culture of life. At this moment I knew that I was pro-life.

God's mercy can be found in every circumstance. On this rainy Saturday morning I realized a lot about my faith. I realized that life is so precious and to not even give that child a chance at life is such a horrible theft. Standing outside of the Planned Parenthood clinic, I really felt close to all those aborted babies who did not have a chance to have a family and who were not given their chance to make a change in the world. I also realized that the act of having an abortion is awful, but I choose to have mercy on those women who did not expect a child. If I was a young woman who was surprised by a pregnancy, I would be scared and feel alone. I pray with all my heart that those people who are considering abortion will seek merciful help, counseling and even ultrasound technology from CareNet and other pro-life resources. If there is a problem with their financial state, help is often available. Finally, adoption is a great alternative to bless another family with the gift of life. Any of these options are valuable and respectful to the life of the parents and to the unborn baby. My family and I believe that abortion is wrong, and this experience solidified my belief.

A believe in life is a belief in love. My experience praying at the abortion clinic came with sadness, but it also brought hope. For once, I actually realized something for myself. No one told me that I was pro-life, I decided myself that I was. Being pro-life means, to promote life and to fight against abortion, euthanasia, and other forms of killing innocent people. Being pro-life requires one to reach out to others out of love. Although I might never personally know the women who entered the gates of the clinic that morning, I do believe that my prayers for them will be heard. I also realize the importance of loving women who have aborted their babies because they have lost the incredible opportunity to experience the love between a parent and child. Though abortion is terrible, God will still forgive and will still love all participants in abortion. As stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "God's love is everlasting."

Through this experience, I have learned about the culture of life and that life is sacred from the moment of conception until a natural death. I have also learned more about mercy and the need to show mercy to those affected by abortion. Finally, I have learned the power of love for parents and their children, both born and unborn. In the future, I will look for opportunities to reach out to others who are in need. Who knew that by standing in the rain praying for complete strangers I would feel closer to God and have a new understanding for His great gift, life. In the coming years, I hope that God will bless me with the courage to stand up for the pro-life cause and to honor the plan that God has for each and every one of us.