



# VIVA



# LIFE

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE OF NEW MEXICO

## IMPORTANT EVENT!

On Saturday night, May 10, 2008, The Right to Life Committee will be having "Senator Pete Domenici Appreciation Night."

Sen. Domenici, who is retiring at the end of 2008, has been a long-time champion of the sacredness of human life. He has supported all of the legislation backed by National RTL throughout his tenure as Senator representing New Mexico. He has been a leader in the pro-life cause.

*Please plan to come and show appreciation for this committed pro-life legislator. Details will come to you in future issues.*



## YOUR E-MAIL IS NEEDED!

This newsletter only goes out once a month. If you have an e-mail address, it arrives in color without postage costs. In between issues there are many things happening. If we have your e-mail address, we can inform you, and you can help the pro-life movement in some of these instances. We don't sell your name or e-mail address. It is only used in-house by RTLNM. We can be more effective with your help.

## NATIONAL SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE DAY, 2008

### by the President of The United States of America A Proclamation

On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we recognize that each life has inherent dignity and matchless value, and we reaffirm our steadfast determination to defend the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society.

America was founded on the belief that all men are created equal and have an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and our country remains committed to upholding that founding principle. Since taking office, I have signed legislation to help protect life at all stages, and my Administration will continue to encourage adoption, fund abstinence education and crisis pregnancy programs, and support faith-based groups. Today, as our society searches for new ways to ease human suffering, we must pursue the possibilities of science in a manner that respects the sacred gift of life and upholds our moral values.

Our Nation has made progress in its efforts to protect human life, and we will strive to change hearts and minds with compassion and decency. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day and throughout the year, we help strengthen the culture of life in America and work for the day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority

vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sunday, January 20, 2008, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. I call upon all Americans to recognize this day with appropriate ceremonies and to underscore our commitment to respecting and protecting the life and dignity of every human being.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

— GEORGE W. BUSH

## REMEMBERING RONALD REAGAN

Ronald Reagan was the first president to help the pro-life cause. Indeed, he did much to communicate the common sense logic of the pro-life position. He was not afraid of telling the truth at every opportunity. He did not take a poll; he just told it how it was. In *Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation* President Reagan wrote the truths that are still the truths today. May our pro-life legislators have the wisdom and tenacity to follow this great man's lead.

A short, condensed version of this book will be presented in two parts. May we think about it carefully in this important election year. This book was written in 1983. How would Ronald Reagan respond if he knew that what was applied to the unborn is now being applied to the elderly, the chronically ill, and those with disabilities? What was promoted as "reason" for excluding the unborn under the Constitution is now being applied to these people. Who will be next? Once you "declassify" one part of our society, we have no restraints on what we do with others, for the foundation of decision making is not based on the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or any other basis, which is to defend all human life.

### PART 1

The tenth anniversary of the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* is a good time for us to pause and reflect. Our nationwide policy of abortion-on-demand through all nine months of pregnancy was neither voted for by our people nor enacted by our legislators. Not a single state had unrestricted abortion before the Supreme Court decreed it to be national policy in 1973. But the consequences of this judicial decision are now obvious. Since 1973, more than 15 million unborn children have had their lives snuffed out by legalized abortions. That is over ten times the numbers of Americans lost in all the nation's wars.

Make no mistake, abortion-on-demand is not a right granted by the Constitution. No serious scholar, including one disposed to agree with the Court's result, has argued that the framers of the Constitution intended to create such a right. Shortly after the *Roe v. Wade* decision, Professor John Hart Ely, now Dean of Stanford Law School; wrote that the

*(continued on page 2)*

## Remembering Ronald Reagan...(cont. from pg. 1)

opinion “is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be.” Nowhere do the plain words of the Constitution even hint at a “right” so sweeping as to permit abortion up to the time the child is ready to be born. Yet that is what the Court ruled. As an act of “raw judicial power” (to use Justice White’s biting phrase), by the seven-man majority in *Roe v. Wade* has so far been made to stick. But the Court decision has by no means settled the debate. Instead *Roe v. Wade* has become a continuing prod to the conscience of the nation.

Abortion concerns not just the unborn child; it concerns every one of us. The English poet John Donne wrote: “..any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind and therefore never sent to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life - the unborn - without diminishing the value of all human life. We saw tragic proof of this truism last year when the Indiana courts allowed the starvation death of “Baby Doe” in Bloomington because the child had Down’s Syndrome.

Many of our fellow citizens grieve over the loss of life that followed *Roe v. Wade*. Margaret Hecker, soon after being nominated to head the largest department of our government, Health and Human Services, told an audience that she believed abortion to be the greatest moral crisis facing our country today. And the revered Mother Theresa, who works in the streets of Calcutta ministering to dying people in her world famous mission of mercy, has said that “the greatest misery of our time is the generalized abortion of children.”

Over the first two years of my administration, I have closely followed and assisted efforts in Congress to reverse the tide of abortion – efforts of congressmen, senators, and citizens responding to an urgent moral crisis. Regrettably, I have also seen the massive efforts of those who, under the banner of “freedom of choice,” have so far blocked every effort to reverse nationwide abortion-on-demand.

Despite the formidable obstacles before us, we must not lose heart. This is not the first time our country has been divided by a Supreme Court decision that denied the value of certain human lives. The *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 was not overturned in a day or a year or even a decade. At first only a minority of Americans recognized and deplored the moral crisis brought about by denying the full humanity of our Black brothers and sisters; but that minority persisted in their vision and finally prevailed. They did it by appealing to the hearts and minds of their countrymen, to the truth of human dignity under God. From their example, we know that respect for the sacred value of human life is too deeply engrained in the hearts of our people to remain forever suppressed. But the great majority of the American people have not yet made their voices heard, and we cannot expect them to, any more than the public voice arose against slavery *until* the issue is clearly framed and presented. What then is the real issue? I have often said that when we talk about abortion, we are talking about two lives – the life of the mother and the life of the unborn child. Why else do we call a pregnant woman a mother? I have also said that anyone who doesn’t feel sure whether we are talking about a second human life should clearly give life the benefit of the doubt. If you don’t know whether a body is alive or dead, you would never bury it. I think this consideration itself should be enough for all of us to insist on protecting the unborn.

The case against abortion does not rest here, however, for medical practice confirms at every step the correctness of

these moral sensibilities. Modern medicine treats the unborn child as a patient. Medical pioneers have made great breakthroughs in treating the unborn – for genetic problems, vitamin deficiencies, irregular heart rhythms, and other medical conditions. Who can forget George Will’s moving account of the little boy who underwent brain surgery six times during the nine weeks before he was born? Who is the *patient* if not that tiny unborn human being who can feel pain when he or she is approached by doctors who come to kill rather than to cure?

The real question today is not when human life begins but *what is the value of human life?* The abortionist who reassembles the arms and legs of a tiny baby to make sure all its parts have been torn from its mother’s body can hardly doubt whether it is a human being. The real question for him and for all of us is whether that tiny human life has a God-given right to be protected by the law - the same right we have.

What more dramatic confirmation could we have of the real issue than the Baby Doe case in Bloomington, Indiana? The death of that tiny infant tore at the hearts of all Americans because the child was undeniably a live human being – one lying helpless before the eyes of the doctors and the eyes of the nation. The real issue for the courts was *not* whether Baby Doe was a human being. The real issue was whether to protect the life of a human being who had Down’s Syndrome, who would probably be mentally handicapped but who needs a routine surgical procedure to unblock his esophagus and allow him to eat. A doctor testified to the presiding judge that even with his physical problem corrected, Baby Doe would have a “non-existent” possibility for “a minimally adequate quality of life” - in other words, that retardation was equivalent of a crime deserving the death penalty. The judge let Baby Doe starve and die, and the Indiana Supreme Court sanctioned the decision.

Federal law does not allow federally assisted hospitals to decide that Down’s Syndrome infants are not worth treating, much less to decide to starve them to death. Accordingly, I have directed the Department of Justice and Health and Human Services to apply civil rights regulations to protect handicapped newborns. All hospitals receiving federal funds must post notices that will clearly state that failure to feed handicapped babies is prohibited by federal law. The basic issue is whether to value and protect the lives of the handicapped, whether to recognize the sanctity of human life. This is the same basic issue that underlies the question of abortion.

The 1981 Senate hearings on the beginning of human life brought out the basic issue more clearly than ever before. The main medical and scientific witnesses who testified disagreed on many things but not on the *scientific* evidence that the unborn child is alive, is a distinct individual, or is a member of the human species. They did disagree over the *value* question, whether to give value to a human life at its early and most vulnerable stages of existence.

Regrettably, we live at a time when some persons do *not* value all human life. Hey, want to pick and choose which individuals have value? Some have said that only those individuals with “consciousness of self” are human beings. One such writer has followed this deadly logic and concluded that “shocking as it may seem, a newly born infant is not a human being.”

Obviously, some influential people want to deny that every human life has intrinsic, sacred worth. They insist that a member of the human race must have certain qualities

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## Remembering Ronald Reagan... (continued from pg. 2)

before they accord him or her status as a “human being.”

Events have borne out the editorial in a California medical journal that explained three years before *Roe v. Wade* that the social acceptance of abortion is a “defiance of the long-held Western ethic of intrinsic and equal value for every human life regardless of its stage, condition, or status.”

Every legislator, every doctor, and every citizen needs to recognize that the real issue is whether to affirm and protect the sanctity of all human life or to embrace a social ethic where some human lives are valued and others are not. As a nation, we must choose between the sanctity of life ethic and the “quality of life” ethic.

I have no trouble identifying the answer our nation has always given to this basic question and the answer that I hope and pray it will give in the future. America was founded by men and women who shared a vision of the value of each and every individual. They stated this vision clearly from the very start in the Declaration of Independence by using words that every schoolboy and schoolgirl can recite:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

We fought a terrible war to guarantee that one category of mankind – Black people in America - could not be denied the inalienable rights with which their Creator endowed them. The great champion of the sanctity of all human life in that day, Abraham Lincoln, gave us his assessment of the Declaration’s purpose. Speaking of the framers of that noble document, he said:

*This was their majestic interpretation of the economy of the universe. This was their lofty and wise and noble understanding of the justice of the Creator to His creatures. Yes, Gentlemen, to all His creatures, to the whole great family of man. In their enlightened belief, nothing stamped with the divine image and likeness was sent into the world to be trodden on... They grasped not only the whole race of man then living, but they reached forward and seized upon the farthest posterity. They erected a beacon to guide their children and their children’s children, and the countless myriads who should inhabit the earth in other ages.*

He warned also of the danger we would face if we closed our eyes to the value of life in any category of human beings.

*I should like to know if taking this old Declaration of Independence, which declares that all men are equal upon principle and making exception to it where will it stop. If one man says it does not mean a Negro, why not another say it does not mean some other man?*

When Congressman John A. Bingham of Ohio drafted the Fourteenth Amendment to guarantee the rights of life, liberty, and property to all human beings, he explained that all are entitled to the protection of American law, because its divine spirit of equality declares that all men are created equal. He said the rights guaranteed by the amendment would therefore apply to “any human being.” Justice William Brennan, in another case, deciding only the year before *Roe v. Wade*, referred to our society as one that “strongly affirms the sanctity of life.”

Another William Brennan – not the Justice – has reminded us of the terrible consequences that can follow when a nation rejects the sanctity of life ethic:

*The cultural environment for a human holocaust is pre-*

*sent whenever any society can be misled into defining individuals as less than human and therefore devoid of value and respect.*

To be continued in the March *Viva Life*.

## NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE PAC STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

National Right to Life PAC urges all pro-life Americans to do what is necessary to see that a pro-life president is elected in 2008. NRLC-PAC does not want any of the pro-abortion Democratic candidates – Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, or John Edwards – elected president. Nor does NRLC-PAC want Rudy Giuliani to become the Republican nominee for president.

NRLC is grateful for the strong pro-life record established by Mike Huckabee as governor of Arkansas and recognizes that Gov. Huckabee has the strongest pro-life position on all of the life issues of any of the remaining candidates for president.

NRLC is also grateful for the strong pro-life voting record of Sen. John McCain and appreciates the pro-life position he has taken in his Senate campaigns and in this presidential campaign.

NRLC also appreciates the pro-life position taken in this presidential campaign by former Gov. Mitt Romney.

NRLC urges pro-lifers in the individual states to do what is best in their particular state primary to help see that the Republican Party nominates a pro-life candidate.

National Right to Life will always be grateful for the strong pro-life record of all the life issues Fred Thompson established as a U. S. senator, and for the strong pro-life position he has taken throughout his political career. Fred Thompson conducted his campaign with integrity and honor, and we know that America will be well served by him in any future public role he is called upon to fill.

## A FOND FAREWELL TO PRO-LIFE SUPPORTERS

By Dauneen Dolce

Dr. Eugene Purtell has been a long time supporter of RTLNCM and will be missed, as he was a kind and caring man.

Arlene Pedroncelli was one of the first activists in RTLNCM. She spent many hours lobbying for pro-life bills in those very early days. She gave her time and faith to the cause, and we will miss her presence in our world.

Blackie Gonzales had Dauneen Dolce on his TV show (Channel 11) many times to promote a bill, an activity, or to educate the public. He opened up doors, and he opened up hearts to the truth. A good man with a great respect for life.

Sister Jean Clare was one of the founding “fathers” of the Right to Life Committee of New Mexico. She was its Executive Secretary. She kept the records, the educational materials, and the history of everything that was done. She was a promoter of the cause. She was the person who got many involved in the movement back in 1970. She never gave up hope, and she gave her heart through her faith and made a tremendous impact on the movement. She was in her 90s and had earned her rest. However, she still will be missed.

## PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES POSITIONS ON LIFE ISSUES

Previously in the November/December editions of *Viva Life* you were provided with the candidates' positions on Stem Cell Research and *Roe v. Wade*. We will now address the last pro-life topic that National RTL covered in reviewing the positions - Partial-Birth Abortion.

### DEMOCRATS

**Hillary Clinton:** Voted against the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. “{*Gonzales v. Carhart*} marks a dramatic departure from four decades of Supreme Court rulings that upheld a woman’s right to choose.”

**Barack Obama:** “I am extremely concerned that {*Gonzales v. Carhart*} will embolden state legislatures to enact further measures to restrict a woman’s right to choose, and that the conservative Supreme Court justices will look for other opportunities to erode *Roe v. Wade*.”

**John Edwards:** Voted against Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. “I could not disagree more strongly with today’s {*Gonzales v. Carhart*} decision...This is a stark reminder of why Democrats cannot afford to lose the 2008 election.”

### REPUBLICANS

**Rudy Guiliani:** “I support the ban on partial-birth abortion, but ultimately I think when you come down to that choice, you have to respect a woman’s right to make that choice differently than my conscience.”

**Fred Thompson:** Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. “The Supreme Court was absolutely right in the... {*Gonzales v. Carhart*} partial-birth abortion decision. The very idea that we could even have a debate over whether or not that atrocious activity should be allowable is very unfortunate.”

**Mitt Romney:** “{The} Court {in *Gonzales v. Carhart*} reaffirmed the value of life in America by upholding a ban on a practice that offends basic human decency. {It} represents a step forward in protecting the weakest and most innocent among us.”

**John McCain:** Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. “Today’s Supreme Court ruling {*Gonzales v. Carhart*} is a victory for those who cherish the sanctity of human life.”

**Mike Huckabee:** *Signed* the Arkansas Partial-Birth Abortion Act into law. “I applaud the Court’s action {in *Gonzales v. Carhart*}, which also sends a strong reminder that we must stay vigilant in our cause to protect those who cannot protect themselves.”

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY PRO-LIFE SUPPORTERS

We sent many letters to the people we have in our files who reside in Doña Ana County in order to find people who will help restart a chapter in that county. Please respond if you are at all interested. Even if you have previously been on the board, are a supporter, or have responded in the past, please mail in the form.

If you lost your form, contact Dauneen Dolce at: [info@rtlhm.org](mailto:info@rtlhm.org), or call 505-881-4563 or send a letter to 2800 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Suite 107, Albq. NM 87110.

Please know you are needed and that to truly be pro-life you must act on your beliefs and philosophy. Those who oppose us are acting on their anti-life beliefs, and we must not acquiesce and allow them to control the issue, thus deceiving your fellow Doña Ana County citizens.

## ALBUQUERQUE RTL HOLDS A LUMINARIA MEMORIAL



Albuquerque Right to Life held a Luminaria Memorial on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Children from local schools, youth groups, and churches decorated the 1,000 bags with five names on each bag commemorating the over 5,000 babies aborted in New Mexico each year. Mark Burton told the gathering about the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Christian Heritage Speech Competition that was held in November. He then introduced two of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade winners - Daniela Deuel and Joanna Gardner – who then gave their winning speeches using the topic provided by Albuquerque RTL. “You were born after the 1973 Supreme Court decision allowing abortion during all nine months of pregnancy. Explain how you add value to your family. What would your family be missing had you never been born?” Both girls received a standing ovation for their wonderful responses! We then processed past the lighted luminaries to the babies’ section of the cemetery with the choir from Mountainside Church of Christ leading us in singing “Amazing Grace.” A dozen roses were placed in the area remembering the 5,000 plus New Mexicans not allowed to be born in 2007.

## WHAT CAN YOU, A PRO-LIFE AMERICAN CITIZEN, DO RIGHT NOW?



**REGISTER TO VOTE!!!** Whether you just turned 18 or will be 18 by June 3, 2008, you can and should register to vote. If you have moved, are new to the state, if you married and your name has changed, or if you want to change party, you must register to vote now. To do this, call your county Republican or Democrat Party or call your County Clerk to find out how. EVERY VOTE COUNTS!



**BE INVOLVED IN YOUR PARTY’S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT PRO-LIFE CANDIDATES.**

In February there will be county party meetings to prepare for the March 15, 2008 pre-primary nominating conventions both parties are holding on that day. Candidates will either get enough votes to be placed on the ballot in June or will need to get more signatures. Where they are placed on the ballot (which is of importance) also will be decided this day. For details, go to the web sites of each party.



**HELP THE CANDIDATE YOU ARE SUPPORTING.** There are many activities and needs that require your time and money. Contact that campaign and help that candidate.

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**GIVE RTLCSM-PAC A DONATION:** We CAN help endorsed candidates get elected, but we need your donation. We have many mailings coming up, and we need more funds. If you have not already given, please help by mailing a check to: RTLCSM-PAC, 2800 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Suite 107, Albuquerque, NM 87110

## NEW MEXICO'S CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATE



The Right to Life Committee of New Mexico does not have a Federal Political Action Committee; it only has a NM state PAC. Also, the filing date for a candidate is in February. However, at the



moment it would appear that there are two candidates seeking this seat from the Republican Party and one Democrat candidate. All are current representatives in Congress, thus they have a voting record. We are going to give you information on their pro-life votes, and from there you can make a decision as to who is pro-life and who you want to support. NRLC has the following scores for each.

### 105<sup>th</sup> Congress partial voting for end of 1998

Heather Wilson – 100%

### 106<sup>th</sup> Congress combined sessions – 1999 - 2000

Heather Wilson – 85% Tom Udall – 10%  
Steve Pearce not in office

### 107<sup>th</sup> Congress combined sessions – 2001-2002

Heather Wilson – 93% Tom Udall – 6%  
Steve Pearce not in office

### 108<sup>th</sup> Congress combined sessions – 2003-2004

Heather Wilson – 81% Tom Udall – 0%  
Steve Pearce – 100%

### 109<sup>th</sup> Congress combined sessions – 2005-2006

Heather Wilson – 77% Tom Udall – 0%  
Steve Pearce - 100%

### 110<sup>th</sup> Congress combined sessions – 2007

Heather Wilson – 42% Tom Udall – 0%  
Steve Pearce – 100%

Heather Wilson had the most change in recent years. Those votes had to do with embryonic stem cell research, a vote to support a pro-life amendment to the Mexico City bill, and votes on human cloning. A vote she made supported family planning funds for Planned Parenthood.

To see all the votes, please go to NRLC web site where the voting records are shown as well as information on the particular bills.

Steve Pearce maintained his 100% pro-life voting record, and Tom Udall quickly moved to a 100% pro-abortion voting record.

Possibilities: Faith makes all things possible –  
it does not make them easy.

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## STATE LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Although it was not supposed to be on the 2008 legislative calendar, Gov. Richardson put SB 23 on the call. This bill sponsored by Sen. John Ryan would amend the current Maternal and Fetal Experimentation bill, which now requires that a newly formed human being from invitro-fertilization must be implanted. This could be in the mother or another woman. Now what is wanted is to not implant all the embryos and to “use” the throwaway eggs for research, which then kills the new human being.

Unfortunately, the bill has passed two committees with pro-life Republicans and Democrats voting for the bill. It is hoped it will be stopped on the Senate floor. If not, it goes to the House committees and ultimately to the House Floor.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS AND ASK THEM TO OPPOSE SB 23!**

## BOOK REVIEW OF THE PARTY OF DEATH

Reviewed by Ed Wyckoff

“By 2040, it may be that only a group of hard-core, know-nothing religious fundamentalists will defend the view that every human life, from conception to death is sacrosanct.” From whence comes this cold-blooded prediction? Is it mere bravado from an anonymous zealot on the blogosphere? Hardly so. The statement belongs instead to longtime Princeton Professor Peter Singer, a bioethicist, infanticide advocate, and - not so incidentally - proud member of The Party of Death, the title of *National Review* senior editor Rames Ponnuru’s must-read book on life issues published just last year.

And yes, you read that right! Singer believes it is morally justifiable to kill infants outside the womb. Such a monstrous view would be alarming enough if isolated to one Ivory Tower egghead. But as Ponnuru alleges, Singer’s scandalous notion is accepted, at least tacitly, by the majority of his Princeton faculty colleagues and has plenty of explicit support, in whole or in part, from a variety of thinkers - including Michael Tooley, Joseph Fletcher, Jeffrey Reiman, and DNA double-helix discoverers James Watson and Francis Crick. Ponnuru also reminds us that infanticide of children up to the age of 12 is the law of the land in Holland.

In the span of 20 brisk chapters, Party of Death surveys and critically analyzes a wide range of many similar concepts and facts, some no less shocking, running the full gamut of sanctity of life issues from abortion to assisted suicide. In the area of euthanasia, Ponnuru highlights so-called Futile Care Theory (which has enthusiastic adherents right here in New Mexico) as “another case,” he writes, “of a reasonable idea pursued to the point of madness.” Doctors who once held simply that they need not follow every patient’s directive, particularly ones that are clearly irrational or grossly uninformed, now champion a right “to refuse wanted medical treatments based on judgments of the patient’s quality of life” - vetoing the wishes of the family, if need be. In the field of embryo-destructive research, Ponnuru quotes the influential journalist Jonathan Alter as counting it “perverse” that pro-lifers should concern themselves with “a tiny clump of cells no bigger than the period at the end of a sentence.” But this appeal to size over quality, Ponuru argues, ignores the fact that “[all of us who read this page] critics like Alter included,” were once human embryos.

Despite its title, Party of Death is not solely about the Democratic Party (albeit many of its leaders - Hillary Clinton, Barbara Boxer, and Mario Cuomo, to name a few - are administered severe scoldings) but extends to all those in the courts, the media, and academe who hold views that deny the sacredness of life from conception to natural death.

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RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE  
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## Book Review...

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A major strength of the book is that it examines such perspectives honestly and fairly – and applies devastatingly precise logic as refutation. Unlike much sanctity of life literature, it self-consciously avoids scriptural or doctrinal reasoning. “{T}he basic pro-life argument,” Ponnuru insists, “does not depend on any theological assertions.” The embryo is human not because the Bible says so (it does not, specifically) but because scientific, embryology textbooks unequivocally do. And Ponnuru goes on to cite several of them.

The central thrust of the book, philosophically, is that all humans must have certain basic rights – including, if none other, the right not to be killed – just by virtue of being human, while the party of death always maintains that only *some* humans (and perhaps the occasional animal!) may claim full rights, based on their possessing certain qualities – such as consciousness of self. Over and over again, Ponnuru hammers home the point that this construct of human non-persons – whether applied to fetuses, comatose patients, or embryos –

inevitably results in a slippery slope that devalues all life and creates categories that endanger any vulnerable individuals lacking the power to speak for themselves.

It is Ponnuru’s relentless devotion to logic that actually leads him, at one point, to offer a bit of backhanded praise to Professor Singer, the infanticide professor – at least for being the rare death advocate who is fully consistent in his thought. “The truth” about the pro-abortion position, he writes, “is that it is extremely difficult to come up with a coherent explanation of why infanticide should be impermissible if abortion is permissible.” The ghoulish conclusion Singer reaches is supported not by people who are *unreasonable*, Ponnuru contends, but by those (quoting British Writer G. K. Chesterton now) “who have lost everything but their reason.”

For a book that will transform fuzzy thinking into crystal clarity about sanctity of life arguments and that will empower the pro-life adherent with compelling and timely counterpoints against even their cleverest adversaries in today’s partisan political environment, I can think of no work to recommend more highly than the Party of Death.

## Five Alive

RTLNCNM hopes you will sign up for the *Five Alive Program 2008*, which helps provide a budget to keep our organization operational and meet our basic needs. You can fill out the form below. We will need this a.s.a.p. so that we can mail envelopes out and have you ready to start contributing your tax-deductible donation in January. \$5.00 a month from everyone would allow us to raise money for media and other educational tools, so come on board by sending in the form below...

I wish to donate \$5.00 monthly  I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly

Monthly thank you notes will not be sent.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I understand that the Right To Life Committee of New Mexico (RTLNCNM) is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to the right to life of all innocent human beings from fertilization to natural death; that this organization takes a stand only on those issues that are directly related to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

I support the goals of RTLNCNM, including a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and hereby make application for membership (renewal) as follows:

- Individual — \$20.00
- Corporate — \$40.00 - for business organizations
- Family — \$30.00
- NRL News Subscription (\$5.00 with paid membership)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to: (check one)

- Register to vote
- Re-register

I am a registered: (check one)

- Republican  Democrat
- Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Required

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