



Oblates of St. Benedict

Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC

August, 2015

US SENATOR LANKFORD: WE CANNOT BE A NATION THAT DOES THIS TO OUR CHILDREN



Tuesday (July 14), an undercover video was posted online and reported on by various news outlets that showed a Planned Parenthood executive talking about the organization's operation of selling body parts of aborted children.

After learning about it, I was immediately struck with deep emotion. It is hard to believe this is occurring in the United States of America.

I realize that our nation remains divided on the issue of abortion, but surely we are not divided on the procurement and sale of human organs. Babies were discussed, in the video, like they are an item to be casually harvested then purchased in a grocery store.

How far have we come as a society when we resort to harvesting body parts for monetary gain?

These innocent children are deemed valuable enough to have their organs, as the Vice President of Communications for Planned Parenthood said, "help lead to medical breakthroughs, such as treatments and cures for serious diseases," but their own lives are not given the same value. We are talking about human organs – if the organs are human, so is the person.

The harvesting of body parts is a callous disregard for human dignity. And not only is the act reprehensible, it is illegal. There is a federal ban on selling fetal tissue for "valuable consideration."

In the 1984 National Organ Transplant Act, Congress made clear its intent to criminalize the buying and selling of organs for profit, noting "that individuals or organizations should not profit by the sale of human organs for transplantation."

The graphic nature of the procedures described in this video shows both the humanity of the victim and the inhumanity of what is being done to them.

The video shows that Planned Parenthood is conducting abortions with the goal of harvesting particular organs.

In the video, the Planned Parenthood executive states, "you try to intentionally go above and below the thorax, so that, you know, we've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm going to basically crush below, I'm gonna crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact."

The Planned Parenthood executive also notes that in some cases, abortions are being performed in such a way as to increase the chances of getting those organs.

She said, "in general, some people will actually try to change the presentation so that it's not vertex, because when it's vertex presentation, you never have enough dilation at the beginning of the case, unless you have real, huge amount

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of dilation to deliver an intact calvarium. So if you do it starting from the breech presentation, there's dilation that happens as the case goes on, and often, the last, you can evacuate an intact calvarium at the end."

She went on to say that "If you induce a demise before the procedure, nobody's going to say you did a 'live'—whatever the federal government calls it. Partial-birth abortion... The Federal Abortion Ban is a law, and laws are up to interpretation."

Not only is the law clear, it certainly is not open to interpretation by Planned Parenthood. The sale of human organs is illegal and so is the practice of partial birth abortion.

Aborting a baby at any stage is reprehensible, but this story also serves as a reminder that late-term abortion still exists in America. There are only seven countries in the world that allow abortions after the 20-week period—a time that it has been scientifically proven babies feel pain.

Surprisingly, the United States is one of these countries, along with Canada, North Korea, China, Vietnam, Netherlands and Singapore.

This is unacceptable.

It is time for Congress to take up and pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (S.1553) to ban abortions after 20 weeks and stand up for the right to life.

We must also stop providing taxpayer support for abortion through funding organizations that abort children or engage in the harvesting of body parts. By the way, Planned Parenthood receives more than \$500 million in taxpayer money every year.

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act (S. 582) would enact a permanent, government-wide prohibition of taxpayer funding for abortion. S. 582 is needed to ensure that taxpayer money never goes to the killing of innocent life.

Although Americans are divided on the issue of abortion, it is common-sense that we shouldn't force a person who is passionately opposed to the killing of the unborn to assist in paying for the procedure.

One of our generation's greatest tragedies is that in the United States of America, we allow elective killing of our children.

In our Declaration of Independence, the Founders of America declared that everyone is endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including and especially life.

That is a child, not a collection of organs and tissue for sale. We have got to stand for life.

Senator James Lankford (R) represents the State of Oklahoma in the United States Senate.

ORDO

AUGUST

- 1 Alphonsus Liguori, Memorial
- 4 John Mary Vianney, Memorial
- 5 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
- 6 Transfiguration of the Lord. Feast
- 8 Dominic, Memorial
- 9 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
- 10 Lawrence, Feast
- 11 Clare, Memorial
- 14 Maximilian Kolbe, Memorial
- 15 Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Solemnity**
- 16 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week III)
- 20 Bernard. Memorial
- 21 Pius X, Memorial
- 22 Queenship of the Virgin Mary. Memorial.
- 23 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 24 Bartholomew, Apostle, Feast
- 27 Monica, Memorial
- 28 Augustine, Memorial
- 29 Passion of John the Baptist. Memorial
- 30 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)

There are only seven countries in the world that allow abortions after the 20-week period—a time that it has been scientifically proven babies feel pain.

Surprisingly, the United States is one of these countries, along with Canada, North Korea, China, Vietnam, Netherlands and Singapore. (Senator James Lankford)

1. The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture. . . .

63. . . . the use of human embryos or fetuses as an object of experimentation constitutes a crime against their dignity as human beings who have a right to the same respect owed to a child once born, just as to every person. This moral condemnation also regards procedures that exploit living human embryos and fetuses-sometimes specifically "produced" for this purpose by in vitro fertilization-either to be used as "biological material" or as providers of organs or tissue for transplants in the treatment of certain diseases. The killing of innocent human creatures, even if carried out to help others, constitutes an absolutely unacceptable act.

71. . . . It is therefore urgently necessary, for the future of society and the development of a sound democracy, to rediscover those essential and innate human and moral values which flow from the very truth of the human being and express and safeguard the dignity of the person: values which no individual, no majority and no State can ever create, modify or destroy, but must only acknowledge, respect and promote.

Pope Saint John Paul II

Evangelium Vitae: On the Value and Inviolability Of Human Life

No circumstance, no purpose, no law whatsoever can ever make licit an act which is intrinsically illicit, since it is contrary to the Law of God which is written in every human heart, knowable by reason itself, and proclaimed by the Church.

In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to "take part in a propaganda campaign in favour of such a law, or vote for it".

Pope Saint John Paul II

Evangelium Vitae: On the Value and Inviolability Of Human Life, 62, 73

WRITE OR CALL CONGRESS

Please contact your representatives in Congress and the Senators from your state to voice your concerns but specifically to request:

- the defunding of Planned Parenthood,
- the end of sale of fetal body parts,
- to support a Constitutional amendment to end abortion.

Burr, Richard - (R - NC)
217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-3154

Tillis, Thom - (R - NC)
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-6342

Graham, Lindsey - (R - SC)
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-5972

Scott, Tim - (R - SC)
520 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-6121



NECROLOGY



AUGUST

3 Fr. Nicholas Gibilisco(1994)
5 Br. Fidelis Kuhn (1916)
6 Fr. Ignatius Remke (1944)
12 Br. Rupert Sebald (1953)
13 Br. Leodegar Ochsenkuehn (1973)
14 Fr. Martin Hayes (1992)
19 Br. Meinrad Buechling (1894)
31 Fr. Brendan Dooley (1964)

JULY 20: ST. BERNARD, ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

30. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8). This is a great promise, my brothers, and something to be desired with all one's heart. For to see in this way is to be like God, as John the Apostle says, "Now we are all sons of God, but it has not yet been made clear what we shall be. For we know that when it is made clear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 Jn 3:2). This vision is eternal life (Jn 12:50), as Truth himself says in the Gospel, "This is eternal life, that they should know that you alone are the true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ" (Jn 17:3).

Hateful is the blemish which deprives us of this blessed vision. Detestable is the neglectfulness which causes us to put off the cleansing of the eye, For just as our bodily vision is impeded either by a humor within, or by dust from outside entering the eye, so too is our spiritual vision disturbed by the desires of our own flesh or by worldly curiosity and ambition. Our own experience teaches us this, no less than the Sacred Page, where it is written, "The body which is corruptible weighs down the soul and the earthly habitation oppresses its thoughts" (Wis 9:15). But in both it is sin alone which dulls and confuses the vision; nothing else seems to stand between the eye and the light, between God and man. For while we



are in this body we are in exile from the Lord (2 Cor 5:6).

That is not the body's fault, except in that it is yet mortal (Rom 7:24); rather it is the flesh which is a sinful body (Rom 6:6), the flesh in which is no good thing but rather the law of sin reigns (Rom 7:23,

25). Meanwhile the bodily eye (Gn 27:1), when the mote is no longer in it (Mt 7:4) but has been taken or blown away, still seems dark (Mt 7:3ff.), as he who walks in the spirit and sees deeply often experiences (2 Cor 12:18; Gal 5:16). For you will cure a wounded limb quickly by withdrawing the sword, but only if you apply poultices to heal it. For no one should think himself cleansed because he has come out of the cesspit. No, rather let him realize that he stands in need of a thorough washing first. Nor must he be washed

only with water; he needs to be purged and refined by fire so as to say, "We have passed through fire and water, and you have brought us to a resting place" (Ps 65:12). "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8). "Now we see through a glass darkly, but hereafter face to face" (1 Cor 13:12). Then truly our faces will be completely clean, so that he may present them to himself shining, without stain or wrinkle (Eph 5:27).

Bernard of Clairvaux
"On Conversion", XVII, 30.

Man, as a being, is of no account; he is dust, grass, vanity. But once he is adopted by the God of the universe as a son, he becomes part of the family of that Being, whose excellence and greatness no one can see, hear or understand. What words, thoughts or flight of the spirit can praise the superabundance of this grace? Man surpasses his nature: mortal, he becomes immortal; perishable, he becomes imperishable; fleeting, he becomes eternal; human, he becomes divine.

St. Gregory of Nyssa, De Beatitudinibus, Oratio VII: PG 44, 1280.