



Pro-Life Governor

South Dakota governor Kristi Noem is drawing attention in more ways than one.

First, her policies in response to the Covid19 pandemic are anything but standard fare. In South Dakota, there have been no lockdowns, there is no economic shutdown, and churches have remained open.

(As of Friday, May 30, 2020, in a population of almost one million, only fifty deaths have been attributed to the virus, which means about 5 in every 100,000.)

The South Dakota governor is also outspoken in her defense of the life of the unborn child.

During her first seventeen months in office which began January 5, 2019, she has signed seventeen laws aimed at defending life against abortion.

This latter feat contrasts with the 30+ years drought of pro-life legislation that in Canada.

In 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's abortion law and called on Parliament to put in place a new law. But no Parliament has done so, abdicating its responsibility.

Example of the legislation passed include a bill making it criminal to cause an abortion against a pregnant mother's will.

Governor Noem noted that "so often women are feeling pressured to have an abortion, and so we wanted to make sure that coercion could not be utilized to end a baby's life."

Returning to Gov. Noem, she has also hired a full-time staff member, who actively looks everyday for ways to protect life, a first among American governors.

She has added that "I've committed to be the most pro-life governor in the nation. I think somebody needs to lead by example." Abortions have been cut in half in the state over the past ten years.

I am Laura. I had an Abortion – part iii

(Editor: In April and May, the first two installments of Laura's abortion experience were presented. We read about the circumstances leading up to her pregnancy, the pregnancy itself, and then the abortion. This month we learn about the aftermath of the abortion and the grieving/healing that came.)

As time went by and years passed, in 2010 a friend of mine invited me to a "one-week getaway." It sounded odd (I know) but I had nothing to do that summer, so I agreed to go. Me and -I'm pretty sure- everyone else who attended, felt really weird being hosted by young adults who chanted and were inexplicably very excited about everything (I felt like in a Disney movie or something). There, we did this dynamic in which we had to write in a paper the worst thing we've had ever done and put it inside a jar. I didn't hesitate at all, I wrote "I had an abortion", put it inside and block the jar up with tape. After, a staff member took me in front of a wall that had a sign that said, "break with your life and build it again". She looked at me and said, "whenever you are ready, throw your jar against the wall". I burst into tears. It finally hit me. I realized I had been feeling guilty and repentant and sad for all those years. I accepted it: I regretted my abortion. Yes, I was too young to have a baby; yes, I had my whole life ahead of me; yes, I was in the middle of my undergrad; yes, I didn't have a job; yes, my boyfriend left me, none of that comforted me anymore. I've always been strong; I could have had overcome it all. I tried throwing my jar a few times, but I couldn't let go of it. I felt so remorseful, so ashamed of what I did and so sorry for that baby, that I just stood there with my hands on my face weeping.

I think I was mourning. I cried and cried for a long time until I decided that it was time to let go. I finally threw my jar against that sign and as I saw it crashed, I thought that from that night forward I would never be the same.

Since then, I started talking about my life to large audiences. Sometimes specifically about the abortion, sometimes not but it came up and I talked about it openly. After one of my talks a friend came to me and asked, "have you ever named the baby you aborted?" I was shocked. I had never thought about it before. "No", I replied with a broken voice. He said "well, what would you name him or her?". I didn't have to think about it, I didn't hesitate. "Pablo", I said. And for the first time in years, I felt a little bit of weight coming off my shoulders.

MY POST ABORTION HEALING

For ten years I've been talking about my experience. There are women out there who are grieving their abortions too, or who are pregnant and under difficult circumstances and don't know what to do. I've met a few. Sometimes, they come to me trying to find answers; sometimes, they come to me seeking for advice; sometimes, they just want to be heard. The true is (and I'm sorry if this disappoints you) that I don't have any answers or advice. I just know what they are going through, that's all. People experience all kinds of manifestations when they are grieving and each of us is different, we've been through different circumstances. I don't expect women to talk to their friends about their abortion or write a naughty e-mail to their partner like I did. I opened up about this because I just want to let them know that they are not alone.

Pro-Life Apologetics

bodily rights argument

Right to Refuse

“My body, my choice” is possibly the most common slogan in defense of abortion right now.

How do we as pro-life campaigners respond?

First, what does the slogan mean? There are two options.

1. Does the speaker fail to see the presence of a **separate, unique, and valuable** human being inside the woman’s body? or?
2. Does the person recognize the humanity of the unborn child yet gives greater importance to the mother’s right to choose?

Seek clarity. Does the person assume the unborn child is not human, or argue the unborn is not human, or admit the child is human yet may be killed because of woman’s rights over her body?

A simple conversation starter can be:

“I want to make sure I understand what you mean, and I’ve heard people use that phrase in different ways, so help me out.

- Do you mean that the embryo’s body is just part of the mother’s, like a kidney or another organ; **or**
- do you mean that because the embryo is in her body, she has the right to kill?

If the first case, giving biological facts may suffice.

If the second, known as a bodily right argument, a distinction is made between the **Sovereign Zone Argument (SZA)** and the **Right to Refuse (R2R) argument**. The **SZA** was treated last month. This month we look at how to address the **R2R**, which states that even if the unborn is a human being, a woman has the right to refuse the unborn to use her body.

Pro-life apologist Randy Alcorn’s reply focuses on the term choice.

The statement “My body, my choice” emphasizes choice in the control of one’s own body. Yet the fact that something is a choice tells us absolutely nothing about whether it is right or should be legal.



If a man chose to rape a woman, is he out of line? Is he not justified by the ‘my body, my choice’ principle?

The absurdity of this example shows that choice is an inadequate foundation. In the case of rape, choice needs to consider the harm done to the innocent woman whose rights have been violated.

As for the case of abortion, an invalid choice kills an innocent human being.

It’s absurd to defend a specific choice simply on the basis that it’s a choice. *Every single good or evil thing that has been done by one person to another was part of a choice.* The fact that something is a choice tells us absolutely nothing about whether or not it is *right* or should be legal. (cf. [lifesitenews/resources/...](#))

Another approach to the “My body, my choice” rhetoric, given by Timothy Brahm, states that one can ask the interlocutor whether they believe the claim for the entire nine-month gestational period. In Brahm’s experience, people usually do not support the principle once the fetus has grown to a certain size (e.g., six months). Once this point is reached, we point out their inconsistency and the slogan loses its validity. (cf. [Equal rights Institutes blog](#))

40 Days for Life Montreal Fall 2020

“Expect the best, plan for the worst, and be prepared to be surprised.” — Dennis Waitley

This quote provides a good plan for the next prayer vigil for the end of abortion.

Expect the best. We expect and pray that the vigil will go on as scheduled. When you receive this newsletter, **we may not** know if 40 Days for Life will be held as usual. It all depends on Covid-19 restrictions; but we are expecting the best.

As our Premier believes that abortions are “essential services,” is it not unreasonable to think that our work of defending the life of the unborn child warrants our presence on the sidewalks of Montreal?

Plan for the worst. The worst that can happen? We will not have permission to hold 40 Days for Life. We are planning **as if** conditions do not change from the springtime vigil, when a lockdown occurred but abortion services continued. We persevered through to the end. God blessed us in many ways including a steady presence of prayer volunteers and good health, in mind body, and spirit.

Now, we pray that church groups and organizations will Adopt-A-Day. As of this writing, all dates remain free, but don’t wait! We are alerting 40 Days for Life leaders in churches and organizations to start recruiting participants NOW.

Be **prepared** to be surprised. Ephesians 3:20: “He whose power is at work in us is powerful enough, and more than powerful enough, to carry out his purpose beyond all our hopes and dreams.”

I am reminded of Gideon. As he faced a formidable opponent who greatly outnumbered him, Our Lord asked to reduce the number of his combatants so that Israel’s subsequent victory would be coming from our Lord and not by their own strength.

Our foe is also formidable. The courts, the media, the legislature, the artistic community, the academic world has uniformly quashed the pro-life message to the women and men. The protection of unborn life does not register a blip on their radar screen. Yet, in faith we follow Gideon into battle.

Now is not the time to give into fear, abandon the sidewalk, or cease to pray and fast. Abortion has been deemed an “essential” service, but in reality it is an unnecessary evil.

Action Box

40 Days for Life Montreal.

Wednesday, September 23 – Sunday, November 1
Berri-UQAM Metro Station, 500 St. Catherine Str. E.

Adopt-A-Day Get your first choice with a phone call (514-344-2686) AND email to brian.jenkins@cqv.qc.ca with the name of your organization/church, coordinator’s name and phone number. Requirements: two or more people present to pray per hour from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Individuals, come and pray anytime.

www.40journspourlavie.org

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