

RESOURCE ROUNDUP

Volume 10, Nos. 7-8

The Hippocratic Resource

A Louisiana Non-profit Corporation of Life-respecting Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, Therapists, Scientists, and Other Health Professionals
www.LaDocs4Life.org or www.LaHealthProfs4Life.org

"I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked ... I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce an abortion"

Dear Colleague!

The success of Louisiana's Right-to-life community and legislators in passing laws to safeguard unborn children and provide informed consent to women considering abortion during the 2010 Legislative Session, combined with Governor Bobby Jindal's readiness to sign six life-respecting bills into law, has recently had a (not unexpected) legal challenge. As reported in the Louisiana Family Forum's (LFF's) August 10th newsletter: "On Friday August 6, 2010, the New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights, on behalf of six abortion facilities in Louisiana, filed suit in a Baton Rouge federal district court challenging the recently enacted Louisiana "Ultrasound Before Abortion Act [No. 888]," alleging unconstitutionality. Furthermore, as reported by *The Advocate* of Baton Rouge, Act 950, which excludes health care providers who perform elective abortions from participation in the State Medical Malpractice Program, was similarly challenged. In addition to the abortion facilities *per se*, one independent abortionist, identified as "D.B., M.D.," was listed as plaintiff. Thankfully, however, a hearing on August 19th before Judge Ralph Tyson, Chief of the U.S. District Court, resulted in a dismissal – with prejudice – of the first. A hearing on the second is scheduled for August 24th.

Dorinda Bordlee, Senior Counsel of the Bioethics Defense Fund, and Benjamin Clapper, Director of Louisiana Right to Life Federation, issued the following statement: "*The abortion industry's lawsuit is a baseless attempt to tie up a life-saving law in federal court. The Louisiana 'Ultrasound Before Abortion Act' promotes informed decisions, and respects the woman's right to have full access to medical information about her pregnancy and to the images of her unborn child. The Louisiana law mandates that an ultrasound be performed to determine viability and health issues, but it is strictly optional whether the woman chooses to view the ultrasound images, to hear an explanation or to receive a print depicting her unborn child.*" **We couldn't agree more! Let us pray that God may continue to grant moral/ethical insight and courage to the Court to continue to do the right thing!**

W. "Al" Krotoski, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. and Francis Rinaudo, Jr., D.D.S.

Abortion Statistics Updated

On August 12th, we received final abortion reporting data for Louisiana for 2008, and are passing on updated summaries of these and of the latest abortion data for the U.S.A. These, and a brief "Trends" tabulation for both for the last few years are found on this website (www.Docs4Life.org) under "ABSTATS" [use pg. "back" arrow (←)].

For the U.S.A.: Taking a five-year mean of CDC statistics corrected for California's and several other states' refusal to report abortion data (24% of total), the annual national abortion tally for the U.S. for the period, 2002 to 2006 (last available) was 1,085,289 *per annum* (range 1,123,845 to 1,025,847). Correcting further by the CDC's own estimate of at least 11% under-reporting, that tally grows to 1,204,670 *p.a.*, or 3,298 per day, 137 per hour, a mean of one abortion every 26 seconds. Since the *Roe v. Wade* mandate in 1973, 51,000,000 abortions have been done in the U.S., a figure significantly greater than the estimated number of lives lost during World War II (48 million). The mean number of abortions per 1,000 live births has been 239, equivalent to 19.4% or (*cont'd. next p.*)

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Forthcoming Meeting

Catholic Medical Association, October 28-30, Fairmont Hotel, Seattle, WA. 79th Annual Educational Conference, "Restoring the Integrity of Medicine." CME : Physicians, 17 h; Nurses, 20.5 h. [www.cathmed.org]

Roster changes

[Removed to preserve promised member privacy]

just under one of every five conceived children killed. The ratio of Black : "Other" : Hispanic : White abortions stands at 2.9 : 2.0 : 1.3 : 1.0. Of abortions done, 61.4% were at a gestational age of \leq 8 weeks; 26.9% at 9-12 weeks; 10.3 % at 13-20 weeks; and 1.4% at 21 weeks (5 months) or older, the last amounting to a mean of 15,037 per year after "quickenings." And **maternal deaths due to "legal" abortion now outnumber those due to illegal abortion by a factor of 3.6 : 1!** The better news, however, is that almost all parameters save one, appear to be in a downward trend. The one parameter is "medical" abortions, which have doubled over the 2002-2006 period, from 36,297 in 34 states to 72,403 in 39 states. Otherwise, maternal ages have remained virtually constant, with 17.1% overall of abortions being done in women \leq 19 years, and 50.0% in those \geq 25 years. The unmarried : married ratio of 4.8 : 1 has also remained virtually constant.

For Louisiana: Abortions stood at between 10,000 and 12,000 *p.a.* for several years in Louisiana, but from the time of Hurricane Katrina's and Rita's visitations in August/September of 2005 there has been a dramatic drop in abortions reported, first to 8,860 for 2005 (21.1% reduction), then to 6,204 in 2006 (30% further reduction), and with a

FDA Releases "Ella"

Despite pleas for the contrary, the FDA has approved release of ulipristil acetate, "Ella," for "emergency contraception." *Like its close cousin, RU-486*, "Ella" blocks progesterone receptors in the uterine lining, thus preventing implantation of a week old embryo to cause an early

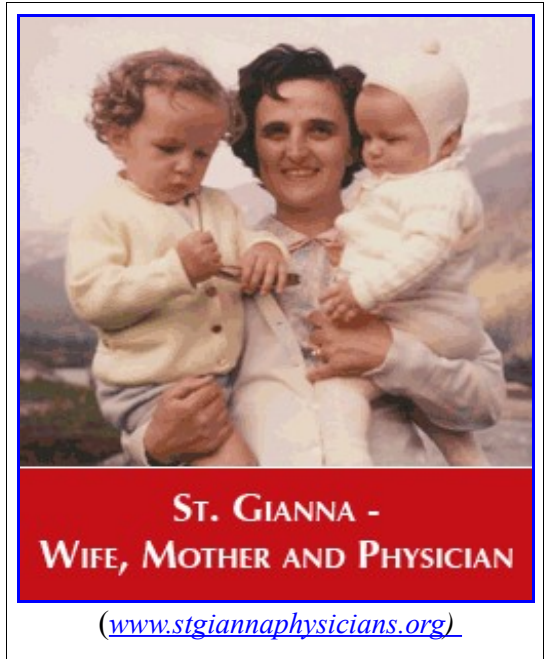
A Catholic Doctor-Saint for Respect for Life:

Gianna Beretta Molla, M.D., happily married mother of three, and a pediatrician practicing near Milan, Italy, became pregnant with her fourth child in July, 1961. In September, towards the end of the second month of her pregnancy, she was diagnosed with a developing uterine fibroma, for which surgical treatment was recommended; however, she refused any treatment that would save her life were it to put the life of her unborn child at risk. After a painful 7-month pregnancy, and a few days before her child was due, she prayed to God, "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child – I insist on it, save [the baby]." Despite all efforts and treatments to save both of them, Dr. Molla died a painful, if faith-filled death on April 28, 1962, just seven days after giving birth to a daughter. She was 39 years old. Based on her self-giving life as physician, wife and mother, plus her ultimate self-sacrifice, Dr. Molla was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1994 as "A young mother from the diocese of Milan, who, to give life to her daughter, sacrificed her own, with conscious immolation." She was canonized 42 years after her death, also by Pope John Paul II, on May 16, 2004 as "[a] holy mother of a family [who] remained heroically faithful to the commitment she made on the day of her marriage ... [by] ... [t]he extreme sacrifice [with which] she sealed ... her life." Her daughter, Dr. Gianna Emanuela, who had become a geriatrician, was present, as was Pietro Molla, St. Gianna's husband and Dr. Gianna Emanuela's father.

Mesero, near Milan. Pietro died on April 3rd, 2010, and is buried next to his wife. (from Vatican website, www.vatican.va, and *Our Sunday Visitor*, www.osv.org)

subsequent apparent stabilization at 10% above the 2006 nadir, i.e. 6,833 and 6,816 for 2007 and 2008, respectively. Although doubtless related in part to the storm-related closure of the Orleans parish abortion facility, a greater part has probably been played by emigration from Louisiana of part of the most abortion-susceptible population. Orleans parish abortion preeminence of 2004 gave way to Caddo and Jefferson parishes initially, then to Caddo and E. Baton Rouge, while reported Jefferson parish abortions dropped dramatically. There have also been several other encouraging downward trends, particularly in the number of abortions of prenatals of gestational age $>$ 21 weeks (to 2%); of the number of teenage mothers age $<$ 15 years (1%); and of the percentage of teenage mothers in general (17%). **Of particular note is the virtual absence of rape/incest as a reason for the abortion; a total of 4 were reported from 1999-2008, for a rate of 0.0042% of 95,354.** Far less encouraging is the lack of any justification whatsoever reported for 99% of those recorded (reason given as "unknown"), and the vanishingly small number of those justified otherwise. Clearly, either the abortionists are taking advantage of poor reporting requirements, or "contraception," regardless of the means, rules the field, or both.

abortion. According to the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG), **"Ella" is more properly characterized as an embryocidal agent.** Survivors of this latest pharmacologic toxin may face severe congenital anomalies, as may children conceived within 14 days of use.



St. Gianna is buried in the cemetery of (from Vatican website, www.vatican.va, and *Our Sunday Visitor*, www.osv.org)