

Right to Life of Indianapolis Keynote Speaker Michael Reagan September 15, 2009

-When it comes to our children, there are more things “caught” than “taught.” The perfect example of this is their pro-life beliefs, or lack of these. We must set the example by the way we live our own lives.

-To be pro-life means to be pro-adoption.

-I was adopted. After 55 hours of labor for my birth mother Irene, I was born German and three days later I became Irish when adopted by Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman. When I drink beer, you never know what to expect. I feel blessed that the Carter family wasn't looking to adopt at the same time.

-Remember these numbers—27, 43, 13.

-We cannot look to Washington D.C. to advance the cause of life considering the makeup of the White House and Congress. We now have a Science Czar more concerned with advancing death than life. This is typical of our current government.

-Instead, we must look within ourselves and our communities. There, what do we find:

- 27—percentage of young Catholic girls who have had abortions;
- 43—percentage of young Protestant girls who have had abortions;
- 13—percentage of young “born-again” women who have had abortions.

-The majority of women who obtain abortions profess belief in God. Why is this?

-Because their fear of their mother and father is greater than their fear of the abortionist. Our young women are fearful to admit to their parents that they are pregnant. They're afraid of the scorn and ridicule they believe will result.

-How do we change this?

-I come from a broken home and as a result grew up with a great deal of confusion. When Ronald and Jane divorced, and considering their careers, I did not obtain from my family the things a young boy looks for. During the 3rd grade, a man named Don secured my confidence by teaching me how to throw a baseball, to throw a football, to swim...and then he sexually molested me.

-Taking me up into the Santa Monica Mountains, he photographed me in the nude as part of the molestation. Throughout my life, I lived with the fear that these pictures would surface and my parents would discover them.

-I thought I was evil. I stopped going to church. I worked as hard as I could to get to hell. I had little control over anything in my life...but I could control how much I hated God.

-Then in 1973 I met Colleen, who would eventually be my wife, and she began praying for me.

-But I still feared those pictures resurfacing, and I would make myself feel bigger by belittling my own children until, in 1985, my wife berated me for blaming God and instead told me to seek His help, which I did in prayer.

-In 1987, twelve years into my marriage, God gave me the strength to tell my wife of my childhood abuse. -So you see I can understand the fear that a young girl who has gotten pregnant experiences and I understand her preference for taking care of the problem via abortion as opposed to telling her parents.

-How do we solve this problem? Jesus, in his mercy, climbed up on the cross for us. Parents, especially fathers, need to follow suit and climb up on the cross for their daughters. If more fathers actually lived their Christian faith, more of our daughters would be “caught” instead of only “taught.” We're very good at quoting the Bible, but how many of us actually live it.

-Specifically, we must be forgiving. As the Lord's Prayer says, “Forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us*”. Both my father and John Paul II set the example and forgave the men who tried to murder them.

-We have 513,000 children in foster care in our nation. If we don't become more pro-adoption, most will end up on the streets.

-Because of the fear I carried with me, I went my entire life without telling my father “I love you.” And then God told me to...and I did. My father was president at the time and he reciprocated. I used his not telling me as an excuse for living a negative life and fearing those pictures from my youth.

-I had to learn to forgive, and I finally came to understand that because a Christian woman opened the door with her prayers in 1973.

-Be merciful, forgive. Live an authentic Christian life, especially when it comes to the manner in which we raise and guidance we provide our daughters. The life you save today may one day grow up to be president.