



# Life Matters

The Newsletter of the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Rockford  
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## ***A reflection for Advent***

By Mitch Striedl

During this season of Advent we focus our attention on preparing our hearts for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Of all the ways God could have saved us, He chose to do so by entering the world as a baby through the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We should never cease to marvel at this very fact. By becoming one of us and entering the world in the manner He did, God gave every human life it's worth and dignity. Therefore, Advent should also be a time to reflect on the dignity of human life at the very moment of fertilization. Just as Advent is a time to open our hearts to accept the Child Jesus, so must we work tirelessly to open other's hearts to accept all children in the womb as a gift from God. This important work can only begin by first opening our hearts and coming to a full understanding of what it is our Savior did by being born as a baby through the womb of Mary. Unfortunately, we live in a culture that doesn't recognize the beauty and dignity of the human person. This isn't the only time in history where human beings have been denied recognition as persons, yet it is about time that we learn from that history.

## ***How Dare You Compare Abortion to the Holocaust or Slavery?***

By Bryan Kemper

*Note: Bryan Kemper is the founder and president of [Stand True Ministries](#), a Christ-centered pro-life group. The following commentary is reprinted with permission.*

I have heard many people cry foul whenever any pro-lifer uses the Jewish Holocaust or slavery in America as a comparison to abortion. Many times at my talks someone will scold me during

question-and-answer time, claiming to be offended that I would use such a comparison.

The problem they have is not really the fact that a comparison is being made to one of these horrific tragedies; after all, we build museums, memorials and reminders of what happened to make sure something like the Jewish Holocaust will never happen again. The problem really is that we have elevated what they consider to be a blob of tissue to personhood status.

If comparison in and of itself were the problem, then we would not go to such great lengths to educate society about what happened. The reason places like Auschwitz are open for the public is to guarantee that we understand the horror of what took place in the death camps.

This is precisely the reason we use such imagery. We want the world to understand that what makes us so sick about the Jewish Holocaust is precisely what makes us sick about the Abortion Holocaust. We talk about the Dred Scott Supreme Court Decision because we want people to see that *Roe v. Wade* is just as despicable.

The same reason these people are so upset about pro-lifers using these comparisons is the very reason we use them: personhood. We have a duty to use the tools that history has given us to educate future generations about the bloodshed that has already destroyed the lives of over 52,000,000 innocent American baby boys and girls.

Dred Scott declared that human persons with black skin were not actually human persons, but only 3/5 human. Adolf Hitler and the Nazis decided that human persons who were of Jewish heritage were not actually human persons, but some kind of pest or rodent that needed exterminating. *Roe v. Wade* pronounced that

human persons who were in the first nine months of their human development were not human persons unless their mother decided they were.

How can we not have learned our lessons about trying to redefine personhood? How is it that we still have audacity to play God and strip away personhood rights from another group of people, this time simply because of their age?

We know that skin color does not determine the personhood of a human being; they are human no matter what shade their skin is. We know that nationality does not determine the personhood of a human being; they are human no matter where they come from. We should also know that age does not determine the personhood of a human being; they are human from the moment they start living until the day they die.

Some try to claim that a human being does not start living until nine months after his or her development starts, which really does not make any sense at all. From the very second the development of a human being starts, the thing developing is a human being. These human persons cannot suddenly become another species; they remain human beings throughout their development. That development starts the moment the sperm and egg unite and ends when that human person dies. From zygote, embryo, fetus, infant, toddler, teen, adult to senior, the human being cycles through different stages of his or her life, until natural death.

The fact is these comparisons have to be made in order to show the full scope of the tragedy that took place on January 22, 1973. I would argue that we should be offended if we don't compare these events and use these historical tools to

show the world the truth about the Abortion Holocaust.

It is obvious that we have not yet learned from the unthinkable acts of human destruction in history and the ignorance that led to such devastation. We are obligated to take these lessons and teach people the truth in hopes we can end the plague of child killing that is abortion.

I would go as far as saying, "How dare we not compare the Abortion Holocaust to the American Slave Trade, the Jewish Holocaust or any other catastrophic evil in history?"

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For additional commentary on life issues, check out "Life Lines" on the first Friday of each month in *The Observer*.

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If you are interested in more information, please contact us at 815-399-4300 x 435 or email [mitchstriedl@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:mitchstriedl@rockforddiocese.org)

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