



Rebecca's Reflections



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December 2013

While in Nebraska during the first week of December, I was blessed with the opportunity to give presentations to multiple classes at Scotus Central Catholic High School in Columbus, Nebraska. In addition to revealing the reality of abortion through the use of pictures, I also explained why the use of graphic pictures is necessary. Graphic pictures have been used to reveal truths about other injustices throughout history.

For instance in 1955, photos were shown of the broken body of a young African American boy, Emmett Till, who was brutally beaten and murdered for “whistling at a white girl.” Despite receiving direction from the coroner not to open his casket prior to burial, his mother chose *not only* to open it, but to have an open-casket funeral for her son. When asked why she would do such a thing, she responded, “Because I want the whole world to see what they did to my boy.”

After the funeral, JET Magazine published an article about Emmett’s murder and included photos taken of Emmett’s body while he lay in his casket. Hundreds of thousands saw the images either through the three-day viewing or through the JET Magazine article. For many of these people, this was the first time they saw racism for the appalling violence that it really is. It was a hard reality to view. Many historians say these pictures of Emmett were the catalyst for the civil rights movement. As a matter of fact, Rosa Parks was quoted as saying, “I thought of Emmett Till...and I just couldn’t move,” when reflecting on why she didn’t give up her bus seat.

Emmett’s mother put a face on racism by holding an open-casket funeral. In the same way, the Justice For All (JFA) Exhibit puts a face on abortion through the use of graphic pictures (both when we put them up in public and when JFA volunteers share the Exhibit Brochure). Below are responses from some of the Scotus students after attending my presentation which included both the graphic images of Emmett’s face and body as well as graphic images of abortion.



Above: This past fall the Justice For All team trained students at Southwest Covenant High School and I presented some of the lecture material for this event.

“Thank you for putting a face on abortion. The presentation was inspiring.”

“Your presentation changed the way I think about things...”

“[It] opened the casket.”

“The pictures made me realize how much life matters.”

“It’s a hard and heavy topic that can make me think. It made me want to cry...I’ve thought about it [having an abortion] once. I hate [that] I even considered it.”

“It showed me more about what is done to the unborn and that I should speak up about abortion. I should be a voice not just a body.”

Defending life together,

“[This presentation] gave me chills. It’s sad to see the graphic images, but [it] leaves an impact.”

Rebecca J. Haschke

“I’ve been on the March for Life two years. I learned more today than I did on my two March for Life trips.”