



We're Going to Go Tell Everyone!

Catherine's JFA Update, May 2013



Dear Family and Friends,

Our dear friends Paul and Cheryl Wilson have been activating their pro-life community in Tucson, Arizona for a number of years by arranging and promoting JFA seminars and outreaches and assisting in the mentoring process.

Last month the Wilsons arranged an outreach event at the Pima County Fair. Arizona Right to Life purchased the booth space, the Wilsons gathered 50 volunteers, and JFA brought trainers and outreach tools. Below I describe one of the many fruitful discussions we had at the fair.



Paul Wilson (*far left*) and other JFA volunteers converse with fair-goers in Tucson.

Thank you for helping us *make abortion unthinkable!*

In Christ, *Catherine Justice*

“Wow - come look at this! That is so cool,” said a teenage girl. It was late Sunday night, and we were about to close the booth down at the Pima County Fair. It had been a busy day, conversing with the fair-goers and training the new JFA volunteers to do the same. I looked up and saw four Latino teens—three girls and a boy—cooing over the life-size fetal development models on our table.

I smiled and told the teens that that was how big they were when they were in their mothers' wombs. “No way! Really?!” They started talking over each other, asking me questions about fetal development, so I asked if they wanted a biology lesson. “Sure!” Pointing up at our kiosk with photos of developing children in the womb, I talked about how we know from science that the unborn is a living human from fertilization.

I then asked, “What do you think about abortion?”

“It's wrong,” they all said.

“Always? No exceptions?” I asked.

There was a little hesitation, and then two of them said, “No exceptions.” But two were quiet.

Often people's hesitancy is an indication that there is more they have to share, but they're not sure they want to. I made a guess as to what might be on these teens' minds and asked them, “What about rape?”

Boy: “That's what I was gonna say! What if a woman got raped?” So we talked through this sensitive issue. (To read more about how to approach this critical concern, go to www.jfaweb.org/catherine/news_2010_03.pdf).

“So, when is abortion legal?” one of the girls asked me. “Like, how late can a woman get one?” I read the conclusions of the *Roe v. Wade* decision from our fact sheet, and we discussed its meaning.

“Wait,” she said, “So, you can get an abortion through all nine months? That's just not right!” she said.

Another girl said, “Yeah, that’s way too late. If you’re going to get it, you need to do it before...*then!*” All in unison pointed at the board, but each pointed at a different stage of development.

I laughed. “Okay, why *then?*”

One girl responded, “Because it’s so developed after that.”

Another said, “It’s like a child at that point.”

“That’s true,” I said, “the unborn is more developed later in pregnancy. But is it our level of development that makes us valuable?”

“No...but...well...” They all seemed a bit perplexed by the thought.

So I asked, “We agreed earlier that it’s not okay to kill an 18-month-old child; why is that?”

“Because it’s so cute, and you can hold it and everything,” said one of the teens.

“Is that why it’s wrong to kill it? Because it’s cute?” Blank stares. “Why is killing wrong?” More blank stares.

I decided to ask a question I’d heard one of our newest staff members, Tim Brahm, ask in a conversation that morning: “Let’s look at it this way: Are you against racism?” Emphatic yeses all around. “Why? What makes racism wrong?”

“Because you’re judging someone based on the color of their skin,” came the response.

“Yes” I said, “Isn’t it wrong to take a surface difference like skin color and treat it like it’s more important than the thing we share in common: that we’re all human?” They all agreed. “Are you against sexism?”

“Yes!”

“Why?”

“Same reason,” one of the teens said.

“See,” I said, “we all believe we should treat each other equally—with equal dignity and respect—even though we’re all so different from one another. Why is that? What is it that we all have the same that demands we be treated equally?”

The young man spoke up at that point and said, “We’re equally human.” I just smiled, and the boy looked at the kiosk, and then at me. After a long pause, his whole face lit up and he exclaimed, “Whoa!! You’re blowing my mind right now!”



A family stops by our booth at the Pima County Fair.

I laughed and said, “So if we should all be treated equally because we’re equally human, and the unborn is as human as we are, shouldn’t the unborn be treated equally, too?”

“Yes!” they all shouted.

One girl said, “You should be up there with that microphone telling everyone this!”

I just looked at them all and said, “Well, it’s in your hands now. Now that you know this, what are you going to do?” I handed each of them a JFA Exhibit brochure, a facts sheet, and the contact information for local pregnancy resource centers.

“We’re going to go tell everyone we know! Thank you!” they shouted as they hurried off.