Dear family and friends,

At JFA, we love giving pro-life advocates easy-to-remember tools for keeping conversations about abortion focused and gracious. One of our favorites is “trotting out a toddler” (Scott Klusendorf, Life Training Institute: www.prolifetraining.com).

Abortion is a very emotionally and psychologically complex issue for many people. But morally? It’s very simple: a lot of the noise surrounding abortion really boils down to just one question: “What is the unborn?”

This is because if abortion does not kill a human being, no justification for abortion is necessary. But if it does kill a human being, no justification for abortion is adequate.

I have found it very helpful in conversations to take Scott’s advice and trot out a toddler to show that this is the case.

There are four basic steps to trotting out a toddler:

1. **Agree** - Find areas of genuine agreement, without compromising your position.

2. **Apply** - Use their argument for abortion to justify killing a hypothetical two-year-old child.

3. **Ask Why** - When they reject this justification for killing a born child, ask them why. With few exceptions, they will respond that the argument doesn’t justify killing a born child, because the born child is a human being.

4. **Ah!** - The light bulb moment. (note: this is not an “A-ha! Gotcha!” moment - that would be prideful) Example: “Ah! Then the issue isn’t poverty, but ‘what is the unborn’, right? If the unborn are human beings, then shouldn’t we protect them?

Don’t Debate - Dialogue!

From Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California, May 2010

Raymond skateboarded up to the Exhibit and joined the conversation I was having with his two friends. Realizing I’m pro-life, he became defensive and condescending. But “trotting out the toddler” helped win him over.

Raymond (R): Women should have the right to choose what to do with their own bodies what they want to! Especially women who are poor and can’t afford to raise kids - they need the right to abort.

Catherine (C): I appreciate your concern for women’s rights and for poor women.

At this, Raymond’s defenses came down a bit and he sat down with us.

C: But aren’t some choices wrong? Being a woman doesn’t give me the right to

(See “Dialogue” on page 2)
them like we do two-year olds?”

In the Dialogue box to the left, you’ll read how this tool helped Raymond at Pasadena City College gain some important clarification about abortion last May when we went to his campus.

Note also how finding common ground with Raymond changed this potentially confrontational situation into a mutually respectful dialogue.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support!

In Christ,

Catherine Wurts

Please pray for my upcoming events:

Aug 6-8 Midwest Catholic Family Conference, Wichita, KS

Aug 24, 7-9pm Mini-training event at St. Cornelius Parish, Long Beach, CA

Sep 10-16 “Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue” high-school and community seminars in Lincoln, NE, and Exhibit outreach at University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Sep 25-Oct 5 “Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue” high-school, community and Focus Leadership Institute seminars in Colorado and Exhibit outreach at University of Northern Colorado - Greeley