



Bringing JFA Home With You!



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Catherine Wurts

JFA Newsletter

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Dear family and friends,

In August, I did a presentation at my dear friend Regina's church in Long Beach, CA. The newsletter below is excerpted from an article in *The Tidings* about that event. If you would like me to make a similar presentation to your church or bible study group, let me know! I'd love to help you spread Justice For All's mission in your area.

I am also seeking additional financial support for my work through 2011. If you haven't yet and would like to make an end-of-year tax-deductible donation or to increase your regular support by \$5 or \$10 a month, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to our office.

Meanwhile, Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for all of your support and prayers!

In Christ, 

Catherine Wurts

Dialoguing on abortion: 'Be Christ's ambassadors'

By Doris Benavides
excerpted from *The Tidings*
Friday, September 3, 2010

15-year-old Bryanne Carter believes in life. But the St. Anthony High School sophomore has always been puzzled by the question of how to address the issue with her peers without being intrusive or aggressive while holding true to her Catholic faith and values.

"Most of my friends are pro-choice, and I don't know how to talk to them about it," she said. "Most of the time they just tell me what they feel and they don't really listen to what I'm saying."

To learn about a new approach, Bryanne attended a presentation sponsored by the



Respect Life Team and the pro-life AudioGirl Ministries, held Aug. 24 at St. Cornelius Church in Long Beach.

Knowledge and wisdom are two important elements to consider when debating about controversial issues such as abortion, said guest speaker Catherine Wurts of Justice for All, a Kansas-based non-profit pro-life organization.

"Knowledge is all the information you gather about a topic and wisdom is when and how to use that information," Wurts told participants, which included youth leaders from St. Cornelius and California State University Long Beach's Catholic Newman Club, as well as members of Long Beach parishes.

'Putting a face on abortion'

In order to remain informed, Wurts acknowledged the need of putting "a face on abortion" and illustrated that statement with the story of Emmett Louis "Bobo" Till, an African American boy from Chicago, whose brutal murder at age 14 was one of the leading events that gave way to the Civil Rights Movement in the mid 1950s.

This kind of opened my eyes... I will use this to talk to my friends and try to open their eyes about it and share how I feel about it. -Bryanne

The boy's mother insisted on a public funeral service with an open casket to show to the whole world the brutality of her son's killing.

"Some people question...why...we have to be so graphic," said Wurts when talking about the Justice for All outdoor photo exhibit on abortion that is placed on college and university campuses across the country.

"This is a way of putting a face on abortion," she explained. "The exhibit draws people that might be seeing this for the first time and want to learn more about abortion."

The graphics not only provide information, she noted, but set the stage for asking questions such as 'Is the unborn a human being?'

Ask, listen, don't assume

Citing Proverbs 31:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:20, Wurts urged the audience "to speak for those who have no voice" and to "be Christ's ambassadors" by showing his kindness and compassion.... She suggested starting an approach by asking questions, listening and finding common points of agreement.

When debating the issue, Wurts recommended two steps. First, verify that the other party's view is "on topic" that is, are they addressing the question of what is the unborn?... or "off

topic"....

The second step is refocusing the off-topic discussion to the on-topic question, "What is the unborn?" using the "(trot) out the toddler" technique: agree, apply, ask why and Ah!

Agree with the person's concerns, and apply their concern to a two-year-old and ask if it is

okay to kill a two-year-old. When the person answers "No," ask why it is not okay. That will lead to the reason: a two-year-old is a human being, which will end with an Ah! And return to the main issue: Is the unborn a human being?

Be compassionate

Using a video where a girl who was raped at 13 years old shows her anger when discussing abortion with people with a pro-life view, Wurts reminded participants to be compassionate and good listeners "as Christ was," and to "not be weird, but normal human beings with one another understanding that only God can change minds and hearts."

The conference was an eye-opener for Bryanne Carter. "This kind of opened my eyes," she said. "I will use this to talk to my friends and try to open their eyes about it and share how I feel about it."

Cal State Long Beach Catholic Newman Club members and pro-life activists Felicity Lanza, 19, and Henry Trinh, 30, welcomed the Justice for All approach. "You can state your opinion and use these tactics to show that what they're thinking might be wrong and hopefully their opinion will change," said Lanza, who has a friend who was forced by her boyfriend to have an abortion that she now regrets.