



Pope Francis: ‘Weep for Throwaway Kids’

By Dennis Howard

Pope Francis’ visit to the Philippines was important for reasons beyond the record crowd of six million people who turned out to greet him.

It was important because Pope Francis chose his encounter with the youth of the Philippines to deliver a powerful pro-life message to the youth of the world. Why did he do it there?

With its deeply Catholic roots, the Philippines are like the Ireland of the Far East -- except that they have twice the rate of natural increase that Ireland does, and their birth rate is 59% higher. Indeed, the Republic of the Philippines is the only western country with a birth rate to match that of the Muslim world. Elsewhere in the West, populations are shrinking.

In his address to youth, Pope Francis urged young people to think clearly, feel passionately, and act courageously in their encounter with today’s moral, social, political, and economic problems.

He also urged them “to learn how to cry” -- something only humans can do when confronting tragedy. He didn’t specifically mention abortion, but the connection is still clear.

The last thing pro-abortion ideologues want is for people to mourn the tragedy abortion has brought to the world. The very nature of abortion is that it prevents children from ever crying their first cry, which is nothing less than their primal cry for life.

The Pope invited young people to ask: “Have I learned how to weep, how to cry? Have I learned how to weep for someone who has been discarded, a child who is homeless, a young person with a drug problem, someone who has been abused?”

In the United States, we’ve aborted 58 million children. And we’ve done so in a way that no one will ever hear them cry. Many late term abortions are done by sticking a scissors in their heads as they emerge from their mother’s wombs – so that no one will ever hear them cry. Once that first cry is heard, the instinctive human response is to defend that child’s right to life.

The anti-life ideologues also don’t want women who have had abortions to mourn their lost children. Instead, women are pressured by the rules of political correctness never to cry. And yet how many do so in the privacy of their bedrooms where no one can hear them?

Post-abortive women need to know that their tears can be tears of repentance, tears of forgiveness, tears of conversion, tears that can change hearts and minds forever. They urgently need to make their cries heard.

And God help the poor male who is never allowed to cry.

I remember the first guy I met like that in the mid-'60's. He came across as a nice young guy, but after a few drinks, he felt compelled to tell me his whole story. He confessed that he had gotten two girls pregnant. Each one wanted to marry him, but he had no interest in that.

Instead, he offered to pay for their abortions. At the time, abortion wasn't even legal yet in New York State. But I'll never forget his words.

"In order to get them to do it," he told me, "I had to work hard to make them hate me."

In the years since, I have often wondered: How many other young women did he have to get to hate him? How many other abortions did he pay for? Did he ever repent? Did he ever cry?

I know from my own experience that tears are often healing. I cried when my older brother died in Korea because I felt that in a real sense he went in my place. He was drafted, while I stayed safe and warm and got married and had children and lived to be 85.

The thought of his last days on a 2-month death march north to the Yalu River still bring tears to my eyes. Like Christ on the cross, he died for me. He died for his country. He died for freedom. But the tears I shed are tears of healing, tears of repentance and forgiveness.

Today, I'm afraid that we will never be fully healed from the horror of abortion until we can weep over it. All the ideological and political fighting will not lead to anything but small victories until, as a nation, we really repent. Tears of conversion are the cure.

- *We have to weep for the babies who were never allowed their first cry.*
- *We have to cry with post-abortive women and help them find the healing gift of tears.*
- *We have to reach out to the men who couldn't cry, and tell them it's OK to weep.*
- *We have to share tears of gratitude with the women who avoided abortion by some miracle of grace, often just a word from a friend that "You don't need a lifetime of regret."*

Indeed, we need to be willing to cry for the entire Baby Bust generation. Wounds have been inflicted upon them that they may never be allowed to acknowledge – 30% fewer friends with whom to share their lives, a greatly diminished economy, mountains of debt, and above all, the mistaken notion that abortion is a good idea that will save the planet, increase freedom, and somehow lead to happiness and success. Abortion can never do any of those things.

But tears alone are not enough. St. Augustine defines hope as the product of two things: the ability to get angry at what is wrong, and the courage to do something about it. For America and the world to recover from the devastating scourge of abortion, we have to apply Pope Francis' formula for effective action. *We have to think. We have to feel. And then we have to act.*

In concrete terms, exactly what does that call for?

First, we have to think. We can't just react by running off in 100 different directions all at once. We have to know the facts, do the necessary intelligence, and then develop effective strategies

to defeat the anti-people ideologues who are determined to cut America's population by more than half -- from 320 million to 150 million by the end of this century.

We don't dare underestimate them. Planned Parenthood works from 25-Year Plans. They are a cohesive, well-funded, effective organization. NARAL, the Population Council, and the Negative Population Growth people are all in the same league. To defeat them, we need to develop our own innovative strategies, hone them for effectiveness, and work together in unity and solidarity.

Second, we have to be passionately committed to our mission. We have to become fully informed about the moral, spiritual, social and economic impact of the abortion epidemic, and to spread that message effectively to others. Nothing wakes people up faster than the shock of full awareness of the consequences of their own and other people's behavior.

True, some causes manage to succeed through constant repetition of appealing lies and promises. The abortion industry is an example of that. To win the battle for public opinion, we have to be passionately committed to exposing their lies and educating people about the negative consequences of abortion to us as a nation, as families, and as individuals.

In addition, we need to advance our own positive message detailing the benefits of Christian family living. If we follow through with faithful, persistent action, that's a battle we can't lose.

Finally, we have to act.

This is not an academic exercise. As the late Cardinal deLubac once said, "Christians do not await events. Events await us." Christianity has to be pro-active. We can't just sit back and let things happen. Those who oppose our values get to vote, too, and if we don't show up, they will.

Unfortunately, not everyone has the time, talent or experience to engage in the battle directly. Most of us have jobs, families, and other responsibilities to attend to. But we need support troops every bit as much as we need men and women on the line. The best program in the world will fail without active, generous support. With active support, it can work ten times better.

Here are some of the things we are doing to deserve your support. Will you join us in this continuing effort to reclaim America for life?

- 1. Our Celebrate Life seminars for teens have an amazing track record of success in changing the minds and hearts of young people.*** They regularly produce a 75% increase in the number of teens with strong pro-life views, a 40% reduction among the confused kids in the middle, and a 15% reduction in those with pro-choice views. But we urgently need your help with these seminars. Your gift of \$100 will cover the cost of ten students attending a 3-hour seminar and preparing them to defend their pro-life values.
- 2. We also need support for our successful Talk Radio appearances.*** This past month, Dennis did two 1-hour talk show appearances on the economic impact of abortion, and we're working on leads to others. With a booking agent, he could do a dozen talk shows all over the country every month. To do that, we need 10 folks willing to give \$100 each.
- 3. Our new GenWhy campaign has huge potential*** for reaching the entire Baby Bust generation and building a whole new wave of public opinion. It is aimed at Gen X, Gen Y, and Gen Z – 30% of whom have had their lives snuffed out by abortion. This group already makes up 64% of our total population and 51% of our voting age population.

They are the sleeping giant that, if awakened, can dramatically change the whole picture within the foreseeable future.

This an urgent need. Preaching to the choir is not enough. If we can't reach out to today's young people with a persuasive pro-life message, the prospects for America's survival into the future are greatly diminished.

- 4. That's why we're also reaching out through social media** – Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, Instagram -- as well as through a special page on our website. Last month, Dennis spent 8 hours on Reddit talking to 250+ young people and came away with an 85% favorable rating in spite of harassment from a few pro-abortion activists.

Reaching young women under age 35 is crucial because that's where 88% of all abortions occur. We've got to start reaching them long before they show up for an appointment at an abortion mill. At that stage, we're lucky to save 1 out of 100. But pro-life education can improve that by reaching the 99 out of 100 before they ever consider abortion.

- 5. We've also started a new intern program** to train young pro-life leaders with effective communications and strategic planning skills. Anne Reisner, our first intern, is already turning out web page articles, emails, plus items for Facebook and Twitter. Initial tests show that we can expect to triple the number of our website "hits" through this effort.

This program has wonderful benefits. We get valuable volunteer help, the young person receives training plus work credits that look great on his/her resume, and the pro-life movement gets a potential new leader who will still be contributing to our movement decades from now.

We'd like to invite more young people to join this program, but we need help to cover training and other expenses. Ten new donors giving \$100 a month would enable us to dramatically expand this program. Will you be one of them?

Movement for a Better America wouldn't even exist if not for the sacrifices of a great many people over the last 20 years.

Loyal board members, volunteers, car donors, seminar team members and speakers, and a small band of supporters ranging from well-known pro-life leaders to one poor widow who never fails to send us her \$25 donation every year at Christmas. Plus a handful of donors who have given as much as \$1,000 at a time. None of this happened overnight. It's the result of 20 years of effort by a volunteer staff working entirely without pay.

To continue our work and to grow, we need to raise a minimum of \$50,000 this year.

I've been praying night and day asking God for help in raising enough money to reach this goal. He answered that prayer by asking me to ask you.

Mind you, I know that you are already receiving dozens of pro-life requests for help. I get at least half a dozen such requests each day. Some keep asking for "the most generous gift you can send," but we have a simpler request:

Will you consider joining our elite \$100 a year Club?

To do that, just click on this link: ["I'd like to join your \\$100 a year Club."](#)

Or just write: Movement for a Better America, PO Box 472, Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970-0472