

Father Brad Neely
Spps, Nezperce: Oct 03, 2010
27th Sunday Ordinary Time, Cycle C
Respect Life Sunday
Hab 1: 2f; 2Tim 1: 6f; Lk 17: 5-10

Gianna Jessen is a 33 year old woman,
who survived an abortion in 1977.
At 7 ½ mos., and against all odds,
She survived a saline abortion
meant to burn her inside and out
so she would be born dead within 24 hours.
It was typical at that time
to leave an abortion survivor to die,
because that was the original intention.
Yet with Gianna, an abortion nurse
called for an ambulance
to transfer her to a hospital.
She weighed all of 2 lbs.

This is *Respect Life* Sunday
Life is described in Webster's as:
"the animate existence
or period of animate existence
of an individual."
+ "the general condition
that distinguishes organisms
from inorganic objects
and dead organisms,
being manifested by growth through metabolism."

Gianna Jessen has been speaking out on behalf of life.
In *defending* life, she receives a lot of praise.
Believe it or not, she also receives a lot of hate.
Speaking in 2008 at Parliament House,
in Australia's state of Victoria,
she challenged her audience
largely composed of politicians:
"are you willing to risk speaking the truth,
and to stand up
and at least be willing to be hated?"
It is interesting that in this day and age,
such a statement would have to be made.
It *does* have to be made.
There are many people who disagree
with what *we* believe
has been revealed by God concerning life.
There are many people willing
to usurp God's dominion over life.
There are many people,
we would have to deduce,

who believe they know better than God.

Remember that in Gianna's case,
the *called-for* procedure for a baby surviving abortion
was to immediately neglect them until they die.
If we were to go back to Gianna's abortion clinic,
and appeal to those operating it
about the truth of the sanctity of life,

I don't think they would react with:
"I understand...of course....
I must be having a bad hair day...."
Rather, it is likely
they would become angry and defensive.
And would that anger shut us up,
and make us retreat?

I mentioned last year at this time
to question our personal comfort levels
with, now, 52 million children,
who have been legally aborted.
So Gianna's challenge is an urgent one:
"are you willing to risk speaking the truth,
and to stand up
and at least be willing to be hated?"
In this address to Victoria's Parliament, she continued:
"Do we [as a human race]
want to be obsessed with our own glory,
[our self-given decision
as to who lives and who dies and when],
or do we want to be obsessed with the glory of God?"

Human life is the glory of God.
It is a glory that encompasses all of creation,
and especially the conception
and natural death of an individual
who is made in the image and likeness of God,
and who is unique in all of time.

This is a day when we can contemplate
the miracle that is life,
and contemplate most importantly
in God's creation---human life.
As we contemplate this,
are we willing to:
".....risk speaking the truth,
and stand up
and at least be willing to be hated?"
As Gianna also noted,
"Can any of us make our own heart beat?"

