

St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York

TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING by *S. Casarotto, CS* August 17, 2008

IN LIFE AND IN DEATH WE ARE THE LORD'S (Rom. 14, 9)

By arbitrarily defining when life begins and death occurs, society has set itself up for self-destruction through abortion and euthanasia. Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska knew through prenatal diagnosis that her fifth child had Down syndrome. Following the birth of their baby Trig, the Palin family issued this statement; "Trig is beautiful and already adored by us. We knew through testing he would face special challenges, and we feel privileged that God would entrust us with this gift and allow us unspeakable joy as he entered our life." (*San Diego Union-Tribune, 4/19/08*)

As assisted suicide laws continue to be proposed, we do well to remember that "there is no more dangerous public policy than transforming killing into a legal and eventually a legitimate, medical treatment. In society today, we have decided that which is moral and good is that which is legal. And once you legalize assisted suicide, it will then be deemed good and moral." (*Euthanasia expert Wesley J. Smith*).

And when does life end? On February 2005, Sara Scantlin of Kansas awoke from the "persistent vegetative state" she had been since a drunk driver hit her in 1984 when she was only 18. Since September 1984, Sara had never uttered a word, her brain so badly

damaged... that experts said she would spend the rest of her life in her own silent world. [Since she woke, her parents] have listened with astonishment as she reels off the names of relatives, former pets, friends from school and dates... A very important part of her case is the fact that throughout her 20 year coma, Sara could see, hear and understand what was going on around her." There are other documented cases like Sara Scantlin. The advocates of "pulling the plug" should remember that it is God who gives life and only He can take it back

SUICIDE - About 29,000 people kill themselves every year in the USA. That is more than 5 times the number of all the US soldiers killed in the Iraq War. More than half a million people attempt suicide, but fail to complete it. Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among 15 to 24-year olds. For unknown reasons, suicide rates among teens - especially girls - are rising. Here are early symptoms of conditions which may lead to suicide:

- Intense feelings of loneliness, depression, or unusual frustration;
- Feeling of being worthless or a failure;
- Isolating oneself;
- Use of drugs or alcohol;
- Copy-cat the example of a friend's suicide;
- Irregular eating or sleeping patterns;
- Mood swings or erratic behavior;
- Withdrawal from family, friends or social activities;
- Preoccupation with death and dying;
- Desire to hurt oneself;
- Decreased interest in personal appearance;
- Lack of interest in hobbies, work, school, or other usual activities
- Giving away prized possessions.