

*“The fight for the right to life is not the cause of a special few, but the cause of every man, woman and child who cares not only about his or her own family, but the whole family of man”-*

*Mildred Fay Jefferson*

Why am I pro-life? I have been asked, or asked myself this question many times as I have journeyed through high school. And contrary to popular opinion, my answer is multi-faceted. I am a strong Catholic and deeply convicted to my faith. But in this increasingly secular and polarized society, the answer must be deeper than that. It seems to me that the world we live in today is trending closer and closer towards a “culture of death”. We live in a world where a woman is *praised* for choosing to abort her unborn child, simply because she did not want it. We live in a world where being *pro-life* is controversial, which makes being it all the more essential.

First and foremost, I believe that life begins at conception and that every life has dignity that should be upheld until natural death. The reason I establish this is because when discussing any topic surrounding the life of a human being, I believe there is- and must be- an absolute truth at the core of the argument. Otherwise, life is subjective and the very definition of life can change from person to person. Without the right to life, there are no other rights that matter. If we cannot guarantee life for our unborn children, or even our elderly, how can we guarantee anything else?

A common misconception when it comes to the word pro-life, is that it only means “pro-birth”. On the contrary, being pro-life encompasses *all* stages of life. It is the belief that everyone deserves, not only a chance at life, but the opportunity for a *good quality* of life. Pro-lifers believe in providing ways for people to better their conditions in life, even if we cannot guarantee it. But, if we allow for people to have a “choice” as to whether *another* person's life

matters, we are denying the one in question a chance. For me, being pro-life is so much deeper than just anti-abortion or anti-capital punishment or anti-euthanasia. Seeing many young women my age celebrating abortion, and yet condemning capital punishment is oxymoronic. I believe that ignorance is what fuels the culture of death, and the only way to get rid of it is to reveal the truth. Which is why I am actively pro life — not only because I believe that life at every stage is valuable, but also because I hope to be an example and lead other people to that truth. It is so dangerous to have a society that throws away human lives that are believed to be less valuable, or unimportant. And it is important to have people that challenge what is accepted in our culture, because *all life* is worth fighting for.