

October 2009

Teachers, parents and students are intimately connected through the education system. Parents count on schools to educate their children. Teachers count on parents to send them their children for education. But are there extra challenges for education today? Is the public environment increasingly anti-child? How will tomorrow's parents be formed if today's parents and potential parents shun the responsibilities of motherhood and fatherhood? Some writers have gained a certain notoriety with their negative views regarding the choice of becoming parents. Is there a disturbing trend toward no children? Is it real? Is it based on wishful thinking or fantasizing? What do the statistics say?

In the October edition of *The Interim Plus* we take a closer look at this issue highlighted in several periodicals and journals in August and September, and creating a stir both in letters to the editor for the newspapers and magazines and online.

macleans.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/mac_cove...

Promoting childlessness, celebrating selfishness

Paul Tuns, *The Interim*, September 2009

Childlessness is becoming more popular and the proof is apparent not only in sub-replacement fertility levels and 100,000 abortions every year in Canada, it is being mainstreamed in the popular culture. *Maclean's* ran a cover story on August 3, entitled, "The Case Against Having Kids."



A new book by French author Corinne Maier, *No Kids, 40 Good Reasons Not to Have Children*, is getting plenty of media attention, including a page 3 feature in the *National Post*. But read between the lines and the argument is not so much against having children, but against becoming parents.

Maier, a mother of two, says people who have

children are not good citizens, because they contribute to some problems afflicting modern society, such as congestion, add to the environmental impact that human beings are allegedly responsible for and per-

haps even encourage war by adding another child to a supposedly over-populated planet. It all sounds pathetically like the cant exhaled by the environmental scaremongers, zero-population growth activists or even voluntary human extinction advocates. But get beyond Maier's citizenship talking points and the real issues are about the impact of children on the parents (mostly the mother), not society.



Most of the 40 "good" reasons Maier provides focus on the costs of children, as in what mothers (might) sacrifice: freedom, money, care-free relationships, unending happiness and much more. The problem with this view is that it both idealizes the life of non-parents and degrades family life. Are childless women really free to do whatever they want, have sex whenever they wish, meet all their financial needs effortlessly and never have a moment that is not entirely blissful? Are parents always miserable, poor, without non-familial relationships and stuck with their children 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

In *No Kids*, Maier admits to regretting having her two children, compares giving birth to torture and breastfeeding to slavery, and states that, "Your kid will inevitably disappoint you." She says children destroy desire within a marriage (how does she explain large families?) and kill adult relationships. She calls family life an "inward-looking prison focused on the child."

On some level, Maier is offering a legitimate cultural criticism of a certain type of parent, who focuses exclusively and unhealthily on the child (usually an only child). But Maier and her adoring press go beyond such criticism to setting up parenting as a complete sacrifice of the self to the child, a phenomenon that does not occur in healthy families.

Among the 40 reasons not to have children, Maier includes "you keep having fun" without them, "you keep your friends," "you avoid becoming a walking pacifier," "your kid will always disappoint you," "kids are conformists," children "signal the end of your youthful dreams," "you can't stop yourself from wanting your kids to be happy" and a number of other selfish reasons.

Maier seems to be celebrating life without responsibility and sacrifice and fails to recognize the joys that children do bring parents. Perhaps that is not surprising. In his 2006 bestseller *Stumbling on Happiness*,

Dan Gilbert reported that, according to surveys, taking care of one's children was among the least satisfying and enjoyable things individuals did, rated only slightly better than lawn care and housework. But asking people about their feelings concerning *taking care* of one's children is not the same as asking whether or not they are happy being parents.

Newer research that scans brain activity finds a strong correlation between thoughts of one's children with positive neural reactions. Another survey reported in *Psychological Science* earlier this year found that when weighing rewards with costs, time with children ranked as the second most worthwhile thing people do. Matthew White and Paul Dolan, two British academics, said, "When reward is also considered, time spent with children is 'relatively' good time."



There are plenty of rewards in having children. The disappointments are usually outweighed by the joys they bring; parents can maintain relationships with other adults and often create new ones with other parents, not to mention the enriching relationships they will have with their children. Rather than "giving up on life," as Maier says, parents embrace it. Maier says it takes "real courage to say 'me first,'" but that sounds like a justification for embracing hedonism, self-illusion and irresponsibility.

Maier's book echoes Mardy Ireland's 1993 academic treatise *Reconceiving Women: Separating Motherhood from Female Identity*, which claims a false dichotomy in her title. Motherhood can be – is designed to be – a part of female identity, but not its entirety. Maier and Ireland sets up a false conflict between child-rearing and self-fulfillment. The lives of mothers change when they have children, not for the worse, but to something different. To diminish the idea of parenting, as the popular media are doing today, is dangerous for both society and women: society, because it is cultural suicide, and women, because it discourages motherhood, which may appear more daunting and joyless in the abstract than it is in practice.

The ideal Maier and her ilk celebrate in rejecting children is to embrace permanent childishness for themselves. That is selfish and irresponsible.

Maclean's August 3 coverage of the Maier book on reasons not to have kids drew copious comments on the online version of Maclean's. Here are some of those comments:

a) *THANK YOU! for publishing this article. I'm 32 and have known since I was 13 that I had NO desire to procreate, and have experienced the shock, dismay and horror of those around me when I state my choice thank you for giving women such as myself the credit, acknowledgment and the acceptance we deserve!*

b) *A society and culture needs to have babies in order to maintain itself. If society does not procreate, it must import the people it needs to continue operating. At the current rate Canada is going, the country we knew 20 years ago will no longer exist in 20 years. How much has our value system deteriorated when it has become acceptable to not want to have children? There are sacrifices to be made when you have children but there are rewards as well. Our culture is producing the most selfish generation in human history which could ultimately lead to the destruction of western culture. Mark Steyn has written about the extensively. The irony is that these people who are not having children for various reasons might not be able enjoy the things they want to if society continues along this path.*



c) *What about the destruction of the planet? Western Culture is selfishness there, dude. With about 28% of world resources consumed by the United States and Canada (containing 4.4% of world population).*

Why is doing what the last generation did a good rubric on which to base a good life? If you don't have children, you are either making a selfless decision in order to help the planet, or you are acknowledging that you would not raise children well. It's a win-win situation.

Most selfish generation? I would say the people who came of age in the 1950s are just as selfish. Just ask

the BC government, who hired boats to make basking sharks locally extinct in order to fund human prosperity.

All the reasons you give are economic, shallow, and lack any kind of critical thinking. You are just an actor in a play. Sentience gives us the ability to observe our position in the world.

Further, there's a degree of narcissism inherent in having children. You are assuming for whatever reason that your values are worth passing on. That is selfishness right there.

d) Certainly the Government has a lot to do with helping this country to grow, of course it needs this new generation of baby boomers to boom as fast and as much as it is possible. Cannot hurt the retirees of the future, we need to have someone keeping this country going at all costs even if that means alluring [?] 13 year olds to give birth, and campaign this as right, don't come to tell me there is no campaign. Maybe explains this new society of zombies and selfishies around, what is best a healthy society of importees, or a sick destructive one?

e) Everyone is entitled to make their own choice, whether to or not to have children. The reasons for either choice are many and complex and they can stem in part from the person's experiences, values, world perspective etc.....

THE main case FOR having kids is exactly what Kerri has said "because they enrich your life more than money, a career, socializing can ever could." Seeing your child grow, learn, develop and become the person 'they' have chosen to become is priceless. Children also teach you and allow you to perceive things in a totally different perspective. The mind of the child can be wise if you carefully listen to them instead of mock them for their 'childish' statements. Children are priceless whether it is to maintain a culture or not.

THE main case FOR NOT having kids is somewhere in the line of what Frank has stated. Look at what is going on in this world.

(1) The "system" is making the parents' ability to raise their children properly more and more difficult by (a) reductions in the duration of maternity / paternity leave OR some people just don't receive a paternity / maternity leave; (b) in today's society parents are made to work longer and longer hours and those that are overworked may not have the time and/or energy to refocus their attention on children after work. BUT, RAISING CHILDREN IS STILL POSSIBLE IF YOU MAKE SACRIFICES.

(2) The "system" has dramatically increased (a) the amount of brainless TV programming aired on TV, (b) the amount of advertisements promoting PC and



console gaming, (c) the amount of imagery on TV and magazines that devalues the human body, (d) the amount of material on TV and magazines that devalues the values originally taught to the children - this is all done to retard your child so that he/she won't be able to obtain higher education in order for the mega corporations to hire young for "cheap" labor. BUT, YOU CAN PREVENT THIS BY APPLYING DISCIPLINE TO YOUR CHILDREN AND TURNING OFF THE TELEVISION.

(3) The "system" tells children that if they are disciplined by their parents they can call child services, giving the naive child and in turn the "system" power to raise brainless children for cheap labor for the rich mega corporations. BUT, IF YOU SACRIFICE YOUR TIME TO RAISE THEM PROPERLY THINGS SHOULD BE FINE.

(4) Even if you teach your child proper and good (family) values, they are in danger of losing those values since they will encounter many more children in school that are brainless (b/c their parents didn't devote enough time to raise them properly) and who are bullies. AGAIN, THIS CAN BE PREVENTED IF YOU KEEP ON COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND TRY TO DIVERT THEM ONTO A GOOD PATH.

(5) The "system" has reduced the level of education, increasing the amount of children that graduate from school with little critical thinking and problem-solving skills making them better candidates for "cheaper" labor for the rich. BUT AGAIN, IF YOU SACRIFICE YOUR TIME TO TEACH THEM WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW AND STAY WITH THEM WHEN THEY DO THEIR HOMEWORK, THINGS SHOULD TURN OUT WELL.

As you read this it sounds that having, raising, and disciplining a child is a hard and a difficult journey. Well, the truth is, YES IT IS, at least because the "system" is making it that way. Thus, everyone has a choice whether they want to embark on such a journey or not. The main problem about having a child is the SYSTEM since it tries to constantly corrupt them. Point out to children that what the system is doing to them is wrong.

f) *Can't imagine life without children..what they bring to your life can never come with just a great career or money!! Really. This isn't even a point for discussion - spend some time with the kids around you to understand what unconditional love really means and the vacuum there is in a life without them!! There's an old saying in my language which crudely translates to - "A monkey can never tell the flavour of Ginger" (coz he's never going to give it a try)...so why even bother discussing this!!*

g) *Wow. Such incredible animosity over someone else's decisions. I saw the article at my doctor's office today and had to write. My husband and I (bappily) don't have a child - and the reasons are many. What I seem to sense in all this anger some people have at childless couples is this: 1) sexism; 2) a desire to make other lives as miserable and conformist as your own; 3) searing jealousy; 4) hidden regrets that you had your own children; and 5) racism - because this talk of the country not being the same in twenty years if young people stop having children, don't you mean it won't be as "white?" Well, it's not all that white as it is, so calm down and let others live their lives.*



An example of the latter can be found at

Barbara Lilley, Mercatornet.com

- Breastfeeding brings you closer to your baby-it is not slavery. Scratch that-feeding your baby brings you closer to your baby-whether breast or bottle-fed
- Children only kill desire in a marriage if you let them – get creative
- Riding the merry-go-round with your children reminds you how to be a kid again
- Little faces that light up when you walk through the door-whether you've been gone for five hours or five minutes
- Snuggling in bed reading together
- Crayon drawings on the refrigerator door
- Swelling with pride at your child's accomplishments-whether it's learning to ride a bike or graduating from high school
- Having someone to pass on family traditions to – or creating new ones
- Mother's Day cards that say, "You're the best Mom in the whole world!"
- Father's Day cards that read, "To the world's greatest Dad!"
- Hugs and kisses, just because

Questions

1. What evidence is there that having children is not as popular today as in the past?
2. Is there a difference between what Tuns states "the argument is not so much against having children, but against becoming parents"?
3. What are some of the reasons that people use to decry having children? Are the arguments economic, sociological, environmental, personal autonomy,
4. Does the anti-child-producing viewpoint degrade family life?
5. Do writers like Maier celebrate "life without responsibility or sacrifice" with their points of view?
6. Why is it dangerous for both society and women "to diminish the idea of parenting, as the popular media are doing today"?
7. Have the students analyze and comment on the letters/emails of people in response to the Macleans' piece. Have them summarize the gist of each comment and then compare and contrast their insightfulness and contribution to understanding the issue and its impact on the well being of Canadian society in particular.
8. Challenge the students to "Make up a list in which you state 20 good reasons for having children".

Godless schools

Rory Leishman, *The Interim*, September 2009

At the beginning of another school year, the parents of children in the public schools of Canada might well earnestly reflect upon what their children are likely to be taught about the vital issues of faith and morality.

Fifty years ago, there was little reason for concern. Parents could have confidence that teachers in the publicly funded Catholic and non-denominational

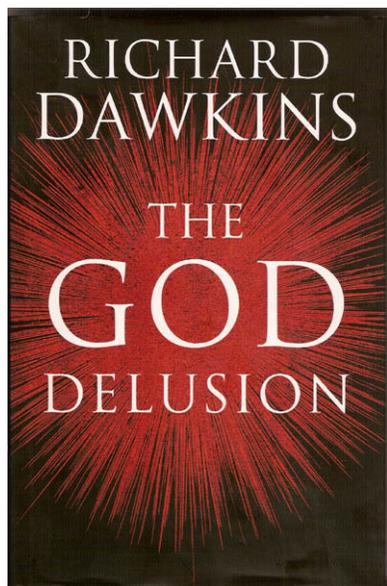
public schools would teach their students to respect the fundamental principles of Judeo-Christian morality that have underpinned the survival and flourishing of Western civilization.

Today, of course, parents can have no such confidence. Thanks to the 1988 ruling of the Ontario Court of Appeal in *Zylberberg vs Sudbury Board of Education*, God was banished from the public schools of Ontario. Prior to *Zylberberg*, every school day in Ontario began with recitations of the Lord's Prayer and readings from sacred Scripture. From time to time, students were also instructed to respect the rules of morality as summarized in the Ten Commandments and ordained by God for our well-being.

At the request of parents, students were exempted from the classroom during these explicitly religious exercises, but that is not good enough for the judicial activists who have dominated public policy in Canada for the past 25 years. First in Ontario, but soon in all other provinces, these overweening judges decreed that the longstanding practice of offering optional religious exercises in the public schools violated the guarantee of freedom of religion in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Those rulings are entirely illegitimate. There is nothing in the language or the history of the Charter to suggest that it was intended to banish God from the classroom. Nonetheless, our elected legislators have gone along with this judicial distortion of the Charter. As a result, instead of expounding the principles of Judeo-Christian morality, teachers in the public schools are now required to try to teach their students to be good without God.

That's fine with atheists like Richard Dawkins. In



his bestseller, *The God Delusion*, he asks: "Is it always wrong to put a terminally ill patient out of her misery at her own request? Is it always wrong to make love to a member of your own sex? Is it always wrong to kill an embryo?"

Dawkins thinks not. "Fortunately," he writes, "morals do not have to be absolute."

In the past, teachers in the public schools would have disagreed.

They could have been counted upon to explain to students that it is always wrong to kill deliberately an innocent human being or to indulge in sexual inter-

course outside the bonds of marriage between a man and a woman.

Today, any teacher who insists on teaching such moral truths to students in the public schools could be fired.

Not even the publicly funded Catholic schools can still be relied upon to uphold the traditional principles of Judeo-Christian morality as expounded in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The problem is that all too many teachers and supervisors in the Catholic schools have been imbued at university with essentially the same value-relativism as their counterparts in the secular public schools.

Moreover, it's not just our publicly funded schools and universities that have been morally debased. Today's young people are also steadily bombarded with immoral exhibitions on prime-time television and through the internet.

What, then, can be done? Tens of thousands of Christian parents, both Catholic and Protestant, have abandoned the publicly funded schools in favour of providing their children with a morally enlightened and comprehensive education at home.

Other parents have resorted to private Christian schools, while many seem to hope that regular attendance at Sunday school will counteract the pervasive influence of value relativism. Neither of these approaches is sufficient.



Homeschooling in at least the fundamental tenets of Judeo-Christian morality is essential to providing today's children with a solid grounding in moral truth. Instead of relying entirely on the church and the schools, parents must provide systematic instruction in the home on the basic tenets of both faith and morality, if they are to have any reasonable hope that their children will grow up with the vital protection of a clear

understanding of the difference between what is right and what is wrong.

Questions

1. What was significant about the “1988 ruling of the Ontario Court of Appeal in *Zylberberg vs Sudbury Board of Education*”?
2. Was the court ruling based on the Charter? What section? What arguments were used?
3. Was this the safe thing for the judges to do given the pluralistic/multicultural nature of Canadian society today?
4. Is there no place for religious observance in public schools?
5. If the students cannot receive such moral grounding at school where do they get their notions of right and wrong?

Empty schools. Wonder why?

Paul Tuns, *The Interim*, September 2009

Last month, the *National Post* reported that one in five schools in the Toronto public school system is at least 40 per cent empty and that the board hopes to save \$10-15 million by consolidating or closing some of those institutions. West Toronto Collegiate cancelled its Grade 9 program this year because there were too few students enrolled in first-year high school. As Toronto District School Board chairman John Campbell succinctly put it: “We have too many schools and not enough students.” He says 110 schools are “under-subscribed,” which is a nice way of saying they are nowhere near capacity, partly due to the 4,000 students the board loses every year.

This is part of a larger trend. According to People for Education, there are 90,000 fewer students enrolled in Ontario public and separate schools today as compared to 2002. By 2013, there will be 45,000 fewer students than today – the equivalent of 100 empty schools. Up to 150 schools are expected to close within the next year or so across the province. Some parents are removing their children from state-run schools in favour of homeschooling or private schools. But that is only a small percentage. Furthermore, these decreases take into account the growing number of immigrant children in Ontario’s large cities.

Of course, the schools do not “lose” students. They have been missing for years. They were lost to abortion. In Ontario, there are about 40,000 abortions each and every year. No wonder there are fewer students. The *Toronto Star* called for “creative thinking on school closings.” One bold way to stanch the school closures

in the near future would be to drastically reduce or eliminate abortion, yet most teacher’s unions support legal abortion.

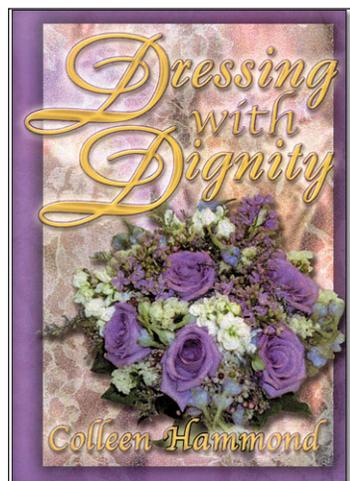
The problem is not unique to Ontario. Schools are closing everywhere and, while the reasons for this are multiple and complex, the prevalence of abortion in Canada – more than 100,000 abortions annually – goes a long way to explaining why classrooms are emptying. You would think politicians and teachers’ unions could do the math: subtracting 100,000 children from the education system adds up to school closures and fewer teachers

Questions

1. There are facts in the article above. Should the facts be troubling? To Whom? Why?
2. Why does the mass media ignore these kinds of facts?
3. Why do they never make the necessary connection between the practice of abortion and the reduction of school enrolments?

Skin no longer in – dressing modestly at school

Jenna Murphy, excerpts from *The Interim* article, September 2009



...Dr. Laura Schlessinger, an award-winning American radio talk show host ... threw her name behind Colleen Hammond’s book, *Dressing with Dignity*...

Dr. Laura writes, “Don’t be mistaken: being ‘modest’ doesn’t mean dressing ‘frumpy.’ Colleen shows you how to create a tasteful style that accentuates the grace and beauty of your femininity. There is a

difference between dressing attractively and dressing to attract and, with Colleen’s help, you’ll be able to dress fashionably while still maintaining your dignity!”

...In a March 2009 article titled, “Retailers widen options, including more modest clothes” a *USA Today* columnist wrote about the incoming modesty wave thought to be largely caused by, but probably not limited to, the economic crisis.

Though seasoned fashionistas can’t quite say for sure whether the modesty trend is morally or fiscally based, one thing is sure: risk-taking is losing its allure in more



than the financial world.

“It’s not because of a moral revival, but about sensibility,” says Ken Nisch, chairman of retail brand and design firm JGA. “What’s provocative has often been ultra trendy and it just doesn’t make sense to buy things you

can’t wear for a lot of occasions anymore.”

...Many say that modesty as a form of self-control (temperance) is the bottom rung of a much larger framework and that, at the risk of sounding dramatic, in its absence, we would see a cultural collapse.....

Or at the very least, consider what one commenter on Dr. Laura’s website said: “If clothing is just another form of ‘self-expression,’ well, we all know what sexy clothes are expressing.” The same commenter noted that the clothes a person wears send certain signals to others, including members of the opposite sex. What signals are you sending with the clothes you wear?

Questions

1. What responsibility do parents, teenagers have with respect to clothing fashions?
2. Who is Dr. Laura Schlesinger? Is she a reliable advisor on fashion? Would Hollywood celebrities be more credible? Why or why not?
3. If there is a move towards more modest fashions, what accounts for it?
4. Do people consciously think about the signals that they are sending with the clothes they wear? How is this a problem in general society? In high school?

Many vaccines use aborted baby tissue

Tony Gosgnach, *The Interim*, October 2009

It is time to say “enough is enough” with respect to “the worst type of cannibalism you can imagine” – the use of aborted fetal cell lines in vaccines. That was the message brought by one of the world’s leading activists on the issue, who appeared at the annual meeting of the Dunnville Right to Life organization in Dunnville, Ont. on Sept. 18. Speaking on the topic of, “Vaccines From Abortion: The Hidden Truth,” Debra Vinnedge,

executive director of the Children of God for Life organization, said humanity has become complacent with regard to these crimes over the past 30 years.

“The pharmaceutical industry has imported, exported, exploited and profited using hundreds of innocent aborted babies. And they continue to do so in the present ... The pharmaceutical industry believes you accept it and don’t care, so why bother doing anything about it or changing? They don’t admit the fact that nobody really knows about this.”

From the pro-life point of view, the situation may look grim, but giving up is not an option, even though she considered doing so herself at times.

Despite the bleak picture, Vinnedge offered a catalogue of heartening successes that have been achieved since the issue of aborted fetal cell use in vaccines was taken up by Children of God for Life and others in the 1990s. A Campaign for Ethical Vaccines, for example, has garnered some 630,000 signatures and has shaken up the Merck pharmaceutical company to the point that it has had to address the issue at its shareholder meetings. Children of God for Life has worked closely with Human Life International in this effort. Hundreds of thousands of brochures advising people of which vaccines use aborted fetal cell lines have been distributed throughout the world and close monitoring continues as new vaccines come onto the market. A pro-life physicians database has been established, so that patients working with certain physicians can be assured that products they are administering carry no aborted fetal cells. However, Vinnedge pointed out that the database needs a vast expansion in Canada.

A victory was achieved, following a concerted letter-writing campaign, in ensuring that the U.S. smallpox vaccine would be moral in nature and not use aborted fetal cells. Merck has agreed to begin reoffering a moral measles and mumps vaccine beginning in 2011.

Canada saw a victory when Canadian Physicians for Life and Children of God for Life worked together to see a moral polio vaccine begin to be offered in this country. Companies such as AVM Biotechnology and the Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute are poised to offer exclusively moral products, including a chicken pox vaccine for the world.

And efforts continue on a number of other fronts, including the seeking of protection for religious rights, a Fair Labelling and Informed Consent Act for those products that use aborted fetal cells, labelling for pro-life certified products and investigation into the possible link between the use of aborted fetal cells in vaccines and the striking rise in incidents of autism.

Vinnedge said the rise in autism rates exactly parallels the increase in the use of aborted fetal cells in vaccines. Although links between vaccines and autism have focused more on ingredients such as thimerosal/

mercury and formaldehyde, she offered the anecdotal account of one doctor who has used no aborted fetal cells in vaccines he has administered and consequently has found no incidents of autism in any of his young patients.

The challenge is that the number of aborted fetal products continues to increase. More vaccines are in development than ever. There are more abortions for such purposes and more trafficking in fetal parts.

It all started with the earliest “vaccine martyrs,” those preborn babies carrying names such as WI-38, WI-26, MRC-5, IMR-90, IMR-91, ATK-293 and PERC-6, who were sacrificed on the altar of vaccine development in times when abortion was even illegal. Vinnedge noted more than 80 abortions were committed to produce the rubella vaccine alone.

“Such an abortion has to be prearranged. There must be someone there immediately to take the baby and preserve the cells, tissues and organs,” she said.

The evil sometimes carries its own backlash. The ATK-293 cell line, for example, has been found to produce cancer, while PERC-6, derived from the retinal tissue of an 18-week gestation baby, has produced cancer in mice given the vaccine produced from it.

Children of God for Life counsels concerned citizens to ask their doctors to supply ethical vaccines, support

fair labelling and informed choice legislation on medical products and let pharmaceutical companies know how they feel. More information is available at Children of God for Life’s website: www.cogforlife.org. “Sometimes it seems there’s nothing any of us can do to make a difference,” said Vinnedge. “But you can never have that final victory, that crown, without the cross.”

Questions

1. “The pharmaceutical industry has imported, exported, exploited and profited using hundreds of aborted babies.” Why is this fact not known by most people?
2. Who or what is the Children of God for Life organization? Has it had any impact on this issue of fetal cell lines being used in the development of vaccines?
3. What controls need to be in place to better govern this vaccine development?
4. Should people be concerned about the findings of this organization?
5. Is there enough discussion of this issue in medical, political and social quarters?

The Father Ted Colleton Scholarship

We are happy to announce that the **Father Ted Colleton Scholarship** program is renewed.

Now entering its eighth year it offers senior high school students the opportunity to learn about life issues through an essay-writing contest. Application form, contest details and essay evaluation rubric may be requested by contacting, via e-mail: dirocco@theinterim.com The applicants must submit (**preferably by email**) a typed original essay, (approximately 800-1000 words in length) **postmarked no later than December 8, 2009** on the following topic:

The culture of death is all-pervasive, arising in one little corner and then engulfing the whole culture. Demonstrate whether there is a real link between contraception, abortion, embryonic stem cell research and euthanasia.

There are three prizes: **\$1500 first prize, \$800 second prize and \$500 third prize**. The writing contest co-sponsored by *The Interim* newspaper and Niagara Region RTL is a determining factor in the awarding of the scholarships. The winners will be declared by January 31, 2010.

