

LOVE *unleashes life*

July-August 2016

Dear Friends,

In July I gave two euthanasia pro-life apologetics presentations to **over 300 people in Calgary and Windsor** (photo, below, is of me with some of the team from Windsor Essex County Right to Life who sponsored the latter presentation)! My friend Victor Panlilio kindly recorded one of the talks, so if you'd like to watch and learn, you can view the presentation by going to Love Unleashes Life's Youtube channel: www.youtube.com/stephaniegrayloveunleasheslife



One audience member wrote, “Thank you for your presentation on euthanasia. I loved the chart you presented and for us all to reach out to the suffering and to obtain proper care. **I am a retired nurse and your presentation gave me hope.** I loved the creative thinking of having the intergenerational support systems. Children playing with the elderly, love and caring, and being a family. We need more of those systems in society today. An uplifting presentation.”

Another said, “**Now I feel prepared to talk.**”

And yet another said, “Your presentation was so personally impactful for me. My mother is 87 and

lives in a care facility and does bring up your five reasons on a regular basis. **Thank you for talking about the responses as I have a better idea on how to deal with this now.**”

Then, in early August (as well as June) I did a 1-hour call-in program on Catholic Answers Radio, imparting pro-life apologetics to listeners in their cars around the US and on their computers around the world. One caller, Nick, identified as a pro-choice atheist. Applying the tactics of **finding common ground, making analogies, and asking questions**, I successfully challenged Nick to reconsider his view. If you'd like to read the transcript of our exchange, it's on the back of this newsletter. The audio files of that program and 14 other ones I've done can be heard online at this link: www.catholic.com/browse/pro-life/all/Stephanie%20Gray/all

These exchanges not only help the people I directly speak with, but also those listening in. One person recently wrote, “Your work in debates and framing questions from pro-choicers is inspiring, and **extremely helpful.**”

Thanks to your support, I'm able to do these interviews and presentations, writing and consulting for various pro-life organizations. Since some venues are only able to partially compensate for my speaking (and some not at all), your financial support enables me to do the work regardless. And so, would you be able to make a donation this summer? Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity ☺

As for what's next, this fall I will be reaching **thousands of people in ten cities over three countries.** And I'm already booking into next year—see more at www.stephaniegray.info/events/

Thank you for your support. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Stephanie Gray

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Partial transcript from when I was on Catholic Answers Radio June 10 answering questions about abortion. Note how in the face of a question, I responded by entering into dialogue: asking questions, making analogies, and identifying common ground.

Nick: “I’m wondering what gives you guys the right to decide whether a woman is able to keep or abort her child?”

Me: “Okay, Nick, thanks for your question. If you don’t mind me engaging you in dialogue as I attempt to answer it for you, you just mentioned about her ability to abort and you used the phrase, ‘her child.’ Do you believe the pre-born child is indeed a human being?”

Nick: “Well it depends on the measure of uh, neuro, um, connections in the brain, because that’s what gives somebody consciousness...at a certain development of age the baby will have enough neuro conceptors [sic] to be able to have consciousness, but there’s a point where the baby does not and therefore I do not consider it a human being.”

Me: “Okay, well you are correct there’s a point where the pre-born child does not have consciousness. Would you agree that there are cases where born people can, for example, temporarily lose their consciousness? So you could be in a coma; you could be under anesthetic having surgery; so would you agree that there are times where people who are born are not conscious?”

Nick: [pause] “Yes, I do agree with that.”

Me: “Okay, and I agree as well. I think it’s obvious, and we both can agree to that. My question for you though is, in light of that, would you say when there are born human beings who aren’t conscious, such as someone who is having their wisdom teeth removed and they’re under anesthetic, would you say at the time that person is not conscious that the person is no longer a human being?”

Nick: [pause] “No, I would still say that’s probably a human being.”

Me: “Okay, and I would agree with you on that. And so, would it then be reasonable to conclude that it’s possible for someone to be biologically of the species homo sapiens, but not capable to act on a very human

behavior, such as consciousness, due to various factors?”

Nick: “You know what? That’s a brilliant answer. Um, so, one more question real quick: If it’s part of God’s will, if God has a divine plan that we’re all following, then how does that fall with abortion? I mean, didn’t He plan that? Didn’t He let that happen?”

Me: “Another good question. I appreciate your intellectual honesty, Nick. In terms of, ‘If abortion happens, does God let that happen?’ In terms of free will, what that means is God gives us the *ability* to choose. It doesn’t mean that when we choose He necessarily desires that. So, for example, if you were to say to a 5-year-old, ‘You can choose the chocolate bar or you can choose the marshmallow,’ now maybe you personally want to eat the chocolate bar so you hope the kid chooses the marshmallow, but you don’t tell them what you want, you just give the child the freedom to choose. Now if the child chooses the chocolate bar does that mean you *willed* them to choose the chocolate bar?”

Nick: “No. I see what you’re saying. One thing real quick: I actually grew up Catholic, but I’m actually an atheist. I do have to say you have put some of the questions that have been really hard for me actually into very good light, so thank you for that. You actually answered the questions better than any priest I’ve ever asked has.” [Side note: I wish Nick knew the many wise priests I know who have *great* answers!]

Me: “Well thank you, Nick. I appreciate your humility and intellectual honesty. I just encourage you, Nick, to keep asking questions, and to actually not be afraid of the questions... I went through a period in college where... a lot of people asked me questions I didn’t have answers for, and it set me on a journey to seek those answers, and I did find them...even if you feel you’re an atheist now, keep asking the questions, keep looking for them, and if you feel someone doesn’t give you a good answer, ask someone else, and keep looking. I have found through my personal experience that those answers are there.”

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