

## **EMILY'S LIST speech by Babette Francis, Director of Endeavour Forum**

In Jeremiah, Ch. 1 vs. 5 it is written: "Before I formed thee in the womb I knew thee and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations".

We may not all be prophets but we are all called to bear witness to the sanctity of life in the womb. **It is the defining moral issue of our time.** So I am grateful to Dr. Hilary Moroney for this opportunity to do so, and to tell you about the betrayal of unborn children by the most dangerous 'faction' in the Australian Labor Party, the women who comprise "**Emily's List**". We hear a great deal about the right, left and centre factions, but "**Emily's List**" exerts an influence on the ALP out of all proportion to its numbers.

Many people have no idea what "**Emily's List**" means nor are they aware of its destructive influence. In my suburban paper there was a news item advertising a theatrical production and it was mentioned that funds raised would be donated to "**Emily's List**". Some people would in good faith attend the theatre, unaware of what they were supporting.

The acronym "**Emily**" stands for **Early Money Is Like Yeast**. First established in the United States, "**Emily's List**" is a feminist organisation which provides money, training and mentoring support to have pro-abortion women elected to parliament. It functions within the Democrat Party in the US and the ALP in Australia. **Emily's List** candidates also support "equity", i.e. the preferential hiring and promotion of women in jobs even though there may be better qualified men, and it also supports "diversity", meaning homosexual "rights".

In Australia "**Emily's List**" was founded by ex-premiers, Joan Kirner of Victoria, and Carmen Lawrence of Western Australia. It claims 3000 members and that it has helped 122 women into state and federal parliaments. **Candy Broad, MLC for Northern Victoria**, who introduced a Bill in the Victorian Legislative Council to decriminalize abortion is a member of "**Emily's List**", and Joan Kirner was one of the driving forces behind the Bill.

Candy Broad's Bill was withdrawn when Mr. Brumby, Premier of Victoria, referred the issue of decriminalising abortion to the Victorian Law Reform Commission. The VLRC recently tabled a Report recommending three possibly Models for decriminalising abortion. Models A and B had some minor restraints on abortions after the 24th week of pregnancy, i.e. the

decision was to be in consultation with a doctor, but Model C had no restraints whatsoever, i.e. a woman could demand an abortion at any time during the 9 months of pregnancy. Not even the horrific procedure of partial-birth abortion, now outlawed in the USA, was banned under this model.

I mention the Victorian Law Reform Commission Report because it is their Model C which "**Emily's List**" favours. Nothing less than completely open slather on the unborn child will satisfy them.

**Kath Woolf**, President of the ACT Right to Life Association, who is here today, says Candy Broad's male ALP colleagues, some of whom had indicated they would not support her Bill but would consider a different Bill, "either do not understand, or do not wish to acknowledge the influence of the pro-abortion women in all our parliaments. A core strength in these women's ranks are those pro-abortion women who are supported in their careers by "**Emily's List** from pre-selection right through to Cabinet positions. In power these successful candidates owe allegiance to the "**Emily's List**" agenda".

Mrs. Woolf goes on to say: "They, even more dangerously, are the strong glue for the cross-party women's [pro-abortion] alliances so clearly demonstrated in the federal legislative initiatives of 2006: the 'Lockhart Bills' [on embryo experimentation and cloning], the RU-486 regulatory regime [taking authority away from Health Minister, Tony Abbott], and the attempted silencing of pregnancy support groups by punitive measures, which is still on-going.

"If their Labor colleagues expect some consultation or consideration for the Party's standing on a divisive topic they are living in another universe. The alliance between "**Emily's List**" Labor women in all Australian parliaments and non-Labor pro-abortion women MPs is growing stronger all the time; their weapon of choice is the Private Member's bill. Major parties can dodge making policy decisions defending core values by subsequently offering a 'conscience' vote".

One could add to Mrs. Woolf's list of the anti-life activities of "**Emily's List**" and their allies in other parties, the pressure currently being exerted on the Rudd government to include abortion funding in Australia's overseas aid. Currently AusAid funds cannot be used for abortion or abortion-related services. Women in developing countries need access to clean water and health care during pregnancy and childbirth - instead "**Emily's List**" in conjunction with the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development wants to use AusAid to kill their unborn children. If they succeed, some

AusAid money will go the UN Fund for Population Activities in China which imposes compulsory abortion on women after one child, and where girl-babies are selectively aborted and even killed after birth. It is symbolic that **Your Kingdom Come** is being held on the very day that the Olympic Games begin in China, a country which should not have been awarded the Games in view of its appalling human rights violations.

**Emily's List** won't tolerate ANY restrictions on abortion, even on viable full-term babies. Andrew Bolt in the Herald Sun (25.7.07), pointed out that Broad's Bill had been motivated by the controversy surrounding the abortion of Jessica, the 32-weeks gestation baby, wrongly suspected of 'dwarfism'. This is the only case in decades in which abortionists may have had to face charges - in fact they did not, and nor have the abortionists of the other 20,000 abortions performed yearly in Victoria.

Just how committed **Emily's List** is to late-term abortion is illustrated by what happened in the US to Democrat Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana. Senator Landrieu is "pro-choice", but she did vote for the US Congress's ban on partial birth abortion. The US Supreme Court in upholding the ban stated: "a moral, medical and ethical consensus exists that the practice of performing a partial-birth abortion .... is a gruesome and inhumane procedure that is never medically necessary and should be prohibited".

In 1996 when Landrieu first ran for the US Senate, **Emily's List** donated \$112,000 to her campaign, but cut her off from any funding in the 2002 elections after she voted for the ban on partial-birth abortions. To have the financial and political support of **Emily's List**, a candidate must support the abortion of a full-term baby right up to the moment of birth.

I don't know how many of you are familiar with the infamous *Dred Scott v Sanford* slavery case in the 19th century, but the parallels with abortion in the 21st century are striking. In 1857 a black slave, Dred Scott, sued his "owner", John Sanford, to be freed. The judges found that blacks were property and not entitled to the rights of US citizens. Their decision read, in part:

"Can a negro, whose ancestors were imported into this country, and sold as slaves, become a member of the political community formed and brought into existence by the Constitution of the United States, and as such become entitled to all the rights, and privileges, and immunities, guaranteed by that instrument to the citizen?.....We think they are not, and that they are not included, and were not intended to be included, under the word 'citizens' in the Constitution, and can therefore claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument

provides for and secures to citizens of the United States. On the contrary, they were at that time considered as a subordinate and inferior class of beings, who had been subjugated by the dominant race, and, whether emancipated or not, yet remained subject to their authority, and had no rights or privileges but such as those who held the power and the Government might choose to grant them....."

Just as blacks were once considered property, so now unborn children are considered to be the property of their mothers, to be disposed of as they choose. These babies are referred to as fetuses, they are not regarded as human beings or persons and they have no rights. And what is chilling, just as "learned" essays were written in the 19th century about whether blacks were three-fifths or three-quarters human, so now the fetus once it is 24 weeks old is regarded as partly human.

But there is some good news on the horizon. The Australian Democrats who provided much of the cross-party glue for pro-abortion female MPs, are no longer in Parliament. The Culture of Death has overtaken them as a party. And Fr. Gerard Wilberforce, great-great grandson of William Wilberforce who campaigned to free slaves, supports a campaign to end abortion. He told the Colorado Equal rights campaign:

"Two hundred years ago William Wilberforce campaigned on behalf of slaves who were not treated as human beings. Today society does not treat the beginnings of human life as persons who demand our respect. Abortion is widespread because people do not consider the unborn to be worthy of legal protection. Those who are working for the rights of the unborn could therefore look to the example of the abolitionists and take heart. It may not come immediately but good people will eventually change the law. People will then look back and ask how it was that abortions were ever committed. In the same way we look back in horror at the evils of slavery. God bless all of you who work for no reward but only to see justice prevail for those least able to defend themselves."

## **PRAYER**

We ask God our Father for forgiveness that we have allowed the most wondrous and sacred human space, the womb, to become a place of unutterable violence? Is it because of greed, and exploitation? We ask forgiveness that we have not done enough to show support and compassion for pregnant women and families struggling with difficulties.

Lord, in Deuteronomy 21 we learn that there is no such thing as the “private” shedding of innocent blood and that whenever someone is murdered, that is everyone’s concern, and everyone must answer for it. Therefore You commanded that when a body was found slain out in the country, there should be a public ceremony, and the people should ask forgiveness, even if they did not do the killing. This gathering here is such a ceremony and we ask forgiveness for the killing of the unborn that is done with our money and that we have not done enough to prevent it.

Lord, we pray for the mothers and babies in China who suffer under the one-child policy, and for the fathers also who can do little to protect their children.

The Lord is our Shepherd - tender Shepherd of the flock, these unborn children now lie cradled in Your love. Comfort us with the hope that they live with you and Your Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

We are the People of Life - Lord help us to try again to protect the living and honour the dead. Although politics does not bring about the Kingdom of God, it must be concerned for the right kingdom of human beings, We pray that all that are in authority create the preconditions for peace at home and abroad and for a rule of law that will permit everyone as in 1 Timothy, Ch. 2: 2, "to lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty in every way".

Lord, we beseech Thee to defeat the mounting forces of anti-life, and to enlighten those who walk in this deadly way that they may see the enormity of their sin and return to the generous observance of the divine law. We pray for mothers that they may prize the privilege of motherhood and that they may bring up their children in the holy love and fear of God.

Lord, this is a model of a 11-weeks gestation baby. When we feel discouraged, may we remember that in Isaiah Ch. 49, v.15 it is written: "Can a woman forget her child that she not have compassion on the fruit of her womb? Yes they may forget yet will I not forget thee. Behold I have carved thee upon the palms of My hands".

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, for ever and ever Amen.

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