

Letters to the Editor

Placards sent out powerful message

To the editor:

I read, with interest, and understanding how Cindy Dionne was upset with the graphic placards of aborted babies and the fact that her three-year-old son was subjected to them in Cornwall on Monday.

I, too, passed by with my youngest daughter who just turned 17.

I was initially shocked by the pictures as well and thought, "Abortion is a terrible wrong but I don't think this will work."

I've always believed in the old adage, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

Then my daughter broke the silence. "That's awful; as if anyone aborts babies that size."

I told her women and doctors do and it is allowed by law. These terrible pictures are real, not drawn by someone's imagination.

She couldn't believe it. I asked her what she thought abortion was. She replied that she thought it was only done very early when there was nothing there.

"Like a glob?" I asked. "Yes," she said, "like a glob, with no life, no feelings. This is what everyone my age thinks."

At that moment I felt like a failure as her mom because I have been volunteering at Birthright for more than 20 years. Here we counsel girls

and women and offer them alternatives to abortion, always with unconditional love no matter what they choose.

I have spoken to students and clubs but I had failed to educate my youngest on the facts.

I explained to her the heart of a fetus starts beating 18 days after conception in that tiny "blob." At 11

weeks a pre-born baby is fully recognizable with all parts working. A seven week-old pre-born's heart rate increases when anything is inserted in its home.

They experience more pain than children and adults because the brain is not developed enough to accept it. Pain killers do not work effectively for the same reason. Little cameras have shown how the heart races and how the tiny one moves away from the vacuum apparatus during an abortion procedure.

When a saline solution is used, the salt literally burns the skin off the little one and eats up the life.

When a baby is full term, he or she is manipulated to come out feet first. This full term baby is pulled out by the feet until the base of the skull is visible. At this point the doctor uses a scalpel or scissors to puncture the base of the skull and suck out the brain contents.

All this is allowed in our beautiful country, the true North, strong and free.

It is easy to understand why women and girls in terrible anguish over an unplanned, difficult pregnancy and with lack of knowledge might abort for economic, social or medical reasons.

What is harder to comprehend is how educated doctors will recommend or perform abortions.

We need education! We need to show compassion and support to girls and women in difficult situations. We need government support for alternatives to abortions. We need to appreciate that all life is beautiful.

We must believe that every woman has the right to give birth and that every baby has the right to be born.

I am grateful to Show the Truth for these disturbing placards, the opportunity to have this discussion with my daughter, and for the realization we can't take for granted that our children just know these things. Each son or daughter must be individually educated.

Perhaps Dionne could gently remind her son how lucky he is to be in a loving protected environment because the day he was born 288 other babies were aborted in Canada. This count does not include out-of-country abortions or those done in private clinics.

Perhaps we all need a little vinegar in our diet once in a while.

**Helen Sloan,
Williamstown**

"We can't take for granted that our children just know these things."