

My Pro-Life Parents and What They Mean to Me

BY Dee Dee Gatton

I am proud to say that my family defends innocent life, whether it be the unborn child in the womb or the fragile elderly patient in a nursing home. I am blessed to be able to say that both my parents work for National Right to Life, the world's premier pro-life organization. Because of their example, I am proud to say that I am pro-life.

By watching my parents' commitment, I have come to understand the true meaning of love, the importance of putting the needs of others before my own, and the privilege to make sacrifices. My parents have found true happiness in their lives, fighting for something dear to their hearts.

They have taught me that individuals are connected by an inherent goodness and bound together by Christ's love. They have taught me the importance of recognizing my responsibility to protect my unborn brothers and sisters, bounded to them by a greater being.

Out of love for God's creations, my parents, like countless others across America, have dedicated their lives to fighting for the unborn. Like the children of millions of other dedicated pro-lifers, I am constantly inspired by their selfless work.

I have followed my parents to National Right to Life's annual Conventions. From the lakes of Minnesota to the beaches in Florida, from Arizona to Louisiana, I've been blessed for having met devoted pro-life speakers, senators, writers, authors, actors, doctors, and lawyers.

I've tried to be a pro-life beacon in my own way. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to conduct my own workshops at the conventions and attending the National Teens for Life's Pro-Life Leadership Summit.

At my church, I've helped organize and conduct a pro-life youth rally every year, the night before the March for Life, which brings pro-lifers together from around the United States. The night is filled with prayer and testimonials

I have gone through many medical struggles in my 16 years. Maybe that is why I am very sensitive to how dangerous it is to be considered "less than perfect," whether this be the preborn child diagnosed with a malady or an elderly woman whose "quality of life" is deemed inadequate by some.

Perhaps that person will be born with injuries or was conceived at an "inconvenient" time. No matter what the circumstances, every life is a gift, and no one has the right to take that gift away. Everyone should be given the opportunity to dream of the future...to learn...to appreciate all that the world has to offer.

More than I can put into words, I admire my parents for what they are doing. Proud to serve as a voice for the unborn, my parents have instilled in me an appreciation for the dignity and sanctity of all life.

The fight has been long and difficult, but someday it will have a victorious conclusion. Together we battle against this culture of death. Together, we will win.