

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> is recognized as Sanctity of Human Life Day. The recognition of this day goes back to a Presidential proclamation given by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. He set the date to correspond to the anniversary of the Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision made 11 years earlier.

Actress Michelle Williams recently turned some heads when she won a Golden Globe award and promptly credited her right to get an abortion as being a factor in the success of her acting career. But, one might ask, How does a person know that career success is a more valuable good than the life of one's own child?

Certainly if someone were asked to forfeit the life of their 10 year old so that they could win an award, most thinking people would find the suggestion repulsive and abhorrent. The whole transaction sounds eerily like a Faustian bargain where one sells their soul to the devil in exchange for an earthly, temporal prize.

The abortion debate was given a jolt this last year with the release of the movie, 'Unplanned'. This movie was based on the real-life story of Abby Johnson who was a Planned Parenthood director and later became a pro-life advocate.

Abby's whole outlook changed on September 26, 2009 - when a visiting doctor to her clinic insisted on performing sonogram assisted abortions. Abby was needed to run the sonogram machine and was chilled by what she saw.

Abby said, "As I stood watching, a thirteen-week-old unborn child struggled and lost its life within its mother's womb, finally crumpling and disappearing into the cannula, a hollow plastic tube attached to the suction machine by a flexible hose."

She added, "I was just in shock. I couldn't believe what I was watching. And the baby was actually making some progress. It was moving further and further away from the instrument, so much so the doctor had to reposition the cannula. And he finally got everything in place, and he asked the technician to turn on the suction, and she did. In just, a few moments, I saw the child's body begin to go through that tube."

"For those few moments I was watching this child fight hard for its life. It didn't have a chance. We had all those instruments and all that technology, and that little baby didn't have a fighting chance, and it did fight."

Abby adds: "I walked out of the room that day realizing, 'I've got to make a change. I'm never going to participate in this again.'"

Let's continue to support crisis pregnancy centers. Let's celebrate the sanctity of human life this week. Let's honor the God who gave us this gift we call life. Ps. 139:14 - 'I will give thanks to Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.'