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### Respect Life Essay

Every person's life is sacred and should be treated with respect and dignity. The life a woman carries in her womb is precious, from the moment of conception to natural death. As Catholics, we should always be ready to defend our faith and beliefs, especially on the subject of abortion. Many different people have many different views and opinions, but we are still supposed to respect them and treat them with love as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Saying that you are prolife also means that you are pro woman. At any time in our lives, a best friend could ask us for our help. Your friend did not mean to get pregnant, but she did. She is considering abortion and she asks what you think. So many things are filling her mind. *Why choose life? How will having this baby affect me? Am I making the right decision?* The simple things you say to your friend could impact her, and the baby's, entire life. Reprimanding her and admonishing what she has done will not help. Showing that you care and explaining how every child is a gift from God might help.

Choosing life is accepting and saying yes to God. Having an abortion is avoiding the responsibility and rejecting His priceless gift. Every time an abortion is performed, it is deliberately taking away an innocent baby's life. Most people do not realize what an abortion is. They don't know that, all in a couple months, the fetus had formed arms, legs, a head, and its heart is already beating.

I would tell my friend about the fetus in her womb. *Is it alive? What makes it alive?* When the baby starts to practice breathing patterns for the first time, it is in the womb, about eight weeks after conception. Genesis 2:7 says, "The Lord God

breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.” As soon as the baby takes their first breath, they are alive.

I would approach my friend with kindness and show that I would always be there for her. I would help her and her baby whenever she needed me. She should know that the priceless gift in her womb is not hers to take away from the world. God sent the baby to her and hoped she would accept the child with love. “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.” Psalm 127:3