



### Life Newsbytes

An analysis from the Christian Institute in England shows that more than six million abortions have been done on unborn babies in the United Kingdom since abortion was legalized in 1967. Anthony Ozimic, of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, says the numbers are even higher if the full UK is considered: “If ... (Scotland and Northern Ireland) are taken into account, then the figure is over 7.5 million abortions,” he noted. He also clarifies that abortion is still technically not legal, even though abortion is fully available in practice. “Indeed, abortion is not ‘legal’ in any part of the UK,” he notes. “Abortion is a crime under sections 58 and 59 of the Offences Against The Person Act 1861. The Abortion Act 1967 did not make abortion legal but merely provided automatic exonerated from prosecution for the crime of abortion if the Act’s conditions were followed. In Northern Ireland, the Abortion Act does not apply and abortion is only allowed in exceptional (in reality non-existent) circumstances under disputed case-law.” (*LifeNews.com*, 8/10/12)

### Speaking Up For Life

“God will help us make choices that are pleasing to Him regarding our sexuality and help us save sex for marriage. God ordained marriage to be a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman. He also placed all sexual activity within the bonds of marriage ... So, rather than saying, ‘How far can I go?’ we should say, ‘How much can I, and will I, save for my future spouse?’” *Donna Zuehlk, Lutherans For Life of Michigan*

### Life Facts and Stats

A few facts about fetal development: Day 1 – fertilization: all human chromosomes present; unique human life begins; Day 6 – embryo begins implanting in the uterus; Day 22 – heart begins to beat with the child’s own blood, often a different blood type than the mother’s; week 5 – eyes, legs, hands begin to develop; week 6 – brain waves detectable, mouth, lips present; fingers forming; week 7 – eyelids, toes form; nose distinct, baby kicking and swimming; week 8 – every organ in place; bones, fingerprints begin to form; weeks 9 and 10 – teeth begin to form, fingernails develop; baby can turn head, frown; (Source: [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org))

### Need Help?

For fetal development resources from LFL go to the Sanctity of Life section at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).

Hurting from Abortion?

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## Happy Lent – Love God *by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb*

The sign outside the church read, “Happy Valentine’s Day – Love, God.” Kind of clever I suppose, but also revealing. I make no judgments on the sign’s author or intent, but it struck me as revealing the common misunderstanding we all can have, that of associating God’s love with a Valentine kind of love. When we equate these and think of God’s love as an emotional, experiential, or a “warm feeling” kind of love, it leads us down dangerous paths. We can doubt God’s love when we do not feel it, turn from God’s love when we do not experience it, or give up on God’s love when we do not see it demonstrated as we think it should.

Maybe the sign should read, “Happy Lent – Love, God.” I suppose that’s not perfect either as “happy” and “Lent” do not pair so properly. Nevertheless, you see my point. A better February day to be tuned into God’s love would be February 13, Ash Wednesday.

**“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).**

Here is *true* true love—love of the loveless, love of the unlovable, love of enemies, love that gives, love that never fails. God’s valentine does not come in the form of dark chocolates or red hearts or fragrant flowers. It comes as a dark Friday, a pierced heart, and the stench of blood and death. But God’s valentine says it more loudly, more clearly, and more passionately than any you will receive— “I love you.”

We not only receive God’s valentine as an absolutely free gift, it’s okay to re-gift it!

**“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11).**

My wife’s sister, LaVonne, has Alzheimer’s. She still lives at home, but that is only because of her husband, Harry. Harry’s life is devoted to her care. He manages her medicines and, because she is diabetic, her diet and so many other things. Only those who have been there know of the frustration, hard work, and sleepless nights that accompany this kind of care.

I’m not sure what Harry will get LaVonne for Valentine’s Day. It doesn’t matter. He gives her a true valentine each and every day whether she knows it or him or not. He shares a love and devotion that can only flow from the One who from a dark and bloody cross said to a world that did not know Him, “I love you.”

Our world presents us with countless opportunities to make every day a “Valentine’s Day.” Every day we confront the need for a Lenten kind of love. Thank you for sharing that love in so many ways. So, happy Valentine’s Day, and have a blessed Lenten season. As I say to our grandchildren, “Jesus loves you and so do I.”

