

An Aunt's Perspective

Why am I pro-life? At first it seems like an easy question, but it is a question many people struggle with. I have always been pro-life because I am Christian and grew up in a Christian household. I was always told it was wrong and I believed it completely. Even though I always thought it was wrong, recently something made me truly realize how precious babies' lives are: my first nephew was born.

I've never been around babies much because I'm the youngest in my family and of my cousins. Becoming an aunt for the first time changed my perspective forever. At first when my sister-in-law was pregnant, my response was, "What's the big deal? It's just a bump in her belly." However, when I got to hold his sweet little body for the first time, there was just nothing like it. When I was holding something so precious and fragile in my arms, it was almost terrifying. I felt him breathing and shifting in my arms and realized there are aunts and uncles who never get that experience, unlucky parents who don't get these special moments with their babies. I may not be a mother or father, and I haven't been through the hard troubles some people have been through, but that instant when I saw his eyes, the sanctity of life hit me to the core.

Lucas is now three months old, and he is getting so big! Watching him grow from a baby who could barely open his eyes to tracking movement and people is an

amazing adventure that I'm so glad to be a part of! He smiles and is starting to laugh. I'm the most proud aunty in the world. I flaunt him around and steal him as soon as his parents bring him through the door. My mom makes the joke that she has to fight me for him.

Especially recently, I see him recognize me, and I think about the parents who will never get to experience their babies or recognize their voices. They don't get to see their children smile or laugh or start to stand with help. It breaks my heart that there are people who believe the lies of convenience and "choice" over protecting life. I love my nephew so much that it's hard to imagine a time when I thought of him as a little bump in my sister-in-law's belly. Even though it may be easy to think that an unborn baby is not a person, after I met Lucas, I have realized how crucial it is to keep reminding ourselves that unborn babies are precious people too.