

While we were preparing this site we received news that the Lombardia Regional Council unanimously made the burial of all unborn babies compulsory.

After 18 years of lawsuits and painful battles to give our little unborn brothers “a margin of dignity”, at least after their death, there is finally a blaze of resurrection, made stronger by an identical motion approved at the Regional Councils of Liguria, Lazio and Piemonte for the compulsory burial of fetuses and embryos in cemeteries.

In the history of man, burying the dead constitutes one of the first steps toward civilization, but someone, with refined poetic language, has defined the Lombardia Region Decree “*a measure which incites the worst necrophiliac instincts of antiabortionists*”...

We here quote the decree and the press:

***Lombardia Regional Council 31.1.2007**

Amendments to the Regional Regulation of 9 November 2004

Art 1. The following amendments are brought to the regional regulation of 9 November 2004, n. 6 (Regulation on funeral and cemetery activities): (...)

1 b): Regarding the abortive products of a presumed gestational age from twenty to twenty-eight complete weeks and fetuses that have presumably completed 28 weeks of intrauterine age, as well as the products of conception of a presumed age of less than twenty weeks, the Health Department informs parents of the possibility of requesting a burial.

1 c): When the Local Health Unit is informed by the Health Department by means of a burial application that includes information regarding the presumed age of the fetus or abortive product, it issues an authorization for transport and burial directly to the Municipality in which the event took place.

1 d): In the absence of a burial request, the regulations prescribed for recognizable anatomical parts are followed.”

***From www.tgcom.it of 31.1.2007**

http://www.tgcom.mediaset.it/cronaca/articoli/articolo_246726.shtml

Lombardia, burial for all fetuses. Parents will be able to arrange funerals

From now on, in Lombardia, fetuses under 5 months of gestation will be entitled to a burial at the family’s expenses or, if the latter doesn’t attend to it, the Health facility where the abortion took place. In addition, parents who request it may have a funeral ceremony. Until now, the products of conception were treated as “special waste”.

The regulation, which was approved unanimously by the Regional Council of Lombardia and is the first in Italy, acknowledges that fetuses under twenty weeks of age are “products of conception” and no longer waste, such as an appendicitis or a part of the body surgically removed.

Therefore parents will be able to give the fetus a funeral. The Health Department must inform the mother and father of the possibility of requesting a burial. The Local Health Unit will then issue an authorization for its transport. Otherwise, the hospital will attend to the matter by burying it in a mass grave.

Up until now, the fetus after abortion was treated as waste to be disposed of, and the hospital had no obligation to account for where the fetus ended up; instead now it must keep a register.

Some doctors who practise abortions, however, are afraid that this new regulation will cause further guilt in women who already suffer from the decision to have an abortion.

***From www.tgcom.it of 2.2.2007**

<http://www.tgcom.mediaset.it/cronaca/articoli/articolo347138.shtml>

Burying the fetus, questionable but...

Editorial from Il Foglio

Insensibility toward the living, as Mariuccia Ciotta defined it on 'Il Manifesto'. The Lombardia region has decided that all fetuses (even those under five months) will have to be buried, at the expenses of the hospitals if the parents do not want it: in short, they will no longer be thrown into the garbage. They will no longer be "special waste", but only what they really are, a life that is aborted because the mother had to give it up: according to Ciotta, this is horrifying, "devastating", in fact it is "a nightmare".

A clot of cells, even when it is four months old (and being continuously bombarded by three-dimensional ultrasounds, even for Mariuccia Ciotta it is very difficult to continue to pretend that it is nothing), in short a very small object which can be got rid of in a hurry never must, in the conscious imagination, be overlapped with a child's smile.

Otherwise, as she writes, it's "devastating". And not because of the vulgarity expressed by Carlo Flamigni, who has commented with a "it is the dictatorship of the embryo", thus the dictatorship of a helpless and interrupted life which, because of the sensitivity toward the living, must slip away silently into the sewer. But because as long as there is a horrible medical expression that reassures us, as long as the wording is "special waste", then it is bearable.

Thus it is more difficult: reclaiming freedom becomes dismal, women's self-determination becomes cold and distressing, and abortion goes back to being what it is: an immense, funereal social achievement.

***From www.tgcom.it of 3.2.2007**

<http://www.tgcom.mediaset.it/politica/articoli/articolo347300.shtml>

Fetus, the right to a name

Petition to establish a register

"To establish an optional register where parents can record the prenatal name of the unborn conceived baby they want to remember". This is the title that summarizes the content of a petition which Luigi Re, professor at the Lumsa University in Rome, has submitted to the presidents of Chamber and Senate (Art. 50 of the Constitution). The initiative returns to the issue after the unanimous vote with which the regional Council of Lombardia approved a law that authorizes the burial of fetuses with a gestation of less than 20 weeks.

And there was immediately a furious controversy on the duration of gestation. In reality, the Lombardia region's unanimous vote just drew a picture the legislative situation provided for by Decree 285 of 1990 (Mortuary Police Regulation) which gives parents the authority to bury fetuses with a gestation of less than 20 weeks.

A situation which has already been approved in the regional legislation of Emilia-Romagna and Sicily, while today there was a bill, presented by the Alleanza Nazionale political party, in the Liguria Region.