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### **AFTER SCHIAVO AUTOPSY, QUESTIONS REMAIN**

On Wednesday, Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner Jon Thogmartin announced the results of the autopsy performed on Terri Schiavo. Those who are still trying to rationalize her death claim it confirms their position. Not at all.

The examiner concluded that Terri - who died March 31st, nearly two weeks after her feeding tube was removed - had suffered irreversible brain damage which "no amount of therapy or treatment would have regenerated" due to "the massive loss of neurons." He also concluded that Schiavo was in a "persistent vegetative state," and not "minimally conscious" as her parents had maintained.

However, Dr. Thogmartin emphasized that none of his findings are conclusive, that such a diagnosis can only be made on a living patient and cannot be confirmed, with certainty, through an autopsy.

My friend Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life put findings of the autopsy into perspective when he observed: "Terri did not die from an atrophied brain (in the wording of the autopsy report). She died from an atrophy of compassion on the part of her estranged husband and those who helped him to have her deliberately killed."

Due to media misreporting, most Americans never understood the case, or what's at stake for our nation. Terri Schiavo was not connected to a ventilator or another form of life support. (She had a feeding tube to facilitate her nourishment, but could take liquids by mouth.) She wasn't unconscious. She responded to stimuli, smiled at her mother and cried when she left the room. She

also tried to form words.

Pinellas Circuit Judge George W. Greer, who sentenced Terri to death by starvation, never laid eyes on her. His original finding (that she was in a persistent vegetative state) was made in 1990. Over the years, he consistently refused to consider new evidence on her condition. Federal courts refused to intervene, despite being specifically authorized to do so by an act of Congress.

Beloved, this is a sad chapter in the history of a nation founded on the ideal of "liberty and justice for all," and a testament to how far we've strayed from our Biblical heritage. Terri Schiavo is dead. Her martyrdom should encourage us to fight for the rights of the disabled against a medical profession, a judicial system and a culture all too inclined to dispose of inconvenient life.

## **PARENTS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE EXPLICIT SEX-ED SURVEY**

The public schools in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts distributed a sex "survey" to children in the 6th. grade so appalling that it would make the average adult blush with shame. Then they refused to show it to parents!

Among other highly personal and inappropriate questions, the survey asked 11- and 12-year-olds. "How old were you when you had intercourse for the first time?" This of course assumes that pubescent children are having sex, as if it was the most natural thing in the world.

It also inquired, "The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?" According to the nonjudgmental approach to sex adopted by many public schools, the only relevant question is "did you use birth control." Not were you coerced? Or why on earth are children barely out of braces losing their innocence?

As if that weren't bad enough, administrators refused to allow parents to see the survey. School officials said they were concerned that parents might "misinterpret" the questions. To the contrary, their real concern was that parents would understand the questions and comprehend how their children were being manipulated to achieve the goals of the Sexual Revolution.

As has been noted, there is an established religion whose tenets are promulgated through the public education system. It's called secular humanism.

There are two things which we must do simultaneously, and with all deliberate haste - strive to reform the public schools by returning Judeo-Christian values to an educational system sorely in need of the same, and offer educational alternatives to parents who refuse to offer up their children for indoctrination.

## **I'LL BE ON PBS FRIDAY EVENING**

Earlier this month, I was interviewed in Boston by PBS. The interview lasted almost two hours and covered a broad range of issues including judicial activism and Terri Schiavo. I'm told that about 20 minutes of that interview will air Friday evening on the show "Now" -- at 9:00pm in most markets (but check local listings for the time in your area). PBS has a reputation for liberal bias - even more than the networks. Please bear that in mind when you watch the show. And please pray that our message gets through - even on Public Television.

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