

# Family takes firm pro-life postures

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

## Youth

KENDALL — Not everybody who supports a cause can easily explain how they arrived at their convictions. However, no such problem exists for Aaron or Ben Serbicki, who quickly responded when asked why they oppose abortion.

"Just because the government allows it, doesn't mean it's OK," stated Aaron, 17.

But shouldn't a woman have the right to seek an abortion, because it's her body and therefore a private matter? "I could say I'm going to murder somebody but that's just between me and that person. So that's OK?" Aaron asked rhetorically.

Ben, 15, said he's perplexed by people — especially medical experts — who argue an embryo does not constitute a human life. "I don't think it should be in the scientist's hands ... I don't think they have the right to kill somebody. People can be so dense," he said, adding that it's a simple fact to pro-lifers that an embryo is a human.

Aaron and Ben are homeschooled, but they don't keep their views at home. They and their father, Jeffrey, attended the annual March for Life this past January in Washington, D.C. Traveling with a group from the Diocese of Rochester, the Serbickis joined in with tens of thousands of fellow demonstrators from across North America. This year's March for Life was especially meaningful because it marked the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark

U.S. Supreme Court case in which abortion was legalized in the United States. The march has taken place every year in hopes of getting *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

Being among so many demonstrators reassured Aaron that he's far from alone in his views on this highly controversial topic. "It is encouraging — all the way down the mall, there's this solid mass of people all with the same idea," he said.

Aaron and Ben said they were pleased at the large turnout of youths. "I didn't think that young people were that into it," Aaron said, noting that other pro-life events he had attended drew nearly all adults.

The March for Life is a growing family affair for the Serbickis. Aaron has been to the last two marches with his dad, while Ben was a first-time participant this year. At the most recent march they briefly met up with their oldest sibling, 19-year-old Dan, who came to Washington with a group from his college, the Franciscan University of Steubenville. In addition, the youngest Serbicki children — Elisabeth, 12, and Rachel, 10 — said they, too, hope to journey to the March for Life when they get a bit older.

Speaking of traveling, the three Serbicki boys and their mother, Darlene, also went to Toronto in July 2002 where Pope John Paul II



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Seventeen-year old Aaron Serbicki (foreground) and his 15-year-old brother, Ben, pray the rosary Oct. 9 at their Kendall home along with their mother, Darlene, and sisters Elisabeth, 12, and Rachel, 10.

presided at World-Youth Day. Aaron and Ben said they got a glance of the pontiff, though it was from a distance and through a wave of hundreds of thousands of people. "You could see him by jumping up and down," Ben said.

Aaron and Ben said they're aware of the pope's strong stances on pro-life causes, as well as his special focus on youth. "He's always really liked young people. When he was a parish priest he used to take young people hiking," Aaron said of the Holy Father, who on Oct. 16 was due to observe the 25th anniversary of his election as pope.

Pope John Paul, though plagued by health problems, is a shining example of why people should respect life at all ages, Darlene Serbicki added. "There's dignity and value in life at both ends," she said.

The Serbickis reside on a small

farm in eastern Orleans County, near the Monroe County line. The children are homeschooled by their mother, and the family attends Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Brockport. Aaron, an altar server at Nativity, was among the approximately 700 high-school seniors due to receive the diocesan Hands of Christ award this month for outstanding service.

Despite their serene rural environment most of the year, Aaron and Ben said they're anxious to once again join the crowds at the March for Life in hopes of reversing the abortion law.

"It just helps you to know you're doing something besides just praying for it. You're telling the government they can't ignore it and have it go away, that there are definitely people out there who want abortion to stop," Ben said.

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