My Generation's Black Death By Teresa Rose Sicree, Boalsburg, PA

Empty seats are usually not a sight anyone really wants to see. I graduated from eighth grade with a class of nineteen in 2010 ... we had a lot of empty seats. How many more classmates would I have had if abortion had not been legal?

In the year I was born, 1996, there were about 3,899,000 babies born; 1,360,160 more were aborted. That means about thirty-five babies were aborted for every one hundred born alive. If those babies had lived, I would have had maybe six or seven more classmates. Alas, I am not the only one missing friends: across our country there are about 1.4 million high school freshmen that are missing. The world would be a different place had they lived.

Abortion is the Black Death of my generation. Back in medieval times the Black Death killed about one third of the population of Europe. The same is true today, with this "Red Death" of abortion. Close to 26 percent of my generation were killed in 1996 by the Red Death. Known as the Black Death, the bubonic plague had many effects on the lifestyle, religion, and economics of the medieval people and changed their society forever. Today, abortion also has untold effects on the people of this country. Not only are the mother, father, and their parents hurt by abortion, but everyone else is also hurt by the decrease in population. To take an example, because of the babies killed years ago, there are now not enough people to buy houses today. Thus, the housing market slumps and our economy suffers.

How much good these babies could have done if they had grown up is hard to measure. But we do know this: that their books will never be written, their inventions will never be built, and their love will never be shown ... all because they were killed in their mother's womb.

There is a story that a student asked Mother Teresa why God had not sent a person who would cure AIDS. Mother Teresa is said to have answered: "Maybe God did, but he was killed in his mother's womb." Abortionists might have killed the person who would have found the cure to AIDS or cancer: we will never know for sure. I do know for sure that they have killed a quarter of my classmates, a quarter of my friends.

No matter what happens we pro-lifers must never give up, never surrender. We must make sure that there are no more empty seats.