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His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI
Vatican City
EUROPE

November 6, 2006

Your Eminence,

Thank you for your warm acknowledgment and meaningful words regarding the book I sent you about our son's severe head injury chronicled in "Fighting for David."

I felt The Lord was compelling me to write the book after watching the tragedy of Terri Schiavo unfold. Her suffering, at the hand of the man who took an oath to love, honor, and cherish her, is the longest legalized execution of an innocent person I have ever witnessed: thirteen years of solitary confinement and ending with almost fourteen days of starvation and dehydration. Through it all she remained gentle, sweet, and loving. Even at the last she still had the ability to love and be loved. Surely God's Spirit must have been her comfort through it all. Her life and what she endured spoke to the world. Her will and spirit will never be forgotten. In our opinion, her abandonment by the Florida courts, and her husband, Michael Schiavo, was more than cruel; it was criminal. I have been told that Michael Schiavo now has political ambitions and wants apologies from those who have offended him.

At the beginning of her head injury, Terri looked far better than David did. How could this have happened in our country after President Bush and Congress went to Washington D.C., over the Easter Holiday, to over turn the verdict of the Florida Courts? Many of us will never know why or how this could have ever happened. Why was she not given to her family, who desperately wanted to give her the therapy in the early years after her collapse, when she still had the opportunity to improve? It is my prayer that the tragedy of Terri Schiavo will never happen again. Father Seamus Walsh selected "Fighting for David" to be their Christian Book Club selection for the month of July.

I have always thought highly and have respected the pro-life stand of your church. This is the reason I am appealing to your church. Hopefully, the truth and the tragedy, about Terri Schiavo can be better understood through the reading of David's Story. God clearly states in Genesis 1:27 that He made mankind after His own Image. In our quest for perfection we must guard against a survival of the fittest mentality. All proceeds from the book will go to help hurting women and Shepherd's door, in Portland Oregon.

Most Respectfully Yours,

Mrs. Leone Nunley

[www.fighting for david.com](http://www.fightingfor david.com)