

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 1 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2009

MARCH FOR LIFE

Friday, January 22, 2010

**Stand Up Now!
Unite for the Life Principles—
No Exception! No Compromise!**



Courtesy of the Diocese of Manchester

Come, ride a bus to Washington, D.C. with us!

Bus Departure Locations

Altoona

Altoona Central Catholic School, 1400 4th Ave.
St. Therese Church, 424 Wopsonnock Ave.

Hollidaysburg

St. Mary Church, 312 Clark St.

(Additional bus locations to be announced)

A Prayer Service and Blessing for travelers to the March for Life will be held on January 21 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 p.m.

To reserve a seat on a bus or for more information, call 946-0681 or 695-8008

News Notes

Obama Administration OKs First Taxpayer-Funded Embryonic Stem Cell Research

The Obama administration, on December 2, authorized the first study using embryonic stem cells paid for at taxpayer expense. Earlier this year, President Barack Obama issued an executive order overturning President Bush's limits preventing taxpayers from being forced to pay for the destruction of human life.

Because embryonic stem cells can only be obtained by destroying human life, Bush put limits in place directing taxpayer dollars to adult stem cell research. That science has already proven to help patients facing more than 100 diseases and adverse medical conditions.

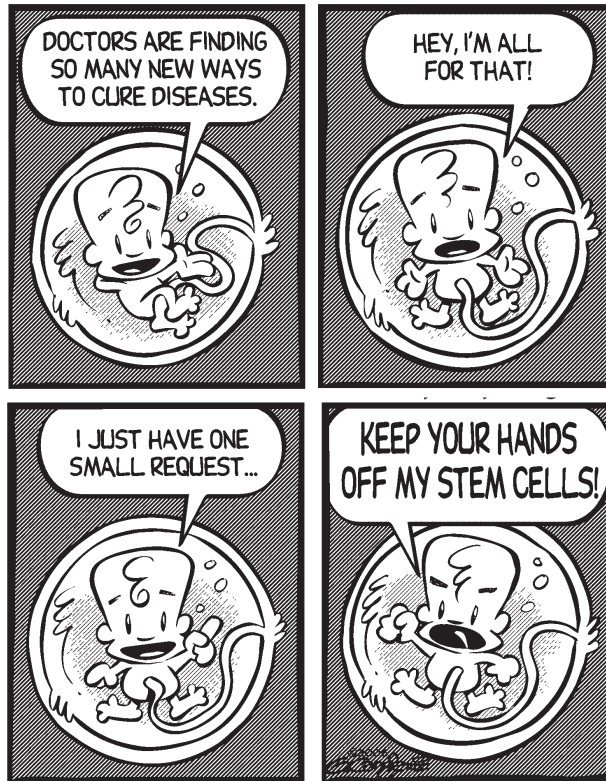
The National Institutes of Health, following Obama's order, approved 13 embryonic stem cell lines for use by researchers conducting studies funded with federal funds.

The lines NIH approved are in use by researchers at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Rockefeller University in New York, according to a *Bloomberg News* report. As much as \$21 million in taxpayer money could be used by the Obama administration to fund studies using these embryonic stem cell lines.

They were created with private dollars during the Bush administration, showing that Bush's limits did not prevent scientists from moving ahead with their research with private dollars, contrary to the assertions of Obama and other opponents. The lines were created by destroying days-old unborn children—human embryos

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



who were supposedly "leftover" at fertility clinics. Adoption agencies have emerged that have allowed parents to adopt these human beings and carry them to term in a pregnancy.

—*LifeNews.com*, December 2, 2009

PA School Targets Student With Pro-Life T-Shirt

Officials at a Pennsylvania school targeted a middle school student who came to class wearing a pro-life t-shirt with the message, "Abortion is Not Health Care." Officials at Crossroads Middle School in Lewisberry ordered the student to remove the shirt on the day of President Obama's public address to students.

School officials deemed the shirt "inappropriate," saying it might insult somebody—even though the school routinely allows students to wear other shirts with other potentially offensive messages.

Alliance Defense Fund attorneys filed a lawsuit in federal court against the West Shore School District for

prohibiting the student from wearing the shirt.

"Pro-life students shouldn't be censored for their views," ADF Senior Legal Counsel David Cortman told *LifeNews.com*. "It's clearly unconstitutional for school officials to prohibit a student's message on the grounds that someone might not like it. The school routinely allows students to wear a wide variety of messages on their shirts without any concerns, but this student has been singled out even though his shirt caused no disruption and is clearly within the bounds of constitutionally guaranteed free speech," he said.

The student wore his shirt to express his religious viewpoint on abortion and did so without incident until his fifth period teacher sent him to the principal's office to see whether the shirt was "appropriate." There he was ordered to remove his shirt on the grounds that it might insult somebody. He was sent to the nurse's office, where he turned his shirt inside out because he had no other shirt to wear.

ADF attorneys are challenging two school district policies. One is a "student expression" policy, which prohibits speech that "seek[s] to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view" and speech that "contain[s] material otherwise deemed harmful to impressionable students." The other is a "dress and grooming" policy that prohibits "clothing which creates a hostile educational environment or evidences discriminatory bias or animus" or displays "inappropriate words."

"These are highly unconstitutional policies that demonstrate that there's a widespread need for schools to be educated about the First Amendment. The policies allow officials unrestricted discretion in determining what speech violates the policies. In this case, they clearly singled out this student's pro-life speech and illegitimately censored it," Cortman explained.

—*LifeNews.com*, October 12, 2009

Twenty-third Annual Respect Life March

Tyrone, Pennsylvania

Sunday ♦ January 17, 2010 ♦ 12:00 noon



A Prayer Service begins this pro-life event at 12:00 noon at St. Matthew Church in Tyrone, 1105 Cameron Ave.

Participants then walk the 1.25 miles to Oak Grove Cemetery, to the grave of Baby Agnes Doe, for another short prayer service.

All are cordially invited to spend a couple of hours with us as we publicly show our love for all of God's most defenseless children, both born and unborn. You will enjoy pro-life fellowship as we draw upon the strengths of each other to continue the battle for respect for human life at all stages, from the unborn to the terminally ill.

Please join us as we walk prayerfully and meditate upon the atrocities that have taken place in our country and the world. You are encouraged to bring a sign. If you are unable to walk the distance from the church to the cemetery, please feel free to join by driving at the end of the procession. A hot luncheon will be served in the parish hall after the March. For more information, call Pete Krekel, 682-7311.

Sponsored by St. Gregory Knights of Columbus Council #1218 

Baby Agnes Doe

The remains of a female infant were discovered in an abandoned dump on Kerbaugh Road near Bellwood on February 5, 1987. Pete Krekel had read of a memorial project in the *Columbian*, the Knights of Columbus magazine wherein St. Francis Cabrini Council in Warren, Ohio had given a funeral service for a baby found at the bottom of a river by some fishermen.

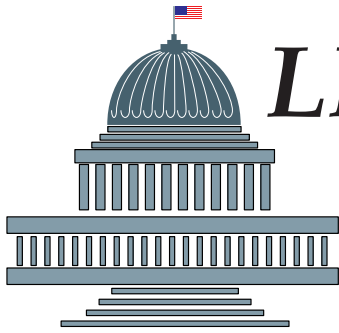
After months of investigation, the remains of the baby girl were turned over to the St. Gregory Knights of Columbus Council. Brother Ted Feller, a funeral director in Tyrone, donated all of his services—the preparation of her body, the casket and grave opening. She was given the name Baby Agnes Doe, after St. Agnes, the patron saint of little girls. It was determined that Baby Agnes had been born about the time of the feast day of St. Agnes, January 21. A "Mass of the Angels" was celebrated on June 20, 1987, giving the child the dignified Christian burial that she deserved. Fr. Strittmatter, in his homily, compared the Knights to Joseph of Arimathea, the secret disciple of Jesus who requested His body after the crucifixion. Fr. Strittmatter also said that Baby Agnes changed the hearts of a lot of people and accomplished more than most of us will in our lifetimes. Baby Agnes' remains were then buried in a plot of land set aside in Oak Grove Cemetery.

In 1991, Fr. Carl Spishak dedicated the "Respect Life Meditation" area which included two concrete benches and a 12 ft. by 12 ft. paved area. In 2007, Fr. Joseph Orr dedicated the new "Respect Life Meditation" area, which includes two granite benches and a Blessed Virgin statue. Baby Agnes was reinterred there. This was funded by our K of C and was done as an Eagle Scout project by Jonathan Hampton.

For the past 22 years, St. Gregory K of C Council has sponsored the Respect Life March. Participants come from all over central Pennsylvania, from IUP in Indiana, to Renovo and Lock Haven. Approximately 140 people usually attend the March. Participants walk the 1.25 miles from St. Matthew Church to Oak Grove Cemetery to the grave of Baby Agnes. A luncheon is held in St. Matthew's Church hall afterwards.



Pete Krekel, center, at Respect Life March



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Legislative Contact Information

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President Barack Obama

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Twp., Hollidaysburg Borough, Huston Twp.,
Juniata Twp., Martinsburg Borough, Newry
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Health Care Reform

Call Your Two

U.S. Senators Today!

If pro-abortion Democrats in the Senate are able to ram through a holiday gift to Planned Parenthood, it wouldn't be because they didn't know the public is opposed to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's bill and that this opposition is growing.

A narrow majority of Americans opposed the Senate Health care restructuring proposal a couple of weeks ago--49% to 46%. But two recent polls found growing resistance.

In its poll CNN described the Senate measure as "a bill that would make major changes in the country's health care system." A whopping 61% opposed to only 36% who approved. Fox News' poll found 57% opposed to only 34% in favor.

Everyone is taking their best guess when the decision point may come in the Senate on the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (H.R. 3590). For example, on December 14, appearing on *Imus in the Morning*, Sen. John Thune (R-SD), the chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, said, "I think this week will be pretty determinative of how this thing comes out."

Whereas pro-lifers were able to pass the Stupak-Pitts amendment in the House version, 240-194, the Senate equivalent (Nelson-Hatch) lost 54-45.

Both had the same intent: to prevent the proposed new government health insurance program—the "public option"—from paying for abortions, and also to prevent federal funds from being used to subsidize the purchase of private health plans that pay for elective abortion.

Your help is indispensable, more crucial than ever. Please telephone the offices of your two U.S. senators. The Washington offices of all U.S. senators can be reached through the Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121 (just tell the operator the name of your senator OR the name of your state).

Please note: In order for a bill to be sent to the House for further consider-

ation, or to a House-Senate conference committee to be reconciled with the House-passed bill, it must first receive the support of at least 60 senators (out of 100) on what is called a "cloture vote" to end debate. If the Reid bill fails to achieve 60 votes for cloture, it will die in the Senate.

When you call, urge your two U.S. senators to oppose the Reid health care bill (H.R. 3590), and to oppose "cloture."

To keep current on rapidly changing events, visit <http://www.nrlactioncenter.com> and <http://powellcenterformedicalethics.blogspot.com>.

Senate Vote Before Christmas?

It is presently unclear whether a vote to adopt the Senate health care restructuring bill will occur before Christmas or not.

According to *InsideHealthPolicy.com*, at a meeting with "key stakeholders" late last week, senior staff from the majority leadership sketched out a scenario for a vote on Tuesday, December 22 or Wednesday, December 23. The end game would be triggered by the filing of cloture motions—to cut off debate and proceed to a vote—on three items.

One would be the so-called "manager's amendment" [individual amendments agreed to by both sides in advance] which is expected to contain all the compromises necessary to get 60 votes. A second would be on the Reid Substitute, as amended by adoption of the manager's amendment. The third would be on the adoption of the bill itself, a House-passed revenue measure, as replaced by the amended Reid Substitute.

Once cloture is voted on each of these, there would still be 30 hours of debate permitted under the Senate rules before it could come to a vote. During that period any "germane," that is to say, related, amendments could be offered. However each could be subject to an undebatable motion to "lay on the table," which has the effect of killing it. This, for example, is the mechanism that was used to defeat the Nelson-Hatch amendment against abortion funding in the bill.

This scenario would require that the cloture motions be filed no later than Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. In order for that to occur, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) would presumably have to be sure of his 60 votes by then. This would mean that the Congressional Budget Office score on the "public option" compromise would have to be delivered soon, and that it would have to satisfy the relevant senators—or else lead to quick "tweaks" that do.

It has been observed that while this schedule is technically possible, any complication, such as an inability to reach quick agreement yielding 60 votes, would scuttle it. In that case, the vote would have to be deferred until after Christmas.

There have been different predictions concerning what the schedule would be in that case. One possibility is that the Senate could take only what has been called a "long lunch break," recessing, for example, only for Christmas Eve through the following weekend, and returning for the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Others have speculated that there would be so much resistance to such a schedule that if the Senate cannot get to a final vote by Christmas, it might recess until after New Year's Day.

If there is a final Senate vote on the pending health care legislation, the differences between the Senate and House versions would still have to be resolved before a bill could be sent to President Obama for signature. One option that has been discussed would be to send the Senate-passed version directly to the House for a vote. However, according to *InsideHealthPolicy.com*, at the stakeholders' meeting last week the senior Congressional staff suggested that would be impossible—that there would need to be negotiations among the leaders of the two houses, even if a formal conference committee were not convened.

The White House and its allies have long sought to avoid the health care debate going over into next year, both because they want to get the public's attention focused on planned efforts to address the high unemployment rate and other effects of a poor economy

and because it is widely believed that votes to adopt the measure will become more and more difficult to achieve the farther they are pushed into a Congressional election year.

December polls have consistently shown majority opposition to the health care bill: by 51 % to 41 % in a December 4/5 *Rasmussen* poll, by 52 % to 38 % in a December 1/6 *Quinnipiac* poll, by 61% to 36 % in a December 2/3 *CNN/Opinion Research* poll, and by 57 % to 34 % in a December 8/9 *Fox News* poll.

—Excerpted from *Today's News & Views*

Dave Andrusko

National Right to Life Committee

December 14, 2009

Informative Websites

www.nrlc.org

National Right to Life's site provides the latest information on pro-life issues in Congress.

www.pennsylvaniavotes.org

For the most up-to-date information on Pennsylvania legislation regarding pro-life issues or any issue, visit this site.

www.thomas.loc.gov

Maintained by the Library of Congress, Thomas offers a searchable database of congressional activity from 1969 to the present.

www.stemcellresearch.com

This site has background information and up-to-date reports on ethical issues surrounding stem cell research, including substantial resources in support of non-destructive stem cell research.

Efficient E-mail

E-mail is the most efficient way to get breaking news to you. Time-sensitive pro-life information and action alerts simply cannot be shared quickly enough by regular mail. Help us keep you on top of important pro-life information. If you have not e-mailed your e-mail address to us, please consider doing so. E-mail your address to us at blair@centralpaprolife.org.

Her Choice, Her Problem

How Abortion Empowers Men

By *Richard Stith*

This summer, President Obama proclaimed again that we “need fathers to recognize that responsibility doesn’t end at conception.” In a sense, of course, he is absolutely right. But the problem is that, in another sense, he is completely wrong: Male responsibility really does end at conception. Men these days can choose only sex, not fatherhood; mothers alone determine whether children shall be allowed to exist. Legalized abortion was supposed to grant enormous freedom to women, but it has had the perverse result of freeing men and trapping women.

The likelihood of this cultural development was foreseen by the radical feminist Catherine MacKinnon, one of the critical voices responding to *Roe v. Wade’s* extension of the right of privacy to cover abortion. In an essay called “Privacy vs. Equality,” MacKinnon argued that “abortion’s proponents and opponents share a tacit assumption that women do significantly control sex. Feminist investigations suggest otherwise. Sexual intercourse . . . cannot simply be presumed coequally determined.” Indeed, she added, “men control sexuality,” and “*Roe* does not contradict this.”

“Abortion facilitates women’s heterosexual availability,” MacKinnon pointed out: “In other words, under conditions of gender inequality [abortion] does not liberate women; it frees male sexual aggression. The availability of abortion removes the one remaining legitimized reason that women have had for refusing sex besides the headache.” Perhaps that is why, she observed, “the Playboy Foundation has supported abortion rights from day one.” In the end, MacKinnon pronounced, *Roe’s* “right to privacy looks like an injury got up as a gift,” for “virtually every ounce of control that women won” from legalized abortion “has gone directly into the hands of men.”

At the time, MacKinnon’s work may have seemed little more than a curiosity on the left, but, as the years have passed, some of the essay’s claims have proved prescient. I recall a law student who would admit when pressed, “I’m in favor of keeping abortion legal because I don’t like using condoms.” Since abortion could now come between conception and birth, he saw no benefit to missing any portion of sexual pleasure, even though it imposed a risk of surgery on his partner. He may have assumed a rational partner would choose abortion either freely or under pressure. With less deliberate callousness, under the influence of passion almost any male may think quite simply: “At least there’s a way out if the unlikely happens and pregnancy occurs.”

I’ve also met a clever female undergraduate student living with her boyfriend, who thought she had solved this problem. When I asked whether she was for or against abortion, she answered: “I’m pro-choice, but you can bet I tell him I’m pro-life!” She reasoned that, in light of her warning, he would be careful not to fool around in ways that could lead to pregnancy.

Such a lie may not provide protection for every young woman in her situation, however. If she says she is pro-life so that he thinks abortion is not an option for her, he might decide to keep her from getting pregnant by leaving her for someone more open to abortion, a woman who doesn’t insist on his using a condom. That is, the presence in the sexual marketplace of women willing to have an abortion reduces an individual woman’s bargaining power. As a result, in order not to lose her guy, she may be pressured into doing precisely what she doesn’t want to do: have unprotected sex, then an unwanted pregnancy, then the abortion she had all along been trying to avoid. Even though her abortion in this case is not literally forced, it would be, in an important sense, imposed on her. And, far from alleviating her overall situation, it would merely return her to the same sexual pressures, made worse by a new assurance to her boyfriend that she is willing to take care of a pregnancy.

64 percent
of American women
who abort feel pressed
to do so by others

Perhaps it was difficult to foresee such cultural trends back in 1973, when *Roe v. Wade* was handed down by the Supreme Court. But they simply track the inner logic of choice and the market. Economists have shown that such scenarios have in fact become common since abortion was legalized in the United States. Easy access to abortion has increased the expectation and frequency of sexual intercourse (including unprotected intercourse) among young people, making it more difficult for a woman to deny herself to a man without losing him, thus increasing pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. (See, for instance, Jonathan Klick and Thomas Stratmann’s 2003 study, “The Effect of Abortion Legalization on Sexual Behavior,” in the *Journal of Legal Studies*.)

Furthermore, if a woman attempts to choose birth instead of abortion, she may well find the child's father pushing the other way. Her boyfriend's fear of fatherhood would once have been focused on intercourse itself and could have led him either to be careful to avoid conception or else (overcoming that fear) to commit himself beforehand to equal responsibility for the child. His fear now will turn to getting her to choose abortion. One investigator, Vincent M. Rue, reported in the *Medical Science Monitor*, that 64 percent of American women who abort feel pressed to do so by others. Another, Frederica Mathewes-Green in her book *Real Choices*, discovered that American women almost always abort to satisfy the desires of people who do not want to care for their children.

Catherine MacKinnon seemed to suggest that abortion leads to greater male sexual aggression only "under conditions of gender inequality," which implies more equality for women could reduce the male exploitation caused by *Roe v. Wade*. That makes sense in theory. To the degree that individual women are economically, educationally, and in other ways empowered, they should be more able to stand up to male pressures to have unwanted sex (and to have unwanted abortions in order to give the guys still more unwanted sex).

But counteracting the negative forces of sexual competition is difficult. Even if women were universally to agree to refuse sex without condoms, for example, enforcement of this agreement in such an intimate sphere would be nearly impossible. Women would always be tempted to increase their individual sexual competitiveness by consenting to sex without a condom, while relying on abortion as a backup, thus causing female solidarity and power to collapse. Only women strong enough to forgo boyfriends altogether might be likely in the end to resist.

Furthermore, if MacKinnon is right, wherever women have not yet overcome gender inequality, involuntary sex and involuntary abortion will tend to be more frequent, precisely as a result of abortion's availability. To the degree that a culture is built on machismo, for example, the legalization of abortion will make women relatively worse off by giving men another tool to manipulate women as sex objects. Again, to the degree that an economy employs mainly men, leaving women dependent on economic handouts, women will be much less likely to resist male pressures to make use of abortion. Wherever men make women's decisions for them, the option of abortion will be a man's choice, regardless of how the law may label it.

Human-rights activists in developing nations must learn to consider this fact. In those countries, only a thin, elite layer of truly independent and powerful women may be relatively unharmed by the availability

of abortion, because only for them is the abortion option more nearly their own. Proclaiming a right to abortion in developing countries may mean just adopting the viewpoint of these well-to-do professionals—which ought to be no surprise. Those elites are often the only voices for women heard in the transnational political arenas where abortion is debated.

Moreover, the availability of abortion may make all societies less open to empowering women in other ways. MacKinnon may well be right that stronger women would more often resist male pressures to risk pregnancies and have abortions. But, perhaps paradoxically, the option of abortion actually makes sympathy and solidarity—and thus women's empowerment—less likely.

When birth was the result of passion and bad luck, some people could sympathize with a young woman who was going to need help with her baby, though the stigma of bastardry was genuine. If money or a larger place to live were going to be necessary for her to stay in school, a sense of solidarity would likely lead friends and family to offer assistance. The father would feel strong pressure as well, for he was as responsible as she for the child. He might offer to get a second job or otherwise shoulder some of the burdens of parenting.

But once continuing a pregnancy to birth is the result neither of passion nor of luck but only of her deliberate choice, sympathy weakens. After all, the pregnant woman can avoid all her problems by choosing abortion. So if she decides to take those difficulties on, she must think she can handle them.

Birth itself may be followed by blame rather than support. Since only the mother has the right to decide whether to let the child be born, the father may easily conclude that she bears sole responsibility for caring for the child. The baby is her fault.

It may also seem unfair to him that she could escape motherhood (by being legally allowed to prevent birth), while he is denied any way to escape fatherhood (by still being legally required to pay child support). If consenting to sex does not entail consenting to act as a mother, why should it entail consenting to act as a father? Paternity support in this context appears unjust, and he may resist compliance with his legal duties.

Prior to the legalization of abortion in the United States, it was commonly understood that a man should offer a woman marriage in case of pregnancy, and many did so. But with the legalization of abortion, men started to feel that they were not responsible for the birth of children and consequently not under any obligation to marry. In gaining the option of abortion, many women have lost the option of marriage. Liberal abortion laws have thus

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THE MANHATTAN DECLARATION

National Religious Leaders Release Historic Declaration on Christian Conscience
WASHINGTON, D.C., PRESS CONFERENCE UNVEILS 4,700-WORD STATEMENT SIGNED
BY SOME 150 ORTHODOX, CATHOLIC & EVANGELICAL LEADERS

A CALL OF CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

Christians, when they have lived up to the highest ideals of their faith, have defended the weak and vulnerable and worked tirelessly to protect and strengthen vital institutions of civil society, beginning with the family.

We are Orthodox, Catholic, and evangelical Christians who have united at this hour to reaffirm fundamental truths about justice and the common good, and to call upon our fellow citizens, believers and non-believers alike, to join us in defending them. These truths are:

- ◆ the sanctity of human life
- ◆ the dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife
- ◆ the rights of conscience and religious liberty

Inasmuch as these truths are foundational to human dignity and the well-being of society, they are inviolable and non-negotiable. Because they are increasingly under assault from powerful forces in our culture, we are compelled today to speak out forcefully in their defense, and to commit ourselves to honoring them fully no matter what pressures are brought upon us and our institutions to abandon or compromise them. We make this commitment not as partisans of any political group but as followers of Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Lord, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Among the signers of the Manhattan Declaration at the press conference:

Joel Belz, Founder, World Magazine
Chuck Colson, Founder, The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview
Jim Daly, President and CEO, Focus on the Family
Marjorie Dannenfelser, President, Susan B. Anthony List
Fr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor, CEO and Archpriest, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University
Timothy George, Professor, Beeson Divinity School at Samford University
Harry Jackson Jr., Bishop, Hope Christian Church
Fr. Francis Martin, Professor of Sacred Scripture, Sacred Heart Major Seminary
Fr. Martyn Minns, Missionary Bishop, Convocation of Anglicans of North America
Rev. Neftali "Charles" Olmeda, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Tony Perkins, President, Family Research Council
Fred Potter, Executive Director and CEO, Christian Legal Society
Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Diocese of Philadelphia
Alan Sears, President, CEO, and General Counsel, Alliance Defense Fund
Ron Sider, Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary and Director of the seminary's Sider Center on Ministry & Public Policy
Fr. Robert Sirico, Founder, Acton Institute
George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ethics & Public Policy Center, Founding President of James Madison Foundation
Donald William Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, Diocese of Washington, D.C.

Excerpts from the declaration include:

"We are Christians who have joined together across historic lines of ecclesial differences to affirm our right—and, more importantly, to embrace our obligation—to speak and act in defense of these truths. We pledge to each other, and to our fellow believers, that no power on earth, be it cultural or political, will intimidate us into silence or acquiescence."

"We recognize the duty to comply with laws whether we happen to like them or not, unless the laws are gravely unjust or require those subject to them to do something unjust or otherwise immoral."

"...We will not comply with any edict that purports to compel our institutions to participate in abortions, embryo-destructive research, assisted suicide and euthanasia, or any other anti-life act; nor will we bend to any rule purporting to force us to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriage or the equivalent, or refrain from proclaiming the truth, as we know it, about morality and immorality and marriage and the family."

Editor's Note:

The number of signers to this declaration, at the time of this newsletter, has grown to 297,892 and counting. To read the Manhattan Declaration in its entirety and to sign this document, go to www.manhattandeclaration.org/

Her Choice, Her Problem

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considerably increased the number of families headed by a single mother, resulting in what some economists call the “feminization of poverty.”

The mother is even worse off if, during pregnancy, tests show that the child will have a disability: Doctors often press for abortion, in order to be sure that she does not later blame and sue them for the costs of raising her child. Some have suggested that health-care plans should provide no postbirth coverage for a handicapped child whose mother refuses a paid abortion. If she does not abort, after all, she will be causally responsible for the costs and the alleged burdens that the child brings. Even her friends and neighbors may make her feel ashamed for not choosing to abort her child.

Employers may likewise react negatively to maternal needs where abortion has been available. If they (or the state) pay for abortions, they may feel less obligated to shape labor practices to the needs of mothers. If maternity causes problems with work routines or job schedules, the employer may well consider these to be private or personal problems that female employees brought on themselves. The availability of abortion makes women’s claims for better working conditions lose a measure of legitimacy.

Throughout human history, children have been the consequence of natural sexual relations between men and women. Both sexes knew they were equally responsible for their children, and society had somehow to facilitate their upbringing. Even the advent of birth control did not fundamentally change this dynamic, for all forms of contraception are fallible.

Elective abortion changes everything. Abortion absolutely prevents the birth of a child. A woman’s choice for or against abortion breaks the causal link between conception and birth. It matters little what or who caused conception or whether the male insisted on having unprotected intercourse. It is she alone who finally decides whether the child comes into the world. She is the responsible one. For the first time in history, the father and the doctor and the health-insurance actuary can point a finger at her as the person who allowed an inconvenient human being to come into the world.

The deepest tragedy may be that there is no way out. By granting to the pregnant woman an unrestrained choice over who will be born, we make her alone to blame for how she exercises her power. Nothing can alter the solidarity-shattering impact of the abortion option.

Richard Stith teaches at Valparaiso University School of Law in Indiana.

*—First Things, August/September 2009
Reprinted by permission*

President’s Message

Dear Friends,

The thirty-seventh annual March for Life will be held on Friday, January 22, 2010. Once again, we will be taking several buses to join thousands of others to march for life. This is always an unforgettable experience for those who attend.

One of the most memorable Marches was the fourteenth. We never made it to Washington as one of our buses got stuck in the snow at Germantown, Maryland.

Clair Ardrey, one of the bus drivers, recently passed away which made me think back to that trip and to reflect on how God provides.

The snow kept blowing and the state police warned against traveling back to Pennsylvania. We wandered into a hotel which was just opening, and low and behold, it had room for approximately 160 unexpected guests at four to a room. We located a Domino’s Pizza shop which delivered supper to all of us.

Most importantly, we had an angel by the name of Bernadine Reilly who financed the stay at the hotel until our return to Altoona. Bernadine, who was in her mid seventies went with us for years, and we remember her to this day because of her kind generosity.

Each March has its highlights. It could be a poster that strikes the imagination, the patriotic music performed by the Liberty University Choir, a prayer by Rabbi Yehuda Levin, the sight of a mother pushing her baby in a stroller, or the youth from many colleges, universities and high schools marching to defend life.

We are engaged in a spiritual war for not only the lives of the babies, but also for the life of our country. We will march again and pray that this is our last “March for Life.”

*—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President
Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.*

Crisis hotline numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call *Birthright*, 2706 7th Ave., Altoona, 814-943-8185; or *Precious Life, Inc.*, 1716 12th Ave., Altoona, 814-944-2669. For information on Natural Family Planning, go to: www.ForYourMarriage.org or www.familyplanning.net. For post-abortion counseling, call *Project Rachel*, 814-884-8000 or [www. ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org). For those with life-limiting illnesses, contact *Home Nursing Agency*, 201 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona 16603, 814-946-5411, 1-800-445-6262 or email: help@homenursingagency.com. Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: familylife@dioceseaj.org.



2010 Central PA Essay Contest

Students residing in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties are invited to write an essay on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research from a pro-life perspective. Enter the Regional and State Essay Contests!

Awards: Cash or Scholarship

Sr. High (Grades 10-12) Essay Contest

Word Limit: 750

1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75

Jr. High (Grades 7-9) Essay Contest

Word Limit: 500

1st Place \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

Regional Essay Contest

Due: January 11, 2010

Mail to:

Pro-Life Essay Contest

c/o Janet Creighton

3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522

with 2010 Essay Contest Entry Form

(available online at www.centralpaprolife.org)

State Essay Contest

Due: March 1, 2010

Entering the Regional Contest does not automatically enter you into the State Contest and visa versa. The region runs its contest before the state does so that the student can use feedback from the Regional Contest to improve their essay for the State Contest. These are two separate contests. Entries to the state Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Essay Contest must be postmarked by March 1, 2010. Go to www.PaProLife.org for more information.

Mail essay to State Contest:

PA Pro-Life Federation, 4800

Jonestown Rd., Suite 102, Har-

risburg, PA 17109. Essays for

the State Contest can also be e-

mailed to: lifelines@paprolife.org.

Winners will be announced

in April 2010.



National Right to Life Pro-Life Essay Contest

Entries must be submitted between December 21, 2009 and January 16, 2010. Please refer to the National Essay Contest details at www.NRLC.org/EssayContest.

Pro-Life Dinner

All winners will be invited to the Bedford County Annual Pro-Life Dinner as our guests.

2010 Central PA Oratory Contest



Open to all 9th-12th graders in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.

★ Top Two Regional Varsity Winners Go to States

★ Winner of States Goes to Nationals

★ All Expenses Paid!

Prepare a five to seven minute talk on Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, or Embryonic Stem Cell Research from a Pro-Life Perspective

AWARDS

Varsity (Grades 11 & 12) Oratory Contest

1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75

Novice (Grades 9 & 10) Oratory Contest

1st Place \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

Mail a written copy of your speech along with the 2010 Oratory Contest Entry Form

(available online at www.centralpaprolife.org) to:

Pro-Life Oratory Contest, c/o Janet Creighton,

3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522

Oratory Contest Dates

Written Copy Due: January 11, 2010

Regional Competition: February 7, 2010

State Competition in Harrisburg: April 2010

National Competition: June 2010

Speech must be from a pro-life perspective, delivered as written, but need not be memorized.

The student may use a podium and appropriate hand gestures, but may not use props.

Pro-Life Dinner Invite

All winners will be invited to the

Bedford County

Annual Pro-Life Dinner

as our guests.



The top two Varsity winners will be invited to speak at the Dinner, preceding the guest speaker.

A Great Dress Rehearsal For States!

The State Oratory Contest will be in Spring, 2010. The specific date will be announced.

**Donations have been made—
In loving memory of:**

Irv Cavalet

Given by Tom and Pat Forr

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Human Life Education Fund, Inc. in your name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Human Life Education Fund, Inc., will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Send your tax-deductible donations to Human Life Education Fund, Inc., P. O. Box 73, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

*As we celebrate the miracle
of the Christ Child's birth,
may the Lord of Life
bless you this Holy Season
and throughout the coming year!*

The Dark Side to Being Green

continued from back page

rious, late-term abortionists. He has written extensively on man and his impact on the environment, but has gone farther than most though by calling humans a "malignant eco-tumor." Therefore he's come to the conclusion that his gruesome practice of killing unborn babies is healing the planet and thus all mankind. He said to an *Esquire* magazine reporter that abortion "is highly consistent with helping people be responsible citizens of the planet." What planet does he live on?

No doubt Mr. Hern has found it hard to gain the acceptance of his peers and society when, according to his website, his "specialty" is late-term abortions through the 8th month of pregnancy. By joining countless other modern-day hucksters selling their products as helpful to the environment, regardless of their value, Mr. Hern hopes to eclipse the ghastly reality of his bloody trade.

Being good stewards of the environment is a noble idea. However, not everyone is on the same page as to how that can effectively be done, including the reality of global warming. But we should all agree the intentional killing of innocent unborn babies cannot ever be an acceptable strategy for a better world. If abortion is part of the environmental equation, we won't be "green," we'll be stained red from the blood of our children.

*Bradley Mattes is the Executive Director of Life Issues Institute.
—Life Issues Connector, October 2009*

Blair County Life News
Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.
Winter 2009; Vol. 1, No. 2
Published four times a year
President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.
Vice-President: Chet Kowalski
Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Head
Editor/Layout/Design: Marge Bradley

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.

2715 Third St.
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone: 814-946-0681
Email: Blair@CentralPaProLife.org
www.BlairCountyProLife.org

Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. Membership Form

Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 10.00 _____ Other
 _____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Blair County Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona PA 16601.** For more information, call **814-946-0681.** Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

The Dark Side to Being Green

By Bradley Mattes

What do global warming and abortion have in common? Tons, according to environmentalists—tons of carbon dioxide emissions that is. There's a growing trend within the environmental activist community to promote abortion as a way of going green. Reducing the world's population, they claim, is central to protecting the planet.

First of all, it's helpful to understand that when these groups talk about access to birth control and reproductive health they're talking about more than condoms and birth control pills. It almost universally means that abortion is a critical element of their strategy.

One of the most extreme examples of this earth-worship theology is the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement. According to them, all of the earth's environmental problems would disappear if we followed their plan—but then, so would all of mankind: “Phasing out the human race by voluntarily ceasing to breed will allow Earth's biosphere to return to good health.” Before you dismiss the misguided link between abortion and global warming as some “wing-nut” segment of environmentalism, take note that the National Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Policy Institute, Friends of the Earth and the Cousteau Society all subscribe to the view that people are a major threat to the environment, even if their answer isn't wiping out the entire population.

Recently so-called mainstream, green-advocacy experts are jumping on the abortion bandwagon. A September 19, 2009 editorial in the British medical journal *Lancet* said, “There is now an emerging debate and

interest about the links between population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and rights [abortion], and climate change.” An expansive distribution of abortion and other population control strategies would, in their opinion, slow population growth and ease pressure on the environment.

Following their lead, the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science was commissioned by a group called the Optimum Population Trust to come up with a “cost-benefit analysis of reducing carbon emissions.” The study equated human beings with the derogatory term of “emitters.” The title of the study is “Fewer Emitters, Lower Emissions, Less Cost.” Their finding was that for every seven dollars spent on “basic family planning”—by their own definition this includes abortion—they would cut carbon dioxide emissions by more than one ton. This proposed solution, they say, should be considered a “primary method” of solving global warming.

Lest you think America is going to let the British have all the glory labeling humans a plague on the earth, Oregon State University weighed in. Its research says the best thing you can do for the environment is to not have any children at all. According to their report, “Reproduction and the Carbon Legacies of Individuals,” we're responsible for the carbon footprint of our descendants. They say going childless is more “green” than a lifetime of recycling.

My more entrepreneurial readers are probably wondering if abortionists have yet caught on to this trend. The answer would be yes. They don't call it the abortion industry for nothing. Warren Hern operates an abortion facility in Boulder, Colorado and is one of the few remaining noto-

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CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.**
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Altoona, PA 16601

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