

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 3 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2011

## March for Life

Washington, D.C.  
Monday, January 24, 2011



*Ride a bus to Washington, D.C. with us!*

### **Bus Departure Locations**

#### **Altoona**

*Altoona Central Catholic School, 1400 4th Ave.  
Bishop Guilfoyle High School, 2400 Pleasant Valley Blvd.  
St. Therese Church, 424 Wopsononock Ave.*

#### **Hollidaysburg**

*St. Mary Church, 312 Clark St.*

*A Prayer Service and Blessing for travelers to the March for Life will be held on January 23 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 to Know

## Top Companies Stop Backing Planned Parenthood

A pro-life organization that monitors corporate donations to the Planned Parenthood abortion business says several top companies have stopped providing it with financial support. The companies no longer financially supporting the abortion business, which does more than 25 percent of the abortions in the United States annually, include Enterprise car rentals, Forbes magazine, Ing financial services and one of the more ironic entries, Toys “R” Us. Other companies dropped from the pro-life boycott list include Cisco Systems, Red Lion Hotels, Franchise Services, Rolex watch company, Kenneth Cole and Dr. Dennis Gross Skincare.

“So far, a total of at least 270 corporations have agreed to stop giving money to the abortion-committing giant!” LDI president Douglas Scott said. LDI estimates that the boycott has cost Planned Parenthood more than \$40 million since the Corporate Funding Project (CFP) began nearly 18 years ago.

Some of the new companies on the boycott list the pro-life group released over the summer included AOL and Darden Restaurants, a conglomerate that oversees popular restaurants like Bahama Breeze, The Capital Grille, LongHorn Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, and Season 52. Another restaurateur, Ignite Restaurants, made the list, and it includes Brickhouse Tavern+Tap and Joe’s Crab Shack.

Hilton Worldwide made the boycott list and it manages hotels ranging from Doubletree, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inns/Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Hilton Hotels, and Homewood Suites. Kohl’s department stores, Mrs. Fields cookies, and Staples office supply stores were also added.

Some of the companies that made a return appearance on the boycott list included The Gap clothing stores and Freddie Mac, the troubled government-sponsored mortgage firm. AlphaGraphics, Wells Fargo (including Wachovia), Nike, Time Warner, Bank of America, Walt Disney, Johnson &

Johnson, Lost Arrow (Patagonia, etc.), Chevron, and Nationwide Insurance.

—*LifeNews.com, December 10, 2010*

## Pro-Lifers Targeted in FBI Pro-Abortion Training Forum

The Obama administration partnered with leading pro-abortion organizations to host an FBI training seminar in August with the main focus of declaring as “violent” the free speech activities of pro-life Americans. On August 25, 2010, the FBI and the United States Department of Justice co-sponsored a training seminar with Planned Parenthood, the National Abortion Federation and the Feminist Majority Foundation. FBI and Obama administration officials provided participants with an 84-page document entitled “Resource Guide: Violence Against Reproductive Health Care Providers” that contained presentations prepared by the Justice Department and an analysis of alleged pro-life “violence” prepared by the pro-abortion groups.

The so-called violence perpetrated by pro-life advocates mostly contained examples of constitutionally-protected free speech, including activities such as praying, providing women outside abortion centers with alternatives information, and peaceful protesting or picketing. Some of the organizations named in the FBI/DOJ seminar materials include 40 Days for Life, the ACLJ, Concerned Women for America, National Right to Life, Priests for Life, and Students for Life of America.

—*LifeNews.com, September 30, 2010*

## Push to Rescind Conscience Rights Upsets Pro-Life Doctors

Anational organization of Christian doctors is strongly concerned about the Obama administration’s effort to rescind conscience protections the Bush administration put in place for medical professionals. The regulations provide additional protections and support for those doctors and nurses who don’t want to be involved in abortions and may face pressure from medical institutions receiving federal funds. Documents filed in November and

December have attorneys admitting the administration wants to finalize a rescission of the conscience rules but it has been delayed because of other business—likely due to the HHS working on implementing the provisions of the ObamaCare law.

That greatly concerns Jonathan Imbody, the Vice President for Government Relations at the Christian Medical Association. The advocate for medical professionals said medical workers and the pro-life people who support them need to act now to try to save the regulations. “The government is now telling the court, in response to a lawsuit by several states against the conscience-protecting regulation, that HHS plans to eliminate or replace the conscience regulation by as early as January 31,” Imbody added. “That means we must act again to raise awareness of this threat to conscience rights, which has the potential to push life-affirming healthcare professionals out of medicine and strand the patients who depend upon them for care.”

—*LifeNews.com, December 21, 2010*

## ACLU Wants to Force Catholic Hospitals to Do Abortions

The ACLU has again asked the Obama administration to force Catholic and other religiously-affiliated hospitals to do abortions in cases where the mother’s life is supposedly in danger. This second letter concerns the debate over the controversial abortion a Phoenix-based Catholic hospital did. The abortion earned the medical center condemnation from Bishop Thomas Olmsted, who decided this week to revoke the Catholic status of the hospital. “This confrontation never should have happened in the first place, because no hospital—religious or otherwise—should be prohibited from saving women’s lives and from following federal law,” the ACLU letter said. The letter went to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and it applauded the abortion St. Joseph’s Hospital did saying it is “what is right by standing up for women’s health and complying with federal law.”

—*LifeNews.com, December 24, 2010*



# Twenty-fourth Annual Respect Life March



*Tyrone, Pennsylvania*  
Sunday ♦ January 23, 2011 ♦ 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 luncheon will be served in the parish hall after the March. For more information, call Pete Kreckel, 814-682-7311 or email [pharmacanoe@aol.com](mailto:pharmacanoe@aol.com).

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 Kreckel 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 24 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 attend. Participants walk the 1.25 miles from St. Matthew Church to Oak Grove Cemetery to the grave of Baby Agnes. A luncheon is served in St. Matthew's Church hall afterwards.

### *Prayer to God the Father of All Life*

Eternal God, You have revealed Yourself as the Father of all Life. We praise You for the Fatherly care which You extend to all creation, and especially to us, made in Your image and likeness. Father, extend Your hand of protection to those threatened by abortion, and save them from its destructive power. Give Your strength to all fathers, that they may never give in to the fears that may tempt them to facilitate abortions. Bless our families and bless our land, that we may have the joy of welcoming and nurturing the life of which You are the source and the Eternal Father. Amen. †

#### **Blair County Life News; Blair County Chapter Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.**

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*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.*

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# January 22, 2023

Dear Mom:

Can you believe it is already the year 2023? I'm still writing '22 on everything! It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting in the first grade and celebrating the change to a new century.

I know we really haven't chatted since Christmas, Mom, and I'm sorry, I have some difficult news to share with you, and I really didn't want to call and talk face to face.

But before I get to that, let me report that Ted's had a big promotion, and I should be up for a hefty raise this year if I keep putting in all those crazy hours—you know how I work at it. Yes, we're still struggling to pay the bills.

Little Timmy's been okay at Kindergarten, although he complains about going. But then, he wasn't happy about the day care center either. So what can we do? He's been a real problem, Mom. He's a good kid, but quite honestly, he's an unfair burden on us at this time in our lives.

Ted and I have talked this through, and we have finally made a choice. Plenty of other families have made the same choice and are really better off today.

Our pastor is supportive of our choice. He pointed out the family is a system, and the demands of one member shouldn't be allowed to ruin the whole. The pastor told us to be prayerful and to consider all the factors as to what is right to make our family work. He says that even though he probably wouldn't do it himself, the choice really is ours. He was kind enough to refer us to a children's clinic near here, so at least that part is easy.

Don't get me wrong, Mom—I'm not an uncaring mother. I do feel sorry for the little guy. I think he heard Ted and me talking about it the other night. I turned and saw him standing at the bottom of the stairs in his PJs with his little teddy bear that you gave him under his arm—and his eyes were sort of welled up with tears.

Mom, the way he looked at me just about broke my heart, but I honestly believe this is better for Timmy too. It's not fair to force him to live in a family that can't give him the time and attention he deserves.

And please, Mom, don't give me the kind of grief that grandma gave you over your abortions. It's the same thing, you know. There's really no difference.

We've told Timmy he's just going in for a vaccination. Anyway, they say the termination procedure is painless. I guess it's just as well that you haven't seen that much of little Timmy lately. Please give my love to Dad.

Your daughter,

—Priests for Life; [priestsforlife.org](http://priestsforlife.org)

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## The Pro-Life Generation

*continued from back page*

"This is something we see internationally," he says. "Once abortion and other elements of the culture of death really take root in a culture, there is always this advance in the culture of death. Then at a certain point people realize—and it's always from the bottom—what is going on and they try and reverse it." He considers that part of the recent spike in pro-life support is a response to aggressively pro-abortion action by the Obama administration and Congress. "A lot of times when you see a spike it is united opposition to something," he explains.

Public opinion is reflected in the current political races. "There is a resurgence of Americans who want to take their country back," says Dianne Edmondson, executive director of the Republican National Coalition for Life. "And on the whole, the people who are concerned about the way our country is going are pro-life, and social and fiscal conservatives."

### Signs of Pro-Life Progress

According to Phelan, in addition to the May 2009 Gallup poll, proof that progress has been made in America in the pro-life movement is there if you know where to look. "You can see the growth of the March for Life. The marches have been huge the last couple of years," he says. "They had to start a march on the West Coast, and there are marches locally all over the country."

Nellie Gray, founder and president of March for Life, agrees that more people have been coming to Washington

than ever before to participate in the annual January rally on the anniversary of *Roe*. "In '09 and '10, there is no doubt that we have had a large increase in people coming to the march," Gray says. The crowd marches down Constitution Avenue and ends at the steps of the Supreme Court. No official numbers for the 2010 march were released, but estimates of attendees were more than 300,000.

"I recently spoke with a bus captain from New Jersey who has been bringing a busload of people to the march for the past six years from a parish," Gray says. "This year, one bus is not enough. He has to get another bus, and the neighboring parish is also coming." She said that more young people are coming to the march as well, and the message is spreading by word of mouth. "There are a large number of home-schooling families coming," Gray recounts. "There are also a lot of schools bringing kids. Kids are meeting other children at the march and making friends, and meeting people their own age." The experience teaches young people the importance of standing up for life and builds the culture of life for the future.

### Technology Assists Mission

Sonograms, some now in 3-D and 4-D, are being used in crisis-pregnancy centers across the country to save the lives of hundreds of babies. A Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, launched in January 2009, has placed over 55 machines in 22 states. "More than 90% of women decide to keep their baby after seeing the picture of the sonogram," says Peter Sonski, director of public relations for the Knights of Columbus.

*continued on page 11*

# From Auschwitz to America



I'll forever remember my visits this week to the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau in Southern Poland. Over one million people were exterminated and abused in horrific fashion here before the camps were liberated in 1945. It's hard to explain the feeling you get when standing in a former gas chamber or gazing into ovens that disposed of so much humanity. Many acres of nearby land contain the scattered ashes of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles and grandparents—their mortal remains also thrown into ponds prisoners themselves were forced to dig.

In an attempt to destroy evidence of unspeakable atrocities, Nazi soldiers blew up two identical gas chambers/crematoriums. Now, a memorial stands between the

charred rubble of these former places of death, while in a vast expanse where rows of wooden barracks once stood, chimney stacks remain in eerie silence like skeletons, testifying to the mass murder of Hitler and his Nazi army. Time will never fully heal the pain and anguish caused by such horrific deeds—these places forever poisoned by lasting memories. My heart ached as I heard story after story of man's inhumanity to man.



Mothers and children entering killing facility, Auschwitz



Mothers and children entering killing facility, Wichita, Kansas

not human. We resolve that could never happen again. But it is. And it's happening to people here in America, in our own neighborhoods. Abortion is a silent modern-day holocaust of precious babies being killed because people are spreading the lie that they are not human.

I believe that one day our nation will look back on abortion much as we do the Holocaust. Everyone will wish they could say they stood on the side of life. And our children and grandchildren will ask us: **"What did you do to stop it?"** I pray we will each be able to answer well.

—Bradley Mattes, Executive Director, Life Issues Institute, September 17, 2010

Wichita photo courtesy Stuart Bensch (<http://dr-tiller.com/>), Cheryl Sullenger (<http://www.operationrescue.org/>)

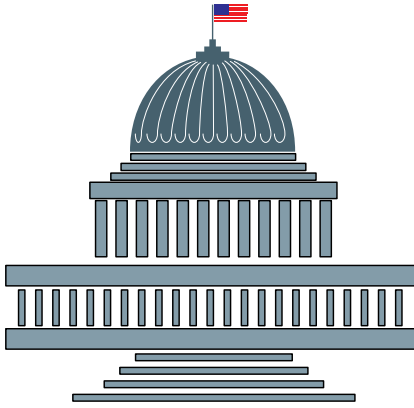
John Francis Borra, SFO, July 9, 2009 (<http://veritatis-thecartoon.blogspot.com/>)

## Abortion Totals Reach 53 Million

The United States is marking a tragic milestone. It's now estimated that 53 million abortions have occurred in this country since 1973, when abortion was legalized under *Roe v. Wade*.

There is some cause for optimism, given the fact that abortions have declined in recent decades. As National Right to Life has concluded, "After reaching a high of over 1.6 million in 1990, the number of abortions annually performed in the U.S. has dropped back to levels not seen since the late 1970s," NRLC says. National Right to Life's Education Director, Randy O'Bannon, noted, "Over the past twenty years, we have seen that pro-life efforts can make a difference, as the number of abortions performed in the U.S. has declined from 1.6 million to 1.2 million a year. We've still a long way to go, obviously, but we see that pro-life legislation, education and outreach can save, and has saved, hundreds of thousands of lives," O'Bannon added. "Our task is great, but our cause is just."

For more on this story, visit <http://www.lifenews.com/2010/11/26/nat-6891/>



# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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## Senate Opposes Bill Making Military Hospitals Abortion Centers

The Senate turned back a second attempt by pro-abortion Democrats to stop a Republican filibuster against a Defense Department funding measure that would also allow abortions at military base hospitals.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid couldn't find enough votes for cloture to stop debate and cast a vote on the legislation, but brought the measure up for a vote anyway.

His first attempt in September to get 60 votes for cloture failed as Republicans filibustered the measure in part because of the Burris amendment that would overturn a longstanding ban on abortions at taxpayer-funded military hospitals both domestically and abroad.

This second effort failed on a 57-40 vote with all Democrats voting for cloture to move ahead with the bill and the abortions, except for Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, who compiled a pro-life voting record as the state's governor. Republicans again voted no, with pro-abortion Republicans staying with the remainder of their party except Sen. Susan Collins of Maine.

—LifeNews.com, December 9, 2010

## Obama Regulations Put Death Panels Back in Health Care

New regulations the Obama administration will put in place starting January 1 essentially put the controversial death panels back in the much-maligned ObamaCare law. Although Democrats dropped the idea during consideration of the health care

law in Congress after significant public pressure, a new Medicare regulation taking effect at the beginning of the year will have the federal government paying doctors to advise patients on possible end-of-life care treatment options. The advice may include advanced directives to authorize withdrawal of lifesaving medical treatment or, in three states, assisted suicide.

Under the ObamaCare law, Medicare coverage of yearly physical examinations, or wellness visits, is authorized and a *New York Times* report indicates the new rule covers “voluntary advance care planning” as part of the annual visit. The rule allows physicians to discuss with patients the potential of an advanced directive—which can be used to request medical care and lifesaving treatment, or deny it. The section of the ObamaCare bill that had pro-life advocates concerned about death panels would have allowed for taxpayer funding of end-of-life treatment discussions via Medicare once every five years. The new rule pays for such discussions annually.

—*LifeNews.com*, December 27, 2010

### **Pennsylvania Parental Consent Abortion Law**

Attorneys representing pro-life legal groups are giving aid and support to a parental consent law that requires minor teens to get their parent’s permission for an abortion. Officials with the Alliance Defense Fund and Americans United for Life submitted a friend-of-the-court brief to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the first-ever review of that court of the pro-life law. The groups are representing the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, the Pennsylvania Family Institute and nearly 70 state legislators who support the law protecting a parent’s right to be involved in their child’s decision regarding abortion.

The Pennsylvania law and others like it have already been upheld at the U.S. Supreme Court and the ADF legal brief argues that a Pennsylvania trial court judge applied the correct legal standard and legitimately exercised his legal authority under the statute when he rejected a minor girl’s request for a secret abortion, stating that she needed consent from at least one of her parents.

“Parents should have a right to be involved in their child’s critical life-changing decisions, and that includes abortions,” ADF Legal Counsel Matt Bowman said. “Secret abortions performed on minors leave children in the hands of a predatory abortion industry that has put profits above parents’ rights and the health and safety of young girls and their preborn children.”

The girl in the lawsuit *In re: Jane Doe* sought a judicial bypass that would have hidden the abortion from her parents. A Pennsylvania trial court judge denied that bypass. Ultimately, in this case, at least one parent of the girl consented to the abortion of their grandchild.

While the law allows for a bypass in certain circumstances, it does not require rubber-stamp approval of every petition. The brief argues that a judge should have the freedom to carefully weigh the evidence and exercise proper discretion in allowing the parents a role in the abortion decision.

“Pennsylvania law appropriately requires that children obtain parental consent to get a body piercing in Pennsylvania, yet abortionists argue that these same children should be able to secretly kill their preborn babies in a risky medical procedure,” said ADF-allied attorney Randall Wenger of the Independence Law Center.

“While the baby in this particular case can never be brought back, the law must be upheld so that Pennsylvania parents may protect their daughters from being victimized under the cover of darkness by the profiteers of death in the abortion industry.”

The Pennsylvania law came under fire from abortion advocates in June when they responded to a bizarre case of a self-induced abortion by claiming abortion isn’t promoted enough and blasting parental involvement laws allowing parents to help persuade their teenagers to not have an abortion. A 13-year-old Pennsylvania girl reportedly conducted a self-abortion using a lead pencil after her much-older boyfriend subjected her to statutory rape. The 30-year-old boyfriend, officials say, then buried the body of the dead unborn child after the abortion was completed.

—*LifeNews.com*, December 28, 2010

### **Pro-Life Champion Joe Pitts to Head Key ObamaCare Panel**

When it comes to abortion and taxpayer funding of it, Congressman Joe Pitts of Pennsylvania is one of the big pro-life champions on Capital Hill. Now he will have the opportunity to head a key subcommittee that will have jurisdiction over efforts to repeal the ObamaCare law or, at minimum, de-fund the law or the abortion funding it allows.

While pro-life advocates were disappointed by the news that Rep. Fred Upton, who has a weak pro-life voting record, will head the full House and Energy Committee that will tackle ObamaCare and other abortion issues, they were delighted by the news on Pitts.

“We need to repeal Obamacare and replace it with something better. We need to protect human life from the unborn to the elderly,” Pitts said.

“The American people want Congress to find solutions to our healthcare challenges that are market-based, Constitutional, and won’t bankrupt the Treasury,” said Congressman Pitts. “I look forward to working with Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Chairman Upton and all of my colleagues to get this done.”

Congressman Pitts will head up the health subcommittee where any ObamaCare and abortion funding battles will originate.

John Boehner, the incoming Speaker, and members of the House Steering Committee named Pitts to become the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee—which is good news for Susan B. Anthony List president Marjorie Dannenfelser, who said the appointment is a “major pro-life victory.” That’s because the panel is “the gateway for legislation that embodies almost every pro-life protection America has consistently affirmed in polls and elections.”

—*LifeNews.com*, December 7, 2010

# My Other Daughter

By Marilou

A few weeks ago, I wrote about my daughter Anna. But few know I actually have another daughter, at least I have always thought of her as a girl. She is not someone I talk about very much, but I think about her, and it's around this time of year that I think about her more often.

I have never seen her, but I can only imagine what she looks like now. She probably has long thick brown hair and dark blue eyes and she is most likely tall with a strong German frame, with a slight nod to my Norwegian heritage. I like to imagine she is reservedly confident, resourceful, works hard to accomplish whatever is placed before her, has a dry wit and a tender heart that feels things deeply. Knowing only remotely the family in which she was placed, I know she was surrounded with immense love and joy, and she no doubt was given every advantage. I know God has and is going to use her in a mighty way.

Although she is infinitely better off where she is now, I deeply regret not having taken the opportunity to love her better, actually to love her at all...to have cherished her for even a little while by holding her in my arms. I never hugged or kissed her, never looked into her eyes or brushed the tip of my nose over her baby soft cheek. I never coupled her head in my hand, let her wrap her fingers over one of mine, or gently run my thumb along the bottom of her tiny little foot only to be awed by the tininess of her toes. I'm sure as a baby she was absolutely beautiful and those that surrounded her were completely taken up with her. And as she grew I think of her having had a shy giggle and having a hugely colorful imagination. I take a lot of peace imagining her crawling into her Father's lap, with strong arms being wrapped around her, and tucking her head into His chest and feeling completely safe, loved and cared for. I like to think of Him having told her how much He loved her, how beautiful she was and telling her of her great worth. (Oh...how I wish now I could have told her those things.) I pray she was able to spend as much time in His arms as she wanted.

You see, unlike my daughter Anna, who I love so very much and showed my love to by giving birth to her, my other daughter did not receive that same love from me. Instead, I 'chose' to end her life. Instead of loving her in all the ways a mother would love a baby (born or unborn), I disposed of her. Instead of thinking about all the ways she could impact this world, I tossed her aside as if she were worthless. Only God knows at this point how things would be different; who she would be, whose lives she would have influenced...how God would have used her on Earth. Each year on this date, I think about how old she would be...and this year she would have been 23.

Why am I telling this story now? Well, I guess it's only because my daughter Anna in a sense gave my other daughter a voice. And while Anna was thanking me for 'loving her enough,' I also heard my other daughter's voice saying, "how come you didn't love me enough?" As I've been growing closer to God and getting a better understanding of His love for me, I am beginning to value everyone else more. And as I've asked God to help me understand my worth to Him (because I believed I didn't have much if any), He has also shown me the worth of other people. And how can I possibly love others in this world well, if I have not acknowledged ALL my own children's worth, which would certainly include my first child.

I'm sorry, Baby Girl, for not loving you like God wanted me to. You ARE full of worth. You are God's precious creation, made with care and given a purpose even before the world began. For the short time you were there, you were knit together in my womb by God's hands. You are beautifully and wonderfully made! And although you were never alone, having lived these 23 years in the presence of your heavenly Father and his angels and our family members that were already 'home,' you also have a very large family here on earth with loving parents, siblings, grandmas and grandpas, LOTS of aunts, uncles and cousins. My beautiful baby...you are wanted, you are precious, you are loved!

—Still Waters, December 18, 2010  
[marilouschnaderbeck.wordpress.com/2010/12/18/my-other-daughter/](http://marilouschnaderbeck.wordpress.com/2010/12/18/my-other-daughter/)

## Crisis hotline numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call *Birthingright*, 2706 7th Ave., Altoona, 814-943-8185; or *Precious Life, Inc.*, 1716 12th Ave., Altoona, 814-944-2669.

For post-abortion counseling, contact *Project Rachel*, 814-884-8000; [www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org](http://www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org); or *Rachel's Vineyard*, 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463); [www.rachelsvineyard.org/](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/).

For information on Natural Family Planning, go to: [www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org) or [www.familyplanning.net](http://www.familyplanning.net).

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](mailto:help@homenursingagency.com). Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org).

**Thank you, Life Chain 2010 participants!**

(photos, facing page)

**You were there and you sent  
the message, loud and clear!**







## 2011 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: February 22, 2011

Mail to:

Pro-Life Essay Contest

c/o Janet Creighton

3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522

with 2011 Essay Contest Entry Form

(available online at [www.centralpaprolife.org](http://www.centralpaprolife.org))

### State Essay Contest - Due: March 1, 2011

*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.*

The 2011 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Essay Contest is open to Pennsylvania students in grades 7-12. Students must write a pro-life essay about abortion, euthanasia or stem cell research. Word limit is 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. Each essay must include a cover page with the student's name, address, phone number, name of school (or the fact that the student is homeschooled), and grade. Winning essays will receive cash prizes. Deadline for entries is March 1, 2011. Essays can be e-mailed to [lifelines@paprolife.org](mailto:lifelines@paprolife.org) or mailed to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; 4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA; 17109. Good luck to all our student contestants!

### National Right to Life 2011 Pro-Life Essay Contest

Senior Essay-Grades 10-12; Junior Essay-Grades 7-9. 1st Place-\$200; 2nd-\$150; 3rd-\$100. Essays should address this question: *What does abortion mean to you and your peers?* Entries must be submitted by January 16, 2011 and be postmarked by January 22, 2011. Please refer to the National Essay Contest details at [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org), under the "Special Events" tab.

## 2011 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 2011 Oratory Contest Entry Form

(available online at [www.centralpaprolife.org](http://www.centralpaprolife.org)) to:

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

3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522

### Oratory Contest Dates

Written Copy Due: February 22, 2011

Regional Competition: March 20, 2011

State Competition in Harrisburg: To be announced

National Competition: To be announced

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, 2011. The specific date will be announced.

# Our Lives Are Worth Living

This terrific blog entry appeared at <http://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2010/12/20/our-lives-are-worth-living/>

By Meghan Duke

Last month, to the surprise of all, a bill to legalize euthanasia in South Australia was voted down by the upper house of the SA parliament. In the weeks leading up to the vote, proponents of the bill argued that it would secure the rights of the terminally ill to end their lives at a time and in the circumstances of their choosing, while opponents pointed out the slippery slope from voluntary euthanasia to involuntary euthanasia.

In an open letter to the Prime Minister of South Australia, which appears as our second On the Square essay for today, bioethicist Nicholas Tonti-Filippini offered the perspective of one who suffers from chronic pain caused by terminal illness and argues that euthanasia does not offer a release from pain, but increases it:

Facing illness and disability takes courage and we do not need those euthanasia advocates to tell us that we are so lacking dignity and have such a poor quality of life that our lives are not worth living.

Such legislation depends on each of us, who have a serious illness and are suffering, not losing hope. If euthanasia is lawful then the question about whether our lives are overly burdensome will be in not only our minds, but the minds of those health professionals and those family members on whose support and encouragement we depend. The mere existence of the option will affect attitudes toward our care and hence our own willingness to continue.

That desire to live is often tenuous in the face of suffering and in the face of the burden our illnesses impose on others, our families, and the wider community. You would gain nothing worthwhile for us by supporting the legalization of deliberately ending the life of those who request death. Such requests warrant a response in solidarity from our community, a response that seeks to give us more support and better care, rather than termination of both life and care.

—First Things, First Thoughts, December 20, 2010

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

On this the feast day of the Holy Innocents, we must remember the lives of those who have been sacrificed at the altar of convenience. We must also remember those other victims of abortion, the mothers and fathers of those innocent ones who for whatever reason did not choose life.

As today's Gospel (December 28) exclaimed: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

We have two opportunities to stand up for the innocent ones this month—one in Washington, D.C. and the other in Tyrone, where the Knights of Columbus have been leading that March for twenty four years. Please join us at one or both of these prayerful, peaceful events.

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

## The Pro-Life Generation

continued from page 4

"That technology is unquestionably helping and it's funny because it is just the truth. Our opponents in this fight are trying to get those banned." Internet technology is also assisting by reaching thousands with pro-life information and images. "Communications technology through organizations like Live Action, Students for Life and Catholic Vote are giving us terrific images that we know are changing hearts," Phelan explains. "Technology works to serve truth. It moves people in the right direction."

"We embrace technology. It's perfect for grassroots organizations," says Hawkins. "Young people are on the Internet. We can get the pro-life message out through Facebook." She said that Twitter, YouTube, webcasts, e-mails and images of babies in the womb all work toward revealing that an unborn baby is a person.

Promoting the dignity of the human person is the goal of the pro-life movement. "Our goal is to end abortion, but also, we need to have a vision: to achieve a society that respects all human life, preborn, the elderly," Hawkins reflects. "It's not just about overturning Roe," Phelan says. "That still leaves us in a legal tennis match. It is still about changing hearts and minds and stopping evil."

—Daily News, November 1, 2010

### 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.

**BLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER  
CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.**  
2715 Third St.  
Altoona, PA 16601

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#### **YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LIFE**

*March for Life participants make their way up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. Held since 1974, the next March for Life will be January 24, 2011. For more information, go to [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)*

*by Washington, Wall Street, and the Media (Doubleday, 2010), agrees that the tide is turning toward a more pro-life society in America. "Young people are increasingly pro-life," he writes. "Fifty-six percent of the general population believes abortion is morally wrong, an opinion that resonates in strong majorities across age demographics."*

*A January Knights of Columbus/Marist poll showed that 58% of all 18- to 29-year-olds said that abortion is morally wrong, along with Generation X—the generation now 30-44 years old—of whom 60% believe abortion is morally wrong. These results are a positive increase from the baby boomers, ages 45-64, of whom 51% believe abortion is morally wrong. In a follow-up poll the next month, 66% of Catholic Millennials said that abortion is morally wrong and 63% believe that euthanasia is as well.*

*This shift is echoed in a May 2009 "Annual Values and Beliefs" survey by Gallup, which asked, "With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?" For the first time since the survey has been conducted, 51% of Americans called themselves pro-life and 42% called themselves "pro-choice." In 2008, 44% called themselves pro-life, and 50% were "pro-choice."*

*"The polls have made pro-life mainstream," said Hawkins. SFLA chapters on college campuses have grown from 181 in 2006 to more than 570 today, in 43 states. Its annual convention last year was attended by 1,150 pro-life students from 150 universities and was called the largest pro-life youth conference in the world.*

#### **Analyzing the Pro-Life Shift**

*Steve Phelan, communications manager for Human Life International, has hope for the future of America and its growing supporters for life. Based in Front Royal, Va., HLI is currently working in 105 countries around the world.*

## **Generation Y: The Pro-Life Generation**

**Pro-life is becoming mainstream.**

**Are we at a tipping point?**

*By Lisa Socarras*

**A**merica's pro-life future is looking brighter, thanks to Generation Y, the Millennials, those 60 million people born between the late '70s and the late '90s.

"Our generation is the pro-life generation," said Kristan Hawkins, executive director of Students for Life of America (SFLA) in Arlington, Va., adding that she hopes that her generation is the one that will overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that struck down anti-abortion state laws in the United States.

Opinion polls show a shift in the views of this generation from earlier generations, as well as that our country has become more pro-life than "pro-choice."

Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, in his new book, *Beyond a House Divided: The Moral Consensus Ignored*

*continued on page 4*