

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 3 Number 3

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Summer 2011

Fighting for Life

For four years, twenty-two-year-old Lila Rose has waged war against Planned Parenthood

By Lila Rose

One cold, wet day in San Jose, California, I was stuck inside my childhood home, looking for a book to read. Because I was homeschooled, the daughter of passionate book lovers, and one of eight children, our home was full of books of all kinds. It was my goal, at the age of nine, to read all of them. On the bottom shelf of a bookcase, I found something called the *Handbook on Abortion* by Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke. Curious, I opened it. And there they were: pictures. In shock, I quickly shut the book and pushed it away. And then I opened it slowly and looked again. I was looking directly at the picture of a tiny child, maybe ten weeks old, with tiny arms and legs, who had been the victim of an abortion.

Right then I knew it was ugly and wrong. But over the next decade I grew in my understanding of the gravity and urgency of this holocaust of unborn children, of our duty to protect them, and of my desire to help.

When I was thirteen I wrote in my journal, "God, it's time I actually do something about abortion." I began to research online and think about what I could do to tell other people about this terrible crime being committed even in our own neighborhoods. A friend and I wrote a letter to the community of Almaden, where we lived, exhorting people to vote only for pro-life candidates. We put up copies of the letter around the local shopping center. When I was fourteen I began planning a "Pro-Life Club." Within months it became Live Action. It began in my parents' living room, with a meeting of about a dozen of my closest friends, all whom I had convinced to come.

I had little idea then that within a few years I would be leading undercover investigations of the abortion industry, founding a pro-life nonprofit, editing a national pro-life magazine, and serving as a spokesperson for the pro-life cause.

I launched my first investigation four years ago, as a college freshman at UCLA, with my friend James O'Keefe. I had met James months earlier at a training session for student publications, and our shared interest in bold activism made us instant colleagues. We soon were working together on projects to "wake up" the UCLA campus to the reality of abortion and the lack of pregnancy services for students. James helped me start a pro-life student magazine that January. That magazine—the *Advocate*—is now published nationally and has a distribution of over 100,000 copies per issue.

"UCLA doesn't support women who are pregnant," I was told by the head nurse at my campus student health center in the fall of 2006, when I posed as a pregnant student seeking pregnancy counseling. She instead gave me information about two local abortionists to contact.

Evidently, on my own campus, vulnerable, pregnant girls my age were being hustled off to the abortion mills, with no other choice offered. After such startling discoveries at the campus health center, James and I were eager to expose the abortion giant—Planned Parenthood.

Our idea—to investigate the abortion industry at the ground level—wasn't new. In 2002 Mark Crutcher,

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Fatherly Love

God, there are many styles of fathering;
it flows through the personalities and gifts of individual men.

Some fathers are buoyant and talkative;
others are serious and quiet.

Some are wizzes at mechanics and carpentry;
others are challenged by anything beyond a flashlight.

Some are stern; others are more laid back.

You work through each of these fathering styles,
and the purpose is the same for all:
to channel your divine fatherly love to the children
entrusted to each human father.

God, help me see and use my traits to channel your love.

Help me accept my limitations as well,
so that I do not try to become someone to my children I can never be.

Above and through it all,
when my children hear of "God's fatherly love,"
let them understand those words because they have experienced
fatherly love from me. Amen.

—Celebrate Fathers, Prayers and Reflections on Fatherhood, Liguori



Happy Father's Day!

SAVE THE DATE!

2011 Celebrate Life Banquet

Featuring

Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North
910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

Check-in begins 5:30 p.m.

Doors open at 6 p.m.; Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

To benefit the work of the
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund

Go to www.paprolife.org for more information,
online registration or a printable registration form

"Conscience" Laws

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If we care about the right to live of those most vulnerable to discriminatory denial of lifesaving medical treatment, especially people with disabilities and older people, we must vigorously demand that broad "conscience" legislation be amended so as to protect their right to receive equal access to treatment necessary to prevent their death.

—National Right to Life News, April/May 2011

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

For information on Natural Family Planning, go to: www.ForYourMarriage.org or 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. Family Life, Diocese of Altoona / Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: familylife@dioceseaj.org.

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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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On Father's Day, Remember... Dads Get No Say in Abortion

By Jackie Anderson

June is unofficially the month of men. Father's Day falls on June 19th this year. The release of *X-Men: First Class* helped to begin the month with a testosterone-infused rush to the box office.

Like similar holidays, we take time this month to celebrate those whom we love, those who have loved us from the start, and sometimes, those we may not see as often as we wish.

Men play an intrinsically different role in our lives than women do. From an early age, we're taught the idiosyncrasies that make men who they are, and similarly, that make women equally as unique. Baby boys get blue painted rooms and toy trucks after their first sonogram; little girls will wear pink ruffles and decide to cut their Barbie's hair themselves. Boys scrape their knees climbing trees and girls will discover early on that a slumber party with best friends beats the outdoors any day. Men are categorized for their power and strength; women for their gentle, nurturing souls. The question, after the aforementioned and established cultural deliberation, is this: when did it become acceptable to remove men from the topic of abortion?

The basic, secular pro-life argument is founded on bedrock truths concerning biology. Take DNA A, merge it with DNA B and you get DNA C. Simple enough (though, frustratingly, not for everyone), and with that example you have life's simplest equation: $50\% + 50\% = 100\%$. Fifty percent of us come from our mothers, who selflessly and fearlessly carry us to term and raise us to be solid contributors to society.

And the other fifty percent of us, as dictated by simple biology, comes from our fathers, who contribute DNA, late night ice cream trips for their expecting counterparts, and the strength of their own character and spirit that they hope will one day be reflected in our own selves. A whole half of our mothers is within ourselves; no more, no less. Consequently, the same goes for our fathers.

And while we're on the topic of math, it's 100% impossible to conceive without men. In some way, shape or form, men are involved in 100% of conceptions worldwide, throughout the history of human life, no matter the race, religion or creed. It's simple biology.

How, then, is abortion strictly a "women's issue"? How is the expulsion of men from a conception they take 50% biological responsibility for any less illogical than the argument surrounding the age-old "my body, my choice" agenda?

The sad reality today is that many fathers who want to have a strong presence in the lives of their child are denied this fundamental right, as the life of their child is

snuffed out of existence without them even having the legal right to say otherwise. Regardless of whether or not the father had a say in his partner's abortion, men do suffer the same damaging psychological effects after abortion that often women experience.

Being a father means getting to hold your brand new son or daughter, the newest person on the planet at the time of their birth and imaging their future. It means scraped knees and tea parties, exorbitant texting bills in middle school, and driving lessons and boyfriends in high school. Picking out softball teams, colleges, and wedding dresses. Most amazingly, it means getting to play a prominent role in this tiny person, this little ball of blankets ultimately will become.

The beautiful gift of fatherhood and the inalienable rights and attributes attached to the men fortunate enough to hold the title should be celebrated daily.

Similarly, a heightened sense of fatherhood and the necessity to celebrate the role fathers play in the lives of their children should be emphasized within the pro-life movement.

It is no secret that many women who choose to abort their child do so because they feel as though their partners are unsupportive of their decision to embark on motherhood; it is also no secret that some men are less than supportive of welcoming a child and subsequent financial burdening into their lives.

But what about the men who feel blessed to be a part of something so miraculous, something that could only change his life for the better?

All fathers should be celebrated for their role in the creation of a new child, and these fathers should be especially celebrated for their decision to welcome this gift into their lives for they serve as role models.

This month, the staff of Students for Life of America urges you to do something special for your fathers who have all chosen to celebrate the gift you have been to them since your humble beginning. Consider writing your father a thank you note. It's simple and to the point, and with the whole world shifting to email and twitter, he might appreciate the extra effort. There are few better ways to tell someone how you feel than writing it down. Men tend to be less emotional than women, but everyone appreciates being appreciated.

Find a funny card you know he'd appreciate, or devote your Facebook status to him for a day. Small, thoughtful efforts like these go a long way in shining a light on those who mean the most to us, and certainly do much to reflect a truly pro-life heart.

Jackie Anderson is the Communications Director for Students for Life of America.

—LifeNews.com, June 10, 2011

Fighting for Life

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of the pro-life group Life Dynamics, ran a study that surveyed over eight hundred Planned Parenthood clinics and National Abortion Federation affiliates. An actor posing as a thirteen-year-old girl impregnated by a much older man—a rapist—called the facilities. As Life Dynamics recorded these conversations, the group found that over 90 percent of the clinics promised to cover up the rape the girl had suffered and to provide her with an illegal abortion—a plan and procedure unreported to either police or parents. For reasons difficult for most people to fathom, the abortionists took it on themselves to perpetuate the vicious cycle of sexual abuse.

James and I wanted to find our own way to expose this corruption and bloodshed. Months after our first investigation of the UCLA health center, we went undercover to two Los Angeles Planned Parenthood clinics.

I posed as a young, scared, pregnant girl, fifteen years old, the victim of a twenty-three-year-old statutory rapist. The Planned Parenthood staff told me, into our hidden cameras: “Figure out a birth date that works.” Lie about your age on the paperwork. Say you are older than you really are. We will give you a secret abortion, and no one will ever know.

The YouTube videos we made of our tapes went viral. Planned Parenthood threatened to sue me—an eighteen-year-old college freshman. I remember returning to my dorm room to find a personal email from the California director of Planned Parenthood, informing me that if I did not “relinquish the tapes” of my investigation to the organization, it would sue me for privacy violations of its employees. With less than \$200 in my bank account, threats to sue me for “\$5,000 for each offense” might have seemed daunting if I had not had a deep sense that God, as he always does, would use this only for good.

And, of course, he did. Because of the threat of the lawsuit and the added media attention, I had my first *O’Reilly Factor* interview—and, after the bad press, Planned Parenthood did not pursue the threat of the lawsuit. This inspired me to think even more carefully and work even harder to come up with more projects to expose the dark heart of the abortion industry.

My summer vacations turned into summer research projects—undercover investigations into abortion clinics across the country. In the summer of 2007, we investigated six different Planned Parenthood development departments, talking with directors of development and other staff to see whether rumors of Planned Parenthood’s racism were true.

Planned Parenthood has historic ties to the now-discredited eugenics movement in the United States. More



“Mum’s the word, old friend.”

(C) 2010 John Francis Borra www.veritatisthecartoon.blogspot.com

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recently, abortionists have worked hard to reach out to minorities. This is reflected in skyrocketing abortion rates among minority women. African-American women account for less than 13 percent of the U.S. population but submit to nearly 37 percent of all abortions. Approximately 80 percent of abortion clinics are located in minority neighborhoods. Although most people in our country do not know it, such a heavy abortion rate among minorities was planned and desired by the founders of Planned Parenthood, particularly by founder Margaret Sanger, an open racist and eugenicist.

Sanger is still revered by pro-abortionists. Are her policies still in circulation? We decided to investigate.

By phone, James posed as a racist asking whether he could donate to Planned Parenthood for the abortion of a black baby. Like the racism that James acted out, the response to these proposed race-based donations was horrific. No Planned Parenthood employee hung up the phone. All agreed to accept the donation or find a way to do so, and some made understanding remarks about the racism or showed excitement about the race-based donation. In one conversation with a Planned Parenthood office in Idaho, when James said there were “way too many blacks,” the development director laughed and said, “Understandable, understandable.”

It was clear that Planned Parenthood had much to hide. The investigation by Life Dynamics was inspiring, but no videos corroborated Mark Crutcher’s version of events. Moreover, that investigation was six years old.

I began to dream: A multistate inquiry to investigate child sexual abuse cover-up. Once the investigation was completed, a series of video releases, on the local level, to stir up controversy in each city or community as the overall national story built. With help from two close friends and my always-supportive parents, I prepared a budget and a project plan.

Miraculously, all the needs for the project were met. We scheduled it for the summer of 2008, one week after my school got out, and began to assemble the team. As I took my final exams, I juggled last-minute meetings with donors and interviews with potential investigative team members. A dear childhood friend named Jackie agreed to be my fellow investigator. We were joined by a videographer and a trip planner. Less than a handful of people knew about any of our plans, and even fewer knew details—all to preserve our ability to operate covertly. A lawyer filed pro bono for our tax-exempt status. A generous donor team transferred \$30,000 to our bank account. Our research team—three friends who had been involved in past Live Action projects—worked to chart out the investigation and develop briefs on every clinic and state. I researched and purchased police-quality undercover equipment and began training.

We were about to begin my most ambitious investigation—a probe deep inside the closed doors of Planned Parenthood called the Mona Lisa Project.

For this investigation I had to disguise myself by bleaching my hair platinum blonde because Planned Parenthood had put up warning posters—showing me as a natural brunette—in many of its clinics nationwide. There seemed to be one reason Planned Parenthood might give the police a call: Apparently, to Planned Parenthood, I was a more dangerous criminal than the group's pedophile clientele.

I was nineteen years old, leading a team of other young people to travel nationwide in twenty-one days and go undercover into clinics posing as sex-abuse victims. I began each morning and ended each night in a hotel room, on my knees in prayer. There were so many unknowns and variables on this project. And my weaknesses were always before me as I tried to be the best investigator I could, inspire the others, lead them, and know what to do myself—all with little outside help. A prayer team of

close friends and donors was formed. They didn't know what we were doing or where, but they signed on to intercede for this "special project." And my parents were always on call to encourage and give advice. With such a support network and the Holy Spirit leading us, we had great confidence. We also witnessed literal miracles on the trip, including one where our team prayed in a car outside a clinic that our metal-strapped investigators would get through the clinic's metal detectors without any cause for suspicion—and, miraculously, we did.

Soon afterward I was sitting in the waiting room of a Planned Parenthood clinic, posing as a thirteen-year-old girl named Brianna. Even though I was in character, I wanted to talk to a woman sitting a few chairs away from me. The woman was with her sister, who had two little daughters, maybe five and seven. The little girls were playing on the floor with the brightly colored toys that this Planned Parenthood surgical abortion mill had placed in its waiting room for women who arrived with born children.

The woman looked sad and stared at the floor. She was just beginning to show that she was pregnant.

"What are you here for? Abortion?" I asked.

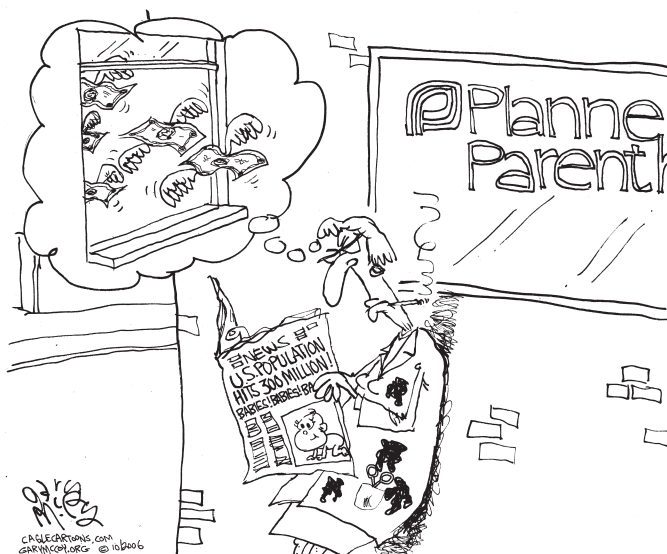
"Yes," she said, and looked away. She didn't want to talk about it. I felt helpless. Suddenly, her sister's little daughter, the five-year-old, started jumping up and down, demanding attention and asking for a cup of water. Then, just as suddenly, she went over to her aunt. Pulling on her aunt's pants leg, she climbed into her lap and cuddled close to her abdomen.

I remember seeing that and not being able to look away. I knew I was looking at the meeting of two cousins separated by just inches of flesh—and one of them, a little boy or a little girl, would be violently killed by abortion that very day. It reminded me of another meeting, one between two unborn cousins, when Mary, the Madonna, visited her cousin Elizabeth. And how could it not? We had named the Mona Lisa Project after these two women.

A year after the Mona Lisa Project finished, I began another multistate traveling investigation called the Rosa Acuna Project. From 2009 to 2010 our team has been inside dozens of clinics in many states. I have sat through counseling sessions, seen women with blood on their clothes, and heard the harsh words of abortion workers who cannot help but taste the evil of their work. "I don't want to go work in the OR room," one of them said to our undercover actors; "I don't like getting too close."

I've become an expert on what everyday abortion workers say to women because I've heard it firsthand and

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Fighting for Life

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have trained and briefed investigators who go in and collect the evidence firsthand. In clinics nationwide, Planned Parenthood employees have said the heartbeat starts at eleven weeks, at twenty weeks, or when the baby is born. They have said that hands and feet don't form until right before the baby is born. They call the unborn child's heart just an electrical flicker, and they call the unborn child fetal matter, an alien, a tadpole, a cup of coleslaw—any number of dehumanizing names. The Rosa Acuna Project has documented these lies in a series of public video releases.

We named the Rosa Acuna Project for a young New Jersey woman who sought an abortion. She was deeply troubled about her decision and spoke to the doctor.

"Is it a baby?" She asked him. "Am I killing a baby?"

"Don't be stupid," the abortionist told Rosa. "It's a blood clot. It's a bunch of cells."

He performed the abortion. Back at home, bleeding profusely, Rosa went to the emergency room. The nurse told her she had the remains of her baby inside her and would need an operation to extract it from her uterus. That's when Rosa realized her first trimester "pregnancy matter" was not a blood clot or a bunch of cells. It was a human baby.

In fewer than four decades, America has permitted the slaughter of more than 50 million tiny children. There has never been another slaughter as unjust and widespread as abortion because never has a human society destroyed so many of its young.

It is the dehumanization of the unborn child that allows the slaughter to continue. The once pro-life Rev. Jesse Jackson said: "Those advocates of taking life prior to birth do not call it killing or murder, they call it abortion. [They say] 'fetus' [because fetus] sounds less than human and therefore abortion can be justified."

People do not see the unborn as human beings equal in worth to ourselves or others—to a two-year-old toddler, for example. After all, fetuses and embryos cannot demand protection from us. They do not cry in front of us, or wail as a two-year-old might if he or she senses danger in a clinic waiting room. Their tiny vocal cords are hardly developed. We do not have to watch them hold out their tiny, newly developed hands. They are hidden in the bodies of their mothers. Because the unborn cannot beg us for mercy, many Americans may think that abortion is a tragedy, but a necessary one at times. Or many may think that abortion is a tragedy, but not their main concern.

We who know better must proclaim that the value of our unborn brothers and sisters is not based on what they give to society. It is based solely on the mysterious worth of their humanity, that mysterious imprint of the divine. To be human is enough. To be human should grant you a place of love and dignity in any family, any society, any nation.

America's public schools are either neutral or favorable toward abortion. The entertainment media are the same. Traditional news media fail to grasp the reality of abortion and often take positions leaning toward it. Young people live with a stifling din of pro-abortion instruction; we are urged to be morally transgressive and politically conformed to the culture of death. A word of truth, an image, a video comes like a fresh breeze.

Live Action's mission is to educate the public with the truth about abortion and the dignity of the human person by using the power of creative new media. All of Live Action's projects are designed to work within traditional systems to reach young people with the truth and inspire them to join us in leading the pro-life culture.

Most people do not see clearly the evils of their own century, their own age. It is the history makers, the revolutionaries, and the visionaries who identify the failings, injustices, and opportunities of their century and work tirelessly to address them. Thanks to the revolution in media through blogs, Facebook, Twitter, webcams, and cell phones, everyone can create and distribute media. Like many other organizations, Live Action is seizing this opportunity to talk past the pro-abortion gatekeepers of previous decades and show the world the truth about abortion. Today, I aspire to do my part. I pray that many more, young and old, will join.

Now that I have graduated from college, I am grateful for the experiences I have been blessed with so far. I am moving forward with a wonderful team of talented and committed young people to continue our projects and undertake new and more ambitious ones. The investigative and educational work is far from over. Thousands more people must realize the gravity and urgency of abortion's injustice, must reject the murder of our unborn brothers and sisters, must repent of the indifference and hopelessness that allows this, and must recommit to a beautiful and life-giving vision of our life together in America. These thousands must be awakened to the truth so they can inspire and lead more thousands to reject abortion, stop the killing, and restore peace. I believe with my whole heart we will be victorious, just as I pray and believe in the Kingdom of God and that we can do God's will on earth. We have a perfect loving God who inspires and authors our work. If we lay down our lives, we cannot fail.

Lila Rose, who graduated from UCLA in June, 2010, is president and founder of Live Action, a nonprofit educational group.

—First Things, October 2010

New poll finds that New Yorkers support waiting period and parental consent, think city abortion rate too high

By Dave Andrusko

A comprehensive 53-question survey taken in February demonstrates that even New Yorkers are shocked by the number of abortions taking place in New York City, particularly in the African-American community, and support a 24-hour waiting period and parental consent before a minor under the age of 18 can have an abortion.

These seemingly counter-intuitive results were released by the New York City-based Chiaroscuro Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that supports alternatives to abortion.

The numbers in the poll are remarkably revealing, beginning with how little the average New Yorker knows about abortion in his or her own city.

For example, an overwhelming majority (81%) were completely unaware of New York City's inordinately high abortion ratio—a full 41% of viable pregnancies in New York City are now aborted, nearly twice the national average of 22%, according to the latest New York City Health Department statistics.

A staggering 60% of African-American pregnancies in New York City were aborted in 2009, the most recent year for which data is available.

The survey of 800 likely voters in New York City, conducted by McLaughlin & Associates from February 8-10, found:

- ◆ More than half of city residents surveyed (51%) would support a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion can take place;

- ◆ 63% of city residents support parental consent before a minor girl under the age of 18 can have an abortion.

- ◆ Two-thirds of New Yorkers (64%)—including 57% of pro-choice women—think too many abortions are taking place in New York City every year;

- ◆ Almost three-quarters of New Yorkers (74%) think too many African-American pregnancies are being terminated in the city, according to the poll.

"When New Yorkers learn how many abortions are taking place in their city every year, they are shocked," said Greg Pfundstein, Executive Director of the Chiaroscuro Foundation.

Earlier this month, the Chiaroscuro Foundation launched a citywide public awareness campaign on New York City's 41% abortion ratio, running bus signs across the city reading: "41% of Viable Pregnancies Terminated in NYC. We Need a New Strategy, Mr. Mayor." It has also written a letter to Mayor Michael Bloomberg requesting public discussion on the issue. The Foundation has not received a response.

The Bronx has the highest abortion-to-live-births ratio with 48%. More than 900,000 pregnancies in the city

ended in abortion—nearly one-eighth of the entire city population of just over 8 million—in a 10-year period beginning in 2000.

"We fully understand that the Mayor is a pro-choice politician," Mr. Pfundstein said. "But this survey shows that concern over the city's alarming abortion ratio straddles the pro-choice and pro-life camps. No matter how one feels about the legality of abortion, the city's abortion ratio is a public health crisis that deserves attention. We remain hopeful the Mayor will address it."

—National Right to Life News Today, March 5, 2011

Editor's Note: And how does Mayor Michael Bloomberg respond to the staggering abortion statistics? He signed a bill on March 16 placing stringent limits on the advertising that pro-life pregnancy help centers can use and requires them to post signs designed to discourage women from seeking the abortion-alternative services. Two similar Maryland laws have been declared unconstitutional by two federal judges.

Jeanne Monahan, Family Research Council's Director for the Center for Human Dignity, released the following statement after the ruling:

"In a city where four out of ten babies are aborted, Mayor Bloomberg is continuing to advance the abortion industry's agenda by signing an unconstitutional bill targeting pregnancy resource centers. Pregnancy resource centers offer real help to women facing unexpected pregnancies—at no cost to the mother or taxpayers.

"The true victims of this legislation will be the women facing unexpected pregnancies. Pregnancy resource centers are one of the few organizations that work to decrease abortions and exist solely to help and support women facing an unexpected pregnancy. Unlike abortion clinics, pregnancy care centers have no financial incentive when a pregnant woman walks into their office.

"Thankfully, two federal judges have struck down similar laws in Maryland citing First Amendment violations. With an abortion rate of 41 percent in New York City, we hope that the courts will soon overturn this law and restore respect for women, babies and the Constitution," concluded Monahan.

*All who are genuinely committed
to the advancement of women
can and must offer a woman or a girl
who is pregnant, frightened and alone,
a better alternative
than the destruction
of her own unborn child.*

*~ Mary Ann Glendon ~
Fourth World Conference on Women
Beijing*

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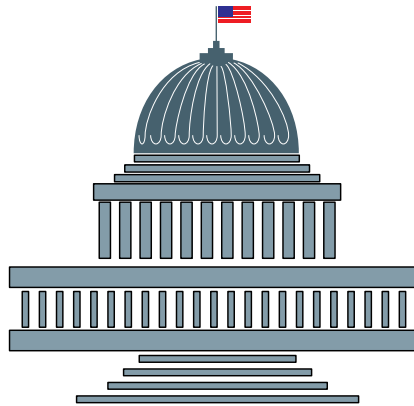
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Rick Santorum Seeks GOP Presidential Nod

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, a pro-life stalwart, made his bid for the Republican nomination for president official on June 6.

The former elected official made the announcement from the Somerset County Courthouse in Somerset, Pennsylvania. This location is significant because it is near where Senator Santorum's grandfather settled in America after leaving fascist Italy to work in the Pennsylvania coal mines until he was 72 years old. He chose to come to America for the freedom our nation offered him, Santorum's campaign says.

Criticizing pro-abortion President Barack Obama in his announcement speech, Santorum said, "He's devaluing our dollars, and he's devaluing our other currency, our moral currency." Taking on Obamacare, he added, "Every single American now will be hooked to the government with an IV. And they will come to you every time they want to do more and say, 'you want that IV, you want that healthcare?'"

"As I travel the country, it is evident that voters are looking for a candidate who believes in them and not the power of government, and who wants to move our country forward based on our Founders' vision," he said. "What people are looking for is someone who has stood by their principles in good times and in bad."

Although Santorum has struggled to move past the low single digits in polls of Republicans in early states like Iowa and New Hampshire, he said he is "in it to win," and says his message will resonate with voters in a way that can make him competitive.

Santorum is a passionate conservative, and two decades ago, he was elected to the House of Representatives as one of the new GOP freshmen ready to take on the status quo in Washington. A decade later, Santorum beat Democratic Sen. Harris Wofford and he moved up the ranks of the Republican Senate leadership as a young activist who was set to take on the slow-moving chamber and instill a reform ethic.

He was pegged as a rising star—especially after leading the battle to pass the ban on partial-birth abortions—until he lost a difficult re-election bid in a bad year for Republican candidates nationwide. Santorum held his Senate seat for 12 years before losing in 2006 to Democrat Bob Casey, the son of a popular former governor and someone who ran as a pro-life Democrat.

But that hasn't stopped Santorum from pressing on with his pro-life perspective.

"To me there are truths out there," Santorum said recently in an *Associated Press* interview. "There are things that are right and things that are wrong. That may not be popular and it may lose you an election, but that's OK."

"If you look back at what I did and when I did it, people can say: You know what? He may have lost but he didn't flinch. He stood by what he believed in and he continued the fight through the end," he said.

Santorum says Republican voters are looking for someone like him with a consistently conservative message—"Someone who's been there for many, many years talking about the same issues in the same way—this is what a lot of folks, a lot of conservatives, are looking for."

—*LifeNews.com*, June 6, 2011

PA Senate OKs Cutting Abortion Funding

The Pennsylvania state Senate approved legislation on June 7 that would have the state opt out of the abortion funding allowed under the Obamacare health care law President Barack Obama signed.

The Obamacare legislation requires state health insurance exchanges created under the legislation to cover abortions, but the law allows states to opt out of requiring abortion coverage. The ban extends to the state exchanges the Obamacare legislation would set up because the funding for abortions would come at taxpayer expense through the exchanges, which would be funded with federal subsidies.

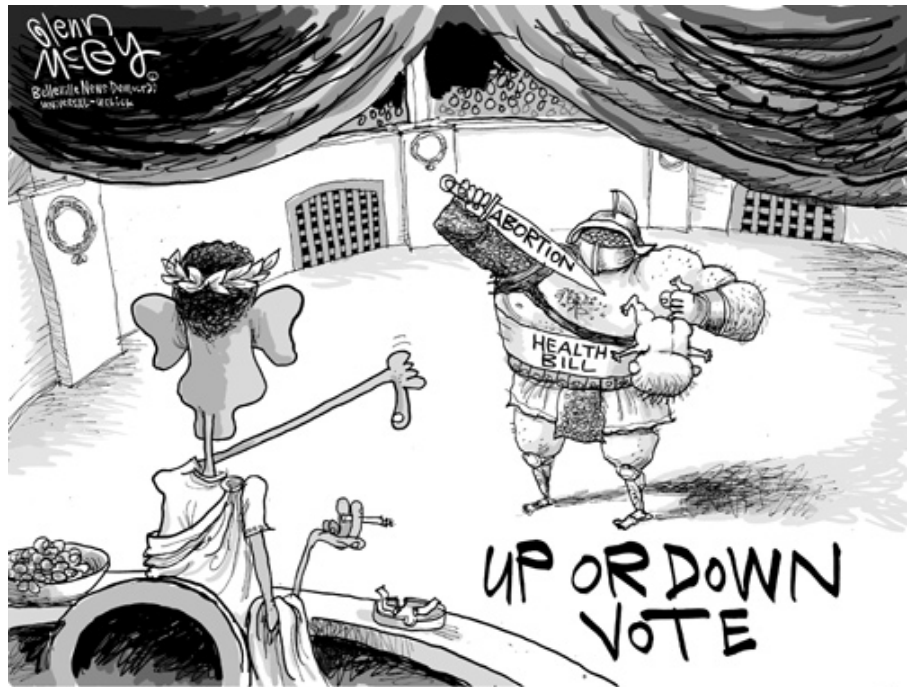
Under the new health care law, states will be in charge of their own health care exchanges that are available for individuals and small businesses. The exchange doesn't go into effect until 2014 and states are filing lawsuits seeking to stop the pro-abortion health care bill in its other pro-abortion provisions entirely, but states are moving now to exercise their right to opt out of some of the abortion funding.

The Pennsylvania Senate approved Senate Bill 3 on a 37-12 vote that lawmakers described as a common sense piece of legislation which would ensure that Pennsylvania is not forced into the abortion business as a result of so-called health care reform. The legislation now goes to the state House for consideration.

Senate floor leader, Sen. Larry Farnese, D-Philadelphia, criticized the bill saying it would make it harder for women to get abortions.

"This is not a new or radical step for Pennsylvania, but rather an extension of the restrictions we already have in place for (Medicaid) and other taxpayer-subsidized programs," countered the bill's sponsor, Sen. Don White, R-Indiana.

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation applauded the passage and Charlene Bashore, legislative director of the group, told *LifeNews*, "Congress said states have the right to opt out of abortion coverage and we want to ensure that for the state of Pennsylvania. This



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The sophistry is overwhelming: If I choose and desire my child, then ipso facto I have granted it the right to live, and it will live. But the inverse is equally the case, by means of nothing more or less than my choice: Caesar's thumb is up, or Caesar's thumb is down.

~ Lord Nicholas Windsor, *Caesar's Thumb*, *First Things*, December 2, 2010 ~

continues Pennsylvania's long-standing policy of not using government resources for abortion."

So far, 12 states have approved legislation opting out of the Obamacare abortion funding, including Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

Pennsylvania became the first state to attempt to fund abortions under Obamacare last July when it announced the Obama Administration announced it would give Pennsylvania \$160 million to set up a new "high-risk" insurance program but Pennsylvania officials quietly approved a plan submitted by an appointee of pro-abortion then-Governor Edward Rendell under which the new program will cover any abortion that is legal in Pennsylvania.

The high-risk pool program is one of the new programs created by the sweeping health care legislation, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, President Obama signed into law

on March 23. The law authorizes \$5 billion in federal funds for the program, which will cover as many as 400,000 people when it is implemented nationwide.

"The Obama Administration will give Pennsylvania \$160 million in federal tax funds, which we've discovered will pay for insurance plans that cover any legal abortion," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee. New Mexico and Maryland also tried to fund abortions through the program until National Right to Life blew the whistle and the Obama administration was forced to back down.

When Congress passed the government-run health care bill, it did so without any limits on abortion funding and language mandating taxpayer financing of abortion in certain circumstances. Obama eventually issued a controversial executive order supposedly taking the abortion funding issue off the table.

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In Loving Memory

Regina Sweeney 1999 - 2011



*Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sweeney and Family
Aidan, Regina, Brian, Kathy, Brendan, Greg*

This past October, six members of the Sweeney family joined the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life in the annual Pro-life prayer event called **Life Chain**.

On April 20, 2011, the youngest member of the Sweeney family, Regina, passed from this life to eternal life, leaving behind her parents, Greg and Kathy, sisters Bridget and Theresa, and brothers, Kevin, Brian, James, Brendan and Aidan.

I first met Regina's mother, Kathy Sweeney, at St. Mary's Church nursery over eighteen years ago. Our children were close in age and we began to see that we had quite a bit in common...especially our respect for life...the pro-life cause. At that time Kathy had only three children and probably one on the way...as would be the case for years to come.

All in all, the Sweeney family over the years accepted eight beautiful children from God, each of them welcomed into the world by two joyful parents and delighted brothers and sisters. The last of the Sweeney clan, or the "Caboose," was their youngest daughter, Regina Sweeney, or more affectionately known by her older siblings, as "Queeney Sweeney."

Regina was a regular kid who, as Kathy would say, "could mix it up" with her older brothers. She enjoyed all of the ordinary things of life... her dolls, her best friend, Helena, Harry Potter books, movies, play parks, and most recently, her new puppy.

But apart from the ordinary, Regina, who was home schooled, had a spiritual side for such a little life. She had a litany of prayers that she would recite faithfully each and every night. In short, she had a happy family life, combined with a strong prayer life.

In a recent conversation with Kathy, she reminded me that Regina was truly a gift of her's and Greg's faith. In a world where many choose to limit their family size for any number of reasons, Kathy and Greg were led to the belief that they would be always open to God's holy will for them and their family. They would be open to the gift of life...for one more child if God willed it.

Regina, as were all of the Sweeney children, the gift of life, given by the Father. For all of Regina's eleven short years on this earth, she gave to them the time that God willed for her. In return, her father and mother gave to Regina, not only life and an abundance of love, but a beautiful faith as well.

In April, after fighting a lung infection for over a month in Pittsburgh's Children Hospital, Regina was sorrowfully and lovingly, surrendered back to God and to eternal life.

We in the pro-life community thank Greg, Kathy and the Sweeney family for being a part of our community and sharing their faith and their family with all of us.

We know that the loss of Regina will always reign deep in our hearts. We thank the Sweeney family for teaching their children by example to not only accept children lovingly from God, but to accept, with faith, their return to Him as well.

So, to my dear friends, the Sweeneys, when you are reunited in eternal life, you will be welcomed not only by Regina herself, but you will also hear the words of Christ, echoed aloud, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

To Regina, and all those who fought for life, thank you, and may you rest in peace. Amen. †

Your pro-life friend for Life, Beth Britz

From the President's Desk

Pentecost

The most difficult experience for any parent is the death of a child. Beth Britz has written a very moving article about our little Queen, Regina Barbara Sweeney, who died during Holy Week surrounded by her family and loved ones. Regina had joined her family annually in our local Life Chain in support of those children who are indeed "a Child and not a Choice" as the sign she helped hold proclaimed (see page 10).

Within yards of Regina's grave at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Newry is the grave of another "Apostle of Life" from another very active family in our Blair County Pro-Life community. Travis Chuff passed away from cancer at the age of 17, over six years ago. He joined his parents Mark and JoAnne and his brothers Derek and Ryan in many pro-life activities. He even offered his sufferings for the election of President Bush in 2004 because of the President's pro-life position.

These two young people led lives that are worthy of our imitation. Their families taught them the value of life and the value of love. May we follow their example and meet them again at the end of our lives.

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

A general meeting of CCHL Blair County will be held on Wednesday, June 22, at 7 p.m., at 1701 5th Avenue, Altoona, to elect officers for 2011-2012.

Abortion Funding

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However, virtually every pro-life group said it would not mitigate the abortion funding because it doesn't have the effect of law, could be reversed in the future, and because it didn't tackle much of the abortion funding in the bill. The Obama administration could also ignore the order and not put it in place when the health care law goes into effect.

A Quinnipiac University poll found that 67 percent of the Americans surveyed opposed funding abortion with federal funds under the health care law.

—LifeNews.com, June 7, 2011

Donations have been made—

In Loving Memory of:

Muriel Replogle

Given by: Sharon Kensinger

In Honor of the 90th Birthday of:

Stella Konopka

Given by: Marge and Doug Bradley

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Citizens Concerned for Human Life, 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 Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc., Blair Co., will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send your donations to **Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. (CCHL), Blair Co., 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601.**

National Right to Life Convention

There is still time to make plans to attend the National Right to Life Convention, June 23-25, in Jacksonville, Florida. This annual convention is the premiere pro-life educational event in the nation. Three days of workshops on countless topics will keep you updated on all the vital pro-life news and information. Among the many speakers are **Fred Barnes**, editor of the Weekly Standard and FOX News contributor; **Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, M.D.**, President of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute; **David Prentice**, Ph.D., founding member of Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics; **Melissa Ohden**, survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977; **Michael Clancy**, whose photograph captured the tiny hand of an unborn child reaching from his mother's womb and grasping the finger of his surgeon during fetal surgery to correct the child's spina bifida; **Abby Johnson**, who resigned from the largest abortion corporation in the nation, Planned Parenthood, and authored *Unplanned*.

Visit www.nrlconvention.com or call 202-378-8842 for more information about the NRL Convention.

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.

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Some “Conscience” Laws Authorize Involuntary Euthanasia

By *Burke J. Balch, J.D.*

Pro-life people are conditioned to think positively of “conscience” laws because we want to protect health care personnel from being forced to participate in abortion or to assist suicides. Indeed, laws that are narrowly drawn to cover such cases, or that have language adequately protecting against denial of lifesaving medical treatment based on age, disability or other “quality of life” factors, are worthy of support.

Unfortunately, however, some states have enacted—and others are being pressed to enact—“broad” conscience laws that essentially immunize health care providers *whenever* they refuse to provide health care to a patient. These can be used, for example, to justify denial of lifesaving treatment to a child born with Down syndrome, on the ground that it violates the provider’s conscience to extend a life of “suffering.” These laws prevent patients and their families from seeking any legal redress when they are denied lifesaving medical care, antibiotics, or even assisted feeding when a health care provider deems a patient’s quality of life to be unacceptable.

The Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act provides that a “physician shall be under no duty to perform, assist, counsel, suggest, recommend, refer or participate in any way in any form of medical practice or health care service that is contrary to his or her conscience.” At the time, it was unthinkable that doctors would assert that their “conscience” allowed them to prevent their patients from continuing to live.

A more recently enacted example is the 2004 Mississippi Health Care Rights of Conscience Act, which states, “No health-care provider shall be civilly, criminally, or administratively liable for declining to participate in a health-care service that violates his or her conscience.”

Tragically, the practice of denying the “health care service” of lifesaving treatment against the wishes of a patient and the patient’s family is now well entrenched in American medicine. (See the *Powell Center Report* at www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/AdvancedDirectives/WillYourAdvanceDirectiveBeFollowed.pdf.)

Increasingly pervasive are views like those of Leslie M. Whetstine and David W. Crippen, writing in the medical journal *Cost and Quality*. They assert, “The greatest injustice...is maintaining patients...with invasive treatment modalities [which] is unethical because it supports selfish individualism at the expense of society.” Indeed, they maintain that provider-imposed rationing is morally obligatory: “it is not ethically appropriate to divert money to maintain the irreversibly dying from the person who has a good chance of recovery.”

Writing in *Clinical Cardiology*, W. Daniel Doty states, “The treating physician’s ethical obligations...logically limit the patient’s autonomous choices.” An article in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* by Marco and others declares, “The argument from professional integrity asserts that physicians should not be required to violate their own professional moral standards by providing treatments they believe to be futile or harmful.”

While one might think that when a treatment is called “futile” that means it will not work to keep a patient alive, that is not what many doctors mean by the term. A study published in the *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics* base on physician interviews concluded, “Most often when futility arguments were invoked, they were used to support evaluative judgments based on quality of life considerations, only rarely to designate treatments that were medically inefficacious. Indeed, throughout the transcripts, physicians sought to frame value judgments as medical decisions. All but one physician seemed unaware of the double meaning they ascribed to the word.”

Indeed, Lawrence J. Schneiderman and Alexander Morgan Capron, writing in the *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, resent efforts to require doctors to preserve the lives of those with disabilities, complaining, “a judge who orders that a severely disabled child be kept alive rarely sees firsthand the long-term consequences of that decision, which remain a continuing vivid experience for the health professionals who must provide care for the child.”

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