CITIZENS CONCERNED



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 4 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Fall 2012



A Prayer for our National Elections

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, not only of individuals, but of nations and governments.

We thank you for the privilege of being able to organize ourselves politically and of knowing that political loyalty does not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law, which our Founding Fathers acknowledged and recognized as higher than any human law.

We thank you for the opportunity that this election year puts before us, to exercise our solemn duty not only to vote, but to influence countless others to vote, and to vote correctly.

Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened. Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation, their response to you requires that they be politically active.

Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world, but rather a community of faith renewing the world.

Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth; that the same eyes that read your Word are the eyes that read the names on the ballot, and that they do not cease to be Christians when they enter the voting booth.

Awaken your people to a commitment to justice, to the sanctity of marriage and the family, to the dignity of each individual human life, and to the truth that human rights begin when human lives begin and not one moment later.

Lord, we rejoice today that we are citizens of your kingdom. May that make us all the more committed to being faithful citizens on earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life







GOP Convention Approves Solidly Pro-Life Platform

Republicans at the 2012 GOP convention approved yet another solidly pro-life platform on the issue of abortion, which retains the language supporting a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution that has been a part of it since 1980. The platform, on abortion, reads as follows:

THE SANCTITY AND DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Faithful to the "self-evident" truths enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or fund organizations which perform or advocate it and will not fund or subsidize health care which includes abortion coverage. We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life. We oppose the nonconsensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, including food and water, from people with disabilities, including newborns, as well as the elderly and infirm, just as we oppose active and passive euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Republican leadership has led the effort to prohibit the barbaric practice of partial-birth abortion and permitted States to extend health care coverage to children before birth. We urge Congress to strengthen the Born Alive Infant Protection Act by exacting appropriate civil and criminal penalties to health care providers who fail to provide treatment and care to an infant who survives an abortion, including early induction delivery where the death of the infant is intended. We call for legislation to ban sex-selective abortions-gender discrimination in its most lethal form—and to protect from abortion unborn children who are capable of feeling pain; and we applaud U.S. House Republicans for leading the effort to protect the lives of pain-capable unborn children in the District of Columbia. We call for a revision of federal law 42 U.S.C. 289.92 to bar the use of body parts from aborted fetuses for research. We support and applaud adult stem cell research to develop lifesaving therapies, and we oppose the killing of embryos for their stem cells. We oppose federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.

We also salute the many states that have passed laws for informed consent, mandatory waiting periods prior to an abortion, and health protective clinic regulation. We seek to protect young girls from exploitation through a parental consent requirement; and we affirm our moral obligation to assist, rather than penalize, women challenged by an unplanned pregnancy.

We salute those who provide them with counseling and adoption alternatives and empower them to choose life, and we take comfort in the tremendous increase in adoptions that has followed Republican legislative initiatives.

Eagle Forum founder Phyllis Schlafly applauded the party for keeping its pro-life plank intact again.

"The pro-life platform is absolutely excellent," Schlafly told *The Daily Caller*. "The heart of it is identical to the pro-life platform we have had since the 1984 convention in Dallas. It says that the unborn child has a fundamental, individual right to life which cannot be infringed."

"The pro-life plank of the platform is the same one we elected Ronald Reagan on in his 49-state victory," she told *The DC*. "It is really not controversial in the Republican Party anymore. It is just a blind statement and, I think, one of the things we have done to make the Republican Party pro-life. Almost all of our candidates in 2010 were pro-life, and they are again this year."

James Bopp, Co-chairman of the Subcommittee on Restoring Constitutional Government for the Republican National Committee, emailed LifeNews the background of the pro-life position:

Since 1980, the Republican Party Platform has endorsed the adoption of "a Human Life Amendment" to protect unborn life and to reverse *Roe v. Wade.* Carl Anderson, now head of the Knights of Columbus of the U.S., and I drafted this plank, and it has remained the same and in the platform since then. In addition, I was Co-Chairman of the Subcommittee on Restoring Constitutional Government of the Platform Committee which readopted this platform plank this year.

On the other hand, the Democratic National Committee has officially rejected an effort by pro-life Democrats to get the party to include them in its platform that calls for keeping unlimited abortions legal and paid for at taxpayer expense.

Excerpted from Life News.com, August 28, 2012



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

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BLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.

Vice-President: Chet Kowalski; Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley
Treasurer: Gail Nevitt; Legislative/Political Education Director: Beth Britz
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan,
non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding
the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell
research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages,
sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA
Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations
are not tax-deductible.

2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681 email: blair@centralpaprolife.org website: www.blaircountyprolife.org

WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND ON LIFE?







TAXPAYER FUNDING **FOR ABORTION**

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would codify the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortion. Over one million Americans are alive today because of the Hyde Amendment.

"I support the Hyde Amendment, which broadly bars the use of federal funds for abortions."

The White House issued a statement attacking the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3): "If the President is presented with H.R. 3, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill."

ROE V. WADE & ABORTION

The 1973 Roe v. Wade and its companion Doe v. Bolton decisions together essentially legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States, resulting in more than 54 million abortions since then.

"I support the reversal of Roe v. Wade. because it is bad law and bad medicine. Roe was a misguided ruling that was a result of a small group of activist federal judges legislating from the bench."

"I am pro-choice. I believe in Roe v. Wade."

"With one more vacancy on the court, we could be looking at a majority hostile to a woman's right to choose for the first time since Roe v. Wade, and that is what is at stake in this election." (01/22/2008)

FUNDING FOR ABORTION PROVIDERS

Each year, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are given to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, reporting 332,278 abortions in 2009

"I will support efforts to prohibit federal funding for any organization like Planned Parenthood, which primarily performs abortions or offers abortion-related services."

On his third day in office, President Obama nullified the pro-life "Mexico City Policy." making organizations that perform and promote abortion as a method of family planning overseas eligible for U.S. foreign aid funds.

OBAMACARE HEALTH CARE LAW

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) will provide funding for health plans that pay for abortion on demand, and will lead to the rationing of lifesaving medical treatments.

"Obamacare will violate that crucial first principle of medicine: 'do no harm."

Mitt Romney believes that ObamaCare must be repealed. (Statement on Mitt Romney's website)

On March 23, 2010, signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) into law, which will provide funding for health plans that pay for abortion on demand, and will lead to the rationing of lifesaving medical treatments.

RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE

NRLC supports the enactment of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (S. 1467, H.R. 1179), which would exempt institutions or individuals from providing health coverage for services that violate their religious or moral convictions.

"... on day one I will eliminate the Obama Administration rule that compels religious institutions to violate the tenets of their own faith. Such rules don't belong in the America that I believe in."



The Obama Administration issued a "final rule" mandating that groups, including religious schools and hospitals, provide health insurance plans that cover certain drugs or procedures, even if it violates the groups' religious and moral convictions.

Contact Information

<u>President</u> President Barack Obama

The White House Washington, D.C. 20500 Opinion Line: 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5 Fax Number: 202-456-2461 www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

<u>Pennsylvania U.S. Senators</u> The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.

United States Senate 393 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-6324; toll free: 866-802-2833 www.casey.senate.gov/contact/

The Honorable Pat Toomey

United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4254; www.toomey.senate.gov/contact

<u>Pennsylvania U.S. Representative (9th District)</u> The Honorable Bill Shuster

U. S. House of Representatives 1108 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-2431; www.house.gov/shuster

Blair County Office

310 Penn St., Ste. 200, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 814-696-6318 or 800-854-3035

Governor of PennsylvaniaThe Honorable Tom Corbett

225 Main Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120 717-787-2500; www.governor.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania State Senator (District 30) The Honorable John H. Eichelberger P. O. Box 203030, Harrisburg, PA 17120 717-787-5490

Hollidaysburg Office

309 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 814-695-8386; www.senatoreichelberger.com/

<u>Pennsylvania State Representatives (Blair County)</u> The Honorable Mike Fleck

(District 81-Snyder Twp.-part, Tyrone Bor.-part, Tyrone Twp.-part) 159A East Wing P.O. Box 202081, Harrisburg, PA 17120 717-787-3335; www.repfleck.com

Tyrone Office

Snyder Township Municipal Building Tyrone, PA 16686 814-684-5200

The Honorable Richard A. Geist

(District 79-Allegheny Twp. (part), Altoona, Logan Twp.) 144 Main Capitol Building P. O. Box 202079, Harrisburg, PA 17120 717-787-6419; www.rickgeist.com

Altoona Office

1331 12th Avenue, Suite 104, Altoona, PA 16601 814-946-7218

The Honorable Jerry Stern

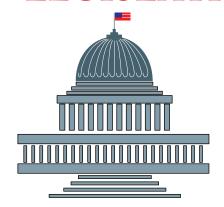
(District 80-Allegheny Twp. (part), Antis Twp., Bellwood Bor., Blair Twp., Catharine Twp., Duncansville Bor., Frankstown Twp., Freedom Twp., Greenfield Twp., Hollidaysburg Bor., Huston Twp., Juniata Twp., Martinsburg Bor., Newry Bor., North Woodbury Twp. Roaring Spring Bor., Snyder Twp. (part), Taylor Twp., Tyrone Bor. (part), Tyrone Twp. (part), Williamsburg Bor., Woodbury Twp.

315A Main Capitol Building P. O. Box 202080, Harrisburg, PA 17120 717-787-9020; www.jerrystern.com

Hollidaysburg Office

324 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 814-695-2398

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The Most Extreme President Ever on Abortion

merica has never had a more pro-abortion President than Barack Obama. In another time, Obama's views on late abortions and on eliminating virtually all current protections for unborn children and their mothers would have been considered a scandal. They would have disqualified him from holding high office.

Commentator Rich Lowry, writing in the journal *Politico*, said "it is impossible to stake out a position further to the left on this issue, unless, perhaps, you are performing abortions yourself."

Two things highlight Obama's extremism: His strong support for late abortions; and his desire to use federal power to eliminate virtually all pro-life laws in the states.

Late abortions

Throughout his career, Barack Obama has firmly and consistently supported the brutal dismemberment

and killing of unborn children in late abortions. These are children developed enough to feel pain and to live outside the womb.

As an Illinois state senator, Obama voted against a ban on partial-birth abortion. He argued strenuously against a law that would have recognized that an unborn child who survives an abortion has a right to the same care as any other person.

When asked in 2003 about his views on abortion, Obama answered "I'm pro-choice." When the reporter followed up with "In all situations, including the late-term thing?"—Obama stuck to his guns. He said "I am pro-choice. I believe that women make responsible choices...and I don't think that it's the government's role to meddle in that choice."

Eliminating virtually all pro-life laws

Obama promised Planned Parenthood in 2007 that if elected President, the first bill he'd sign would be the Freedom of Choice Act, a law that would eliminate most state pro-life laws.

National Right to Life has been successful in passing laws in several states to ban late abortions when the child is developed enough to feel pain. An Obama Supreme Court, if he is re-elected, could eliminate those laws, putting thousands more unborn children at risk of what this former abortionist described in his testimony in Congress earlier this year:

It truly is a scandal that any elected official would defend such brutality. Every American needs to know this is what their President believes.

The media might not tell them the unpopular positions Obama holds, but we will. Please share this information with your friends so they know the truth, as well. With your help and support, we can defeat Barack Obama on November 6th and end the threat that Obama's policies pose to millions of innocent unborn children.

— Carol Tobias, President, National Right to Life



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Candidate Survey Results Pennsylvania 79th District State Legislative Seat

Apro-life Candidate Questionnaire was sent to both candidates, Republican nominee for the 79th Legislative District, John McGinnis and his Democratic challenger, Richard Flarend, this past summer. The survey was a project of the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life. Both candidates are vying for the office of the Pennsylvania 79th State Legislative District contest this coming November. Neither candidate has previously held public office and the winner will be replacing the long-time pro-life Republican, State Rep. Richard Geist. Both candidates were given a month to respond to the request to submit their surveys, but only Republican candidate, John McGinnis, returned his questionnaire. Dr. McGinnis's response per his questionnaire rated a 100% pro-life position on the LIFE issues. Democratic candidate Richard Flarend refused to respond to the request to submit his position on the LIFE issues.

Below is Dr. John McGinnis's Candidate Questionnaire on the Life issues as requested by the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life.

—Beth Britz, Legislative/Political Education Director

Concerned for Frantair Bire.	Betti Bitta) Begionitto ej i ottiteni Buttenito			
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE				
 The 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision of birth control, even in the late stages of pregnancy. YES 	allows for abortion for any reason, even as a method Do you SUPPORT the <u>reversal</u> of this decision?NO			
2. Do you SUPPORT a law <u>banning</u> partial-birth abortio	ns, except to prevent the death of the mother?NO			
Some public funds are used for abortions or abortion abortion or abortion referral except to prevent the dea YES	referral. Do you OPPOSE the <u>use of public funds for</u> ath of the mother?NO			
4. Human <u>embryonic</u> stem cells and human <u>fetal</u> tissue no beneficial effects for the fetus. Would you SUPPO stem cells and fetal tissue in such experiments? YES	are used in some medical experimentation which has RT legislation that would <u>prohibit</u> the use of embryonicNO			
5. Would you SUPPORT a law <u>banning</u> so-called "repro of a baby? _X_YES				
6. Knowing that the removal of stem cells from <u>human e</u> you SUPPORT a law <u>banning</u> so-called "the rapeutic of YES"	cloning" (somatic cell nuclear transfer)?			
7. Do you OPPOSE laws <u>allowing</u> assisted suicide?	NO			
8. Do you SUPPORT honoring the wishes of patients wh water) regardless of their degree of disability, age and YES	d "quality of life"?			
 Do you SUPPORT legislation that would protect healt medications or provide medical care that violates their YES 	r moral or religious beliefs?			
I understand that the information which I submit on this questions Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter	uestionnaire will be provided as a candidate survey by :			
Print Name John D. M. Colinnis Signature	STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 79th DISTRICT Office Sought and District 75/12 Date			
ZOIPROF @ AT.	LANTICBB. NET			
E-mail (if you wish to receive electronic copy of the Citizens Could life Candidate Questionnaire is not received at the addressing response."	••			
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter 1009 Newry Lane, Duncansville, PA 16635 email: pjmom@atlanticbb.net				

VP Candidate Ryan Stresses Pro-Life Themes *by Steven Ertelt*

uring his speech to the Republican convention, vice-presidential candidate Paul Ryan sounded pro-life themes as he talked about the respect and dignity of human life.

"Our different faiths come together in the same moral creed. We believe that in every life there is goodness; for every person, there is hope. Each one of us was made for a reason, bearing the image and likeness of the Lord of Life," Ryan said.

"We have responsibilities, one to another—we do not each face the world alone. And the greatest of all responsibilities, is that of the strong to protect the weak. The truest measure of any society is how it treats those who cannot defend or care for themselves," Ryan continued.

"Each of these great moral ideas is essential to democratic government —to the rule of law, to life in a humane and decent society. They are the moral creed of our country, as powerful in our time, as on the day of America's founding. They are self-evident and unchanging, and sometimes, even presidents need reminding, that our rights come from nature and God, not from government," the current Wisconsin congressman said.

"We will not duck the tough issues, we will lead. We will not spend four years blaming others, we will take responsibility. We will not try to replace our founding principles, we will reapply our founding principles," he concluded. "Whatever your political party, let's come together for the sake of our country. Join Mitt Romney and me. Let's give this effort everything we have. Let's see this through all the way. Let's get this done. Thank you, and God bless."

Ryan would bring a lengthy pro-life record and a passion for the pro-life view to Washington. During the 2010 elections, Ryan told *The Weekly Standard's* John McCormack, "I'm as pro-life as a person gets."

He responded to a controversial "truce" that Mitch Daniels of Indiana had put forward saying social issues should be put on the back burner, and repudiated it.

"You're not going to have a truce. Judges are going to come up. Issues come up, they're unavoidable, and I'm never going to not vote pro-life," Ryan said.

Ryan said he is equally adamant about both his conservative fiscal views as well as his position that every unborn child has the right to live.

"I write as an unswerving proponent of both free market choice and the natural right to life," Ryan wrote in a Heritage Foundation piece called "The Cause of Life Can't be Severed from the Cause of Freedom." "It is unfortunate that 'life' and 'choice' were ever separated and viewed as alternatives."

Ryan continued: "I cannot believe any official or citizen can still defend the notion that an unborn human being has no rights that an older person is bound to respect. I do know that we cannot go on forever feigning agnosticism about who is human. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time."

The freedom to choose is pointless for someone who does not have the freedom to live. So the right of "choice" of one human being cannot trump the right to "life" of another. How long can we sustain our commitment to freedom—life—for the most vulnerable human beings?"

"All conservatives should find it easy to agree that government must uphold every person's right to make choices regarding their lives and that every person's right to live must be secured before he or she can exercise that right of choice," he said.

The National Right to Life Committee has tracked the votes Ryan has cast in Congress on important pro-life issues—Ryan has crafted a perfect 100% pro-life voting record.

—Excerpted from LifeNews.com, August 20, 2012



Coming to Altoona! Priests for Life - Rev. Denis Wilde

Monday, October 1

Ramada Inn (1 Sheraton Dr., directly off I-99, exit 31)

Doors Open 6:00 p.m. ◆ FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Denis G. Wilde, O.S.A., Ph.D. is a member of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova and was associate professor of music at Villanova University from 1977 to 1998 before he joined Priests for Life. A Long Island native, Fr. Wilde is a professional pianist and presents piano recitals around the country in conjunction with pro-life ministry. Fr. Wilde feels a unique interest in relating music and pro-life ministry much as the heart is moved through beauty in life.

Fr. Denis has been actively involved in pro-life concerns since before *Roe v. Wade.* In the 80s, he personally witnessed the "rescue" movement and thereby developed ecumenical ties from the expression of common faith in God as the Author of Life.

Fr. Denis writes: There is sadly no more dangerous place to live than the womb. This bizarre situation of a culture of death propped up by law and camouflaged as medicine perpetuates a lie of a colossal order. Its consequence is a deadend street to baby, mother and civilization. Our days, seen against this backdrop, can be foreboding. But they can also serve as a national and church wake-up call to act on the promise God has given us all—to thwart evil and reclaim His Victory over death. Ours is not an option to wait for someone else to come along. What a joy it is to know that God is in charge and will not fail to lead us forward to end this 'unspeakable crime.'

Sponsored by Counselors for Life. For more information, call 814-695-6278.

For Our Catholic Readers

The following page was included in the St. Veronica Church bulletin in Chantilly, VA on July 22, 2012.

Worthiness to Receive Holy Communion: General Principles

The following memorandum was sent by Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, (later Pope Benedict XVI), to Cardinal McCarrick and was made public the first week of July 2004.

Personal Prudence and Objective Standards

Presenting oneself to receive Holy Communion should be a conscious decision, based on a reasoned judgment regarding one's worthiness to do so, according to the Church's objective criteria, asking such questions as: "Am I in full communion with the Catholic Church? Am I guilty of grave sin? Have I incurred a penalty (e.g. excommunication, interdict) that forbids me to receive Holy Communion? Have I prepared myself by fasting for at least an hour?" The practice of indiscriminately presenting oneself to receive Holy Communion, merely as a consequence of being present at Mass, is an abuse that must be corrected (cf. Instruction "Redemptionis Sacramentum," nos. 81, 83).

Abortion, Euthanasia and the Law

The Church teaches that abortion or euthanasia is a grave sin. The Encyclical Letter *Evangelium vitae*, with reference to judicial decisions or civil laws that authorize or promote abortion or euthanasia, states that there is a "grave and clear obligation to oppose them by conscientious objection. [...] In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to 'take part in a propaganda campaign in favour of such a law or vote for it'" (no. 73). Christians have a "grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law. Indeed, from the moral standpoint, it is never licit to cooperate formally in evil. [...] This cooperation can never be justified either by invoking respect for the freedom of others or by appealing to the fact that civil law permits it or requires it" (no. 74).

Legitimate Diversity on War & The Death Penalty

Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. For example, if a Catholic were to be at odds with the Holy Father on the application of capital punishment or on the decision to wage war, he would not for that reason be considered unworthy to present himself to receive Holy Communion. While the Church exhorts civil authorities to seek peace, not war, and to exercise discretion and mercy in imposing punishment on criminals, it may still be permissible to take up arms to repel an aggressor or to have recourse to capital punishment. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion and euthanasia.

Grounds to Refuse an Individual Holy Communion

Apart from an individual's judgment about his worthiness to present himself to receive the Holy Eucharist, the minister of Holy Communion may find himself in the situation where he must refuse to distribute Holy Communion to someone, such as in cases of a declared excommunication, a declared interdict, or an obstinate persistence in manifest grave sin (cf. can. 915).

Catholic Politicians and the Eucharist

Regarding the grave sin of abortion or euthanasia, when a person's formal cooperation becomes manifest (understood, in the case of a Catholic politician, as his consistently campaigning and voting for permissive abortion and euthanasia laws), his Pastor should meet with him, instructing him about the Church's teaching, informing him that he is not to present himself for Holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin, and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist.

Voting as a Moral Act

When "these precautionary measures have not had their effect or in which they were not possible," and the person in question, with obstinate persistence, still presents himself to receive the Holy Eucharist, "the minister of Holy Communion must refuse to distribute it" (cf. Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts Declaration "Holy Communion and Divorced, Civilly Remarried Catholics" [2002], nos. 3-4). This decision, properly speaking, is not a sanction or a penalty. Nor is the minister of Holy Communion passing judgment on the person's subjective guilt, but rather is reacting to the person's public unworthiness to receive Holy Communion due to an objective situation of sin.

[N.B.: A Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in evil, and so unworthy to present himself for Holy Communion, if he were to deliberately vote for a candidate precisely because of the candidate's permissive stand on abortion and/or euthanasia. When a Catholic does not share a candidate's stand in favour of abortion and/or euthanasia, but votes for that candidate for other reasons, it is considered remote material cooperation, which can be permitted in the presence of proportionate reasons.]

The great American worldview test — the 2012 election



By Albert Mohler

merican presidential elections are the world's most public display of the democratic process. The global media follow the American elections with a fervor that is easily understood—what happens

in an American presidential election matters all over the world. Our presidential campaigns are political pageants and electoral dynamos. But, as any honest thoughtful observer will understand, our elections are also great worldview exercises. We reveal our worldview by our vote.

This is particularly true of the 2012 election. The presidential nominees of the two major parties represent two very different worldviews and visions. President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney have adopted policy positions that place them in direct conflict, and the platforms of their respective parties reveal two radically different renderings of reality.

Years ago, Governor George Wallace of Alabama remarked with disdain that there is not "a dime's worth of difference" between the Democrats and the Republicans. In a sense, he was at least partly right. A look back at the platforms of the two parties in the 1950s and 1960s reveals little division over many of the issues that now frame our national debate. Some of today's issues were simply missing, of course, given the fact that they were not even part of the national conversation. But on issues of the economy, foreign policy, the function of government, and a host of other issues, the parties held positions that were far closer than is the case today. Divisive issues such as the war in Vietnam would be addressed with different policy proposals, but the platforms of the two parties reflected a shared moral and political framework—a truth that would shock many Americans today.

All that changed with the social and political divisions that came with the 1968 and 1972 elections, when the Democratic Party experienced its great transformation concerning a host of social issues. The 1980 election saw the Republicans experience their own transformation, with social issues such as abortion rising to major attention in the party platform.

Fast forward to 2012, and the distance between the two parties is breathtaking. The nation's political polarization is clearly evident in the radical distinctions between the Republican and Democratic platforms. But this polarization is not merely political. It is fundamentally moral and ideological. These two platforms present two contradictory understandings of realities as basic as human life, liberty, and the institution of marriage.

Though the two parties have taken opposing positions on many of these issues for years, the radical nature of this current polarization is new. The parties differ about matters such as health care and the environment, the power of public employee unions, Medicare, and foreign policy. But those differences, real and consequential, pale in contrast with the positions taken by the parties concerning the issues of abortion and same-sex marriage.

In 2012, the Democratic Party becomes the first major political party in the United States to call for the legalization of same-sex marriage. "We support marriage equality and support the movement to secure equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples," states the platform. This follows President Obama's announcement earlier this year that his "evolving" position on same-sex marriage now reached the point that he would openly call for same-sex couples to be given the legal right to marry.

The velocity of the Democratic Party's shift concerning same-sex marriage was on full display on the stage of the 2012 Democratic National Convention, when former President Bill Clinton nominated President Obama for re-election. In 1996, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) into law after a massive bi-partisan majority in Congress approved the legislation. That act established that the United States government would recognize only the union of a man and a woman as marriage, and that no state would be required to recognize a same-sex union performed in any other state.

Just 16 years later, the Democratic president who signed that act into law nominated a Democratic president who is working for its repeal. President Obama has ordered his Attorney General not to defend DOMA in the Federal courts. He and his party now openly call for what that federal statute—still bearing the full force of law—prohibits.

The Republican platform stated: "We affirm our support for a Constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman." Thus, the Republican platform calls for nothing less than a Constitutional amendment to prevent what the Democratic platform demands the law to affirm. That Constitutional amendment, Republicans argue, is made necessary by the very fact that the Democratic President will not defend DOMA.

On the issue of abortion, the Republican platform states, "we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed." The Democratic platform states: "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay. We oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right."

The worldview clash could hardly be more dramatic. The Republicans frame the issue in terms of the unborn child's "fundamental individual right to life." The Democrats frame the issue as "a woman's right to make decisions"—including the explicit right to decide to kill the baby in her womb. These are two contradictory moral claims.

One party claims that no abortions should be legal and the other claims that all abortions should be legal. Each party is driven by their own moral logic. The Republicans are driven by the belief that, at every point of development, every individual human being is sacred and has a fundamental right to life. The Democrats are driven by the belief that the woman's unfettered right to choose an abortion is paramount, and that a woman can demand an abortion at any time for any reason—or for no reason. As their language states, "We oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right." The most revealing words there are "any" and "all."

Both parties hold these positions because they are, in truth, the inevitable consequences of basic worldview assumptions. These assumptions include belief that marriage is essential to human flourishing and cannot be redefined without bringing on human disaster, contrasted with the belief that the liberation of humanity from oppression and prejudice requires the redefinition of marriage. In the background are contradictory assumptions about human sexuality, sexual morality, moral authority, individual autonomy, and the ends to which human beings are to aim their lives.

The assumptions framing the abortion positions of the two parties include the belief that every human life is sacred and to be protected at every point of development contrasted with the belief that a human life takes on greater worth and right to live as the development continues, but is tentative at least until the moment of live birth. The belief that the baby is itself the most urgent moral unit is contrasted with the belief that the woman and her right to control her own reproductive destiny is paramount. Behind these beliefs stand convictions and assumptions about human dignity, the worth of human life, the responsibility of the society to every human life, the purpose and end of human reproduction, and nothing less than the meaning of both life and death.

We are not looking at minor matters of political difference. We are staring into the abyss of comprehensive moral conflict. Christian voters can escape neither the consequences of their vote, nor the fact that our most basic convictions will be revealed in the voting booth come November. Christians cannot face these questions without the knowledge that God is the Giver of life, who made every human life in his image. We cannot consider this election without the knowledge that our Creator has given us the covenant of marriage as the union of one man and one woman as the demonstration of his glory and the promise of human flourishing.

Americans will elect a president in November, but our vote will reveal far more than our political preference. The 2012 election is a worldview exercise of unprecedented contrasts—an unavoidable test of our most basic convictions. The electoral map will reveal more than an election winner. It will reveal who Americans really are and what we really believe.

-LifeSiteNews.com, September 6, 2012

FAITH-BASED CITIZENS GROUP "FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY"

FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY began as a group of Christian lay people concerned over the recent Department of Health and Human Services' egregious mandate requiring religious organizations to pay for abortion-causing drugs and contraception, contrary to their faith and conscience. The group was founded locally, in Altoona, by Mark Frederick and Mark Chuff. The focus of the organization includes all areas in which government has impeded upon religious freedom and the increasing lack of respect for human life.

FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY spokesman, Mark Frederick, describes the organization as "a group of concerned citizens whose mission is to defend and advance respect for human life and liberty in the public square." Frederick said, "the means to achieve this is through education and public witness, informing the community on the pre-eminent issues. As people of faith, we encourage others to become informed, pray and become active in the defense of our God-given right to life and freedom."

Frederick adds that the group is extending an invitation to concerned persons—of any faith background—to join the organization in their educational and public witness efforts. Interested persons can contact the group by calling **814-696-1211** or e-mailing: *forlifeandlibertynow@gmail.com.* FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY also maintains a Facebook page: *www.facebook.com/forlifeandliberty.*

Fortnight for Freedom prayer service

A prayer service is being held every Thursday night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Church in Newry. Encourage your pastor to also have prayer services. For more information, contact Mark F. at *mfredericklpc@gmail.com* or Tony at *tdegol@dioceseaj.org* or Mark C. at *chuffmark@gmail.com*.



The upcoming election

is pivotal for the future of our nation under God. We believe Christians should be informed as to how the two major political parties and presidential candidates stand on pro-life issues. In past elections, a significant number of Christians failed to vote. When we abdi-

cate this privilege, we are not following our Lord's admonition to be light and salt within our communities. Please read carefully the articles in this newsletter. October 9th is the last day for voter registration. **Vote on November 6!**

It is no part
of your heavenly Father's plan
that a single one of these little ones
shall ever come to grief.
—Matthew 18:14

How to Vote as a Christian

By Gary G. Dull

oting is one of the greatest privileges we have as citizens of The United States. As a Christian, voting is not only a privilege, but it is also a responsibility from God to be His salt and light in the world. When Christians vote, God speaks, and society surely needs the voice of God these days.

Many Christians have asked the question, "Does my vote really count?" The answer to that question is a definite YES. Each vote of the Christian counts as it enables him or her to serve as God's ambassador in representing His view on the issues. Each vote can also make a difference in the outcome of the election.

In 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson was elected to the U.S. Senate by 87 votes out of 988,295 votes cast in 6,000 precincts. That figures out to 1/69th of a vote per precinct! So, you can see how one vote can make all the difference in the world in any election.

But that brings up the question, "How should I vote as a Christian?"

First, pray for divine wisdom. James 1:5, 6 teaches that if we lack wisdom, and we all do, God provides wisdom for every decision if we ask in faith.

Before we even go to the voting booth, it is essential that we seek the wisdom of God because there are many candidates who have viewpoints, sometimes hidden, on issues known only to the candidate and God. As we seek His wisdom, which provides practical insight to the circumstances of life, we will be able to vote according to His will and for His glory with a clear conscience.

Second, research the views of the candidate on all the issues. The most important and foundational issues are where the candidate stands relative to the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, the public expression of God in public spaces and the support of Israel. When a candidate has a conservative biblical view on each of those issues, one can practically assure that the one seeking an office will be right on most other issues as well.

Third, vote your Christian conviction. Too many people, even Christians, will vote according to political party. Indeed, most of the time the party a candidate belongs to has a lot to say about his or her position on certain issues. But, it may not always be so in certain cases. To violate one's conviction is to go against one's conscience which is an act of sin in the eyes of God.

Fourth, vote biblically. This is so essential and the godly Christian will seek to do so. This involves making an effort to discern where the candidate stands on all issues from the biblical perspective and then vote accordingly. The Word of God must always be our guide, and when it is, we will never cast a wrong vote.

The upcoming election is the most important election of our life time. People who are put into office this November will shape the direction of our nation for generations to come. Every God-given effort must be made to vote according to His will so that He will be honored and perhaps choose to bring blessing to America. God will work through the wise voter to bring His plan for our nation into fruition.

— Gary G. Dull is Pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Altoona, PA.

The Passing of a Hero - Nellie Gray

By William Saunders

believe in my heart that we are on the cusp of overturning *Roe v. Wade.* And while that will not end, throughout the United States, the human rights violation that abortion is, it is the essential first step in doing so. (Overturning *Roe* will return the issue to the people, through their elected representatives, where it belongs in a democracy.)

One of the chief reasons we are on that cusp is because Americans have refused to be bullied into silence by the Supreme Court, in its grandiose claim (in *Roe* and afterwards) to have settled an issue of national importance, in the words of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey:* "when the Court's interpretation of the Constitution calls the contending sides of a national controversy to end their national division by accepting a common mandate rooted in the Constitution."

Abraham Lincoln refused to accept such high-handed nonsense (technically called, judicial imperialism) with the *Dred Scott* decision and slavery. For the people to accept the idea that the Court could decide, for all time, a fundamental issue unjustly would be to "resign their government into the hands of that eminent tribunal." Lincoln refused to do it.

And so did Nellie Gray.

As Lincoln refused to accept the "constitutionalization" by the Supreme Court of a right to slavery, Nellie Gray refused to accept the "constitutionalization" of a right to abortion. And thus was born what is, I believe, the longest-running civil rights movement in American history, the March for Life.

Nellie Gray did not create the March alone, of course, but she was the fire that drove it. It was an evil whose existence could not be tolerated. As she said, "I don't understand slavery. I don't understand the Holocaust. I don't understand abortion."

Nellie Gray was sadly wrong in expecting the wrong to be corrected immediately. It is an evil that has proved to have enduring power (though, as noted, I believe that power is eroding through deeper understanding of the origins of human life, the realization that abortion harms women, and the willingness of young people to be openminded and thus to grasp the essential justice of the prolife cause.)

But what we must not miss is the incredible enduring witness of the March. Every year, for forty years, rain or shine, snow or wind, the Marchers come. And every year they seem to get younger. But make no mistake about

continued on page 14

How you say it makes all the difference

By Bradley Mattes

s children, how many times did we hear the phrase, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me?" If only that were true. Whether written, verbal, online, in video or personto-person, our words have immense power to either build up relationships or break them down. Most importantly, when a young woman is facing an unexpected pregnancy, the words she hears can often mean the difference between life and death for her baby.

How can we be more effective in our communication? The answer may be to stop, listen and look through the eyes of someone who is considering abortion. A study by the Vitae Foundation entitled *Abortion: A Failure to Communicate* reveals that women who are facing an unexpected pregnancy do not connect with the types of messages that resonate within the pro-life community.

What goes through the mind of a woman contemplating abortion? This psychological research study shows that the women are overwhelmed with a sense of self-preservation. In their eyes, there is no "good" choice; instead they are deciding between what researchers termed as three "evils"—motherhood, adoption and abortion.

- Motherhood can feel like a "death of self." A woman who faces an unexpected pregnancy can feel a total loss of control over her life.
- Adoption can feel like an even worse option. Yes, she'd be a mother, but she may perceive herself as bad mother who gave her own child away to strangers.
- Abortion may be seen as a very difficult decision, but one that helps the woman protect her identity and interests both now and in the future.

This is telling. One of the primary reasons the proabortion movement has entrapped so many women over the decades is because their message caters exclusively to the concept of the woman's interests. The irony is that the "right to choose" only has power because it makes women feel like they have no other choice but abortion.

Often, the focus throughout the pro-life movement is on the humanity of the baby. While this is a powerful message for the purposes of awareness, education and legislation, it is not necessarily a message that will change the heart and mind of an abortion-minded woman. Unfortunately, many women in this position feel alienated and judged by pro-lifers. Emphasis on her baby may even bring feelings of denial, isolation and despair. And those are the very emotions that the abortion industry preys upon to convince these vulnerable women that abortion is the answer.

It is the responsibility of you and me to show women that abortion is not in their best interests. The good news is that we now have a number of excellent pro-life tools we can use to share this life-saving message. A few weeks ago, I was fortunate to meet with representatives from <code>Vision for Life Pittsburgh and Women's Choice Network</code> to discuss how they're using television advertisements and internet media to reach women who feel they have no other option but abortion. For example, over the sum-

mer, they ran a commercial called "Ultimatum" on BET and MTV in the Pittsburgh area.

In the ad, a young black woman speaks to the camera in first-person:

"So, this pregnancy wasn't planned...it's going to be ok, really. So, your baby's daddy gave you an ultimatum, 'it's me or the baby'...Come on, that's not real love. A baby is a life you created; a baby that will love you and need you in return.



There are people that will help you and services available. Call this number. You don't have to do this alone."

The producer of the campaign, Heroic Media, stated that in 2011, television, internet and outdoor ads generated over 146,000 connections to life-affirming resources across the United States. That represents potentially 12–17% of total abortions as reflected in the most recent statistics from the Guttmacher Institute and Centers for Disease Control.

That level of impact demonstrates a profound truth many women who are considering abortion are making calls for help and seeking someone who will listen. We know pro-abortion advocates are eager to validate their fears and make a case for abortion. Instead of protecting them, they're setting women up for even greater physical and emotional harm. It's essential that we answer these calls for help with open hearts and minds. We must have the courage to put aside our interests and truly connect with the trauma these women are feeling. No matter what their circumstance—college student, rape victim, single mother—they need to know that what seems like the solution is wrought with long-term anguish and problems. As you know, pro-abortion activists like to claim that you and I only care about the "fetus" and not both the mother and her child. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let's continue to prove them wrong.

-Life Issues Institute, August 24, 2012

Note: The average cost of a thirty-second ad spot on BET is \$25, and, on average, three ads generate one call to a pregnancy medical center. With \$75, it is possible for an anxious, pregnant woman to call a pregnancy medical center where she can get the help she needs. Alongside their TV ads, Vision for Life is running ads on the Web, in 100 buses and at 9 transit shelters. For more information, see Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/VisionforLifePGH.

An exhibition of fine-art photography of Vision for Life's Director, Chris Humphrey, will be held for two weeks in November at **Urban Elite Gallery**, **311 South Craig Street**, **2nd Floor**, **in Oakland**—Wine, cheese and good conversation the first night, **November 16**. All proceeds from the sale of framed art and prints will go to Vision for Life - Pittsburgh; **412-781-3033**.



Speak Up! Write Letters to the Editor!

The following are two letters which recently appeared in the Altoona Mirror.

Divine assist needed

The Obama administration insists that all em-

ployers, including religious ones, provide contraceptive services to women. They don't care who pays for it, but they must be provided and for free.

The Obama adinistration has "graciously" granted a period of time for all churches to reconcile their dogmatic teachings with the new law that has come down from the White House.

Let's pause and think about this. When the churches agree and provide contraceptive and abortifacient procedures, they are in the clear with "lawgiver" Barack Obama. But what about the original law, that pesky "Thou Shalt Not Kill!" The purpose of all religion is to help individuals in their walk with God. Religions tell the person to do this and don't do that to grow closer to God.

It is then obvious that churches cannot cooperate in this power grab. It will not only control our mortal lives, but impact our immortal souls and the souls of the persons forcing this law upon us.

A definition for freedom is having the right to do what you should do. License is doing whatever you want to do. The two definitions exist because human nature tends to urge all individuals to do what they should not do. It is a problem as old as humanity. Now we have a government saying it will force individuals to do what they know they should not and cannot do.

Heavenly assistance is needed in this battle, and all believers should pray for it. This is a battle in which all are combatants and all souls will be weighed.

—Dennis P. McGeehan, Duncansville Reprinted with permission

DNA miraculous

There are many signs of life that are ignored, or denied, by abortionists and their supporters—when does life really begin?

Extensive research about DNA from numerous sources reveals that a human being is present in the womb the moment his or her DNA is constructed from the 46 chromosomes that are contributed by the parents to provide all the genetic material. Assembling of the DNA molecule occurs rapidly, in a very short time, so that the DNA is available to be copied into the very first new growth cell. DNA provides all the characteristics of the new human being. This marvelous event shows beyond question that however tiny the little one is at that point, he or she has everything that defines him or her as a person; he or she needs only to grow.

The DNA molecule becomes the nucleus of the first cell, and growth occurs under the specific control of the DNA, which directs every detail.

Dr. Michael Denton, a noted researcher in Human Molecular Genetics, wrote, "It is astonishing to think that this remarkable piece of machinery (that is DNA), which possesses the capacity to construct every living thing that ever existed on earth, from a giant redwood to the human brain, can construct all of its own components in a matter of minutes and weigh less than one hundred million millionths of a gram. It is on the order of several thousand million million times smaller than the smallest piece of functional machinery constructed by man."

Dr. Werner Arber, Nobel Prize winner in Physiology for his work with DNA, wrote "Although a biologist, I must confess I do not understand how life came about"...I consider that life only starts at the level of one functional cell. The most primitive cells may require at least several hundred different specific biological macromolecules. How such already quite complex structures may have come together, remains a mystery to me. The possibility of the existence of a Creator, of God, seems to me a satisfactory solution to this problem."

The miraculous ability of DNA to repair itself if damaged, and its ability to assure that the DNA is accurately copied into each new cell (a DNA moledule contains 6 billion bits of information that must be copied into trillions of cells of the human body) is obviously a system that could be designed only by God.

DNA also guarantees that every living species can and will produce only another of its own kind as the Bible tells us.

I find it amazing that pro-abortionists insist that it is impossible to know when life begins; they will tell us that a fetus is not a baby or that life only begins when the baby comes out of the womb—never mind the scans that show a beating heart, a face, tiny fingers and toes, etc. They are not even disturbed when the abortionist destroys the baby's brain by puncturing the baby's emerging head. I pose a question for pro-abortionists—if [the conception of a life were not possible] shortly after intercourse, then why do women rush to take the Morning-After Pill to kill that life?

President Barack Obama lied when he said Obamacare contained no provisions for abortions or prevention of pregnancies. Under public pressure, he has now arbitrarily declared that those pro-abortion expenses must be provided by insurance companies. These immoral provisions must now be paid for by everyone despite objections by pro-life people on spiritual grounds. Refusal to defend the age-old definition of marriage verifies his total indifference to Biblical teaching. It should be pretty clear by now why our nation is sinking into the mire without God's blessing.

—Durwood B. Hatch, Altoona Reprinted with permission

Pro-Life Christmas Cards 2012

Your purchase represents support for the pro-life work of the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life. To place an order, arrange for pickup and/or for more information, call Pat (Altoona) 946-0681; Marge (Duncansville) 696-9304; Beth (Duncansville) 696-2960 or Gail (Williamsburg) 832-2327. If you would be interested in helping us sell cards to your church community or group, please call us!

For there is born unto you this day...



a Savior, who is Christ the Lord

Infant Jesus

This card depicts the Infant Jesus in soft pastels of gold and brown. White envelopes are included.

Actual size: 4-1/2" x 6-1/8" **\$7.00 per pkg. of 11**

Verse:

As we rejoice at the birth of the Infant Savior may our hearts be filled with love at the wonder of God's gift of Life.

Blessings to you at Christmas and all through the year.

Peace on Earth

A lovely full-color rendition shows the Holy Family. This card has a gold-foil border. White envelopes are included. Actual size: $4-1/2" \times 6-1/8"$

\$7.00 per pkg. of 11

Verse:

May the love of the Holy Family rekindle in our hearts the comfort of hope the warmth of peace and the joy of Life.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!



PEACE ON EARTH



Madonna and Child

This card features a painting of Mary cradling Infant Jesus in her arms and is framed with gold-foil embossing. White envelopes are included.

Actual size: 4-7/8"" x 6-3/4"" **\$7.00 per pkg. of 11**

Verse:

So gentle this time of wonder So holy His moment of birth So wondrous this Gift of Life When Love was born on earth.

May the Lord of Life bless you this Christmas and throughout the coming year.



Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; blair@centralpaprolife.org

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From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Recently one of the true leaders of the Pro-Life movement passed away. Miss Nellie Gray, one of the organizers and founders of the March for Life passed away a month ago.

Nellie, as she was known and loved by millions along with the Knights of Columbus and others, was not willing to let the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions slip into the anonymity of history without a reminder of the tragedy that those decisions engendered.

For forty years, the protest against these unconstitutional mandates continues. Nellie was at the podium for every one of the Marches and will be there in spirit until those tragic decisions are overturned.

Nellie was a fighter who was our guest speaker in Blair County on two separate occasions. Nellie valued the life of every pre-born child regardless of the manner in which that child was conceived.

Nellie led a local March in Altoona in the 80s and again was a banquet speaker in 2000. She was not willing to compromise on the life of a single child.



Fr. Richard Tomkosky, Nellie Gray and Fr. Domenic Aversa, T.O.R. CCHL Banquet in 2000

Thanks to Nellie and her organization, millions of Americans have joined the March for Life over the years. We, in Central Pennsylvania, have marched with her in great numbers.

May her soul rest in peace and may she be greeted by a chorus of angels thanking her for what she did on behalf of the least of her brethren.

Sincerely,

R. Damos Souf.

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

Come to the BOOK and BAKE SALE!

Friday and Saturday October 12 and 13 + 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday(BagDay*5!)+October14+9a.m.-1 p.m.

Bake Sale Saturday only (as long as baked goods are available!)

St. Patrick School 704 Patrick Lane, Newry

SAVE and DONATE YOUR USED BOOKS!

For book drop-off locations, to volunteer for book or bake sale (help wanted!) or for more information, please call Marge, 696-9304

To benefit Blair County Chapter Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Regional CCHL Chapter News

The **Bedford County Chapter** of Citizens Concerned for Human Life will be holding their Life Chain on Sunday, **October 7**, from 1:30-2:30 p.m., along Old Route 220 / North Richard St. (from Bedford Elementary School to St. Thomas Church). Signs will be provided at the Bedford Elementary School parking lot. The **Bedford County Chapter** will also have a pro-life booth at the Fall Foliage Festival in Bedford the weekends of **October 6-7 and October 13-14**.

Cambria/Somerset Chapter's annual Pro-Life Breakfast will be Saturday October 27, 10 a.m. until noon at Holy Name Church, 500 N. Julian St., Ebensburg. A basket auction will also be held. Keynote speaker to be announced. Contact Ann Poole at 472-8584 for more information.

The Passing of a Hero - Nellie Gray

continued from page 10

it—immense political pressure was on the pro-life movement to go away, to go home, to keep any objections for, perhaps, one's conscience but not to express them in the public square.

Yet the commitment and resolve of Nellie Gray (and many like her) resisted that seemingly irresistible tide (after all the Court had summoned everyone to accept its "common mandate").

And 40 years later, the March continues. This is the cause to which Nellie Gray gave her life. It is one to which we (as Americans committed to equal justice under law) should give ours.

She is a great role model and she will be missed. But we will keep marching.

- Americans United for Life, August 30, 2012



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 Student/Senior Member	\$ 10.00 \$ 5.00	Other	
Name	P	hone	
Address	City	Zip	
Please complete this form and return with your do	nation to: Blair County	Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., A	ltoona

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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LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 7, 2012 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. 17th St. and 9th Ave., Altoona (at Station Mall Medical Center) LIFE CHAIN is a time for prayerful self-analysis, repentance and serious commitment to helping end abortion in our nation. God's people have drifted into cold indifference toward the sacredness of human life, and the result has been the mindless surgical killing and mutilation of over 54 million preborn Americans, plus untold millions who have fallen victim to abortive chemicals and medical neglect. LIFE CHAIN signs deliver the messages that Abortion Kills Children, Adoption is the Loving Option, Abortion Hurts Women, Pray to End Abortion and Life—The First Inalienable Right. Signs will be provided. Please encourage your pastor and faith community to join LIFE CHAIN. We hope to see you, rain or shine. For more information, call 814-946-0681.

















