

CITIZENS
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

March for Life Bus Trip
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Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 5 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2013

It's been 40 years since Roe v. Wade decision of 1973...

...and over 55,000,000 (55million) innocent babies have perished since then because of legalized abortion in the United States (and countless more due to chemical abortion—who really knows the tragic number?)

How many women have been harmed physically and emotionally? How many men and grandparents likewise devastated by the loss of their children and grandchildren?

How might the lives of all of us be different had these children been able to see the light of day, grow up and take their rightful place in our society had their lives not been brutally taken from them?

Abortion is a horrific scar on the soul of America. We are in dire need God's forgiveness on the shedding of this innocent blood. Thankfully, He is faithful in granting his mercy if we but seek it sincerely.

Do YOU oppose abortion? Have YOU been harmed by its effects? Do YOU want *Roe v. Wade* overturned? Be counted as standing up for the RIGHT TO LIFE of innocent children who are helpless to defend themselves. Join our MARCH FOR LIFE bus trip (see back page).

The Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life is also planning on placing an ad in the *Altoona Mirror* on January 22, 2013, in memory of all those precious babies who were denied their first breath of life. If you would like to help us defray the cost of the ad, please send your donation to CCHL, to the address on the bottom of page 11.



Reprinted with permission (c) John Francis Borra, www.veritatishecartoon.blogspot.com

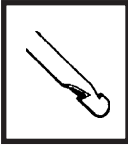
**Verily, I say to you, inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren,
ye have done it to me. —Matthew 25:40**

“America will not reject abortion until America sees abortion...”

The secular media certainly won't tell you the truth about abortion nor will it show you the evil that it is. For more about the truth of abortion: <http://www.priestsforlife.org/images/index.aspx>

Abortion Methods

Suction Aspiration/ Vacuum Curettage



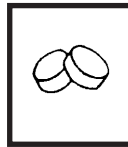
A powerful suction tube with a sharp cutting edge is inserted into the womb through the dilated cervix. The suction dismembers the body of the developing baby and tears the placenta from the wall of the uterus, sucking the contents into a collection bottle.

Dilatation and Curettage (D&C)



Here, the cervix is dilated or stretched to permit the insertion of a loop shaped steel knife. The body of the baby is cut into pieces and removed and the placenta is scraped off the uterine wall.

RU 486



The RU 486 procedure requires at least three trips to the abortion facility. In her first visit, the woman is given the RU 486 pills, which block the action of progesterone, the natural hormone vital to maintaining the rich nutrient lining of the uterus. The developing baby starves as the nutrient lining disintegrates.

At a second visit 36 to 48 hours later, the woman is given a dose of artificial prostaglandins, usually misoprostol, which initiates uterine contractions to the body of the embryonic baby. A third visit about two weeks later determines if the abortion has taken place. At least 4% must return for surgical abortions.

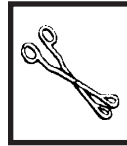
Methotrexate



Another multi-visit procedure. In the first visit, a woman receives an intramuscular injection of methotrexate, a powerful drug, which is often used to fight cancer. Methotrexate attacks the fast growing cells of the trophoblast, the tissue surrounding the embryo that eventually gives rise to the placenta. As the trophoblast breaks down, the baby is deprived of needed food, oxygen and fluids and dies.

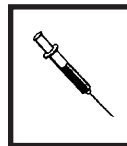
A prostaglandin vaginal suppository given three to seven days later triggers expulsion of the child from the woman's uterus. Sometimes this occurs within the next few hours, but often a second dose of the prostaglandin is required. Those shown to be still pregnant in later visits (at least 1 in 25) are given surgical abortions.

Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E)



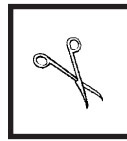
Forceps with sharp metal jaws are used to grasp parts of the developing baby, which are then twisted and torn away. This continues until the child's entire body is removed from the womb. Because the baby's skull has often hardened to bone by this time, the skull must sometimes be compressed or crushed to facilitate removal.

Instillation Methods - Saline, Urea, Prostaglandins



After fluid is withdrawn, chemicals are injected into the amniotic sac to kill the baby and initiate contractions. Saline poisons the child and burns the baby's skin. Other methods such as urea and prostaglandins mainly work by initiating violent contractions, but are generally less effective than saline.

Partial-Birth Abortion



Guided by ultrasound, the abortionist reaches into the uterus, grabs the unborn baby's leg with forceps, and pulls the baby into the birth canal, except for the head, which is deliberately kept just inside the womb. (At this point in the abortion, the baby is alive.) Then the abortionist jams scissors into the back of the baby's skull and spreads the tips of the scissors apart to enlarge the wound. After removing the scissors, a suction catheter is inserted into the skull and the baby's brains are sucked out. The collapsed head is then removed from the uterus.

Hysterotomy



Similar to the Caesarean Section, this method is generally used if chemical methods such as salt poisoning or prostaglandins fail. Incisions are made in the abdomen and uterus and the baby, placenta and amniotic sac are removed.



Eight weeks from conception

© Life Issues Institute

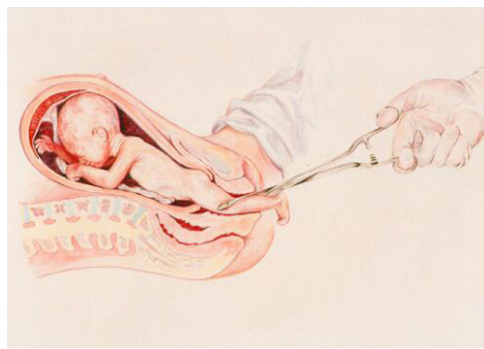
What is a partial-birth abortion?

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas accurately described the partial-birth abortion method in his dissent in *Stenberg v. Carhart* (2000): "After dilating the cervix, the physician will grab the fetus by its feet and pull the fetal body out of the uterus into the vaginal cavity. At this stage of development, the head is the largest part of the body. [T]he head will be held inside the uterus by the woman's cervix. While the fetus is stuck in this position, dangling partly out of the woman's body, and just a few inches from a completed birth, the physician uses an instrument such as a pair of scissors to tear or perforate the skull. The physician will then either crush the skull or will use a vacuum to remove the brain and other intracranial contents from the fetal skull, collapse the fetus' head and pull the fetus from the uterus."

This series of illustrations accurately depicts a partial-birth abortion being performed on a partly delivered baby of 24 weeks gestational age. Most partial-birth abortions are performed in the 20-26 week range (the fifth and sixth months), and some are performed even later.



1



2



3



4



5

Partial-Birth Abortion

Artwork by Tanja Butler
Articles courtesy of
Right to Life - Lifespan
Resource Book
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Legislative Update



Learning from the 2012 Elections

By David N. O'Steen, Ph.D.

Executive Director
National Right to Life

A determined, one-sided media together with a sequence of most unfortunate statements by candidates created a “perfect storm” that played into and greatly augmented the pro-abortion narrative in this election. This effectively neutralized the usual pro-life advantage.

The pro-life movement and pro-life candidates cannot ever let this happen again. We must see that the issue before the public is how and why abortion is actually used in this country, and, of course, the baby who dies. If this is done, then with a majority opposed to abortion on demand pro-life political victories will once again be the norm.

Much has been written about the effect of abortion on the 2012 presidential race and the apparent sudden shift in polls from the pro-life plurality (or majority, which we have seen in recent years) to a plurality or bare majority self identifying as pro-choice.

What has not been reported is that 1) of those who voted on the basis of abortion, the pro-life vote for pro-life candidates essentially equaled the pro-abortion vote for pro-abortion candidates; and 2) basic attitudes on abortion itself have not changed. A plurality, or even majority, of the public continues to oppose the vast

majority of abortions that are actually performed.

While much has also been written about the “women’s vote,” race and ethnicity was a much greater determinant of how people voted than gender.

The CNN exit poll found that Mitt Romney won 59% of the white vote while Obama won 93% of the black vote and 73% of the Hispanic vote. Significantly, Romney won 56% of white women and 51% of young white voters, 18-29.

Church attendance was also a predictor of how one voted. Fifty nine percent of those who attend church at least once a week voted for Romney while 62% of those who never attend church voted for Obama.

Pew Research reported that Obama won the overall Catholic vote 50% to 48%, but Romney won white Catholics 59% to 40%. This was an increase of 7% for the Republican candidate over 2008 when John McCain won 52% of white Catholics. This increase may be due to the Obama Administration’s mandate that some Catholic and other religious institutions provide insurance coverage for items they find morally objectionable, as well as the very visible pro-abortion campaign for Obama.

On the abortion issue both sides were very active. However the pro-life side was vastly outspent and the pro-abortion side, with substantial help from most of the media, was very successful in defining the abortion issue in terms most disadvantageous to pro-life candidates. They were also aided by unfortunate and politically disastrous comments by some candidates who oppose abortion.

A post-election poll conducted by the Polling Company for National Right to Life found that 25% said that abortion affected their vote and that they voted for candidates who oppose abortion while 24% said abortion affected their vote and they voted for candidates who favored abortion. So

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Regional Central Pennsylvania Pro-Life Contests

We are happy to announce the winners of our Pro-Life Essay Contest. Senior **Thomas Sicree** of Boalsburg in Centre County tied with his sister, **Teresa Sicree**, Grade 10, for 1st Place in the **Senior High Essay Contest**. Tom also placed 1st place in the Regional Varsity Oratory Contest and 3rd place at States. Having graduated, Tom is taking a year to earn money for college. We will miss Tom's excellent entries in our 2013 contests. Teresa also took 1st place in the 2012 Regional Junior Varsity Oratory Contest. Teresa continues to be homeschooled this school year as an 11th grader. We anxiously await her 2013 entries! Tom and Teresa each received a 1st Place Award check for \$200.00 for the 2012 Essay Contest. Tom received \$200 for placing first in the Regional Varsity Oratory Contest and Teresa received \$150 for placing first in the Junior Varsity Oratory Contest.

The Essay Contest 2nd Place was also a tie. **Clare Patterson** of Hyndman in Bedford County was awarded a \$125 check for 2nd place as a 10th grader. She is earning her high school degree through the cyber school, Connections Academy. Clare also competed in the Regional Oratory Contest being awarded \$100 for capturing 2nd Place. Clare shares 2nd place with **Marlena Frederick** of Carrolltown in Cambria County. Marlena graduated from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School last year and is currently a freshman at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA majoring in Forensic Science.

The 3rd Place Award of \$75.00 also went to two contestants. **Erin Servey** from State College in Centre County is homeschooled and was in 11th grade last year. So, we anticipate another excellent entry from her this year. Erin also was awarded \$125 as she took 2nd place in the 2012 Varsity Oratory Contest. Also winning 3rd place in the Senior High Essay Contest was **Carley Ingold** from Cresson in Cambria County. Another homeschooled student, in 11th grade this year, she is sure to present another very interesting essay in 2013.

Other than one student, all of the **Junior High Essay Contest** entries came from Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic School in Johnstown in Cambria County. The winners were all 8th graders from Johnstown. As 9th graders, we hope they will enter, not only the 2013 Essay Contest, but also the 2013 Junior Varsity Oratory Contest.

The 1st Place Award for \$150.00 was awarded to **Michalina Templin**. The 2nd Place Award for \$100.00 went to **Kelly Ingram**. There was a tie for 3rd Place: **Alaina Bailey** and **Michael Stem**. They each received a check for \$50.00. We also had two Honorable Mentions: **Emily Tyger** and **Jenna Sbeitan**, each receiving \$20.

Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you for your interest in the pro-life cause and all your hard work. May all of our entrants be blessed for their efforts. Please check our website www.CentralPAProLife.org for information regarding our 2013 contests. If you know of anyone in grade 7 through grade 12, please encourage them to participate in our essay and/or oratory contests this year.

Printed below and on the following pages are the two essays that won first and second place in the Senior High Essay Contest. The essays of other winners will be published in forthcoming issues of *Blair Life News*.

First-Place (Tie) Regional Senior High Essay

Abortion Must Be Destroyed

By Thomas Sicree



It was a city that killed its own children, the witnesses said.

Propaganda, the experts scoffed.

They were horribly murdered, the witnesses said.

We cannot trust the word of political enemies, the experts warned.

The city's prosperity was built on the bones of its own children, the witnesses said.

Nonsense, the experts replied.

Then they found the bodies.

No, this was not abortionist Kermit Gosnell's office in Philadelphia in 2011. It was the ruins of Carthage, in North Africa, excavated in 1920.

In Carthage, archeologists found 20,000 burial urns. Eighty-eight percent had the burnt remains of infants and children. And this was in only one-third of the cemetery they excavated.

Human sacrifice has been practiced from time to time in many societies all around the world. We like to think it was practiced only by primitive tribes on an occasional basis, but there have been times when it appeared in great civilizations. There were the Aztecs, who killed at least one person each day to make the sun come up. There were the Thuggee worshipers of the goddess Kali, who secretly killed travelers up until the nineteenth century in India. And then there was Carthage.

The city of Carthage was the capital of the powerful Carthaginian Empire, an empire that at its height rivaled Rome. Both were economic and military superpowers of the ancient Mediterranean, similar in many ways. There was one major difference: Carthage practiced human sacrifice,

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First-Place (Tie) Essay

Abortion Must Be Destroyed

continued from page 5

Rome did not. In the Carthaginian ritual of child sacrifice, the victim, a baby, was placed in the arms of an idol of their god Moloch, then the arms dropped, and the babies rolled down into a pit of fire where they were burned alive.

There are disturbing parallels between Gosnall in Philadelphia and the ancient Carthaginians. In both cases outsiders refused to believe what was happening, despite the testimony of witnesses. With Carthage, historians refused to believe the stories about human sacrifice, passing it off as Greek and Roman propaganda...until archeologists found all the tiny burned bodies in jars. With Gosnall, state investigators would not believe the accusations of murdered newborns until a mother died, Gosnell's clinic was searched and they, too, found the tiny babies in jars in his clinic.

There are disturbing parallels between Carthage and the United States as well.

Both were one of the most powerful nations in their world at the time. Both were economically successful through vast trading networks. Both had strong militaries.

Carthage had mass sacrifices of children in times of trouble or unrest. The priests would announce that the gods were displeased with Carthage and that there needed to be a sacrifice. Then, starting with the most important families, the people would have to sacrifice a child to ensure the prosperity or security of the city. Diodorus Siculus recorded that 200 children were killed during the siege of Carthage in 310 BC. In Carthage, the number of private child sacrifices went up in times of prosperity. Child sacrifice in Carthage continued in good times and bad.

Similarly, in the United States, one of the main reasons for abortion is fear of economic hardship. In other words, people kill off their children so that they can ensure their own financial prosperity. Over ninety percent of abortions are done for social or economic reasons.

Child sacrifice also preyed upon the poor. According to ancient writers such as Plutarch, when the rich families were required to kill one of their children, they would sometimes buy a slave child and kill it in place of their child. Abortion in this country also preys upon the poor. Abortion rates are highest among the poor of this country. Abortion clinics are purposely put in poor neighborhoods for this reason. Some historians think Carthage promoted child sacrifice as a form of population control. Americans promote legal abortions as a form of population control in poor countries abroad as well. For example, in 2010, President Obama successfully pushed a pro-abortion constitution on Kenya.

In Carthage, children were seen as less than human. Not only were they sacrificed, but also all children who died up to a certain age were not buried with their parents. They had a separate burial ground which archeologists call a *tophet*, where the cremated bones of children and animals were found in jars. No children, even the ones who may have died of natural causes, have been found in

other burial grounds. This shows that in ancient Carthage children were considered less than human. In modern America an unborn child is not considered a person, but something less than human. The bodies of aborted babies are thrown away by abortion clinics. Even unborn babies who die in miscarriages are not treated as people: they too don't always get buried, but are sometimes discarded with hospital refuse.

In Carthage, handicapped babies were sacrificed to Moloch in hopes of getting a better one. Inscriptions in Carthage's *tophet* show that the parents would sometimes sacrifice a handicapped child hoping to get a healthy replacement. In an inscription, a man named Tuscus says that he gave Moloch "his mute son Bod'astart, a defective child, in exchange for a healthy one." In the United States today, children diagnosed with Down Syndrome before birth rarely survive. Nine out of ten mothers choose to abort them.

The most disturbing parallel, though, between Carthage and the United States is that both were republics. The United States today is a democratic republic, and the Carthage of the past was a republic run by a counsel of elders. Human sacrifice was not imposed by an absolute emperor as with the Aztecs or carried out by a secret society as with the Thuggees in India. In both the United States and in Carthage, a free people freely chose the killing of babies.

The regular and legal slaughter of hundreds of people is not unique to Carthage and the United States. The Aztecs from Mexico and the Thuggee worshipers of Kali from India are some of the many others who did this. But the worshipers of Kali, the Aztecs, and the Carthaginians all have one more thing in common: all had to be destroyed by force. In fact, they were destroyed precisely because of their human sacrifice: the worshipers of Kali by the British, the Aztecs by the Spanish, and the Carthaginians by the Romans.

After the third and last war with Carthage, Rome sowed salt into its fields so that it could never rise again.

It never did.

We need to destroy abortion before it destroys us.

Imagine you are in the Senate. An old senator is finishing up a speech on taxes, and right before he is done with the speech he pauses and looks around the chamber. All the other senators groan. They know what is coming. And then the old senator says in a loud voice, "Abortion must be destroyed!" This old senator ends every speech this way. You may think that this is crazy, that no senator, no matter how pro-life, would ever do that.

But it has happened. Cato the Elder, a Senator in the Roman Republic used to do just that. He would end every speech with *Carthago delenda est*: Carthage must be destroyed. Not Carthage should be *limited*, nor Carthage *should not be supported by tax dollars*, but Carthage must be *destroyed*. We need to follow Cato's lead. We cannot allow this evil to remain unchecked and legal until it destroys us.

Aborto delenda est.

Abortion must be destroyed. ■



2013 Essay Contests

Junior and High School students residing in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties are invited to write an essay on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research from a pro-life perspective for the Citizens Concerned for Human Life Regional Essay Contest.

Regional Contest Entries Due February 22, 2013

A copy of the essay, along with the 2013 Essay Contest Entry Form (available online at www.centralpaprolife.org), must be mailed to: **Pro-Life Essay Contest, c/o Janet Creighton, 3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522** and emailed to contact@webparish.com by February 22, 2013.

Awards: Cash or Scholarship

Sr. High (Grades 10-12) Essay Contest

Word Limit: 750

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

Jr. High (Grades 7-9) Essay Contest

Word Limit: 500

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

Students are encouraged to enter both the Regional and State Essay Contests!

State Contest Entries Due March 1, 2013

Entering the Regional Contest does not automatically enter a student into the State Contest and visa versa. The region runs its contest before the state does so that students can use feedback from the Regional Contest to improve their essays for the State Contest. These are two separate contests.

The 2013 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation "Be a Voice for the Voiceless" Essay Contest is open to PA students in grades 7-12. Students must write a pro-life essay about abortion, euthanasia or stem cell research. Word limit is 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. Each essay must include a cover page with the student's name, address, phone number, name of school (or the fact that the student is homeschooled) and grade. Winning essays will receive cash prizes. Deadline for entries is **March 1, 2013**. Essays can be e-mailed to lifelines@paprolife.org or mailed to the **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; 4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA 17109**.

National Right to Life 2013 Essay Contest

Senior Essay-Grades 10-12; Junior Essay-Grades 7-9. 1st Place-\$200; 2nd-\$150; 3rd-\$100—awarded in each level. Essays should address this question: *Why I Am Pro-Life*. Entries must be submitted between **December 17, 2012 and January 18, 2013**. Please refer to the National Essay Contest details at <http://www.nrlc.org/EssayContest/EssayInfoSheet.html>

2013 Oratory Contests



The Citizens Concerned for Human Life Regional Oratory Contest is open to all 9th - 12th grade students in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.

Students must prepare a five to seven minute Pro-Life talk on Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia or Embryonic Stem Cell Research.

A written copy of the speech, along with the 2013 Oratory Contest Entry Form (available online at www.centralpaprolife.org), must be mailed to: **Pro-Life Oratory Contest, c/o Janet Creighton, 3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522** and emailed to contact@webparish.com by February 22, 2013.

Speeches must be from a pro-life perspective and delivered as written, but need not be memorized. The student may use a podium and appropriate hand gestures but may not use props.

Regional Oratory Contest Dates Written Copy Due: February 22, 2013 Regional Competition: March 3, 2013

Awards

Varsity (Grades 11 & 12) Oratory Contest

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

Novice (Grades 9 & 10) Oratory Contest

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

★ **Top Two Regional Varsity Winners Go to State Competition (see below)**

Pro-Life Dinner Invite

All regional winners will be invited as our guests to the Bedford County Annual Pro-Life Dinner. The top two Varsity winners will be invited to speak at the dinner, preceding the guest speaker.

Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Oratory Contest

Speak Up for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves!

The contest is open to high school juniors and seniors. Students must write and deliver an original five to seven minute pro-life talk on abortion, euthanasia or stem cell research. Contestants compete in regional contests first; the top two contestants in each region then compete in the state contest in Harrisburg in April. The winner of the state contest will compete in the national contest at the National Right to Life Convention, June 29, 2013, in Dallas, Texas. Students who are interested in competing should contact Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation by **March 1, 2013** at lifelines@paprolife.org or at 717-541-0034.

First-Place (Tie) Regional Senior High Essay

No More Little Sisters

By Teresa Sicree



Little sisters can be annoying. I should know: I have four of them. One steals my clothes, one takes my library books, one locks me out of my own room, and the youngest writes her misspelled name all over the walls. Having as many younger sisters as I do is unusual here in America: it is almost unknown in East Asia. Why?

In nature, 105 boys are born for every 100 girls. This makes up for a higher death rate among baby boys. Higher sex ratios are biologically impossible. Yet according to the March 4, 2010 issue of *The Economist*, the impossible is happening. Today 109 Indian boys are born for every 100 girls. Four girls are missing. In China, 123 boys are born for every 100 girls. Seventeen girls are missing. Among second and third children, more and more girls disappear. In Guangdong, China's most populous province, among second children, 146 boys are born for every 100 girls. Thirty-nine missing. Among third children, 167 boys are born per 100 girls. Fifty-nine missing.

What happened to all the little sisters?

Abortion is what happened.

Traditionally, East Asians have always preferred sons to daughters. Chinese sons support their parents; daughters do not. Indian daughters require dowries; sons do not. So in China, daughters are called "maggots in the rice." And there is a Hindu proverb saying: "Raising a daughter is like watering your neighbor's garden." Add a modern desire for small families, government population control, ultrasound machines, and abortion, and you have a lethal mix for little girls.

What effect has this had on my generation?

First of all, my generation in East Asia has been decimated. Over 100 million girls are missing worldwide. If you kill someone, you take away not only her life, but also everything she could have been. By the year 2020, China alone will have over 30 million excess young men under the age 20: boys who will never grow up to have wives or children or strong ties to society. Crime, economic disruption and the risk of war will increase because these men do not have any stake in the future. Already the crime rate in China has doubled in the last 20 years: studies indicate that one seventh of the rise is due to the disturbed sex ratios. The girls who do survive will also suffer; abductions and sex trafficking and female suicide are already on the rise, not to mention the pressure mothers face to make their own daughters "disappear."

China is the only country where the suicide rate for women is greater than that of men—three times higher. It is the leading cause of death among young rural women. Fifty-six percent of female suicides in the world occur in China, though it has only twenty percent of the world's population. Is this related to sex-selection abortions? We cannot prove it. But a U.S. Congressional Report says they are related, and it is not alone. Chinese writer Xinran Xue wrote about a Chinese waitress she knows who tried to commit suicide twice. Both

times were after the restaurant where she worked hosted a little girl's birthday party. She was haunted by the baby girls she had smothered to produce a son.

Gendercide on this scale has never been seen before in human history. Even Western cultures are not immune, not only because Asian wars and economic crises affect everyone, but also because Asian immigrants to the West are bringing their son preferences with them.

Data from the U.S. Census shows that thousands of Asian-American girls are already missing. In 2002, the sex ratio for Asian-Americans was 107 to 109 boys for every 100 girls. This means four American girls are killed for every 100 born alive to Asian-American families. If we do not stop this, ethnic groups in our own country will experience the same problems as China and India.

Some pro-lifers argue that we need to ban sex-selection abortions in the United States. Of course, the only sure way to save any life in the womb is to outlaw all abortion, but any law that saves even one life is worth it. One proposed law is the Prenatal Discrimination Act, or PRENDA, which would ban sex-selection abortions in the U.S.

Some pro-lifers wonder what good this could do while women can still get an abortion for other reasons—or no reason at all. But PRENDA, if passed, would do several things. First, it would put a stigma on abortion. Just look at smoking. It is still legal, but now, after anti-smoking campaigns, it is frowned upon. If PRENDA were passed, it would also protect women from being pressured into sex-selection abortions by their families. Most women who are looking to kill their daughters are married women seeking the "perfect family." Upon learning that they are pregnant, they are likely to go to their family doctor first. The family doctor is more likely than an abortionist to be law-abiding and tell the mother that this is illegal. Some mothers may not be willing to break the law. Also PRENDA could help the pro-life movement politically by publicizing the "hard cases" that pro-abortion activists ignore: not cases of abortions for rape, incest, or life of the mother, but abortions to select sex or race, as well as forced abortions.

Eighty-six percent of Americans oppose sex selection abortions. It will be hard for pro-abortion activists to defend them.

Gendercide also undermines one of the reasons abortion was legalized in the United States: the idea that legal abortion liberates and equalizes women. Sex-selection abortions prove that, in fact, it does the opposite. If you do not respect the life in the womb, then you will not respect the one who bears the life: the woman. As a consequence, women are seen as less and less valuable, and they are abused more and more. Abortion kills some girls and degrades and enslaves those who survive. Then men, with no hope of wives or children, turn towards crime and fighting, which kills still more people.

Private "choices" can be bad for the rest of us when the "choice" is to kill.

We must act, but banning sex-selection abortions is only the first step. As long as babies can be killed for any reason, they will be killed because they are girls. The only way to save baby girls is to end the killing of all life in the womb. Abortion must be stopped.

Only then will the world be safe for little sisters. ■

Editor's note: Senate Bill 3290 (PRENDA) is currently in the Judiciary Committee. Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey is one of 33 sponsors of the bill.

MANY THANKS to all who supported our Book and Bake Sale

Many wonderful people donated books. Many very willing volunteers generously gave of their time and helped with transporting books, sorting, setting up and working at the Book Sale. Many bakers donated delicious cookies, pies, cakes, breads, muffins and other goodies for the Bake Sale. Total proceeds and donations amounted to almost \$1800. Thank you, Msgr. Little, for the use of St. Patrick's gym for the sale, and St. Patrick staff for their help and support all through planning and holding of the event. Thank you to one and all in the community who came to the Book and Bake Sale and purchased books and/or baked goods. It would not have been possible without everyone's support.



Did you see the two billboards up on Plank Rd., one at Logan Blvd., one near Logan Valley Mall, erected by Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter before the election? The billboards pictured an adult's hand holding a baby's hand, with the caption "Take My Hand, Not My Life. Please Vote Pro-Life!" YOU make Right to Life efforts such as this possible. God bless you.

Save your books to donate to CCHL's next sale!

Crisis Hotline Numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call **Birth-right**, 2706 7th Ave., Altoona, 814-943-8185; **Precious Life, Inc.**, 1716 12th Ave., Altoona, 814-944-2669; or **Every Life Matters (ELM)**, 221 Hospital Dr., Ste. 3, Tyrone, 814-650-7899. 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/. Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: familylife@dioceseaj.org.

Pro-Life Christmas Cards - Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported CCHL with our Christmas card fundraiser, either by helping to sell the cards or by your purchase. A special note of appreciation to the pastors who welcomed the availability of our cards to their parishioners.




Twenty-sixth Annual Respect Life March

Tyrone, Pennsylvania

Sunday ♦ January 20, 2013 ♦ 12:00 noon

A Prayer Service begins this pro-life event at 12:00 noon at St. Matthew Church in Tyrone, 1105 Cameron Ave. Participants then walk the 1.25 miles to Oak Grove Cemetery, to the grave of Baby Agnes Doe, for another short prayer service. All are cordially invited to spend a couple of hours with us as we publicly show our love for all of God's most defenseless children, both born and unborn. You will enjoy pro-life fellowship as we draw upon the strengths of each other to continue the battle for respect for human life at all stages, from the unborn to the terminally ill. Please join us as we walk prayerfully and meditate upon the atrocities that have taken place in our country and the world. You are encouraged to bring a sign. If you are unable to walk the distance from the church to the cemetery, please feel free to join by driving at the end of the procession. A luncheon will be served in the parish hall after the March. For more information, call Pete Kreckel, 814-682-7311.



Blair County Life News
Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.
Winter 2013; Vol. 5, No. 1
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.
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website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

Learning From the 2012 Elections

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pro-life PACs, including the National Right to Life PAC and the National Right to Life Victory Fund, did deliver the pro-life vote.

In fact 27% recalled hearing or seeing something or receiving something in the mail from National Right to Life. This represented the largest such recall ever. And National Right to Life made one of the largest pro-life efforts ever. The NRL PAC mailed almost ten million pieces of mail to identified pro-lifers and the NRL Victory Fund and the NRL PAC collectively ran 41,513 radio spots, with 5,319 of them in Spanish on Spanish language stations. An additional 14,760 educational spots on the issue were run by NRL.

What changed was that the pro-abortion side greatly increased their vote. In 2010 22% said abortion affected their vote and voted pro-life while only 8% said abortion affected their vote and voted pro-abortion. In 2008 the numbers were essentially the same: 25% said their vote was affected by abortion and voted pro-life while only 9% said abortion affected their vote and voted pro-abortion.

So this year while there was a pro-life vote that was essentially equal to the pro-abortion vote, the pro-life advantage which in the past has consistently been delivered to pro-life candidates was nullified and no net advantage accrued to either side.

The Polling Company poll found the same result among the 4% who said abortion was the most important issue affecting their vote. These voters divided evenly between Romney and Obama.

Losing the net gain pro-life candidates have had in the past on this issue obviously hurt Romney, even if there was no net pro-abortion advantage for Obama. How did the pro-abortion side accomplish this? By being able to redefine in the public arena what pro-life and pro-choice mean and by being able to have their message amplified by vastly greater resources and a media eager to carry their message.

Early on, the Obama campaign and their allies at Planned Parenthood, EMILY's List, and NARAL sought to define the abortion issue as a "war on women" and link it to contraception and family planning. This effort was assisted by the media furor that surrounded the campaign to defund Planned Parenthood in Congress.

Whether or not the "war on women" theme alone would have produced the results desired by Obama and Planned Parenthood became a moot question when Todd Aiken, the Missouri Republican Senate candidate, made his comments on rape and abortion. From that point on for the media the abortion issue was ONLY about rape.

Pro-life candidates were microscopically examined on the question of rape and abortion. Mitt Romney's pro-life position which contained an exception for rape was at times misrepresented and Paul Ryan's position contained no rape exception.

The media coverage of the Republican convention was greatly dominated by the media's response to Todd

Aiken's comments and the Republican Party platform was sometimes misrepresented as calling for a ban on all abortions with no exception for rape. In fact the platform is silent on the question of exceptions and states general principles in favor of life, while calling for the reversal of *Roe*. Such reversal would allow the state and federal legislative branches to legislate on abortion within their respective jurisdictions.

Obama and other pro-abortion candidates had the luxury of having their position subjected to essentially no media scrutiny at all. Obama was not asked to explain his opposition to the bill to prohibit abortion for sex selection, or his position on late abortion after 20 weeks when the baby can feel pain, or his support for public funding of abortion or even his well-documented opposition to protecting babies born alive during an abortion. All of which are positions at odds with the views of the vast majority of voters.

Why does this matter? Because an overwhelming majority believes abortion should be allowed for rape and if that is the issue that defines what it means to be pro-choice or pro-life, then a majority will side with pro-choice label.

The Polling Company poll found that only 21% would allow abortion at most for life of mother cases. Another poll released October 24 by Grey Matter Research found that only 18% would prohibit all abortions and 71% supported allowing abortion in cases of rape.

Such figures are not new. Support for allowing abortion in cases of rape has been overwhelming throughout the years of the abortion debate.

The success of the pro-abortion side in temporarily redefining what it means to be pro-life or pro-choice has been reflected in numerous recent polls.

While a May 2012 Gallup poll found that 50% identified themselves as pro-life and only 41% identified themselves as pro-choice, the Polling Company post election poll found 51% now identifying as pro-choice and 43% as pro-life. The Resurgent America post election poll found 49% identifying as pro-choice and 43% as pro-life.

Does this mean that there has been a fundamental shift in how Americans view abortion? No! It means that at the critical time of the election the pro-abortion side and their media allies succeeded in focusing the abortion issue on the single most difficult aspect of it for the pro-life side with enough voters to wipe out the usual pro-life advantage.

The Polling Company found that:

- 9% would prohibit all abortions
- 12% would allow abortion only to save the life of the mother
- 28% would allow abortion only for life of mother, rape and incest
- 16% would allow abortion for any reason but only up to 3 months
- 12% would allow abortion for any reason but only up to 6 months
- 13% would allow abortion for any reason at any time
- 11% don't know or refused.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

For all those who prayed, sacrificed, worked, made billboards or videos, distributed flyers, broadcast radio programs, wrote letters to the editor, wrote position papers or fought for the unborn in any other way during the last election cycle, I offer this quote from former Congressman Henry Hyde:

*“When the time comes,
as it surely will,
when we face that awesome moment,
the final judgment, I’ve often thought,
as Fulton Sheen wrote,
that it is a terrible moment of loneliness.
You have no advocates,
you are there alone standing before God—
and a terror will rip your soul
like nothing you can imagine.
But I really think that those
in the pro-life movement will not be alone.
I think there’ll be a chorus of voices
that have never been heard in this world
but are heard beautifully and clearly
in the next world—
and they will plead for everyone
who has been in this movement.
They will say to God,
‘Spare him, because he loved us!’”
—Congressman Henry Hyde*



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

Grouping the first three categories as pro-life and the next three as pro-choice you get 49% pro-life and 41% pro-choice with only 25% actually agreeing with what is essentially the current legal status of abortion. This is in the same poll in which respondents self identified as 51% pro-choice and 43% pro-life.

Significantly, 14% of those who identified themselves as pro-choice said they would allow abortion only in cases of the life of the mother, rape, or incest. At the same time a full 45% of those who identified themselves as pro-life said they would allow abortion in cases of rape and incest.

Clearly the pro-life movement needs this category of people who oppose over 90% of all abortions to be identifying and voting for pro-life candidates and not for candidates with the unlimited abortion position held by Obama and his allies.

Similarly, while Grey Matter Research found that 71% would allow abortion for rape, they also found that only 40% would allow abortion because “the mother just doesn’t want to have the child,” the true pro-choice position, or because “raising the child would be a financial hardship.” Only 33% would allow abortion because “the mother wants a child of a different gender.”

A determined, one-sided media together with a sequence of most unfortunate statements by candidates created a “perfect storm” that played into and greatly augmented the pro-abortion narrative in this election. This effectively neutralized the usual pro-life advantage.

The pro-life movement and pro-life candidates cannot ever let this happen again. We must see that the issue before the public is how and why abortion is actually used in this country, and, of course, the baby who dies. If this is done, then with a majority opposed to abortion on demand pro-life political victories will once again be the norm.

While the outcome of 2012 is bitterly disappointing, we can learn from it and emerge stronger, more focused and more effective. Fortunately, the actual political balance of power remains much the same and there are many opportunities for educative and life saving legislation at the state level, and the U.S. House remains in pro-life hands.

Most important, recent reports indicate that the number of abortions continues to drop and lives are being saved. That is what this struggle is really about, why we in the pro-life movement do what we do and why we will keep doing it—only better. ■

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

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

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

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

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



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

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March for Life Bus Trip

Washington, D.C.
**Friday,
January 25,
2013**

Buses leave at 7:00 a.m.,
return approx. 9:00 p.m.

March With Us!

Buses will be leaving from three locations in Altoona area

St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church
Bishop Guilfoyle High School
Altoona Central Catholic School
St. Mary Church, Hollidaysburg

Cost: Adults - \$15.00; Students \$10.00

For reservations and/or more information, call:
Patricia or Marita Forr 946-0681; Kathy Ansman 944-5431
Roxann Blazewicz 695-8008; Anne Zelnosky 942-2723