

CITIZENS
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 6 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Fall 2014



LIFE CHAIN Sunday, October 5th, 2-3 p.m. 17th St. and 9th Ave., Altoona (at Station Mall Medical Center)

Annually, on the first Sunday in October, Life Chain invites participants in each city and town across North America to stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for 60 minutes, while holding one of the following approved pro-life sign messages:

- Abortion Kills Children ♦ Jesus Forgives and Heals
- Adoption: The Loving Option ♦ Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation
- Abortion Hurts Women ♦ Pray to End Abortion
- Life—The First Inalienable Right



Life Chain was founded in 1987 by Please Let Me Live, a pro-life ministry in California. In 2013, 1550 cities and towns held Life Chains, across the U.S. and Canada (in 1890 locations).

During the Life Chain hour, idle chatter, frivolity, and both verbal and physical responses to motorists are strongly discouraged. Life Chain is a time for prayerful self-analysis, repentance, and serious commitment to helping end abortion in our nation which has drifted into cold indifference toward the sacredness of human life. The result has been the mindless surgical killing and mutilation of over **56 million** preborn Americans, plus untold millions who have fallen victim to abortive chemicals and medical neglect.

It is important to note that Life Chain is church-oriented and pastor-focused and that the key to a successful Chain is for local pastors to educate their congregations about abortion and then lead them to the sidewalk where the local Chain is to be held. Without firm pastoral support, Life Chain will not fulfill its potential for saving lives and changing hearts.

—www.nationallifechain.org



Please join us on October 5!
For more information,
call 814-946-0691

See page 2 for additional Life Chain
locations in central PA

Why Sitting Out the Election This Fall Isn't a Good Idea

By Maria Gallagher

"Wake me up when the election is over!"

That's the attitude of some Pennsylvanians this year, who are frustrated with the political process. They see bills that languished in the state legislature...politicians with disappointing remarks and records...and an economy that doesn't meet expectations.

Why bother to vote in the midst of all this angst?

Here are the top five reasons you should be voting on November 4th:

1.) The Governor. Governors matter a great deal in Pennsylvania. Consider that the Kermit Gosnell grand jury says that the pro-abortion stands of Governors Tom Ridge and Ed Rendell kept them from having abortion facilities inspected for years. A pro-life Governor is critical for safeguarding the health and safety of women and children in the Commonwealth.

2.) The State Legislature. Pennsylvania currently boasts bipartisan, pro-life majorities in the PA House of Representatives and Senate. But one election could end the pro-life advantage, ensuring that no pro-life legislation will pass in PA. For the sake of women and babies in the Keystone State, we need to maintain a pro-life mindset in the General Assembly.

3.) Congress. Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation is "pro-life strong" thanks to the fact that the vast majority of our Representatives in Congress are pro-life. A pro-life Congress is the only thing stopping the Obama Administration from further trampling the rights of unborn children.

4.) Civic Duty. Our brave men and women in uniform have fought and died for our freedoms—including the freedom to make our voices heard in elections. We owe it to them—and to our nation—to exercise our right to vote.

5.) Our Faith. All major faiths hold that believers have a duty to help others—especially the most vulnerable among us. Your vote could make the difference in the life of a woman and her unborn child.

So, no matter the temptation, please do not sit out this election! A vote is a terrible thing to waste.

—Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative/PAC Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation
gallagher@paprolife.org



Regional CCHL Chapter News

Bedford CCHL is sponsoring the annual **Life Chain** on Sunday, October 5. Participants will check in at the Bedford Elementary School parking lot on Business Route 220 between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. Set-up will be along Business 220, between the school and downtown Bedford during the annual Fall Foliage Festival.

On the weekends of Oct 4-5 and 11-12, the Bedford Chapter will have an information table on the corner of Richard St. and Penn St., in front of St. Thomas Catholic Church. On these two weekends, Bedford celebrates the autumn season with the **Bedford Fall Foliage Festival** (food, crafts, entertainment).

On September 20, our chapter will have an information table at Bedford High School during the annual Precious Life of Bedford County **"Walk for Life."** We will set up at 8:30 a.m. and remain until the walkers return. The "Walk for Life" is a fundraiser for Precious Life's pregnancy resource center on Juliana St. in Bedford.

Cambria-Somerset CCHL is holding its annual **Pro-Life Breakfast** on Saturday, October 18th, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Holy Name Church Hall in Ebensburg. Our keynote speaker will be the internationally-renowned author and speaker, Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—coming to us through Priests for Life. Tickets are \$9 by advance sale only. For reservations, call Ann Poole at 472-8584 or Mary Mastrini at 472-8622. All are welcome.

Centre CCHL will hold its **Life Chain** on October 5th, from 2:00-3:00 p.m., at 900 West College Avenue, State College. Signs will be provided. For information, call Susan Rogacs, 814-238-9590.

DuBois CCHL will hold its 23rd Annual DuBois Area **Life Chain**, rain, snow or shine, on October 5, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The "Cross" is formed along Liberty Blvd. and DuBois Ave. by over 250 participants from 20 area churches and interested citizens. Participants are asked to bring maternity and infant items for donation to the DuBois Office of Catholic Charities. This year's speaker, at the rally after Life Chain, will be Rebekah Berg of SAVE THE 1 who will give her witness regarding giving birth to a son conceived in rape. Greater DuBois area residents can sign-up to reserve a pro-life sign and their "link" in the Life Chain with their church's coordinator or, on that day, at the DuBois City Park Cherry Amphitheatre. This year's Life Chain Chairman is Deacon Paul Boboige; call 371-5852 for information.

WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND ON LIFE?

PRO-LIFE



TOM CORBETT (R)
Governor

JIM CAWLEY (R)
Lieutenant Governor

- **SUPPORT INFORMED CONSENT LAWS** that inform women about the risks of abortion
- **SUPPORT BAN** on taxpayer funding of abortion under Obamacare

PRO-ABORTION



Tom Wolf (D)
for Governor

Mike Stack (D)
for Lieutenant Governor

- **OPPOSE INFORMED CONSENT LAWS** that inform women about the risks of abortion
- **OPPOSE BAN** on taxpayer funding of abortion under Obamacare

Isn't a child's life worth your vote?

PENNSYLVANIA
PRO-LIFE
FEDERATION

There's always a reason to choose life.™

4800 Jonestown Road, Suite 102 • Harrisburg, PA 17109-1741 • 717.541.0034 • FAX 717.541.0073
Email: lifelines@paprolife.org • www.paprolife.org

Contact Information

President

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/

Pennsylvania U.S. Senators

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

Pennsylvania U.S. Representative (9th District)

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 Pennsylvania

The 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/

Pennsylvania State Representatives (Blair County)

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 John D. McGinnis

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



ACTION ALERTS

Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act!

Legislation to protect pain-capable unborn children from elective abortion, beginning at 20 weeks fetal age, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who has been joined by 40 other Republican senators as co-sponsors.

However, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid (NV) is so far blocking a Senate vote on the legislation. Instead, Senate Democrats held a hearing on a radical bill that would nullify nearly all existing state and federal limits on abortion, the so-called "Women's Health Protection Act."

Senator Graham's bill, S. 1670, virtually identical to legislation (H.R. 1797) passed by the House of Representatives in June, 2013. Both S. 1670 and H.R. 1797 are based directly on model legislation developed by National Right to Life in 2010, and since enacted in 10 states.

Please act today! Go to the National Right to Life website at: www.nrlc.org. Click on "Legislation," then "Legislation Action Center." You will be prompted to send an e-mail message to your two U.S. senators. If they've already cosponsored S. 1670, thank them. If they have not done so, urge them to sign on as cosponsors. In either case, please express your strong support for the bill. You will see a suggested message, which you can modify as you see fit, or simply type a message in your own words. Urge your senators to press for an early Senate vote on S. 1670.

—National Right to Life Committee
August 5, 2014

Senate Democrats Push Radical Pro-Abortion Bill

At the urging of pro-abortion advocacy groups, the Democrats who hold majority control in the U.S. Senate are highlighting a radical bill that would eliminate nearly all state and federal laws that in any way limit abortion.

The bill (S. 1696) is formally titled the "Women's Health Protection Act," but is more accurately described as the "Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act." Among other things, it would invalidate state laws that place even minor limits on abortion, including waiting periods, ultrasound laws, regulations on abortion clinics, limitations on late abortions, and conscience protection laws. Language in the bill would also have the effect of requiring funding of abortion on demand in most if not all federal and state programs that fund medical services.

On July 15, 2014, the Democrat-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on S. 1696, at which NRLC President Carol Tobias presented the case against the bill.

As of mid-July, 2014, the legislation has been cosponsored by 35 senators, all Democrats, which is nearly two-thirds of the majority party caucus in the U.S. Senate.

In the House of Representatives, a companion bill, H.R. 3471, has been cosponsored by 125 Democrats.

Please use the email tool at National Right to Life's website: www.nrlc.org. Click on "Legislation," then "Legislation Action Center." You will be prompted to send email messages to your two U.S. senators and to your representative in the U.S. House, expressing your strong opposition to this legislation.

—National Right to Life Committee
August 5, 2014



"Never give in. Never give in.

Never, never, never, never.

Never yield to force.

*Never yield to the apparently
overwhelming might of the enemy."*

~ Winston Churchill ~

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE PRAYER BREAKFAST

of the Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Cambria/Somerset

Featuring
Dr. Alveda King

niece of Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr.

Saturday,
October 18, 2014

from 9 a.m. to noon

Holy Name Church Hall,
Ebensburg, Pa.



Please plan to attend this special pro-life event! Dr. Alveda King is a world-renowned speaker, author, and advocate for the right to life. She is a former college professor and former Georgia State House Representative. She is the mother of six children and a grandmother.

The public is welcome! Donation of \$9 per ticket requested.
For reservations and ticket information, call 814-472-8584.

Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Cambria/Somerset

P.O. Box 1588 | Johnstown, PA 15907 | 814-472-8584 | www.prolifecambriasomerset.org

Editor's Note: There have been several recent research studies done in the US and Europe and articles written about the unborn child's amazing ability to learn before birth. These are just a few of those articles...

Unborn children have already pretty much done everything that a newborn baby does, leading expert tells *Today* show

By Dave Andrusko

A friend of 30+ years recently forwarded me another story from what is turning out to be a font of information about unborn babies:

The title of the segment, hosted by Savannah Guthrie (who is very pregnant), is "The Secret Life of Babies: New Research about what's learned inside the womb." And it's plenty!

For us the major conclusion drawn is not new but important because it will reach a wider audience: "Life in the womb is much busier than you might expect."

Here's what Dr. Bill Fifer, a professor of psychiatry at Columbia University and described as a leading expert on fetal and newborn learning, told the *Today* show:

"Everything that a newborn baby does, a fetus has pretty much done already."

Dr. Fifer, Guthrie says, is gathering some of the "latest and most cutting edge information about life in the womb."

We wrote about another *Today* show episode last month: "Moms can teach their unborn babies nursery rhymes, study shows." (See below.) It received, by far, the most "likes" of any post ever on *NRL News Today*.

The broadcast alludes to that research from the University of Florida as part of a larger examination of just some of the developmental milestones a baby experiences while she or he is "hanging out in Hotel Uterus," to quote Guthrie.

The first major milestone, we're told, is touching. Unborn babies are "exquisitely able to sense information over all parts of their body, although some are more sensitive than others, like around the mouth, around the feet, around the hands," Dr. Fifer says.

Around the 20th week, sensory systems for taste and smell develop. In addition, there is strong evidence that babies may be able to recognize Mom's voice by birth.

A good chunk of the piece is to explain how the baby can and does respond to Mom's behavior, whether it be what she is eating or her moods.

It's a wonderful 4 minute, 5 second long infomercial for the full humanity of the unborn child. Please watch it at today.com and share it with friends.

Moms can teach their unborn babies nursery rhymes, study shows

By Dave Andrusko

What an incredible coincidence. Just this morning (as is my habit) I scanned both today's *Washington Post* and a couple of stories from a few days ago. I came across this fascinating article, dated July 19, written



by Meeri Kim headlined "Babies grasp speech before they utter their first word, a study finds."

In one paragraph, here's the gist:

"A new study has found that a key part of the brain involved in forming speech is firing away in babies as they listen to voices around them. This may represent a sort of mental rehearsal leading up to the true milestone that occurs after only a year of life: baby's first words."

Honestly, I thought to myself, this is great but wouldn't it also be helpful if a story ran about some of the latest research documenting what unborn babies can learn. Lo and behold...

From a section on the *TODAY* show blog, here's a story by Linda Carroll: "Fetuses can learn nursery rhymes from mom's voice, study finds." Here's Carroll's lead sentences:

"Even before they are born, babies [note, babies, not "fetuses"] are learning from experience, especially if it's directly related to their moms, new research shows.

For example, while in the womb babies can learn to recognize a nursery rhyme if the mom repeats the verses between weeks 28 and 34, according to a study published in *Infant Behavior and Development*."

Thirty-two moms of babies who were in their 28th week were recruited. They recited a nursery rhyme twice a day until the 34th week. Four weeks later the mothers returned to the University of Florida.

Carroll answers an obvious but intriguing question: how do you record an unborn baby's brain activity? It's not as difficult as you might think.

Researchers already knew that the heartbeat of a baby later in pregnancy will slow down when she hears something familiar. Carroll wrote:

"So, while the moms wore headphones playing Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons,' a female stranger's voice recited either the familiar rhyme or a completely different one. The headphones kept the moms from actually hearing when or what their fetuses were being exposed to.

"The heart rates of fetuses who heard a stranger read the familiar rhyme slowed down. The heart rates of those who heard the stranger reading a different rhyme essentially stayed the same."

The study's lead author, Charlene Krueger, an associate professor in nursing, told Carroll, "We were basically asking the fetus, if your mother says this repeatedly, will you remember it?" Krueger's "take away message"?

"I would want mothers to understand that their speech is very important to the developing fetus. When a mother speaks, not only does the fetus hear, but also the whole spine vibrates."

Not until late in the story is the reader reminded that speech is not the only thing unborn babies "absorb" in the womb. "Studies have shown that around the 20th week of pregnancy the sensory systems for taste and smell have developed," Carroll writes. "And that allows the baby to experience some of mom's favorite foods as nutrients pass into the womb."

Krueger actually had another takeaway, only this time it was for medical personnel taking care of preterm infants. They should consider playing recordings of moms talking to their babies.

"My goal really is to identify experimentally the benefits of providing this kind of exposure to the preterm infant who has largely lost hearing a very important voice—the mother's."

—National Right to Life News, August 2014



Unborn Babies Learn Language in Womb

By Steven Ertelt

New reports of fascinating research show babies can distinguish between their native language and foreign languages when they're just a few hours old. A new study found that and suggests they start absorbing language before birth.

The report shows sensory and brain mechanisms for hearing develop by 30 weeks of the gestational age. The study's authors said the unborn child starts listening to the mother's voice during the last 10 weeks of pregnancy.

"The mother has first dibs on influencing the child's brain," said the University of Washington's Patricia Kuhl, co-author of the study. "The vowel sounds in her speech are the loudest units and the fetus locks onto them."

"This is the first study that shows fetuses learn prenatally about the particular speech sounds of a mother's language," said Christine Moon, lead author. "This study moves the measurable result of experience with speech sounds from six months of age to before birth."

One news report provides more details:

To see just how early those abilities develop, Kuhl and colleagues tested 40 American newborns and 40 Swedish newborns, all between seven hours and three days old. While still in the hospital, each infant listened through headphones to 17 computer-generated examples of the English vowel sound used in syllables like "fee" and 17 examples of the Swedish vowel sound used in syllables like "fy." During the experiment, babies sucked on sensor-equipped pacifiers.

When exposed to vowel sounds from their non-native language, babies sucked longer than they did if they heard vowel sounds that their mothers frequently spoke, the researchers report in the journal *Acta Paediatrica*. Sucking longer is an established response in infants to something that is unfamiliar or novel to them.

"The results of our study support the hypothesis that language experienced in utero affects vowel perception," the researchers wrote. "These results suggest that birth is not a benchmark that reflects a complete separation between the effects of nature versus those of nurture on infants' perception of the phonetic units of speech."

Because human life starts well before birth, it is no surprise that human learning starts well before birth. Science is showing us that the nine months spent inside our mother's womb is a time we take cues from our mother and her environment. Some of these cues will stay with us for our entire lives.

—LifeNews.com, January 4, 2013

In Denial

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by abortionists but refuse to prosecute or come forward because their guilt makes them think they deserve to suffer.

Battered women who finally realize that the fault lies with their abusers and not with themselves move into the stage called enlightenment. They are not, however, ready to take action to escape the abuse. They may be afraid of life without their abuser or his financial support.

The Supreme Court actually echoed this philosophy when they decided, in *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, to keep abortion legal while admitting it may have been wrongly decided. The Court wrote, "For two decades of economic and social development, people have organized their intimate relationships and made choices that defined their views of themselves and their places in society on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail...An entire of generation has come of age free to assume this concept of liberty." The Court was "enlightened" but only the way a battered woman is. It failed to reach the last stage, which is responsibility.

Here the battered woman finally gets the courage to act and escape her abuser. Some former abortion employees have reached this stage, such as NARAL founder and former abortionist, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, and former Planned Parenthood clinic director, Abby Johnston. But these people are too few and far between. Most abortion supporters are still stuck in denial. We need to reach out in truth and love and break the cycle of denial. Enough women—and unborn children—have been battered. ♦

In Denial

Teresa Sicree, of Boalsburg, PA, is the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree. Teresa was one of two first-place tie winners in our Central PA Regional Oratory Contest in Altoona, in March 2014. She went on to win first place in the State contest, held in Harrisburg, in April and competed in the National Right to Life Oratory Contest in June in Louisville, Kentucky. Printed below is Teresa's outstanding presentation.

By Teresa Sicree



The behavior of abused women is perplexing to most people who are not professional counselors or police officers. "Why," we wonder, "does she deny that she is being abused? Why does she defend him? Why does she blame herself? And why, oh why, doesn't she just leave? After all, isn't this what any normal person would do?"

Psychologists, if not the rest of us, have long recognized something called the Battered Women's Syndrome. Women with low self-esteem are more likely to end up in abusive relationships, and abuse also damages the self-esteem of any woman who experiences it from someone she loves. Abuse also can damage her social skills, cut her off from her social contacts, and make it harder for her to even try to defend herself. After enough time and abuse, she will no longer think, let alone act the way a normal person would. There are four recognized stages of the Battered Women's Syndrome: denial, guilt, enlightenment, and responsibility. Only in the last stage is she usually able to escape.

In the pro-life movement we are likewise perplexed by the behavior of people in the feminist movement and other organizations that support abortion. "Why," we wonder, "do they deny that women are being abused at abortion clinics? Why do they always defend the abortion industry? Why don't women who have been injured by abortions come forward? And why do they stand for this?"

We should not be so shocked by this, though. The behavior of pro-abortion women and women's groups exactly mirrors the behavior of women suffering from Battered Women's Syndrome.

The first stage is denial. Here the battered woman refuses to admit, even to herself, that she is being abused. She excuses the abuser's behavior. This may be because the abuser is manipulating her or because the acts of abuse are hidden from view.

Where do we see this denial about abortion? The most obvious place is the denial that abortion has any negative effects on women at all. The National Abortion Federation denies, for example, that Post Abortion Syndrome even exists, yet multiple studies show that up to 65 percent of post-abortion women have symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. They also have higher rates of other mental

illnesses than women who gave birth, including a suicide rate up to six times higher for teenagers who have had abortions. Planned Parenthood has claimed that abortion is fourteen times safer than childbirth, even though Dr. Byron Calhoun has shown that there is no evidence for this claim. (He points out that, ironically, abortion deaths are often lumped together with all other maternal deaths. So, of course, the maternal death rate looks worse: the whole is always greater than a part.)

Sadly, this denial extends even beyond the abortion industry. In their book, *Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women*, Angela Lafranchi and her co-authors state that around the world "...induced abortion is now a commonly-accepted risk factor for breast cancer—except in North America, where it is denied chiefly for political reasons. In 2003, the National Cancer Institute held a workshop with 100 experts and concluded that early abortion did not increase the risk of breast cancer and did not need to be studied further. They ignored the fact that 35 out of 73 studies published internationally showed a statistically significant positive link between early abortion and breast cancer.

Abortion supporters also excuse the bad behavior of abortionists. Major media outlets in America tried to ignore abortionist Kermit Gosnell's murder trial. When this was no longer possible, Planned Parenthood representatives blamed his behavior—on pro-lifers!

Like a case of domestic abuse, some instances of abuse at abortion clinics go unnoticed. That is, until someone like activist Lila Rose and her group LiveAction go in undercover with a hidden camera. They have filmed multiple abuses at Planned Parenthood facilities, including employees offering to cover up a prostitution ring of underage, illegal immigrants. Planned Parenthood denies most of these claims and minimizes the others.

Abortion supporters like to call themselves "pro-choice," but even a title like this is a form of denial, for 64 percent of women who have had abortions feel as though they were coerced into having one.

They are all in denial.

Denial is not just a passive state. It can lead people to aggressively promote the very thing that they are denying, requiring society to join them in denial. In his essay, "Revenge of Conscience," J. Budziszewski argues that if a person denies doing something wrong, the normal actions of his or her conscience are warped. He writes that a conscience held down in denial redirects its force into justifying its actions and recruiting others to imitate them.

Battered women who move past denial are often mired in guilt. They believe that they deserve the abuse they are suffering. We can see this in women who have been injured

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2015 ESSAY CONTESTS

State Contest Entries Due March 2, 2015

The **2015 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. There is a 500-word limit for essays submitted by students in grades 7-9 and a 750-word limit for students in 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 2, 2015**. 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 2015 Essay Contest

The contest is open to students in Grades 10-12 (Senior Essay) and Grades 7-9 (Junior Essay). Prizes awarded will be: 1st Place-\$200; 2nd-\$150; 3rd-\$100—awarded in each level.

Essays should address this question: *Why Should Everyone Respect Life?*

Contest Guidelines

1. Essays should be submitted between December 21, 2014 and January 23, 2015. Essays must be postmarked by January 23, 2015.
2. Essays may be submitted to: Michelle Fischbach, 14722 Old Lake Road, Paynesville, MN 56362.
3. Essays must be double-spaced and pages numbered.
4. Essays shall be 300 - 500 words in length.
5. If typed, use no smaller than 12 pt. font.
6. Use a cover sheet that includes; full name, full mailing address, phone number, grade level, student date of birth, parent’s name and word count.
7. By submitting an entry, the contestant and parent or guardian agree: a) to allow National Right to Life to reprint the winning essay, and b) that the essay is original, but not copyrighted.
8. Cite any sources used.
9. Please do not include artwork, pictures or plastic covers.
10. Please mail the essays, electronic submissions will only be accepted under special circumstances.

For more information, email Michelle Fischbach at michellefischbach@yahoo.com or visit the NRLC website: www.nrlc.org.



2015 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. 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.

A written copy of the speech must be emailed by **February 22, 2015** to: **Janet Creighton, contact@webparish.com**. In the email, please send the following: name, address, city, county, phone, email address, school, name of parent(s)/guardian. Then call Jan, 814-623-1314, to let her know that you emailed your entry.

Regional Oratory Contest Written Copy Due: February 22, 2015 Regional Competition: March 1, 2015 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

All regional contestants may also be a contestant for the state competition. Being a contestant for the regional competition does not automatically enroll you in the state competition. Please see the process below.

Pro-Life Dinner Invite

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

State Oratory Contest Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

Speak Up for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves!

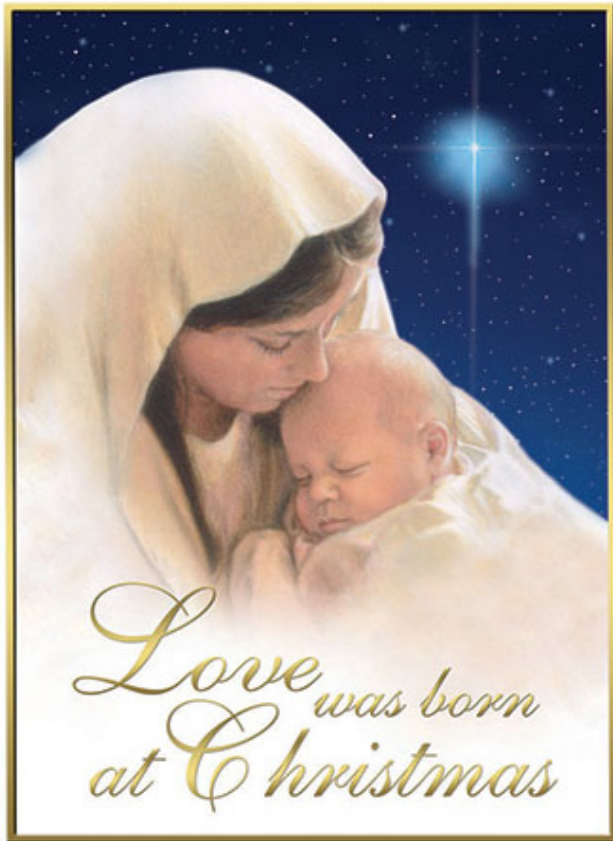
The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation announces a new format for its annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest. The contest is open to high school juniors and seniors, and a new Novice Contest will be held for high school freshmen and sophomores.

Students must write and give an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. Students must video record the speech and submit the video and written speech to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation by Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, the first-place winner of the Senior High Oratory Contest will receive an expense-paid trip for the student and a chaperon to attend the National Right to Life/Teens for Life Convention on July 9-11, 2015, in New Orleans. For complete contest rules: www.paprolife.org or call **717-541-0034**.

Pro-Life Christmas Cards 2014

Celebrate the birth of Our Lord and the Giver of Life, and at the same time, help our fundraising efforts! Your purchase supports the pro-life work of the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life. To place an order or for more information, call Pat, 814-946-0681 or Marge, 814-696-9304.



Love Was Born at Christmas

This selection captures the emotions of love and tenderness as Mary gently holds her newborn Son, Jesus. The text and border are gold-foil embossed. White envelopes are included.

Actual size: 4¹/₂" x 6¹/₈" - \$7.00 per pkg. of 11

Verse: *May the Prince of Peace and His Holy Mother
keep you in their care this Christmas
and throughout the New Year.*

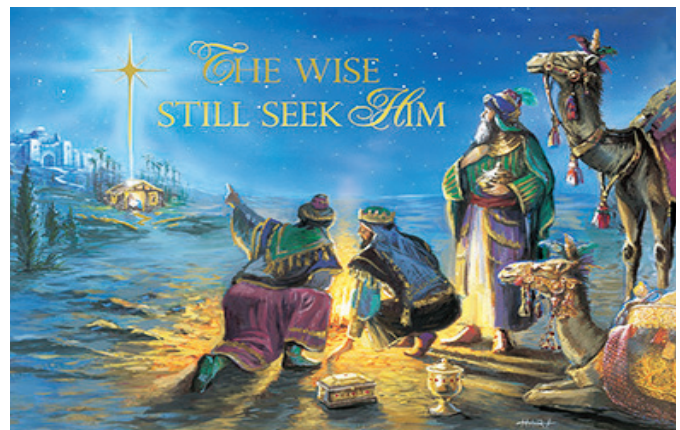


Unto Us a Child is Born

This card portrays the sleeping Infant Jesus on a bed of hay. The text, star and border are gold-foil; white envelopes are included.

Actual size: 4¹/₂" x 6¹/₈" - \$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.*



The Wise Still Seek Him

This card features a colorful portrayal of the Three Kings following the Star to Bethlehem. The text, star and manger are gold-foil; white envelopes are included.

Actual size: 4⁷/₈" x 6³/₄" - \$7.00 per pkg. of 11

Verse: *May the blessings of Christmas
be with you today
and throughout the New Year.*



**BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER**

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

From the President's Desk

R. I. P.

Two pro-life priests and a saint passed away during the past month.

Fr. Joseph Strittmatter passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's at Epworth Manor in Tyrone. Father was the pastor at St. Matthew Church more than twenty years ago when the body of baby Agnes Doe was discovered. Father, with the support of the Knights of Columbus, made arrangements to procure the body of little Agnes from Coroner Charles Burkey and celebrated a funeral Mass for this little angel, and afterwards the Knights and many others processed her body to St. Matthew Cemetery where she lies today. Every year, subsequent pastors at St. Matthew and the Knights honor Baby Agnes, along with the victims of abortion, at a prayer service and procession to her grave.

Donna Seidel, a wife, widow and mother, who would have been embarrassed to receive accolades after her death, also passed away. Donna was a frequent traveler to the March for Life in Washington, D. C. with her sister-in-law, Terri, until illness caught up with her. She regularly participated in the Life Chain and led the rosary at her parish. She and her husband, Bud, were the salt of the earth. Although Donna wanted no visitation after her death, her church was packed for her funeral service, and her pastor and many others had to fight back tears at her passing. She was the saint.

The second priest who passed away was Fr. Joseph Hornick from St. Basil Parish in Sullivan County. Father Hornick, a widower, was a late vocation having been married for sixteen years. He had three children and spoke of his grandchildren in his homilies. We attended his Masses twice over the Labor Day weekend. Father talked about participating in fundraisers for causes that he believed in. He was in good physical shape, having been a veteran; he ran and rode his bike to raise money for his activities which included cancer and pro-life causes. During his Masses, Father repeated to all present that we should pray the "Our Father" slowly and with reverence as if it would

be the last "Our Father" that we would ever say. Two days later Father collapsed while running and passed away. I will never forget his words.

May these three rest in peace and may the angels lead them into paradise and may we follow their example in the manner in which we lead our lives.



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


40 Days for Life

The 40 Days for Life Campaign starts Wednesday, September 24th and runs through November 2nd. The campaign is a community based, pro-life approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their neighborhoods.

Since its inception in 2004, 40 Days for Life has seen nearly 9,000 babies saved from abortion, 101 abortion facility workers quit and 57 abortion facilities shut down. Through peaceful prayer, 40 Days for Life works to help women choose life for their children.

Will you join them? Find the campaign nearest you— then let God use you to show His love and mercy to women (and men) seeking abortion...to the babies scheduled to be aborted...and to the abortion facility workers."

Find the closest 40 Days for Life campaign: <http://40daysforlife.com/browse-campaigns>.



Blair County Life News
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 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.com

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

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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Lives Depend on It!