



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 8 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Spring 2016

Oratory Contest Winners

Isabel Sicree, a high school junior, is the First Place Varsity Winner of Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2016 Oratory Contest. Maria Sicree, a senior, is our Second Place Varsity Winner, and their sister, Genevieve, a freshman, placed First in the Junior Division. Isabel, Maria and Genevieve are the daughters of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree, of Boalsburg, and are homeschooled. The judges for the Oratory Contest were: Elsie Shivas, Hollidaysburg; Pat Hatch, Altoona; and Pat Forr, Altoona; Marita Forr was timekeeper. Prizes of \$200 and \$150 were awarded to the winners. Congratulations to the Sicree sisters! Printed below is Isabel's oratorical presentation. Read Genevieve's presentation, beginning on back page. Maria's entry will appear in our Summer issue.

Coney Island Babies

By Isabel Sicree, First Place Winner, Varsity Division

"Everyone loves a baby," or so was the slogan of Dr. Martin Couney's Infant Incubator Sideshow at Coney Island in the 1930s. "Don't pass the babies by!" called the sidewalk barkers. People flocked in at 25 cents a person admission to see the 'World's Smallest Babies', born prematurely at less than three pounds apiece. The children were seen snug in their Infant Incubators as people marveled at them. Why was this display there, next to the bearded lady exhibit in Brooklyn, New York? Simple: the hospitals wouldn't take the life-saving invention, the banks wouldn't fund it, and there was no other way to save the babies.

Human babies are born defenseless, completely dependent on others for their well-being. In the early twentieth century, premature babies (under four and a half pounds) had a 66% mortality rate, and the hospitals didn't believe that any would survive. Imagine being a parent and hearing that about your son or daughter. It was not a bright prospect. All of these tiny babies were fighting for their lives, and the doctors wouldn't do a thing about it. To them, it wasn't worth the cost to build departments focused on children who had a small chance of living anyway. Banks would not fund the newly invented incubator because they believed that hospitals wouldn't buy it. Private care for premature babies was expensive, so only the wealthy could possibly afford it by themselves.

Dr. Martin Couney had another idea. Using the invention of Doctor Stéphane Tarnier, a Frenchman, he showed that, by keeping the children warm he could

increase the percentage of survival for them. Naming the display the *kinderbrunntanstalt* or "child hatchery," he and Pierre Budin conducted the first demonstration of incubator babies at the Berlin Exposition in 1896 to draw attention to the life-saving invention. Couney and Budin borrowed six preemies from a Berlin hospital that were expected to die—and didn't lose any of the children they had on display. Couney travelled to London the following summer for another exhibit before he finally made his way to America. He opened his exhibit of premature babies in 1903 at Coney Island. During the thirty-six years of the exhibit at Coney Island he cared for 8,000 premature babies, and 6,500 of them survived. This was now an 80% survival rate. One of those incubator babies was his own daughter, Hildegard. He may not have invented the Infant Incubator, but he put it to the most use. With his propaganda of sidewalk barkers and stilt men, including Archibald Leach who is better known as actor Cary Grant, he made his tiny babies, dubbed 'preemies,' a raging success.



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Coney Island Babies

continued from front page

Couney was very cautious about the babies care. He employed wet nurses, who had children of their own, that he kept on a strict, controlled diet. Any nurse caught eating things like a hot dog would be fired. Every baby was anonymous, and he accepted any premature child under three pounds, regardless of race or social class. Lousie Recht, the head nurse, wore an oversized ring to demonstrate how small the babies were by slipping it over their wrists. There were also about fifteen trained nurses caring for the children and Couney was always on duty, even when he left to get a drink across the way. Unfortunately, he could not keep the exhibit open during the winter months, so he took no new babies during that time, but redirected them to other places. Once the babies had reached a normal weight, he took them home to their parents.

Yet he had his dissenters. Some found it horrible that children were on display next to the strange characters on Coney Island such as the midget villages and sword-swallowers. They were outraged, even though the tours never bothered the premature children there. All of the babies were kept totally anonymous, and the parents were never charged a cent for the care or for visits. Dr. Couney put an identification necklace around all the babies as they came in, so he was never accused of mixing children up. In fact, some children came back later as adults with these necklaces to see the place where their lives had been saved. They could get in the exhibit for free.

"Everybody loves a baby." This isn't the case today. Infanticide, or the exposure or killing of infants, is occurring all over the world. Babies have been found in the woods in the United States, in sewers in China, and in dumpsters in Russia. This isn't new: in ancient Rome, hundreds of skeletons of babies were found clogging the sewers of Ashkelon where they had been left to die, most of them girls.

What is new is the legalization of abortion. You can't kill a baby before he is born without killing respect for his life afterwards. First society allows the

killing of infants before they are born, then during birth, then afterwards. Then children, who are born alive despite the attempts on their lives, are mercilessly left to die where they are. Then we are forced to pay for all of this. Then the bodies are sold for research and people just sit there and watch. Why is anyone surprised when babies are being abandoned when they are also being slaughtered? Where is the outrage that people felt in the 1930s that a sideshow was disrespectful? At least then the babies were being saved, even if they were a strange spectacle.

Doctors again are forgetting the preciousness of human life, just like they did in Martin Couney's time. China's one-child policy has caused families to choose only one 'perfect' child to raise, almost always a boy. Now, daughters have been seen handcuffed to their fathers to keep them from being kidnapped because there are simply not enough girls. In 2012, a safe-haven drop box had to be closed down due to too many babies being left there, nearly all of them with special conditions such as Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. In 90 days, they had 262 children abandoned there, too many for the staff to take care of. That's about three babies a day left there.

Where is the outrage?

Thankfully, there are a few striving solutions to the problem of child abandonment.

Pastor Lee Jong-rak in Seoul, South Korea, has a project known as the Drop Box, where babies can be left for him to take care of. Installed in 2009, he gets as many as eighteen babies a month. Once the babies are placed in the box, where they are kept warm and comfortable, a bell rings for Pastor Lee or his wife to take the baby inside his home, which also serves as an orphanage. He and his wife have adopted ten children themselves, the maximum number that the local


authorities will allow. This project is so clearly saving lives from infanticide.

Every state in the US has safe haven laws: a child less than 72-hours-old can be left at a police station, fire department, or a hospital with no consequences to the parent. Unfortunately, this doesn't stop abandonment. Children are still found dumped in the woods to die. It seems that the mothers don't want to show their faces to anyone.

What we really need is to change our culture. The laws for legal abortion and euthanasia produced a virulent culture of death, where the sanctity of human life is forgotten. Babies are dying, dumped in dumpsters, and often left unburied without names. Legal abortion is used as an excuse for infanticide, which they call 'after-birth abortion.' Where is the outrage?

Martin Couney's Infant Incubators were beginning to be adopted by hospitals in 1939, over forty years after he began his mission. Four years later, he shut down his exhibit because others were finally saving the children, too. Thanks to him, many more thousands of premature babies are saved due to the incubator, and they live full lives. As he said: "I made propaganda for the premie. My work is done." He died in 1950, seven years after his exhibit closed.

We need to re-teach society about the sanctity of life to make any change stay. People need to be able to see that a baby is a human being and never changes to anything less throughout his life. Like Martin Couney's sideshow, we need to call attention to the injustices of society by setting an example that they cannot ignore. ♦



Blair County Life News
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Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.
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Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.
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email: blair@centralpaprolife.org
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12th Annual Pro-Life Dinner & Silent Auction

Real Life Assembly of God Church
621 W. Pitt St., Bedford

Friday, April 29, 2016
Dinner at 6:00 p.m. ~ Silent Auction 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker: Jewels Green

Former Abortion Clinic Worker
Tireless Advocate for the Right to Life

Jewels Green is a former abortion clinic worker who was pressured into an abortion as a teenager and survived a subsequent suicide attempt. She is a mother, writer, public speaker, volunteer and tireless advocate for the right to life from conception to natural death. Jewels' candid articles have been published online and in print and she is featured in the documentary film *40* and in the book, *We Choose Life: Authentic Stories, Movements of Hope*.

Read her latest online articles:

An Unstinting Fight for the Unborn at LifeZette
and
Why is NARAL Fearful of Ultrasound Technology Showing Baby in Womb?

As Jewels concludes, "A picture is truly worth a thousand words."

Read about NARAL's accusation of the winning Super Bowl Doritos ad "humanizing fetuses" on Twitter.



Come Hear the Regional Oratory Contest Winners!

Adults \$17 ◆ Students \$10 ◆ 4 & under free

RSVP 623-1314 by April 16

Checks should be made payable to: Bedford County CCHL

Mail checks to: Pam Lucas, 262 Zion Rd, Everett, PA 15537

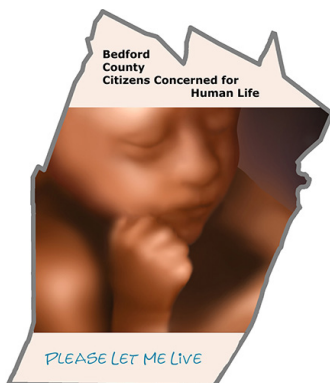
Be a 2016 Sponsor of our "Save the Babies" Projects!

Platinum/\$250 ◆ Gold/\$100 ◆ Silver/\$50 ◆ Bronze/\$25

Dinner flyer at www.BedfordCountyProLife.org/ dinner

Sponsor form at www.BedfordCountyProLife.org/ projects

Sponsored by the Bedford County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life



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President Barack Obama

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Legislative Update



Rest in Peace, Justice Scalia

By Dave Andrusko

We are deeply saddened by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Justice Scalia steadfastly defended the right of elected lawmakers to enact laws that protect unborn children and their mothers and he often issued powerful critiques of the judicially manufactured barriers that limited such legislative efforts. Our thoughts and prayers are with Justice Scalia's widow and family.

When pro-lifers read through so many Supreme Court decisions on abortion, decisions whose contempt for state legislatures was matched only by their indifference to the fate of unborn children, we could count on Justice Scalia to cut through the dithering and the deception and the duplicity.



Unlike many of his colleagues, he really did understand there are three branches of government and that the Supreme Court ought to pay appropriate deference to men and women elected by the people. Justice Scalia's withering critiques of untethered

judicial activism will be read by law students for generations to come.

As it relates to our issues, it's important to remember that Justice Scalia warned decades ago that a kind of judicial mission creep might lead a future Supreme Court to declare that lurking in the penumbras of the Constitution is a "right" to physician-assisted suicide. Which, of course, is but one reason the kind of jurist who will be his eventual replacement is so important.

Again our hearts and prayers go out to Justice Scalia's family. They lost a great husband, father, and grandfather. Unborn children lost a great champion.

—Excerpted from *National Right to Life News Today*, February 15, 2016

Protect Our Right to Vote for Judges—Legislative Alert

Pro-abortion forces, including former pro-abortion governors, are lobbying legislators to take away our right to vote for Pennsylvania appellate judges.

Please call your state representative in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and urge him or her to vote NO on so-called merit selection of judges, House Bill 1336. Tell him or her you don't want lawmakers to take away your right to vote for judges.

If you don't know who your state representative is, or you need contact information, please go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/#address>. If you type in your address, a window will pop up with the name of your state representative. Thank you for making these important calls!

Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation



Help the PA Pro-Life Federation Education Fund save precious lives by participating in "Dick's Pittsburgh Marathon." Join the pro-life team on May 1, by signing up to run, or join us in spirit by donating. For more information, contact Betty at betty@paprolife.org.

How the Texas Abortion Restrictions Protect Women's Health

They set standards for safe practices

By Marjorie Dannenfelser

The death of Justice Antonin Scalia will likely have a profound effect on the outcome of several cases currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. Among the most important is *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*, for which oral arguments were heard Wednesday, March 2. This case marks the first time in nearly a decade that the court has considered the constitutionality of state laws regulating abortion.

In the aftermath of Kermit Gosnell's 2013 conviction for murder in Pennsylvania, many states reviewed and strengthened health and safety standards for abortion clinics. Gosnell's "house of horrors," as prosecutors called it, was only able to flourish because the state's regulatory and health agencies looked the other way—or didn't look at all. Babies were born alive, then killed; women were subjected to filthy conditions; and at least one mother was fatally injured.

Sadly, there are reports of abortion clinics offering substandard care all over the country. Doctors who provide abortions like Steven Chase Brigham, James Pendergraft, Timothy Liveright and Douglas Karpen have allegedly followed in Gosnell's footsteps. Here are a few examples:

- In Delaware, two nurses who had worked at Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic testified to the state senate that conditions there were "ridiculously unsafe" and placed women at risk for hepatitis and AIDS from a "meat-market style of assembly-line abortions." Since January 2013, five women were allegedly sent to the hospital from the clinic.

- In Virginia, the state's busiest abortion clinic was closed after new state regulations required it to meet hospital-level building requirements. A botched abortion had sent a woman

to the hospital on advanced life support, and investigation had revealed health and safety violations.

- In Illinois, Ohio, Florida, and Maryland women have been injured or killed following botched abortions.

- And in Texas, testimony from former staff members of the Aaron Women's Clinic in Houston alleged that Douglas Karpen conducted illegal late-term abortions. A grand jury declined to indict Karpen.

It was partly in response to the abuses revealed at Gosnell's clinic that the State of Texas passed a law to require abortion facilities to meet the standards for ambulatory surgery and to require physicians to have admitting privileges in a 30-mile radius of their operations. These justifiable safeguards protect the life and health of women who undergo abortions. In fact, treating abortion sites as ambulatory surgical centers was specifically recommended by the grand jury that reviewed the tragic errors Pennsylvania made in the Gosnell case.

Pro-abortion advocates argue the law places too many obstacles on women seeking care. Upholding the Texas law, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals found that it places no "undue burden" on women to ensure that abortion facilities and the medical personnel who run them meet the same basic standards of safety in place to protect patients who undergo other outpatient procedures. Exempting abortion facilities from the standards that govern other ambulatory medical facilities discrimi-

nates against women, who uniquely are able to undergo abortions.

In anticipation of the Supreme Court's consideration of the case, the Susan B. Anthony List, together with Concerned Women for America, submitted an amicus brief to the Court arguing in favor of upholding the circuit court's decision. All eyes will be on Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has in the past upheld restrictions on abortion. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, Kennedy affirmed the essential holding of *Roe v. Wade* while still finding that the state "has legitimate interests from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman" as well as the baby.

Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt will test whether those legitimate interests include protecting women's health from unsafe abortion clinics. If Kennedy rules that it does, the court decision will likely be a 4-4 tie, in which case the lower court's decision upholding the Texas law will stand. In a post-Scalia world, that's the best we can hope for right now.

Marjorie Dannenfelser is President of the Susan B. Anthony List, an American political organization that seeks to advance pro-life women in politics.

—Susan B. Anthony League, March 2, 2016



Abortions Rise Slightly in Pennsylvania

By Maria Gallagher

Abortions increased slightly statewide in Pennsylvania in 2014, according to figures released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

“Even a slight increase in the abortion totals is troubling,” said Maria Gallagher, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, the state affiliate of National Right to Life. “Eighteen more preborn children lost their lives to abortion in 2014, compared with the previous year. That’s nearly the equivalent of one kindergarten class,” said Gallagher.

The DOH statistics show 32,126 abortions occurred in the Keystone State in 2014. The vast majority of the abortions occurred in four counties: Allegheny, Dauphin, Northampton, and Philadelphia.

Still, the 2014 total represents a 51.2 percent decrease from the record high number of 65,777 in 1980. The dramatic decrease in abortions over the past few decades can be attributed to a number of factors, including protective laws such as the Abortion Control Act, which provides for informed consent, parental consent, and 24-hour waiting periods for abortion.

The closing of abortion centers, the advent of 4D ultrasound technology, and the rise of social media have also had an effect in lowering abortion totals over the last decade.

“The abortion rate in Pennsylvania would also be much higher were it not for the state’s Alternatives to Abortion program, which is administered by Real Alternatives, Inc. (www.realalternatives.org),” Gallagher added. “This

ground-breaking program provides women with comprehensive counseling and material aid so that women are fully supported during their pregnancies. Real Alternatives centers, along with other pro-life pregnancy help centers throughout the Commonwealth, are offering a much-needed lifeline to women and their families. Women can receive everything from diapers to day care referrals, and from mentoring to maternity clothes, thanks to these incredible centers,” Gallagher said.

—Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

Press Release, January 13, 2016

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is a grassroots right-to-life organization with members statewide. As the state affiliate of National Right to Life, PPLF is committed to promoting the dignity and value of human life from conception to natural death and to restoring legal protection for preborn children.

Pennsylvania Induced Abortion Report January-December 2014

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Age of Woman

<u>Age (Years)</u>	<u>Number</u>
12 or Under	4
13	23
14	83
15	187
16	333
17	446
18	955
19	1,411
20 - 24	10,848
25 - 29	8,750
30 - 34	5,162
35 - 39	2,911
40 - 44	930
45 or Older	83
Unknown	0
Total	32,126

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Weeks of Gestation

<u>Weeks of Gestation</u>	<u>Number</u>
8 or Less	19,521
9 - 10	5,534
11 - 12	2,950
13 - 14	1,744
15 - 17	1,400
18 - 20	649
21 - 23	328
24 or More	0
Total	32,126

Note: Weeks of gestation are based on clinical estimate.

—PA Department of Health

2014 ABORTION STATISTICS

In 2014, there were 32,126 abortions performed in Pennsylvania. The 2014 figure is a 51.2 percent decrease from the 1980 total of 65,777 (the highest annual number ever recorded). The 2014 figure represents an increase of 18 or 0.1 percent from the 32,108 that occurred in 2013. The lowest annual number recorded remains 32,108.

Nearly all abortions in 2014 (29,749 or 92.6 percent) were performed in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy (first trimester).

Almost 49 percent (15,691) of all abortions performed in Pennsylvania were to white women and 13,782 or 42.9 percent were to black or African-American women. Abortions to women of Hispanic origin (regardless of race) accounted for 2,845 or 8.9 percent of all abortions in 2014.

Over 88 percent or 28,293 of the abortions performed in Pennsylvania in 2014 were to unmarried women.

Patients age 19 and under accounted for 10.7 percent or 3,442 of the 2014 abortions performed in Pennsylvania. Females age 17 and under accounted for 3.3 percent or 1,076 of the 2014 abortions. The 2013 percentage for females age 19 and under was 11.6 and for females age 17 and under was 3.5. As in previous years, the largest single age group was 20-24, accounting for 10,848 or 33.8 percent of all 2014 abortions.

Of all the abortions that occurred in 2014 in Pennsylvania, 30,764 or 95.8 percent were performed on residents. The 2013 figure was similar at 95.8 percent. Residents of other states, territories and other countries accounted for 1,362 abortions in 2014, compared to 1,359 in 2013.

Of the abortion patients who resided in Pennsylvania, 12,701 or 41.3 percent were residents of Philadelphia. Other counties with a large number of resident abortions included Allegheny, 3,329; Montgomery, 1,689; Delaware, 1,611; Bucks, 1,082; and Berks, 943. Of all 67 counties, 30 (44.8 percent) showed a decrease in the number of resident abortions performed in 2014 compared to 2013.

Of the abortions performed in 2014 in Pennsylvania, 82.7 percent occurred in four counties -- Allegheny, Dauphin, Northampton, and Philadelphia.

In 2014, there were 162 reports of complications from abortions which were submitted by physicians, representing 9.0 percent fewer than the 178 reported in 2013. Almost 67 percent of the complications in 2014 were related to retained products of conception, 17.3 percent to bleeding, and 6.8 percent to infection.

During the 2014 calendar year, 18 hospitals and 19 non-hospital facilities performed abortions in Pennsylvania.

Note: The source for the number of abortions reported in Pennsylvania in 2014 is the "Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy," which is an individual report filed for each procedure. The source for the complications data is "Abortions: Report of Complications," a separate reporting form completed by physicians who have provided medical care to a woman because of a complication resulting from an abortion or attempted abortion.

—PA Department of Health

For more information on Abortion Statistics in Pennsylvania, go to: www.statistics.health.pa.gov/.../Pennsylvania_Annual_Abortion_Report_2014.pdf



Canoe Creek Brethren in Christ members rode on CCHL's bus to the March for Life in January

Attendees at Tyrone's 2016 March for Life

Microcephaly and Abortion

continued from back page

research how to prevent this condition without *killing* an innocent child in the process. And we need to treat these children and support those families who have microcephaly. Thus we shall counteract this fear of a disability with support and hope.

Even now, families who have experience with microcephaly are reaching out to encourage and support those in South America who also have this condition. There can be varying degrees of microcephaly. Some, like Anna Careces, have no intellectual disabilities: she graduated from college when doctors said she'd never even walk or talk. On the other hand, Gwen Hartley has two daughters named Claire and Lola with microcephaly caused by genetics. Their cases are more serious: they can't feed or walk by themselves, and they have seizures and sight and sleep problems. She said, "It is sad to me that microcephaly is being vilified in the media due to Zika, and I hope that the general public realizes that though this diagnosis would not be something I would have chosen, I am NO LESS BLESSED by having two daughters with this condition than if they'd been born typical." She also said, "In the beginning, I was crushed. I'm sure these moms in Brazil are feeling that way. But if you open your mind enough, you realize your whole life

is in preparation for this moment, and this moment will make you better."

What people need to remember is that every life, whether it's physically and mentally "perfect" or not, is a gift. And more than ever before, we *need* those who are not "perfect" because they have the ability to inspire by showing us that sometimes it is possible to succeed despite all odds and every disadvantage. They may not succeed in life the way most people see it. They succeed by inspiring us and teaching us how to love. They teach those who care for them the gift of giving without a thought of getting anything back in return.

We need handicapped people because they teach us the meaning of unconditional love. Though they may not even be able to speak, they can love. And isn't that what makes everything else worthwhile?

When Gwen Hartley was pregnant with her second daughter, her doctor said that she didn't have to "do this again," but her son Cal encouraged her when he said, "Mom, I just want to hold Lola...even if it's just for a day." Later, Gwen was working with a lab to see if Cal could be a carrier for microcephaly, but he put a stop to this. He said, "Mom, I don't care if I have a child like Claire and Lola, I love them." ♦



Every Life Matters Pregnancy Support Services

Help is available with material assistance, prenatal/parenting education and support and post-abortion counseling.

Contact us for an appointment.

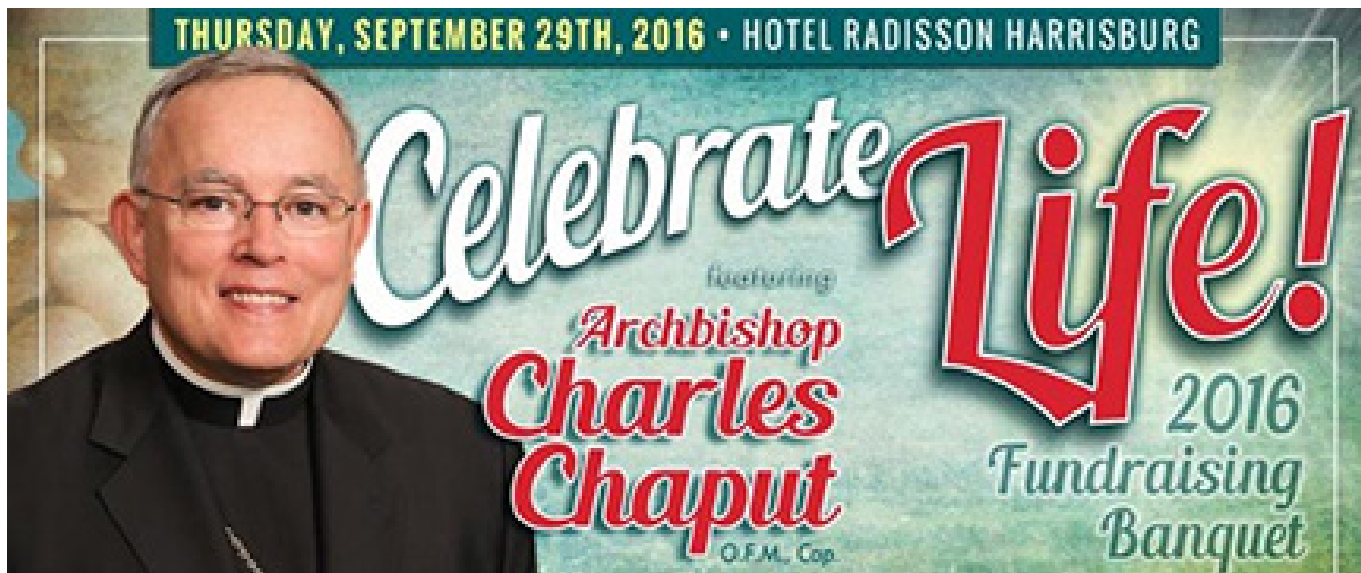
221 Hospital Dr., Suite 5, Tyrone, PA 16686

Phone: 814-650-7899 (text or call)

email: The.ELM.PSS@gmail.com website: www.the-elm.org

(Mailing address: P.O. Box 244, Tyrone, PA 16686)

Tickets for the Pro-Life Event of the Year are Now Available



Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia is one of our nation's foremost pro-life leaders. A prolific writer and a captivating speaker, Archbishop Chaput is a tireless defender of the rights of preborn children, pregnant women, and families. Tickets to this PA Pro-Life Federation event will go fast, so reserve yours today. Call 717-541-0034 or go online at www.paprolife.org.

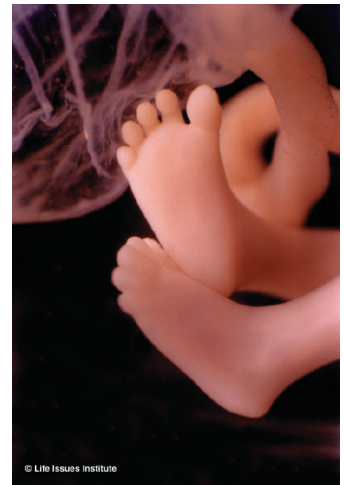
Human Development



Seven weeks from conception



Eight weeks from conception



Eleven weeks from conception



Fourteen weeks from conception



Sixteen weeks from conception

(Full-term gestation is 39-40 weeks.)



Twenty weeks from conception



Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Residence and Weeks of Gestation (Central Pennsylvania Counties) January-December 2014

Residence	Total	Weeks of Gestation							
		8 or Less	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-17	18-20	21-23	24 or More
Bedford	15	8	3	0	1	1	1	1	0
Blair	88	41	20	11	8	3	3	2	0
Cambria	117	54	24	16	6	9	2	6	0
Centre	160	113	16	14	7	6	1	3	0
Clearfield	44	24	11	2	1	4	2	0	0
Huntington	19	12	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
Juniata	13	9	1	0	2	0	0	1	0
Mifflin	33	29	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Somerset	39	15	10	4	6	2	1	1	0

—PA Department of Health

A Must-See Movie

By Maria Gallagher

The *People v. O.J. Simpson* is a five-part television mini-series which has engaged a segment of the American public. The series is about the two people brutally murdered in 1994 and the trial that ensued in 1995. It was described as the trial of the (20th) century.

Meanwhile, in theaters, churches, and other venues across the nation, other Americans are drawn to a documentary which depicts what by rights should be described as the crime of this century—the murder of innocent babies and the maiming and killing of women by Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell.

I have to confess that I approached the film "3801 Lancaster: American Tragedy" with some trepidation. The last and only horror movie I saw filled me with such fear I could never approach the genre again.

And make no mistake, Gosnell's sordid tale is a horror story—a story of delivering huge babies alive and then murdering them by cutting their spinal cords while others were left struggling in toilets gasping for air; and inexplicably severing feet and keeping them in jars for posterity.

For me, one of the most poignant moments in the film is when a young woman discovers that one of those severed babies' feet belongs to her own baby—the child she lost in Gosnell's House of Horrors.

Despite my own squeamishness, I would encourage every pro-life activist—indeed, every American adult—to see "3801 Lancaster." The significance of the film might best be summarized by Pennsylvania state Senator John Rafferty, who is quoted as saying, "We've allowed a man to butcher babies...butcher women, and nobody did a damn thing about it."

Thanks to an exhaustive investigation by a grand jury, we know that the Pennsylvania Department of State knew that at least one woman had died in Gosnell's facility, but did nothing. The Philadelphia Department of Health failed to act, and the Pennsylvania Health Department refused to inspect the abortion center for 17 years.

As the grand jury stated, pro-abortion politics kept inspectors away—if health regulators had found evi-

dence of lax care, it could, in their view, threaten "access" to abortion—a practice more sacred in their opinion than innocent human life.

One of the eerie aspects of "3801 Lancaster" is hearing Gosnell calmly attempt to justify his actions, steadfastly maintaining his innocence. He sounds erudite, even affable—a sharp juxtaposition from the abortionist who dealt so coldly with his patients. The question is asked: What happened to change him from a legitimate doctor to a symbol of evil?

I would argue that what happened to him was abortion. Routinely taking innocent life—the most defenseless, the most vulnerable lives—has to have an effect on a person. If power corrupts, the power to kill through abortion corrupts absolutely.

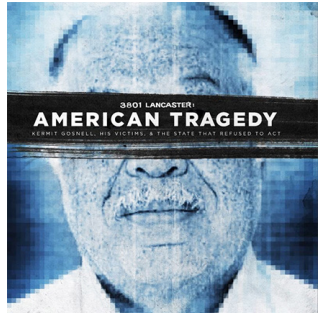
Gosnell might have set out to help poor women—he fancies himself a man of the people—but he ended up butchering them, and, in the view of the grand jury, killed hundreds of full-term babies. If Gosnell is a monster, and there is little doubt of that, he is the monster that the abortion industry created.

Perhaps the scene in the movie that haunts me the most is a young African-American woman describing her experience at the hands of Gosnell. She appears as if when the life of her unborn child was sucked out of her, so was a part of her life removed. She said she thought she could trust this man because he was a doctor—she had been taught to trust doctors, in fact. But that trust was horribly violated, a violation she lives with every day.

Not all of Gosnell's victims died. Some walk among us, haunted by the crimes he committed against their families, brutalized not only by a man, but the industry that gave rise to the brute.

Note: There is a showing of 3801 scheduled for Upper Darby PA on Thursday, March 24th at 7:30 at the Studio Movie Grill. To see a listing of showtimes across the nation, visit www.3801lancaster.com.

—Maria Gallagher, Legislative Director
PA Pro-Life Online News, February 18, 2016



G. K. Chesterton

Why do you matter? Just because you are.

By Dave Andrusko

The great apologist G. K. Chesterton once wrote, "All men matter. You matter. I matter. It's the hardest thing in theology to believe."

Someone once sent me that quote as part of a larger essay in which the writer expounded on Chesterton's insight. Alas, I did not retain the author's name. So....

Without being able to give credit where credit is due, this writer took Chesterton's observation and concluded "And that God—the God who is big enough to speak all of that [just the part of the universe we know about] into existence and hold it in the palm of his hand—says you matter to him. He says I matter to him."

I wonder, could there be anything that more fundamentally separates pro- and anti-life forces than the bedrock pro-life conviction that every life matters? That lives are not disposable based on some sort of sliding scale, whether that be "wantedness" or "quality of life" or any other arbitrary and capricious line of demarcation?

To be fair, we shouldn't expect that to register with our benighted opposition. The pro-abortion mind experiences a kind of brain freeze whenever you say this.

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From the President's Desk

A March to Remember

Six weeks ago, the March for Life and the “storm of the century” collided in Washington, D.C.

We had three buses slated to travel from Altoona, but as the predictions got more dire, the numbers attending got smaller. We had to cancel two buses and took a skeleton crew to participate in the activities.

Our plan was to attend the rally and depart Washington before the March reached the Supreme Court. The crowd this year was much smaller than usual due to the weather reports. Nevertheless, this March proved to be a success and received more news coverage than ever because of the storm and its after effects.

The news media actually wrote stories about those attending the March and some of the reports even used the term to describe the participants as pro-life and not the usual anti-abortion.

Those who traveled the PA Turnpike were actually the subject of stories for almost two days after the March.

News spread across the internet about a Mass with an altar made of snow attended by hundreds of stranded pro-lifers, about a Mass in a bar at Breezewood with 150 or so young students from Chicago praying for the unborn and all of those stranded.

In addition, the pro-lifers opened up their buses to those fellow travelers whose cars were stuck beside them and shared their food and drinks.

The citizens of Bedford and Somerset County rallied to support those weary travelers with food, drink and their prayers.

Our approximately 30 travelers only had to endure a three-hour delay at Breezewood due to a transmission failure.

The folks at “Bob Evans” were waiting for us with supper and when they closed we were able to walk to the local Sheetz for more hospitality and the opportunity to watch the weather report.

Thanks to some good bus driving and the prayers of many, we made it home safely.

This was a March to remember! *R. Thomas Forr, Jr.*

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

Why do you matter? Because you are.

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They have no single default position in response, but many. They include that there are SO many people in the world (a canard that is far less impressive now that many nations are approaching negative population growth); people, including youngsters, die from accidents (as if deliberating taking a life and inadvertently taking a life are two sides of the same coin); this is merely/only/just a “religious” tenet (as if anything any position that originates from, or draws additional strength from a religious impulse, is automatically suspect), etc., etc., etc.

This bedrock principle protects us from a sliding scale approach to human life which, when embraced, always finds new categories of people whose lives don't “really” matter. As I once wrote for *National Right to Life News* [www.nrlc.org/uploads/NRLNews/NRLNewsJan2014.pdf], “Our unyielding belief that every single life matters” means that “pro-lifers are immune to the eugenics temptation which rears its ugly head in many guises.

Dave Andrusko is Editor, National Right to Life News.

—National Right to Life News Today, February 16, 2016

Pennsylvanians brave weather and terrible traffic to attend March for Life

Many pro-lifers weathered the awful conditions in Washington, DC to attend the March for Life on January 22 and got stuck in monstrous traffic jams after they left. God bless them for their steadfast faithfulness.



Tom Forr, at right, with his children, Tommy, Marita and Mary, at March for Life 2016

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.

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



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Microcephaly and Abortion

By Genevieve Sicree, First Place Oratory Contest Winner, Junior Division

Everyone heard about the Ebola virus outbreak in Africa last year. Now there's a new virus outbreak in South America that has everyone worried. No, the Zika virus isn't fatal, and the symptoms are not serious; in fact only one in five cases develop symptoms at all. A simultaneous increase, however, in babies born with a condition called microcephaly has led many to believe that the Zika virus can cause this neurological disorder. Microcephaly is a disorder where babies are born with undersized heads and underdeveloped brains. While not typically fatal, the babies may have serious health problems all their lives. Abortion advocates have seized on this issue as their highway to getting abortion legalized in largely pro-life countries such as Brazil and Argentina.

Hysteria over the Zika virus has exploded for four reasons. One, it's a nearly invisible threat: Zika is spread by mosquitoes. Two, it's out of our control. Beyond keeping away from mosquitoes, there are no vaccines or treatments for the Zika virus. Three, it's affecting babies, not adults. Four, the babies are being born with a lifelong disability.

But hysteria over this is not fully warranted. There's no solid evidence that Zika causes microcephaly, which has other known causes. In fact, the *Wall Street Journal* reports, "Only a fraction of cases initially suspected of being microcephaly have so far been linked to the Zika virus." Out of 5,000 suspected cases, only 41 so far have been linked to Zika virus, though 3,852 are still under investigation. A group of Argentine doctors claims that a certain larvicide used in drinking water to kill mosquitoes may be the cause of the increase in microcephaly. This led to the larvicide being banned in some places, but Brazil's Health Ministry asserts there is no scientific basis for the claim.

Meanwhile abortion activists have jumped on the bandwagon of hysteria. Abortion and contraception must be included in the fight against the Zika virus, said International Planned Parenthood. An online group called Women

on Waves that mails abortion pills says it has seen an increase in demands from Latin America. These pills are used for abortions up to nine weeks gestation, but microcephaly is not detectable until



late in the pregnancy. These pills have caused the deaths of dozens of women in the U.S. alone. So, Women on Waves is sending these unsafe pills to women in South America who cannot know yet whether their babies even have microcephaly. Women are so afraid of having a handicapped baby that they're willing to kill a healthy baby on the possibility of a possibility. The possibility of the Zika virus causing microcephaly is just that, a possibility. It's not been proven yet. Fortunately, the Brazilian government is destroying any abortion pills, which are illegal, that it finds in the mail.

Abortion doesn't cure microcephaly or Zika: it just kills the patient. This is really an attack on the handicapped. Many women are *afraid* of having a child with a disability. What are they afraid of? Is it the possibility that the child will die young? All the more reason to cherish the time you're given. Is it that they won't be able to properly care for the child? Why not adoption then? Are they afraid to let a child live because they think his life will only be suffering? Then ask yourself this: who are we to judge that this life, though it may be filled with suffering, is not worth living?

Whatever the outcome of this all, a disability should *never* be an excuse for an abortion. All babies have a right to life, whether they're healthy or not. Instead of trying to legalize abortion, there are positive things we should be doing. We need to work to find the real cause. We need to

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