

CITIZENS  
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY  
CHAPTER

Pregnancy Help Centers, p. 8

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 8 Number 3

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

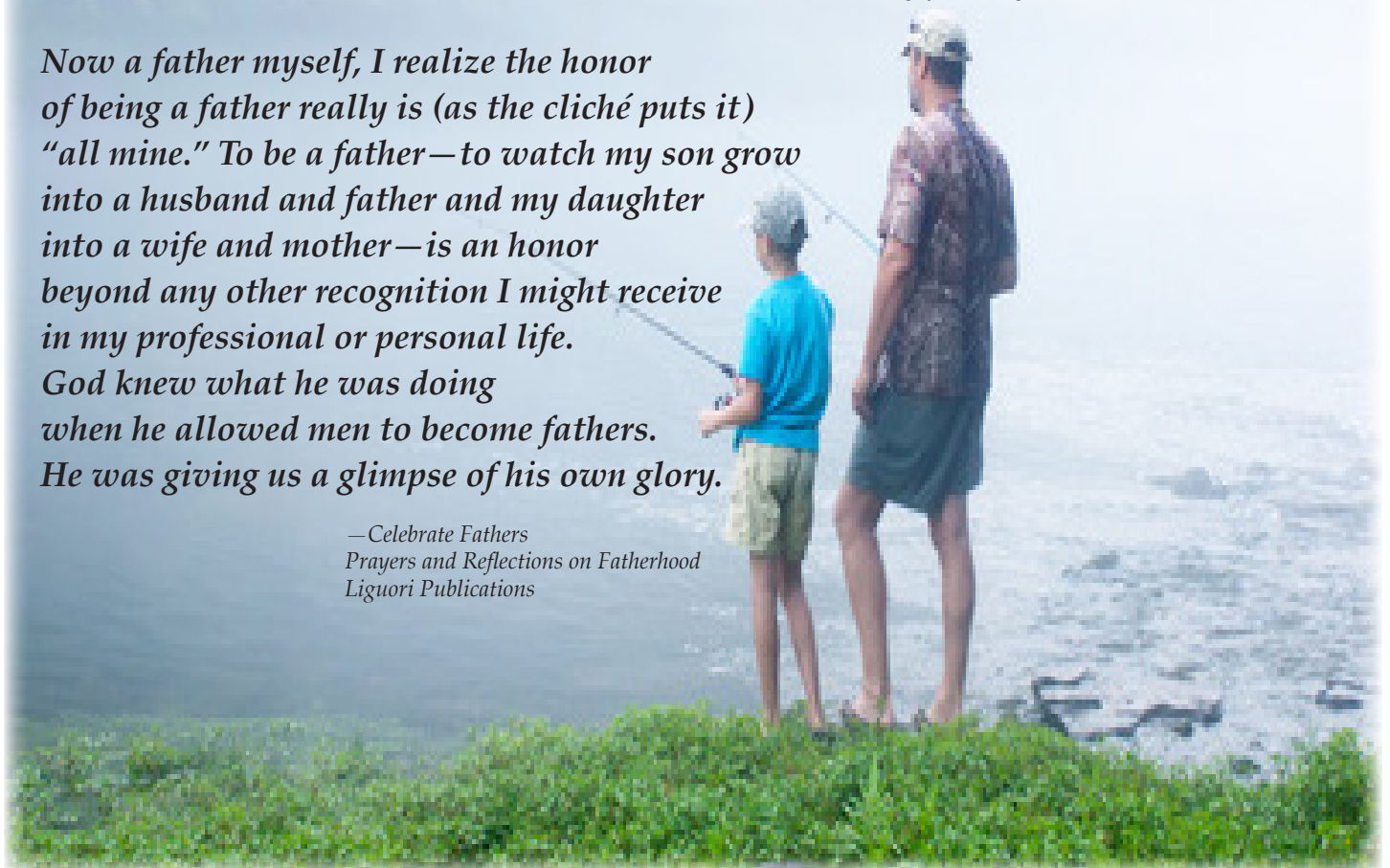
Summer 2016

## *In Honor of Fatherhood*

*When I was young, I bought my father a cheap plastic statue of a fisherman with an oversized, cartoon-like head. The statue read, "World's Greatest Dad." It was, in my ten-year-old mind, the highest award that could be conferred on a man. I wanted to give my father something more than another necktie or bottle of cologne he would never wear. I wanted to give him an honor. I wanted to tell him how I felt without actually telling him how I felt... because we didn't do that much in my family.*

*Now a father myself, I realize the honor of being a father really is (as the cliché puts it) "all mine." To be a father—to watch my son grow into a husband and father and my daughter into a wife and mother—is an honor beyond any other recognition I might receive in my professional or personal life. God knew what he was doing when he allowed men to become fathers. He was giving us a glimpse of his own glory.*

*—Celebrate Fathers  
Prayers and Reflections on Fatherhood  
Liguori Publications*



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2016 • HOTEL RADISSON HARRISBURG

# Celebrate **Life!**

2016  
Fundraising  
Banquet

featuring

**Archbishop  
Charles  
Chaput**  
O.F.M., Cap.

**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. The first Native American Catholic archbishop in the United States, Archbishop Chaput has earned the reputation of being a prophetic voice on behalf of the sanctity of human life. He received worldwide acclaim in 2015 for hosting the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which included an historic appearance by Pope Francis.

*Don't miss the pro-life event of the year!*

**Individual Banquet Tickets: \$50 each**  
Table Sponsorships are available and encouraged.

**Call 717-541-0034** or go online at [www.paproflife.org](http://www.paproflife.org)  
for more information and to register today.

**Check-in begins at 5 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the banquet begins at 6 p.m.**

PENNSYLVANIA  
**PRO-LIFE**  
FEDERATION

*There's always a reason to choose life.™*

• TO BENEFIT THE LIFESAVING WORK OF THE PA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION EDUCATION FUND •

HOTEL RADISSON HARRISBURG • 1150 CAMP HILL BYPASS, CAMP HILL, PA • 717-763-7117

Maria Sicree, a senior, was the Second Place Varsity Winner in the Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2016 Regional Oratory Contest. She is the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree, of Boalsburg. Printed below is her winning entry. Maria's entry also took second-place in the State oratory competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. Congratulations, Maria!

## The Three Fates

By Maria Sicree

Once there was a Pharaoh to whom no son had been born. His Majesty begged for a son from the gods of his domain and they decreed that one would be born to him. On the day the boy was delivered, he was visited by the seven Hathors, the tellers of fate, who prophesied saying that "He will die by the crocodile, the snake or the dog." When the Pharaoh heard this, he became very distressed. He then built a stone palace in the desert for his child so that he would be safe.

But when the boy was older, he longed for a dog of his own and His Majesty, wanting his son to be happy said, "Bring him a little puppy so that his heart will not grieve." So the boy was given a small greyhound for a companion.

Now, many days had passed and the Prince was a full grown adult. He said to his father: "To what purpose am I sitting here? I am committed to Fate. Let me go, that I may act according to my heart until Ra does what is in his heart for me." So he was brought a chariot and allowed to go wherever he wished, his greyhound always at his side. Unbeknownst to him, a snake and a crocodile followed in his wake.

This is the beginning of an ancient Egyptian fairy tale called *The Doomed Prince* written sometime before the fall of the New Kingdom around 1064 BC. Some people might think that nothing written so long ago could possibly have any connection to modern day issues...and they would be wrong. Much like the Prince, many American children have also been given three fates: those of abortifacient contraception, abortion and infanticide. Millions of these human beings have been doomed not by ancient gods, but by recent laws and politics that made these things legal.

I remember I once got into a fight with another girl in my class about being pro-life...when I was ten-years-old. We were discussing politics and the upcoming election when we were lining up to go to recess, and she got really angry with me that I was actively against abortion. All she'd say was that there wasn't any point to being pro-life, that abortion is legal now, and that there's no use in doing anything about it.

You're probably thinking "what pessimistic remarks coming from a ten-year-old," right? But eight years later, people are still telling me the same thing. Abortion kills around 1,300 children every day in America, and untold others die from abortifacient contraception and infanticide.

People agree that it's an atrocity but then refuse to talk about it. This is something that has been advocated by pro-abortionists. People used to have meaningful discussions, but now they push a sort of fatalism onto the ongoing debate. What's done is done and can't be undone. Even the U. S. Supreme Court, in its *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey* decision, used a similar argument as an excuse not to revoke *Roe v. Wade*.

Moreover, the very act of debating anything serious at all is becoming extinct. People have locked themselves in a stone palace of emotional security and anyone who dares to question their ideals is called out for being "phobic" or a "hater." Even the right to free speech is becoming scarce in these "safe spaces" which are sprouting with more frequency in campuses around the U.S. These spaces are made not to protect the safety of individuals, but the safety of their opinions.

In the same way that the Pharaoh kept the Prince isolated in a stone palace, apathetic pro-lifers avoid confronting the abortion culture. You can't defeat something until you choose to face it first, as the Prince did when he left his father.

Which is where we begin our story again...

Eventually, the Prince reached the kingdom of Mitanni on the Upper Euphrates. The ruler there had no children except one daughter who he kept in a house with a window seventy cubits off the ground. When the Prince met her eyes, he leapt up to her window and kissed her. Then the princess would accept none other than he to be her spouse, so they were soon married. The Prince told his wife about how he was fated to die and she feared for his life. From that moment on, she watched him closely and would not let him go out alone.

One night after a festival, the Prince lay down to sleep while his wife filled a bowl with wine and another with beer for them to drink. Thereupon the snake came out of the hole to bite the man as he slept, but his wife, who was sitting beside him, wide awake, carefully placed the bowls in its path. It drank both the bowls, became inebriated and then flipped over on its back in its stupor. The wife then called for the guard who rushed in and hacked the serpent to pieces with an axe. She woke her husband saying, "Look, your gods have given one of your fates into your hands. They will protect you from the others also."

One of our three fates has been eliminated very successfully by the Prince's wife, the Princess of Mitanni. And why is this? Unlike her husband, she refused to accept his fate and fought for his life, even though she knew that he was still doomed to die two other ways.

We can learn a lesson from the Princess of Mitanni. Some pro-lifers think that if someone isn't perfectly op-



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## 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 Bldg.  
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 Wolf

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

### Pennsylvania State Senator (District 30)

#### The Honorable John H. Eichelberger

Capitol Office  
169 Main Capitol Bldg., P. O. Box 203030  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-5490  
email: jeichelberger@pasen.gov

#### Hollidaysburg Office

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

### Pennsylvania State Representatives (Blair County)

#### The Honorable John D. McGinnis

(District 79-Allegheny Twp. (part), Altoona, Logan Twp., Tunnelhill Bor.)

#### Capitol Office

429 Irvis Office Bldg.; P.O. Box 202079  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-6419; www.repmcginnis.com

#### Altoona Office

1331 12th Ave., Ste. 104, Altoona, PA 16601  
814-946-7218

#### The Honorable Judy Ward

(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.)

#### Capitol Office

413 Irvis Office Bldg; P.O. Box 202080  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-9020; www.repjudyard.com  
email: jward@pahousegop.com

#### Bellwood Office

135 Stadium Dr., Bellwood, PA 16617  
814-742-7204

#### Hollidaysburg Office

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

# Legislative Update



## Ban on Brutal Dismemberment Abortions Introduced in Pennsylvania Senate

A ban on brutal dismemberment abortions has now been introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate.

The measure, Senate Bill 888, is sponsored by Senator Michele Brooks (R-Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Warren Counties) and has 19 co-sponsors.

The bill would make illegal “knowingly and purposefully causing the death of an unborn child by means of dismembering the unborn child and extracting the unborn child one piece at a time from the uterus through the use of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments.”

The legislation would also change the legal cut-off for abortions in Pennsylvania from six months’ to five months’ gestation.

“Tearing a living baby limb by limb from the mother’s womb is a barbaric practice that should be banned,” said Maria Gallagher, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, an affiliate of National Right to Life.

“A statewide poll last year found that an overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians—61 percent—support a dismemberment ban in the Keystone State. Both women (64 percent) and men (58 percent) back a dismemberment ban,” Gallagher added.

Senate Bill 888 is similar to House Bill 1948, a ban on dismemberment abortions that has been introduced in the House of Representatives by state Representative Kathy Rapp (R-Crawford, Forest and Warren Counties). Both bills provide exceptions for the mother’s life or for the “substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.”

“Most Pennsylvania residents want the outrageous practice of dismemberment abortion banned. This brutal practice should not be tolerated in a civilized society. It is time for the legislature to end this horrific practice once and for all,” Gallagher said.

—National Right to Life News Today  
June 6, 2016

Please thank Sen. Brooks for introducing this legislation. Her email address is: [mbrooks@pasen.gov](mailto:mbrooks@pasen.gov) and her phone number is 717-787-1322.

Also, please call and email your state Senator and ask him or her to support Senate Bill 888 because you want to see brutal dismemberment abortions banned in Pennsylvania.

If you don’t know who your state Senator is, or you need contact information, please visit <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/#address>.

—Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director  
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation  
[www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org); 717-541-0034



**STOP  
DISMEMBERMENT  
ABORTION**

# The Fight for Life and Against Assisted Suicide in PA

By Maria V. Gallagher

Jeanette believed she had received a death sentence. She had been diagnosed with cancer, and the verdict was that she had six months to live. But her doctor encouraged her to challenge that dire diagnosis and fight her disease. She won. She reports that she is happy to be alive. "It is now 12 years later. If Dr. Stevens had believed in assisted suicide, I would be dead," Jeanette says.

Jeanette is from Oregon, one of the few states in the country to have legalized assisted suicide, which is more aptly described as doctor-prescribed suicide. It is a dangerous practice in which physicians prescribe lethal doses of drugs so that patients can kill themselves.

While the American Medical Association opposes doctor-prescribed suicide, a campaign is underway to legalize it in all 50 states.

## Attention from Oprah

The old Hemlock Society, now known as Compassion & Choices, is mounting the campaign. They have gained fame in media outlets ranging from the *Oprah Winfrey Network* to *People* magazine. The reason for this sudden burst of publicity is Brittany Maynard, a 29-year-old brain cancer patient who killed herself last year with the encouragement of Compassion & Choices, which saw in her a spokesperson for its campaign. Brittany left behind a series of videos in which she calls for the legalization of assisted suicide nationwide.

Pennsylvania is among those states currently being targeted by Compassion & Choices. Measures have now been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature that would end the Commonwealth's long-standing policy against doctor-prescribed suicide.

## PA Coalition Forms

A diverse coalition of disability rights activists, medical professionals, and other groups has formed to stop the threat of assisted suicide in Pennsylvania. You can join the effort by visiting the Coalition website at [www.noassisted-suicidepa.org](http://www.noassisted-suicidepa.org). If you use social media, you can also "like" the Coalition on Facebook and follow it on Twitter

(just search "Pennsylvania Coalition to Stop Doctor-Prescribed Suicide" on those social media platforms).

As Alan Holdsworth of Not Dead Yet, a disability rights organization, said, "We are building a coalition and the resistance moves onward, growing stronger every day." Holdsworth led a demonstration outside the Philadelphia office of Rep. Jordan Harris last year to call attention to Harris' sponsorship of a so-called "Death with Dignity" bill. The protest prompted Harris to agree to a meeting with Holdsworth and other coalition members.

## Lessons from Oregon

The Pennsylvania legislation is modeled after Oregon's dangerous assisted suicide law. As Coalition members are quick to point out, the "safeguards" in Oregon simply are not working. A number of health care professionals in Oregon agree.

Dr. Greg Hamilton, a Portland psychiatrist, has noted: "Those promoting assisted suicide promised Oregon voters that it would be used only for extreme pain and suffering. Yet there has been no documented case of assisted suicide being used for untreatable pain. Instead, patients are being given lethal overdoses because of psychological and social concerns, especially fears that they may no longer be valued as people or may be a burden to their families."

Indeed, the number-one reason assisted suicide victims give for ending their lives is not pain, but the loss of autonomy—in other words, the concern of being dependent on other people.

Take the case of what happened to Kathryn Judson, when she took her seriously ill husband to a doctor in Oregon: "To my surprise and horror, during the exam I

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## The Fight for Life

*continued from page 5*

overheard the doctor giving my husband a sales pitch for assisted suicide. "Think of what it will spare your wife, we need to think of her," he said."

The Judsons chose to go to a different doctor, and Kathryn's husband lived an additional five years. Still, the encounter with the previous "Dr. Death" had a lasting impact: "I was afraid to leave my husband alone again with doctors and nurses, for fear they'd morph from care providers to enemies, with no one around to stop them," Kathryn said.

The Pennsylvania Coalition to Stop Doctor-Prescribed Suicide is working to ensure that such a nightmare does not occur in the Keystone State.

## Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

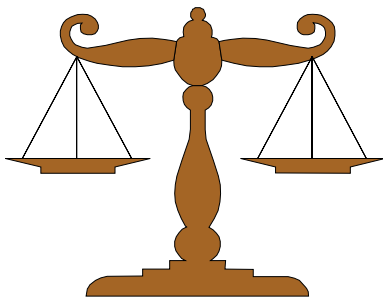
A state representative is planning to introduce a bill that would threaten your tax dollars. Representative Steven Santarsiero (D-Bucks County) is circulating a co-sponsorship memo for a bill that would repeal Act 13 of 2013.

If you recall, Act 13 is the common sense law that ensures that no taxpayer funding of abortion will occur in the health insurance exchange created in Pennsylvania under Obamacare. We must safeguard this important law!

Please call and email your state representative with this urgent message: "Please do not co-sponsor Rep. Santarsiero's bill to repeal Act 13 of 2013. I don't want my tax dollars to pay for abortion." (The bill does not have a number yet.)

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>.

To view the co-sponsorship memo for this dangerous bill, go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20150&cosponId=20267>.



## Right to Vote for Judges

The PA House of Representatives may try to vote on the so-called merit selection of judges bill soon.

Please call your state representative and urge him or her to oppose

House Bill 1336 because you don't want your right to vote for judges to be taken away. If you need contact information for your representative, please go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/#address>.

—Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director  
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation  
[www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org)  
717-541-0034

## Call to Action

Please call or email your representative in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and your lawmaker in the Pennsylvania Senate with this urgent message: "I urge you to oppose any assisted suicide bill in Pennsylvania. Patients deserve better than doctor-prescribed suicide."

If you need the phone number or email address for your state lawmakers, please contact the **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation at 717-541-0034** or at **Gallagher@paprolife.org**.

With your help, people with disabilities, those suffering from depression, the elderly and other vulnerable citizens will be treated with care and respect—and not given a callous offer to end their lives.

## Oh brother: Now "Euthanasia" is "Dignicide"

*By Wesley J. Smith*

The euthanasia movement has always been about finding words and terms to mask the harshness of killing as a response to suffering.

Indeed, the word "euthanasia"—good death—did not originally refer to killing. Rather, it meant dying peacefully in a state of grace.

Now, the suicide fanatic Faye Girsh—former head of the Hemlock Society—reporting from a convention of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies, says the psychiatrist that brought euthanasia to the mentally ill in Netherlands has coined an obscuring word to replace "euthanasia" in the movement's lexicon.

From her summary:

Boudewijn Chabot (de Einder) disclosed the name of the patient whose death 25 years ago brought him into conflict with the Dutch Supreme Court and opened the way for help for psychiatric patients. He is now using the term "dignicide" (which my spell checker is rejecting) as the word promoted by some to describe a self-selected rational and dignified death.

You can call a dung beetle a butterfly—but it is still a dung beetle.

—*Human Exceptionalism, National Review, May 26, 2016*

## National Right to Life Convention Herndon, Virginia ♦ July 7-9, 2016

The National Right to Life Convention is the essential pro-life educational and training event of the year.

During this three-day event, national experts on life issues gather in one place to equip the pro-life grassroots with the knowledge and skills they need to advance our cause.

Since 1971, the NRL Convention has offered workshops and extraordinary general sessions featuring religious leaders, nationally-recognized journalists and political leaders.

This is the place to be this summer if you want to know how best to build a pro-life future for America!

A special part of the Convention is geared to teens.

For information on speakers, hotel accommodations and registration details, see [www.nrlconvention.com](http://www.nrlconvention.com).

# Man Gets Married 16 Months After Nearly Dying and Having All of His Limbs Amputated

By Micaiah Bilger

An Illinois couple's love story almost came to a tragic end 16 months ago when Ethan Menges contracted a deadly illness. Menges lost all four of his limbs and almost his life to the virus, but his fiancée Jordan Mathieu stayed by his side and devoted herself to helping him recover. ABC 13 reports the couple's rocky journey led to a joyous occasion this May when the two walked down the aisle together and were married in Roscoe, Illinois.

"It's weird because for the majority of our relationship, this past year and a half, two years, was in a hospital setting, not the typical things you do going out on dates, going to movies, hanging out with families, it was bedside," Menges told reporters.

Menges said he even proposed to Mathieu in his rehab room. He said his bride's devotion during his near-death experience really touched him.

"That means more than the world to me, because I know she'll always be there, she's been there through that, I'd have to really screw something up," he said.

The young man collapsed at a sports game last January after contracting a flu-like virus; the illness developed into walking pneumonia and spread across his body, infecting his lungs and bloodstream, according to the report. The illness affected his circulation and forced doctors to amputate all four of his limbs. At one point, doctors even told Menges' family to start planning his funeral, his sister Brittney said. Though hope was slim, Menges pulled through with encouragement from his family and his soon-to-be bride. Menges went through months of intensive therapy and now has prosthetic limbs. They allowed him to walk down the aisle with Jordan on May 14. Jordan could not put a ring around her husband's finger, so she placed a necklace with the ring around his neck instead, the report states.

The couple's beautiful story of devotion and perseverance is a stark contrast to the message of a new summer romance film, "Me Before You." The film romanticizes assisted suicide through the story of a rich young man who becomes a quadriplegic and gives up on life. Despite his caregiver-turned-lover's attempts to show that his life has meaning, he chooses to commit suicide anyway. She even caves into his decision to kill himself. The film has disability rights advocates and pro-lifers upset because of its pro-euthanasia tones.

British actress Liz Carr told *The Guardian*: "We have so few opportunities in the media to explore disability. But there is a disproportionate number of stories which relate to the 'problem' of disability being solved by death. Television and film seem to love those individuals who want to die. They're less keen to cover the rest of us who might want to live but are struggling to get the health and social care resources to do so."

Unlike "Me Before You," Ethan and Jordan Menges' real-life love story has the type of happy ending that should be celebrated in the media. The couple did not let Ethan's disabilities or his illness stand in the way of their joy. Their story is an example of how true love never gives up hope and always perseveres. —*LifeNews.com, June 3, 2016*



Danielle Guerra/Daily Chronicle via AP

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD is the largest post-abortion ministry in the world,** offering over 1000 retreats each year. The ministry was begun by Theresa and Kevin Burke as an extension of their professional counseling work. Theresa recognized the symptoms of those who have experienced abortion as post-traumatic. Her approach was ground-breaking and effective, combining both psychological and spiritual components to the retreats. The retreats include "Living Scripture" exercises that facilitate a profound encounter with the living Christ.

"Rachel's Vineyard Ministries began as a single weekend retreat...for persons suffering emotional and spiritual pain from their participation in abortion...The retreat process has been effective in bringing relief from the suffering that is common to many persons after abortion—nightmares, depression, anxiety, difficulties in relationships and a host of other symptoms that can bring great personal, relational and family suffering. With effective healing programs like Rachel's Vineyard, we can help to bring an end to this suffering, and help bring healing to individuals, couples and families."

—*Cardinal Justin Rigali, former Archbishop of Philadelphia*

Rachel's Vineyard continues to expand. Since the first retreat was held in 1995, Rachel's Vineyard has grown from one single retreat to over 350 sites in 49 states and over 70 countries with the help of about 100,000 compassionate and gentle volunteers dedicated to healing the pain of abortion. This profound growth is evidence that God has a deep longing to heal His people. The retreats are open to women, men, siblings, grandparents, former abortion providers... anyone who has been touched by the trauma of abortion.

For more information on upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats in Pennsylvania, go to [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).



# Pregnancy Help Centers in Central Pennsylvania

Material assistance, prenatal/parenting education and support and post-abortion counseling are offered.  
If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, do not hesitate to call.  
In addition, Pennsylvania's toll-free pregnancy help hotline is 1-888-LIFE-AID.  
National hotlines to call are 1-800-395-HELP or 1-800-712-HELP.

## **BEDFORD COUNTY**

Precious Life of Bedford County  
215 S. Juliana St.  
Bedford, PA 15522  
814-494-0069 or 800-452-5433  
www.plinc.org

## **BLAIR COUNTY**

### **Every Life Matters Pregnancy Support Services**

221 Hospital Dr., Suite 5  
Tyrone, PA 16686  
814-650-7899 (text or call)  
www.the-elm.org

### **Precious Life**

Precious Life of Blair County  
1716 12th Ave.  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-944-2669 or 800-452-5433  
www.plinc.org

## **CAMBRIA COUNTY**

### **Birthright**

Morley's Square Building  
111 Walnut St., Suite 210  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
814-535-8231 or 800-550-4900  
www.birthright.org

### **Gabriel Project**

814-224-2211

### **Mom's House**

1325 Franklin St.  
Johnstown, PA 15905  
814-535-4848

### **Precious Life**

1062 Bedford St.  
Johnstown, PA 15902  
814-269-4391 or 800-452-5433  
www.plinc.org



## **CENTRE COUNTY**

### **Bethany Christian Services**

2147 E. College Ave., Suite A  
State College, PA 16801  
814-867-2848

### **Gabriel Project**

814-867-5511

### **Pregnancy Resource Clinic**

423 South Pugh St.,  
State College, PA 16801  
814-234-7341  
www.scprc.com

## **CLEARFIELD COUNTY**

### **Catholic Charities**

90 Beaver Dr., Suite 119D  
DuBois, PA 15801-2441  
814-371-4717  
www.cccas.org

### **Catholic Charities**

10438 Clearfield-Corwensville Hwy.  
Clearfield, PA 16830  
814-765-2215

### **The Guidance Center Project Rapport**

602 W. DuBois Ave., Unit 2  
DuBois, PA 15801  
814-371-0613

### **Life Line of Philipsburg**

1173 Philipsburg Bigler Hwy.  
Philipsburg, PA 16866  
814-343-4761

### **Marian House**

209 East Walnut St.  
Clearfield, PA 16830  
814-765-5646  
www.ypwcministries.org

### **Young People Who Care, Inc. Lifeline of Clearfield**

416 Arnold Ave.  
Clearfield, PA 16830  
814-765-3225  
www.ypwcministries.org

## **HUNTINGDON COUNTY**

### **Crossroads Pregnancy Center**

600 Washington St.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
814-643-3570  
www.crossroadspcs.org

### **Crossroads Pregnancy Center**

25 S. Division St.  
Mount Union, PA 17066  
814-542-2880  
www.crossroadspcs.org

## **JUNIATA COUNTY**

### **Crossroads Pregnancy Center**

38 N. Main St.  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
717-436-0024  
www.crossroadspcs.org

## **MIFFLIN COUNTY**

### **Crossroads Pregnancy Center**

109 East 3rd St.  
Lewistown, PA 17044  
717-242-0301  
www.crossroadspcs.org

Choose  
LIFE!





## The Three Fates

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posed to abortion, you cannot vote for them. These are "the purists." Others believe that saving some lives now is better than insisting on only saving all of them at some future time. These are "the pragmatists." The two groups disagree and end up working against each other instead of against the other side.

The Princess of Mitanni is a pragmatist, a woman of action. She didn't wait until all three fates were lined up so she could get rid of them all at once: she took care of the most immediate threat, the snake, and had it chopped to pieces. In the same way, pro-life victories are piecemeal, no pun intended. This past year we've made steps in the right direction. The Dismemberment Abortion Ban Act was enacted in Kansas and Oklahoma. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act became law in West Virginia and Wisconsin. More famously, publicized undercover videos of Planned Parenthood selling baby parts led to both the U.S. House and Senate voting in favor of defunding the organization.

These are good accomplishments, but the purists are right about one thing. Eliminating one form of abortion is not enough as long as others remain out there, like the dog and the crocodile.

Many days passed and the Prince went for a stroll on his estate with his greyhound following his every step. When he was far away from the house, the dog turned to his master and said in a sinister voice: "Prince, I am your fate." It then bared its teeth and began to chase him. The Prince ran into the lake in flight of the dog only to be seized by the crocodile that lived there. The reptile dragged him deep into the depths and said to him: "Prince, I am your fate that has followed you from Egypt with every intent to kill and eat you. But for three months now I have been assaulted by a demon who lives in these waters. Every sunrise we rise and grapple with each other and he will not let me be. Look, I shall release you. The demon will return soon to do battle. If you help me kill him I will free you and pursue you no more."

Now when the next day dawned, the demon returned and...

That's it. That's where the story ends. The Harris 500 Papyrus that the story *The Doomed Prince* was inscribed on was damaged in an explosion, leaving the end of the story and the fate of The Prince a mystery to be speculated by Egyptologists for the rest of time.

In the same way, the fates of millions of Americans are also left undecided. We have the power to change their fate, but this will only come when pro-lifers face the culture of death and work together to eliminate the dangers to unborn children, one at a time.

Our story is still ongoing. ♦

*Editor's Note: The First Place Varsity and Junior Varsity entries were reprinted in Blair County's Life News Spring 2016 issue; if you would like to see those entries, call 814-946-0681. Genevieve Sicree, who won first-place in CCHL's Regional Junior Varsity category, also took first-place in the State competition. Congratulations, Sicree sisters!*

## Donations have been made—

*In Honor of the 95th Birthday of:*

*Stella Konopka*

Given by: Marge and Doug Bradley Family

*In Memory of Our Fathers:*

*Ralph "Pete" Forr*

*Thomas F. Burke*

Given by: Tom and Pat Forr

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...Blair County *Life News* will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering. Send donations to **Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601.**

## Citizens Concerned for Human Life Needs YOU!

Please support the Blair County Chapter of CCHL in its pro-life efforts. Your donation helps continue the printing and mailing of our newsletter, sponsor Life Chain in October and March for Life buses to Washington each January. Our existence as a pro-life organization in this community is dependent on your support. Please consider making a donation (see form at bottom of page 11).

## Regional CCHL Chapter News

### BEDFORD

#### Bedford County Fair - Pro-Life Presence

The Bedford County Citizens Concerned for Human Life will have an information table within Jordan Hall during the Bedford County Fair from July 24 until July 30.

### CAMBRIA-SOMERSET

#### Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

October 29 - 9:00 a.m.

**Save the Date!** The keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Santorum (Sen. Santorum's daughter). The Breakfast will be held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Grove Church Hall, New Germany. For more information, call 814-472-8584.



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

Summer 2016; Vol. 8, No. 3

President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.

Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley

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](mailto:blair@centralpaprolife.org)

website: [www.blaircountyprolife.com](http://www.blaircountyprolife.com)

# Daddy and Grandpa,

Take my hand in yours and you will plainly see,  
How very much I need you now  
to love and care for me.

As my little hand grows, I will need you even more.  
Everything I do in life, I have never done before.  
Teach me to be kind and loving, sharing and forgiving.

Show me through your acts of love  
the pure joy of living.

The years will pass by quickly  
and one day I'll be grown,  
I'll pass what you have taught me  
onto children of my own.

Hold me always in your thoughts and remember when we're apart,  
The special love between a child's and Daddy's and Grandpa's hearts. —Author unknown

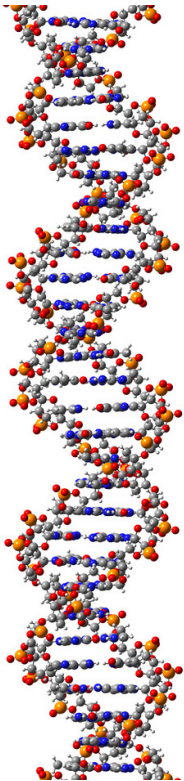


## Happy Father's Day, Dads, Granddads, Great-Granddads!



### The Bioethics of Life

June 23 ♦ 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
St. Patrick Parish Activities Center  
85 Marsh Dr., Carlisle, PA



Current capability to manipulate genes, human and other, is unprecedented. What must we know in order to make wise bioethical decisions in our era? Join us and find out.

#### *Catholic Principles in Bioethics*

Fr. Daniel Mindling, Academic Dean  
Mt. St. Mary's Seminary

#### *Genetic Manipulation in Human History:*

##### *Agriculture, GMOs & Beyond*

Dr. Leonardo Mariño-Ramirez  
Computational Biologist

#### *The Status of the Pro-Life Movement in America Today*

Mr. Michael Ciccocioppo, Exec. Director  
PA Pro-Life Federation

#### *Continuing Education Credits for Teachers*

Register by mail or online for \$5

Deadline to register is June 20

Lunch included

Sponsored by St. Gabriel Respect Life  
[www.stgabrielcarlisle.org](http://www.stgabrielcarlisle.org)

### Dads Need a Life-Saving Voice

*continued from back page*

But what can we do for dad? Just like his partner, he deserves to have all the information and support he needs to realize his role as a loving protector and provider. The ball is in our court to equip dad with the same options as mom, enabling him to become a life-affirming voice for his partner and their preborn child.

Every day, we come in contact with women facing very challenging realities. We know the difference a supportive father can make in an unexpected pregnancy. We know the life-saving effect a dad can have.

Practically speaking, here are three ways our pregnancy help organizations can play a more supportive role in a dad's life:

By establishing a men's advocate team/programming to help men see their role and to develop a game plan for fatherhood.

By including men from the start—inviting dads to come in for individualized options counseling with their partner.

By encouraging, equipping and walking with dads in their journey to be the man they were created to be.

A healthy family unit is the foundation that surrounds and supports our initial priority—empowering mothers to make the healthiest choice for everyone involved in an unexpected pregnancy.

If we can fill dad's proverbial tool belt with parenting and life skills, we can quite possibly break the cycle of broken fatherhood for generations to come.

—National Right to Life News Today, November 12, 2015

## From the President's Desk

### Why Fathers Count

It has been said that the best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. Children who have grown up in a stable home with a married mother and father have a unique advantage that will pay dividends throughout their lives. Sons will be responsible, courageous and masculine while daughters will be confident, nurturing and feminine.



My internet search led me to a site sponsored by the Knights of Columbus entitled "Why Fathers Count." This article looked at seven significant factors quoting from the Nationwide Fatherhood Initiative dealing with the influence of fathers and a stable marriage. I cite some of the more interesting statistics:

1. **Education**—"Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school."
2. **Poverty**—"Children in father-absent homes are five times more likely to be poor."
3. **Infants and Early Childhood**—"Infant mortality rates are 1.8 times higher for infants of unmarried mothers...."
4. **Incarceration**—"Even after controlling for income, youths in father-absent households had significantly higher odds of incarceration than those in mother-father families."
5. **Drugs and Delinquency**—"...boys, in single-parent families were at higher risk of status, property and person delinquencies."
6. **Sexual Activity**—"Teens without fathers were twice as likely to be involved in early sexual activity and seven times more likely to get pregnant as an adolescent."
7. **Child Abuse**—"...children from single-parent families...compared to peers living with both parents...had:
  - a. 77 percent risk of being physically abused
  - b. an 87 percent greater risk of being harmed by physical neglect
  - c. a 165 percent risk of experiencing notable physical neglect
  - d. a 74 percent greater risk of suffering from emotional neglect
  - e. an 80 percent greater risk of suffering serious injury as a result of abuse
  - f. 120 percent greater risk of being endangered by some type of child abuse

Let us thank God, our Father, for giving us fathers who loved our mothers to show us the way.

*Why Fathers Count: [www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org)*

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

### From a New Father

My wife thinks it is strange that I keep going in to stare at the baby. It is different for her. She carried this child for nine months under her heart. I felt a few of the kicks. It is not the same, though, on the outside of the womb. Fathers wait. A strange sort of faith is nurtured. A few days ago, I saw no one. I had an expectation—a mental image of what the baby would be like. My idea was at least as fuzzy as the ultrasound. Now our child has arrived, and I cannot believe my eyes. I have to look, again and again, to let this sink in. Somebody new is definitely here. Seeing is not believing. This is too big for seeing.

—Celebrate Fathers  
*Prayers and Reflections on Fatherhood, Liguori*



### 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 our quarterly newsletter. Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...Blair County *Life News* will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering.

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership      \$10.00      \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Student/Senior Member    \$ 5.00      \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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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## Dads Need a Life-Giving Voice in Crisis Pregnancies

By Tammy R. Shewfelt

For years, our culture has promoted a not-so-positive definition of a man, father and husband.

The crucial role of men in society and the family has been sidelined for many reasons. Whether men feel their diminished importance is due to forces outside of themselves, or they just lack the desire to live up to their God-given responsibilities, the bottom line is, too often, the voices of men have been silent in the life decision.

Instilled within every man are the desires and capabilities to be a father—a provider and protector of his family. But 42 years and tens of millions of abortions this side of *Roe v. Wade* have left many men in a position of passivity and indecisiveness, confused and helpless when it comes to the most basic duty of protecting their own preborn children.

Meanwhile, legalized abortion provides an escape hatch of sorts for men who are unwilling to accept the responsibility to care for the life they have helped to create. Others, threatening to leave or even physically harm the mother of their child in order to avoid fatherhood, coerce their partner into aborting her preborn child against her will.

In either case—by becoming a passive participant rather than an active protector, or by becoming an active aggressor rather than a loving provider for his family—men in these cases are going against the grain of their own God-given design.

Starting even in the days leading up to *Roe v. Wade*, an established strategy of the abortion lobby emerged, framing the issue as a “War on Women” and condemning any dissenting male voice simply on the basis of his gender. This was on full display in the California State Senate, for example, when one senator issued the following challenge in the lead-up to the State Senate’s approval of the so-called “Reproductive FACT Act”: “When you



have a uterus, come talk to me. Before then, leave it up to the women.”

Since it’s “not your body,” it’s “not your choice,” men are told. In the public sphere, this line of reasoning is used as a trump card. But on the ground, in real life, the result can be even more paralyzing to a man whose instinct is to protect his loved ones.

Legally, a father’s consent is not needed for an abortion. Only a mother can legally end the life of her preborn child. When the gold standard for fatherhood in an unexpected pregnancy is reduced to a vague notion of “supporting whatever decision she makes,” a man has surrendered his inherent gift as a protector.

Regardless of what specific part a man plays in the abortion decision, he will not be spared from the possible trauma of its after-effects.

Now—here’s where we come in—pregnancy help centers, medical clinics, maternity homes and more can play an important role in this crisis of sidelined men and diminished family structures. Our positioning in the “world” of untimely pregnancies is right in the epicenter of this very issue: at the beginning of a family.

Every time a mother or couple steps into our center, we have the opportunity to make a huge impact in the life of the preborn baby in the present, and in the quality of a family’s life long-term.

*continued on page 10*