



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 9 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2017

MARCH FOR LIFE | 2017

JANUARY 27, 2017 | WASHINGTON, D.C.



JOIN US!

Our vision is a world where every human life is valued and protected.

For details on bus transportation from the Altoona area to the March, see page 2



MARCH FOR LIFE
www.MarchForLife.org | #WhyWeMarch

Planned Parenthood Abortion Biz Closes Three More Clinics in Pennsylvania

By Micaiah Bilger

Three Planned Parenthood facilities in Central Pennsylvania are closing this fall after the abortion chain suffered huge losses in the November 8 election.

ABC 27 News reports the Planned Parenthood facilities in Chambersburg, Gettysburg and Scranton are closing as part of the abortion group's consolidation plan.

Local Planned Parenthood CEO Melissa Reed said they decided to close the facilities to reduce costs. The three closing facilities did not perform abortions, but they did recommend and refer patients to other facilities that do.

"It resulted from careful analysis of where our patients live and seek medical care as well as an assessment of how best to ensure the longevity and strength of existing health centers..." Reed said in a statement.

Reed also said the closures will help the abortion chain to focus on developing "online health services." She did not describe more specifically what that will mean.

"Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania is serving fewer people, performing fewer cancer and STD screenings and shutting down more facilities, yet incredibly they are carrying out more abortions and had an increase in taxpayer funding," Dan Bartkowiak, Communications Director with Pennsylvania Family Institute, told LifeNews.

This data mirrors Planned Parenthood's national reports, which also show a decrease in non-abortion services such as cancer screenings and STD testing.

In Pennsylvania alone, the abortion chain closed 9 facilities in the past three years; at the same time, its taxpayer funding increased by 15 percent, Bartkowiak said.

"Comparing their latest two year summaries, they received \$768,969 more in government grants—taxpayer dollars—than the previous year; marking a 15 percent increase," he wrote on the institute's blog.

While the abortion business claims that it does not use any of those tax dollars for abortion, its reports increasingly point to abortion as its main business. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion business in Pennsylvania and in the U.S. It performs about 320,000 abortions nation-wide annually and receives about \$550 million in federal tax dollars.

In Pennsylvania, Planned Parenthood has a friend in Gov. Tom Wolf, who once served as a volunteer for the abortion chain. Nationally, however, politics are shifting. President Barack Obama, like Wolf, avidly defends Planned Parenthood, but incoming President-elect Donald Trump said he will not.

Trump promised several times to sign a bill to defund the national abortion chain as long as it continues to do abortions. With Republican majorities entering the U.S. House and Senate in 2017, many believe a defunding bill will pass.

Planned Parenthood is not essential to women's health care in the U.S. In 2015, Alliance Defending Freedom and the Charlotte Lozier Institute reported there are 13,540 medical clinics providing whole-woman healthcare in the United States versus the 665 Planned Parenthood facilities, which offer only limited services including abortion.

—LifeNews.com, December 5, 2016

MARCH WITH US!

The Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life is arranging bus transportation from the Altoona area to the **March for Life, January 27, 2017 Washington, D.C.**



Cost: Adults - \$15.00

Students - \$10.00

For reservations, call:

Patricia or Marita Forr - 946-0681

Roxann Blazewicz - 695-8008

Anne Zelnosky - 942-2723

30th Annual Respect Life March St. Matthew Church, Tyrone Sunday, March 15th, 2017

The March begins at 12 noon, at St. Matthew Church, goes to the cemetery and returns to St. Matthew's Parish Hall for a luncheon afterwards. Please join us!



Crisis Hotline Numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call **Precious Life, Inc.**, 1716 12th Ave., Altoona, 814-944-2669; or **Every Life Matters (ELM)**, 221 Hospital Dr., Ste. 3, Tyrone, 814-650-7899; or **Real Alternatives, Inc.** (www.realalternatives.org).

For post-abortion counseling, contact **Project Rachel**, 814-884-8000; www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org; or **Rachel's Vineyard**, 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463), www.rachelsvineyard.org/.

Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: familylife@dioceseaj.org.



Blair County Life News
Blair County Chapter
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.

2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681

email: blair@centralpaprolife.org

website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

Bedford County Citizens Concerned for Human Life
13th Annual Pro-Life Dinner & Silent Auction
Saturday, March 25, 2017

(Location to be determined)

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. ~ Silent Auction 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker: John T. Bruchalski, M.D., OB/GYN
Founder, Tepeyac Family Center, LLC
Chairman, Divine Mercy Care

Dr. John Bruchalski received his M.D. degree from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile, AL, in 1987. He completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Eastern Virginia Medical Center and the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in Norfolk, Virginia in 1991. He received board certification in 1993.

During his training, Dr. Bruchalski performed abortions out of a desire to help women, but soon realized abortion did nothing of the sort. After a spiritual awakening, Dr. Bruchalski returned to the faith and felt God's call to start a clinic that truly helped women. So Dr. Bruchalski founded Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax, VA in 1994, offering something more than medicine, a faith-based, welcoming approach that took all women regardless of belief, background, or financial situation. He strove to combine the best of OB/GYN quality medicine with caring for those in need while following the teachings of the Church on the sacredness of life.

In 2000, he founded Divine Mercy Care, a non-profit organization to fund the roughly 30% of Tepeyac patients who are in need, while also educating medical students and the broader community about merciful medicine. In 2005, Tepeyac Family Center became a part of Divine Mercy Care and currently operates as the first Catholic healthcare facility in the Diocese of Arlington.

Dr. Bruchalski's tireless leadership in the pro-life movement has led to affiliations with the Couple to Couple League, the Lejeune Foundation, Live Action, and many other pro-life efforts in America and internationally.

He passionately speaks to young people at medical schools about ethics and conscience in medicine, as well as other speaking topics such as bioethics in fertility, pregnancy centers, natural family planning, the HHS mandate, and his own faith testimony.



Come Hear the Regional Oratory Contest Winners!

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

RSVP 652-6755 by March 18

Checks should be made payable to: Bedford County CCHL

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

Be a 2017 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





2017 STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS **PENNSYLVANIA STATE ESSAY CONTEST**

Written Copy Due: March 6, 2017

The 2017 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, home address, home 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 6, 2017**. 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 ESSAY CONTEST

The National RTL 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 and will be awarded in each level. Essays shall be 300-500 words in length.

For more information on the rules of entering this contest, please visit the NRLC website: www.nrlc.org.

2017 STUDENT ORATORY CONTESTS **REGIONAL ORATORY CONTEST**

Written Copy Due: February 22, 2017

Regional Competition: March 5, 2017

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, 2017** to: **Janet Creighton, contact@webparish.com**. In the email, 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.

Awards

Varsity (Grades 11 & 12)
1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75

Novice (Grades 9 & 10)
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.



PA STATE VIDEO/ORATORY CONTEST

PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION

Submit video/written entry by April 10, 2017

Speak Up for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves!

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation contest is open to high school juniors and seniors; a 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 **April 10, 2017**.

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 National Oratory Contest at the National Right to Life/Teens for Life Convention, June 29-July 1, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.** For complete contest rules: www.paprolife.org or call **717-541-0034**.

Why Talk About Abortion?

By Nancy Valko



Many years ago when I worked in home health and hospice, I cared for a very cranky, elderly woman I will call "Rose" who had rejected all the other nurses in our agency. Even her own doctor had problems with her and told me that he could not understand why she was even still alive because her end stage congestive heart failure was so severe. Part of my assignment was to measure her abdomen and legs to adjust her diuretics (water pills).

As I got to know Rose over several visits, she softened towards me and began telling me about her life. But one day, while I was measuring her abdomen, she burst into tears and told me she hated looking nine months pregnant because of the fluid retention in her abdomen. Rose said she knew it was God punishing her for the abortion she had 60 years before!

Rose had never told anyone, not even her late husband, about the abortion she had before marrying him. She felt that baby was the boy she never had but she didn't feel worthy to even name him. She also told me that she knew she had committed the "unforgivable sin" and was afraid to die because she justly would be sent to hell. My heart went out to this woman who was suffering so much, more emotionally than even physically.

We talked for a long time and in a later visit about God's love, confession and forgiveness. I told her about Project Rachel, a healing ministry for women (and even men) wounded by abortion. I gave her the phone number and offered to be with her to meet a counselor or priest but she insisted that my talking with her was enough to help. I felt it wasn't but she seemed to achieve a level of peace and she even started smiling.

Rose died suddenly and apparently in her sleep about a week later. I only had a few visits with her but I feel she finally felt ready to meet her Lord.

I have told this true story to priests and clergy who tell me that they are reluctant to speak about abortion in homilies for fear of causing further pain to a church member who may have had an abortion. I tell them that they may tragically miss the chance to tell a hurting woman like my Rose about Project Rachel.

Also, by speaking about the many resources available through individual churches, local and national organizations like Birthright and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, this may help another woman to choose life for her baby instead of abortion. And, of course, talking about pro-life resources may help church members get involved in volunteer work.

WHY NONE OF US SHOULD BE AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT ABORTION

There are great pro-life news outlets like *Life News* that email daily or weekly updates on news about all life issues. There are many positive and even amazing stories such as those about babies who defy the odds against them, grateful parents who choose life in difficult circumstances as well as important pro-life news, education and upcoming events.

I have shared many of those stories myself with friends, family and people on my email lists and this has led to many great discussions and crucial referrals.

But what I have found most effective is a sincere interest and willingness to help when encountering people struggling with an abortion decision for themselves or someone close to them. For example, a new colleague of mine was considering abortion after her obstetrician recommended abortion and listed all the birth defects that could affect her child after being exposed to a virus early in pregnancy. Getting a second opinion and the support of her coworkers gave my colleague the confidence she needed to reject abortion. She ultimately gave birth to a healthy daughter.

Why talk about abortion? Because we never know who may need to hear the truth.

—National Right to Life News Today, November 28, 2016



◆ ◆ ◆
*God's greatest desire is to forgive.
You are precious in His sight. Do not despair. All is not lost.
Come back to God who is love and mercy.
~ www.hopeafterabortion.org ~*

'Consensus Statement' to Force MDs to Kill

By Wesley J. Smith

Bioethicists want to force doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals to participate in euthanasia, abortion, and other actions that violate their consciences or religious beliefs.

This wasn't formerly a serious problem. The values contained in the Hippocratic Oath were consistent with sanctity of life moral conscience. That is no longer true.

A "consensus statement" signed by prominent bioethicists from around the world and published by Oxford University would force dissenting doctors to be complicit in such actions. From the statement (my emphasis):

1. Healthcare practitioners' primary obligations are towards their patients, not towards their own personal conscience. When the patient's wellbeing (or best interest, or health) is at stake, healthcare practitioners' *professional obligations should normally take priority over their personal moral or religious views.*

2. In the event of a conflict between practitioners' conscience and a patient's desire for a legal, professionally sanctioned medical service, healthcare practitioners should always ensure that patients receive timely medical care. *When they have a conscientious objection, they ought to refer their patients to another practitioner who is willing to perform the treatment.* In emergency situations, when referral is not possible, or when it poses too great a burden on patients or on the healthcare system, *health practitioners should perform the treatment themselves.*

Euthanasia (e.g., homicide) and assisted suicide are considered by these zealots to be a "treatment" where legal. Ditto, non-therapeutic abortion, even though a healthy pregnancy isn't an illness.

This statement could also apply to procedures such as sex change surgery and providing treatments made from destroyed embryos or fetuses.

Also organ transplants taken from mentally ill and disabled euthanized patients, as happens in Netherlands and Belgium, not to mention those live-harvested, still illegal but advocated in the most prominent medical and bioethics journals.

Medical professionals are being pushed toward what I call "medical martyrdom;" either be complicit in killing, commit what the professional considers a grievous sin, or suffer professional discipline, perhaps even loss of license.

Make no mistake, these bioethicists and many in the medical establishment *want to drive orthodox Christian and other faith believers, along with pro-lifers, out of the medical professions.* The question of medical conscience—as a subset of religious liberty—is going to be one of the most contentious issues facing society in the next decade.

Update to above blog article: Earlier I posted a comment about a bioethics "Consensus Statement" published by Oxford University that advocated eviscerating medical conscience rights of doctors with religious or moral objections to procedures such as abortion and euthanasia. Looking more closely at the authoritarian document, I see that the bioethicists would require dissenting doctors to



perform community service for their thought crime and go to reeducation classes about the harm their beliefs cause.

Bottom line: Refuse to commit or be complicit in what your religion considers a terrible sin, or your conscience believes to be a terrible wrong, and you will be made to pay! If you are pro-life and want to become an MD, forget about it: You are not welcome in the healthcare professions.

—National Review, September 1, 2016

At least 744 euthanasia deaths in Canada since it was decriminalized in June

By Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

CTV News reported that at least 744 people have died by euthanasia in Canada since it was decriminalized in June 2016—four Canadians a day—"and experts say those numbers are expected to rise."

The CTV News report indicates that the data is incomplete. Graham Slaughter interviewed Dr. Ellen Wiebe, who has lethally injected 40 people since June. Wiebe stated that the number of euthanasia deaths will continue to increase:

"I know that it will increase. I expect that we'll get to the point of the Netherlands and Belgium because their laws are similar to ours, and that would mean about 5 per cent of all deaths."

Ethicist and University of Toronto law professor, Trudo Lemmens, told CTV News that the provinces should be releasing more data to protect patients from possible abuse.

"There is a concern that people who are vulnerable or who find themselves in a situation of vulnerability may be pressured consciously or unconsciously to opt for medical assistance in dying either because of financial circumstances or because the medical help that they need is not necessarily available."

The system of collecting data is not designed to uncover abuse of the law. The data only reports the medical condition, the age, the gender, etc., and the reports are submitted by the medical practitioner who carries out the death.

The only way to uncover abuse of the law is by receiving information from family members and friends of the deceased. Several stories of abuse have already been uncovered: ♦ Québec euthanasia report: 14% non-compliance rate with the law. ♦ New assisted dying law claims unintended victims. ♦ Woman who dies by euthanasia may only have had a bladder infection.

—National Right to Life News Today, December 30, 2016

Good News for PA Women and Families as Abortion Numbers Decline in Pennsylvania

Technology and Support for Pregnant Women Help Abortion Totals Tumble

The number of abortions in Pennsylvania declined in 2015 to a record low—a welcome development for women and children in the Keystone State, according to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, an affiliate of National Right to Life.

Statistics just released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health show 308 fewer abortions occurred in PA in 2015 compared to 2014. In all, 31,818 abortions took place in PA in 2015—the lowest number ever recorded in the Commonwealth.

“The downward trend in abortions in the Keystone State is encouraging news for Pennsylvania women and families,” said Maria Gallagher, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. “Technological developments such as 4D Ultrasound have helped show the humanity of the preborn child, and have aided in strengthening the bond between mother and baby.”

Pennsylvania women and children are also benefiting from the comprehensive counseling and life-affirming support offered by pregnancy resource centers, which provide everything from ultrasounds to life skill classes, and from diapers to daycare referrals for pregnant women and their families.

“The abortion rate in Pennsylvania would 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 encouragement and resources so that they 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 children.”



“When women receive comprehensive support and affirmation, they are far more likely to choose life for their babies,” said Kevin Bagatta, President and CEO of Real Alternatives, Inc.

The Department of Health figures indicate that abortion totals decreased in a number of counties, including Philadelphia, Dauphin, Lehigh, and York, helping to bring about the statewide decline in abortions.

Troubling, however, is the number of repeat abortions. The figures show that in more than 47 percent of cases, Pennsylvania women who had abortions in 2015 had had at least one previous abortion and, in some cases, four or more prior abortions.

“Women in challenging circumstances deserve better than abortion,” said Gallagher. “We must continue to reach out to women to let them know that help is available for themselves and their babies—and that no one has the right to coerce them into having an abortionist end the lives of their children.”

—Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation News Release
December 30, 2016

Baby Safe Haven Program—a project of the National Safe Haven Alliance

In 1999 an overwhelming number of infant abandonments took place. Never before in a single year had so many mothers decided that they couldn't care for their children—and then disposed of their newborn infants in an unsafe and tragic way. In response, a group of dedicated people worked together to create a law that would guarantee no mother ever had to secretly dispose of her newborn infant. This law would protect the mother and assure her that she would not be prosecuted for relinquishing her baby. So long as the baby was safe and given to a responsible adult at a designated location, the mother would be free to go anonymously.

Since its inception, over 2,000 babies are known to have been positively impacted by the Baby Safe Haven program.

If you're pregnant and do not feel you can care for your baby, or if you have a baby you cannot care for, you've come to the right place. It's safe. It's anonymous. It's an option you and your baby can live with.

Pennsylvania Safe Haven Law: You can leave your baby, up to 28 days old, with an administrative, managerial or security personnel at any hospital in Pennsylvania.



In Pennsylvania, no one ever has to abandon a child again.

About the National Safe Haven Alliance

The National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) supports states' efforts to prevent infanticide and newborn abandonment through safe-haven relinquishments. NSHA is dedicated to reaching these women and encouraging them to make the right choice for themselves and their babies, whether it is a safe-haven relinquishment, adoption, or parenting.

Toll Free Crisis HOTLINE
1-888-510-BABY

Annual Auction & Garage Sale

February 4th - Doors Open 9 a.m.

Come Early & Check Out Our Items!

Gift baskets galore, antiques, PSU celebrity autographed footballs and memorabilia, original art, collectibles.

Other items too numerous to mention!



Enjoy our hot dogs, sausage sandwiches and homemade desserts!

50/50 Drawing

State College Knights of Columbus Hall
850 Stratford Drive (off Waupelani Drive)

There is SOMETHING for EVERYBODY!

This pro-life Auction is the only fundraiser for Centre County Citizens Concerned for Human Life.

If you wish to make a donation or contribute an item to our auction, please email cchlcentreco@comcast.net or call 237-3213.

For Garage Sale items, call 466-1234.

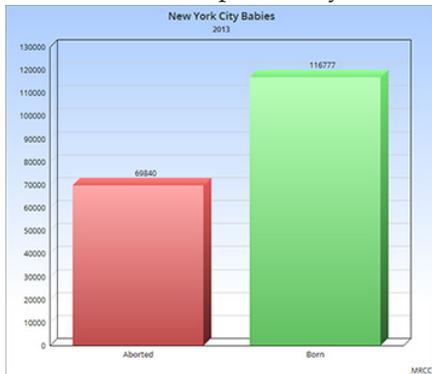
www.ProLifeCentreCounty.org



New York City's Abortion Rate is 60% of Its Birth Rate

By Katie Yoder

According to the CDC, a "total of 664,435 abortions were reported" for 2013 by 49 of the 52 reporting areas (the 50 states, the District of Columbia and New York City). That number happily represented a 5% decrease in abortion from the previous year's 2012 report.



In 2013, New York City reported 69,840 abortions and 116,777 registered births. In other words, the city's abortion rate made up 60% of its birth rate.

No other state or area listed had an abortion rate that reached more than 30% (half NYC's 60%) of its birth rate.

To put that in perspective, the CDC recorded 3,932,181 registered births for 2013, a less than 1% decrease from 2012. The highest abortion rate, in comparison to the birth rate, came from New York City.

University of Michigan–Dearborn assistant professor Michael J. New outlined other key findings in the report for *National Review*:

The decline was widespread, as the number of abortions fell in 41 of the 46 states that reported data for each of these two years. In fact, the U.S. abortion rate has declined consistently since it peaked in 1980; it fell by approximately 15 percent between 2004 and 2013 and has fallen by over 40 percent since 1980.

In the end, none of these numbers are likely to receive attention by the liberal media. The broadcast network news shows from ABC, CBS and NBC haven't mentioned the CDC report once since its release November 25.

In his piece, New surmised that, "Because the release date coincides with a major holiday, these abortion trends tend to receive relatively little attention from the mainstream media."

But they deserve the American public's attention. Because each number isn't just a number: it represents a human being.

—Excerpted from Katie Yoder article in *Newsbusters LifeNews.com*, December 1, 2016

Changing America's storyline — for the better!

By Maria Gallagher

Legislative/PAC Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

In this era of remakes, it's often interesting to see how an actor or actress attempts to re-define a role. Whether it's a television adaptation of "Hairspray," "Grease," or "Peter Pan," it can be intriguing to view a production with a new player in the lead.

And yet, around this time of year, some perennial favorites from decades gone by appear on the small screen, attracting audiences who were not even born yet when the films debuted at local theaters.

What would "The Sound of Music" be without the enchanting Julie Andrews? Or could anyone but the charming Charlton Heston pull off the epic "Ten Commandments"? And "Miracle on 34th Street" would somehow seem less miraculous if a young Natalie Wood had not been cast as the skeptical second-grader who tests the gift-granting prowess of Kris Kringle.

In other words, these were roles that these memorable actors seemed born to play.

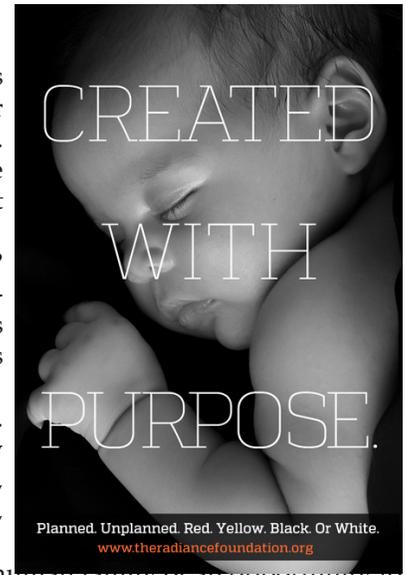
And so it is with every human being—each one of us is particularly gifted to play his or her part on the planet. Whether we fulfill that role, to the best of our ability, is up to us. But each individual, as part of the vast and varied cast of humanity, deserves the chance.

The tragedy of abortion, then, is three-fold: First, it deprives a member of the human family of an opportunity to take on the role he or she was meant to play. Second, a mother and father must come to grips with the absence of that unique, irreplaceable child in their lives. And third, the world must struggle along without someone whose unique mission is left undone.

The possibility of overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide nearly 44 years ago, brings the promise of ending a tragedy far graver than any that Shakespeare wrote.

It would also lead to a new storyline for our nation, giving birth to the hope of the better tomorrow that every child represents.

—National Right to Life News Today, December 27, 2016



Roe v. Wade's Three Intractable Problems

continued from back page

of Pennsylvania law professor Kermit Roosevelt (who favors legalized abortion), "Roe is barely coherent. The Court pulled its fundamental right to choose more or less from the constitutional ether."

The right alleged in *Roe* is blatantly contradicted by the history of abortion law in the United States. Ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment roughly coincided with enactment of a wave of state laws prohibiting abortion from conception with the primary aim (according to clear and abundant historical evidence) of protecting unborn children. Most of these statutes were already on the books by the time the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted in 1868, and many of them remained unchanged until *Roe* struck them down more than a century later.

"To reach its result," Justice William Rehnquist thus concluded in his dissenting opinion, "the Court necessarily has had to find within the scope of the Fourteenth Amendment a right that was apparently completely unknown to the drafters of the Amendment."

Blackmun's reasoning was fallacious, his facts erroneous, his key historical claims demonstrably false. The process behind the decision, we now know, was remarkably shoddy. *Roe* and *Doe* constituted a full-blown exercise in policy-making—the arbitrary (untethered to the Constitution) invention of a new nationwide abortion policy to reflect the personal preferences of a majority of the justices.

Even pro-choice legal experts don't try to defend *Roe* on its merits. "What is frightening about *Roe* is that this super-protected right is not inferable from the language of the Constitution, the framers' thinking respecting the specific problem in issue, any general value derivable from the provisions they included, or the nation's governmental structure," wrote the eminent constitutional scholar and Yale law professor John Hart Ely. "It is bad because it is bad constitutional law, or rather because it is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be."

Third, *Roe* is undemocratic. It struck down the democratically-decided abortion laws of all 50 states and imposed abortion-on-demand nationwide, whether the people like it or not. Because the Court lacked any constitutional warrant for this move, it usurped the rightful authority of the elected branches of government to determine abortion policy.

The radical scope of the *Roe* regime was not and has never been consistent with public opinion, which favors substantial legal limits on abortion. (Polling questions on *Roe* are often inaccurate, and ignorance of the extent of the decision is widespread). *Roe* has disenfranchised millions and millions of Americans who will not rest while *Roe* and abortion-on-demand persist. They want to have a say. The Court decided they could have none.

So these are the intractable problems of *Roe v. Wade*. The Supreme Court abused the Constitution to usurp the authority of the people by imposing a gravely unjust policy with breathtakingly disastrous results.

Unjust. Unconstitutional. Undemocratic. Together, these problems will lead, eventually, to *Roe's* collapse.

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

Settled science: Healthy teens abstain from sex

By Bradley Mattes

President, Life Issues Institute

The Centers for Disease Control have some definitive things to say about high school students who abstain from sex. According to their new research, teens who say no to sexual activity make widespread and dramatically different health behavior choices than other kids.

The scope of this research and its conclusions got my attention.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are not known for conservative bias in their research and reporting, so this is big news. The CDC study analyzed the content of detailed Youth Risk Behavior Surveys of high school students from grades nine to twelve. The surveys were conducted by the CDC, state and large urban school districts, and state and local education and health agencies.



The surveys dealt with 118 health-related behaviors. Of particular interest were 18 violence-related risk behaviors and the results were dramatic.

The CDC split the students into different groups:

- Teens who were sexually active in exclusively heterosexual relationships
- Teens who were sexually active in heterosexual, bi-sexual and same-sex relationships
- Teens active in only same-sex sexual relationships
- Teens who were not sexually active

Researchers analyzed each group in the context of violence-related risk behaviors.

These risks included, but were not limited to: alcohol or drug use, texting while driving, driving when drinking or riding with someone who was fighting, bullying other kids or smoking.

According to the study, in most all 18 cases, teens who engaged in heterosexual sex had a higher rate of engaging in violence-related behavior than those who abstained from sex. Further, teens active in heterosexual, bi-sexual and same-sex relationships had a still higher rate of exposure to

risk behavior, and those who engaged in same-sex sexual activity exclusively had the highest rate of all in making the least healthy behavioral decisions.

Teens who abstained from sex made significantly better health-related decisions and they made them on a consistent basis.

Yet in the face of repeated evidence that sexual abstinence is healthier for America's youth, saving sex for marriage is routinely mocked and criticized. Then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at a Netroots Nation event made the reckless statement that abstinence "is dangerous to the health of our young women and men."

Abstinence has been labeled as ineffective, unattainable and nothing more than a religious agenda imposed on a secular society. However, none of that is true and the latest CDC research is one more example of a growing body of evidence that shows abstinence not only works, it's also healthy for America's youth who practice it.

Importantly, the CDC has a recommendation of what you should do with this latest information. They encourage you and others to share the results far and wide so America's youth can be empowered to make decisions that will help them be healthier and happier citizens.

And Life Issues Institute has additional tools to help you be an effective advocate for abstinence.

As the executive producer and host of our weekly television program, *Facing Life Head-On*, we dealt with the issue of abstinence on more than one occasion. *Teens Making Healthy Choices* won a Regional ©Emmy Award for its abstinence-based message. *Waiting for the Ring* received high praise for realistically dealing with a sensitive issue. And don't overlook our website that has a wealth of resources on this topic.

One resource works better than all the others. Evidence consistently shows that parents are the most effective influence on a teen's decision to abstain or delay sexual activity. So parents everywhere, keep encouraging your children (or grandchildren) to save sex for marriage. Science is on your side.

—Life Issues Institute, December 7, 2016



From the President's Desk

An Interesting Night

Those of us who dreaded the thought of a Hillary Clinton Presidency—because of what it would mean for the Pro-Life cause—could hardly believe what we were hearing and seeing on the night of November 8th and into the early morning hours of November 9th.

The “Deplorables” and those who cling to their Bibles and guns had spoken. Hope has arisen for the unborn, and the least among us who have been discarded, sold as a commodity and treated with impunity for over four decades by the likes of Mrs. Clinton, Barack Obama and their friends and allies at Planned Parenthood.

It was not enough that these people wanted the right to take innocent lives; they also wanted us to pay for it and approve it. This right to abortion was so sacrosanct in their minds that it trumped even the First Amendment right to the exercise of our religious freedoms.

Donald Trump, in the last Presidential debate, hit the nail on the head when he described partial-birth abortion as the ripping of the baby from the mother’s womb just prior to birth. He was not mincing words, and Mrs. Clinton glared at him for speaking so boldly and plainly about that atrocious act which she had tried to defend. How surprised were we that finally one of the moderators even raised the issue.

The President-elect has stated that he will appoint pro-life justices to the Supreme Court. Let’s pray that his actions are not blocked by the Senate.

Please join us in traveling to Washington, D.C, on Friday, January 27, 2017 for the 44th March for Life to give witness to the nation how much we value life in all of its forms and to thank God for those who are willing to stand up for the least of His children.

If you can’t go to Washington, D.C., please join us at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, with Bishop Bartchak presiding, on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 7 p.m.

Sincerely,



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

Donations have been made—

In Memory of:

Viola and Lowell Hartman

Given by: Barbara Aubrey

James Joseph Hatch

Given by: Pat Hatch

Tom and Martha Kilcoyqne

Given by: Jim and Stephanie Kilcoyqne

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.**

Regional CCHL Chapter News

The **BEDFORD COUNTY CHAPTER of CCHL** is sponsoring a **bus trip to the March for Life**, on Friday, January 27. The bus will leave the Wal-Mart parking lot at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Dress warmly and bring bagged lunch. A stop will be made for supper on the way back from the March. Call **652-6755** for reservations.

The **BEDFORD COUNTY CHAPTER of CCHL** is hosting its annual **Pro-Life Dinner and Silent Auction**, on Saturday, March 25; Dinner at 6 p.m.; Silent Auction 5-7 p.m. Adult tickets are \$17; students \$10. For reservations, call **652-6755**. See flier on page 3.

The **CENTRE COUNTY CHAPTER** is sponsoring its **Annual Auction and Garage Sale**, on Saturday, February 4; doors open at 9 a.m., at State College Knights of Columbus Hall, 850 Stratford Dr. (off Waupelani Dr.). There will be gift baskets galore, antiques, PSU celebrity autographed footballs and memorabilia, original art and collectibles. Other items too numerous to mention!

Donations to the auction are much appreciated; please email cchlcentrecoc@comcast.net or call **237-3213**. For Garage Sale items, call **466-1234**. See flier on page 8.

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.

_____ Annual Membership \$10.00 _____ In Memory of: _____

_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00 _____ In Honor of: _____

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.



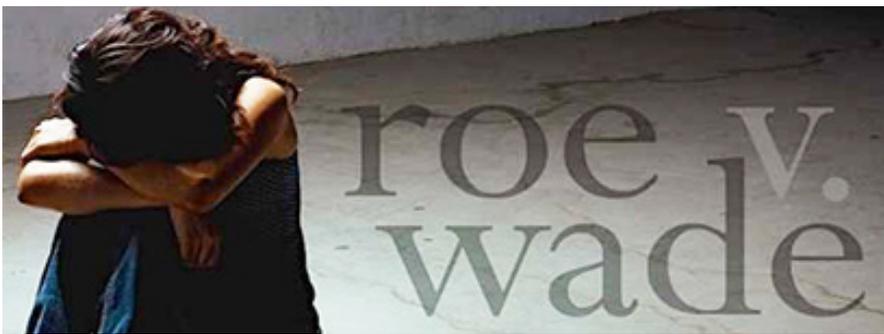
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Roe v. Wade's three intractable problems

By Paul Stark

Hard as it is to believe, we are just five weeks away from commemorating the 44rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. This month we are re-running articles which relate directly [or even indirectly] to the somber realization that over 59 million unborn babies have paid the ultimate price for Justice Blackmun's jurisprudential flights of imagination. The following ran in 2015.



On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* and its companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*. The Court ruled that abortion must be permitted for any reason before fetal viability—and that it must be permitted for “health” reasons, broadly defined in *Doe* (so as to encompass virtually any reason), all the way until birth. *Roe* and *Doe* essentially legalized abortion on demand nationwide.

The *New York Times* proclaimed the verdict “a historic resolution of a fiercely controversial issue.” But now, 42 years later, abortion is as unresolved and controversial as ever. Three intractable problems will continue to plague the Court and its abortion jurisprudence until the day when, finally, *Roe* is overturned.

First, and most importantly, the outcome of *Roe* is fundamentally harmful and unjust. Why? The facts of biology show that the human embryo or fetus (the being whose life is ended in abortion) is a distinct and living human organism at the earliest stages of development. “Human development begins at fertilization when a sperm fuses with an oocyte to form a single cell, a zygote,” explains the textbook, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*. “This highly specialized, totipotent cell marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual.”

Justice requires that the law protect the equal dignity and basic rights of every member of the human family—irrespective of age, size, ability, dependency, and the desires and decisions of others. This principle of human equality, affirmed in the Declaration of Independence and the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is the moral crux of western civilization.

But the *Roe* Court ruled, to the contrary, that a particular class of innocent human beings (the unborn) must be excluded from the protection of the law and allowed to be dismembered and killed at the discretion of others. “The right created by the Supreme Court in *Roe*,” observes University of St. Thomas law professor Michael Stokes Paulsen, “is a constitutional right of some human beings to kill other human beings.”

After *Roe*, the incidence of abortion rose dramatically, quickly topping one million abortions per year and peaking at 1.6 million in 1990 before gradually declining to a little over one million. Under the *Roe* regime, abortion is the leading cause of human death. More than 57 million human beings have now been legally killed. And abortion has significantly and detrimentally impacted the health and well-being of many women (and men). The moral gravity and scale of this injustice exceed that of any other issue or concern in American society today.

The second problem with *Roe* is that it is legally, constitutionally mistaken. Justice Harry Blackmun’s majority opinion claimed that the “liberty” protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment includes a “right of privacy” that is “broad enough to encompass” a right to abortion. “As a constitutional argument,” noted University

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