

CITIZENS
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

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Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 12 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Fall 2020

LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 4, 2020

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

17th St. and 9th Ave., Altoona, at Station Mall Medical Center



Across the U.S. and Canada, on National LIFE CHAIN Sunday, hundreds of thousands of participants will silently stand in peaceful, prayerful witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers.

LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care.

The signs we hold deliver the messages that

Abortion Kills Children

Adoption is the Loving Option

Abortion Hurts Women

Pray to End Abortion

Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation

Life—The First Inalienable Right

Jesus Forgives & Heals

This peaceful, prayerful event provides a visual statement of pro-life unity to passersby.

Signs will be provided. Please join us!



We hope to see YOU there! For more information, call 814-946-0681

Is It Truly Life or Death?

By Bradley Mattes, President, Life Issues Institute

During an interview with NPR, Alexis McGill Johnson, acting president of Planned Parenthood, announced the group's endorsement of Joe Biden and said, "This is literally a life and death election."

McGill Johnson went on to list reasons why they oppose the reelection of Donald Trump.

Did the comment made by Planned Parenthood's leader regarding the presidential election reflect fact or was it political hyperbole?

Look at the evidence...

Here is an objective look at the public record of the President as it relates to McGill Johnson's comment. As President, Mr. Trump has:

- ◆ Made 198 judicial nominations, including two Supreme Court justices, 52 U.S. Courts of Appeals judges, and 144 District Court judges, which have been confirmed.
- ◆ Permitted states to defund Planned Parenthood of Title X funds, which reversed an Obama-era rule.
- ◆ Reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy that prohibits tax dollars from funding abortion overseas.
- ◆ Defunded the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which the administration said assisted China's population control activities, including forced abortions.
- ◆ Required health insurance companies to disclose if plans cover abortion.
- ◆ Issued a rule exempting private employers and educational institutions from providing abortifacient drugs in insurance plans if they have sincerely-held religious beliefs or moral objections against them.
- ◆ The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Created the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within the Office for Civil Rights that works to protect health care professionals who do not want to participate in abortion.
- ◆ Allowed states to defund Planned Parenthood of Medicaid funds, reversing a previous Obama administration guideline.
- ◆ Cut Planned Parenthood's tax funding by up to \$60 million.
- ◆ Canceled a contract for taxpayer-funded research that utilized body parts of aborted babies.
- ◆ Granted Texas a Medicaid waiver to fund the Healthy Texas Women program which does not include Planned Parenthood, reversing an Obama administration decision.
- ◆ HHS announced it would act against California for violating the Weldon Amendment by discriminating against organizations that do not cover abortion in their health care plans.
- ◆ Finalized a new rule to clarify that the federal definition of sex discrimination under Obamacare (ACA) does not include abortion, which reversed an interpretation of the Obama administration.

Life Issues Institute's tax status prevents us from advocating for or against a political candidate. Therefore, in this context we will leave you to answer the question of accuracy regarding Alexis McGill Johnson's statement: "This is literally a life and death election."

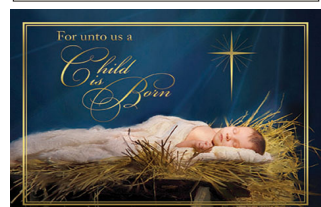
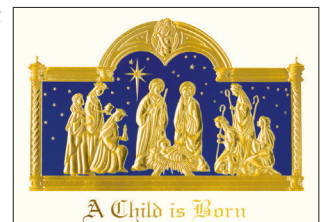
—Life Issues Institute, June 17, 2020



*Abortion is legal
because babies can't vote.
~ Joseph Bonkowski ~*

Pro-Life Christmas Cards 2020

A limited selection of Christmas cards is available from past years. We are offering these packages of 11 cards/envelopes for \$5.00 each. Cards are available by calling **Marita Forr at 946-0681**. Cards will also be available for purchase at LIFE CHAIN, on Sunday, October 4th (see front page). Shown below are some of the cards that can be purchased.





Pres. Donald Trump



Joe Biden

Where Do the Candidates Stand on the LIFE ISSUES?

WHAT ABOUT TAKING YOUR TAX DOLLARS TO PAY FOR ABORTION?

Pres. Donald Trump SUPPORTS protecting your taxpayer dollars from funding abortion. He SUPPORTS the Hyde Amendment, which bans taxpayer-funded abortions.

Joe Biden OPPOSES protecting your taxpayer dollars from funding abortion. He OPPOSES the Hyde Amendment, and would use tax dollars to pay for abortion.

WHAT ABOUT KEEPING UNLIMITED ABORTION ON DEMAND THROUGHOUT PREGNANCY LEGAL?

Pres. Donald Trump believes that *Roe v. Wade* should be REVERSED, allowing people through their elected state representatives to once again pass laws protecting preborn children.

Joe Biden OPPOSES an overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, which allows abortion for any reason during all nine months of pregnancy. He opposes laws protecting preborn children from abortion.

WHAT ABOUT APPOINTING JUSTICES TO THE SUPREME COURT?

Pres. Donald Trump has and will continue to appoint Justices to the Supreme Court who will strictly interpret the Constitution according to its text and history and not use the bench to legislate.

Joe Biden stated he would appoint only pro-abortion Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. His appointees would deliver pro-abortion opinions from the bench.

Note: Information obtained from documented public statements and voting records.



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

Congratulations, Oratory Contest Winners!

Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2020 Oratory Contest was held this past March. First and second-place winning entries were reprinted in the Spring and Summer issues of Blair County Life News. To read those winning presentations, go to: www.blaircountyprolife.com. Holly Guise, of Hollidaysburg, won third-place, and \$125, in the Varsity Division. She attends Great Commission School in Altoona. The fourth-place winner of \$100 in the Varsity Division was James Sicree, of Boalsburg. James is homeschooled. Printed below is Holly's entry, "Being Pro-Life is Being Pro-Love." James' entry, "Abortion and Ghost Weddings," begins on the following page.

Being Pro-Life is Being Pro-Love

By Holly Guise, 3rd-Place Varsity Winner



Abortion: The termination of a child's life before birth. It's a sore subject for some, and a topic that creates a feeling of deep passion in others.

In today's society, abortions are becoming more and more common. When asked why they chose abortion, most women would say something along the lines of this: it interferes with education, occupation, or financial stability. Most people's reason for aborting a child is the lack of time and money. They don't think about the consequences too much either. Women who abort think of the situation as a "condition of pregnancy," as opposed to being the "mother of a child." Abortion most certainly is not the answer to an unwanted pregnancy. Adoption is a beautiful and life-changing thing. It is not fair to the child in the womb; his or her own life is being taken from them and there is nothing they can do to help it. There are countless stories of mothers who decide to go the abortion route and lose friends and families because of it. So no, it does not build goodwill and better relationships. Is abortion beneficial? No, mothers who undergo an abortion are almost always subject to severe side effects with their health, not to mention a dead baby. This is true for the story of Abby Johnson, author of *Unplanned*.

From her college years up until September of 2009, Abby was pro-choice and the director of a Planned Parenthood Abortion clinic in Texas. Abby's relationship with God was nonexistent, and she put very little thought into her job description. Abby believed she was helping women in crisis, and she was very proud of it.

Every day was a challenge. When Abby would pull into the parking lot every morning, she was met with constant mobs of people surrounding the clinic building: "pro-lifers." Some were chanting, some were shouting, some waved signs with the words, "Baby Murderers," written in red, but others just stood there praying. They prayed in little circles and by themselves. For the longest time, Abby was able to look past all the insults and degrading remarks. Although they were on opposite sides of the fence (physically and mentally), Abby was able to befriend some of the pro-lifers that stood in the same spot every day. She tried to fit in with them, but she

couldn't avoid the obvious: Abby directed a clinic that ended the lives of innocent babies while no one else on the other side of the fence did. She had two abortions herself, which resulted in a serious illness that lasted for months. In the book, *The Walls Are Talking*, by Abby Johnson, she writes about her experience with a medication abortion and how it altered her life.

Abby's career didn't start out with abortions and being pro-choice though. She grew up in a Christian family that attended a pro-life church. A young and naïve Abby, inspired by a woman from a career fair during her junior year of college, joined Planned Parenthood, persuaded that their main goal was to make abortions rare. She was told she would make a difference—this was a cause she believed in. Abby had been influenced by semantics: using technical and medical terms to describe things rather than a meaningful or heartfelt explanation. Semantics is used all the time in controversial topics such as abortion. Doctors use this tactic when referring to the abortion as a removal of a fetus; although that is what is happening—they avoid mentioning that in reality it is killing a child. Studies show that once expecting women see their ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, they change their minds about aborting. They have come to the realization that in the womb is a baby literally depending on them to stay alive.

While Abby Johnson worked for Planned Parenthood, "serving women in crisis" became "scheduling abortions for women in crisis" and she never gave it second thoughts until September 26, 2009 when she was asked to assist an abortion for the first time. She watched as a 13 week old baby fought to live but lost the battle. From that moment, Abby swore she would never support abortion again. She quit her job and became an advocate for the unborn. Abby renewed her lost faith in Christ, firmly believing it was God's plan to witness the abortion and realizing just what she had been doing.

She began her own pro-life movement and started working to get abortionists out of the industry. Today, Abby Johnson is the proud founder of And Then There Were None: a nonprofit organization that does just that. Every day, And Then There Were None is responsible for counseling everyone involved in an abortion clinic out of their jobs and onto the road of recovery as they search for new employment. It is free to everyone, and the counseling is personal, meaningful, and life-changing. And Then There Were None understands the worried hearts of abortion clinic workers. They understand that it's not

just a job—it's an emotional investment. Clinic workers are inadvertently supporting the pro-choice standpoint and it is very difficult to get rid of that judgment. Working for an organization such as Planned Parenthood creates a negative connotation when the employees are in social situations, when it's written on resumes, and when they meet new people. Since And Then There Were None first opened its doors, almost 500 abortion clinic workers have left their jobs and have begun the process of healing. Abby Johnson hopes to one day end abortion for good.

Just like the one Abby has created, there are many organizations out there today striving to spread abortion awareness and change the hearts and minds of those who have come to be known as "pro-choice." For example, March for Life is a wonderful way for pro-life ideals to be spread across the nation. Although I have not attended a March myself, many have told me just how amazing it is: the feeling of marching for a worthy cause: the lives of the unborn. I hope to be able to share in this experience with them one day.

Abortion: The termination of a child's life before birth. It's a sore subject for some, and a topic that creates a sense of deep passion in others. Just like Abby Johnson, anyone is able to help save the lives of babies: those who can't help themselves, by spreading abortion awareness and being pro-life, and in turn being pro-love. ♦

Crisis Numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available; contact:

Precious Life, Inc.
1716 12th Ave., Altoona
814-944-2669

Every Life Matters (ELM)
1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone
814-650-7899

The.ELM.PSS@gmail.com

Real Alternatives, Inc.
1-888-LIFE-AID
www.realalternatives.org

For post-abortion counseling:

Project Rachel
814-884-8000

ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org

Rachel's Vineyard
877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)
www.rachelsvineyard.org/

Family Life
Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown
Offers pastoral guidance:
814-886-5551
familylife@dioceseaj.org

Abortion and Ghost Weddings

By James Sicree, 4th Place Varsity Winner



When we hear the term "infanticide," you may picture something done in ancient Sparta by exposing unwanted or sickly children. Today, we know unwanted babies are not killed by exposure but more commonly by abortion. What you may not know is that many of these babies that are killed are girls, more commonly known as "femicide." This is very apparent in a large portion of Asian cultures.

Parents in these cultures prefer boys over girls. And the results of this are shocking.

Sex-selective infanticide has been present since ancient Greece. Back then they threw unwanted girls into the sewers or exposed them. This caused a huge sex imbalance estimated to be seven boys to five girls, or a sex ratio of 1.4. The natural sex ratio at birth is 1.05. Modern China is developing the same problem as ancient Greece. It has the worst sex ratio in the world, with 115 boys for every 100 girls.

Now why would Chinese families not want daughters? Among many other reasons for this are that a male child will carry on the family name and legacy. But the modern crisis in China was in large part caused by the government's previous One-Child Policy. This forced families to choose between having a son and having a daughter. Having a daughter would be seen as "watering a neighbor's plant." This is because a daughter would be married off and become part of her husband's family, leaving no child to take care of her parents in their old age. The bride's family wouldn't benefit from raising a daughter in this culture. In India, the situation gets worse: the brides' families may have to pay huge dowries, again making girls look like an expense. This is why both families would choose to have a son instead.

Even though China has gotten rid of the One-Child Policy, it didn't make it much better by just moving the number up one, to the Two-Child Policy. What happens now is parents may have a daughter for one of their children, but never for both, while no one minds having two sons. For the same exact reasons, Chinese families still want a son. This means that baby girls will still be aborted in larger numbers than baby boys. The male-to-female ratio is so bad that as of now over 33.59 million men will never have the chance to get married, solely because there are not enough women. In India, there are now 37 million men who cannot get Indian wives.

In China, the result of having too many men in a society has a huge negative impact. Other than just loneliness, this imbalance has many negative effects on the economy causing a drop in consumption and a rise in savings rates because families are saving to attract a wife.

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Abortion and Ghost Weddings

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More important than that is the effect on crime: the sex imbalance has been accompanied by a rise in violent crimes, especially kidnappings, sex-trafficking, and prostitution. This effect can reach all the way to the European countries and even the Americas.

This shortage of women in Asian countries has caused more unique effects on the culture. One example is the rise in corpse brides and “ghost weddings.” This custom was found in Chinese history and in rural areas. Some superstitions say that an unmarried son, who was considered a “dead branch” of his family tree, could not be buried in the family grave as it would bring bad fortune. In mining towns this was more common because young men often died in mining accidents. Now if a family had a son that just died in one of these accidents, they would then buy the corpse of a dead woman. They would then hold a “wedding” ceremony so that the “couple,” who may have never known each other while alive, would be married in the afterlife. They even went as far as to pay dowries to the bride’s family. This solved the problem of burying a deceased, unmarried child for both families.

Unfortunately, there is such a shortage of females that there is a market for dead women. There is even a shortage of dead women. There are cases of auctions being held for the bodies of dead girls, which can reach \$5000. Some auctions are held while the girl is still dying in the hospital. This shortage has been the motive behind many cases of grave-robbing. In 2015 fourteen female corpses were stolen from a graveyard in Shanxi, China, probably for sale for ghost weddings. Unfortunately, the custom of ghost weddings has proven fatal to living girls, as some girls are now seen as more valuable dead than alive. In 2016 police arrested a man in northwest China for killing two women with mental disabilities so that he could sell their bodies for ghost weddings.

Another disturbing result that made the news recently is mandated dating. In South Korea the birth rates and number of people getting married is dropping. This has resulted in South Korean colleges having courses that mandate students to date each other in hopes of increasing marriage rates and the population. While South Korea does not have population control like the Chinese One-Child Policy, it does share the same cultural preference for having male children over female children.

Right now, there are an estimated 70 million missing women and girls around the world. Killing baby girls is a bigger problem now than it ever was in the past. Legal abortion and population control are the main culprits, but local customs preferring boys can contribute to the problem. For people who support population control this may look good on paper: a shortage of women will always bring the population of the next generation down even faster. Some people may even think that a shortage of women is a good thing for women, believing that having fewer women will make them more valued. In

reality, it just makes things worse, as you can see in the horrors of corpse brides and similar practices. There is a difference between being valued as a person and being valuable as a commodity.

Why is this important to us? To us as Americans we have to make sure we don’t do anything to make matters worse. America has a huge influence on the Third World, such as when President Barack Obama successfully campaigned for abortion to be legalized in Kenya. We need to make sure that our tax money doesn’t go toward funding abortion or population control in other countries. We need to educate Americans saying that abortion hurts women, especially in the Third World. This is an example of how abortion can have horrible effects unseen in America. ♦



Once to Every Man and Nation

*Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth and falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, some great decision,
Offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever
’Twixt that darkness and that light.*

*Then to side with truth is noble,
When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit,
And ’tis prosp’rous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses
While the coward stands aside.
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.*

*Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet the truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong;
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own.*

—James Russell Lowell, 1845, Public Domain

Surgeon nun helps save babies from abortion pill

By Lisa Bourne

The religious sister capturing headlines for her powerful pro-life witness at the Republican National Convention (RNC) the night of August 26 is also a medical provider with the Abortion Pill Rescue Network (APRN).

Sister Deirdre “Dede” Byrne, POSC, an MD, made remarkable statements in support of life during her address, about when life begins, how the unborn are marginalized, and the need to stand up for life despite the political correctness of today. She also made the crucial point that life is not just about living on this earth.

“As a physician, I can say without hesitation: Life begins at conception,” she said. “While what I have to say may be difficult for some to hear, I am saying it because I’m not just pro-life, I’m pro-eternal life. I want all of us to end up in heaven together someday.”

Catholics and pro-life advocates were heartened by the address for its expression of the sanctity of life, with Byrne’s appearance shared across social media.

Byrne, a general surgeon, retired U.S. Army colonel and missionary, also puts her pro-life convictions into action in her local community by ministering to women facing unplanned pregnancies and offering a second chance at life through abortion pill reversal.

Byrne’s religious community, the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, offers pro-bono services to patients in need through Sibley Hospital, a nonprofit hospital in Washington, D.C. managed by Johns Hopkins.

Administered by Heartbeat International, the Abortion Pill Rescue Network is made up of roughly 900 rescue providers and centers that facilitate and/or assist with the abortion pill reversal (APR) protocol.

APR is a new application of an FDA-approved progesterone treatment used beginning in the 1950s to stop miscarriages. If it is implemented soon enough after the mom takes the first drug of the two-drug chemical abortion regimen, it may be possible to save her unborn baby.

A 2018 peer-reviewed study showed that 64%–68% of the pregnancies where APR was implemented were saved. To date more than 1,000 lives have been saved through the APRN.

With the rising prevalence of chemical abortion, the need is great, and more providers are needed for the APRN.

Discussing her team’s work in saving moms and babies, Byrne told the *National Catholic Register* in an interview, “One baby at a time.”

She comforts the pregnant moms who come to her clinic seeking reversal of their chemical abortions, telling them that no matter the outcome, God is pleased with their attempt to save their child.

Byrne has served in active duty in Afghanistan and as a reservist in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. She spent 13 months in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, and as a missionary surgeon she served the sick in Kenya, Haiti, Sudan and Iraq.

She was a young doctor in New York on September 11, 2001, when the planes flew into the World Trade Center. She and her friend went to Ground Zero and spent two days bringing supplies and support to firefighters.

Delivering her RNC remarks with a calm, peaceful demeanor, Byrne was forthright in her address.

Drawing upon her experience serving those fleeing war-torn and impoverished areas, Byrne said that the common experience with these individuals was being marginalized, thought of as insignificant, powerless and voiceless.

“And while we tend to think of the marginalized as living beyond our borders, the truth is the largest marginalized group in the world can be found here in the United States,” she said. “They are the unborn.”

Christians first met Jesus as a stirring embryo in the womb, she said, and it was coincidental that Christ stood up for what was just, and that he was crucified because what he said was not politically correct or fashionable.

“As followers of Christ, we are called to stand up for life against the politically correct or fashionable of today,” said Byrne. “We must fight against a legislative agenda that supports and even celebrates destroying life in the womb.”

The laws we create define how we see our humanity, she told the RNC audience.

Byrne added, “We must ask ourselves: What we are saying when we go into a womb and snuff out an innocent, powerless, voiceless life?”

She concluded, praising Donald Trump’s record on life, and pledged prayer for him.

Note: Byrne’s full remarks are reprinted below. For more information on abortion pill reversal, go to: abortionpillreversal.com and for more information on the Abortion Pill Rescue Network, go to: heartbeatservices.org.

Good evening. I am Sister Dede Byrne, and I belong to the Community of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Last Fourth of July, I was honored to be one of the president’s guests at his Salute to America celebration. I must confess that I recently prayed while in chapel, begging God to allow me to be a voice, an instrument for human life. And now here I am, speaking at the Republican National



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The Preborn Baby



Life Begins at Conception

The following is a step-by-step journey through the first chapter of human life. During the short nine months from conception to birth, a microscopic single cell evolves with amazing speed into a seven-pound, 20-inch, fully formed infant.

Not long ago, the first nine months of human life were a mystery to all. Only in recent years have scientific and technological advances allowed us to directly observe life as it develops within the womb. We now know, in great detail, how the preborn baby looks, acts and grows.

The First Nine Months

Day 1 Sperm joins with ovum (egg) to form one cell—smaller than a grain of salt. The new life has inherited 23 chromosomes from each parent, 46 in all. This one cell contains the complex genetic blueprint for every detail of human development—the child’s sex, hair and eye color, height, skin tone.

Days 3-4 The fertilized egg travels down the fallopian tube into the uterus.



*Baby Juliette Grace
20-weeks gestation*

Days 5-9 During this time, the fertilized egg implants itself in the rich lining of the uterus.

Day 18 The heart begins to beat.

Day 20 Foundations of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system are already established.

Day 28 The backbone and muscles are forming. Arms, legs, eyes and ears have begun to show.

Day 30 At one month of age, the embryo is 10,000 times larger than the original fertilized egg—and developing rapidly. The heart is pumping increasing quantities of blood through the circulatory system. The placenta forms a unique barrier that keeps the mother’s blood separate while allowing food and oxygen to pass through to the embryo.

Day 35 Five fingers can be discerned in the hand. The eyes darken as pigment is produced.

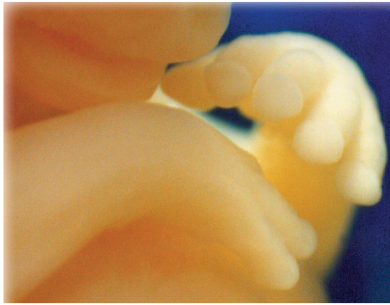
Day 40 Brain waves can be detected and recorded.

Week 6 The liver is now taking over the production of blood cells, and the brain begins to control movement of muscles and organs.



*Baby Juliette Grace, born on January 21, 2020,
pictured here at four days of age and loving life!*

Human Development



Seven weeks
from conception



Eight weeks
from conception



Eleven weeks
from conception



Sixteen weeks
from conception



Twenty weeks
from conception

Photos: Life Issues Institute

Week 7 The embryo begins to move spontaneously. The jaw forms, including teeth buds in the gums. Soon the eyelids will seal to protect the embryo's developing light-sensitive eyes and will reopen at about the seventh month.

Week 8 At a little more than an inch long, the developing life is now called a fetus—Latin for “young one.” Everything is now present that will be found in a fully developed adult. The heart has been beating for more than a month, the stomach produces digestive juices and the kidneys have begun to function. Forty muscle sets begin to operate in conjunction with the nervous system. The fetus' body responds to touch, although the mother will not be able to feel movement until the fourth or fifth month.

Week 9 Fingerprints are already evident in the skin. The fetus will curve his fingers around an object placed in the palm of his hand.

Week 10 The fetus can squint, swallow and wrinkle his forehead.

Week 11 At this time, the fetus is about two inches long. Urination occurs. The face has assumed a baby's profile, and muscle movements are becoming more coordinated.

Week 12 The fetus now sleeps, awakens and exercises his muscles energetically—turning his head, curling his toes and opening and closing his mouth. The palm, when stroked, will make a tight fist. The fetus breathes amniotic fluid to help develop his respiratory system.

Week 13 Fine hair has begun to grow on the head, and sexual differentiation has become apparent.

Month 4 By the end of this month, the fetus is eight to ten inches in length and weighs a half pound or more. The ears are functioning, and the fetus hears the mother's voice and heartbeat as well as external noises. The umbilical cord has become an engineering marvel, transporting 300 quarts of fluids per day and completing a round-trip of fluids every 30 seconds.

Month 5 Half the pregnancy has now passed, and the fetus is about 12 inches long. If a sound is especially loud or startling, the fetus may jump in reaction to it.

Month 6 Oil and sweat glands are functioning. The delicate skin of the growing baby is protected from the fetal waters by a special ointment called “vernix.” If the baby were born in this month and given the proper care, *he could survive.*

Month 7 The baby now uses the four senses of vision, hearing, taste and touch. He can recognize his mother's voice.

Month 8 The skin begins to thicken, with a layer of fat stored underneath for insulation and nourishment. Antibodies increasingly build up. The baby absorbs a gallon of amniotic fluid per day; the fluid is completely replaced every three hours.

Month 9 The average duration of pregnancy is 280 days from the first day of the mother's last menstrual period, but this varies. Most babies (85 to 95 percent) are born somewhere between 266 and 294 days. By this time the infant normally weighs six to nine pounds, and his heart is pumping 300 gallons of blood per day. He is fully capable of life outside the womb. ♦



*Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.
I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works. My soul also you knew full well;
nor was my frame unknown to you when I was made in secret...*

~ Psalm 139:13-15 ~

Surgeon nun saves babies from abortion pill

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Convention. I guess you'd better be careful what you pray for. My journey to religious life was not a traditional route, if there is such a thing. In 1978, as a medical school student at Georgetown University, I joined the Army to help pay for my tuition, and ended up devoting 29 years to the military, serving as a doctor and a surgeon in places like Afghanistan and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. After much prayer and contemplation, I entered my religious order in 2002, working to serve the poor and the sick in Haiti, Sudan, Kenya, Iraq and in Washington, D.C. Humility is at the foundation of our order, which makes it very difficult to talk about myself. But I can speak about my experience working for those fleeing war-torn and impoverished countries all around the world. Those refugees all share a common experience. They have been all marginalized, viewed as insignificant, powerless and voiceless. And while we tend to think of the marginalized as living beyond our borders, the truth is the largest marginalized group in the world can be found here in the United States. They are the unborn. As Christians, we first met Jesus as a stirring embryo in the womb of an unwed mother and saw him born nine months later in the poverty of the cave. It's no coincidence that Jesus stood up for what was just and was ultimately

crucified because what he said was not politically correct or fashionable. As followers of Christ, we are called to stand up for life against the politically correct or fashionable of today. We must fight against a legislative agenda that supports and even celebrates destroying life in the womb. Keep in mind, the laws we create define how we see our humanity. We must ask ourselves: What we are saying when we go into a womb and snuff out an innocent, powerless, voiceless life? As a physician, I can say without hesitation: Life begins at conception. While what I have to say may be difficult for some to hear, I am saying it because I'm not just pro-life, I'm pro-eternal life. I want all of us to end up in heaven together someday. Which brings me to why I am here today. Donald Trump is the most pro-life president that this nation has ever had, defending life at all stages. His belief in the sanctity of life transcends politics. President Trump will stand up against Biden-Harris, who are the most anti-life presidential ticket ever, even supporting the horrors of late-term abortion and infanticide. Because of his courage and conviction, President Trump has earned the support of America's pro-life community. Moreover, he has a nationwide of religious standing behind him. You'll find us here with our weapon of choice, the rosary. Thank you, Mr. President, we are all praying for you.

—LifeSiteNews.com, August 31, 2020

For reservation information or other details, go to: www.paprolife.org

Regional Chapters - Citizens Concerned for Human Life

The Bedford County Chapter of CCHL will hold its **Life Chain** on Sunday, October 4, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., along Business Route 220. Pick up signs at Bedford Elementary School, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Call Kathy Wenger for more information: **814-839-4806**.

The Cambria/Somerset Chapter of CCHL will hold its **Annual Pro-Life Breakfast** on Saturday, October 24, at New Germany Grove Hall, 1635 New Germany Rd., Summerhill. Placing basket tickets begins at 9:00 a.m., with breakfast served shortly after. Arrangements for outdoor TENT seating of 250 have been made, either adjacent to the church hall or in a nearby field. The keynote speaker will be nationally-known Star Parker, founder of UrbanCURE, noted for her conservative op-ed articles in local newspapers and Christian message. Tickets are \$10. For reservations and more information, call **814-472-8584**.

The Centre County Chapter of CCHL will hold its **Life Chain** on October 4, from 2:00-3:00 p.m., at 900 West College Ave., State College. For more information, contact Susan Rogacs, **814-238-9590**.

From the President's Desk

Our Last Chance?

Forty-seven years ago, on January 22, 1973, I was listening to my car radio as I was driving near my dorm at Villanova University. I was stunned to hear that the Supreme Court had just nullified all state laws restricting abortion by a seven to two majority.

One of the two dissenting justices, Byron R. White, who played professional football for the forerunner of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1938 and who was rookie of the year and league leader in rushing, characterized the decision as “an exercise in raw judicial power” and criticized it for “interposing a constitutional barrier to state efforts to protect human life.” (*Library of Congress—Papers of Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White, opened for research—April 26, 2012*) Justice White, a Colorado Democrat, had been appointed to the Supreme Court by President John F. Kennedy, also a Democrat.

At the time of the decision and for twenty years after, I remained a Democrat. The Democratic Party left me in the early 1990s with its adoption of its radical pro-abortion platform—which brings us to today.

The next President will most likely nominate at least two and perhaps as many as four new Supreme Court justices. Joe Biden has promised that he would only appoint pro-abortion justices and opposes the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. President Trump believes that *Roe v. Wade* should be reversed and has pledged to appoint justices who will strictly interpret the Constitution as he has already done. (*See page 3 of this newsletter.*)

Vice-President Pence stated in a relatively recent interview with the *Daily Caller*, “...I believe the day will come in our lifetime when we’ll see *Roe v. Wade* sent to the ash heap of history and we’ll put the sanctity of human life back at the center of American law...” (*Alpha news, Henry Rogers, February 11, 2020*)

Our pro-life group, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, cannot endorse any candidate, but we believe that it is time that the Supreme Court vindicates Justice White and allows the states to regain their right to protect human life and to overturn the exercise of raw judicial power that was manifested in the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

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

Donations have been made—

In Memory of:

Deceased Members of the McNelis All Stars

Requested by: Chris McNelis

Carrie Kibler

Requested by: Rita and Gerry Kibler

Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Neely

Requested by: Mr. and Mrs. Jon Neely

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**. Thank you. God bless you!



Pregnancy Help Center Banquet

ELM’s Annual Fundraising Banquet will be held October 15, at 6:30 p.m., at New Life Worship Center in Altoona, (Pinecroft exit, off I-99). The keynote speaker will be Chris Creek. The Banquet is free. ELM is taking all needed precautions in order to have this event. Call **814-650-7899**, visit ELM’s Facebook page and register there, or email: **the.elm.pss@gmail.com**. RSVP no later than October 6.



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

Fall 2020; Vol. 12, No. 4
President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.
Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.

2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681
email: blair@centralpaprolife.org
website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

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

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



BLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER
CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.
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A COVID-19 Vaccine Developed on Aborted Babies' Cells?

By Maurizio Ragazzi, DPhil

We are anxious to see a COVID-19 vaccine materialize in the shortest possible time. At least some of us, however, are even more anxious at the prospect that the only vaccine that may eventually become available to us (if not imposed on us) will be an abortion-related vaccine.

The ethical problems arising from the research, production, marketing and use of vaccines are not new. For some anti-COVID-19 vaccines under development, Children of God for Life, has already sounded the alarm: the vaccine currently under development by the pharmaceutical company Moderna (mRNA-1273) and that of Johnson & Johnson (which receives public funds for its anti-COVID-19 research) use cell lines from aborted babies.

All this is in stark contrast to other vaccines and treatments under preparation, such as those of Sanofi Pasteur and AVM Biotechnology, which do not use abortive cell lines.

But what exactly does the expression “cell lines from abortions” mean? This is what Angel Rodríguez Luño wrote in 2006: “widely used vaccines against diseases such as rubella, hepatitis A, and varicella [chickenpox] were developed with virus strains obtained from human fetuses that had been voluntarily aborted...or were derived by attenuating the virus through successive passes in human diploid fibroblast cultures... which also came from voluntarily aborted fetuses.” **The list of these “cultures,” identifying sex and gestational age of the aborted babies whose cells were utilized, is available on the Children of God for Life website, together with a list, which is being regularly updated, of the vaccines related to abortion and their ethical alternatives, when they exist.**

—Excerpt from cogforlife.org, May 7, 2020



Trials of UK COVID vaccine derived from aborted baby cell line paused after participant falls ill

By Paul Smeaton

Trials for one of the leading potential coronavirus vaccines, which uses cell lines from an aborted baby, have been temporarily stopped after a trial participant was taken ill. AstraZeneca, a British pharmaceutical company that has been developing a coronavirus vaccine in collaboration with the University of Oxford, issued a statement September 8 announcing the “voluntary pause of vaccination across all trials.”

While several outlets are describing the incident as a “serious suspected adverse reaction,” AstraZeneca’s statement simply refers to it as “a single event of an unexplained illness that occurred in the UK Phase III trial.” Large scale trials of the potential vaccine have also been happening in other parts of the world including South Africa and Brazil.

The *New York Times* has reported that an anonymous source “familiar with the situation” has told them that “the individual “had received a diagnosis of transverse myelitis, an inflammatory syndrome that affects the spinal cord and is often sparked by viral infections.”

The pharmaceutical company insists that the decision to pause the trials is a “routine action” and that “[i]n large clinical trials, illnesses will happen by chance and must be independently reviewed.”

AstraZeneca is using the HEK-293 cell line made from fetal cells harvested from an aborted baby decades ago in the production of their coronavirus vaccine. The HEK-293 cell line was originally derived from kidney tissue taken from a healthy baby girl who was electively aborted in the Netherlands in 1972.

—Excerpt from LifeSiteNews.com, September 9, 2020