



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 13 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccinations and Abortion

The rumor mill has been working overtime since the announcements of the apparent incredibly fast success of Project Warp Speed and COVID-19 vaccines. Many pro-life people are rightfully concerned about using any vaccination that is not ethically created and are wondering if any of the inoculations contain the cells of aborted babies. So, whether you are looking for information on the possible COVID-19 immunizations, a list of alternatives, or think that fetal tissue being used in vaccines is fake news, you have come to the right place.

The basic science behind vaccines is that a weakened strain of a disease is created in a laboratory and then administered to the body. Because the disease is weakened, the immune system is more easily able to fight it off and develop antibodies to protect from further infection. The advent of vaccines is one of the most significant accomplishments of modern medicine, saving millions of lives and nearly eradicating once deadly diseases like smallpox and polio.

The use of tissue from aborted babies enters the process of vaccine development in two places. The first is in the “cell culture” the weakened disease is grown in. These cell cultures are derived from a “cell line” that has been cultivated in laboratories for years and can continue growing for an extremely long time. Different vaccines are grown in all sorts of things like monkey kidney cells, chicken eggs, insect cells, yeast, or synthetic growth media. Sadly, others are grown in cells derived from aborted babies. For example, the WI-38 cell line used in Barr Lab’s adenovirus vaccine was developed from the lung of an aborted female baby in 1962.

While none of the living cells from the aborted baby end up in vaccines using the cell lines, the cell lines are continually used to produce the vaccine, and a non-zero amount of biological components of the cells are present in the vaccine.

The second use of fetal cell lines in vaccine creation is in laboratory testing of some of them. It is important to know that the substance used for testing does not end up inside the actual vaccine; thus, there is a marked distinction between those vaccines grown in fetal cell tissue and those that were tested using fetal cell tissue.

Now that the basic science is out of the way, it is time to look specifically at the new COVID-19 vaccines. Currently there are only two that have successfully completed Phase III trials: Pfizer’s and Moderna’s vaccines. Both are fetal tissue free and grown in a non-cell substance, which is good news. However, it must be noted that both were tested on cells from the HEK-293 cell line derived from the kidney of a child aborted in the Netherlands in 1973.

Even though Pfizer and Moderna do not use fetal tissue inside their COVID-19 vaccines, there are some companies that do. There are others that have vaccines in development with no use of fetal cell lines at all. A complete list of COVID-19 vaccine candidates is maintained by the Charlotte Lozier Institute with information about their use of fetal cell lines: <https://lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/>



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# MARCH FOR LIFE

## January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Washington, D.C.



## March with Us to Washington, D.C. Friday, January 29

The Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life has arranged bus transportation from the Altoona area to the March for Life, departing from St. Therese Church parking lot (Altoona) at 7:00 a.m., stopping at St. Mary Church (Hollidaysburg) at 7:20 a.m. and lastly, Walmart (East Freedom) at 7:45 a.m.

Seating will be limited to 1/2 capacity of the bus or buses. Masks will be provided.

Cost: Adults \$15; Students \$10

Bring a bag lunch; a dinner stop will be made on the return trip.

**Reserve a seat!**

Call Pat at 946-0681, Roxanne at 695-8008 or Jesse at 660-1052.

### 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](http://www.realalternatives.org)

### Post-abortion counseling

Project Rachel, 814-884-8000, email: [ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org)

Rachel's Vineyard, 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463), [www.rachelsvineyard.org/](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/)

Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance:  
814-886-5551, email: [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org)



**2021 STUDENT ORATORY CONTESTS**  
**REGIONAL ORATORY CONTEST**  
**Written Copy Due: February 26, 2021**  
**Regional Competition: March 7, 2021**



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 26, 2021** 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.

**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.

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE VIDEO/ORATORY CONTEST**  
**PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION - WILL YOU SPEAK UP FOR LIFE?**

**Submit video/written entry by April 30, 2021**

*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 30, 2021**. Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, **the first-place winner of the Senior High Oratory Contest will receive an all-expense-paid trip** to attend the **National Oratory Contest** at the National Right to Life/Teens for Life Convention, **June 25-26, 2021**, in Washington, D.C. For complete contest rules: [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org) or call **717-541-0034**.

**2021 STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS**  
**PENNSYLVANIA STATE ESSAY CONTEST**

**Written Copy Due: March 5, 2021**

The 2021 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, infanticide, 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 downloaded from the Federation website: [www.paprolife.org/for-students](http://www.paprolife.org/for-students). Winning essays will receive cash prizes. Deadline for entries is **March 5, 2021**. Essays can be e-mailed to [lifelines@paprolife.org](mailto: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 Essay 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 and answer the question: “**Why are you pro-life?**” Essays **must be mailed (not by email) between December 20, 2020—January 21, 2021, and be postmarked by January 21**. Mail to **Scott Fischbach, 4249 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55409**. For more information on the complete rules of entering this contest, please visit the NRLC website: [www.nrlc.org/students/essay-contest/national-right-to-life-pro-life-essay-contest-guidelines/](http://www.nrlc.org/students/essay-contest/national-right-to-life-pro-life-essay-contest-guidelines/)

## Contact Information

### *President*

#### **President Donald Trump (R)**

The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Opinion Line: 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5  
[www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/)

### *Pennsylvania U.S. Senators*

#### **The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D)**

United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-6324  
[www.casey.senate.gov/contact](http://www.casey.senate.gov/contact)

#### **The Honorable Pat Toomey (R)**

United States Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4254; [www.toomey.senate.gov/contact](http://www.toomey.senate.gov/contact)

### *Pennsylvania U.S. Representative (13th District)*

#### **The Honorable John Joyce (R)**

U. S. House of Representatives  
1337 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-2431  
Web contact: [www.johnjoyce.house.gov](http://www.johnjoyce.house.gov)

### *Blair County Office*

5414 6th Ave., Altoona, PA 16602  
814-656-6081

### *Governor of Pennsylvania*

#### **The Honorable Tom Wolf (D)**

508 Main Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-2500; [www.governor.pa.gov](http://www.governor.pa.gov)

### *Pennsylvania State Senator (District 30)*

#### **The Honorable Judy Ward (R)**

**Capitol Office**  
460 Main Capitol Bldg., P. O. Box 203030  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-5490  
Web contact: [www.senatorjudyward.com](http://www.senatorjudyward.com)

### *Hollidaysburg Office*

1904 North Juniata St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-695-8386

### *Pennsylvania State Representatives (Blair County)*

#### **The Honorable Jim Gregory (R)**

**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*

159A East Wing, House P.O. Box 202080  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-9020  
Web contact: [www.repjimgregory.com](http://www.repjimgregory.com)

### *Bellwood Office*

135 Stadium Dr., Box 111, Bellwood, PA 16617  
814-742-7204

### *Hollidaysburg Office*

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

#### **The Honorable Louis C. Schmitt, Jr. (R)**

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

### *Capitol Office*

415 Irvis Office Bldg., P.O. Box 202079  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-6419  
Web contact: [www.repschmitt.com](http://www.repschmitt.com)

### *Altoona Office*

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



# Legislative Update

*Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director*

**2020** marked the year when the state legislature successfully passed Senate Bill 857, a telemedicine bill which included a ban on dangerous tele-abortions. These abortions take place when an abortionist is not physically present, but is only available via a computer or phone screen. Unfortunately, Governor Tom Wolf vetoed the bill, solely because of the tele-abortion ban.

We also successfully pressured the PA Health Department to resume inspections of abortion facilities. The Department of Health website shows that abortion facilities went uninspected for about five months, presumably because of the COVID crisis. After many of you contacted your state legislators, lawmakers wrote letters demanding that the inspections be resumed, as required by law.

In addition, we lobbied for funding for the state's Pregnancy and Parenting Support program, which is administered by Real Alternatives, Inc. This ground-breaking program has served more than 300,000 women and their families and is a model for the rest of the nation.

## A look ahead to pro-life state legislation

**2021** [has barely begun], but already lawmakers in Pennsylvania are working on their legislative agendas. At the top of the list for many legislators are measures which call attention to the sanctity of innocent human life.

For instance, Rep. Tim O'Neal (R-Washington County) is reintroducing a bill to make abortion facilities more accountable with regard to health and safety violations. The bill would require abortion centers to post on their websites the results of state Health Department inspections. The websites would also have to show proof of correction for violations of Pennsylvania health requirements.

The legislation is vitally important, considering Pennsylvania's checkered history of abortion center health inspections. Abortionist Kermit Gosnell's "House of Horrors" was not inspected for 17 years. Ultimately, Gosnell was convicted of murdering three newborn babies and of involuntary manslaughter in the death of an adult female patient, Karnamaya Mongar.

At the time of Gosnell's crimes, the state had suspended abortion center inspections because of pro-abortion politics, as the definitive Grand Jury report documented in immense detail.

In 2011, that era of non-accountability ended when the state legislature passed and pro-life Governor Tom Corbett signed into law an abortion center regulation law. That law requires periodic inspections by the state Health Department, which posts the results on its website.

The problem is, many of the women who walk into abortion centers never see the Health Department website. But they are likely to view an abortion facility's website, making Rep. O'Neal's legislation all the more relevant.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania state Rep. Frank Ryan is reintroducing his bill which would require the respectful interment of preborn babies who died before they have a chance to be born. A number of parents have expressed anguish over the disrespectful disposal of fetal remains in the Commonwealth. Rep. Ryan believes his bill, the Unborn Child Dignity Act, would help facilitate the grieving process for families who have lost children prior to birth.

A number of other pro-life bills are expected to be filed in Pennsylvania in 2021, since the Commonwealth boasts pro-life majorities in both the state House and Senate. Advocates for life hope the legislative activity will help make 2021 the year of the woman and her preborn child.

—*Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org)*

# Biden's Pro-Abortion 'Mafia'

*President-elect Joe Biden is in the process of assembling a collective of pro-abortion political extremists to fill many of the most important posts of an incoming Biden administration. What does a Biden administration portend?*

*The Editors of NCR*

In October 2018, rebutting the specious argument that abortion can be justified as a so-called “solution” to the problem of a crisis pregnancy, Pope Francis famously stated, “Is it right to take a human life to solve a problem? It’s like hiring a hitman.”

By that same standard of comparison, it’s fair to assert that presumptive President-elect Joe Biden is in the process of assembling a collective “mafia” of pro-abortion political extremists to fill many of the most important posts of an incoming Biden administration.

The most striking example to date is Biden’s incendiary December 7 announcement that he wants California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to serve as his secretary of Health and Human Services.

As attorney general and previously as a California state legislator, Becerra has prioritized the advancement of abortion and the persecution of pro-life perspectives, to a truly

shocking degree. Among other things, he battled in court against pro-lifers and Catholics who were challenging California’s “Reproductive FACT Act,” which mandated that pro-life pregnancy centers must advertise for abortions, until the U.S. Supreme Court finally struck the law down in 2018 as a violation of the First Amendment.

Similarly, he has used his legal “bully pulpit” as California attorney general to enforce a 2014 state mandate that requires employers to cover abortions in health plans, without any exemptions for religious employers. And despite a ruling last January by the HHS’ Office of Civil Rights that the mandate unlawfully compromises conscience rights, Becerra defiantly continues to enforce this egregious breach of the religious liberty of faithful Catholics and others who oppose abortion on the basis of their heartfelt convictions.

In addition, in close collaboration with Planned Parenthood, Becerra has facilitated the ongoing legal prosecutions undertaken in California against David Daleiden, the brave Catholic whistleblower whose undercover videotapes disclosed the abortion industry’s complicity in the trafficking of body parts harvested from unborn babies.

It needs to be noted that, like Joe Biden himself, Becerra is a Catholic who advertises his religious faith in the political realm: During the 2020 election campaign, he served as one of the co-chairs of “Catholics for Biden,” a team that appeared to have been assembled largely for the purpose of deflecting attention away from the fact that Biden himself has abandoned any pretense of conforming with Church teaching regarding the sanctity of human life in the womb.

Furthermore, consider the particular post to which the pro-abortion-rights Catholic president-elect wants to appoint California’s pro-abortion-rights Catholic attorney general. It’s certain that Becerra—who obviously is being appointed for his political activist credentials, not for any known expertise with respect to crucial health-care issues such as overseeing federal policy regarding the COVID-19 pandemic—would seek immediately to overturn the wide range of pro-life measures instituted by the HHS during the Trump administration.

It’s equally certain Becerra would move swiftly, in concert with whichever pro-abortion-rights politician Biden selects as his nominee for the post of U.S. attorney general, to try to reinstate the Obama administration’s deeply objectionable HHS mandate. Until the mandate was modified during the current administration, groups like the Little Sisters of the Poor were required to violate their religious beliefs by providing contraceptives, sterilization and abortifacient drugs in their employee health plans.

Consider, too, some of the other prominent pro-abortion extremists who already have been ticketed to hold other key policy-making positions in a Biden administration—starting with presumptive Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Not even slightly coincidentally, Harris was Becerra’s immediate predecessor as California attorney general. In that capacity, she initiated some of the contentious pro-abortion legal files, such as the prosecution of Daleiden, that Becerra followed up on after Harris was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016.

In the area of foreign policy, meanwhile, the selections of Antony Blinken as secretary of state and Linda Thomas-Greenfield as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations were hailed in a Planned Parenthood press release as “Biden’s



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## Biden's "Mafia"

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Choices to Lead Fight for Reproductive Rights Across the Globe." Indeed, it's clear a central Biden foreign-policy priority will be to revert American engagement with international institutions back to the implacably pro-abortion stance that was the hallmark of the preceding Obama and Clinton Democratic presidencies.

Then there is the nomination of Neera Tanden as director of the Office of Management and Budget. As noted by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, Tanden is a long-standing abortion-rights activist who was a staffer for Hillary Clinton, dating back to when Clinton was first lady. During the Obama administration, she played a central role in crafting the objectionable HHS mandate. In that context, in 2016, she sent an email to Clinton castigating Catholic leaders for their alleged "misogyny" in objecting to the Obamacare mandate.

Collectively, Biden's pro-abortion appointments also serve to spotlight his commitment, in line with contemporary Democratic Party political orthodoxy, to press for repeal of the Hyde Amendment, the vital congressional measure that prevents federal taxpayer funding of almost all elective abortions.

The Democratic Party's collective drive to repeal Hyde was further communicated by the December 3 selection of Rep. Rosa DeLauro as the new chair of the House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee. In her first significant public action as head of the new committee, DeLauro—yet another prominent Democratic Catholic politician who has publicly broken with her Church courtesy of her extreme pro-abortion-rights position—convened a hearing dedicated to overturning Hyde.

In a presumably unintended irony that can only be described as cruel, DeLauro's political theatrics seeking to strip this measure of protection from unborn babies took place on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

There's one final aspect that's crucial to consider, in the context of Biden's ongoing appointments of abortion activists and DeLauro's mobilization of House Democrats to take down the Hyde Amendment. Together, these actions emphasize the critical importance of the two U.S. Senate runoff elections taking place in Georgia on January 5.

Should the Democrats win both races, the party will secure control of the Senate, too. That would eradicate the only remaining bulwark restraining the launch of an all-out campaign under a Biden administration, undertaken with the combined might of the executive and legislative branches of government, to advance abortion on demand domestically and internationally. Or to sum it up another way, given what has been unfolding in Washington in recent days, human life truly will be on the ballot early next month in Georgia.

—*The National Catholic Register Editorial, December 11, 2020*

## COVID-19 Vaccinations and Abortion

*continued from front page*

The debate over the ethics of these vaccines is not new. Many past and current vaccines involve the use of fetal cell lines; many of which have alternatives, find a list of those here: <https://rtl.org/educational-materials/vaccines-abortion/>.

For decades, pro-life people have opposed developing new cell lines or using the tissue of aborted babies. Many people will try to justify abortion and the further trafficking of fetal tissue with the "promise" of saved lives. However, whether it is with stem cells or vaccines, there is always an ethical alternative or the ability to create one. There is no need to take the life of one person to save the life of another.

However, the fact remains that some vaccines exist that use fetal cell lines and have no current ethical alternatives. Is it ethical to use those vaccines? Pro-life people disagree. The cell lines were derived decades ago, and though their source is unethical, we can't unkill those children. On the other hand, taking advantage of unethical methods promotes further abuses, in this case with the development of new cell lines. There's a meaningful difference between a vaccine requiring use of fetal cells and one that only uses them for testing, but how meaningful is that difference? The risks are another ethical consideration, balancing the risk of the disease vs. the vaccine, and ways you fit into that balance.

You have to think about these ethics now, before any potential pushes begin to make these vaccines mandatory or connected to pandemic restrictions.

If informed consent is supposed to be a cornerstone of the practice of medicine, then it is past time for the entire healthcare industry to only use tissue donated with the informed consent of every person involved. We should refuse "donations" taken through unjust violence.

—*Right to Life of Michigan Pro-LifeNews, December 3, 2020*  
*Note: Citizens Concerned for Human Life is not recommending any vaccine, or that you do or do not allow yourself to be vaccinated. See also: Charlotte Lozier Institute on stem cells at <https://lozierinstitute.org/category/stem-cells>.*

## Human Rights

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Third, this view of rights is fundamentally inegalitarian. Since we all differ from each other in the characteristics suggested as criteria for rights (we have greater or lesser cognitive ability, for example), we don't have equal rights. Some of us have greater rights and some of us have lesser rights. Some are superior and some are inferior. This is a horrifying conclusion, but it's unavoidable once we reject shared humanity as the basis for value and rights.

These problems leave abortion defenders with a grave dilemma. They can believe in universal and equal human rights as articulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or they can stick to the idea that unborn humans are expendable. They can't consistently have both.

Human rights and abortion just cannot co-exist.

—*LifeNews.com, December 11, 2020*

## “Who Are You?”

God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission—I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow, I am necessary for his purposes, as necessary in my place as an archangel in his—if, indeed, I fail, God can raise another, as he could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good. I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, though not intending it, if I do but keep his commandments and serve him in my calling.

Therefore, I will trust him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain. He may prolong my life; he may shorten it. He knows what he is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me—still he knows what he is about. O Adonai, O Ruler of Israel, you who guide Joseph like a flock, O Emmanuel, O Sapientia, I give myself to you. I trust you wholly. You are wiser than I—more loving to me than I am to myself. Deign to fulfill your high purposes in me whatever they be—work in and through me. I am born to serve you, to be yours, to be your instrument. Let me be your blind instrument. I ask not to see. I ask not to know. I ask simply to be used.

—St. John Henry Newman, (†1890), a cardinal, established the Oratory in Birmingham, England, and was a preacher of great eloquence; *Magnificat*, December 2020, Vol. 22, No. 10, p. 176.

## Pro-Life Masks are Available



Contact: [styledata@yahoo.com](mailto:styledata@yahoo.com) ♦ phone: 828-253-6610  
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/photoimprints>  
(Additional mask designs are available)

## The marvelously complicated development of a baby only half-way through her journey

By Sarah Terzo

By mid-pregnancy the fetus has begun to explore its own body and environment using its hands. It often holds on to the umbilical cord, and when a thumb approaches its mouth, it will turn and begin to make sucking motions with its lips...



The fetus is also using its sense of hearing for orientation. Its most familiar sounds are surely the noises of the mother's digestive system and the swishing from her major blood vessels, but gradually the fetus also begins to perceive the sounds of the mother's world, such as music and the father's voice.

The eyes of the fetus are sensitive to light, even though the eyelids are still shut tight...

We have no way of knowing whether the fetus tastes the slight salinity of the amniotic fluid. Still, we have indirect evidence that the fetus tastes and smells, since a newborn immediately reacts positively or negatively to tastes that are sweet, salty, or bitter...

*Lennart Nilsson and Lars Hamberger, A Child is Born, 4th edition. New York: Bantam Dell, 2003. p. 141.*

—National Right to Life News, December 11, 2020



## Every Life Matters Needs...

Every Life Matters Pregnancy Help Center is looking for clients, volunteers and new board members as they enter 2021. Online lessons are being offered to clients which allow them to be in the comfort and convenience of their own homes. Client advocates are needed who are willing to be trained to work with clients. ELM is also looking for women in their 1st and 2nd trimesters for free, limited obstetric ultrasounds. If you can help, please contact ELM at 814-650-7899 or email: [the.elm.pss@gmail.com](mailto:the.elm.pss@gmail.com).



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

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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](mailto:blair@centralpaprolife.org)

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

**Thank You  
for Joining  
Blair County  
Citizens Concerned  
for Human Life  
at LIFE CHAIN 2020!**







**Plan on joining us in 2021 — first Sunday in October!**



Photos by Matt Bradley

# Legacy of LIFE & LOVE

By Bradley Mattes, President, Life Issues Institute

Regardless of the outcome of the presidential election. Apart from whether or not we maintain a pro-life Senate.

Irrespective of pro-life gains in the House of Representatives.

The life-saving work of the pro-life movement—particularly a point where the rubber meets the road—goes on.

The pro-life movement is regularly accused of only caring about the baby in the womb, and neglecting the needs of young parents and infants. You now have a powerful response.

In past years, we used to affectionately call them the “Service” branch of the movement. More recently, they’ve been referred to as A Legacy of Life and Love.

I’m talking about the thousands of pregnancy centers that last year assisted nearly two million clients facing an unexpected pregnancy, or in need of testing, mentoring, education, or other assistance related to pregnancy.

Thanks to Charlotte Lozier Institute, you can conclusively see how critically important and effective this grassroots network of Life and Love was during 2019. The latest edition of Pregnancy Centers Stand the Test of Time, A Legacy of LIFE & LOVE Report Series is out. It surveyed pregnancy centers to determine the services they offer to their communities.

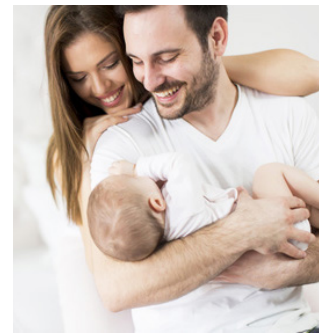
Here’s a brief summary of what you’ll find in this complementary online publication. And remember these services are free.

- Almost ¾ of a million pregnancy tests
- Nearly a half-million sonograms
- More than 160,000 STI/STD tests
- 3 million packs of diapers
- Over 30,000 new car seats
- More than 2-million baby clothing outfits
- 19,000-plus strollers

Their services extended beyond pregnancy and delivery, such as 1.7 million parenting classes and nearly 900,000 students who attended sexual risk avoidance classes.

Other services included:

- Childbirth classes
- Breastfeeding consultations
- Prenatal care
- Fertility awareness
- Diet and nutrition consultations
- Well-women exams
- Pap tests
- Abortion pill reversals



Mothers and fathers who have tragically chosen abortion are not left out. Over 108,000 abortion recovery sessions were held, which is an expanding part of the Legacy. The Abortion Recovery Coalition is made up of 35 organizations that specialize in after-abortion care.

Nearly 69,000 dedicated individuals provide all of these services. Over 10,000 are medically licensed. More than three-quarters are unpaid volunteers.

Of course, these services and products cost money, however, clients of the pregnancy centers pay nothing. This has resulted in a total savings to nearby communities of nearly \$2.2 million dollars in 2019 alone.

What it boils down to, are women and men finding the resources they need to say yes to life? Alison from Portland, Maine sums it up well.

“When it comes to something as precious as pregnancy, no woman should ever feel like she has no voice in the matter. ABBA [her center] helps you find that voice.”

It’s easy to see why this segment of the pro-life movement is affectionately called A Legacy of LIFE & LOVE. It’s what they demonstrate each and every day.

—Life Issues Institute, November 6, 2020

## From the President's Desk

### Fifty to Forty-Nine

It seems like a low-scoring basketball game, but in reality it represents the percentage of Catholics who voted for and against life in the Presidential election.

Now all Catholics can't be classified together, after all recent studies have shown that only 31% believe in the real presence of the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist. In addition, fewer than 40% attend weekly Mass.

Obviously there is confusion among Catholics who represent about 20% of the U.S. population. Why, with climate change, the plight of immigrants and a President who is not warm and fuzzy, why would the life of an unborn child who can't vote or speak for him or herself have any importance?

Yes, the Conference of Catholic Bishops said the life issue was the preeminent issue in the election; but who heard them or paid any attention to their pronouncements. When the avowed pro-abortion candidate attends Mass, carries a rosary, is not, for the most part, sanctioned when he receives the Eucharist and is praised by the secular press for being a good Christian, what Catholic would not be confused? What does it matter if he pledges to fund Planned Parenthood, force the Little Sisters of the Poor to fund abortifacients and limit religious liberties with respect to the sanctity of marriage? When Planned Parenthood spent 45 million dollars on his campaign, why wouldn't he ignore what the church teaches about abortion and the life issues?

Did it matter to the 49% that the non-Catholic pro-life candidate cut off funding to Planned Parenthood, re-instated the Hyde Amendment limiting taxpayer funding for abortion, defended the religious rights of the Little Sisters of the Poor and others? Apparently not. One thing is for sure, the unborn child is the loser as a result of their votes.

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

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Requested by: Dr. Dennis and Christine Stachmus

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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!

### 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.

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## You Can't Believe in Human Rights and Support Killing Children in Abortion

By Paul Stark

December 10 was Human Rights Day. It marked the anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>)

Most everyone today believes in human rights. Defenders of abortion are no exception—they typically consider abortion itself such a right. But the very concept of human rights actually poses a fatal difficulty for their view. Here's why.

Consider the basis for possessing human rights. What does an individual need to have in order to possess them? What's the criterion? The straightforward answer is that the criterion is being human or having a human nature. Humans have rights because of what they are. Indeed, the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) explicitly defines human rights as "rights we have simply because we exist as human beings."

If that's true, then human rights are both universal and equal. They belong to all human beings because all humans are human. And they belong to all human beings equally because all humans share equally in their humanity.

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights puts it, humans bear "inherent dignity" and "equal and inalienable rights...without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." The OHCHR says rights are "inherent," "universal" and "equal."

What does this mean for abortion? The science of embryology shows that human embryos and fetuses are living human organisms—members of the species *Homo sapiens*—at the embryonic and fetal stages of development. They are the same kind of being as each of us. *We were once them.*

If embryos and fetuses are human beings, and if all human beings have human rights, then unborn human beings have human rights.

Defenders of abortion (including, ironically, many at the United Nations) don't want to accept that conclusion. They want to exclude unborn humans. But that means they need a criterion for human rights that unborn humans don't meet—something other than humanity. It could be a particular kind of physical appearance. It could be certain abilities or certain mental capacities. It could be that the attitudes or decisions of others determine whether someone has rights. Abortion advocates have argued for all of these.

Notice the implications if this approach is true. First, "human rights" becomes a highly misleading term. After all, that term suggests that there are rights we have simply by virtue of being human. And this view denies that. On this view, strictly speaking, human rights don't exist.

Second, rights become very exclusive. That's because any proposed criteria exclude not only unborn humans, but other humans too. If higher mental functions like self-awareness are key, for instance, then infants don't have rights. That's a conclusion that some of the world's most academically distinguished and intellectually honest abortion defenders embrace. But we should know better than to think killing newborn babies is okay.



*continued on page 6*