

Right to Life Newsletter

of Shelby County

August 2012

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www.shelbycountyrtrl.org

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Building a Culture of Life in Shelby County, Ohio, since 1974

Taking the Pro-Life Message to the Fair



Thank you to all of those who assisted at this year's fair booth. For many years Right to Life has had a presence at the Shelby County Fair, along with other merchants and organizations. The "product" we're "selling" is respect for life.

As in the past, volunteers at the fair booth this year sold and distributed countless items and brochures with pro-life messages and information, engaged in conversation with passersby, and witnessed to the importance of protecting human life from conception until natural death.

Special thanks to Karen Berning, chairperson of the fair booth, for all of her hard work on this project.

Paying for space at the fair is one way in which Right to Life uses your donations to promote life. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Mark your calendar

- Deadline for submissions to the September newsletter: August 23.
- Board meeting: August 7, 7 pm.

Clothing center report

We served 183 people during the month of June, of whom 51 received free items, 10 attended parenting classes, 15 took literature, and one was referred to the Women's Center.

Thank you to an anonymous donor who provided funds for RTL's diaper program for June through August. If you would like to sponsor a month, please contact the office.

Right to Life of Shelby County is a 501(c)(3) educational and service organization. All donations are fully tax-deduct

2012: Lots of Progress in the States

The Guttmacher Institute recently released a report which found that states enacted 39 abortion restrictions in 2012. This means that 2012 was the second-most productive year in terms of the number of pro-life bills that were passed. The only year that was more productive was 2011, which saw the enactment of 80 pieces of pro-life legislation.

Now some of these pro-life measures have been largely defensive in nature. Four states (Alabama, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin) moved to limit coverage of abortion in the health-insurance exchanges that will be established as part of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Technological developments prompted three states (Arizona, Oklahoma, Tennessee) to ban the use of telemedicine [phone or electronic communication rather than in-person visits] for the provision of abortion medication.

However, pro-lifers seized the initiative in other states. Three states, Arizona, Georgia, and Louisiana, have passed versions of "Pain Capable Abortion Protection Act," which bans abortion after 20 weeks of gestation, when there is medical evidence that the unborn can feel pain. Utah became the first state to enact a 72-hour waiting period before having an abortion. Arizona and South Dakota strengthened their informed-consent laws by requiring counseling on the negative mental-health consequences of abortion.

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Ohio Right to Life PAC Issues Endorsements

Be an informed, pro-life voter this fall: Ohio Right to Life's Political Action Committee surveys and analyzes all Ohio candidates for national and state offices and endorses those who support legal protection for unborn children.

Please view the entire list of endorsements at www.ohiovotesforlife.org.

Vote Pro-Life Signs Available

This November represents another vital election for the pro-life cause. Help to keep this most important issue at the center of the national debate by planting a "Vote Pro-Life" sign in your yard. Durable, easy-to-read signs are available from the thrift shop for \$8.



2012 Pro-Life Laws Continued from page 1

Mississippi's law requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital has received plenty of attention due to the fact that it may result in the closure of Mississippi's lone abortion clinic. However, similar laws were signed this year in both Arizona and Tennessee. Some have speculated that the Tennessee law, which took effect July 1, may result in the closure of both abortion clinics in Knoxville.

When Republicans make substantial gains in state legislatures, there typically is a short-term increase in the amount of pro-life legislation that is enacted. However, the Republican gains in 2010 have resulted in considerably more pro-life legislation than the Republican gains in 1994. This is partly due to the impressive gains the pro-life position has made in the court of public opinion. It is also due to the fact pro-lifers are focusing more on the states and have become more creative in their thinking — emphasizing clinic regulations, public support for crisis pregnancy centers, and other strategies to lower abortion rates. All of this bodes well for the future of the pro-life movement.

By Michael New, Ph.D., LifeNews.com, July 13, 2012. Used with permission.

Pro-Life Technology Conference: September 8

Shelby County Right to Life is one of nine sponsoring organizations for this year's Pro-Life Science and Technology Conference, Saturday, September 8, 2012, 9am to 4pm. The new location this year will be the Hope Hotel and Conference Center, Building #823, Area A, Gate 12A, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-5000.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for professional and technical members of the pro-life community to share information. Those with a technical or professional interest in the pro-life cause are encouraged to attend, but students and non-professionals regularly attend and benefit greatly.



Speakers this year include speaker and writer Jenn Giroux, and political science professor Michael New, who is an expert on state legislation and its effects on abortion rates (see his article above).

Registration fee of \$50 (\$25 for students) includes continental breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available. Please contact info@prolifetechnology.org or 937/849-9140 or see www.prolifetechnology.org for more information or to register.

Reminder: Ohio Right to Life Sweepstakes

You can aid both our local and our state Right to Life organizations at the same time by purchasing the ORTL raffle tickets which were enclosed in our July newsletter. Additional tickets are available at the office or from our website (click on the Newsletter button on the home page and scroll down to July). Grand prize is \$1000. Requested donation for tickets is \$1 per ticket, or \$10 for the entire sheet of 12.

All money and tickets should be returned to Shelby County Right to Life, PO Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365 (or placed in the secure drop box to the left of the main entrance at our office at 102 E. Poplar). Please make checks payable to Shelby County Right to Life. Tickets must be received in the office by October 19. Thank you for your support.

Andrew Moore, A Martyr for Life

Editor's Note: Andrew Moore was struck by a car and killed on July 20 in Indiana. A student at Thomas Aquinas College in California, Moore was part of Crossroads, an apostolate in which young people walk across the country while praying for and witnessing to the pro-life cause. The following, written by his father, Joseph, is not only a moving tribute but also a call to action for all of us.

Andrew Moore: 1991 – 2012.

Millions of fathers have had to come to grips with the tragic, untimely deaths of a beloved child. I am no different, and no different in wanting my son remembered for the unique and good man that he was. Here are a few pieces of his story.

Andrew, our beloved son, was hit by a car while walking along an Indiana highway with Crossroads, a pro-life group that sponsors college students on walks across America each summer. He died instantly. In this modern world, we'd reflexively add that he died doing what he loved – a somewhat true but strangely self-focused way to see it. What Andrew loved was not, exactly, the pro-life movement. In fact, I can safely say he pretty much hated praying in front of the local abortion mill, and had a very hard time making himself say anything to the people as they walked by. He hated the occasional mockery and confrontations. He hated being there alone most mornings. There was none of that peculiar self-righteousness that is the hallmark of the secular protests us residents of the San Francisco Bay Area see, the patting of oneself on the back for sticking it to the man while hooting it up for the cameras. Andrew's mostly solitary protests were not a party, and were hardly even a protest. There was no man to stick it to – only women faced with a terrible 'choice'.

What Andrew did love was the Truth. Decades of deconstruction, of Orwellian 'critical thinking', have succeeded in painting the love of Truth as some sort of disorder, as naïve and simplistic – Andrew, by some mysterious grace, was immune to this poison. While he might have been naïve and simplistic about many things, his intellect, by another mysterious grace, was profound and mature far beyond his years. His love of Truth led him to a love of God, to a love of neighbor, to Thomas Aquinas College – and to untold lonely hours spent in front of Planned Parenthood. And to the walk that resulted in his being taken from us.

Once Andrew understood the truth, he saw no way he could escape spending hours praying on the sidewalk. Nor – and this is critically important – helping out at all the crisis pregnancy support groups in the area. He is well known and well loved by the people at Concord Birth Right and at the Gabriel Project, as he always showed up to help whenever they needed him. Continued on page 4

In memory of Mariana Rose Schulze, whose family directed memorial donations to Right to Life.

+May she rest in peace.+



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Tribute to Andrew Moore Continued from page 3

He knew that success was not defined by simply talking a women out of getting an abortion – success meant that he – and all of us – stepped up to help, to love that woman and her baby unconditionally and materially for the rest of their lives.

But on a much deeper level, he understood that embracing the truth meant, ultimately, embracing the Cross. There is a heavy price to pay for loving people. We will fail, and we will be ridiculed, and we will be spat upon by those we try to help. But that is nothing compared to the suffering when we succeed, when we will the good of the other for the sake of the other. The pain we then feel, if we are so blessed, is the slow death of our selves.

Some people have called Andrew a martyr. I can understand why, but it makes me very uncomfortable. In the popular imagination, a martyr gets dragged in front of a firing squad or thrown to the lions. Since Andrew's death was nothing so dramatic, calling him a martyr risks making his sacrifice merely hyperbolic and therefore easily dismissed. At the same time, martyrdom is the correct and traditional way to describe the process of dying to one's self for the sake of God through the selfless love of others. Understood in that way, Andrew's life was a martyrdom, and I cannot feel he was cheated in any way by how short it was. For the rest of us, his death remains a tragedy and a mystery. May God have mercy on his soul, and console the inconsolable.

Lifenews.com, July 23, 2012. Used with permission.

Quick Fact Number of abortions worldwide: 42 million per year; 115,000 per day.