

Right to Life Newsletter

of Shelby County

December 2012

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

Despite the Election, Pro-Life Movement Still Sees Victories

Clearly, the reelection of President Obama was a blow to the pro-life cause. However, those of us committed to defending the lives of unborn children – and the wellbeing of their mothers – should take heart from the progress that we made in recent years, in spite of our pro-abortion president.

1. A record number of pro-life laws are being enacted in the states. In 2012, at least 60 new life-affirming laws, including at least 38 measures related to abortion, were enacted. Additionally, 16 pro-life state resolutions were adopted. This follows on the heels of 2011, when, 47 states considered more than 460 measures related to abortion, the overwhelming majority of which were pro-life. More than 70 of these life-affirming, abortion-related measures were enacted.

These include prohibitions on government funding of or insurance coverage for abortion, legislation or resolutions related to pregnancy care centers, informed consent and parental involvement legislation, ultrasound requirements, restrictions on or regulation of abortion-inducing drugs and “telemed” abortions, and abortion clinic regulations. Continued on page 3

Mark your calendar

- Deadline for submissions to the January newsletter: December 20.
- Board meeting: December 4, 7 pm.

Clothing center report

We served 150 people during the month of October, of whom 54 received free items, and 5 took literature.

Thank you to an anonymous donor who provided funds for RTL’s diaper program for December. 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-deductible.

Memorial Chapel for the Unborn Dedicated

The following report comes from longtime RTL members and volunteers, Wayne and Judy Krebs. Thank you to the Krebs for furnishing this place of prayer for our area’s pro-life community.

On a beautiful fall day, September 9th, Father Pat Sloneker dedicated the “Devotion Trail” and the “Memorial Chapel to the Unborn” located in our woods. There were approximately fifty friends and family present.

The drive to the woods is west of the barn and you can see the cross from the house. The trail is graveled and clearly marked with red and blue posts for the rosary, and the stations are on poles. The chapel is located on the east side of the woods off a short path.

We are blessed to have this available to anyone wishing to visit at almost any time. If in doubt as to when, you may call. There is a small parking area at the woods. Groups should call in advance, please. For more information and pictures, go online and Google “devotion trail” (<http://beowulfwk.com/id18.html>).

God Bless the Unborn!

Wayne and Judy Krebs
11627 Botkins Road
Botkins, Oh 45306
937-693-3722



Thrift Shop Thank-Yous

RTL thanks the parishioners of St. Michael's parish in Ft. Loramie for their collection and donation of diapers and other items for the thrift shop.

The thrift shop continues to be a major part of our pro-life outreach. Under the able management of Ann Cordonnier and with the invaluable help of many volunteers, we serve more than a hundred clients per month with low-cost clothing, temporary assistance with diapers and other items, and parenting programs (co-sponsored with the Sidney Women's center).

We are grateful to all of you for continuing to donate items that help us to continue to meet the needs of families who find themselves in difficult circumstances. Thank you to Karen Berning for her appealing and informative window displays, and to all the volunteers and supporters who keep the thrift shop up and running.

Christmas Ornaments for Sale

Again this year, RTL is offering Christmas tree ornaments with pro-life messages. They are available at our thrift shop for \$8 each. These are good quality ornaments from Heritage House. There are five types to choose from. We also have packages of pro-life Christmas cards for \$3 each.

March for Life Bus Trip Sign-Up

Buses from Shelby County Right to Life will be traveling to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. The buses depart following the Candlelight Vigil -- approximately 8pm -- on Thursday, January 24. Participants will attend a Catholic youth rally and Mass on Friday morning, followed by the March for Life. Buses will return early in the morning on Saturday the 26th.

A fee of \$80 covers transportation (bus ride and metro tickets). Anyone wishing to join the trip should call Bonnie York -- 937-526-4388 -- as soon as possible.

Attention Students: Essay Contest Opportunities Coming Up

*** March for Life, 2013 Student Contest theme: "What does it take to be a pro-life leader?" HURRY! Entries for this contest must be postmarked by Dec. 3.

There are three categories for the contest: essay, poem and poster. The two age groups are: 6th-8th graders and 9th-12th graders. Students may submit one entry per category. A winner and runner-up for each of the six contests will receive \$100. The winners will also win a paid trip to the March for Life and the Rose Dinner; the winners may also designate a \$100 grant to a local pro-life charitable organization. For contest rules and entry form, see <http://www.marchforlife.org/content/view/17/1/>

*** 2013 National Right to Life Pro-Life Essay Contest theme: "Why I am pro-life." Essays, of 300-500 words, must be postmarked by January 18, 2013.

The two age categories are: Senior Essay Contest – Grades 10 – 12; and Junior Essay Contest – Grades 7 – 9. Prizes are awarded in each level: First - \$200; Second - \$150; Third - \$100. For more information and guidelines, visit: <http://www.nrlc.org/EssayContest/EssayInfoSheet.html>

*** Details for our local Right to Life Oratory Contest will appear in the January newsletter.

In memory of Jim Kerg Sr. and Martha Barhorst, in whose names memorial donations were made.

Jim and Martha were both longtime members and valued supporters of RTL.

+May they rest in peace.+

Pro-Life Movement Victories Continued from page 1

2. Assisted suicide advocates fail again. Massachusetts' voters protected vulnerable people facing the end of life by rejecting a 2012 initiative legalizing physician assisted-suicide. Massachusetts' life-affirming action continues a trend of states defeating the efforts of euthanasia advocates to legalize assisted suicide. In 2012, Georgia responded to an adverse state Supreme Court decision by enacting a law that makes it a felony to assist in another person's suicide.

3. More Americans self-identify as pro-life and support pro-life laws. According to a May 23, 2012 Gallup poll, the percentage of Americans who identify themselves as "pro-choice" has hit a record-low at 41%. The poll demonstrates that "Americans now tilt 'pro-life' by nine-point margin, 50% to 41%." Further, a 2011 Gallup poll examined American attitudes towards common pro-life laws. The poll demonstrated, among other things, that 87% of Americans support informed consent laws, 71% support parental consent requirements, and 64% support laws that would make it illegal to perform a partial birth abortion. In sum, a majority of Americans call themselves pro-life, and many who do not nonetheless support regulations of the practice.

4. Abortion providers are facing increased public scrutiny. Congress launched the first ever investigation of the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood's true colors have been exposed by undercover investigations, some of which demonstrated the willingness of their affiliates to be complicit in sex trafficking of young girls. Further, individuals who have left the abortion industry are increasingly willing to talk about their experiences. Some—such as Abby Johnson, Sue Thayer, and Karen Reynolds—are filing lawsuits that give insight to improprieties and bad practices within the abortion business.

5. There have been significant court victories for life. While we wait for the day when the United States Supreme Court—and many state supreme courts—finally recognize that there is not a constitutional right to abortion, lower courts continue to churn out decisions that impact abortion-related legislation. While some of these decisions have not been positive, others have brought great victory. One example from 2012: The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Planned Parenthood's challenge to a 2004 Ohio law regulating the abortion drug RU-486. This was the first circuit to hear such a case, and the result is a promising development for protecting women from inappropriate use of dangerous drugs by abortion providers.

6. A pro-life House of Representatives will continue to provide life-affirming leadership and prevent enactment of anti-life laws. The U.S. House retained the eleven pro-life freshmen elected in 2010, and picked up several new pro-life Members. While enacting new federal pro-life laws will be impossible with pro-abortion leadership in the Senate and the White House, we can rest assured that pro-life leadership in the House will fight to keep critical restrictions on public funding for abortions. Further, the House will not pass anti-life legislation, such as the "Freedom of Choice Act".

7. Republican gains in the Senate were pro-life gains. Historically, gaining a Republican majority in the U.S. Senate did not guarantee gaining a pro-life majority; in fact, many Republican Senators were pro-abortion or lacked a passion for protecting unborn children. However, while the Republicans did not gain a majority in the Senate this year, the three new members of the caucus are passionately pro-life. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) no longer stands alone as the only pro-life woman in the U.S. Senate—she is now joined by Senator Deb Fischer from Nebraska. Arizonans replaced pro-life Senator Jon Kyl with Jeff Flake, a committed advocate for pro-life legislation. In Texas, Kay Bailey Hutchison, whose record on abortion was mixed, will be replaced with Ted Cruz, who holds solid pro-life views.

While pro-life Americans will need to vigorously monitor actions by the President during the next four years, there is much to be thankful for this year. Nearly forty years after *Roe v. Wade*, we have made solid accomplishments in our efforts to protect unborn children and their mothers. This is certainly something to think about as we celebrate next week with our families and friends.

By William Saunders and Mary Harned, LifeNews.com, November 15, 2012. Edited for space.



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Ohio Governor Appoints Gonidakis to Medical Board

Ohio's pro-life governor is taking flak after appointing one of the state's top pro-life leaders to its medical board. Governor John R. Kasich appointed Mike Gonidakis, president of Ohio Right to Life, as a consumer member on the 12-person board for a five-year term on October 29.

Abortion advocates, led by Planned Parenthood and NARAL, are calling the appointment an "attack" on women and warning that the board could deny licenses to health care professionals who support abortion. But Gonidakis, an attorney of 13 years with experience in health care law who previously served as a senior deputy attorney general, said he's there to represent consumers. Planned Parenthood is wrong to suggest the medical board sets abortion policy, he said, insisting it focuses on regulation and licensure issues.

Governor Kasich "not only talks the talk but walks the walk" on pro-life issues, Gonidakis told LifeSiteNews. "He is deeply committed to the pro-life movement [and] has signed more pro-life laws in his first two years than the two previous governors" in their combined tenures.

The governor's pro-life bona fides could perhaps be measured by his office's response to the criticism. Spokesman Rob Nichols told Cincinnati.com that the appointment should not have come as a surprise. "The governor believes strongly in the sanctity of human life," Nichols said. "So, what is surprising here is that someone could be surprised that he's a governor that practices what he preaches."

Gonidakis joins fellow pro-life advocate Laurie Elsass, another consumer member who serves on the board of trustees for Ohio Right to Life.

By Patrick B. Craine, LifeSiteNews.com, November 15, 2012. Edited for space.