

Volunteer corner

• Please consider signing up to help with the work of RTL by completing and returning the volunteer form included in your membership letter.

Mark your calendar...

- Deadline for submissions to the March newsletter: February 24.
- Board meetings: February 2, March 2, 7 pm.

Clothing center report

We served 152 people during the month of December, of whom received 54 free items, 2 took literature, and 3 were referred to the Women's Center.

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

On the Web...

RTL of Shelby County:
www.shelbycountyrctl.org

Ohio RTL:
www.ohiolife.org

National RTL Committee:
www.nrlc.org

Crowd Braves Rain for Annual Vigil

A light rain failed to dampen spirits at this year's Pro-Life Candlelight Vigil, Thursday, January 21. President Ron Meyer emceed the evening's event, reminding the more than 300 attendees of the importance of pro-life activism, which is having an effect on the health care reform debate in Congress.

Pastor George Gnade of First Baptist Church in Sidney offered an opening prayer. Co-director Kevin Schmiesing shared an excerpt from Harvard Law Professor Mary Ann Glendon's acceptance speech for the Proudly Pro-Life Award, bestowed on her by National Right to Life in October, 2009. Calling the pro-life movement, "the greatest grassroots movement of our time," Glendon declared that an increase in pro-life sentiment across the country indicates that "we are winning the battle for hearts and minds."

With lighted candles, participants processed around the court square. Lehman students led by Stephanie Schoenfelt provided musical accompaniment. Father Frank Amberger of St. Remy Church offered a closing prayer and blessing for those attending the National March for Life in Washington. After availing themselves of the hot chocolate provide by the Knights of Columbus, some 150 local high school students and RTL members boarded buses for their trip to the National March.

Thank you to chairman Dan McSweeney, the Knights of Columbus, and all those who assisted with and attended the vigil. Despite the weather, it was a beautiful evening of prayer and remembrance for the tens of millions harmed by abortion in our nation.



Russia Garage Sale Coming Soon

Right to Life's annual garage sale is a vital fundraiser for our organization. This year's sale will be held Thursday through Saturday, March 18-20, at St. Remy Hall in Russia. During March we will be collecting good, clean, salable items. If you would like to donate large items, such as furniture, and are not able to store them until the sale, please contact Maria Hoehne at 937-295-2627. As in the past, most local churches will establish a drop-off site for small items.

Thank you for your generosity in donating items to this sale.

Three Great Opportunities for High School and College Students



Pass this info on to children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors...

Pro-Life Oratory Contest: \$300 Grand Prize!

The 2010 Shelby County Pro-Life Oratory Contest for high school juniors and seniors will be held Thursday, February 25, at 6:30 pm. Prizes for 1st through 3rd places are \$300, \$150 and \$100. Speech should be 5 to 7 minutes. Winner will continue to State contest. See www.nrlc.org/oratory/index.html for rules. Deadline for registration is February 22. Contact Anne Schmiesing at 937-492-5584 with questions or to register.

Ohio Right to Life Internships

Ohio Right to Life announces three new opportunities for college students to intern with its organization and support its mission of promoting and defending life across Ohio. These three opportunities exist within the Legislative, External Affairs and Communications departments. Each intern will get an inside look into how Ohio Right to Life works and will also have a chance to use their background and skills to assist on various projects within their specific departments.

Each intern may work up to 20 hours per week, must be enrolled in a college or university and can receive college credit for their work. Internships are unpaid, but interns will gain rewarding experience specific to their major, which will encompass more than 50% of their time during the internship. Specific internship descriptions and application instructions can be found in the links at www.ohiolife.org. For general questions regarding the Ohio Right to Life internship program, please email eputnam@ohiolife.org.

Pro-Life Writing Scholarship

University Faculty for Life will now accept submissions from college or university students for its Scholarly Achievement Award. Students may submit work in three categories: Creative Writing, Literary Criticism, or Research. Work submitted in any category must demonstrate the application of a life-affirming perspective on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or related issues.

The scholars who win in any category may be offered an opportunity to read their work before the annual conference of University Faculty for Life to be held 4-5 June 2010 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. They may have their work published on UFL's website. Finally, winners in each category will receive \$100.

University Faculty for Life is an organization of scholars dedicated to the intellectual and scholarly inquiry of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and related issues. Since an increasing majority of college and university students are pro-life, we would like to help these students by encouraging them to strive for scholarly excellence as they examine these issues and by assisting them with building a publications portfolio.

Entries must be emailed or postmarked on or before 11:59 pm on Saturday, 15 May 2010. For complete rules and information, send an e-mail inquiry to director@shelbycountyrtp.org.

Another Way to Support Right to Life

Some members have inquired about the possibility of making regular, electronic contributions to Right to Life. This is a great idea. Although it's not feasible for RTL to accept direct deposits from members' bank accounts (due to bank fees), members can donate by setting up automatic payments by electronic check. If your bank offers free bill pay, this can be done easily and at no cost to you. In this way members can make regular donations on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Please inquire with your bank or call Kevin at 492-5584 for more information.

Pro-Life Prayer Opportunity

For many pro-lifers, Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is depicted as a mother pregnant with Jesus, has become a patroness of the pro-life cause. A number of local churches will be hosting the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the period February 4 through February 15. Special times of prayer will be held at these churches, beginning at St. Remy in Russia. A full schedule can be found at St. Remy's web site: www.stremychurch.com.

For more about the Missionary Image, see www.jkmi.com.

New Video Resources

The following are descriptions of two new videos with pro-life messages.

The Biology of Pre-Natal Development

According to Priests for Life, "It's light years beyond ultrasound and will make you practically fall off your chair when you see it." It's "the most vivid, powerful, and striking videography of the unborn child that exists."

Obtained through a rarely used technique called embryoscopy, in which a video camera the size of a pen-point is inserted abdominally or cervically, this video footage has been incorporated into a 42-minute video called The Biology of Prenatal Development, now available from Priests for Life.

It is widely known in the pro-life movement that ultrasound imagery changes the minds and hearts of abortion-minded women and even abortion providers. With this stunning, color imagery of the child from four to twelve weeks after fertilization, we expect even more radical conversions to the position that the child in the womb is one of us and fully deserves protection.

The DVD was produced by the Endowment for Human Development, written and researched by a medical doctor, and endorsed by numerous medical school professors and experts in embryology. It does not address the abortion issue directly, but certainly will inoculate anyone to the arguments of abortion advocates who try to deny the humanity of the unborn. It is intended for a non-professional audience of ages 12 and higher, yet does not oversimplify its subject matter. Along with the embryoscopy method, five other medical imaging technologies are used in the video, with accompanying commentary on the scientific facts of the child's development.

Find out more and view segments of the video at www.unborn.info.

Blood Money

A new documentary film entitled Blood Money exposes the strategies and methods of Planned Parenthood. The film is yet to be released but you can view the trailer and find more information at www.bloodmoneyfilm.com.

Join Us! Right to Life Membership Meeting

All Right to Life members are invited to attend a membership meeting at 7pm, Friday March 12 at the Alpha Center in Sidney (330 E. Court St.)

This is our first members meeting in many years, and we look forward to the chance to touch base with all of you. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about our local organization and its work, to re-energize your zeal for the pro-life cause, and to meet and socialize with other RTL members.

Michael Gonidakis, executive director of Ohio Right to Life, will be the keynote speaker. The event will include light refreshments and fun door prizes. Don't miss it!


Right to Life of Shelby County

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Stand Up For Life and Liberty: Manhattan Declaration

ACTION ITEM  The Manhattan Declaration is an ecumenical statement in defense of universal values, including the right to life, against increasing government encroachment. Please consider going to the website, www.manhattandeclaration.org, and adding your name to the more than 300,000 fellow citizens (as of this writing) who have already signed. The following is the Declaration's introductory statement:

Christians, when they have lived up to the highest ideals of their faith, have defended the weak and vulnerable and worked tirelessly to protect and strengthen vital institutions of civil society, beginning with the family.

We are Orthodox, Catholic, and evangelical Christians who have united at this hour to reaffirm fundamental truths about justice and the common good, and to call upon our fellow citizens, believers and non-believers alike, to join us in defending them. These truths are:

1. the sanctity of human life
2. the dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife
3. the rights of conscience and religious liberty.

Inasmuch as these truths are foundational to human dignity and the well-being of society, they are inviolable and non-negotiable. Because they are increasingly under assault from powerful forces in our culture, we are compelled today to speak out forcefully in their defense, and to commit ourselves to honoring them fully no matter what pressures are brought upon us and our institutions to abandon or compromise them. We make this commitment not as partisans of any political group but as followers of Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Lord, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.