

Vigil Marks 40 Years of Roe

Nearly 200 pro-lifers came out in sub-freezing temperatures for Right to Life's annual Candlelight Vigil. The vigil, which took place Thursday evening, January 24, marked the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

The program began with a prayer by Deacon Phil Myers of Holy Angels Church. RTL co-director Kevin Schmiesing followed with a reflection on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who defended the rights of the "non-persons" of his day, Jews under the Nazi regime in Germany. Bonhoeffer's words -- "To be silent in the face of evil is itself evil" -- are applicable to the defense of the unborn, the "non-persons" of our own day.

Lehman students Ethan Jock and Nick Cummons provided music as the candlelight procession around the court square began. Pastor Mark Hina of Sidney Apostolic Temple offered a benediction to close the service.



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Mark your calendar

- Deadline for submissions to the March newsletter: February 21.
- Board meeting: February 5, 7 pm.
- Garage sale: March 14-16
- Golf outing: May 11.

Clothing center report

We served 93 people during the month of December, of whom 23 received free items, and 3 took literature.

New hours: 10am - 4pm, Tues. - Fri., effective Feb. 19.

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

Garage Sale Coming, March 14-16

Right to Life's biggest fundraiser, the annual garage sale will be held Thursday-Saturday, March 14-16, at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Hours will be 9 am-7 pm on Thursday & Friday, and 9 am-12 pm on Saturday.

The donations for this sale are so generous year after year. As a friendly reminder, we ask that you continue to donate only clean and salable items. Clothes that are stained do not sell. It would also be extremely helpful if clothes were sorted by size and bagged/boxed accordingly. To donate, drop items off at the RTL office (102 E. Poplar, Sidney) during its open hours or see your church bulletin for your local drop off site. You may also drop items off at St. Remy Hall on Tuesday, March 12 from 7-8 pm and Wednesday, March 13 from 9 am-6 pm.

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 937-526-5008.

There is a bake sale and 50/50 raffle held in conjunction with the garage sale. Baked items may be brought to the garage sale on Wednesday, April 11, from 9 am-6 pm. Additional baked goods will be accepted throughout the sale.

Volunteers are needed to help work at the sale, Wednesday-Saturday. A phone call to Karen Rosenbeck, 937-526-5814, would be greatly appreciated!

All members should have received their annual membership dues and volunteer form. Please return your dues and form as soon as possible. If you did not receive a letter, please contact the office. Thank you!

Attention Juniors and Seniors: Oratory Contest Opportunity

The 2013 Shelby County Pro-Life Oratory Contest for high school juniors and seniors will be held Monday, February 18 (President's day), at 6:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.

Prizes for 1st through 3rd places are \$300, \$150 and \$100 respectively.

The winner will continue to the state contest (Saturday, April 27 in Columbus). Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech—5 to 7 minutes in length—on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. See <http://www.nrlc.org/Oratory/Rules.html> for rules.

Many research resources are available at the Shelby Co. Right to Life office, on Poplar St. across from the courthouse in Sidney, OH. Rules, guidelines, and other resources will be sent to any student who registers.

To enter, you must contact Anne Schmiesing, by Thursday, February 14, at 937-492-5584 or director@shelbycountyrta.org. You may also call or email with questions.

Record-Breaking Crowd at National March for Life

Huddled under winter coats and hats and scarves, hundreds of thousands of pro-life activists gathered on the Mall in Washington D.C. this morning to send a clear message to politicians in the Capitol, and the whole country: 40 years is too long, abortion must end! But despite the frigid January temperatures, the crowd, made up largely of teens and young adults, was boisterous, with many groups chanting pro-life slogans and singing hymns as they walked.

While accurate estimates of the number of attendees at the march are hard to come by, organizers had said in the days leading up to the event that all signs pointed to a record-breaking crowd. Hotels in the D.C area sold out far in advance of when they normally do, and organizers installed two jumbotrons just to ensure that all marchers could get a glimpse of what was happening on the stage.

Last year's march was estimated at around 400,000 participants, likely putting this year's at the half million mark, or even beyond. The popularity of the event could be seen on social media, with the March for Life trending on Twitter for a time in the early afternoon, and Facebook exploding with photos and status updates from attendees.

Before opening the march rally with an opening prayer, Cardinal Sean O'Malley announced to cheers that Pope Benedict had just tweeted his support for the marchers. "I join all those marching for life from afar, and pray that political leaders will protect the unborn and promote a culture of life," the pontiff tweeted from his @Pontifex account. Excerpted from Ben Johnson, LifeSiteNews.com, January 25, 2013.

Candlelight Vigil Continued from page 1

Following the vigil, the Knights of Columbus provided cookies and hot chocolate as bus travelers awaited the arrival of the bus to take them to Washington for the National March for Life.

Thank you to Tim Bodenhorn, Doris Bales, and all those who assisted with the vigil, as well to all of you who attended.

February Prayer Intention

Please pray that all of our members will renew their membership and that volunteers will come forward to chair our activities and events so that we can be more of a pro-life presence in Shelby County. For the success of our membership drive as we would like to double our membership this year. For the success of the Pro-Life Oratory Contest on Feb. 18. Thank you.



Thrift Shop Updates: New Hours

Beginning Tuesday, February 19, the thrift shop will open one half-hour later than previously. The new hours will be 10am to 4pm, Tuesday through Friday. Also, be aware that the store may close for severe weather. If schools are delayed or closed, please call ahead.

In addition to our gently used thrift shop clothing, we also have promotional pro-life tee shirts, currently up to 40% off for our winter sale. Adult tees are \$6; adult polos, \$12; and children's shirts, \$3. Various sizes, colors and messages are available, while supplies last.

We are grateful to thrift shop manager Ann Cordonnier and all the volunteers who assist her with this important part of RTL's mission.

Louisiana Named Most Pro-Life State, Washington Most Pro-Abortion

A new report from Americans United for Life, that monitors changes to pro-life laws on abortion and bioethics and end-of-life issues named Louisiana the most pro-life state in the nation. Washington state came in at the bottom of the list of 50 states on abortion. Both states occupied those spots in the 2012 version of the list.

Americans United for Life president Charmaine Yoest released AUL's annual "Life List," a ranking of the 50 states based on their on-going legal efforts to create and sustain a culture of life. While the "Life List" notes legislative accomplishments from the previous year, it also takes into account each state's cumulative record in defending and protecting the lives of their citizens – from conception to natural death.

Most improved this year was Arizona, moving from No. 14 to No. 5 as a result of becoming the first to enact AUL's groundbreaking "Women's Health Protection Act," prohibiting abortions at or after 20 weeks gestation based on growing medical evidence of the risks of late-term abortions on women's health as well as the pain experienced by an unborn child.

"Americans United for Life has been leading the way in innovative legislation that protects women and girls from a profit-hungry Big Abortion industry, bloated with taxpayer dollars," said Yoest. "I predict that we'll see a large number of bills this year that also work to protect the First Amendment Freedom of all Americans who do not want to be forced into business with Big Abortion."

AUL says states that performed well were helped by approving strong new pro-life legislation: In addition to Arizona's "Women's Health Defense Act," Georgia enacted a prohibition on abortions at or after 20-weeks gestation and revised the state's reporting requirements for late-term abortions, requiring an abortion provider to report the medical diagnosis that led to the procedure. Georgia also enacted a measure that includes abortion clinics, or "reproductive healthcare facilities," in the definition of mandatory reporters for suspected child sexual abuse.

New Hampshire legislators overrode Governor John Lynch's veto of a prohibition on partial-birth abortion, joining 19 other states that have also banned the dangerous and grisly practice.

Virginia enacted an ultrasound requirement that is based, in substantial part, on AUL's model language. Recognizing that the performance of an ultrasound is the "gold standard" of patient care, the measure requires the performance of an ultrasound before an abortion and that the woman be given an opportunity to view the ultrasound and have it explained to her.

South Carolina became the eighth state to enact AUL's "Abortion-Mandate Opt-Out Act," prohibiting insurance plans that cover abortions from participating in any Exchanges (required to be operational in 2014 under the Affordable Care Act or "Obamacare") operating within the state. Continued on page 4



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Pro-Life State Rankings Continued from page 3

“The 2012 state legislative year produced significant victories for Life across the United States, building on 2011’s historic progress and laying the groundwork for future victories in 2013 and beyond,” AUL told LifeNews. “In 2012, the most popular abortion-related legislative measures included prohibitions on government funding and insurance coverage for abortion, legislation and resolutions related to pregnancy care centers, informed consent for abortion, ultrasound requirements, restrictions or regulations on abortion-inducing drugs and so-call ‘telemed’ abortions, and abortion clinic regulations and other abortion provider requirements,” AUL added. “Importantly, there was a nearly 40 percent increase in the number of measures introduced to protect healthcare freedom of conscience.” By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, January 16, 2013. Edited for space.

AUL’s 2013 State Rankings

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|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Louisiana | 11. Kansas | 21. Wisconsin | 31. Maine | 41. Montana |
| 2. Oklahoma | 12. North Dakota | 22. Idaho | 32. New Hampshire | 42. Hawaii |
| 3. Pennsylvania | 13. South Dakota | 23. Tennessee | 33. West Virginia | 43. Maryland |
| 4. Arkansas | 14. Texas | 24. Utah | 34. Wyoming | 44. Oregon |
| 5. Arizona | 15. Mississippi | 25. Colorado | 35. Alaska | 45. Connecticut |
| 6. Nebraska | 16. Ohio | 26. Florida | 36. Illinois | 46. New Jersey |
| 7. Indiana | 17. Kentucky | 27. North Carolina | 37. Iowa | 47. Vermont |
| 8. Missouri | 18. Michigan | 28. Minnesota | 38. New Mexico | 48. New York |
| 9. Georgia | 19. South Carolina | 29. Rhode Island | 39. Nevada | 49. California |
| 10. Virginia | 20. Alabama | 30. Delaware | 40. Massachusetts | 50. Washington |