

# Right to Life Newsletter

of Shelby County

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

## Golfers Enjoy Nice Weather at Benefit Outing



Building on the success of last year's event--and enjoying more cooperation from Mother Nature--the second annual Scramble-4-Life saw 25 teams and more than 20 sponsors contribute to the pro-life cause. The outing brought in around \$5,000, which will fund RTL's charitable and educational programs throughout the year.

A big thank you to Tim and Darla Dietz, Julia Monnin, and their families for their tremendous work on behalf of the golf outing. Thanks, too, to Rob Fridley and Shelby Oaks Golf Course, and to all those who played in the competition. Special thanks to all of our door prize donors and to our sponsors:

Eagle Sponsors: Area Energy & Electric and Upper Cervical Health Centers

Birdie Sponsors: Flinn Veterinary Clinic; Laca Equipment; McCrate, DeLaet & Co.; and Shelby Oaks Golf Club

Par Sponsors: Osgood State Bank; R.G. Sellers Company; and Wells Brothers

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### Mark your calendar

- Deadline for submissions to the July newsletter: June 21.
- Board meeting: June 5, 7pm. No meeting in July.

### Clothing center report

We served 126 people during the month of April, of whom 28 received free items, 7 attended parenting classes, 7 took literature, and two 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-deduct

## Dozens of Catholic Groups Sue Over Mandate

Notre Dame, Franciscan University of Steubenville, and dozens of Catholic hospitals and organizations have filed a total of 12 lawsuits today against Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and the Obama administration over the controversial HHS mandate.

The lawsuit challenges the Obama administration's unprecedented mandate that attacks the freedom to practice religion without government interference. Under the HHS mandate, employers must provide insurance coverage that includes abortion-inducing drugs, as well as contraceptives and sterilization procedures.

Franciscan University maintains that the requirement to fund and facilitate such activities violates its core religious and moral convictions as a Catholic university.

"Franciscan University's mission is and always has been to teach from the heart of the Church," said University President Father Terence Henry, TOR. "The Obama administration's mandate is a grave threat to our ability to carry out that mission. It makes it impossible for us to operate freely as a Catholic institution without overbearing and invasive governmental interference."

Other plaintiffs are all Catholic organizations and include Catholic dioceses, schools, universities, and charitable organizations. Continued on page 2

## Right to Life at YMCA Health Fair

Right to Life sponsored a booth at the Shelby County Health Fair, hosted by the YMCA on April 28. The display included information about health-related life issues such as prenatal health with a focus on blood-pressure indications (free blood pressure screenings were offered), healing for abortion-related trauma, breast cancer risks associated with abortion, and end-of-life care and advance directives.

Thank you to Rita Monnin, Diane Meyer, and Krista Bertke for staffing the booth.

## Obamacare Lawsuit Continued from page 1

Numbered among the plaintiffs are the Archdioceses of New York, Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, as well as the Dioceses of Dallas, Ft. Worth, Rockville Centre, Pittsburgh, and the Michigan Catholic Conference, which represents all seven dioceses in the state.

When first proposed in August 2011 by the Department of Health and Human Services, the mandate was met by strong objections from numerous Catholic bishops, hospitals, and institutions. Although a small exemption for some religious institutions was written into the original proposal, it was too narrow to cover the vast majority of them, particularly those, like Catholic universities, which both employ and serve people of other faiths or no faith at all. The mandate effectively puts the federal government in the position of deciding which organizations are “religious enough,” the lawsuits claim.

In late January 2012, President Obama and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the mandate would go into force as originally planned, with no adequate accommodations made for individuals or groups who objected on religious grounds.

The University of Notre Dame said the requirement would still call on religious groups to “facilitate” coverage “for services that violate the teachings of the Catholic Church.”

“The federal mandate requires Notre Dame and similar religious organizations to provide in their insurance plans abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization procedures, which are contrary to Catholic teaching. It also authorizes the government to determine which organizations are sufficiently ‘religious’ to warrant an exemption from the requirement,” the statement said.

Our Sunday Visitor, the respected publication, is also a party to one of the lawsuits and issued an editorial explaining why. “Today, Our Sunday Visitor stands proudly with our fellow Catholic apostolates and with our bishops in resisting this challenge. We ask all of our readers to stand with us – in charity, praying first and foremost for conversions of heart; in civility, arguing the facts of this case without recourse to bitter partisanship or political rhetoric; and in solidarity, knowing that whatever sacrifices we bear and whatever challenges we endure, we are only doing what is our responsibility as American citizens practicing our faith in the public square.”

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, May 21, 2012. Edited for space and used with permission.

## Golf Outing Continued from page 1

Hole Sponsors: Bergman Drywall & Painting; Brian & Kathy Monnin Family; Custom Foam Products; Dietz Painting; Inn Between; Kevin & Cheryl Paul Family; Meyer’s Tavern; The Palazzo; Prueter’s Body Shop; Repacorp, Inc.; Richard D. Dietz, D.D.S.; Scott’s Barber Shop; Silver Cross Catholic Books and Gifts; Thomas Strohbar Financial; The Bruce Hoge Family -- In Memory of Megan; and The Ray Limbert Family -- In Honor of Elizabeth and Jacob Limbert.

Congratulations to the first place team of Tony Monnin, Todd Dietz, Travis Dietz, and Andy Vehorn, who generously donated their winnings back to Right to Life.

## NARAL Prez to Resign: Says Pro-Choice Side Getting Too Old

NARAL's pro-abortion president Nancy Keenan announced today she will resign her position at the end of the year to help the pro-abortion group overcome of the problems plaguing the pro-abortion movement — a lack of young leaders.

Keenan, who took the reins of the organization in December 2004, will continue heading up the organization's political action arm until a replacement is found. Keenan said part of her focus is to get younger pro-abortion activists into top leadership roles, at a time when polls are showing the next generation of American leaders is pro-life.

Emily Buchanan, of the Susan B. Anthony List, told LifeNews that a change at the top doesn't affect the fact that younger Americans are trending pro-life. "No change in leadership will change the fact that NARAL and their pro-abortion allies are losing ground. Polls show more and more Americans moving to the pro-life position and state legislatures taking on increasing measures to protect Life. NARAL's position of abortion for any reason, any time, paid for taxpayers simply does not resonate with the American public," she said.

A 2010 internal NARAL survey examined the views of young Americans and found a stark "intensity gap" on abortion. Some 51 percent of the under 30 voters who are pro-life call opposing abortion a "very important" voting issue compared with just 26 percent of abortion backers. The poll found a pro-life gap, too, with older voters but it was smaller.

At that time, Keenan talked about the emerging pro-life generation with Newsweek and said her concern is that abortion advocates are dominated by women over the age of 50 and that younger generations aren't filling the ranks of pro-abortion groups the same way young pro-life advocates are getting involved in the pro-life community.

Anecdotally, Keenan related the story of getting off her train in Washington during the weekend March for Life, which saw 400,000 pro-life advocates fill the nation's capitol to rally against abortion. She saw huge numbers of teenagers and young adults that she doesn't typically see at pro-abortion rallies. "I just thought, my gosh, they are so young," Keenan recalled. "There are so many of them, and they are so young."

The NARAL survey Newsweek obtained also showed the millennials surveyed did not view abortion as an important right that needed defending. However, it contained an important nuance that pro-life advocates must confront as they move to build a consensus towards protecting unborn children by law. "Millennials are more likely than their boomer parents to see abortion as a moral issue. In the NARAL focus groups, young voters flat-out disapproved of a woman's abortion, called her actions immoral, yet maintained that the government had absolutely no right to intervene," Newsweek indicated.

That means the next generation of Americans business, government and society leaders generally oppose abortion but are unwilling to make abortions illegal. The pro-life movement must work to shift the culture towards protecting unborn children under law if it is to seize on the pro-life open-mindedness of the next generation. To that end, the pro-life movement has successfully utilized ultrasounds to shift public opinion — something former NARAL president Kate Michelman acknowledged in her own interview with Newsweek. "The technology has clearly helped to define how people think about a fetus as a full, breathing human being," she said. "The other side has been able to use the technology to its own end."

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, May 10, 2012. Edited for space and used with permission.

Thank you to an anonymous donor who provided funds for RTL's diaper program for June through August. If you would like to sponsor month, please contact the office or [director@shelbycountyrntl.org](mailto:director@shelbycountyrntl.org).



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## Pepsi Halts Aborted Cell Line Research

Editor's Note: Tom Strobhar, keynote speaker at this year's RTL Membership Meeting, authored the shareholder resolution that was part of the effort to persuade Pepsi on this issue.

After months of pro-life protests and opposition, PepsiCo has indicated it will alter its contract with biotech firm Senomyx Inc., which uses cells from a baby killed in an abortion to conduct flavor testing. The second-largest beverage company in the world contracted with the firm in a \$30 million deal in August 2010 and once Debi Vinnedge of the pro-life group Children of God for Life uncovered the connection, numerous pro-life groups, including LifeNews, joined together to promote a boycott of Pepsi until it ends the Senomyx contract.

Vinnedge informed LifeNews today of Pepsi's decision and hailed it as a major breakthrough and achievement by thousands of concerned consumers who have been writing and boycotting PepsiCo beverages since last May. In a letter to her group, PepsiCo's VP of Global Public Policy, Paul Boykas stated that "Senomyx will not use HEK cells or any other tissues or cell lines derived from human embryos or fetuses for research performed on behalf of PepsiCo."

"We took the matter very seriously," stated Mr. Boykas. "We have an official Statement on Responsible Research and we intend to live by that policy." That policy precludes any research by PepsiCo — or third parties they fund — from using human tissue or cell lines derived from embryos or babies who are victimized by abortions. Vinnedge told LifeNews the PepsiCo decision means an immediate end to the boycott that began in May 2011— welcome news to both PepsiCo and their customers who have abstained from their favorite beverages in protest.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, April 30, 2012. Edited for space and used with permission.