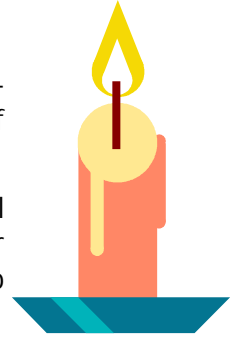


Be a Light in the Darkness: Pro-Life Vigil 2015

Right to Life's annual Candlelight Vigil will be held Wednesday, January 21 at 7pm at the courthouse in Sidney. Please join us for this meaningful time of prayer and reflection in observance of the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

The vigil begins in the basement of the courthouse (enter from the southeast corner). There will be an outdoor procession, so please dress appropriately and bring a wind-protected candle or other illuminant. Participants are asked to park across the street from the court square so as to maximize visibility of the procession.

Immediately following the vigil, the Shelby County bus will depart for the March for Life in Washington, D.C., which will take place Thursday afternoon.



2015 Pro-Life Speech Contest: \$300 Grand Prize!

The 2015 Shelby County Pro-Life Oratory Contest for high school juniors and seniors will be held Monday, February 16 (President's day), from 6:30-9:00 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, May 2, 2015 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.

Registration deadline: Thursday, February 12, 2015. Contact Anne Schmiesing at 937-492-5584 or aschmiesing@woh.rr.com. We are grateful for past donations that have funded the oratory prizes and we would welcome donations for the 2015 contest as well. (Please send check to RTL and denote "oratory prize.")

For rules and more information, see: www.shelbycountyrctl.org/OratoryContestInformation.htm

73 Abortion Facilities Shut Down in 2014

A new survey conducted by Operation Rescue of all abortion facilities in the United States has confirmed that the abortion clinic closure trend continued strongly in 2014. Operation Rescue is the only pro-life organization that maintains a listing of abortion facilities and tracks clinic closures and its extensive research has provided the most accurate accounting of abortion facilities known to exist. (See AbortionDocs.org for more information.)

In all, 73 abortion facilities shut down for all or part of the year. The total number of all remaining abortion clinics in the US is currently 739. Surgical abortion facilities account for 551 of that total while the number of medication-only abortion facilities stands at 188.

Out of 60 surgical abortion clinic closures, 47 were permanent. This represents a 23% decline in surgical abortion facilities over the past five years. Thirteen surgical facilities were allowed to reopen after initially closing, primarily due to court action that enjoined abortion safety laws that had shut down the sub-standard facilities.

Continued on page 2

Membership Forms Coming

Annual dues and volunteer forms are in the mail. Please watch for them and return them as quickly as possible—no later than Jan. 31.

Please let us know if you don't receive a membership mailing.

Clothing center report

In October, 272 clients purchased items, 21 used certificates from classes, 59 received free items, and 2 were referred to the women's center. In November, 140 clients purchased items and 22 received free items. In December, 170 clients purchased items and 18 used certificates.

Thirteen facilities that provided only medication abortions account for the remaining closures in 2014. That more than doubles the number of medication abortion facilities that closed in 2013 when six were shuttered.

While the abortion clinic closures did not eclipse the high water mark of 93 total closures in 2013, the 73 closures this year far exceeds the two dozen closures recorded in 2012.

The 2014 figures represent a net decrease of 31 surgical abortion facilities nationwide. Even though the number of medication abortion facilities increased by 11 over 2013 numbers, they still remain below the high of 196 facilities in 2012.

“We are continuing to witness the implosion of the abortion cartel in America,” said Troy Newman, President of Operation Rescue. “The only things that are preventing total collapse are court injunctions that are blocking several state abortion safety laws from being enforced. Once those laws clear the courts, we expect to see even more dangerous abortion facilities close. This is great news for women and babies because when abortion clinics close, lives are saved.”

The greatest number of closed facilities took place in Texas as the result of the 2013 abortion law known as HB2. Eleven surgical and three medication-only facilities shut down permanently over the course of 2014.

Closures far outpaced clinic openings. Fifteen facilities either added surgical abortions or opened for the first time. Thirteen clinics, primarily Planned Parenthood centers, added medication abortions to clinics that previously did not provide them. Eight clinics that formerly provided surgical abortions made the decision to halt those procedures, but continue to sell medication abortions.

“As new state laws add safety standards for surgical abortions, we are seeing the beginnings of a new trend. Abortion providers who cannot or will not comply with the higher standards have, in some cases, dropped surgical abortions in favor of medical abortions so they did not have to become licensed,” said Newman. “This allows incompetent abortionists to continue exploiting women for money while evading the need to increase patient safety.”

There are several primary reasons why abortion facilities continue to close. Those reasons include: The enactment and enforcement of new state laws; increased reporting by pro-life activists of incompetent and/or criminal behavior committed by abortionists; financial struggles within the abortion cartel due to decreased demand for abortions; and the retirement of abortionists who are not replaced.

In 1991, there were 2,176 surgical abortion facilities operating in the U.S. Since then, a full 75% of those facilities have closed.

As abortion facilities continue to close, abortion numbers continue to fall. While national abortion numbers remain incomplete, the average number of abortions decreases by about 3% annually. However, state statistics show that the drop in abortions is more pronounced in areas where there are abortion clinic closures.

For example, in Ohio, four abortion facilities closed in 2013, the most recent year for which abortion figures are available. During that year, the number of abortions dropped by nine percent – three times the average national drop in abortion numbers.

By Cheryl Sullenger, LifeNews.com, December 29, 2014. Edited for space.

New Pro-Life Texas Legislator Experienced Post-Abortion Healing

Abortion advocates don't know what to do with Rep-Elect Molly White, a pro-life woman in the Texas House of Representatives. In a recent article in a Texas newspaper, White shared more about her opposition against abortion.

She said, “We are women and we are designed to give birth, we're designed to nurture, we're designed to bond. It's just nature, and when we violate that natural way of having a child and giving birth, it's going to affect us.” White explains that her pro-life views come after having two abortions of her own when she was in her twenties. Her abortions caused her years of mental suffering as well as cervical damage and a hysterectomy. Continued on page 4

We pray for the reversal of Roe v. Wade and for legal protection for preborn babies in our nation. We pray for all of those participating in pro-life observances around the country, especially at the March for Life in Washington. We pray for the political leaders being sworn into office this month; may they recognize protection of the defenseless as one of their most serious obligations.



Doctors Euthanize 650 Babies Under Assisted Suicide Law in the Netherlands

In 2013, 650 babies died under Holland's assisted suicide law because their parents or doctors deemed their suffering too difficult to bear.

Thankfully, according to Breitbart News, these statistics have caused some supporters of the legislation to question their reasoning. Dutch Ethicist, Theo Boer, used to believe that "slippery slope" arguments were invalid and argued in support of assisted suicide legislation; but now he has a very different view. He said, "I used to be a supporter of legislation. But now, with twelve years of experience, I take a different view. At the very least, wait for an honest and intellectually satisfying analysis of the reasons behind the explosive increase in the numbers. Is it because the law should have had better safeguards? Or is it because the mere existence of such a law is an invitation to see assisted suicide and euthanasia as a normality instead of a last resort? Before those questions are answered, don't go there. Once the genie is out of the bottle, it is not likely to ever go back in again."

Meanwhile, a recent article in the Daily Mail highlights the problem with our society's growing acceptance of assisted suicide. In the article, the author starts by sharing the story of Andre Verhoeven, a man who chose to end his own life through lethal injection in the Netherlands. When we think of someone who chooses to commit suicide, we think of terminal patients like Andre who simply don't want to suffer anymore. But what many people are unaware of is that assisted suicide advocates promote the euthanasia and suicide of non-terminal patients.

For example, the author of the Daily Mail article, Sue Reid, also shares the story of a woman whose assisted suicide choice paints a fuller picture of what's going on in some parts of Europe.

She writes, "In Holland I also spoke to the family of a 47-year-old woman with tinnitus, a persistent ringing in the ears, who ended her life last March with the help of a 'Life End' clinic. Gaby Olthuis, a divorcee, was a brilliant clarinet player, but said she suffered '24-hour noise' in her head, 'like a train screeching or someone scratching their nails on a chalk board'. She explained: 'I look healthy from the outside, but inside I am being tortured.'"

To end her suffering, she was given a lethal potion to drink by one of the clinic's doctors at her home. Shockingly, she left behind two teenagers, a boy of 13 and girl of 15. Her mother Joan explained: "Gaby told the children that she was planning to die, she was in pain and there was no cure for her. The euthanasia was agreed by doctors and she said her goodbyes and had time to organize her memorial service. She died a month later. Of course the children miss her badly, but they understand her decision." So in other words, Gaby legally killed herself because of persistent ringing in her ears. Now, we shouldn't make light of her suffering, but most people would agree that this is absolutely outrageous.

In Holland, mentally ill patients are dying as well. In 2013, 42 psychiatric patients died through euthanasia, which is three times as many as died in 2012. Some of these patients chose to end their own lives but for others, their family members made the choice.

In National Review, Wesley J. Smith, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism said we should "stop pretending assisted suicide is about terminal illness and admit it is much more about disability—which is why the disability rights movement remains so opposed as they are the primary targets. It is about allowing killing as an acceptable answer to many causes of suffering, whether terminal or chronic disease, disability, mental illness, or existential despair."

Here's the unavoidable problem with assisted suicide legislation: today, we're legally killing the terminally ill and the sick but assisted suicide laws won't stop there; instead they will open Pandora's box to all sorts of "justifiable" killing.

By Sarah Zagorski, LifeNews.com, January 2, 2015. Edited for space.

New Pro-Life Texas Legislator continued from page 2

The Texas Tribune Reports:

White, 56, is not shy about telling her story. With her first abortion, at 22, she says she felt staff at the clinic did not inform her of the risks; with the second, at 27, she says a doctor pressured her to go through with it even though she'd changed her mind, telling her it was too late to change course. Parental pressure was a major factor, too, she said; it took decades for the family's frayed relationship to heal. "I walked in self-condemnation after those abortions," White said. "I became very hard-hearted, very angry."

Along with two stillborn babies, White said, the abortions haunted her for more than a decade — even though she still considered herself "pro-choice." It affected her ability to bond with her son, born in 1983, and her daughter, born in 1992, she said.

Soon after her daughter's birth, White began volunteering at a crisis pregnancy center in Temple. Encouraged by others who worked there, she participated in the center's first "abortion recovery program" — offered by many anti-abortion organizations to counsel women experiencing feelings of guilt or depression after the procedure.

White also shared why she believes the media shies away from covering stories of post-abortive women. She said, "First, it [reporting on post-abortion aftermath] flies in the face of the propaganda that abortion is supposed to be safe, without consequence, and empower women. Secondly, women who speak out about the long term risks and consequences of abortion is a direct threat to those who are living in denial that their own abortions hurt them. Finally, those who support, condone and participate in the abortion movement and industry live under a tremendous weight of blood guilt. Facing their responsibility and guilt is too much to bear. I know, I have been there. That is why we must show the grace and forgiveness of Christ in our pro-life approach."

By Sarah Zagorski, LifeNews.com, November 28, 2014. Edited for space.