

## Vanishing Abortionists: Number of Abortion Docs Has Dropped 40%

Their numbers aren't what they used to be. The downward trend of dwindling abortionists is a problem that's plagued the abortion industry for decades. Following *Roe v. Wade*, the number of abortionists in America rose, ultimately peaking at an all-time high of 2,908 in 1982. The most recent statistics from the Guttmacher Institute show that the number of abortionists has since dropped by over 40% to just 1,720 in 2011. Fewer abortionists means more lives spared. In fact, the abortion rate was recently reported to be at its lowest level since 1973.

As it's becoming increasingly more difficult to locate someone willing to commit abortions, pro-abortion activists are scrambling. "We need young doctors, and we need them badly. The situation is pretty grave, pretty dire," stated Susan Hill, president of the pro-abortion National Women's Health Foundation.

It's been called, "the graying of the abortion provider." Abortionists who were trained during the peak of abortion rights in the seventies are now retiring. And their younger successors are few. One reason is those who're willing to train are scarce. In a 2011 paper published by Debra Stulberg, a researcher at the University of Chicago, it was found that only 14% of OB-GYNs are performing abortions. Abortion training is mostly conducted in freestanding facilities, such as Planned Parenthood (the largest chain of abortion mills in the nation). Only 40% of OB-GYN programs in the country offer comprehensive abortion training.

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## The Imprint Left by Precious Feet

The following story was submitted by one of our members—a reminder to all of us how we can be a witness to the dignity of human life in simple ways throughout our daily lives. The Precious Feet lapel pin, showing the size of a baby's feet at ten weeks gestation, is available at the RTL office, along with many other message items such as pro-life t-shirts and bumper stickers.

I had forgotten that I was wearing one of those "Precious Feet" pins that we get at the Right to Life office. It must have been on my coat for years and I never even thought about it anymore — until the other day. I was at one of the dollar stores in Sidney when the clerk commented on how she liked my pin. I had to look at it to figure out what she was talking about! She said that "Footprints" poem was one of her mother's favorites. I told her that I also liked that poem a lot, but that the pin represented the actual size of a baby's feet at 10 weeks pregnancy and that I wear it to show my concern and respect for babies before birth. She was downright amazed! She said that her daughter was 10 weeks pregnant and that she couldn't wait to tell her. She asked where I had gotten it, so I told her it was from the RTL office and asked if she knew where that was. She thought it was still across from the post office, so I told her about our new location.



If our mission is to share the truth about the beauty of human life, including life before birth, I was reminded that something as simple as wearing one of those "Precious Feet" pins can be a way to do that.

## Welcome Lifetime Members!

So far, 24 members have taken advantage of the opportunity to become Lifetime Members of Right to Life—a great response to this new opportunity. Thank you for your long-term commitment to Right to Life; in return we pledge to justify your generous investment by continuing to work hard to build a culture of life in our community.

If you'd like to become a Lifetime Member, which frees you from the hassle of paying dues every year, be sure to watch for the option on next year's membership form.

## Clothing center report

In February, 144 clients purchased items, 9 used certificates from classes, and 20 received free items. In March, 145 clients purchased items, 20 used certificates from classes, and 35 received free items.

## Primary Coming Up: Vitale Wins ORTL Endorsement

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The primary election in Ohio will be May 6, and absentee voting has already begun. The advance of the pro-life cause depends greatly on the election of candidates who will defend the unborn. The Political Action Committee of Ohio Right to Life researches candidates and issues endorsements.

Shelby County residents are now represented in two different Ohio House seats, depending where you live. Long-time Champaign County RTL board member Nino Vitale is endorsed by ORTL for the Republican primary in the 85th district, which includes Sidney (the seat formerly held by John Adams). Rep. Jim Buchy is running unopposed for the Republican nomination for the 84th district, which includes northern and western Shelby County. See the full list of endorsements at ORTL PAC's web site, [www.ohiovotesforlife.org](http://www.ohiovotesforlife.org).

### Last Call for Golf Outing

We're up against the deadline (May 2), but you can still register to play in the 4th Annual Right to Life of Shelby County Scramble-4-Life. The scramble will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30am, Saturday, May 10, at Shelby Oaks in Sidney, with team registration beginning at 7:30am. Cost per 4-person team is \$200 and includes golf, cart, and a meal. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

All of the proceeds will benefit Right to Life of Shelby County and support our efforts to protect all life from conception to natural death.

To register your team, please contact Julia: [scramble4life@gmail.com](mailto:scramble4life@gmail.com); Call or Text: (937)489-9129. Register now!

### Looking for an Ethical Medical Research Group? Check Out the Lejeune Foundation

Fundraising for scientific research is something of a minefield, as many institutions are involved in anti-life activities such as the use of aborted fetal material and embryonic stem cells. For an ethical alternative, consider the Jerome Lejeune Foundation. From its website:

The mission of the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation USA is to raise and disburse funds in order to provide research, care, and advocacy to benefit those with genetic intellectual disabilities in accordance with the medical and ethical standards of Dr. Jérôme Lejeune, the father of modern genetics. This is carried out by conducting, promoting, and funding therapeutically oriented research; by assisting in the development of healthcare services for these individuals; and by serving as their advocate in a spirit of respect for the dignity of all human persons.

Created in 1996 in Paris and in 2011 in the United States, the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation serving those with genetic intellectual disabilities and their families:

Research in order to identify targeted treatments for patients affected by genetic intellectual disabilities. The Jérôme Lejeune Foundation is the world's largest private funder of research on trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) and other disabilities such as Fragile X syndrome, Rett syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, and others. Projects funded by the Foundation are now beginning to move into early clinical trials with the great hope that commercially available products will be available to improve the lives of those affected by genetic intellectual disabilities within 10 years.

Care to provide specialized medical treatment and follow-up throughout the patient's life. The U.S. Foundation intends to develop and promote a model of care for patients in the United States based upon the work of the Lejeune Institute in Paris, a medical clinic which provides care to over 5,000 patients.

Advocacy for the fundamental human rights of persons with genetic intellectual disability. The Jérôme Lejeune Foundation is committed to the inherent human dignity of all persons and the protection of life from conception to natural death. Through educational programs, publications, and engagement in bioethical debates the Foundation works to ensure that persons with genetic intellectual disabilities are understood and respected for the unique gifts they bring to the human community.

Find out more at [lejeuneusa.org](http://lejeuneusa.org).

In memory of Arthur Austin, husband of RTL newsletter volunteer Gail Austin.

+May he rest in peace.+

## May/June Prayer Intentions

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Please pray for the following intentions: For the election of pro-life and pro-family officials at the primary on May 6th; For good weather and for the success of the Scramble4Life on May 10; For the safety of our volunteers during the parade season and for our message to reach the minds and hearts of those in our community who are in need of it.



### Thank You for a Great Garage Sale!

Thanks to the cooperation and hard work of many volunteers, the RTL Russia garage sale was once again a smashing success, netting more than \$7,000 to help fund our programs throughout the year. We are grateful to chairperson Maria Hoehne and her whole crew of helpers, who set up, take down, and staff the sale; to Fr. Amberger and St. Remy parish for the use of the hall; to all of those who donated goods to be sold; and to all of those who attended and purchased items. Thank you also to all those who bought 50/50 raffle tickets, and congratulations to winner Linda Grogean of Russia.

### Right to Life at the Health Fair

Right to Life sponsored a booth at the Senior Center Health Fair in Sidney in April. Thank you to Anne Schmiesing who staffed the booth for the Saturday morning event. Traffic to the booth was heavy, giving RTL a chance to inform attendees about our mission and services, as well as to distribute information concerning a pro-life approach to end-of-life matters. Having a presence at local fairs and other events is one way that RTL fulfills its purpose of educating our community about how better to defend and preserve the dignity of all human life at every stage.

### Catholic Teaching, Stem Cells, and Charitable Giving

What is the teaching of the Church on stem cell research and should Catholics support organizations that sponsor it?

Catholic teaching on embryonic stem cell research is clear. In 1987, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued an instruction entitled *Donum Vitae* and another instruction in 2008, entitled *Dignitas Personae*. In each case, the Church said that the human embryo ought to be treated as a person and to be afforded the rights and protections of a person, including the right to life. Proposals to use embryos for research or for the treatment of disease are unacceptable because they treat the embryos as mere "biological material" and result in their destruction. When a Catholic hears the word "embryo," he or she should think "person." We would never experiment on a person without his or her consent. We would never experiment on a person and directly kill the person, especially an innocent one. That is the reality of what embryonic stem cell research does, which is why Catholics should reject it.

The use of embryonic stem cells for both therapy and research is basically the harvesting of human embryos (persons) for medical use. Aside from the moral component of the problem, embryonic stem cell research has not produced the many treatments and cures that were promised. Even if cures were obtained, the ends never justify the means in Catholic morality. We cannot do evil that good may come of it. The Church is not opposed to all stem cell research. Adult stem cell research or use of stem cells such as those that come from cord blood is licit. There has been great success with the use of adult stem cells which are easily obtained.

To donate to organizations that promote this serious assault on human life would seem to be a form of material cooperation in a grave and intrinsic evil. The Catholic ought not to cooperate with evil, especially when alternatives exist, or when cooperation in evil can be avoided. We can understand, without justifying the practice, how many parents give to these organizations because their child is sick. Many of these organizations promise not to use a particular donation for unacceptable research and allow people to restrict a donation so that it will not be used for the questionable practices. That can easily be a type of "shell game," using funds to free up someone else's for immoral purposes. It would be better to thoroughly investigate charities before investing in their work. Continued on page 4

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



Reminder: We have memorial donation envelopes available. Please consider Right to Life when making estate plans or funeral arrangements. We are honored to join the loved ones of the deceased in prayer and in remembering those in our pro-life family who have entered eternal life.

### Abortionist Numbers Decline Continued from page 1

In some cases, abortion training backfires. Lesley Wojick was adamantly pro-abortion. So much so, she intended to become an abortionist. But her training brought doubts. She was appalled at the roughness of the instruments. She called watching her first abortion "jarring." The patient was in pain and her screams gave Lesley the chills. She thought she might throw up. In the end, although Lesley still professes to support abortion, she found the process disturbingly brutal. She admits that she couldn't harden herself emotionally to perform abortions. Her decision is telling in that it truly portrays the inhumanity required to be an abortionist. Sometimes the experience of an abortion is so profound it changes hearts and minds for life. An anonymous student recounts being a strongly "pro-choice" pre-med student. Given the opportunity, he didn't hesitate to witness an abortion procedure. What he experienced he called "crude." He graphically described the sound of the vacuum machine as it filled. Then the machine's motor came to a sudden stop. The tube was removed and the baby's body and head followed. His admission was powerful, "I've not been able to think of anything besides what that baby boy might have been. I have been tortured by these images... and I was just a spectator. Never again will I be pro-choice, and never again will I support the murder of any human being, no matter what their stage in life." By Brad Mattes, LifeNews.com, March 28, 2014. Edited for space.

### Catholic Teaching on Stem Cell Research Continued from page 3

Those who move funds around as a marketing tool are best avoided and those who give an honest accounting of the use of charitable donations are a much safer and worthwhile investment. It is often difficult to peel away the layers of market presentation and clarify the actual intentions of the charitable organization. Different kinds of alliances, hidden recipients and deeply political agendas are part of modern practices of many large charitable organizations. While one is not always able to uncover everything, as Catholics, we should exercise a reasonable "due diligence" in investigating the use of donated funds. It is unfortunate that these extra efforts should become necessary when transparency on the part of those organizations charged to manage public generosity would solve the problem. In our highly charged political environment, these extra precautions on our part are the only way to ensure that we are fulfilling our Christian duty to help our neighbor in a moral and truly humane way. If charity is not moral and humane, it really is not charity. By Fr. Earl Fernandes, dean of Mount St. Mary's Seminary and the Athenaeum of Ohio. Reprinted with permission from the Catholic Telegraph, April 2014. Edited for space; see full version online at [www.TheCatholicTelegraph.com](http://www.TheCatholicTelegraph.com).