



Two Hundred Turn Out for Vigil

It was a balmy 50 degrees at 7pm on Sunday, January 22, as nearly 200 area pro-lifers gathered at the courthouse in Sidney to mark the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

RTL program director Kevin Schmiesing emceed the event, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe Timmerman explained the significant of the "Soles for Souls" casket, an exhibit that contains dozens of baby shoes as a symbol of the children lost to abortion each day. After praying a psalm together, the crowd moved outside while musicians from Sidney Apostolic Temple provided music for reflection.

When the participants had returned to the courthouse basement, Henry Cordonnier (pictured) spoke briefly about the work of his son-in-law in the new Trump Administration. Membership committee member Robert Luckey testified to the importance of the pro-life cause. The Rev. Martin Fox, pastor of St. Remy Church in Russia, concluded the program with a closing prayer. Thank you to all who attended and assisted with the vigil. It was a great crowd and meaningful evening of prayer and reflection on the sanctity of life.

Garage Sale: March 23-25 (Raffle Tickets Enclosed)

The Right to Life Garage Sale will be held Thursday-Saturday, March 23-25, at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Hours will be 9 am-7 pm on Thursday and Friday, and 9 am-12 pm on Saturday. There are many ways to help: donate items, attend and buy items, volunteer to work. If you would like to help with setting up, taking down, or staffing the sale, please call Karen Rosenbeck, 937-526-5814. Thank you for your generous donations year after year. We can use clean and salable items. It's also extremely helpful when clothes are sorted by size and bagged/boxed accordingly.

To donate items: 1) Drop them off at the RTL office (small items only); 2) Check with your church; it may have a drop-off site; or 3) Deliver items to St. Remy Hall on Tuesday, March 21, from 6-8 pm, or Wednesday, March 22, from 9 am-6 pm. For any questions, please contact Maria Hoehne at 937-526-5008.

There is a bake sale and 50/50 raffle held in conjunction with the garage sale. (Raffle tickets are included in this newsletter and are available at the RTL web site. We must receive all raffle tickets/money in the office no later than Thursday, March 23.) Baked items may be brought to St. Remy Hall on Wednesday, March 22, from 9 am to 6 pm. Additional baked goods will be accepted throughout the sale.

Thrift Shop Report

December

161 Customers
18 Work-to-Earn certificates
3 Free units (diapers;
groceries)

January

178 Customers
22 Work-to-Earn certificates
2 Free units (shoes, diapers)
1 Referral to Women's Center

Lehman Senior Takes Top Speech Prize



Lehman High School senior Jacob Schmiesing is the 2017 winner of the Shelby County Right to Life regional Pro-Life Oratory contest. Schmiesing won with a speech on euthanasia conveying his hope that even during suffering, “people will come to see how much they are worth...and they will respond to the call to live with dignity.”

The event was held Monday, February 20 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sidney. Of the four prize-winning speeches in the contest, two discussed euthanasia, one addressed ethical concerns with embryonic stem cell

experimentation (in contrast to the successes of adult stem cell research) and one dealt with abortion. Schmiesing’s six-minute speech earned the grand prize of \$300, as well as the honor of representing Shelby County at the state level of this national contest. He will compete next in Columbus in April.

The contest judges were Rev. Jonathan Schriber, pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church; Sanna Aikin, a French and English teacher and translator; and Kurtis Black, an attorney practicing in Troy.

Pictured above are the four prize winners (L to R): Savanna Manger (4th place, Anna High School), Stephanie Esser (Runner-up, Anna High School), Clare Schmiesing (3rd place, Lehman High School), Jacob Schmiesing (1st place, Lehman High School).

Saved From Abortion and Adopted at Birth. Now He’s Saving Others

Kyle Gudger is like most 10-year-old boys—he enjoys Legos, robotics, and playing drums. However, he is also unique. Kyle is among the one percent of children whose birthmother made an adoption plan when she faced an unplanned pregnancy.

His biological mother made the choice not to abort eleven years ago, and her story is a primary reason Kyle participated in the Baby Bottle Boomerang, a winter fundraiser for True Care Women’s Resource Center in Casper, Wyo.

“I want to give kids the same option I had—I want to give them the chance to live by helping the moms,” Kyle said. “Putting a couple of coins in can change the course of history. That person [saved from abortion] could become famous, could become president, could make a difference in the world.”

Kyle collected just over \$24 and put the bottle of money into the basket with other coin-filled baby bottles his church presented to True Care last month.

Helping the pro-life organization has a special significance to Kyle, who turns 11 on March 14—his adoptive parents’ wedding anniversary. His birthmother went to a pregnancy resource center, and he knows she could have made a different choice.

“It’s a privilege to be adopted,” he said. “I think it’s important for a kid to have a father and a mother and to feel loved. I wouldn’t be sitting here if it hadn’t been for my birthmother and the decision she made. I’m thankful.”

By Gayle Irwin, LifeNews.com, March 1, 2017. Irwin writes for PregnancyHelyNews.com, where this article originally appeared. Edited for space.

March/April Prayer Intentions

For a successful garage sale and in gratitude for all the volunteers who organize and assist with it. For God's blessings on all those in need who visit our thrift shop.



Membership Matters: Get Involved!

Our membership committee recently sent out postcards to thank those of you who have joined or renewed and to remind those who have not yet done so to *renew now*. The postcard also serves as a way to educate all those who will see it in the mailing process.

Your membership is what makes our group possible, so please persevere in the noble task of building a culture of life right here in Shelby County. We can then be a leaven for the state and country as our members, especially our young people, go forth into all areas of the culture.

Thanks to those of you who have persevered with us for so many years, we now have a president who has appointed pro-life cabinet members. The Supreme Court nomination of Neil Gorsuch is hopeful. Efforts are being made to defund Planned Parenthood. Pro-life groups like ours all across the country helped to create the climate for pro-life victories at all levels of government.

Now is not the time for any of us to become lukewarm! We have incredible opportunities if we persevere. So, **please renew now!**

Of course, as Henry Cordonnier stated at the vigil: Laws are important, but it's the hearts of the mothers and our citizens that need to change, too. And, that's what members do in so many ways.

Please consider exercising your membership in these ways:

1. The Prayer to End Abortion is printed on the address side of this newsletter. Pray it every day. Prayer cards are available at the RTL office.
2. Read the Newsletter and all updates from RTL. As you do so, ask the Lord what it is that He wants you to do. Don't wait for someone to call you. Volunteer. Come to an event and bring someone with you.
3. Forward your newsletter to someone who might be helped by an article in it and encourage them to join the movement.
4. Post on Facebook or share on social media the kind of pro-life information that others may find helpful.
5. Check out our website and other pro-life websites. This is a good way to stay informed and to realize the scope of the pro-life cause: www.abort73.com; www.priestsforlife.org; www.lifenews.com.
6. If you want to learn more about the Membership Committee, contact me: Mary Schmiesing hmschmiesing@embarqmail.com (937-492-3761).

Nothing we do to defend the human person, no matter how small, is ever unfruitful or forgotten. Our actions touch other lives and move other hearts in ways we can never fully understand in this world. Don't ever underestimate the beauty and power of the witness you give in your pro-life work.

—Archbishop Charles Chaput.

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,
And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

