

# Right to Life of Shelby County

# Newsletter

November 2009

P.O. Box 72 102 E. Poplar St. Sidney, OH 45365 Phone:(937)498-1812 e-mail: office@shelbycountyrctl.org

Volume 36 Issue 11

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

## Volunteer corner

Thank you to Bonnie and Dave York for their many years of service organizing the January bus trip to the March for Life.

We are currently searching for one or more volunteers to replace them as chairpersons of the bus trip. If you are interested in helping in this important way, please contact Kevin or Anne at 492-5584.

## Mark your calendar...

- Deadline for submissions to the December newsletter: November 25.

- Board meetings: November 3 and December 1, 7pm.

## Clothing center report

We served 248 people during the month of September, of whom 76 received free items, 10 took literature, and 5 were referred to the Women's Center.

We have several nice, large planters purchased for use on our 2009 parade float. They're now available for sale below cost, \$15 each. See them at the clothing center.

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

## On the Web...

RTL of Shelby County:  
[www.shelbycountyrctl.org](http://www.shelbycountyrctl.org)

Ohio RTL:  
[www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org)

National RTL Committee:  
[www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

## 40 Days Draws to a Prayerful Close

Thank you to all those who organized and participated in the many events comprising our 40 Days observance of pro-life prayer and witness. The Prayer Breakfast (below) and the Life Chain (page 2) were among the events that marked this meaningful period.

What follows is one account of a 40 Days for Life experience from nearby (Cincinnati). It's just one example of the power of this observance, a tribute to your prayer and sacrifices, and the mercy of God.

Sal, from St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, signed up to take the 8-9 am prayer shift each week during 40 Days and on the first day, his first time coming to pray at Planned Parenthood, a young woman came walking out of Planned Parenthood and she was crying. (continued on page 2)

## Prayer Breakfast Gathers Clergy for Pro-Life Reflection

Pastors from around Shelby County gathered on Tuesday, September 29th, to share in fellowship, discussion and prayer at the First Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast for Pastors at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.

The interdenominational event, hosted by St. John's and sponsored by Right to Life, featured a variety of speakers on pro-life topics, with a particular focus on promoting adoption as a life-giving choice and helping those who suffer from post-abortion stress to find healing.

"Our goal in organizing this event was to provide a forum for pastors in our community to talk about the disregard for human life that challenges us in today's culture," said Anne Schmiesing of RTL. "We look forward to providing similar events in the future in an effort to encourage cooperation among area churches in building a culture of life."

The event's main speaker, Pastor Jon Schriber of St. John's, was adopted as a child, and has also adopted children of his own. The program included his powerful testimony, as well as information about local resources to help those struggling with a difficult pregnancy, post-abortion syndrome, or facing care for an elderly or terminally ill person.

"God has blessed Gaile and me with four wonderful children, the youngest two being adopted," Pastor Jon shared. "We can only imagine with sad hearts how many countless joys and wonders of life have been lost to the families and the world through the tragedy of abortion."

Thanks to Dave O'Leary and Tricia Zimmerman for their assistance with this event, and to Pastor Schriber and St. John's for hosting the event.

## Life Chain 2009

More than a hundred area residents turned out at the court square Sunday afternoon, October 4, to pray for an end to abortion. The annual Life Chain, a nationwide event that takes place in over 1400 cities and towns, is a peaceful demonstration meant to draw attention to the injustice of abortion and to promote greater respect for all human life.



Following an opening prayer by the Reverend Mark Hina of Sidney Apostolic Temple, attendees heard Elizabeth Trisler deliver her national award-winning speech about the harmful effects of abortion for everyone involved in it. Participants then took signs with pro-life messages and lined up around the court square for a period of silent prayer and witness.

This is a crucial annual effort to raise awareness of abortion and the damage it does. Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the Life Chain this year, and to all who joined us for this time of prayer.

## November: National Adoption Awareness Month

More than 100,000 children are adopted in the United States each year, yet more than 2 million parents continue to await and hope for this gift. Placing a child for adoption and adopting are both wonderful expressions of respect for life.

The National Adoption Awareness web site ([www.nationaladoptionawarenessmonth.com](http://www.nationaladoptionawarenessmonth.com)) recommends the following activities to honor adoption during this month:

- Support non-profit organizations that promote or administer adoptions.
- Write a letter to the editor about the blessings of adoption.
- As a family, read a positive adoption story together.
- Ask your local library to display adoption-related material.

## 40 Days for Life (continued from page 1)

Sal said at first he continued to pray while she watched him. He had never done anything like this before but he just felt he should say something to her. He asked her if there was anything he could do and she at first said no but then asked if she could just stand there with him for a while. He of course said yes and eventually she said to him, "I couldn't do it," and put her arms around his neck and he said he cried too! He asked her again if there was anything he could do for her or any place he could accompany her to but she said no and walked off. He didn't ask her why she changed her mind but I wouldn't doubt that she had seen this man quietly praying when she entered the clinic and that it had an effect on her. Then when he showed what a compassionate person he was she sensed that compassion and felt safe confiding in him.

I thank God that Sal was there at that time and that he was given the gift of seeing the fruits of his sacrifice of getting up early on a very rainy day and traveling some distance to come and pray during the very first day of 40 Days for Life. (From Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati e-mail, October 2, 2009. Excerpted.)

Not everyone is given the privilege of seeing so clearly the impact of their prayers and example, but in faith we know that offering ourselves this way always accomplishes good. We look forward to 40 Days for Life 2010.

Happy Birthday to Patricia Kerg, in whose honor a donation was made.

## Ohio Act Would Fund Planned Parenthood, Violate Conscience

The "Prevention First Act" was introduced in the Ohio House (as H.B. 293) by Rep. Tyrone Yates (D, Cincinnati) and in the Ohio Senate (as S.B. 176) by Sen. Teresa Fedor (D, Toledo) in late September. The bill contains many objectionable provisions.

In particular, it would repeal the current law that prevents the use of state "Women's Health Services" grants for abortion and abortion counseling and referral. That law also gives a preference for awarding the grants to local health departments. Prior to adoption of this preference, about a million dollars a year of this funding went to affiliates of Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the U.S.

The bill also tramples on the conscience rights of pro-life pharmacists, taxpayers and religious hospitals in an effort to promote use of the morning-after pill, which in some cases, causes the death of a living human embryo by preventing an already living human embryo from implanting in the woman's uterus.

In addition, it repeals a current law which provides that instruction in venereal disease education must stress abstinence until marriage. Instead, it would force pro-life taxpayers to pay for Ohio Department of Health efforts to promote the use of the morning-after pill (and thus to promote some early abortions).

The intent of the bill seems to be to force pro-life health care providers to either violate their religious and moral beliefs or to get out of the health care professions. Ironically, this could ultimately decrease access to health care, rather than increase it.

This information courtesy of Ohio Right to Life. See [www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org) for more information.

## Surgeon Says Abortion Ups Breast Cancer Risk, Full-Term Pregnancy Helps Lower It

A prominent breast cancer surgeon and professor has written a new article for a medical publication saying that abortion increases a woman's risk of contracting breast cancer. On the other hand, miscarriage has no effect while a full-term pregnancy lowers the breast cancer risk.

Dr. Angela Lanfranchi is a surgeon who deals with breast cancer and is also a Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and president of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute. (See [www.bcpinstitute.org](http://www.bcpinstitute.org).) She published a paper in the medical journal *Linacre Quarterly* that shows how different pregnancy outcomes influence breast cancer risk. The paper is entitled, "Normal breast physiology: The reasons hormonal contraceptives and induced abortion increase breast cancer risk."

Citing 52 years of breast cancer research, she said the evidence shows that, during pregnancy, unborn children "produce hormones that mature 85 percent of the mother's breast tissue into cancer-resistant breast tissue."

At the same time, the physician says short pregnancies like abortions that end before 32 weeks, except for first trimester miscarriages, leave the breasts only "partially matured" and "with more places for cancers to start." Most first trimester miscarriages do not raise risk because "inadequate levels of the pregnancy hormones" during an abnormal pregnancy do not stimulate breast growth and "leave the mother's breasts unchanged."

### **ACTION ITEM**



Karen Malec, president of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer, a women's group that informs the public on the link between the two, tells LifeNews.com that anti-cancer groups need to acknowledge this. "We encourage the public to send Dr. Lanfranchi's paper to the American Cancer Society and Susan G. Komen for the Cure," she said.

By Steven Ertelt. Reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, September 8, 2009. Edited for space.



P.O. Box 72 Sidney, OH 45365-0072

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SIDNEY, OH  
PERMIT NO.  
508

Return Service Requested

## New CDC Report Shows Abortion and Pregnancy Rates Dropping to Historic Lows

A new report from the Centers for Disease Control shows the number of abortions, the abortion rate and the pregnancy rate all declining from the period 1990-2005.

The CDC National Vital Statistics Report shows there were an estimated 6,408,000 pregnancies in the U.S. in 2005. That number includes 4.14 million live births, 1.21 million induced abortions, and 1.06 million miscarriages or other fetal losses that are not from abortion.

The good news from the CDC is that the abortion rate fell more than one-third during the years studied. Among married women, seven out of 1,000 women got an abortion in 2005, down from 11 per 1,000 women in 1990. Among unmarried women, 31 per 1,000 women had abortions in 2005, compared to 48 per 1,000 women in 1990.

The report shows that, despite claims by abortion advocates to the contrary, the abortion rate fell during the first five years of the Bush administration while the birth rate began rising towards the end as more women chose to carry their unplanned pregnancies to term.

The abortion rate was at its highest in the late 1970s and early 1980s (peaking at 29.3 percent in 1981) as abortion became mainstreamed following the Roe v. Wade decision that allowed it virtually on demand in 1973. The rates began falling in the late 1980s and then fell dramatically starting in 1990 and have continued falling ever since.

As the CDC has shown throughout the years, women between the ages of 20-24 have the highest abortion rate followed by women between 18-19 and then women between 25-29 years of age.

The new CDC data shows that, in 2005, black women continued to have much higher abortion rates compared to their white and Hispanic counterparts. Black women had abortions at a rate of 37.2 per 1,000 women compared with 18.1 for Hispanics and 12.5 for white women. However, the rates are declining among all races.

By Steven Ertelt. Reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, October 15, 2009. Edited for space.