



Newsletter

September 2012

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www.shelbycountyrtl.org

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

40 Days for Life, Life Chain Coming Soon

40 Days for Life is a special period of prayer, fasting, and action in support of respect for all human life. This fall it stretches from September 22 to November 4. Pastors and other group leaders are encouraged to organize pro-life events during this time. Some local events are listed below. Please let us know of your events so that we may add them to our schedule in October. And please take the time to join us in prayer for an end to abortion and all violations of the dignity of human life.

Holy Hour for Life at Holy Angels Church, Sidney: Saturday, September 26, 7pm

Pro-life Stations of the Cross, Holy Angels: Every Sunday, September 23 through October 28, 5pm

Life Chain, On the court square in Sidney: Sunday, October 5, 2:30-3:30pm

Prayer at Abortion Mill in Kettering: Friday, October 12, leaving Lehman High School at 10am

Vigil Day of Prayer, Holy Angels: October 20 after 8am Mass until 7:30am Mass on Sunday

Pro-Life Patriotic Rosary, Holy Angels: Sunday, November 4, 4pm

See 40daysforlife.com for more information about this national observance.

Mark your calendar

- Deadline for submissions to the October newsletter: September 20.
- Board meeting: September 4, 7 pm.

Clothing center report

We served 95 people during the month of July, of whom 32 received free items, 4 took literature, and 9 were referred to the Women's Center.

Thank you to an anonymous donor who provided funds for RTL's diaper program for September. If you would like to sponsor a month, please contact the office.

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

Election 2012: Values to Votes

Jan. 22, 2013 will be the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The challenge of Election Day, Nov. 6, 2012 is to translate pro-life values into votes so that this can be the last commemoration of that anniversary. Whoever is elected president may have the opportunity to nominate two or more Supreme Court justices. Congress will have the opportunity to repeal Obamacare and cut off funding for Planned Parenthood. What can each of us do to insure a pro-life victory?

--Pray for the election of pro-life candidates. See the prayer for our national elections included on page 4 (back) of this newsletter. Put it on your refrigerator or somewhere you will see and pray it daily.

--Make sure you are registered to vote. Deadline to register is October 9. If you won't be here on November 6, vote absentee. Make sure college students and other family members do the same. For election information, contact the Board of Elections: 937-498-7207 or email Shelby@sos.state.oh.us

--Inform yourself and others about the positions of the candidates. To this end, there will be a candidate questionnaire published in the October RTL newsletter. Please share it with others.

--Put a Vote Pro-Life sign in your yard to remind everyone how important it is to do that. (These are available at the thrift shop.)

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A Pro-Life Perspective on the Todd Akin Controversy

Should There Be a Rape Exception in Abortion Laws?

Rebecca Kiessling, a pro-life attorney from Michigan, fully understands the national debate going on concerning the controversial comments Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin made about abortion and rape. Kiessling was conceived when her mother was victimized by a rapist.

While abortion advocates often talk about supporting a woman's right to privacy, Kiessling says rape exceptions in abortion laws turn that notion on its head. "Rape exceptions in the law actually put the government in the position of having to ascertain when the child was conceived, who the father is, whether the child was conceived during the alleged rape or during intercourse with her husband or boyfriend, and if the child was conceived during the time frame of the alleged rape, then the government would need to determine whether the sexual intercourse was consensual or not," she explained. "So rape exceptions serve to perpetuate the injustice against rape victims that their accounts are to be viewed with skepticism, and it further leaves the majority of impregnated rape victims wholly unprotected under the law. Rape exceptions suggest that a "real rape victim" couldn't possibly love "the rapist's baby" and that rape victim mothers don't exist."

Kiessling gives a three-step process in terms of how candidates should answer the question:

1. The Supreme Court has said that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment for rapists and that rapists don't deserve the death penalty. I don't think the innocent child conceived in rape deserves the death penalty for the crimes of her father. It seems to me that is cruel and unusual punishment.
2. Rape victims are four times more likely to die within the next year after the abortion, with a higher rate of suicide, murder, drug overdose, etc. As someone who really cares about rape victims, I want to protect them from the rapist, and from the abortion, and not the baby. A baby is not the worst thing that could ever happen to a rape victim — an abortion is.
3. Rape victims choose abortion at half the rate of the average unplanned pregnancy, which is over 50%. Only 15-25% of rape victims choose abortion, depending on the study. The majority of rape victims choose to raise her child — not "the rapist's baby" — HER child.

Of course, I also think it helps to share a personal story and there are lots available, of women who became pregnant by rape and either regret aborting, are raising their children or are birth-moms, as well as stories of those of us conceived in rape and/or incest. You can find those stories on my website: www.rebeccakiesling.com.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, August 20, 2012. Edited for space and used with permission.

Pro-Life Technology Conference: September 8

Shelby County Right to Life is one of nine sponsoring organizations for this year's Pro-Life Science and Technology Conference, Saturday, September 8, 2012, 9am to 4pm. The new location this year will be the Hope Hotel and Conference Center, Building #823, Area A, Gate 12A, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-5000.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for professional and technical members of the pro-life community to share information. Those with a technical or professional interest in the pro-life cause are encouraged to attend, but students and non-professionals regularly attend and benefit greatly. Speakers this year include speaker and writer Jenn Giroux, and political science professor Michael New, who is an expert on state legislation and its effects on abortion rates.

Registration fee of \$50 (\$25 for students) includes continental breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available. Please contact info@prolifetechnology.org or 937/849-9140 or see www.prolifetechnology.org for more information or to register.

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-Check out www.nrlpac.org and click onto the comparison of the presidential candidates. Make copies and share with others. Go to www.ohiovotesforlife.org for the Ohio RTL PAC endorsements. Check out our October newsletter for candidate comparisons

Right to Life of Shelby County does not endorse candidates. It is our mission to educate and inform members about candidate positions. To that end, we offer the following reflection:

How important is it to consider a candidate's devotion to protecting human life, above all other factors? In the context of American history, that question is well answered by considering this question: Do you know anyone who would vote for a candidate who would promote slavery? Even if he claimed to be "personally against slavery"? Even if she seemed to have good economic policies? No one would support such a candidate today. It should also be the case that no one would support a candidate who accepts laws that permit or fund the killing of pre-born children and disabled or aged adults. Abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research, and human cloning entail the intentional killing of innocent human beings at particular stages of life. Anyone who considers these practices wrong has an obligation to evaluate the following critical questions.

First and foremost, is the candidate truly dedicated to protecting all human beings from the moment of conception onward? If no, then it would be detrimental to the defense of innocent life to vote for this candidate and to do so would be cooperating in his pro-death efforts. This candidate may be supported only if there is no alternative pro-life candidate, and he is judged to be the one who would be least harmful to the cause of life.

If yes, the candidate is pro-life, then he may be supported. If both (or all) candidates are pro-life, the following questions may be helpful in distinguishing among them: Has the candidate ever publicly supported another candidate who does not support protection for human life? Does the platform of his political party reflect a pro-death or a pro-life point of view? A pro-life candidate can come from any party. Party platforms, however, state specific positions regarding protection of human life.

The most recent Democratic Party platform reads: "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right."

The most recent Republican Party platform has a long section entitled Maintaining The Sanctity and Dignity of Human Life, which reads, in part: "At its core, abortion is a fundamental assault on the sanctity of innocent human life. Women deserve better than abortion."

If we are to change the political culture in our country to one that is pro-life, voters of all parties need to make this set of questions the primary concern in election decisions. We need to translate pro-life values into pro-life votes.

Reminder: Ohio Right to Life Sweepstakes

You can aid both our local and our state Right to Life organizations at the same time by purchasing the ORTL raffle tickets which were enclosed in our July newsletter. Additional tickets are available at the office or from our website (click on the Newsletter button on the home page and scroll down to July). Grand prize is \$1000. Requested donation for tickets is \$1 per ticket, or \$10 for the entire sheet of 12.

All money and tickets should be returned to Shelby County Right to Life, PO Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365 (or placed in the secure drop box to the left of the main entrance at our office at 102 E. Poplar). Please make checks payable to Shelby County Right to Life. Tickets must be received in the office by October 19. Thank you for your support.



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A Prayer for National Elections

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, not only of individuals, but of nations and governments. We thank you for the privilege of being able to organize ourselves politically. And of knowing that political loyalty does not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law, which our Founding Fathers acknowledged and recognized as higher than any human law. We thank you for the opportunity that this election year puts before us, To exercise our solemn duty not only to vote, but to influence countless others to vote, and to vote correctly.

Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened. Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation, Their response to you requires that they be politically active.

Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world, but rather a community of faith renewing the world.

Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer Are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth; That the same eyes that read your Word are the eyes that read the names on the ballot, And that they do not cease to be Christians when they enter the voting booth.

Awaken your people to a commitment to justice; To the sanctity of marriage and the family, To the dignity of each individual human life, and to the truth that human rights begin when human lives begin,

And not one moment later.

Lord, we rejoice today that we are citizens of your kingdom. May that make us all the more committed To being faithful citizens on earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.