



Annual RTL Garage Sale

Please help us achieve another successful garage sale this year. The sale will be held **Thursday-Saturday, April 2-4, at St. Remy Hall in Russia**. Hours will be 9 am to 7pm on Thursday and Friday, and 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday.

Donated items, for the sale, can be dropped off at the RTL Thrift Shop (downtown Sidney) during normal operating hours in March. However, large donations, such as furniture, must be delivered directly to St. Remy Hall the week of the sale. **Drop off times at St. Remy Hall** are: Monday-Tuesday March 30 and 31 from 9 am to 8 pm, and Wednesday, April 1 from 9 am-12 pm. Please no late drop-offs. Please donate only clean and salable items. Thank you.

There is a **bake sale and 50/50 raffle** held in conjunction with the garage sale. [Raffle Tickets can be downloaded HERE, from the RTL website, and printed.](#) Baked items may be brought to the garage sale on Wednesday, April 1, from 9 am-12 pm and will be accepted throughout the sale. Volunteers are needed Wednesday through Saturday for set up, check out, and tear down. If you volunteered for the garage sale on your renewal form you will be contacted; if you have not yet volunteered but would like to help, please call Karen Rosenbeck, 937-526-5814.



Thank you to all who have returned Membership Renewal Forms. If not already renewed, please do so by March 31, using the form that was mailed to you, or renew online via the [Donate Now](#) button.

Adoption Speech Takes First Honors in Local Contest

Boosting the promotion of adoption was the theme of the winning speech, given by Maximillian Schmiesing—a junior at Lehman Catholic High School—at the annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest. Schmiesing, having three adopted siblings, spoke from experience of the positive impact of choosing adoption, but also made a case for eliminating some of the red tape for adoptions, with a view to decreasing abortion rates. “The value of a person lies in their very existence,” he concluded.

Lisa Adams, also a junior at Lehman High School was runner-up in the contest. In third and fourth place, respectively, were Hannah Siegel, a senior at Fort Loramie High School, and Addison Morris, a junior at Christian Academy. The juniors are eligible to participate in the contest again next year. This year’s contest was judged by Sanna Aikin, who has been a French translator and an educator; Ken Knapke, a retired medical professional; and Don Rosenbeck, the director of Maria Stein Shrine. Prizes awarded to contestants ranged from \$300 to \$60. A representative from our contest will participate in the state competition, with a chance of advancing to the national competition.



Pictured L-R:
Addison Morris, Max Schmiesing, Lisa Adams, Hannah Siegel

Thrift Shop Report January

243 Customers
8 Work-to-earn shifts
49 Units, assistance program

March for Life Events Fire Up Youth

Many youth and adults from Shelby County participated in the annual National March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 24, joining hundreds of thousands of participants from all over the



Pictured, in front of the U.S. Capitol building, is a local young adults group, Quo Vadis, which departed from Maria Stein to attend the March.

country. Local residents were among those to witness the historic speech by President Trump, making this the first March for Life, in its 47-year history, to be attended by a sitting president. The official theme of the event was: [“Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman.”](#) Many local participants attended religious services, rallies and other events before and after they marched from The National Mall to the Supreme Court Building where the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions made abortion legal in 1973. Crowd size calculations are always estimates, but journalists on site estimated 100,000 in attendance. Some local families travel to the March on their own, but many Shelby County residents joined bus trips, departing from Ft. Loramie Mercer County, and Minster, as well as Lehman Catholic High School. Shelby County Right to Life supports these trips by subsidizing expenses upon request. The mother of one student RTL sponsored commented: “He was on fire when he got home. Such a wonderful experience for him!”

Statistics to Consider

A student from the oratory contest noted there were nearly [40,000 gun deaths](#) in the US in 2017. He also observed that the annual number of abortions is dramatically higher than that number, yet media coverage of the two is heavily disproportionate, almost ignoring abortion losses. According to their most recent report, the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute estimates [over 860,000 abortions](#) in the USA in 2017 (the most recent data analyzed). The abortion number is over 50 times more than the number of *homicides* nationwide that same year. [The homicide count was about 16,500 \(according to FBI reports\)](#) and is distinct from gun death data mentioned above, because about 60% of gun deaths are self-inflicted. Tragically, suicide rates are increasing, and perhaps not coincidentally, suicide rates among women who are post-abortive are higher than the national average and are more than double the rate for women who give birth. Unfortunately, despite data showing recent declines in abortion rates, changes in abortion practices may be skewing the data.

Personhood Alliance president, Sarah Quale, has an [article on their website \(Oct 2019\)](#), evaluating factors potentially influencing abortion rates, which have declined by 8% from 2014 to 2017 according to the Guttmacher Institute. By Quale’s analysis, abortion restrictions and clinic closures in various states were not likely *direct* factors, because declines in abortion rates were fairly consistent across states, regardless of legal restrictions added or clinics closed in each state. The birth rate is not increasing so the abortion rate decline can’t be attributed to “more women choosing life.” The annual number of pregnancies is declining, but since “there was no significant change in the proportion of women who used a birth control method” the common abortion industry claim that access to birth control reduced abortion numbers doesn’t hold up. In fact, over half of women who abort report using birth control when they conceived. There does not seem to be a definitive explanation for the abortion rate decline, but we must keep in mind that the abortion rate is still terribly and alarmingly high. What’s more, it’s possible the reported decline does not accurately reflect reality because do-it-yourself abortions, referred to as “self-managed abortions” are on the rise, and were “openly acknowledged in the Guttmacher report, along with an admission...[of] the inability to adequately track self-managed abortions,” according to Quale.

March/April Prayer Intentions

For all men and women attending retreats and days of reflection for abortion recovery and healing this spring.



3



Infertility, Loss and Adoption

By Holly Schiefer,

[Guest Speaker at the Annual Pro-Life Candlelight Vigil in Sidney](#)

For me, profound meaning was given to motherhood because a young woman I had never met chose life. Prior to that, my husband and I had lost a baby to miscarriage. We named that baby Trust, because – after a year of marriage, when doctors said our chance of conceiving again was “slim to none” – we knew we must entrust every aspect of our lives and family to God.

Moving forward, we respectfully declined suggestions to use artificial means of reproduction (*See Editor’s Note below) and instead embarked on our adoption journey. Friends, family and strangers covered us in prayer. Fr. Caserta prayed over us after Mass one Sunday in Piqua and said he felt very strongly that we would adopt and then have a child. This gave us something wonderful to hope for, but I wanted those two things to happen “right now.” I learned in a very powerful way that God’s time is not our time.

The struggle with infertility is a very lonely one. I would cry when I saw a pregnant woman on the street; and could not attend my sister-in-law’s baby shower. Not because I wasn’t happy for her, but because I knew I wouldn’t be able to hold back my tears. It didn’t help when well-meaning people told me, “It’ll happen,” or “You just need to have enough faith.” My only consolation was knowing God would make everything okay somehow.

After we attended the March for Life, our pastor asked if my husband and I would share, with the congregation, our experience and desire to adopt. After we spoke, a woman approached us, desperate for someone to talk about adoption with a teenage girl being encouraged by her parents to abort. We exchanged information and waited...for months. Then one day we heard sad news that the child we had hoped to adopt had been aborted. We were very upset, not just for us, but for this young lady, who would have to live with this decision for the rest of her life. We prayed for her, her baby and for all women in her situation.

Later, we were matched with three different birth mothers and each adoption fell through at the last minute. That year seemed like an eternity. My faith was tested like never before. I had been praying everyday, but I had also been trying to control every aspect. When I finally asked God to help me give up my need to control, I instead committed to praise Him and thank Him daily for the possibilities and say, “Maybe tomorrow.” In that moment an amazing burden was lifted off my shoulders.

Three months later, the adoption agency told us of a baby girl due in a month, whose mother wanted to meet us. We were thrilled, but very cautious. The moment we met them was like being with family. They clearly adored this preborn baby girl and wanted the very best for her. Her birth mother wanted something simple that she couldn’t give: a mom and a dad in the same home.

The birth mother had prayed long and hard about the decision and had always known abortion was not an option, but asked her mom, “What kind of mother gives her baby up for adoption?” To which her mom replied, “A good one.”

Story continued on page 4

* Editor’s Note: *For more information about the negative ethics of IVF and related health issues, search online for “StatNews dark side of IVF,” for an informative article published on July 27, 2018.*

Thank you to the Francis and Joyce Goubeaux family for the washer-dryer unit donated in January, and to St. John’s Lutheran (Sidney) for large donations of clothing, diapers and other baby items which will be distributed to families via our Thrift Shop, located across the street from the courthouse.

Save the date: 2020 Golf Outing at Shelby Oaks, Saturday, May 9.

More info about the Scramble for Life can be found [here](#).

Save the Dates: Post Abortion Healing Events

WEEKEND RETREATS for post abortion healing:

March 13-15 -Women's Retreat, Dayton (Project Rachel)

to register call/text: 531-784-0531 (Cincinnati Archdiocese); (\$150 cost if able to pay or Shelby Co RTL can assist w/ costs)

SUPPORT ANYTIME for men or women

- **The Hope Project in Dayton and Sidney: call 937-234-7535 or email help@hopeafterabortiondayton.org to talk with someone who can help you.**
- **SupportAfterAbortion.com, 844-289-HOPE (4673)**

Infertility, Loss and Adoption *Continued from page 3*

It struck me what a difference family support can make in times of crisis. The teenage girl who chose abortion didn't have parental support, while this young woman did. And she chose to give her daughter life.

We were at the hospital for the birth of our daughter, Natalie. Words can't describe the joy in our hearts when our daughter's birthmother placed her in my arms with tears of joy and sadness, saying, "She's yours." Our daughter's birthmother will always be spoken of in our home with the greatest love and respect. She is our hero.

Since Natalie could first talk, she had earnestly asked when she would have a baby sister. When she was four, we encouraged her to pray and ask God for this. And she did. My need to control came back, wanting it "right now." Of course that never works. When I prayed, I heard clearly, in my heart, God saying, "I already told you what's going to happen." So I said, "OK." Days later, we were prayed over again, and confounding our diagnosis of infertility, our daughter Maria was born to us.

Whether my husband and I were permanently healed of infertility or if this was a one-time miracle doesn't matter. God was faithful to his word. Although our family did not happen in the time or way I thought I wanted, it is so much better than anything I could have dreamed. For anyone in a similar struggle with infertility, adoption, a crisis pregnancy, or any other problem, know that you are not alone. There is hope and healing that comes only from God the author of all life.

A memorial contribution was made to Right to Life of Shelby County in honor of [Doris Bornhorst](#), a long-time RTL member. Our condolences go to the Bornhorst family.