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PENNSYLVANIANS FOR
HUMAN LIFE / SWR

*Butler Chapter
PO Box 93
Butler, PA 16003-0093*

Choose Life!

**Winter 2013
March for Life!**



PENNSYLVANIANS FOR HUMAN LIFE
Butler County Chapter
P.O. Box 93
Butler, PA 16003-0093

Address Service Requested

Pennsylvanians for Human Life / SWR

Winter 2013

Chairperson/Editor :
Tom Patterson

Butler Chapter



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40 Years of Roe v. Wade - 40 Years Too Many!

Do you remember where you were on Jan. 22, 1973? Most of us can probably recall many significant memories and milestones of the last 40 years – hopefully most of your memories are happy ones.

Unfortunately, for those of us in the Respect Life movement, we remember that 55 million unborn babies have died in the last 40 years, died from legal abortions. Our most significant protest against these continued deaths is the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., where we remember those who have died, educate our Congressmen and women, and pledge to renew our efforts to stop legalized abortion in the United States.

This year's March is significant for a couple reasons. First, we go to our Nation's Capitol where a recently re-elected, pro abortion president resides. We must continue to show our strength and determination, in large numbers.

Second, this is the first March since the death of Nellie Grey, founder and leader of the March since it began in 1974. New leadership has stepped up to oversee the March and they pledge to continue Nellie's spirit, while making a few changes to enable more time for visiting legislators; they state that the Rally will be shortened so that the Marchers can reach the Capitol Hill offices earlier in the day.

We need YOU this year!

(Continued on page 2)

Join Us on the March for Life! *(cont'd from cover)*

A bus list is included in this newsletter, with information about the seven buses leaving from various parts of Butler County. If you need more information, contact the Bus Captains directly, or Gretchen Cararie, Butler County Bus Coordinator, at gcararie@zoominternet.net. You may also wish to go to www.marchforlife.org.

Again, the date and time: **Friday, January 25, 2013**
Rally at 12:00 noon, with March following at 1:00pm

In the words of a Pete Seeger song, from about 40 years ago, “**How many deaths will it take ‘til we know that too many people have died?’**” Please join us!

40 Days for Life

Along with the March for Life, we have opportunities locally to work together to educate women about alternatives to abortion. One such activity is 40 DAYS FOR LIFE, a 40-day period of prayer and witness to ask women to change their minds about having an abortion. We gather in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility on Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh, from 7am – 7pm for 40 days, holding signs which say: “Pray to end abortion.” We ask that you volunteer for a 1-4 hour period of time.

Each time I have participated in 40 Days, I have had an experience that has deeply moved me, giving me increased energy to continue to work for the unborn. This past Fall I was moved by a young man, in tattered clothes and chains around his neck, who began to preach to us about the beauty of life! He even wore his son’s pacifier on his chain, so that he would never forget how important that Life was to him. Last Spring it was the ambulance outside the abortion facility, which had come to take a girl with a “problem” abortion to the hospital.

Abortion is not something that happens far away; it is happening close to home. This is an excellent chance for those who cannot travel to the March For Life in Washington to work locally to Respect Life.

The Spring 40 Days will take place from February 13-March 24. If you are interested in participating, contact Nikki Bruni at 412-926-9413 or nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com.

- Gretchen Cararie

Donations

LifeLine

In Memory of:

Josiah Lorenzini by Mary Jo Koch

In Honor of:

Mary Jo Koch by the Ratica Family

Other Lifeline Donations:

- Scott Thompson
- Patricia & Wm. Liberto
- St. John’s Reformed Church, Butler Twp
- Patsy Began
- Joseph Lutz
- St. Vincent DePaul Conference of St. Michael RC Church, Butler
- John & Becky Cascino
- St. Joseph K of C, Cabot

PHL

In Memory of:

Germaine Voelker by Rose & Joseph Stumpf

Other Lifeline Donations:

- Edward Brandt / Monica McMaster

Your Generosity is Appreciated!

Pennsylvanians for Human Life is committed to promoting the dignity and value of human life in the region. We produce this newsletter, maintain a presence at the annual Butler Farm Show and help facilitate attendance at the yearly March for Life in Washington, DC, all of which entail a cost. In addition, we would like to explore expanding public outreach in the area.

A generous gift of \$25 can do the following:

- Cover the production and mailing of 50 newsletters (we distribute it to 1,700 members three to four times a year);
- Pay for close to 5% of the group’s total costs in having a booth at the Butler Farm Show;
- Defray 10% of our print/radio advertising in connection with the March for Life.

With this newsletter you will find a fundraising envelope for Butler PHL. We ask that you consider contributing to the cause.

Be sure to tune in to hear local Pro-Lifers discuss current events and the upcoming March for Life:

- Friday, Jan. 11th: 1:00pm WISR “It’s Your Turn” with Dave Malarkey. Featuring Larry Black and Rev. Michael Harvey
- Thursday, Jan. 10th 8:15 am WBUT “Breakfast Club” with Bob Cupps. Featuring Gretchen Cararie

Better Dead than Disabled???

A truly shocking article published recently in the United Kingdom's Daily Mail is drawing attention to end-of-life care in Great Britain, particularly with respect to disabled children. According to comments by an un-named doctor to the British Medical Journal (BMJ), the practice of starving and dehydrating babies to death in neonatal units occurs more often than one would expect. Public perception had been that the Liverpool Care Pathway, a controversial end-of-life regime, was reserved for the elderly or terminally-ill adults.

The doctor's testimony is heart-breaking, as he describes the agonizing death disabled babies are condemned to die by their physicians and parents:

“They wish for their child to die quickly once the feeding and fluids are stopped. They wish for pneumonia. They wish for no suffering. They wish for no visible changes to their precious baby.

Their wishes, however, are not consistent with my experience. Survival is often much longer than most physicians think; reflecting on my previous patients the median time from withdrawal of hydration to death was ten days.

Parents and care teams are unprepared for the sometimes severe changes that they will witness in the child's physical appearance as severe dehydration ensues. I know, as they cannot, the unique horror of witnessing a child become smaller and shrunken, as the only route out of a life that has become excruciating to the patient or to the parents who love their baby.”

This imposed death sentence for children with disabilities sounds like the Baby Doe cases of the early 1980s in our country, the most famous of which involved a mentally handicapped child with correctible physical abnormalities who was denied both life-saving surgery and fluids, dying six days later.

In response to this, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was amended in 1984 to protect disabled infants. Yet such babies are still often denied life-saving treatment under the guise of “medical futility.” And what is often referred to as futile is not that the treatment will ultimately fail, but instead that it will work, and death is preferable to life with a disability. This “better dead than disabled” ideology is arrogant and perverse.

Of course, there is a financial incentive for health care providers to support this grotesque practice . . . it saves money. In the recent U.K. case, investigators will be looking to see if cash payments were made to hospitals to hit death pathway targets. What pressure will our health care system face under Obamacare to achieve efficiency and cut costs?

Election Recap

It's probably not news to anyone that President Barack Obama, with his pro-abortion resume, defeated pro-life Governor Mitt Romney in November's presidential election, and will begin his second term in a matter of days. While this represents a blow to the pro-life cause, it is not one from which recovery is impossible. In fact, as daunting as the challenges to respect for life may seem, there are good reasons to remain positive and confident of advancing the pro-life agenda, or at least holding pro-life gains until forces friendlier to life are in power.

Numerous polls have been sourced in this newsletter demonstrating that Americans are generally pro-life in their views. As recently as May 2012, for example, a Gallup poll reported 50% of respondents classifying themselves as pro-life, versus 41% identifying as pro-choice. Additionally, when voters have been asked about what is important to them, life issues tend to be winners for those staking out the pro-life position.

This is evidenced by numbers reported by the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC). In 2008, 25% of those surveyed said abortion affected their vote and voted pro-life, while only 9% said abortion was of consequence and voted pro-abortion. In 2010, 22% said abortion impacted their pro-life vote, and only 8% professed abortion to be behind their pro-abortion vote. This type of disparity in voting behavior has typically delivered an advantage to pro-life candidates.

In 2012 that advantage disappeared. This was not because people suddenly embraced abortion. Rather, in the words of NRLC's Executive Director, David O'Steen:

"A determined, one-sided media, together with a sequence of most unfortunate statements by candidates, created a 'perfect storm' that played into and greatly augmented the pro-abortion narrative in this election. This effectively neutralized the usual pro-life advantage."

Post-election polling conducted for NRLC grouped respondents the following way regarding their position on abortion:

- 9% would prohibit all abortions
- 12% would allow abortion only to save the life of the mother
- 28% would allow abortion only for life of mother, rape and incest
- 16% would allow abortion for any reason, but only up to 3 months
- 12% would allow abortion for any reason, but only up to 6 months
- 13% would allow abortion for any reason at any time
- 11% don't know or refused to answer

(Continued on page 4)

Election Recap (cont'd)

These results show nearly 50% of respondents could be classified as pro-life, at most allowing for abortion in cases of rape, incest or life of the mother. 41% would allow it for any reason, yet over a third of these folks would limit it to only the first three months. Only 25% actually agree with what is essentially the current legal status of abortion in America.

However, once the comments of particular candidates, elicited by purposeful and one-sided questioning, had shifted the discussion of abortion solely to the rape instance, the 28% block of votes was in play. (This is not to say that we must accept that abortion is desirable in cases of rape or incest, but only recognize the reality that a large percentage of those on the pro-life side of things see such cases as legitimate exceptions.)

The responses above suggest a 49%-41% advantage for the pro-life side. However, despite their answers, the very same respondents identified themselves more with the pro-choice side when asked to label themselves as one or the other, 51% to 43%. So though Americans still favor the pro-life position, this past election witnessed the blurring (indeed, the outright misrepresenting) of the issue to the extent that the electorate was either confused about the candidates' true positions or more motivated to vote for the candidate labeled as pro-choice.

Going forward, the challenge is to swing the focus back to the baby and mother, continuing to educate our neighbors as to the real and more prevalent use of abortion. Waiting periods prior to the abortion procedure, prohibitions on using abortion simply as a form of sex selection, parental consent and protecting babies that survive abortions are all positions that a majority of Americans support. Yet our current president and far too many candidates with the opposite view on these issues were able to escape the scrutiny they deserved.

Nevertheless, the House of Representatives maintained a strong pro-life influence. It will be up to this legislative body to stand firm in the face of pro-abortion policies and legislation handed down by an executive branch and Senate that are both supportive of abortion. It will be up to us to encourage our pro-life representatives to remain committed to defending against the assaults on the unborn, the elderly and the infirm. Now is not the time to surrender the fight. Now we are needed more than ever.

Stay strong and God Bless!

Butler County Bus Captain List - 2013 March for Life

Please call for departure dates and times.

Butler County Coordinator

Gretchen Cararie
724- 898-2529 (home)
724- 316-1185 (cell)
gcararie@zoominternet.net

Bus 1: Butler Catholic

Captain: Richard McLafferty
Phone: 724-282-1551
richmar45@zoominternet.net

Bus 2: Glade Mills

Captain: Gretchen Cararie
Phone: 724-898-2529
gcararie@zoominternet.net

Bus 3: Zelienople

Captain: John Healy
Phone: 724-544-4118
mhealy@zoominternet.net

Bus 4: Meridian

Captain: Ray Ferguson
Phone: 724-282-4298
ray_ferguson2@yahoo.com

Bus 5: Herman

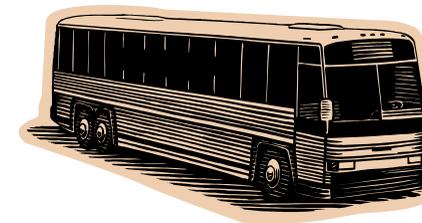
Captain: John Hinterlang
Phone: 724-352-9384
johnboy@zoominternet.net

Bus 6: Cabot

Captain: Amy Buchwald
Phone: 724-353-9114
mrsbuchwald@gmail.com

Bus 7: Cranberry/Mars Area

Captain: Bill Slusser
Phone: 724-772-7962
Slusser4@consolidated.net



Reminder

The March for Life is on January 25, 2013, a **Friday** this year. If this works better with your work schedule, we'd love to see you there!