

# Life LINES

The News & Education Publication of Right to Life of Northeast Ohio · Winter 2012

● We collected over 5,170 petition signatures and received donations to support our Media campaign.



Thank You

● Internet spots, bus ads and 150 billboards were placed directing women with untimely pregnancies to pro-life pregnancy centers.

● Some 150 teens and adults were bused to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life.



Thank You

● Eight new ProLife Youth Congress chapters were formed. A summer conference and two retreats in three area counties were attended by 203 youth and adults.

● We organized the local Right to Life Oratory Contest, designating winners from seven area counties to participate in the state contest.



Thank You

● Our quarterly newsletter was mailed to thousands and distributed through 28 churches.

● We organized the local 40 Days for Life Campaign in the spring and fall. Twenty-one churches and 3 organizations participated. Georgette Forney, co-founder of "Silent No More" spoke at our fall kick-off rally.



Thank You

● We sponsored a 5K Run and Walk for Life. The run was part of the Subway Challenge Series and the walk was supported by InfoCision.

● Information booths were staffed by volunteers during the six days of the Summit and Portage County fairs.



Thank You

● We organized the annual Life Chain observances in Akron and Ravenna in October.



**LOOK At Our 2011 Accomplishments!**  
**YOU made a difference!**

● Our African-American Outreach Program continued to expand, with contact being established with similar groups across the state.



Thank You

● We held an afternoon mini-conference attended by 97 persons before our Education and Appreciation Dinner in April. Star Parker was the main dinner speaker.

● Our Speaker's Bureau made 22 presentations, reaching some 1,646 adults and students. WILB aired 254 of our radio spots and 94 internet spots.



Thank You

● We witnessed at Akron's one remaining abortion facility, and organized witnesses at the new facility in Cuyahoga Falls. We recorded six saves in 2011. The 2011 Ohio Dept. of Health report, "Induced Abortions in Ohio," indicated there were 108 fewer resident abortions in 2010 than in 2009 across 5 local counties, excluding Cuyahoga.

● Our Ambassadors for Life Program is now represented at 77 churches and groups throughout northeast Ohio



Thank You

● Our annual Reverse Raffle in February, Golf for Life in September, and Celebrate Life Dinner and Auction in October helped us raise funds and connect with old and new friends.

## Assisted Suicide Advocates Seek Massachusetts' "Death With Dignity" Act

Assisted suicide advocates, who seek to allow doctors to prescribe lethal drugs to patients wishing to commit suicide, are hoping to get a "Death With Dignity" act on the Massachusetts ballot in 2012. Should it pass, Massachusetts would be the third state to have passed a law allowing assisted suicide. In Montana, judicial decisions have also permitted assisted suicide. From October 1997 through 2010, 529 persons have committed suicide under Oregon's law, while 87 Washington State residents have done so between March 2009 and the end of 2010.

In December, 2011, the Massachusetts Medical Society voted 178 to 56 to retain its long-standing opposition to physician assisted suicide. However, the pro-euthanasia organization Compassion and Choices can be expected to mount a strong campaign in favor of it.

Speaking to the issue, the Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts said, "... once a society allows one individual to take the life of another based on their private standards of what constitutes a life worth living, even when there is mutual agreement, there can be no safe or sure way to contain its possible consequences."

The history of euthanasia and assisted suicide in Belgium and Holland shows the slide down the slippery slope goes like this: first, legal safeguards against abuse go by the wayside, treatment for depression is overlooked, circumstances justifying suicide are expanded, economic issues and organ donation pressures encourage suicide, and finally, euthanasia becomes involuntary as others decide what is "best" for patients.

Social commentator Chuck Colson has said, "... the culture of death is alive and well in Western society. Too many people ... have lost sight of the Lord of life and see no alternative but to embrace this culture of death. That's why abortion, euthanasia, and even suicide are not only glorified in the media, but commercially profitable." Colson was commenting on a report by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania which found that the number of explicit and graphic portrayals of suicides in R and PG-13 movies tripled from 1950 to 2006. He notes, "news outlets for years have voluntarily adhered to strict reporting standards concerning suicide, because the evidence of copycat suicides is so clear and uncontroversial." No doubt movies and TV dramas have a similar impact on our values, beliefs and actions.

For more information, see "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in the United States" at *The Issues* on our website.

## M E M O R I A L S

### In memory of STEVEN LUCAS

Maralyn A. Yanko  
Donald J. Sullivan, M.D.  
Cathy Kirby  
Lisa Stacks  
Cathleen Christy  
Mary Thomas  
Georgia Hunton  
Mary Destefano  
Ray Adamek

### In memory of ANTHONY CROOKSTON JR.

Jack Slinger, Jr.  
Valerie Craddock  
Daniel Crookston  
Virginia Dudley  
Sandra Fouts  
Greg & Laura Frank  
Johanna Gingo-Pond  
Donna McConkey  
Jerome Wagner  
Judy York  
Maibach Ford

Knights of Columbus Council No. 1617  
Jim & Pat Crookston  
Carol & Bob Flask  
Debbie & Harlan Oakes  
Paul & Cathy Mungo  
Barbara Manges  
Amanda Manges  
Richard Novitsky  
Lynne Black  
Mary Ciura  
Patricia Eden

## The Morning After Pill and Sound Science

In a December 12, 2011 editorial, “Politics and Plan B,” the *Akron Beacon Journal* noted that Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius reversed a decision of the FDA that allowed the “emergency contraceptive” to be sold over the counter with no age restrictions. Her decision was certainly out of character for the staunchly pro-abortion and pro-emergency contraceptive Obama administration.

It may have seen an opportunity to appear more moderate on the issue, knowing that it was currently under consideration by U.S. District Judge Edward R. Korman. Korman had previously ordered the FDA to permit the sale of Plan B to 17-year-olds, and to consider reversing its decision to require younger minors to have a doctor’s prescription. The *Beacon* stated, “It is a shame the Obama White House has chosen now to disregard sound science in forming public policy.

The *Beacon’s* own science is lacking, however. The proper application of science involves taking all facts into consideration when forming policy. The *Beacon* listed only one mechanism of Plan B, saying, “The pill delays or prevents ovulation.”

According to the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, this “contraceptive” can also 2) make it more difficult for the sperm to reach the egg, and 3) cause the lining of the womb to thin, thus preventing implantation. This third mechanism causes an early abortion, since what is by then a hundred-cell embryo fails to implant in the womb and dies.

The editorial stated Plan B “does not terminate a pregnancy.” It could do so only because family planning/population control advocates have redefined pregnancy as beginning at implantation. But science tells us the life of an individual human being begins at fertilization.

The *Beacon* also stated that the White House “undercut its own ... policies that prevent unwanted pregnancies

and abortions.” But causing an early abortion does not prevent abortion. Furthermore, an analysis of 23 scientific studies from 10 countries on the use of emergency contraceptives concluded, “no study found an effect on pregnancy or abortion rates.”

Moreover, a study in England compared areas where the morning-after pill was available to teens free of charge to areas where it was not available. The pregnancy rate for girls under 16 remained the same in both areas, while the rate of sexually transmitted diseases increased by 12% where the pill was free.

Plan B advocates apparently think girls as young as 12 can be expected to be their own gynecologists, and to administer the powerful hormone in Plan B to themselves without the benefit of a prior physical exam. There is some evidence that Plan B may increase the risk of ectopic pregnancy, which can result in maternal death.

Can we expect a child under 17 who is trying to hide her pregnancy from her parents to recognize the symptoms of ectopic pregnancy and seek timely medical help?

Finally, the U.S. government’s scientifically gathered data tell us that in 1940 (before modern contraceptives and school sex education, but when the accepted norm was “wait until marriage,”) just 3.8% of births were out-of-wedlock. In 2008 (with modern contraceptives and school sex education), when the norm is “do what feels good, but be protected,”) 40.6% of births occurred out of wedlock.

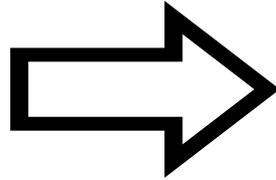
Given these scientific findings, a policy that says we ought to make hormonal contraceptives freely available to young girls brings to mind the statement, “Man’s wisdom is God’s foolishness.”

*See references for this article on our website by clicking on **News**. For more information on Hormonal and Emergency Contraceptives, click on **The Issues**.*

**Science tells us the life of an individual human being begins at fertilization.**



# KICK-OFF RALLY



**SUNDAY, February 19th 2012**  
**1:30pm – 3:30pm**  
**St Joseph Catholic Church**  
**1761 Second St., Cuyahga Falls 44221**

Please join us as we Kick-Off the Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign which runs February 22nd – April 1st, 2012. All are invited to be inspired by speakers, music, and light refreshments.

Keynote speaker will be Tracy Bihary, mother, author, speaker, pro-life volunteer and abortion survivor. Music Provided by Kira and Jeff Andrea

For more information please contact Judith at Right to Life of Northeast Ohio, 330.762.2785 or [jhoyst@rtlofneo.com](mailto:jhoyst@rtlofneo.com)

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.* - II Chronicles 7:14

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion in America. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a

spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion in America.

**Tracy Bihary** spent ten years on a journey of finding faith from aborting her baby Savannah Grace, discovering God's love and forgiveness, to completing her debut book *Chocolate Cake in Heaven*.

Witness her firsthand account regarding the sad reality of abortion; the truth behind the quick fix of an unwanted pregnancy and the path forward to receiving inner peace and forgiveness from the Lord. From the dark and bleak room of the abortion clinic, Tracy takes you down the road of self destruction filled with hallucinations of her aborted baby before she finds the path to God and receives a precious gift that He gives back.

This emotional story of courage and new found faith is an inspiration of hope to mothers who may be contemplating abortion and provides a message to stop and think before taking action.

Tracy lives in Cleveland Ohio with her husband Dwane, and their four children, Antony, Brittany, Christopher and Gwenyth.

**Make Lent 2012 an especially meaningful 40 Days!**

## GIFTS

**In Honor of Rosemary Frey's Birthday**  
Nativity Women's Bible Study

**In Honor of Adoption of Faith Thomas,**  
**daughter of Jerry & Elaine Thomas**  
Paul & Pat Mong



## TRUTH DICTIONARY

Pro-Choice Definition: Abortion = reproductive health care.  
True Definition: Abortion = anti-reproductive health endangerment. The child reproduced is killed, and the woman is subjected to a greater risk of breast cancer, miscarriage, depression, suicide, substance abuse, and more.

Click on **The Issues** on our website and see "Legal Abortion Harms Women."

# SHARE OUR MISSION

## HERE'S HOW

### SHARE TIME

Sign up for our Spring "40 days for life" campaign which runs from February 22nd to April 1st. (Time commitment – one or more hours of your choosing.)

Become an Ambassador at your parish, church or organization, or assist an existing Ambassador. (Time commitment – variable depending on your availability.)

Serve on a committee for one of our programs (we always need a few good extra hands!). (Time commitment – 5-15 hours spread over 3-6 months.)

Be an occasional volunteer at our office to help with large mailings or simple data input. (Time commitment – variable, up to you!)

### SHARE TALENT

We are looking for someone with experience using desktop publishing software (of any sort) to layout our quarterly newsletter.

We could use additional help for our website maintenance and support team.

We are always looking for energetic volunteers who have sales or marketing expertise to assist in our outreach efforts and programs.

MAILTEAM



### SHARE TREASURE

Become a monthly pledge donor. \$5, \$10, \$25 per month, or more if you can – we will send reminder envelopes.

Make a one-time donation for a general, or specific, purpose. \$400 will keep a billboard up for one month (or longer); \$500 will pay our office rent for one month.

Be a table sponsor at one of our dinners; or a hole sponsor at our Golf for Life outing.

Include a bequest for Right to Life of Northeast Ohio in your will.

*To offer help or get more information, please call Reita at our office – 330-762-2785 or email us at [volunteer@rtlofneo.com](mailto:volunteer@rtlofneo.com)*

## PROLIFE LEGISLATION 2011-2012

*2011 was a banner year for prolife legislation in Ohio and around the United States. According to Americans United for Life, 47 states considered such laws in 2011. Seventy prolife bills were passed into law, and 30 states, including Ohio, have passed or are considering laws to opt out of abortion coverage in health care exchanges mandated by the new federal health care law.*

**In Ohio, the legislature passed and Governor Kasich signed three separate prolife bills, while the state budget bill also had prolife provisions:**

**House Bill 78/Senate Bill 72**, signed into law in July, prohibits abortions at 20 weeks or later if testing shows the child is viable and can live outside the womb.

**House Bill 73**, signed into law in November, revises the judicial bypass procedure for Ohio's parental consent law. Now, a court must use a more stringent "clear and convincing evidence" standard to grant a bypass. It must also inquire about 1) the minor's understanding of the possible physical and emotional dangers of abortion and 2) to what extent the minor may have been coached to answer the judge's questions.

**House Bill 79**, passed and signed in December, excludes coverage of abortion in the State Health Insurance Exchange. House Bill 153, the state budget, passed and signed in July, included provisions prohibiting abortions at taxpayer funded public hospitals, banning taxpayer funding of non-therapeutic abortions in health care plans of local government employees, protecting the rights of prolife students at state colleges, and requiring the Department of Health to apply for federal abstinence education grants.

Prolife Ohioans hope to keep up this momentum as we move into 2012. Pending HB 298 would redirect funds from organizations that provide abortions (such as Planned Parenthood) to health centers that provide health care for women, children and the unborn. At the federal level, bills have been introduced in the House that would require abortionists to make the heartbeat of the unborn visible and audible to the mother as part of her informed consent counseling.

### Ohio Heartbeat Bill and Personhood Amendment

Two issues have recently threatened to divide the prolife movement in Ohio and around the country. The first is Ohio HB 125 (the "heartbeat bill") which would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can be as early as 20 days after conception. The second is an attempt to amend the Ohio Constitution to confer personhood on human beings from the moment of conception. We believe these efforts are good ideas but that they are being raised at the wrong time. As such, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio will not actively support them, nor will we actively oppose them.

If either of these proposals is passed into law, a federal court will be required to strike it down because the Supreme Court has stated, "Before viability, a State 'may not prohibit any woman from making the ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy.'" (Gonzalez v. Carhart). An appellate court, also bound by this ruling, would affirm the decision and the Supreme Court would likely pass on the opportunity to consider it. (The Supreme Court does not have to take every case appealed to it).

Even if the Supreme Court were to consider such an appeal, there are not enough votes to overturn Roe v. Wade. The Court refused to overturn Roe in 2007, and the only new Justices since then are two with prochoice views appointed by President Obama. Hence, Ohio would have to use taxpayer funds to pay legal fees to the prochoice groups challenging these prolife efforts, and we would be left with one more precedent affirming abortion on demand.

We believe our efforts are better spent supporting prolife laws that will survive court challenges, and working to elect a prolife president and more prolife persons to local, state and federal offices. Our ultimate goal remains overturning Roe v. Wade, protecting innocent human life from conception to natural death, and building a culture of life in Ohio and our nation.

# WHO VOTED HOW?

During 2011, the 112th Congress voted on abortion funding issues several times.

There was one roll call vote in the U.S. Senate. **Ohio Senator Rob Portman** voted to cut off federal funding to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, as did 89.4% of the Republicans voting on the issue. **Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown** voted against defunding Planned Parenthood, as did 100% of the Democrats voting on the issue.

There were five roll call votes in the U.S. House in 2011 calling for tax funds to be denied to Planned Parenthood, abortion in general, or for the training of abortionists. Across the five votes, **97.8% of the Republicans voting sought to deny tax funds for abortion**, while **94.1% of the Democrats voted to use our tax funds for abortion**.

☑ For details on the votes, go to [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org), or search National Right to Life on the internet.

☑ For 10 reasons tax money should not go to Planned Parenthood, click on **News** on our website.

## ProLife Youth Congress March for Life Pilgrimage 2012

*by Rachel del Guidice*

This year, the ProLife Youth Congress took two buses of students to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life. We left Ohio in the wee hours of the morning on January 21st and were able to tour museums and monuments in Washington, D.C. before our Congressional Session in the evening.

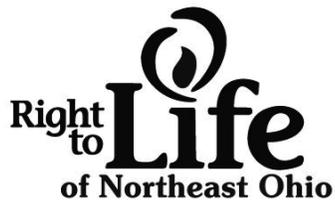


On Sunday, we were privileged to attend the Students for Life of America National Conference and hear from amazing and inspiring speakers such as Gov. Mike Huckabee, Congressman Chris Smith, Lila Rose, and David Bereit, to name a few. The ProLife Youth Congress was also honored to receive SFLA's Impact for Life Award.

On Monday, we joined with hundreds of thousands of people from all across our nation to give a voice to the voiceless at the March for Life.

To all those who organized this pilgrimage, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. Also, many thanks to those who supported us through your prayers and financial support!





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### Our Mission

Protecting the sanctity of human life from  
conception through natural death

### The Issues

Abortion  
Embryonic Stem Cell Research & Cloning  
Euthanasia & End of Life Decisions

### Our Goal

Building the Culture of Life

### Our Strategies

Educate with the facts concerning life issues  
Legislate by promoting laws protecting innocent  
human lives  
Advocate as a voice for the voiceless  
Unify those seeking to defend life  
Multiply our voices to increase in strength

## A Message from the President

As this newsletter goes out, I'm excited to say that the *Life Collaboration Campaign* started by Right to Life of Northeast Ohio has over 400 billboards throughout the state of Ohio that are displaying a message to women in unplanned pregnancies who are looking for direction. More than 7.5 million cars each day drive past these billboards, which, when combined with multi-media that includes keywords on the internet, reach hundreds of thousands of overwhelmed women and men with a phone number to call for a live counselor who provides help and hope. We were even successful at getting a billboard placed across the street from the abortion facility in Cuyahoga Falls!

Through the generous contributions of many personal and corporate donors, the dream of a media campaign, that we started two years ago, is now a growing reality. This could not happen without the kindness of people like you. Please accept our most sincere expression of appreciation on behalf of the many babies who will be born, and the mothers and fathers whose lives will be enriched as a result of your generosity. By working together with pro-life organizations, we can promote a Culture of Life. Heroic Media, Option Line, Heartbeat International, the Knights of Columbus, ICU Mobile, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio and local area pregnancy centers have all come together to participate – that's why we call it the *Life Collaboration Campaign*. In addition, we have 2 donors who have pledged to match every dollar donated. Hence, each dollar donated will yield THREE dollars! Please help us continue to reach women in crisis by sharing this information with your friends and family. You can



make a tax deductible contribution to this campaign through the Signature and Media Campaign going on in many churches and schools right now, or by contacting us at our office. If you are an organization that would like to schedule a meeting or request brochures about the campaign for your members, please contact [jnorton@rtlofneo.com](mailto:jnorton@rtlofneo.com).

As we proceed into this new year, we continue to be busy with programs that will educate about life issues, advocate as a voice for the voiceless, legislate by promoting laws that protect innocent human life, unify those seeking to protect life, and multiply our voices to increase in strength. This year is extremely important where legislation is concerned because of the upcoming presidential elections. YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT! Please become informed not only about issues, but about the candidates running for office. You can learn more about how candidates stand on life issues through the Ohio Right to Life Political Action Committee website at [www.ohiovotesforlife.org](http://www.ohiovotesforlife.org).