

LIFE LINES

A Publication of

Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc.
and the Education Fund

Winter 2013 - 2014, Volume 2

March for Life 2014

Two signs carried at the March for Life in Washington, D.C., zero in on the core of the abortion issue.

WHOSE CHOICE?	Jews didn't choose genocide Blacks didn't choose slavery Babies don't choose abortion.
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One of the marchers, when asked what stood out for her, said, "Freezing cold and happy faces." Indeed, on EWTN's TV monitors one saw nothing but happy faces in spite of the dangerous sub-zero wind chill. Congressional Rep. Eric Cantor called the marchers the "not-so-secret weapon" of the pro-life movement. He was there with roughly 60 members of the Republican National Committee.

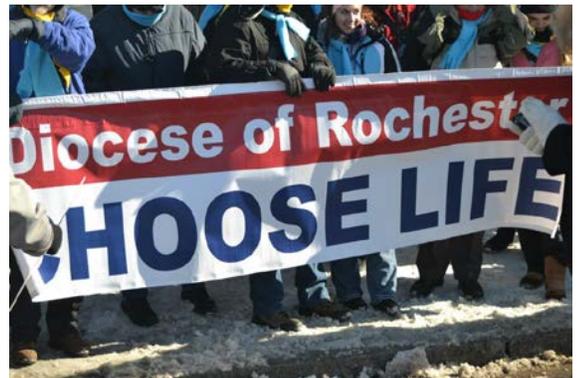
The theme this year characterized adoption as "the noble choice," and stories rolled in via Facebook of people grateful for having been adopted or for having been able to adopt a child.

One of the announcers noticed the banner for Hope Christian Fellowship in Rochester, NY. Aurora Vega, the organizer of the two vans the church sent, commented that she was pleased with the March. She said, "They actually have a real purpose, not just against abortion but also showing a solution: adoption." Hope Christian intends to send a bus to the March next year.

Local Catholic attendees appreciated newly installed Bishop Matano's participation. He had intended to be present for the Vigil and the morning Mass, but his flight was cancelled. He arrived in time to greet marchers on the steps of the Basilica after the morning Mass and then go to the rally. He marched in the crowd that followed the Diocese of Rochester banner.



Photos by Fr. Edison Tayag



Media non-coverage

For the most part the media ignore the March for Life. The Family Research Council (FRC) points out, "Most networks have had a lot of practice perfecting their greatest magic trick: making hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers disappear!"

Rochester's *Democrat & Chronicle*, in the USA TODAY section, had a color picture and a nice article about the March. However, they commented that there were "thousands" of marchers. That estimate is only off by a factor of a hundred. There were hundreds of thousands of marchers, in spite of a winter storm that grounded airplanes and halted tour buses.

FRC added, "'NBC Nightly News' fared slightly better than CNN and MSNBC (who ignored the March altogether) - but even its coverage, a whopping 22 seconds' worth, and ABC's (24 seconds) were barely a blip on the media's screen. With the exception of Fox, most networks (the same ones who [spent] days covering the Occupy movement) didn't think a few hundred thousand people on the National Mall were worth mentioning."

The social media, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest, were heavily in use during the March by enthusiasts communicating with others and attempting to move the information to people outside the standard pro-life movement.

<http://www.frc.org/washingtonupdate/march-madness-media-bias-snubs-pro-life-coverage>

Jahi and her peers

Thirteen-year-old Jahi McMath has been in the news since complications from a complex tonsillectomy left her with brain stem damage and needing a ventilator because she was not breathing independently. A team of doctors swiftly declared her “brain dead” and wanted to turn off the ventilator immediately. Court battles ensued, with the parents looking for another institution that would take over Jahi’s care.

As usual, there were some pieces of information not mentioned in the media coverage.

For instance, the assumption is that once a patient is declared “brain dead” there will never be any recovery and the patient is truly dead. However, sometimes experts disagree; there are multiple documented cases of recovery after a declaration of “brain death.” Stephen Thorpe was a young man who was declared brain dead following a car collision. His parents persisted in advocating on his behalf, finally finding a neurologist who disagreed with the diagnosis. Less than two months later, he left the hospital. As of 2012 he was a “trainee accounts clerk” and feeling lucky to be alive.

The concept of brain death was developed with the advent of organ transplants. Organ transplants require organs in excellent condition, e.g. not deprived of blood circulation for any appreciable length of time. Using the standard of brain death, doctors can declare the patient dead while the heart is still beating.

Jahi has been moved to another facility and given a feeding tube and a tracheostomy. The original hospital refused to perform either procedure because they considered her dead.

Whether Jahi lives or dies, this story is a reminder that future Jahis with brain damage need careful evaluation, and then they need to be given time, time to see if the body repairs itself.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2134346/Steven-Thorpe-Teenager-declared-brain-dead-FOUR-doctors-makes-miracle-recovery.html>

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/dad-rescues-brain-dead-son-from-doctors-wishing-to-harvest-his-organs-boy-r>

Judge invents assisted suicide right in New Mexico

Wesley J. Smith, lawyer, author, and expert on life issues, points out that it only takes one judge to do what a legislature would not do, and this is the case in New Mexico. New Mexico Judge Nan G. Nash found that “it is unconstitutional to prevent terminally ill people from receiving a lethal overdose from a doctor for the purpose of self-killing.”

The suit was brought by the group Compassion and Choices, formerly known as the Hemlock Society. Their legal argument did not work, according to Smith, in Connecticut or Montana courts.

www.cbc-network.org/2014/01/court-imposes-assisted-suicide-in-new-mexico/

Secular pro-life organizations at the March

According to *Buzzfeed*, at 10:00 am before the March there was a conference of secular pro-life organizations on the National Mall in front of the Natural History Museum. Organizations listed were Secular Pro-Life, Life Matters Journal, New Wave Feminists, Consistent Life, PLAGAL (The ProLife Alliance of Gays and Lesbians), and Feminists Choosing Life of New York. (In addition, the Pro-Life Humanists group had been scheduled to come, but was not present.) It’s a reminder that opposition to abortion is a near-universal human rights issue, not solely a religious issue.

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/bennyjohnson/13-young-secular-people-who-also-believe-abortion-is-wrong>

Brit Hume “The Moral Case for Defending Life”

Commenting on the March for Life on Fox News, Brit Hume cited the injustice of *Roe v. Wade*’s conjuring a privacy right out of nothing, and the 55-plus million abortions since that court decision. He finished by saying, “These protestors here today understand that there is something deeply false and wrong about all this. They come each year to remind the rest of us.”

http://conservative50plus.com/blog/must-watch-brit-hume-on-the-moral-case-for-defending-life/?utm_source=Conservative+50+Plus&utm_campaign=b94fed252f-

RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_be457ca6cc-b94fed252f-3048257

Proposed IRS rules intended to muzzle advocacy groups

New IRS regulations would move many activities associated with free speech to a category of very restrictive “candidate-related political activity” rules. That would leave pro-life groups like the Family Research Council very little pro-life advocacy they could legally do.

www.wnd.com/2014/01/new-irs-rules-would-scuttle-tea-parties/

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RARTL is a single-issue, nonsectarian, pro-life organization that focuses on abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, all immediate threats to innocent human life.

Since you asked

by Dcn. Dennis Lohouse

Question: My friend said that abortion is justifiable because the fetus is not “in the world.” It does not even breathe air. Does the ENVIRONMENT make a difference?

Answer: First, let’s call this “fetus” a baby. The location of any individual does not define it as a person or a human. Just because the baby is separated from the outside of the mother by the 8 inches of the birth canal or the 1-2 inches of tissue and skin of the mother’s abdomen, does not render him or her less of a human. That baby is in the world! Do astronauts, tethered to a space capsule, with all of their life support coming from their backpacks, represent as any less human because of their location? Of course not! Despite the vacuum of space that surrounds them, and their dependence on the mother ship, their humanity does not change. What is the difference between a baby in the womb, then in the birth canal one minute before birth, and that same baby one minute after birth....ONLY A LEGAL FICTION!

SLED Reminder: **S**ize, **L**evel of Development, **E**nvironment, **D**egree of Dependency

SLED is the acronym for Stephen Schwartz’ list of nonessential traits distinguishing between unborn children and the rest of us. These traits are often used in excuses for why it’s acceptable to do abortions.

WebMD and Obamacare

Do you use WebMD for casual medical questions? Doubts are arising over its relationship with advertisers, such as an Eli-Lilly-sponsored mental health screening test that always gave positive risk results. Not coincidentally, Eli Lilly makes Cymbalta, for treatment of depression.

Now WebMD has signed a contract worth millions of dollars with the government to “teach doctors about Obamacare.” It’s worth reading the Washington Times article to decide whether WebMD is as unbiased as you might hope to believe.

<http://lastresistance.com/3919/webmd-quietly-hired-promote-obamacare/>

www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/nov/12/webmds-healthy-deal-with-obamacare-millions-of-dol/

**Nelson Mandela said:
“Women have the right to decide
what they want to do with their
bodies.”**

Nelson Mandela’s death in December, 2013, was noted by all the mainstream media, with floods of comments by celebrities. His influence as a statesman and a fighter for human rights was lauded by all. However, his definition of “human” did not include unborn children. Not normally mentioned in the media was the fact that during his presidency he supported, advocated for, and signed into law the “Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill.” He was also allied with the African National Congress (ANC), the ANC Women’s League, and the South African Communist Party, all of which are ideologically committed to abortion.

Ryan Bomberger, black leader of The Radiance Foundation said, “How can you condemn the evil of apartheid and turn around and deem another group to be less than human?”

“In the Words of Nelson Mandela” Compiled and edited by Jennifer Crwys-Williams, Penguin Books Ltd in South Africa, 2010, p 1.

<http://spuc-director.blogspot.com/2013/12/god-rest-nelson-mandela-his-record-on.html>

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/u.s.-catholic-bishop-calls-mandelas-support-of-abortion-shameful-black-lead>

Abortions over 56 million since Roe v. Wade

The March for Life in Washington every year is a sad remembrance of the Roe v. Wade decision that kicked off the wave of legal killing of preborn children in the US. National Right to Life (NRLC) calculates abortion statistics based on information from (1) the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which does not receive abortion data from several states including California, and (2) the Guttmacher Institute, which receives data from abortionists in all states including California but which does not do its data collection every year.

Based on the most recently released (2010) data from CDC, NRLC calculates that have been between 56 and 57 million abortions in the US since Roe v. Wade.

However, they add an encouraging note. In 1990 there were 1.6 million abortions. If abortion had continued at the same rate, the cumulative total would be close to 64 million by now, 7 million more.

NRLC credits those 7 million saved lives to the efforts of pro-lifers. NRLC said, “Of course the Movement has a long way to go to return full legal protection to unborn children. But never underestimate the importance of what you, grassroots pro-life America, are doing.”

http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2014/01/abortions-top-56-million-since-roe-v-wade/#.UtLZqLRMj_U

RARTL Annual Meeting

Supper, information tables from multiple groups, a sing-along of Gary Cangemi’s parodies, and a super speaker greeted meeting attendees in October.

Gary Cangemi is the creator of Umbert (below). His newest and ongoing creation is a series of new pro-life words set to well-known songs.



Sarah-Elizabeth Pilato, with Ava, and Tom Tripiciano lead the pro-life songs. Photo by Fred Amato.

Why Adoption and Not Abortion

by Susan LeDoux

In 1964 a girl named Barbara – single, pregnant and nineteen – refused to abort her baby.

That child, Dr. Keith Sanger, DDS, stood before guests at RARTL’s Annual Meeting last fall to tell his story to promote adoption over abortion.

Recently, Keith sought Barbara in order to discover his genetic history. They finally met in Rochester and Barbara told Keith how she had tried to care for him but the task was beyond her. Hoping for a better life for the infant she so loved, Barbara released him for adoption 49 years ago. Sanger, now a father of three, said, “Barbara, you are a remarkable woman and mother.”

Later, after meeting Renee Sanger, who with her husband had adopted Keith and two other boys, Barbara thanked her, saying “You were my guardian angel when I was 19 years old.”

Had she aborted Keith, Barbara could never have told him, “God blessed and truly looked over you when I was unable.”

“Am I Not A Child?”

A group of black and Hispanic leaders in Rochester has begun a campaign called “Am I Not A Child?” to raise consciousness of the high abortion rates among minorities in New York state. Ayesha Kreutz, president of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of New York, said that “the black community is no longer replacing itself.”

Indeed, according to NYS Department of Health Vital Statistics, in the black community, for every 10 pregnancies, 5 end in induced (deliberate) abortion.

Their slogan reflects the successful 1787 slogan “Am I not a man and a brother?”

Spokesperson Dr. John Walker summarizes, “This is not a political issue. This is a human one. If we fail to protect the personhood of all humans at every stage of maturity then we are all slaves to the whims of another man’s agenda. May God help us overcome this inhumanity.”

<http://www.fdfny.org/blog/?p=6220>

New York statistics, tables 19 and 29 http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2011/

www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/local/2014/01/14/area-black-hispanic-leaders-form-anti-abortion-group/4480547/



Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



YOU ARE A PUBLIC SPEAKER EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE!

Think you could do it better? Want to brush up?

Ever wish you could explain pro-life issues comfortably, persuasively, whether it's to a single person or a group?



You can! Come to RARTL's Pro-Life Speaker Training Day!

Presenter: LORI KEHOE is the senior congressional liaison for the Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics at the National Right to Life Committee. She is also executive director of the New York State Right to Life Committee.

Saturday, April 26, 2014 8 AM to 4 PM
Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece

Get lots of information and the opportunity to do at least one video mini-presentation of your choice with professional guidance and feedback. It's a friendly, supportive atmosphere and we'll provide lunch. What more could you ask?

Reservations are required so we can provide for everybody and there will be a free-will offering to help offset the cost of the day.



High School Juniors and Seniors! Pro-Life Oratorical Contest

Create a short pro-life speech (5 – 7 minutes) on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cells, and present it at the

Rochester Area Right to Life Oratorical Contest

Saturday, April 12, 2014 10 AM to 12 Noon

Greece Assembly of God (750 Long Pond Road, Rochester 14612)

In addition, the winner has the right to go to the state-level contest in Albany in May, competing to be the one to represent New York at the National Right to Life Convention this summer in Louisville, Kentucky!

First place prize \$300
Second place prize \$100
Third place prize \$50

There is no charge, but you must register in advance.

Freshman? Sophomore? Or younger? We have special opportunities to allow younger students to participate in a non-competitive way for practice. No age limits.

For information or registration for either the Speaker Training Day or the Oratorical Contest:

Call Rochester Area Right to Life (585) 621-4690
or e-mail RARTL@righttoliferoch.org
or check our website www.righttoliferoch.org.

Washington Legislation

“**The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act**” was passed by the House and has been sent to the Senate. National Right to Life is urging Harry Reid to allow a vote. However, Reid and others have said that the bill will not receive a floor vote.

Fortunately, this issue has been taken up by state legislation. Texas is the newest of ten states to have passed legislation protecting pain-capable unborn children, defined by an age of 20 weeks. There was a court challenge, but most of the law was left intact. Texas joins Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, North Dakota, Idaho, and Georgia. The two last-mentioned are currently enjoined, but the others are in force.

“**No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act**” (HR.7), would permanently prohibit federal subsidies for abortion, both in Obamacare and existing federal programs. It was introduced by Christopher Smith in the House of Representatives and was passed by the full House with a 227 – 188 vote. This bill now goes to the Senate where its future is dubious, even though most Americans seem to be against taxpayer funding for abortion. The White House has issued a veto threat.

New York State Legislation

The New York State Assembly passed the “**Women’s Equality Act**,” all ten planks including the abortion expansion plank, just as they did last year. David DiPietro delivered an effective speech explaining why he could not vote for it. No vote has been scheduled for the Senate.

There was a better alternative. The Assembly Minority Conference had introduced nine individual pieces of legislation for the first nine planks, omitting the plank that caused the Senate to reject the bill.

Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb commented, “Last year was a missed opportunity.” He expressed the hope that this year the Assembly would take an “approach that actually delivers results for the women of New York State.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m-w98GSEcl&feature=youtu.be>

www.friendsofbriankolb.com/assembly-minority-conference-members-introduce-women%E2%80%99s-equality-act-legislation/

Right-to-life = extremist?

The New York Post article “Gov. Cuomo to conservatives: Leave NY!” had many people offended at the governor’s comments. His words equated the pro-life position, among other things, to extremism. Governor Cuomo said his words were taken out of context.

Even in context, they don’t improve much. See the full statement.

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/01192014statement>

<http://nypost.com/2014/01/18/gov-cuomo-to-conservatives-leave-ny/>

Cuomo’s comment: “best example of extremism”

Bishop Richard Malone of Buffalo responded to Cuomo’s comment, defending the protection of unborn children in New York in saying, “I think that comment is the best example of extremism I’ve heard for a long time.” Watch his very short video on the topic.

http://blogs.buffalonews.com/politics_now/2014/01/video-bishop-malone-on-cuomo-and-extremism.html

Republican National Committee nixes strategy of silence on abortion

At their winter meeting after the March for Life in Washington, the Republican National Committee passed a resolution acknowledging that silence is not necessarily a winning strategy. The resolution counseled candidates to speak up on the abortion issue when accused of being involved in a “war on women.”

The “Resolution on Republican Pro-Life Strategy” was written by Delaware National Committeewoman Ellen Barrosse and introduced with 15 co-sponsors. As the resolution states, “many Republican stances regarding abortion garner at least 60% support from the public and across the political spectrum...”. When Republican candidates do not speak out on the issues surrounding abortion, the public remains unaware of the extreme positions taken by their opposition on topics such as parental notification in the case of minors, informed consent on the topic of risks, partial-birth abortion, and second and third trimester abortions.

<http://www.nationalrighttolifeneeds.org/news/2014/01/republican-national-committee-affirms-that-pro-life-is-a-winning-position-counsels-pro-life-candidates-not-to-stay-silent-when-attacked-with-war-on-women-rhetoric/>

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/01/21/first-on-cnn-gop-urges-candidates-to-stand-ground-on-abortion/>

Suggested prayers

Please become a **prayer partner**. Spend 5-10 minutes daily in prayer about life issues to provide a 24-hour prayer shield over our area. Join in the following monthly prayer themes:

February: That judges may decide cases in a manner consistent with the fundamental right to life.

March: For the protection of the free speech rights of pro-life groups and individuals.

April: That conscientious pro-life people seriously consider running for public office.

May: That school boards make their policies with the right to life in mind.

**In Memory of**

Catherine and Kathleen Hoysic
by William Hoysic

In Honor of

Happy Birthday to
Paulette Kryk
by Larry Bernardini

In Prayer

Mary Ann Cape
Tony Jones

Name change for Feminists Choosing Life

Feminists Choosing Life has changed its name to Feminists for Nonviolent Choices. They say they want to portray abortion as “a direct act of violence against women and children therefore making it counter to the original feminist values of nonviolence, non-discrimination and justice.”

Events of interest to pro-lifers

Saturday, March 1 Rochester Catholic Women’s Conference. Consult www.rochesterercwc.org for details or call Janene Loughran at (585) 329-1974

Wednesday, March 12, Screening of “Sexy Baby,” a documentary, followed by a Q&A with Melinda Tankard Reist. 6:15 pm at the Little Theatre.

<http://countertheculture.wix.com/2014>

Saturday, March 15 Art Gallery and Exhibition on the Sexual Objectification of Women & Girls, 5:00-9:00 pm at Rochester Brainery.

<http://countertheculture.wix.com/2014>

Sunday, March 16, Book Talk & Signing, featuring Melinda Tankard Reist. 2:00-4:00 pm at Writers & Books. <http://countertheculture.wix.com/2014>

Saturday, April 5, 2014 Break for Life Youth Conference at McQuaid Jesuit.

<http://break4lifeconference.wix.com/2014>

RTL MEMORIAL/HONOR TRIBUTE

You are welcome to remember an event/achievement or a deceased loved one with a memorial/honor/tribute, tax-deductible, donation to the **RARTL Education Fund**. A card in your name will be sent to the family/person you designate; contribution amount is confidential.

Mail form & check payable to RARTL Education Fund to RARTL; 675 Ling Road; Suite 3; Rochester, NY 14612

Enclosed is gift of \$_____ in memory/honor

Of/for _____

(occasion) _____

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Life-Lines Subscription

Would you like a subscription to Life-Lines? We can send it to you on paper or via e-mail. Please call (621-4690) or e-mail (RARTL@righttoliferoch.org) with your contact information. We need your name and street address and, if you would like it e-mailed, your e-mail address. There is no charge for a subscription, although donations are gratefully accepted.

Saturday, April 12, 2014 RARTL Oratorical Contest for high school juniors and seniors and others. 10:00 am. See page 5.

Saturday, April 26, RARTL Pro-Life Speaker Training, all day, no charge. Persuasive skills for anyone. See page 5.

Friday, April 18 Good Friday Stations of the Cross. Starting with 9 AM prayer service at McQuaid Jesuit, followed by peaceful prayerful procession led by priests, deacons, and religious. Bob and Amy Dorscheid 732-8994

Wednesday, April 30 NYSRTL Lobby Day. NOTE DATE CHANGE. www.nysrighttolife.org

Thursday through Saturday, June 26 - 28 National Right to Life Convention.

Friday, August 1 Camp Esther for pro-life teen leaders - opening day

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Supreme Court pro-life cases

Positive step for the Little Sisters

The Little Sisters of the Poor have asked for an exemption from the Obamacare mandates that they say would require them to violate their religious beliefs. One of the requirements for the exemption is that they sign and file a "Form 700." They refuse to sign the form because they say that signing the form would then free the government to provide the services that the Little Sisters consider morally wrong.

The new Supreme Court decision prevents the Administration from enforcing the mandate as the case continues through the court processes.

Lyle Denniston, in SCOTUSblog, says:
The Justices' order does require the Little Sisters to tell the government, in writing, that they are non-profit groups "that hold themselves out as religious and have religious objections to providing coverage for contraceptive services." That was a procedural wrinkle that the Court itself invented, outside the rules laid down by the government.

www.scotusblog.com/2014/01/partial-win-for-little-sisters/

Hobby Lobby gets support

Over 50 briefs have been filed in the Supreme Court in favor of Hobby Lobby, by far outstripping the number of briefs favoring the government position. Hobby Lobby is supported by 107 members of Congress (bipartisan), 20 states, leading scholars, doctors and women's organizations, prominent Protestant and Catholic theologians and diverse religious groups. For details, see the website of the Becket Foundation.

Hobby Lobby is a commercial business, not a religious organization. However, its founder and current management are firmly committed Christians who say they run the business according to Christian principles and they should not be required to violate their principles. The government has said that corporations cannot have religious principles, and therefore should comply with the Obamacare mandate.

Professor Michael McConnell of the Stanford Law School comments, "It is late in the day for the government, which regularly prosecutes corporations for intent crimes, to claim that corporations cannot form an intent."

www.becketfund.org/hobbylobbyamicus/