

# Right to Life of Shelby County

# Newsletter

August

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## Volunteer corner

▪ Welcome to new board members, Jenni Bohman and Tim Bodenhorn. Thank you to RTL's long-serving board members, Ron Meyer, Wayne Krebs, Mike Monnier, Ann Joslin, Joe Martino, Sally Naseman, and Mary Schmiesing. RTL is grateful for their dedication and generosity.

▪ We would like to organize a gathering of area pro-life clergy and religious leaders. Anyone willing to assist, please contact Kevin or Anne at 492-5584.

## Mark your calendar...

The deadline for submissions to the September newsletter is August 20.

Board meetings: August 4 and September 1 at 7:30 pm.

## Clothing center report

We served 174 people during the month of June, of whom 62 received free items, 6 took literature, and 1 was referred to the Women's Center.

The clothing center will be open on Saturday mornings, 9 to noon, through September.

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

## On the Web...

RTL of Shelby County:  
[www.shelbycountyrctl.org](http://www.shelbycountyrctl.org)

Ohio RTL:  
[www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org)

National RTL Committee:  
[www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

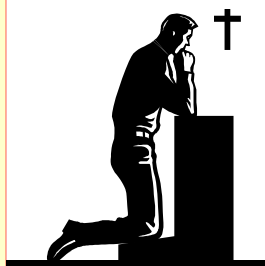
## 40 Days for Life: Prayer and Action for Life

40 Days for Life is a pro-life event conducted each year in the Fall and Spring. It consists of a loosely organized coalition of individuals and groups across the country who agree to participate in various prayer and witness activities during a given time frame.

Several groups and individuals in Shelby County have participated in the past. This year, Shelby County RTL is organizing a fuller involvement in the 40 Days project. We believe this is an outstanding way to raise awareness of the need for greater respect for life at all its stages and to encourage prayer for our country and its leaders.



40 Days focuses on a three-point method of prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. The campaign's web site explains its method and vision:



40 Days for Life takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion in America.

The 40-day campaign tracks Biblical history, where God used 40-day periods to transform individuals, communities ... and the entire world. From Noah in the flood to Moses on the mountain to the disciples after Christ's resurrection, it is clear that God sees the transformative value of His people accepting and meeting a 40-day challenge. (continued on page 2)

## Keeping Health Care Pro-Life

### ACTION ITEM



The threat of federal abortion mandates through health care "reform" continues. Amendments to include language explicitly prohibiting abortion coverage have been defeated in committee. Please contact your political representatives and urge them to exclude abortion coverage from any federal health care legislation.

You can find contact information for representatives, as well as more information about health care legislation developments, at sites such as [ohio-life.org](http://ohio-life.org) and [clearconsciencehealthcare.org](http://clearconsciencehealthcare.org); or by clicking on the news stories on the right side of RTL's home page, [www.shelbycountyrctl.org](http://www.shelbycountyrctl.org).

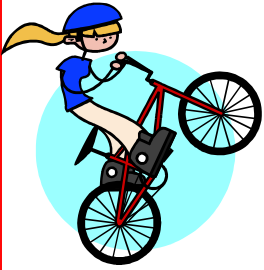
## Sixth Annual Pro-Life Science and Technology Conference

This outstanding conference will be held at the Engineers Club in Dayton, Saturday, September 19, 2009, from 9am to 4pm.

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.

Speakers include Fr. Larry Gearhart on assisted suicide, Scott and Laura Schulze of Elizabeth's New Life Center on contraception, and Dr. Russell Bowermaster on adult stem cells. This is a great opportunity to become educated about various life issues. For more information and a full schedule of presentations, see [www.prolifetechnology.org/program.htm](http://www.prolifetechnology.org/program.htm).

## Bike for Life



A Shelby County-area Bike for Life will be held Sunday, September 13, from 2 to 4 pm beginning at St. Michael's Hall in Fort Loramie. It will consist of a 7.8 mile bike ride, a bike rodeo, and activities in the hall that promote respect for life for the unborn, handicapped and elderly. A food stand will provide refreshments at a nominal cost. There will be \$500 in cash and gift card prizes for both teens and adults, as well as game and toy prizes for children.

RTL of Shelby County will have a booth featuring educational material, as well as pro-life t-shirts (including our new Shelby County RTL logo shirts), and other items available for purchase. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly pro-life event.

## Teens for Truth: Pro-Life Youth Group

Teens for Truth is a youth organization that promotes a pro-life message in the Shelby County area. They meet on the last Sunday of every month at 7:00 at The Barn (10496 Hardin Pike Road, Wapakoneta). Anyone in high school is welcome to come. The next meeting date is August 30.

The group is doing a pumpkin project this year. They ask people who have grown extra pumpkins, to donate them for use this fall in a Pro-Life Prayer Vigil. If anyone is willing to donate pumpkins, please contact Kim Poepelman at [pupman@roadrunner.com](mailto:pupman@roadrunner.com) or 419-925-1411.

## 40 Days for Life (continued from page 1)

40 Days for Life runs from September 23 to November 1. We would like to fill as many of these days as possible with pro-life activities. Churches and youth groups in particular are urged to sponsor events such as prayer services or clinic vigils.

If you would like to organize an event, please contact Tim Bodenhorn, 492-9326. Pastors interested in holding prayers services, such as opening or closing ceremonies for the 40 Days period, are encouraged to contact Tim for ideas and to place their events on RTL's general schedule.

If you would like to join other pro-lifers in praying at the abortion clinic in Dayton, please contact Lynn Springer, 498-9985.

For more information on 40 Days, see the national web site: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

One event in this year's 40 Days will be RTL's annual Life Chain, October 4. A full schedule of 40 Days events in Shelby County will be included in the September newsletter. Also, watch [www.shelbycountyrctl.org](http://www.shelbycountyrctl.org) for updates.

## Drive to Ban Sex-Selective Abortion Gaining Momentum

On September 23, 2008, Rep. Trent Franks of Arizona introduced a bill. Its purpose seemed straightforward and its cause universal: put an end to the wholesale killing of little girls whose only crime was that they were little girls. One might have thought that this bill would have garnered universal support, with everyone from radical feminists to conservative Christians clamoring for its passage.

The problem was that this legislation would protect unborn little girls.

The Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act of 2009 (PreNDA) seeks to criminalize the practice of sex-selective and race-selective abortions, which are growing more prevalent among certain communities in the United States. At the time of this writing, the bill has 29 co-sponsors, including 27 Republicans and 2 Democrats.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, some Asian-American groups have imported a preference for boys and are dramatically altering their demographic landscape by selectively eliminating baby girls from their population. Add to this the problem of African-American abortions, where some statistics suggest that as many as half of African-American pregnancies are terminated, and the need for such a bill becomes self-evident.

Even *The New York Times*, not known for its conservative leanings, expressed concern in a June 15th article by Sam Roberts. "A number of experts expressed surprise to see evidence that the preference for sons among Asian-Americans has been so significantly carried over to this country," wrote Roberts.

Regardless of one's views on abortion, it would seem that legislators and thinkers on both sides of the issue could agree that no baby should die for reasons of race or sex.

Not so. The bill has all but stalled in an overwhelmingly liberal Congress. As we in the pro-life movement have found, feminists refuse to support even the most reasonable and necessary restrictions on abortion.

Public opinion is another matter. For one, a 2006 Zogby International poll, found that 87% of the American public would like to see legislation banning sex-selective abortions. This is not a simple majority, but an overwhelming one. And it is especially surprising in a nation where more than 40% of the population calls itself "pro-choice."

Consider also that in 2007 the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women passed a resolution condemning sex-selective abortion. The U.N. body, which rarely meets an abortion it doesn't embrace, condemned the practice as violence against women, and "one of the most pervasive human rights abuses."

Add to this the most recent Gallup poll on the abortion issue, which found that 51% of Americans are now "calling themselves 'pro-life' on the issue of abortion. Only 42% call themselves 'pro-choice.'" According to Gallup, this is "the first time a majority of U.S. adults have identified themselves as pro-life since Gallup began asking this question in 1995."

Legislatively, the movement to ban sex-selective abortion is gaining momentum as well. Illinois, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania already have statutes prohibiting sex-selection abortion, and the issue has been raised in the West Virginia and Montana legislatures as well.

The evidence is in: Americans don't want sex-selection abortion, which flies in the face of everything American values represent: liberty, equality, and justice for all. By refusing to deal with the problem of sex-selective abortion, feminists and other left-leaning legislators are not only permitting the continuation of an unconscionable sexist practice, they are doing so in opposition to the views of the very Americans they claim to represent.

By Colin Mason, Director of Media Production at Population Research Institute ([www.pop.org](http://www.pop.org)). Reprinted with permission. Edited for space.



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### Pro-Abortion Group NARAL Endorses Sonia Sotomayor for Supreme Court Spot

One of the nation's largest pro-abortion groups announced that it is supporting the nomination of appeals court judge Sonia Sotomayor for the Supreme Court. NARAL said that the hearings the Senate Judiciary Committee held last week show Sotomayor will support unlimited abortions.

The pro-abortion group said Sotomayor showed during the hearings that she more strongly embraced the Roe v. Wade decision that allowed virtually unlimited abortions compared with Chief Justice John Roberts or Justice Samuel Alito, the previous two nominees.

Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL, said, "We are pleased that Judge Sotomayor expressed stronger support for the established constitutional right to privacy than either Chief Justice Roberts or Justice Alito. President Obama made a sound choice in nominating Judge Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Keenan appeared to believe Sotomayor would provide a pro-abortion counter-balance to Roberts and Alito, who are believed to be likely to support overturning Roe and who have already upheld the national ban on partial-birth abortions.

Sotomayor has come under opposition from most pro-life groups because of all of the evidence showing she would likely support abortion on the high court. Last month, Sotomayor made a comment during a meeting with one senator that also sent shockwaves throughout the pro-life community.

Senator Jim DeMint, a pro-life Republican from South Carolina, says he had a "good meeting" with the appeals court judge, but he came away with a telling comment. "When I asked if an unborn child has any rights whatsoever, I was surprised that she said she had never thought about it," he said.

By Steven Ertelt. Edited for space and reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, July 21, 2009.