
Candlelight Vigil: Celebrating Adoption

Right to Life's annual candlelight vigil marking the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* will be held at the courthouse in Sidney on Tuesday, January 22, at 7pm.

The theme for this year's program will be "A Celebration of Adoption." Adoption has always been a life-giving alternative for mothers considering abortion, and its promotion has saved countless lives.

As always, all are welcome at the vigil, but we especially encourage all those affected by adoption in any way to attend and to celebrate with us. Members of RTL will share their adoption experiences and adoptive families will be honored.

Please join us for this special event!

Students: Register Now for 2019 Speech Contest

All high school juniors and seniors who are residents of Shelby County or attend a Shelby County high school are eligible to participate in the Shelby County Right to Life Oratory Contest. Prizes for 1st through 3rd places are \$300, \$150, and \$100 respectively. The winner will continue to the state contest (Saturday, April 27 in Columbus), with the chance of winning a trip to the national competition (July 6, in Charleston, SC).

The local contest will be held Monday, February 18, 6:30pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.

The registration deadline is Thursday, February 14. Contact Anne Schmiesing at 937-492-5584 or director@shelbycountyrctl.org to register or for more information. Contest rules can be found at www.shelbycountyrctl.org/OratoryContestInformation.htm.

Ireland President Signs Abortion Law

Unborn babies now can be legally aborted in Ireland. On December 20, President Michael D. Higgins signed the country's new pro-abortion law.

The legislation, which passed parliament earlier this month, allows abortions for any reason up to 12 weeks of pregnancy and up to six months in a wide variety of circumstances. It also will force taxpayers to pay for abortions and force Catholic hospitals to provide them. The bill also strictly limits conscience protections for medical professionals, and hundreds of doctors and nurses fear being forced to help abort unborn babies or lose their jobs. For decades, Ireland was a strong, pro-life nation that protected every human life from conception to natural death. It also was a strong protector of women, with some of the lowest maternal mortality rates in the world. But in May, voters approved repealing the country's pro-life Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, and pro-abortion politicians began pushing the radical pro-abortion bill.

By Micaiah Bilger, LifeNews.com, December 20, 2018. Edited for space.

Thrift Shop Report

October

320 Customers
18 Work-to-earn shifts
4 Free units

November

177 Customers
7 Work-to-earn shifts
3 Free units

The Pro-Life Conversion of George H.W. Bush

Both as Vice President and President, George H.W. Bush was strongly pro-life. But in the early days of the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan that was far from the case. George H.W. Bush supported abortion as a candidate for president, one of the reasons Reagan prevailed. When Ronald Reagan named Bush to run on the ticket with him during the Republican Convention, there was considerable disappointment from rank and file pro-lifers.

Dr. Jack Willke was then president of the National Right to Life Committee. Upon hearing the news of a Reagan/Bush ticket, he went to the hotel that served as the Republican headquarters and asked to see Mr. Bush. Instead he was introduced to Bill Casey, Reagan's campaign manager who went on to be Director of the CIA. Jack explained the need to see Mr. Bush and Casey agreed. He was ushered into a room where it was just the two of them.

Jack stressed to Bush the need to elect Ronald Reagan, he conveyed the complication of having a running mate who supported abortion and suggested to the candidate that he brief him on the abortion issue. Mr. Bush began to share his opinion on the issue, but Jack interrupted him saying that he'd rather hear Mr. Bush's position on abortion after the briefing. Then Jack added, "I need four hours to thoroughly brief you." Bush reacted with mild shock, but he pressed on. "We represent a lot of pro-life Americans. If we can tell them that you thought this issue was so important, you dedicated a substantial amount of time to be briefed, it will make a favorable impression on our people." Bush responded, "You make a valid point. Let's do it."

Jack pressed even further, asking to bring in a few pro-life leaders after lunch to discuss the campaign. Bush agreed. A few weeks later Jack was seated on the couch in Bush's Kennebunkport, Maine home with a slide projector between them. Using effective imagery, Jack introduced the vice-presidential candidate to the beauty of life in the womb, as well as the shocking reality of what abortion does to babies and their mothers. They also discussed key arguments for and against abortion.

At the end of their time together Jack then asked Mr. Bush where he was on abortion. Mr. Bush smiled, realizing the strategy of their time together. "I wasn't here before, but I am now. I will support an amendment to the Constitution to forbid abortion and overturn *Roe v. Wade*, as a state's rights amendment." Mission accomplished!

That meeting changed the course of history and many babies are alive today because of the pro-life policies of President George H.W. Bush's administration. President Bush was good to his word. As President, he directed his attorney general to ask the Supreme Court to overrule its pro-abortion decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and a later case that reaffirmed *Roe's* holdings, *Webster*.

President Bush worked to limit Title X funds from going to organizations that promote abortion and maintained the Mexico City policy, which stops U.S. taxpayer funding of the abortion industry overseas. He also used his veto pen to protect unborn babies. He vetoed an entire spending bill when congressional Democrats sought to loosen the Hyde Amendment. Overall, he lodged 10 vetoes of bills that lacked protections for the unborn.

And he issued sanctity of life proclamations annually. His 1991 proclamation told Americans his administration "championed compassionate alternatives to abortion, such as helping women in crisis through maternity group homes, encouraging adoption, promoting abstinence education, and passing laws requiring parental notification and waiting periods for minors."

We join the nation in mourning this good and decent man. His pro-life conversion is a lasting testimony to the power of education, the foundation on which pro-life political and legislative victories are built.

Bradley Mattes, Life Issues Institute (lifeissues.org), December 5, 2018. Edited for space.



For our nation's courts, and in particular for the Supreme Court of the United States, that they will reverse the so-called right to abortion invented by *Roe v. Wade*.

NIH Using Aborted Baby Parts for Research

The National Institutes of Health insisted recently that it will continue to provide taxpayer-funded grants for research using aborted baby body parts, despite pro-life advocates concerns about the commoditization of human life.

CNN reports the agency, which is under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, issued a statement saying there will be “no pause in procurement of fetal tissue for extramural research.”

The Trump administration has been exploring options to end the taxpayer-funded practice and support research that uses ethical alternatives. In September, it halted a Food and Drug Administration contract to acquire body parts from aborted babies to be transplanted into mice. HHS also is conducting an audit of all acquisitions involving human fetal tissue to “ensure conformity with procurement and human fetal tissue research laws and regulations.”

However, the NIH said Thursday that funding for those grants will continue for the present at least.

“When HHS began its audit in September, NIH put a pause in place for procuring new human fetal tissue within its intramural program (research conducted by NIH investigators) until the conclusion of the audit,” the statement said. “Research with tissue already on hand could proceed, and NIH leaders asked to be notified by intramural investigators if new procurement would be necessary. The intent was never to cause research to stop.”

The NIH said it still is reviewing the situation overall involving research using aborted baby body parts. NIH Director Francis Collins repeatedly has defended the research. However, scientists with the Charlotte Lozier Institute told a U.S. Congressional hearing that ethical alternatives are available to scientists, and research using aborted baby parts has not been successful.

Last week, the Trump administration announced new grants to develop alternatives to “human fetal tissue obtained from elective abortions.” And in November, a letter from HHS official Brett Giroir said they are “fully committed to prioritizing, expanding, and accelerating efforts to develop and implement the use of these alternatives.” He said the department is “pro-life and pro-science.”

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Details uncovered by CNS News earlier this year shed light on an NIH contract with University of California San Francisco, which provides money for fetal body parts to conduct experiments involving “humanized mice.”

Aborted baby parts used in the experiments were taken from later-term unborn babies. According to the report, the aborted babies were 18 to 24 weeks gestation from “women with normal pregnancies before elective termination for non-medical reasons.” Another article indicated aborted babies’ livers and thymuses also were used. They were between 20 weeks and 24 weeks gestation.

By Micaiah Bilger, LifeNews.com, December 21, 2018. Edited for space.

*May You and Your Families
Enjoy Many Blessings in the New Year*

Teachers Saving Children

Are you a teacher? Do you know a teacher? Do you know if your union dues are supporting abortion? Check out the information available from Teachers Saving Children (TeachersSavingChildren.org) and consider becoming a member.

Teachers Saving Children is an organization of pro-life individuals who are associated with the education profession. Its primary purpose is advocacy for all innocent human life from conception to natural death. The principal focus of this advocacy is among professional educators.

Many educators in America value human life from conception to natural death. In the past, they lacked a collective voice. That is why, in the late 1980s, New Jersey teacher Bob Pawson had a vision to start a nationwide organization of pro-life educators. By 1994, his idea had developed into this national organization.

Teachers Saving Children is committed to establishing a respect for all human life from conception to natural death by doing the following: networking pro-life educators; educating colleagues about the sanctity of human life; recommending resources for educators, especially in the fields of health, science, and child development; educating the public about life issues; and linking with other pro-life organizations.

For more information about Teachers Saving Children, including membership, see the website: TeachersSavingChildren.org. Under the "Resources" tab is information on how to avoid funding pro-abortion activities through educational unions.