



Speaking for Life: Bezy Wins Contest

Right to Life's 12th annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest is in the books and senior Elias Bezy of Lehman Catholic High School has taken first honors. The contest is the regional stage in a state and national competition among other Right to Life chapters. Bezy will next compete in April at the Ohio Right to Life contest, where he will again share his perspective of abortion as a product of moral relativism.

Other prize-winners were runner-up Mitchell Berning of Fort Loramie High School and Alexandria Baughman of Christian Academy in 3rd place. Berning noted that recent passage of radically pro-abortion legislation in New York and other states has lit a fire under him to speak up for the vulnerable unborn. Baughman, addressing the other end of the spectrum, outlined violations of human life in earlier stages of development, namely through embryonic experimentation. She clearly distinguished safe, effective, and ethical adult (or somatic) stem cell research from embryonic stem cell research, which extracts essential cells from living embryos and results in the death of the embryonic child in his or her first few weeks of life.

The competition was held February 18 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney. It is an important part of RTL's educational outreach: The benefit of the contest in building a deeper understanding of life issues is clearly seen in these students as they learn to defend the most vulnerable human persons who are not legally protected.

The three prize winners received \$300, \$150, and \$100, respectively, and were judged by Tara Adams, Kurtis Black and Anne Schmiesing.

Garage Sale Coming Soon...

Please help us achieve another successful garage sale this year. The sale will be held Thursday-Saturday, March 21-23, at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Hours will be 9am to 7pm on Thursday and Friday, and 9am to noon on Saturday.

Due to storage limitations, we can only accept garage sale items at the RTL office on Tuesday and Wednesday during the week of the sale—please do not bring them earlier in March. Please donate only clean and salable items. Items may also be dropped off at St. Remy Hall on Monday, March 18, from 9am to 8pm, Tuesday, March 19, from 9-8, and Wednesday, March 20, from 9-6.

There is a bake sale and 50/50 held in conjunction with the garage sale (see tickets enclosed). Baked items may be brought to the garage sale on Wednesday, March 20, from 9 am-6 pm and will be accepted throughout the sale. Volunteers are needed to set up, check out, and tear down. Please call Karen Rosenbeck, 937-526-5814, if you are able to help.

Thrift Shop Report

December

123 Customers
2 Work-to-earn shifts
2 Free units

January

(with many weather-related closures)
76 Customers
3 Work-to-earn shifts
1 Free unit

Candlelight Vigil Celebrates Adoption

This year, Right to Life's annual candlelight vigil marking the anniversary of Roe v. Wade was "A Celebration of Adoption." The event, held on Tuesday, January 22, focused on the blessing of adoption as an alternative to abortion and highlighted adoptive families among RTL's membership.

Pastor Jon Schriber of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney, a longtime friend of RTL, shared about the central and ongoing role of adoption in his life as an adopted child and later as an adoptive father. Members Ken and Shelly York of Russia spoke movingly about God's continual intervention in the growing of their family to seven children, five of whom are adopted.

The group of about 75 prayed a psalm together and then processed by candlelight around the court square, many holding signs with the message, "Adoption: The Loving Option."

We thank all those who attended and contributed to this special event.

Your Support Helped the March for Life

Although it no longer organizes an annual bus trip to the National March for Life in January, RTL offers a subsidy to Shelby County residents who wish to attend. This is especially valuable assistance for young people who wish to participate and for whom the cost of attendance may be an obstacle. Among those who attended this year with assistance from Right to Life were Allen, Ryan, and RoseMarie Armstrong of Sidney. Allen wrote the following note of appreciation. This is one example of the many ways that your dues and donations help to build a culture of life in Shelby County and beyond.

On behalf of my siblings, Ryan and RoseMarie, we would like to thank you for your support. The generosity from your contributions helped fund our first trip to the Right to Life March in Washington, D.C. this January. For three people from small-town Ohio, it was an eye-opening experience to see our nation's capital in person. Before we had only seen it in our text books! There was also a feeling of awe and amazement at the hundred's of thousands of people who all came to be united for one purpose, to end abortion. It was an incredible experience.

It was a long and exhausting trip but there were a lot of good memories made for the three of us. Ryan's favorite moments from the trip were attending the Youth Rally and Mass, and seeing Vice President Mike Pence speak at the National Mall. RoseMarie enjoyed walking in the March and praying for women contemplating abortion. I was amazed at the number of people who came from across the world to help America end its abortion crisis.

We are very thankful for this experience and would like to thank you for your generous support.

In Memory of Wayne Krebs

Wayne Krebs, a longtime member, a former board member, and the husband of thrift shop volunteer Judy Krebs, passed into eternity on January 18, the day of the March for Life. Travelers on one of our area buses prayed for Wayne during the trip. Judy asked us to pass on the following note of appreciation:

"Thank you to all students and chaperones who prayed the rosary on the bus to Washington, D.C. It was an awesome and beautiful honor for Wayne and our family."

+ May he rest in peace. +



For greater respect for life in its final stages; for an end to the spread of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

“It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times”

I couldn't help but be reminded of this famous quote from Charles Dickens as I thought about the events of the last few weeks. In Ohio, we celebrated a new Governor, Mike DeWine, who has shown in his first days, how important his family is to him. His children and grand-children were included in his inaugural events and his theme was “Faith. Family. Friends.” [Ed. note: DeWine has also promised to sign the Heartbeat Bill.] Later in the month, we also watched many of our fellow Buckeyes “March for Life” in Washington with hundreds of thousands more. What an uplifting encouraging start to the month!

Contrast these Ohio moments with the heartbreaking news out of New York. On January 22, 2019, New York's Governor signed a piece of legislation that allowed babies to be killed at any time — up until their own birthday. This same legislation also removed protections from children born alive from “botched abortions” and made it legal for other medical professionals, non-doctors, to commit these heinous procedures. (My gut tells me they felt the need for this last provision, because they knew it may be difficult to find “real” doctors to perform these late term abortions.) Again, in contrast, the New York Governor celebrated the loss of children and family and then promoted it by stating, “We hope these actions serve as a model for equality across the nation.”

What are we say about this? Who do we blame for this tragedy in New York? The Church? The legislature? The Left? The Right? The Middle? I say all of the above. Laws like this can happen when pro-life folks aren't paying attention or think someone else will stop it.

All of us have an opportunity, and a responsibility to effect change in our community. What we allow in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our city, and in our state, is up to us. I am truly thankful that I live in Ohio, where the protection of life is something many of my fellow citizens espouse. These same citizens also understand that life is something to be vigilantly guarded. If not, we may “wake up” in a few years and New York's laws may be ours!

[Right to Life groups] vigilantly guard life in our communities, but we need all of you to do your part. Make a resolution to be more vigilant and more aware of what is happening in our communities. Let's be a state that always celebrates families and children, our greatest resource for the future.

By Margie Christie, Executive Director, Dayton Right to Life. Adapted from Dayton RTL e-mail, January 31, 2019.

Newsletter News — And a Big Thank You

Due to aging equipment and other reasons, RTL will no longer handle the printing and mailing preparation of newsletters in-house. This brings to an end the generous service of our newsletter volunteers. We offer our hearty thanks to all of the many members who have helped through the years, including our current crew: Betty Johnson, Pat Edwards, Roseanne Runyon, Dan Dickas, Pam Leong, and Jane Bowman. Thank you and may God bless you!

**In memory of Melba Bender,
And in memory of former RTL officer Thelma Meyer,
In whose honor memorial donations were made to Right to Life.
+ May they rest in peace. +**

“It Has Become All Too Easy to End Patients’ Lives”

A Doctor’s View of Assisted Suicide in Canada

As an ordinary Canadian family physician, I have seen a different side of the new ‘Medical Aid in Dying’ regime. The scheme was sold to us and the public as a rare matter of assisting the suicide of extreme terminal illness cases. By a year into it, hundreds (now thousands) had died and over 99% of the deaths were not by self-administration, but intravenously by doctors and nurses. The Canadian euthanasia death rate has continued to escalate, while funding for palliative care services has fallen in several provinces.

The wide eligibility criteria do not require any estimate of prognosis. Yet there is already intense social pressure to widen them further to include euthanasia of children, the healthy disabled, cognitively impaired, and mentally ill. Ending life has been re-defined as “part of care.” An Ontario court ruling has confirmed that doctors who want nothing to do with euthanasia have to get involved by making an “effective referral.”

Few Canada doctors foresaw that “going neutral” would guarantee the arrival of euthanasia, or that promises of a shot in the arm for palliative care would be forgotten. Even fewer realized they would have no option but to cooperate with providing death on demand.

It has become all too easy to end patients’ lives. Learn from our mistakes.

By Dr. Williard P. Johnston, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia, Department of Family Practice. Excerpted from essay in the British Medical Journal, February 8, 2019. As cited by Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, www.epcc.ca.