



## Right to Life at the Fair

A big thank you to all of our volunteers who staffed the Right to Life booth at the Shelby County Fair. Thanks to the help of so many people, we are able to provide a pro-life witness to hundreds of people who may not otherwise encounter Right to Life.

Passersby can view, for example, our detailed fetal models, which afford a window into the reality of preborn life.

There was also great interest in our beautiful quilts; their sale raised funds for all of our pro-life programs.

All of us at RTL offer our gratitude and a special commendation to Karen Berning, who has completed her

final year of designing the display and organizing the volunteers. Thank you, Karen, and enjoy your "retirement"!

Which raises the question: Who will take her place? If you have a creative flair and a talent for organization, would you consider volunteering to be the fair booth chairperson for 2018? Karen will help you learn the ropes for the first year. Please consider helping in this important project.

We also need a parade float chairperson for 2018. Responsibilities include overseeing the design and construction of the float and lining up drivers for each parade. This is another important public witness opportunity for Right to Life. Can you help?

Please contact Kevin at [director@shelbycountyrntl.org](mailto:director@shelbycountyrntl.org) or 937-492-5584 if you are interested in learning more about either of these volunteer opportunities.

## Join Us for Life Chain 2017!

The Life Chain observance marks its thirtieth year in 2017. What began humbly in a few towns in California is now a national movement in more than a thousand communities across North America.

Our event will be Sunday, October 1, from 2:30-3:30, on the court square in Sidney. Life Chain is an opportunity for us to remind our community that thousands of preborn children still lose their lives everyday—the most flagrant injustice of our time.

The observance consists of a brief program followed by a period of displaying pro-life signs (which are provided). Please join us on October 1 for this witness to the dignity of all human life.

## Thrift Shop Report

June

221 Customers  
17 Work-to-earn certificates  
2 Free units

July

117 Customers  
20 Work-to-Earn certificates  
6 Free units

## Women's Center Sidney Hosts Santorum at Annual Banquet

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Elizabeth's New Life Center is excited to share with you their theme, "Come to Me", for this year's North Partnership Banquet with featured speaker, former Senator Rick Santorum, on Thursday, October 19, at A Learning Place in Piqua. Rick has been a great advocate for the pro-life movement helping to be a voice for the voiceless in all stages of life during his career in our nation's legislature and two presidential campaigns. Rick and his wife Karen also share a special gift: their daughter Isabella, the youngest of their seven children. Isabella was born with special needs related to Trisomy 18. They highlight the beauty of her life in the book *Bella's Gift: How One Little Girl Transformed Our Family and Inspired a Nation*.



There are still seats available for the luncheon program. The doors open at 11 a.m. with the program starting at 11:30 a.m. and lasting until about 1:30 p.m. There is no cost to attend the event, but there will be an ask for a financial gift at the end of the program. For more information on attending or hosting a table for the luncheon please call Barb Garrison at 937-226-7414 or Ashley Schroeder at 937-498-4426. You can also go to their website [www.ElizabethNewLife.org](http://www.ElizabethNewLife.org) for more information or to register.

## Chilean Court Approves Abortion, Ending Country's Ban

Chile's highest court approved a law that decriminalized abortion in cases of rape, fatal disability, and when a mother's life is at risk. The law was adopted earlier this summer by Chile's Congress and had been long-promised by President Michelle Bachelet.

By six votes in favor and four against, the Constitutional Court dismissed the pro-life challenge to the law by Chile Vamos, a coalition of lawmakers supported by a large number of national and international organizations and the Chilean Conference of Bishops.

The judgment removes Chile from an exclusive group of states that comprehensively protect children before birth that includes the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Malta, Nicaragua, and the Vatican. At least sixty others maintain highly restrictive abortion laws, notwithstanding pressure from the UN system to progressively allow abortion on-demand.

"We have a long fight ahead to stave off abortion on-demand and win back hearts and minds to protect the unborn person," Professor Tomas Henriquez told the *Friday Fax*. The Executive Director of the human rights institute Comunidad y Justicia said this is only the beginning. "We all know what the end game is, and pro-choice NGOs were quick to remind us that this bill is what they call the 'minimum,'" he explained.

Bachelet described the decision as a victory of "tolerance." The Court struck down by a vote of 8-2 the part of her law that restricted the right of health providers and workers to not perform abortions by claiming conscientious objection. "The bill would have provided (a right to conscientious objection) only for doctors, but not for technicians or institutions," Henriquez explained.

International Planned Parenthood Federation's CEO, Giselle Carino, called Bachelet "a champion of women's rights," and said this is "a historic milestone for women's rights in Chile and around the world."

The Chilean Bishops called the decision "incomprehensible," stressing "abortion is not the solution to painful or difficult situations." "We will double our efforts," they said, to accompany all women facing difficult pregnancies.

*LifeNews.com, August 25, 2017. This article originally appeared in the pro-life group C-FAM's Friday Fax publication. Edited for space.*



For all who visit our thrift shop, may they experience God's love and mercy, and may they grow in respect for all human life. May our staff and volunteers be given the grace to practice true Christian charity, and may they be blessed for their generosity of time and talent.

## President Trump is Eviscerating the HHS Mandate

*By Father Frank Pavone and Alveda C. King, President and Pastoral Associate, respectively, of Priests for Life.*

On May 4, President Trump took executive action to fulfill his promise to protect the religious freedom of groups like Priests for Life, which has for five years been fighting the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate all the way up to the Supreme Court. This mandate, imposed on us and all Americans by the Obama administration, would force virtually every employer to include coverage for abortion-inducing drugs and contraceptives in health insurance policies, despite the objecting employers' sincerely held religious beliefs. We hold that the mandate is illegal, because believers should never be forced to choose between following their faith and following the law.

President Trump, his administration and his party all agree with us, and we are grateful to them for that. Why then, some have asked, is it taking so long for the mandate to go away, despite the president's words and actions? First, in this case, the battle against the mandate involves not just the president, but all three branches of government. The president has already directed the Department of Health and Human Services to take administrative action, and that action is in fact underway (the Office of Management and Budget, for instance, has been reviewing proposed changes).

Congress also needs to take legislative action to make sure that the protections against the mandate are permanent, and not subject to change overnight by an Executive Order of a future president who may not share President Trump's view in favor of religious freedom. Lawmaking takes time.

Second, the court cases against the mandate are technically still open in numerous courts. If the reporting about the HHS mandate were not characterized by the reductionism that speaks about it as if it just involved one group — the Little Sisters of the Poor — there might not be so much wonderment as to why it's taking so long to resolve. The reality is that it's not just about the Little Sisters, as if just *one* petitioner brought *one* case in *one* court against the mandate. There are 37 different petitioners who are part of seven distinct cases arising out of four distinct courts of appeals (the Third, the Fifth, the Tenth, and the District of Columbia) that were all consolidated and heard by the Supreme Court, and those are just the ones the Supreme Court accepted.

Numerous other cases remain open in various district courts and courts of appeals, totaling some 50 cases and 140 petitioners. Moreover, the petitioners represent several distinct structures and types of tax plans that are impacted differently by the mandate. Some, for instance, use insurance companies, others are self-insured, with third party administrators in the mix. The various petitioners also represent several different religious denominations that have differing theological and ethical analyses of the moral problems the mandate poses, and therefore these petitioners draw the lines in different places regarding what objections they have to the mandate in the first place, and what solutions would be acceptable. So the solution here is not a "one size fits all" proposition. Moreover, the various courts involved need not agree with one another about how they eventually rule on the solution.

The Supreme Court instructed Priests for Life and the other 36 petitioners to sit down and work out with the Obama administration a mutually acceptable revision to the mandate. *Continued on page 4*

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## **Trump Eviscerates HHS Mandate** *Continued from page 3*

Those discussions, now being held with the Trump administration — which shares our commitment to religious freedom — are in progress. So we're on the right track.

The discussions are being monitored by the courts, and both the government and we the petitioners periodically update the court and ask for more time to arrive at a final proposal. Our most recent request to the court is that we submit our next status report on September 11. So one of the reasons it takes time is that the petitioners themselves are requesting more time.

A third reason why this all takes time is that changing the mandate at the administrative level of HHS is subject to relevant laws, such as the Administrative Procedure Act. As we've seen repeatedly, the left is ready and willing to sue the Trump administration for every step it takes, and has already threatened to sue if the HHS mandate is changed. The administration, therefore, is working hard to make sure that in changing this mandate, every "i" is dotted and every "t" is crossed so that when its actions are challenged in court, the administration will prevail and change can go into effect right away instead of being tied up in additional years of court battles.

And finally, all of this is taking longer than it needs to because the Democrats have been dragging their feet and obstructing the president's nominees to various federal agencies, including HHS. As of last month, only three of 11 positions at HHS had been filled. With positions either vacant or occupied with holdovers from the Obama years, progress in the right direction will be slow.

To sum it up, then, the mandate is certainly on its way out and the Trump administration is fully committed to and actively advancing religious freedom. But things take time, and we not only need to exercise patience, but we need to lift up, in prayer and with affirmation, those we have elected to carry out these momentous tasks. *LifeNews.com, August 14, 2017. Edited for space.*