

## From the Desk

In 2013, our pro-life General Assembly and our pro-life Governor John Kasich enacted FIVE pro-life legislative initiatives: defunding Planned Parenthood, creating a funding stream for pregnancy centers, banning public hospitals from contracting with abortion clinics, and heartbeat informed consent act. Four abortion clinics closed in our state. We expect more closures in 2014. Your committed prayers and support paved the way for these policies and closings.

January 22, will be the 41st anniversary of Roe vs Wade. Hundreds of thousands Americans will rally in Washington DC and exercise their freedoms of speech and petition. Roe v.

Wade was a Supreme Court decision decided in 1973 making abortion legal in the United States. Keep those going to the March in your prayers for safe travel and an impact on our political leaders.

EWTN television network has done an excellent job of covering the March for Life for the last several years. Coverage will begin at 9 AM on January 22. It is the best option when you cannot attend in person.

Thank you for all you do to defend the sanctity of human life. I wish you and yours a blessed new year!

Joan Gehret, President

## All-Night Vigil for Life

You are invited to an All-Night Vigil for Life Fri., January 17, at St. Louis Church, North Star. This time of prayer will begin

with Mass at 7 PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow from 8 PM to 8 AM on Saturday, January 18.

## Join Ohio Right to Life at the 2014 March For Life

Ohio Right to Life is sending its staff to the March for Life. In anticipation, they would like to invite you to join them. **Here are three ways that you can tell the country that Ohio is standing united for life at this year's March:**

**1. March together!** Pro-life Ohioans will meet outside the National Gallery of Art on Madison Drive NW. We'll meet at so that we can go to the concert and rally at 11 AM. RSVP and join them so that all Ohioans can march together and show off our pro-life unity! Look for the "Ohio Meeting Point" sign.

**2. Tweet your March for Life pics to them!** Share

your creative/unique/inspiring pictures with us via Twitter. Our handle is @ohiolife. You can also use our hashtag: #OH4Life.

**3. Carry signs created by Ohio Right to Life!**

Please contact Kayla Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, for questions or to express interest in joining Ohio Right to Life at the March for Life. You can email her at ksmith@ohiolife.org, or call her at 614-547-0099, ext. 303.

*Due to the lack of interest, Darke County Right to Life is not sponsoring a bus this year.*

## Ohio Border Protected from Abortion

Recently, Fort Wayne, Indiana, a city near the Ohio border, regained life as its lone abortionist, Ulrich Klopfer, was forced to take a "hiatus" from performing abortions. This is wonderful news for Indiana--but also for Ohio! **As an abortionist practicing near the Ohio border (45 minutes from Defiance), Klopfer posed real harm to Ohio women and children.**

Klopfer has been forced to leave Fort Wayne because his "backup" physician refuses to perform surgeries in Klopfer's clinic any longer. According to Dr. Geoffrey Cly, the backup physician, Klopfer told an online publication that he advises girls under 14 to go to Illinois or Ohio to dodge Indiana's under-14 reporting requirement for sexual abuse.

Cly cited this as his reason for terminating his arrangement with Klopfer. Without a backup physician, Klopfer cannot legally perform abortions in Allen County, Indiana.

As USA Today put it, "Ohio had 14 abortion clinics at the start of 2013 and could soon be down to seven." **Ohio Right to Life is encouraged to see yet another (an eighth!) abortion source shaken around our state's borders.**



**Darke County Right to Life is very grateful to the Goat Farmers of Osgood, who have been so supportive with helping us raise money via their fish fries. The meal is delicious and their generosity is appreciated.**

## Health Care Conscience Rights Act” (HR 940/S 1204)

A bill introduced in both chambers, the “Health Care Conscience Rights Act” (HR 940/S 1204), would amend the Affordable Care Act to allow any individual or any institution that sponsors health insurance to refuse coverage for “abortions or other items or services” based on any “moral or religious objections,” leaving millions of Americans without access to the healthcare they need because of someone else’s

beliefs. The bills would also expand who is allowed to refuse to provide abortion care, coverage and referrals at hospitals and clinics throughout the United States. We know that the majority of Catholics oppose bills like these, which redefine religious liberty to mean only the ability to use religion to discriminate. Tell your member of Congress that you stand with individual conscience and true religious liberty.

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### HHS Mandate

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor assigned for emergency applications from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the requirement in the health care law that religious organizations provide birth control (Little Sisters of

the Poor, applicant). She ordered the federal government to file a brief in response which they did appealing the decision. A Rasmussen Poll taken in Dec. reports 51% oppose the HHS mandate, 38% support, 11% unsure.

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## “Who wants to know the date and the time their child would die?”

By Bradley Mattes, Life Issues Institute

“Who wants to know the date and the time their child would die?” This is the heart-wrenching and pain-filled plea of Nailah Winkfield, the mother of 13-year-old Jahi McMath. Currently, Jahi is in the midst of a life-and-death battle. After a routine tonsillectomy was performed to help correct Jahi’s sleep apnea, devastating complications arose. Ultimately, she suffered a cardiac arrest. Three days later, she was declared “brain dead” and the medical facility at Children’s Hospital Oakland in California informed—didn’t ask, but informed—the family that Jahi would be taken off life support. Since then, Jahi’s family has fought to keep her alive. The hospital’s shocking assertion forced Nailah to hire an attorney and seek out another facility that would be willing to give Jahi the care she requires. A hearing was held and a judge granted her until January 7 to determine Jahi’s fate.

This case should alarm everyone. The medical establishment is dictating when this child will die—and is doing so against the family’s wishes. As I investigated this

story further, the hospital’s disregard for Jahi’s life became glaringly apparent. In multiple statements, hospital spokes-persons have referred to Jahi not by her name, but as “dead,” “deceased” and even as a “body.” By not using



her name or treating her as a person, their appalling lack of humanity is revealed. Furthermore, the hospital is unwilling to permit procedures for breathing and feeding tubes that would allow her to be transferred to another facility. It raises serious questions about the hospital’s intentions.

In an article by the National Review, Michelle Malkin calls it as she sees it. “Here’s reality: Children’s Hospital faces serious malpractice questions about its care of Jahi. Hospital execs have a glaring conflict of interest in wielding power over her life support.” Unfortunately, one has to ask, “Is there something the hospital is trying to hide?”

As a member of the board for the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network, I called Executive Director and my good friend, Bobby Schindler. His family’s struggle to attempt to save the life of his sister has served as a catalyst to helping

others who face similar situations. In his response, he said, “Together with our team of experts, Terri’s Network believes Jahi’s case is representative of a very deep problem within the US healthcare system—particularly those issues surrounding the deaths of patients within the confines of hospital corporations, which have a vested financial interest in discontinuing life.” Terri’s Network is now collaborating with others to find a facility to care for Jahi.

One of the other groups assisting Jahi’s family is the International Brain Research Foundation in New York. This organization performs cutting-edge research in brain health, including cures for brain injury. I believe the time has come to challenge the definition of “brain dead.” The terminology was developed over 50 years ago and there’s significant debate regarding the criteria. The Foundation CEO, Dr. Phil Defina, agrees. He’s even called it “outdated” and “archaic.” Further, he asks a poignant question, “Why do we want to jump ahead and pull the plug on this 13-year-old girl who may have a chance to recover? You want to err on the side of caution and not take away a life. What Jahi needs is more time.”

According to the New York Daily News, Jahi’s family and attorney, Chris Dolan, have reported that Jahi has shown signs of response by making movements when her parents speak to her. They don’t consider these movements involuntary because they only happen when she hears her parents’ voices. Her mother has said, “I don’t care what anyone has to say about what I’m doing, I have to do what is right for me and for Jahi.” I pray that they are given the time and the ability for Jahi to obtain the proper medical care she needs.

Bobby Schindler encourages everyone to diligently educate themselves in order to protect the lives of those they love, “Families and individuals must make themselves aware of what so-called ‘brain death’ is and what it is not.” He says it’s critical that everyone must educate themselves regarding their rights as patients. A good place to start is their website.

Especially under Obamacare, we’re forced to be our own advocates for health, as more and more, the medical establishment embraces death over life.

## November 2013 Election Analysis

In a deeply blue state, where Democrats outnumber Republicans by over 700,000, Chris Christie, the pro-life Republican Governor who defunded Planned Parenthood in 2011, won re-election by what the New York Times calls a “crushing margin.” Who made up that margin? The very people Planned Parenthood claims pro-life leaders are waging a war against: women.

Christie won the women vote by a 15% margin.

But he also won the Hispanic vote and, according to the New York Times, “made impressive inroads among younger voters and blacks—groups that Republicans nationally have struggled to attract.” Even his support among Democrats has grown. In 2009, he had 8% of the Democratic vote. On November 5th, he received 32% of it.

Gov. Christie’s re-election makes one thing clear: Americans gravitate toward common-sense, pro-life leaders.

Though some would like us to believe that a Planned Parenthood endorsement is what secures the women vote, Gov. Christie’s election demonstrates how little Planned Parenthood really matters to a majority of New Jersey women.

In a landslide, women voted for a pro-life Republican who took state funding away from the abortion leader.

Furthermore, if a pro-life Republican can make inroads with Democrats, what’s to stop a Democrat from taking a pro-life stance? Apparently, standing against Planned Parenthood does not necessarily mean losing ground with Democrats.

Despite everything we are told, being proudly and practically pro-life does not mean losing elections.

Nevertheless, as Gov. Christie told his fellow Republicans, “We don’t just show up in the places we’re comfortable, we show up in the places we’re uncomfortable.”

Even in Virginia, where a pro-choice Democrat won the gubernatorial race, national experts agree that Ken Cuccinelli, the pro-life Attorney General of Virginia, would have won if it had not been for the third party Libertarian candidate who garnered 7 percent of the vote.

Once again, practical, pro-life policies are not what lose elections and Republicans, as well as Democrats, have every reason to follow Gov. Christie’s pro-life model.

### Stillborn Birth Certificate - HB 95

Approximately 1 in 110 women in the United States who give birth will experience the death of a baby during or just before birth. Giving birth to a stillborn baby is one of the most profound losses parents can suffer. It has a wide variety of emotional, cognitive, psychological, spiritual, and physiological consequences. When House Bill 95 is signed into law, families who face the tragedy of birthing a stillborn baby will move one more step towards closure by being issued a birth certificate. Currently, families are issued a certificate of stillbirth, which is not legally recognized as a birth certificate.

### Ohio Elder Justice Act: HB 49

If House Bill 49 is signed into law, the Elderly Abuse Commission would be formed to protect the elderly and prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation, if and when they reach a state of handicap by age-related (60 years, as defined by the bill) infirmities, or if they possess certain physical or mental impairments. The bill expands the number of persons who are to be held accountable and responsible in the protection of the rights, including the right to life, for one of our most vulnerable constituencies in Ohio.

### Downton Abbey Spoiler Alert

Every now and again, popular television gets something right. And when it does, it deserves applause.

Unlucky in life and love, Downton Abbey’s Edith, who writes a newspaper column, has fallen for her editor, Michael. A night together leads to an unplanned pregnancy, and Edith is faced not only with the prospect of an out-of-wedlock pregnancy (in the 1920s, no less) but also with the reality of Michael’s disappearance. She decides to have an abortion.

Sitting in a back-alley abortion facility with her Aunt Rosamund, Edith agonizes over her choice, torn between the prospect of being an “outcast” and the knowledge that she would be “killing the wanted child” of a man she loves. After hearing another woman sobbing in the clinic, Edith decides she can’t go through with killing her unborn child, and she and her aunt leave.

Just as in real life, the story never ends when an unborn baby is saved. And for Edith, as Downton Abbey fans will attest, the new story comes with a slew of new choices, including Edith’s struggle over whether to give her newborn baby up for adoption.

But the most important choice has already been made: Edith chose life for her baby.

This is a huge platform from which to deliver a message. They could have gone the route of portraying life as cheap

### Attention All High School Juniors and Seniors!!!

The annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest is coming up. Juniors and Seniors from Darke County are encouraged to voice their pro-life message. The winner of the local contest will advance to the State level. The Ohio Right to Life Oratory Contest to be held in Columbus on Saturday, April 26, 2014. For more information on guidelines for this event, please contact Joan at 419-336-5550 or [dcright2life@gmail.com](mailto:dcright2life@gmail.com). The deadline for notification of your entry is February 1.

### Pro-Life Radio Spots

With the generous donations Darke County Right to Life received last year, we are sponsoring pro-life messages on the radio station WTGR 97.5 from Greenville, which began January 6. We are excited about using this media to give pro-life thoughts and information to the public.

After you have heard the spot, let us know what you think.

and abortion as inconsequential. Instead, they showed that abortion is not the answer and that life is, indeed, a beautiful choice.

The message of life is always a message worth celebrating. Hats off to Downton Abbey for using this platform to spread this message to millions of people.



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### Meetings:

- ★ Next meeting: February 4, March 4
- ★ Time & Place: 7:30 P.M.; 105 W. Third St., Greenville. Public parking behind Bach to Rock.
- ★ Who: Anyone interested in the sanctity of human life - whether the unborn, elderly, handicapped - and willing to protect it, are encouraged to attend.

### Projects:

- ★ **Paper Drive Fund Raiser** – First Saturday of each month from 9-11 AM at the Osgood Park just off St. Rt. 705 on the west side of town. Listen to WTGR for weather related cancellations. Collection will take place the following week of a cancellation. For more information call 419-582-2554.
- ★ **Mother's Day Rose Sale** – Sunday, May 11th. Details to follow.
- ★ **Garage Sale** – Dates to be announced.

### ***Darke County Right to Life Officers***

President: Joan Gehret, North Star  
Vice President: Justin May, Frenchtown  
Secretary: Mary Ann Dirksen, Sharpsburg  
Treasurer: Jeanette Barga, North Star

### Pro-Life Resources:

- ★ **Darke County Pregnancy Help Center** - The center, located at 105 W. Third St., is open on Mondays from 2:30 to 7:30 PM. Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays they are open from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. The office phone number is 937-548-2731. The center also has a free 24-hour hotline, which can be reached at 937-547-1112.
- ★ **After Abortion Help** - The archdiocese sponsors Project Rachel for healing after abortion. Call 937-492-4449 or 513-588-0080 or e-mail: pfeirstine@cinci.rr.com. Silent No More is another resource. 1-800-395-4357 or 866-482-5433. [SilentNoMoreAwareness.org](http://SilentNoMoreAwareness.org).
- ★ **Knoweldge Is Empowering** - To reach a trained, caring professional, call 1-800-712-4357 or visit their website at [knoweldgeisempowering.com](http://knoweldgeisempowering.com)
- ★ **Natural Family Planning Instructors**, Gregg and Brenda Hemmelgarn, Phone: (419) 678-4293.
- ★ **One More Soul** - Fostering God's Plan for Love, Chastity, Marriage, and Children. 1846 North Main St., Dayton, OH Phone Numbers: (937) 279-5433 or (800) 307-7685. [www.OneMoreSoul.com](http://www.OneMoreSoul.com)