

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

Vol. XXXV No. 2

www.peopleforlife.org

May 2007

Supreme Court Upholds Ban on Partial-Birth Abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court, on April 18, handed down a decision upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

The 5-4 decision in the case of *Gonzales v. Carhart* marks the first time that an abortion procedure has been recognized in law as too abhorrent to be tolerated. The ban applies to only one specific abortion method, not to all late-term abortions.

Sponsored by former Sen. Rick Santorum, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act was enthusiastically signed into law by President Bush on November 5, 2003. Before the ink was dry, however, Planned Parenthood and several late-term abortionists challenged the new law in federal court, preventing its enforcement for over three years.

The effort to enact a federal ban on

Pro-abortion lawmakers respond with legislation to bring back partial-birth abortion and invalidate ALL limits on abortion.

partial-birth abortion began in 1995. Despite opinion polls showing that 70% of the American public wanted to see this method of abortion abolished, it took 12 years of concerted effort, including three acts of Congress (supported by overwhelming majorities), to put a ban into effect.

Progress was delayed most notably by vetoes on two separate occasions by former President Bill Clinton.

The majority opinion upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act was written by Justice Anthony Kennedy. Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Alito, Thomas, and Scalia concurred. Of the five, two were

appointed by Ronald Reagan, one by George H.W. Bush, and two, most recently, by George W. Bush.

Frontrunners for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination quickly condemned the ruling. Sen. Hillary Clinton said this was "precisely" why she opposed the Roberts and Alito Supreme Court nominations. Sen. Barack Obama said he was "extremely concerned" and that he "strongly disagree[d]" with the decision. Former Sen. John Edwards declared he "could not disagree more strongly."

Just one day after the decision was handed down, leading Democratic members of Congress responded by reintroducing the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA), which would restore partial-birth abortion, pay for abortion with taxpayers' money, and repeal virtually all abortion regulations, including

continued on page 4

CARNATION PROJECT WORK SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Main Activities
Thursday May 10	1:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Make corsages. Fill special orders
Thursday May 10	3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Set up small tents
Busiest Day Friday May 11	1:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Make corsages. Unpack and sort carnations. Fill buckets with water and plant food. Bundle carnations. Assemble orders. Make special bouquets. Store filled buckets awaiting pickup.
Saturday May 12	8:30 AM to 9:00 PM	Fill orders. Prepare buckets. Make bouquets for special orders. Make corsages. Load and unload vehicles. Make deliveries.
Sunday May 13	7:30 AM to 9:00 PM	Make deliveries and pickups. Make bouquets. Count and separate returned carnations. Clean buckets.
Monday May 14	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Make bouquets. Clean and store buckets.
Days Following	Call for times	Clean and store buckets. General cleanup.
<p>At the Jean & Ed Hammer Residence 2816 Florida Ave., Erie - (814) 456-0376</p>		

Mother's Day Carnation Project help needed

The Annual Mother's Day Carnation Project is People for Life's most important fundraising effort. It is a very large undertaking that requires a lot of volunteers.

Please look over the Carnation Project Work Schedule and set aside some time to do some pro-life volunteering.

There are plenty of opportunities for students to earn service hours while contributing to an extremely important cause.

Don't worry about bringing your lunch; lots of free food and drinks will be on-hand.

If you can help, please call Ed or Jean Hammer, our carnation project coordinators, at 456-0376. Feel free to call *anytime*, including evenings until 11:00 PM and weekends. If no one answers, please leave your name and phone number. Someone will return your call.

If your church is not yet a Carnation Project sponsor, now is the time to talk with your pastor about getting the church involved and perhaps to offer to be in charge. People for Life will be happy to work with you to

make sure everything runs smoothly. This is an enjoyable and satisfying project. The carnations practically sell themselves!

HOW IT WORKS Churches typically make the carnations available for a suggested donation of \$1.00 each, \$5.00 a half-dozen, and \$10.00 a dozen. Additional donations towards the educational work of People for Life are gratefully accepted.

Other churches prefer a different approach. Some, for instance, take orders from members of their congregations ahead of time. Others buy an exact number of carnations and give one to each mother. Churches are welcome to tailor the project to best suit their particular needs and preferences.

Carnations will also be available for anyone to purchase throughout the Mother's Day weekend at 2816 Florida Ave., Erie. Remember, all proceeds benefit the lifesaving work of People for Life.

Help will also be needed during the week following Mother's Day, especially for cleaning and storing the hundreds of buckets used to transport the carnations.

CANDIDATE SURVEY: Primary Election, May 15, 2007

Candidates who did not respond

The table on the opposite page includes all the candidates for elective office in the City of Erie, all candidates for Erie County Council, and all candidates for Erie County magisterial and school board offices – including those who did not respond to our questionnaire. All candidates were given plenty of time to respond to this brief survey.

Readers are encouraged to question the unresponsive candidates about their positions on human life issues whenever there is an opportunity. The substance of the candidate's remarks should be accurately recorded and passed along promptly to People for Life. Keep in mind that many people (and not just the candidates...) contort the term "pro-life" to mean whatever suits their purposes. So rather than asking, "Are you pro-life?" ask questions such as, "What is your position on legal abortion?" or questions like the ones used in the survey.

Local Candidates: Do they matter?

Candidates for local offices occasionally suggest that their positions on our issues of concern are irrelevant. Two recent experiences will help illustrate why we beg to differ.

A Sarasota, FL newspaper, the *Sun-Herald*, reported on April 11 that the Sarasota County Commissioners had voted unanimously to approve an \$8 million bond issue to underwrite the construction of a new, state of the art Planned Parenthood killing center in Sarasota.

Closer to home, People for Life was recently contacted by a very concerned father who told us that during a classroom discussion about sexuality, his daughter's elementary school teacher was asked, "What happens if a girl becomes pregnant?" The teacher reportedly proposed one and only one course of action: the girl would have to have an "operation." How (or even if) such an outrage is corrected by the school administration might depend on the attitude of the school directors towards the value and dignity of human life.

Key to Survey Table
 Y - Yes N - No
 nr - No response to survey
 b - Blank; returned survey but did not answer specific question.
 ♦ - See additional comment
Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are in upper case.

Survey Questions

1. LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN... If changes to *Roe v. Wade* make it possible, would you favor the enactment of a law prohibiting abortion, or prohibiting abortion with exceptions? (Please specify what exceptions, if any.)

2. LATE TERM ABORTIONS... Should abortions be prohibited in all cases where the unborn child is mature enough to survive apart from his or her mother?

3. INFORMED CONSENT... Should abortion providers be required to offer basic information to a woman who is considering an abortion, such as information about the medical risks, alternatives to abortion, the probable gestational age of her unborn child, the availability of detailed information (provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) about fetal development and the possibility of medical assistance benefits if the woman decides to continue her pregnancy? (These things are currently required under Pennsylvania law.)

4. TIME FOR DELIBERATION... After initially consulting with a physician, should a woman who wants an abortion be given 24 hours to carefully consider her decision before an abortion is carried out? (This is currently required under Pennsylvania law.)

5. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT... If a woman seeking an abortion is less than 18 years old, should the consent of at least one parent be required unless a judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved? (This is currently required under Pennsylvania law.)

6. GOVERNMENT FUNDING... Should public funds be used to pay for abortions?

7. ASSISTED SUICIDE... Should physician-assisted suicide be prohibited?

Additional Comments ♦

Mark Alexandrowicz ♦1. "City Council members have no jurisdiction in this issue. I believe U.S. Constitution is supreme."

♦6. "Absolutely not!"

Jim Casella ♦1. "Rape, life of mother"

♦2. "Life of mother"

Kerry W. Duncan ♦1. "No exceptions"

♦4. "Not should but must"

David Gonzalez ♦1. "Except if mother's life is at risk"

Brian Kramer ♦ "Although I do not feel that these issues have any direct impact on the responsibilities and actions associated with the Millcreek Township School Board, I am always open and willing to discuss any issue that you may have."

Fiore Leone ♦1. "Health of mother or child"

John E. Ogden ♦1. "Exceptions: rape, incest"

Rodney M. Person ♦1. "No exceptions!"

♦5. "There should be NO exceptions!"

Lyle Sanders ♦1. "[Exception:] When the mother's life is at risk when carried to term"

♦2. "Not when the mother's life is at risk"

♦3. "When the patient has been determined

terminally ill by several sources and family consent has been given."

Joe Schember ♦1. "No exceptions"

♦4. "We give people three days to consider whether they want to pledge their home as collateral on a home. One day to decide a human life doesn't seem like enough."

Marlene M. Silbaugh ♦ "I have 12 children (eight of them adopted). God has a home for every child."

Ned Smith ♦6. "I struggle with this. If it is the law of the land, provisions should be made for those who require medically necessary abortions but cannot afford the cost."

Roger W. Stranahan ♦ "None of these questions have any bearing on school board policy or a school director position."

Richard E. Wagner ♦1. "I cannot make an uneducated guess, abortion is an issue that has never entered my life personally at any level. Thus my ignorance of this question."
 ♦7. "In my own life, I believe that I would prefer to end my life when artificial means are all that are keeping me alive. Quality of life and a dignified existence are important to me."

Sue Weber ♦1. "Rape, incest, medical necessity" ♦2. "If the person is in a sound medical state to make an informed choice"

Jack W. Wood ♦1. "Two or more doctors and two or more community members swear under oath that the unborn would have no quality of life after birth"

State Judicial Races

The PA Pro-Life Federation PAC has announced recommendations for the May 15 Primary Election for state Supreme Court and for state Superior Court.

There are two openings on the state Supreme Court. In this election, the PPLF PAC recommends all three candidates that are running for the Republican nomination: Maureen Lally-Green, Mike Krancer, and Paul Panepinto.

In the Democratic Primary for state Supreme Court, the PPLF PAC has insufficient information on Debra Todd. However, Seamus McCaffery has indicated that he has a "pro-choice" position. Darnell Jones is unknown.

There are two openings on the state
continued on page 4

Candidate Survey Responses

QUESTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Erie County District Attorney (vote for 1)							
Brad Foulk	nr						
Erie County Controller (vote for 1)							
John Steiner	nr						
Sue Weber	Y♦	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y♦
Erie County Coroner (vote for 1)							
Lyell P. Cook	nr						
Erie County Council District 1 (vote for 1)							
Phil Fatica	nr						
Charley Augustine	n	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Gil Rocco	nr						
Erie County Council District 3 (vote for 1)							
Fiore Leone	Y♦	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Mike Kobylka	nr						
Erie County Council District 5 (vote for 1)							
Kyle W. Foust	nr						
Erie County Council District 7 (vote for 1)							
Lyle Sanders	Y♦	n♦	Y	Y	Y	N	n♦
Carol Loll	nr						
Daniel T. Galena	nr						
Mark Schwab	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Magisterial District Judge (3-8) (vote for 1)							
Chris K. Mackendrick	nr						
Magisterial District Judge (1-1) (vote for 1)							
Sue Mack	nr						
Magisterial District Judge(1-2) (vote for 1)							
Paul G. Urbaniak	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Sheila Elyn Woeger	n	n	Y	Y	Y	N	n
City of Erie Treasurer (vote for 1)							
Susan E. Di Vecchio	nr						
Erie City Council (vote for 3)							
Patrick S. Cappabianca	nr						
Mark Aleksandrowicz	b♦	n	Y	Y	Y	N♦	Y
John Tretter	nr						
David Gonzalez	Y♦	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Jessica Horan-Kunco	nr						
Jim Casella	Y♦	n♦	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Tim Butler	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Richard E. Wagner ♦	b	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	n
Joe Schember	Y♦	Y	Y	Y♦	Y	N	Y
City of Erie School Director (vote for 5)							
Rich Szychowski	nr						
Rebecca Martin	nr						
Gary Horton	nr						
John C. Harkins	nr						
Bob Casillo	nr						
Jeanine McCreary	nr						
Ned Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	b♦	Y
Robin S. Lawrence	nr						
Corry Area School Director (vote for 5)							
Roger W. Stranahan ♦	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Christine A. Johnson	nr						
Peggy J. Gates	nr						
Rodney M. Person	Y♦	Y	Y	Y	Y♦	N	Y
Michael W. Kondrlik	nr						
Doris Gernovich	nr						
Fairview School Director (vote for 5)							
Daniel Stroup	nr						
Michael P. Dougherty	nr						
Jim Breckenridge	nr						
Andrew Foyle	nr						
Michael G. Nelson	nr						

QUESTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fort LeBoeuf School District (vote for 5)							
Shirley Sackett	nr						
Carl M. Wolfrom	nr						
John E. Ogden	Y♦	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Benny Hunt	nr						
John A. Byrtus	nr						
General McLane School District At-Large (vote for 2)							
Becky M. Okel	nr						
Michael Holman	nr						
William R. Weber	nr						
General McLane School District Region 2 (vote for 2)							
Mona Buschak	nr						
Randy S. White	nr						
General McLane School District Region 3 (vote for 1)							
Timothy D. Wise							
Girard School District (vote for 5)							
Douglas J. Wright	nr						
Michele Stubenbort	nr						
Kelly Munro-Weidler	nr						
Kathleen Weed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Gary Faulkner	nr						
Harborcreek School Director (vote for 5)							
Theresa Herrera	nr						
Robert McGahen	nr						
Terri Brink	nr						
James J. Dolak	nr						
Corey Ryan Spacht	nr						
Charles D. Spacht	nr						
Renee Gregorich-Uht	nr						
Jack W. Wood	Y♦	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Iroquois School Director (vote for 5)							
Marlene M. Silbaugh ♦	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Alfred Rial	nr						
James F. Crotty	nr						
Millcreek School Director (vote for 5)							
Ronald H. Wilga	nr						
Brian Kramer ♦	n	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Judy Wheaton	nr						
Susan Sullivan	nr						
Gary J. Winschel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	n
Michael J. Palermo	nr						
North East School Director (vote for 5)							
Richard E. Winschel	nr						
Robert Boyd	nr						
Thomas Kelley	nr						
James M. Barnes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Kathleen Weinheimer	nr						
Northwestern School Director (vote for 5)							
Tracy L. Reiser	nr						
Linda K. Thompson	nr						
Valerie Y. Hoover	nr						
Harlod Merritt	nr						
Dolores K. Anderson	nr						
Richard A. Sembower	nr						
Union City Area School Director (vote for 5)							
George R. Trauner	nr						
Loretta J. Price	nr						
John Tracy Daggett	nr						
Wattsburg Area School Director (vote for 5)							
Joe Walko	nr						
Kerry W. Duncan	Y♦	Y	Y	Y♦	Y	N	Y
Eric Duda	nr						
Scott D. Rose	nr						
Ken Watkins	nr						

FROM PAGE 1 Supreme Court / FOCA

parental notification, informed consent, and 24-hour waiting periods. Sen. Clinton is a cosponsor of the Freedom of Choice Act.

The majority opinion in *Gonzales v. Carhart* uses remarkably candid language to describe the partial-birth and related abortion procedures. In one place, for instance, Justice Kennedy compares the more common "D&E" abortion, in which "the fetus is usually ripped apart as it is removed" (abortion advocates would prefer to say, "the pregnancy is disarticulated") with the partial-birth method in which "a doctor extracts the fetus intact" and "typically pierces or crushes the skull" (abortion advocates would rather say, "the operator decompresses the calvarium").

Kennedy contravenes a key premise of *Roe v. Wade*, observing that, "by common understanding and scientific terminology, a

fetus is a living organism within the womb, whether or not it is viable outside the womb." *Roe v. Wade* repeatedly demeans even the late-term unborn child as merely "potential life"

The majority opinion also touches on the plight of post-abortive women who struggle with "grief" and "sorrow." "It seems unexceptionable," Kennedy writes, "to conclude some women come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustained."

Commenting on the decision, Feminists for Life President Serrin Foster affirmed Kennedy's assessment: "After three days of intense, forced labor, the doctors stop the delivery, kill the child by stabbing it in the back of the head, drain the baby's brains, and discard the baby. At the end of this procedure, the woman has an empty womb, empty arms and a hole in her heart."

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Clinton

appointee, wrote the minority dissent, complaining that the attitudes expressed in the majority opinion reflect "ancient notions about women's place in the family and under the Constitution... that have long since been discredited." She dismisses the idea that some women come to regret their abortions, as "an antiabortion shibboleth" for which there is "no reliable evidence."

Ginsburg even complains that instead of using titles such as "obstetrician-gynecologists" and "surgeons" in reference to late-term abortionists, the majority opinion uses the "pejorative label" of "abortion doctor."

Ginsburg also denounces the ban because she perceives that it is based on "moral concerns," and fears that such "concerns could yield prohibitions on any abortion." God forbid!

ACTION REQUEST: Tell Sen. Specter, Sen. Casey, and Rep. English to OPPOSE the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA).

FROM PAGE 2 State Judicial Races

Superior Court. In this election, the PPLF PAC recommends all three candidates running in the Republican Primary: Jacqueline Shogan, Cheryl Lynn Allen, and Bruce Bratton.

In the Democratic Primary for Superior Court, the PPLF PAC recommends Jimmy Lynn. The other six candidates are unknown.

ACTION NEEDED: Thank Sen. Bob Casey

Despite heavy pressure from Democratic leaders and the biotech industry, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey stood firm earlier this month and voted against a bill, S.5, that would use tax dollars to fund research that requires the killing of human embryos. Although the bill passed by a vote of 63-34, the vote was three short of the number needed to override the veto promised by President Bush.

The Senate also passed another bill, S.30, which would fund stem cell research that does not involve killing human embryos. Sen. Casey voted in favor of that bill, which was approved by a 70-28 vote. While stem cells from non-embryonic sources have been used to effectively treat a considerable number of medical conditions, no such results have been obtained with stem cells from human embryos.

Mary Beliveau, legislative director for the PA Pro-Life Federation, has asked pro-life Pennsylvanians to flood Sen. Casey's offices with thank you messages. Prior to the vote, Sen. Casey stated: "I remain opposed to federal funding of research that involves the destruction of living embryos. That is why I cannot support S.5."

Sen. Arlen Specter was a sponsor of S.5 and voted for the bill. Let Sen. Specter that you are not happy with his vote and that you do not want to pay for studies that involve the killing of human embryos.

HON. BOB CASEY

555 Walnut Street, First Flr.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Toll-Free (866) 461-9159
Washington, DC Office
Toll-Free (866) 802-2833
E-mail web form: casey.senate.gov

Message "I want to thank Sen. Casey for his vote against S.5 and for taking a stand for human life."

HON. ARLEN SPECTER

Federal Building, Ste. B-120
Erie, PA 16501
(814) 453-3010 Fax: (814) 455-9925
Washington, DC Office
(202) 224-4254
E-mail web form: specter.senate.gov

Message "I am NOT pleased about Sen. Specter's vote for S.5. I don't want my tax money used for research that requires the killing of human embryos."

License Plate Surrounds

With the warmer weather, now is a perfect time to use your vehicle to help spread the pro-life message. License plate frames are currently available for a donation of only \$6.00 or more. Choose from:

- Choose Life - Abortion Stops a Beating Heart
- Every 4th baby dies from Abortion
- I'm a Child, not a Choice - Stop Abortion
- Life. What a wonderful choice
- Smile! Your mom chose Life

People for Life also has a beautiful selection of front-end license plates and, as always, a large selection of eye-catching bumper stickers and vehicle magnets. Displaying a pro-life message on your vehicle is probably the easiest and most cost-effective way there is to get more people thinking about human life issues. Make a moving statement!

National RTL Convention

The 35th Annual National Right to Life Convention will be held in Kansas City, June 14-16. The "pro-life event of the year" will feature over 100 speakers, including award-winning author Wesley J. Smith and former Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline.

Until he lost his reelection bid last fall, Kline had been pressing 30 criminal charges related to illegal late-term abortions against the notorious third-trimester abortionist, George Tiller of Wichita.

Fr. Richard John Neuhaus, editor of the journal *First Things*, will speak at the closing banquet. Fr. Neuhaus was named by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the 32 "most influential intellectuals in America."

ACTION NEEDED: Thank Congressman English

Congressman Phil English is among 155 members of Congress who recently sent a letter to President Bush urging him to veto any bill that would allow taxpayer money to pay for abortion or otherwise support policies or activities that offend the core convictions of pro-life Americans. The letter concluded: "[We] urge you to commit publicly to veto any appropriations bill that weakens taxpayer protections in this regard. We will vote to sustain any such veto."

Please let Congressman English know that you appreciate his pro-life commitment!

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

208 E. Bayfront Pkwy, Ste. 102
Erie, PA 16507
(814) 456-2038 Fax: (814) 454-0163
Washington, DC Office
(202) 225-5406 Fax: (202) 225-3103
E-mail web form: www.house.gov/English

Message "Thank you for encouraging President Bush to veto any bills that would use my tax dollars to support abortion."

Abortion facility closed

The American Women's Services abortion facility, located in Erie at 1611 Peach Street, is temporarily closed. No abortions have been done there since April 7. The abortionist, Dr. Stephen Regec, has moved out of Pennsylvania and is no longer working for AWS.

Regec did abortions at AWS-Erie almost every Friday and Saturday from April 7, 2006 until February 17 of this year.

He was the only doctor to do abortions at AWS-Erie during that period of time except for two Fridays last July when a phantom from Meadville did abortions in Regec's absence.

Regec also did abortions at the AWS locations in Pittsburgh and State College. The State College location also stopped doing abortions when Regec departed. Pittsburgh went from doing abortions three or four days a week to only one.

This is the third time AWS-Erie has lost a doctor and been forced to shut down.

This latest closing came only three months after AWS-Erie hired a completely new medical and office staff following the sudden departure of the previous staff.

Although AWS-Erie is not seeing clients, a few staff members have been spending some time on-site at least one or two days a week.

Over 1000 human lives have been taken at American Women's Services in Erie since its initial opening on Friday, September 19, 2003.

Erie abortionist turns up in South Carolina

Contacts in Marion County, South Carolina have informed People for Life that Dr. Stephen Regec, who did abortions at American Women's Services in Erie for nearly a year, recently set up an office on the

main campus of the Marion County Medical Center, Mullins, SC.

An announcement about Dr. Regec's new practice can be found on SCNow.com.

So far there has been nothing to indicate that Dr. Regec and MCMC have plans to establish an abortion business, but the local community is concerned.

The medical center is reportedly facing financial problems and looking for new opportunities to make money.

Demonstrations continue SATURDAYS - 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

When American Women's Services stopped doing abortions in Erie this past February, pro-life activities outside the 1611 Peach Street Professional Building, where AWS is located, were scaled back. People for Life is now facilitating a once-a-week informational demonstration from 1 to 2 PM every Saturday.

Our message is now directed to the general public rather than abortion-bound women. It is a simple message of humanitarian concern for others: "Abortion is bad for the unborn child, the woman, the father, the extended family, the providers, the community, and the fabric of society. So, stop the killing!" These demonstrations also help remind local physicians that an abortion facility is a dreadful place with which to be associated.

People for Life does its part by (1) proposing and publicizing scheduled times, (2) providing signs, and (3) providing guidelines for good order. However, concerned citizens participate regardless of their affiliation with People for Life, and dues-paying members of People for Life are sometimes in the minority. The demonstrations are nonpartisan and nonsectarian – and, of course, lawful and peaceful, as has been the case ever since concerned citizens began to rally at the site in late October 1999.

All this effort came to an unexpected halt on Saturday, February 17, a day of excitement and a day to remember!

The excitement began when I phoned ACW from my usual spot on the public sidewalk adjacent to Peach Street, out in front of the abortion facility. I spoke with Kathy, one of the two women working in the office that morning. She told me that Julie, her fellow staff member, was "talking with a girl." Forty-five minutes later, the two were still talking, and the young woman had missed her 9:00 AM abortion appointment.

I learned later that the young woman stopped at our office only because she had the wrong directions and was looking for a suite number that did not exist.

Kathy asked, "What are you here for?" "I'd rather not say," was the reply. "An abortion?" Tears immediately came down

The current schedule is likely to remain in effect until AWS recruits a new abortionist and reopens. Please be a faithful witness by participating in the demonstrations as often as you are able. Participants gather on the public sidewalk on the State Street side of the Professional Building at 1:00 PM. Please always remember never to park or walk on the Professional Building parking lot before, during, or after the demonstrations.

Letter of thanks to our faithful witnesses

By Tim Broderick (president, People for Life)

To celebrate the current suspension of killing at the Erie abortion facility, I would like to personally and publicly thank those who have so faithfully borne witness to the dignity of human life and the truth about abortion. You stood outside the Professional Building in the cold this past winter, early in the morning and late at night, as long as abortions were taking place. Some of you spent extremely long hours in our Alternative Choices for Women office during the abortion sessions, in the very shadow of death.

Thanks to each of you: Julie B., Barb C., Jane F., Mary F. and children, David H. and children, Jean H., Brad J., Darci J., John K., Mary K., Stephanie K., Eleanor L., Gretchen L., Marielle L., Pat L., Mary M., Paula M., Bob N., Rebecca N., Max P., Clarence R., Kathy T., Mary T., and Abby W.

Some of you regularly traveled considerable distances in order to be there, from Fairview, Girard, Meadville, North East, and Union City.

It would be enough to say that you faithfully bore witness, but in the process you also saved some lives. Nice job!

Thanks, as well, to everyone who gave any amount of time to the demonstrations, including Jeff L. and his group. They drove through the snow all the way from Franklin!

the young woman's cheeks, and she accepted a gentle invitation to sit down and talk.

When she left the office an hour or so later it wasn't certain how this story would conclude, and even now there are some uncertainties. But this much is clear: if not for Julie and Kathy and God's timing, the final chapter in the life of a tiny new baby would have been written that morning.

Now, over eight weeks later, after receiving some help from the Women's Care Center, Erie County's main pregnancy support provider, the young woman is continuing her pregnancy.

This wasn't the first time that a visitor to ACW had changed her mind about getting an abortion, but what happened next was definitely a "first."

People for Life tries to maintain polite relations with the people who work at the

continued on page 6

A Day to Remember

By Tim Broderick

From April 2006 until February 2007, concerned citizens with signs and pregnancy support literature spent long hours on the often chilly, sometimes frigid sidewalks outside the American Women's Services (AWS) abortion facility here in Erie, as increasing numbers of abortions were being carried out each weekend.

Inside the building, meanwhile, just down the hallway from the room where abortions were being carried out, our dedicated staff spent many long hours in our Alternative Choices for Women office (ACW). There they patiently watched and waited, poised at all times to reach out with kindness and concern to any woman who might be struggling with her abortion decision and in need of someone willing to listen.

FROM PAGE 5 Day to Remember

abortion facility. It is obvious that we're completely opposed to what they do there, yet we know it is imperative that we give them the full respect that we owe them as our fellow human beings.

Nevertheless, as the abortion doctor was leaving that day, I prepared myself for "trouble" when he approached me in his vehicle. I was alone at the time.

Pulling up next to me, he rolled down his window and made two surprising

announcements. First, he wanted me to know that he respected my willingness to spend so much time (10-15 hours a weekend) out in the cold for the sake of my "convictions." Then the man said something really significant: he was moving out of the area and would not be back to Erie! He wasn't kidding. He hasn't been back, and AWS has not seen a customer since that day.

Our conversation lasted about five minutes. My "adversary" defended his own convictions and tried to explain why he

believed it was okay to be doing abortions.

I'm not one to insist that "dialogue" is a panacea for resolving every problem facing mankind, but I do think that the basis for respecting our opponents is also the basis for respecting the unborn. To the extent that that kind of respect was affirmed, however slightly, by our brief conversation, perhaps it was a step in the right direction – not on par with the young woman changing her mind earlier that day, but still something positive. It's certainly something I won't soon forget.

AWS-Pittsburgh Picketed

A small group from the Erie area commuted to Pittsburgh on Saturday morning, March 31, to picket the American Women's Services abortion facility at 320 Fort Duquesne Blvd.

AWS operates three abortion mills in the western half of Pennsylvania, but because of an apparent shortage of abortionists, Pittsburgh was the only location that had been scheduling abortions in recent weeks.

Photographs of the demonstration can be seen on the front page of People for Life's website.

With at least four other abortion providers in Pittsburgh, AWS does not frequently receive a lot of "attention" from pro-life demonstrators. Pittsburgh pro-life activists focus on other abortion facilities in the area where there are better opportunities for sidewalk counseling.

However, several sidewalk counseling opportunities did present themselves during the picket, which lasted only about 90 minutes. (Our group left Pittsburgh in time to return to Erie for the weekly 1:00 PM demonstration at AWS-Erie.)

Although only six people made the trip, a number of others were very interested and would have participated were it not for prior commitments. Future pickets are being considered.

People for Life President Tim Broderick, frequently seen during demonstrations at AWS-Erie, noted that the picket was "a step outside the comfort zone." Broderick said that this was only the sixth time he had been to a public demonstration at an abortion facility outside of Erie, and that on all the previous occasions members of the respective local communities "were running the show."

"We are constantly begging people to step out of *their* comfort zones and stand for life by coming to the demonstrations at the Erie abortion facility," remarked Broderick. "We saw this as an opportunity to lead by example."

Some people might question the wisdom of going "all the way to Pittsburgh" just to express themselves on the matter of abortion. But just consider that AWS employees from Erie have, at various times over the last few years, been routinely making the trek to Pittsburgh, in all sorts of weather no doubt, to

"express themselves." During periods when the Erie facility has not been open for business, AWS has been using members of the Erie staff to help run the Pittsburgh facility. Sadly, the abortion people sometimes seem more dedicated than the pro-life community.

Abortion Mill No. 14 appears on AWS website

A new abortion facility, American Women's Services-Tom's [sic] River, recently appeared on the American Women's Services website. The website now lists 14 locations, including Erie.

Toms River, New Jersey is located near the Atlantic coast, directly east of Philadelphia.

The AWS yellow pages ad in the Erie Talking Phone Book also claims a location in Buffalo, NY, which is not listed on the AWS website.

AWS owner Dr. Steven Brigham did in fact purchase a building in Buffalo several years ago. However, People for Life is not aware of any activity at that location to date.

Gannon showcases pro-abortion elected officials

State Sen. Jane Earll, a very candid supporter of legal abortion, was a featured speaker at a noontime luncheon at Gannon University on March 23. The affair was attended by Gannon's "senior staff and members of the Women's Leadership Group, a group dedicated to advancing women's leadership."

A note in the March 23 *Erie Times-News* announced that Sen. Earll had been invited "to help Gannon University commemorate Women's History Month during a luncheon at the college today."

The lawmaker and her visit also received a considerable amount of favorable TV news coverage before and after the event.

At least two local news departments, WJET TV-24 and WSEE TV-35 were on-hand to cover the luncheon, which took place in Gannon's Old Main building.

When it became apparent that this Catholic institution was, in effect, providing a significant media platform for a prominent abortion advocate and that this could be

misleading to the general public, and to some in the pro-life community, last minute efforts were made to organize an informational picket.

People for Life President Tim Broderick came to picket equipped with literature for distribution and "Abortion Hurts Women" signs produced by Operation Outcry, a national organization for women who have had abortions. The literature, downloaded from the website of Feminists for Life, provided a bit of "Women's History" by explaining that the early founders and leaders of the Women's Movement – in contrast to Sen. Earll – adamantly opposed abortion as a murderous evil that victimized women and degraded society.

Gannon's ironic choice of an abortion proponent to "commemorate Women's History Month" came, incidentally, just weeks after a handsome photograph of strongly pro-abortion Governor Ed Rendell was featured in the magazine that Gannon sends to its alumni. The picture was published in connection with an article about a \$4 million dollar grant to the school that had been announcement by the governor.

Editor's Comments: There are undoubtedly some out-of-touch individuals at Gannon who think, as presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani recently told the *Des Moines Register*, that you and I ought "to get beyond issues like [abortion]." God forbid. That would amount to an evil perhaps even more appalling than the act of abortion itself: embracing a set of priorities that winks at enormous injustice and shocking inhumanity and turns a blind eye as the innocent are led away to slaughter.

The late Pope John Paul II warned us about this sort of detachment from reality:

"The Second Vatican Council defines abortion, together with infanticide, as an 'unspeakable crime.'

"But today, in many people's consciences, the perception of its gravity has become progressively obscured. The acceptance of abortion in the popular mind, in behaviour and even in law itself, is a telling sign of an extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense, which is becoming more and more incapable of distinguishing between good and evil, even when the fundamental right to life is at stake."



Wagner Award Presented

By Marielle Lafaro

Fr. Edward Krause, C.S.C., Ph.D. was this year's recipient of the Wagner Award given at the Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast.

Fr. Krause's nomination for the award, which is given to individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to the pro-life cause, was met with enthusiastic approval among People for Life members. Breakfast attendees showed similar approval with a standing ovation as Krause humbly received the plaque.

"There are many great things he should be recognized for," it was said during the award presentation, "today we focus on his dedication to the pro-life cause."

As Krause graciously accepted the award "on behalf of all of the mothers," he read a reflection on motherhood written by Cardinal

The most important person on earth

"The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body . . . The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature: God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation . . . What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?"

Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty

Joseph Mindszenty. The poetic verse that, to the surprise of many in the audience, he happened to have in his pocket can be found on this page.

Congratulations, Fr. Krause. You deserve it!

High School Oratory Contest

Darci Jones, a senior at Collegiate Academy in Erie, represented People for Life at the annual PA Pro-Life Federation High School Oratory Contest. Her speech earned an Honorable Mention at the statewide event, which was held in Harrisburg on April 22. Darci's speech extolled the pro-life cause as a new civil rights movement that demands our allegiance, our voices, and our labors. Good job, Darci!

Write better Letters to the Editor

Everyone is invited to the May meeting of Crawford County Citizens for Life for a workshop on pro-life letter writing conducted by Bryce McMinn, Southwest Regional Coordinator for the PA Pro-Life Federation. The meeting will take place on Monday, May 14, 6:30 PM at St. Bridgid Church, Arch & Liberty Sts., Meadville.

Memorials

Given by

John & Carolyn Bauman
 Leo & Teresa Brugger
 Mr. & Mrs. James Carter
 Ann DiMarco
 C. James Fischer
 Gloria W. Fischer
 Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald
 Jean & Ed Hammer
 Ken & Dorothy Johnson
 Richard & Mary Ann McCormick
 Mary Pat Ringhand
 Mary Romanowicz
 Jeanette Schultz
 Debra A. Schwenk

In Memory of

Robert L. Birchard
 Robert L. Birchard

Given by

Chuck & Mary Warner
 Rebecca Nelson
 Jean & Ed Hammer
 Jim & Rose Ann Yadeski
 Jean & Ed Hammer
 Jean & Ed Hammer
 Ann DiMarco
 Mary Lou Scottino
 Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald
 Jean & Ed Hammer

In Memory of

Robert L. Birchard
 Emilie Cannon
 Effie Hudacky
 Effie Hudacky
 John Malizia
 Janet McFadden
 Gary Peterson
 Sigmond Prochowski
 Stephen (Red) Schemek
 Russell C. Schmidt

Given by

James & Sandy Yadeski
 Mary Yurkovic

In Honor of

Rose Ann Yadeski's 75th Birthday
 Rose Ann Yadeski's 75th Birthday

People for Life is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-sectarian, citizen's organization committed to affirming the intrinsic value of human life. We are dedicated to advancing true justice by working for the protection of all innocent human lives, whatever the age, race, sex, physical condition, economic status, or place of residence (including the womb). We encourage local involvement through

education and by fostering political awareness. We advocate loving alternatives to the primitive and violent "solutions" of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Working together, we are determined to achieve a society in which all human lives are considered sacred. *The Erie Echo* is published bimonthly in Erie, PA by People for Life, Inc., Tim Broderick, editor.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

AFFILIATED WITH _____ OCCUPATION _____

Church, Business, Civic Organization, etc.

New Membership Renewal **DUES:** INDIVIDUAL \$10 FAMILY \$20 SENIOR CITIZEN \$5

STUDENT \$5 GROUP \$25 PATRON \$50 BENEFACTOR \$100 OTHER AMOUNT _____

DONATION (other than dues) _____ Check if for Peach St. Billboard: Other Special Purpose (specify) _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ___ Fair Booths
- ___ Phone Calling
- ___ Office Attendant
- ___ Newsletter Mailing
- ___ Sidewalk Counseling
- ___ Literature Distribution
- ___ Public Demonstrations
- ___ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker
- ___ March For Life Bus Trip Worker
- ___ Mother's Day Carnation Project
- ___ Erie March & Motorcade Worker
- ___ 'Call when you need an extra hand.'

Please make your check payable to:

PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512

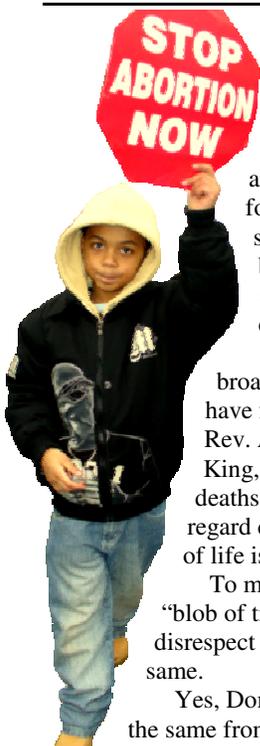
Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.

The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement

PEOPLE FOR LIFE INC
1625 WEST 26TH STREET
PO BOX 1126
ERIE PA 16512

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
ERIE PA
PERMIT NO 1973



Dr. Alveda King on Disrespect to Humanity

ATLANTA, April 16 The racist slurs hurled by radio host Don Imus are reprehensible and certainly warrant the outrage that has followed. The fact that certain black men use similar or identical words when talking about black women is not a defense for Mr. Imus's epithets, only further evidence of the debasing of American culture.

The Imus scandal highlights a deeper and broader problem in our country, the disrespect we have for each other. The murders of my father, the Rev. A.D. King, and my uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King, were born of this disrespect. So were the deaths of 48 million babies by abortion. When we regard certain people as lesser than ourselves, the value of life is cheapened.

To me, it's as offensive to call an unborn baby a "blob of tissue" as it is to call a black woman a "ho." The disrespect to humanity is the same. My outrage is the same.

Yes, Don Imus's apologies are necessary. But I demand the same from every public figure who has ever said that babies in the womb are not persons. *Photo by People for Life, taken on Constitution Ave. during March for Life 2007, Washington, DC*

2007 PRO-LIFE DATE BOOK 2007	
May 8	Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
May 11	Last day for Boards of Elections to receive absentee ballots
May 13	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project
May 14	Crawford Citizens for Life Meeting - 6:30 PM, Meadville
May 15	★ ★ ★ Primary Election ★ ★ ★
May 21	Annual Election of Officers Meeting - 7:30 PM, Main Office
May 30 - June 2	Outreach Booth - Erie Wild Rib Cook Off and Music Festival
June 14-15	National Right to Life Convention - Kansas City, Missouri
June 30 - July 1	Outreach Booth - Corry Fest, Corry, PA
Sept. 23	First Annual Fall Dinner - Crawford County Citizens for Life
Nov. 3	2007 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Conference - Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh PA Pro-Life Conference to host Gianna Jessen

The PA Pro-Life Federation will hold a one-day pro-life conference at the Radisson Greentree Hotel in Pittsburgh on November 3. Abortion survivor Gianna Jessen will be the featured speaker at the Celebrate Life Banquet that evening. Other speakers include Michael Clancy, the *USA Today* photographer who took the now famous picture of baby Samuel Armas reaching out of his mother's womb during in utero surgery; Dr. James Rossetti, a prominent expert in adult stem cell therapy; and Karen Cross, political action director for the National Right to Life Committee.

It is not too early to register. For more information contact People for Life or visit www.paprolife.org.

Educational Presentations

People for Life's PowerPoint-based presentation, *Abortion: Policy, Practice, and Perspectives*, continues to be in high demand. Audiences since February include:

- St. John-Holy Rosary School (8th grade)
- Mercyhurst College
- Erie First Christian Academy (9th-12th)
- Community of Caring (all ages)
- Gannon University (medical ethics and theology classes)
- Mercyhurst Prep (11th grade)

In addition to PowerPoint illustrations, visual aids include a set of medical school fetal models and, when appropriate, basic surgical instruments used in various abortion procedures.

To arrange a free presentation for your school, church, or other audience, call (814) 882-1333 and ask for Tim Broderick or Marielle Lafaro.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE
www.peopleforlife.org

An affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation
(814) 459-1333 ★ (814) 882-1333

MAILING ADDRESS
People for Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512

MAIN OFFICE
1625 West 26th St., Erie, PA
— REGULAR HOURS —
Wednesday - 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Thursday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Friday - 10:00 AM to Noon
Schedule subject to change
Call for other times.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE
Alternative Choices for Women
1611 Peach St., Suite 321, Erie, PA
(814) 464-0266
Open Monday thru Friday - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual election meeting of People for Life is scheduled for 7:30 PM, Monday, May 21, 2007. It will be held at the People for Life Main Office, 1625 West 26th St., Erie, PA. Everyone is welcome. Members whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting will be eligible to vote. The nominees are Jean Hammer for treasurer, David Halligan for secretary, Rose Ann Yadeski for first vice-president, Bob Theiss for second vice-president, and Dale Klobusnik for third vice-president. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life.