

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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www.peopleforlife.org

January 2014

Pro-Life Breakfast January 18

We hope you will join us for People for Life's 36th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast on January 18, 2014. The event will be held once again at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center.

Tickets are now on sale. General tickets are \$14 and tickets for children ages 3-12 are \$7; there is no charge for younger children. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The last day for ticket sales is January 14.

The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 11:30 a.m. Doors will open at 8 a.m. Come early and browse our displays of pro-life educational and promotional materials.

Free child care with fun activities for kids of all ages will be available during the speaking portion of the program.

Our special guest speaker will be Angela Franks, the author of *Margaret Sanger's Eugenic Legacy*. Franks holds a Ph.D. in theology and an M.A. in philosophy. She is the Director of the Master of Theological Studies Program at St. John's Seminary in Boston. Dr. Franks is a highly-respected expert on Margaret Sanger and the origins of Sanger's brainchild, Planned Parenthood. She will speak on these topics and about the poisonous agenda that Planned Parenthood is zealously inflicting on our nation and our young people at this very moment.

Planned Parenthood has become the largest abortion provider in the United States. Every fourth baby killed by abortion in the our country is killed by Planned Parenthood.

Erie March for Life

Join us for the Erie March for Life on Saturday, January 11 as we take the greatest human rights struggle of our times to the streets of Erie. With over a 57 million government-sanctioned abortions since 1973 and over one million abortions last year alone, our beloved United States is leading the nations of the world in a War on Human Life that kills between 40 and 50 million human beings every year and leaves countless women struggling with emotional and psychological trauma not unlike that of soldiers returning from battle. Americans, like no other people in the history of the world, have benefited from the concept of unalienable human rights. If we, of all

Dr. Franks and her husband David served as the coordinators for the Massachusetts Catholic Conference Marriage Initiative entitled *The Future Depends on Love*. They co-host *Christian Witness* for the Catholic TV Network.

Dr. Franks and her husband live in Boston. They are the proud parents of six children, whom they are homeschooling. Their youngest child, Cecilia Rose, was born this past June. She will be coming to the Breakfast along with her mom.

Our guests will also have an opportunity to meet Drs. Wanda and Gunter Franz, our main speaker's parents, who are planning to drive up from Morgantown, West Virginia to attend the Breakfast. Wanda is a Professor Emeritus of West Virginia University and a past-president of the National Right to Life Committee. She is currently the President of West Virginians for Life.

Several pro-life religious leaders from the Erie area have been invited to participate in the program: Rev. Clifford Hamilton, Pastor of East Erie Assembly of God; Fr. Scott Jabo, President of Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy; and Fr. Donald Valasek, Pastor of Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church will lead us in prayer. Also, Erie Catholic Bishop Lawrence Persico will share a brief message.

Music will be by Saving Simon, a popular group of five high school and college students from Hermitage and Erie.

people, do not come to the defense of the unborn and their unalienable right to live, who in the world will?

The March will begin promptly at 11 a.m. Please arrive at the Perry Square Gazebo in downtown Erie by 10:45. The entire event will take about an hour.

Signs will be available, but feel free to bring your own homemade signs with positive pro-life messages. People for Life does, however, reserve the right to exclude messages that do not reflect the purpose and spirit of the March.

Dress for winter weather and wear warm, non-slip footwear. Beware of icy patches on the streets and sidewalks.

The March, led by the Gannon Students



Angela Franks, Ph.D.

U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 5th District Glenn "GT" Thompson and Erie Catholic Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman have also accepted our invitations to attend the Breakfast.

Planned Parenthood Update

Planned Parenthood has announced that it collected \$542.4 million from American taxpayers in 2012 (nearly \$1.5 million per day) and took the lives of 327,166 American unborn children. Government funds account for 45.2% of the abortion giant's total 2012 revenue of \$1.21 billion.

for Life, will proceed west from Perry Square on 6th St., south on Sassafras, east on 10th St., north on State, and back to the Perry Square Gazebo. The event will conclude with a brief, interfaith memorial service.

The memorial service will be jointly conducted by Fr. Mike Polinek, Parochial Vicar at St. George Church and Rev. Rick Plucknett, Associate Pastor of the Federated Church of East Springfield.

Everyone who is able to walk should do so, but those who might not be able to walk the entire route may drive behind the marchers. If you are unable to walk, arrive at Perry Square between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. and turn on your four-way flashers.

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FROM PAGE 4 March for Life Bus Trip

People for Life's Bus Trip has also been growing. Our numbers have exceeded 200 in each of the last four years. Last year there were 265 of us.

This growth adds to the excitement and helps us continue to attract local news coverage, a very good thing for the pro-life cause. The beginning of our trip always coincides with the local late-evening news broadcasts, so it is not unusual to have live TV coverage of our departure.

We are always pleased to host student and church groups. Some of our largest groups this January will be representing St. George School (Marielle Lafaro's 7th & 8th graders), Mercyhurst Prep, Gannon University (Students for Life), and Mercyhurst University (Lakers for Life).

Our buses will depart from St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie on Tuesday evening, January 21 at 11 p.m. We will make a brief stop for more passengers at the Edinboro Exit of I-79.

We will arrive at Washington's RFK Stadium at approximately 7:30 a.m., Wednesday morning. A few hours will be free for sightseeing, as part of a group or independently. Points of pro-life interest include the March for Life Exhibitor Show, National Right to Life headquarters, the U.S. Holocaust Museum, and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (the largest Roman Catholic church in North America and a favorite destination for thousands of Catholic marchers). Other popular, admission-free destinations include the Capitol Building, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the

World War II Memorial, and the Smithsonian Museums.

It is always essential to be prepared for rain, snow, and wintry conditions. Thankfully, though, Washington in January is often more like Erie in March or April. A glance at the DC online weather forecast can be helpful, but remember that the weatherman does sometimes make mistakes.

The March for Life program will officially begin at noon with a rally on the National Mall between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument, at an exact location yet to be announced. This year for the first time, there will be a pre-rally event with live music beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The March itself will get underway at approximately 1:00 p.m. A sea of marchers will pour into Constitution Avenue for literally hours of thousands and thousands of peaceful, optimistic Americans thankful to be alive and determined to make the United States once again a nation where everyone has an equal opportunity to live and everyone receives equal protection under the law. The winter daylight will be waning before all of them reach their destination: the U.S. Supreme Court, where abortion at any point during pregnancy was declared to be a constitutional right by seven unelected men on January 22, 1973.

Those who finish the March early enough will also be able to visit the pro-life federal legislators who represent northwestern Pennsylvania: Senator Pat Toomey and Representatives Mike Kelly and Glenn Thompson. The pro-life members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation usually team up to host a lively reception, complete with speeches, photo ops, and

plenty of refreshments.

We will begin the return trip at 5 p.m. and get back to Erie at approximately 2 a.m., early Thursday morning.

If you will be going to the March for Life for the first time, you're in for an amazing experience. But be careful; you might get hooked! Many people make the trip every year. Visiting our nation's capitol is always a great experience, but you won't be there merely as a tourist, just for yourself and your own enjoyment: You'll be there for the babies, their mother and fathers, and for generations yet to be born. You'll be showing your fellow citizens and the entire world what America was truly meant to be: a place where everyone is welcome and no one is denied their rightful place in the human family. You will be proclaiming, loudly and clearly, that every human being is created equal, with God-given rights that neither a Court, nor a Congress, nor a President may revoke or refuse to safeguard.

Call, e-mail, or visit our website for more information!

Call for Bus Trip Sponsors

Please consider being a March for Life Bus Trip sponsor. Your donation could help a college student on a tight budget get to the March, or a mom and dad with kids who will be making a sacrifice just to cover the cost of meals during the trip.

Sixty dollars will completely cover the cost of one seat or allow two people to travel for half-price. In some cases even a partial sponsorship of \$10 or \$15 could make the difference between someone marching in DC or having to stay home.

Race for Governor

At least seven democrats are actively seeking their party's nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania. Four of them are defiantly pro-abortion: John Hanger, a physician, is pro-abortion. Kathleen McGinty, who worked for U.S. Sen. Al Gore and also worked in various capacities for the Clinton and Obama administrations, is pro-abortion. Allyson Schwartz, the current frontrunner, ran a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Philadelphia for 12 years and is, of course, pro-abortion. Thomas W. Wolf owns a company that makes kitchen cabinets. He also worked in the administration of Gov. Ed Rendell. He, too, is pro-abortion.

The positions of three other declared candidates are less clear: Ed Pawlowski, the mayor of Allentown and Jo Ellen Litz, a 4-term Lebanon County commissioner, seem to prefer to avoid the abortion issue. Max Myers has not announced that he is pro-abortion, but his rhetoric is anything but encouraging. He calls the deliberate killing of the unborn a "social issue" and a "political

issue." On his website Meyers expresses a deep concern about the "division" caused by the "issue" of abortion but expresses no such concern about the million-plus babies that are killed each year.

Words from Pope Francis

When the new leader of the Catholic church speaks, the mainstream news media listens. Pope Francis has attracted a lot of attention with his somewhat unconventional way of engaging the media on key issues of basic Christian ethics and morality. He obviously has a talent for handling ancient Christian principles in ways that make them seem timely and attractive, even newsworthy.

Given the Pope's media-polished celebrity status, let's hope that people are all the more willing to take to heart the words he wrote in *The Joy of the Gospel* (November 28, 2013):

“Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us. Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them

whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this. Frequently, as a way of ridiculing the Church's effort to defend their lives, attempts are made to present her position as ideological, obscurantist and conservative. Yet this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be. Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offence against the creator of the individual.”

FROM PAGE 1 Erie March for Life

Parade marshals will guide you into line along the right side of S. Park Row between State and Peach Streets.

Please support the Erie March for Life. In the face of such a huge national tragedy as government sponsored abortion, weighty arguments, lofty words, and stirring rhetoric are not enough. Change will come and justice will prevail only when enough courageous people are willing to stand up publicly and say, "No more!" to this wholesale extermination of human lives, this mockery of American values.

Breakfast Sponsors

Advertising listings are available for professionals, businesses, and organizations who would like to help sponsor the 2014 Pro-Life Breakfast. The one-line listings in the Breakfast program may include an address, telephone number, website, and/or a concise message, as space permits.

The sponsorship levels are: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$750 (Friend, Patron, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and

Diamond). Sponsors also have the option of a year-long listing on our website.

Sponsorship funds are primarily used to help cover the costs of community-wide, pro-life awareness and educational efforts that are conducted in conjunction with the Breakfast and our other January pro-life activities.

If you would like to be a sponsor and have a listing, please request a sponsor form from People for Life, or download one from our website, and send it in as soon as possible. To ensure that your listing will appear in the program, we need to receive your form by January 14.

Can you help us recruit some new advertiser-sponsors? Please feel free to share sponsor forms with all of your favorite pro-life professionals and business owners.

Donate your old cell phones and empty printer cartridges

Thank you to everyone who has already answered our call for empty ink and toner cartridges and used, small electronic items (cell phones, mp3 players, headphones, GPS systems, and digital cameras).

We are going to continue collecting these items, so please save them for us and ask your friends to do the same. This easy project can be a big help to our cause.

DC March for Life Reflections

"The March for Life is one of the events I will remember for the rest of my life. I felt like being there was a must. I feel like if there are enough people, we can really make a difference and change the world. Going to the March for Life really makes me think differently about abortion. I think this is the most inspirational event I will ever see."

ó Elisabetta (8th grade)

"My March for Life experience was amazing. It doesn't matter what religion or nationality you are; we can all come together as one to fight abortion. I was impressed and overwhelmed by the number of people who were at the rally and March."

ó Jammie (7th grade)

"I really enjoyed going to the March for Life. I'm impressed that [U.S. Representative] Mike Kelly would invite us for a little meeting, since I didn't know he was pro-life."

ó Anne (8th grade)

Memorials

<p><i>Given by</i></p> <p>Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald Eileen V. Cullen Ed Hammer Patricia A. Grosso Lois J. Throne</p>	<p><i>In Memory of</i></p> <p>Maureen Arnold James W. Cullen Emma F. DiTullio Charles Grosso Jean Hammer</p>	<p><i>Given by</i></p> <p>Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald</p> <p><i>Given by</i></p> <p>John E. Auer Joseph F. Chmielewski</p>	<p><i>In Memory of</i></p> <p>Mrs. Becky Wurst</p> <p><i>In Honor of</i></p> <p>Leona & George Auer Women's Cursillo November 2013</p>
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People for Life is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-sectarian, citizen 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 valued and protected. The Erie Echo is published in Erie, PA by People for Life, Tim Broderick, Editor.

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR MAKE A DONATION

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Donations may also be made using the PayPal button on www.peopleforlife.org or by calling-in your credit card information.

Please make your check payable to:
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P.O. Box 1126
Erie, PA 16512

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The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.
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