THE ERIE ECHO "voice for life"

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Erie Marches for Life Despite the Lockdowns

The Erie March for Life this past January 23 was an unqualified success! As we take a quick look back to January, letøs all start thinking about how we can make our January 2022 Erie March for Life even bigger and better.

Over 250 people participated. Some came from as far away as Meadville and Conneaut Lake.

The attendance was surprisingly strong considering the frigid temperatures and the number of people who understandably stayed home out of caution over COVID-19. Our advertising was somewhat less ambitious this year, too, because of the uncertainties arising from COVID-19 including the need to proceed without the usual City of Erie special events permit.

The City was not issuing any special events permits because of the virus. This limited us to marching on the sidewalks rather than on the streets as usual.

Here are some previous Erie March for Life attendance numbers: (2020 was canceled due to an ice storm.), 2019/205; 2018/220; 2017/350 (The Trump inauguration generated some extra excitement.); 2016/160; 2015/95 (single digit temperatures; 20 of these rode in their cars.); 2014/200; 2013/300. As you can see, the 2021 attendance was not at all disappointing. It was a good sign that, although we are deeply disappointed by the loss of the White House, we are not about to give up.

People for Life thanks everyone who participated, including the Gannon Students for Life, the Knights of Columbus, and especially our speakers: Rev. Michael Taylor, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Albion: Melanie Brewer, on behalf of Congressman Mike Kelly; Brian Shank, Erie County 5th District Councilman (Thanks, Brian for letting us use your bullhorn.); Aidan Kerlin, President of Gannon Students for Life; Rachel Praetzel, Vice President of Administration, Gannon Students for Life; and Sheila Barajas, a first generation Mexican-American with years of experience in counseling women considering abortion and other facets of pro-life activism in California. Sheilaøs father was an immigrant from Mexico who served in the United States Marine Corps.

The program was MCød by People for Life Executive Director Tim Broderick.

College student participation was down this year because of a later than normal post-

High School Oratory Contest

Two \$100 first prizes were awarded to the winners of this yearøs High School Oratory Contest, held on April 10. Sadly, there were no takers for the second and third place prizes in either of the two contest levels. We will chalk it up to the lingering effects of COVID-19 and hope for a bigger field of contestants next year.

Our two winners were entirely deserving of their first place honors. In the 11-12 grade contest, the winner was Thomas Caulfield, age 17. Thomas spoke about the lies and deceptions that form the underpinnings of Roe v. Wade and the entire pro-abortion movement. He advised us to face our proabortion opponents with courage and confidence because our position is based firmly on sound logic and scientific realities, while theirs is based on lies and propaganda fabricated to reach a predetermined conclusion. In the 9-10 grade contest, our winner, Clare Caulfield, age 15, spoke about Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood and the racist roots of her organization. Clare argued that despite Planned Parenthoodøs recently distancing itself from its racist-eugenicist founder, its exploitation of the Black community and other minorities continues unabated.

Must-See: Fatal Flaws

Attendees at a recent People for Life meeting had an opportunity to view the documentary film, *Fatal Flaws*. This top-notch documentary was produced by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, based in London, Ontario. It addresses the question, õAre laws holiday resumption of classes. Mercyhurst University students, who usually attend in rather large numbers, were among those who had not yet returned from their holiday break.

A nice set of Erie March for Life pictures is available on the front page of <u>www.People</u> <u>forLife.life</u>.

Canceled January Events

Unfortunately, the 43rd Annual Pro-Life Breakfast, originally scheduled for January 16, then tentatively rescheduled for April 24, had to be completely cancelled due to Pennsylvania¢s COVID-19 restrictions. The good news is that Rachel Bovard, who was to be our 2021 special guest speaker, is going to join us at the Bayfront Convention Center for the 2022 Pro-Life Breakfast on January 15.

Our annual March for Life Bus Trip met a similar fate. The trip had to be called off just six days before our scheduled departure for Washington, when the March for Life itself was cancelled (except for a small march by a token group of pro-life leaders). By that time, every other bus from northwestern Pennsylvania had already been canceled and we were fielding reservations from as far away as Titusville and Grove City.

allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide leading society down a dangerous path?ö

The producer introduces the film this way: õA thought-provoking journey through Europe and North America to ask one of the most fundamental philosophical questions of our time: should we be giving doctors the right in law to end the life of others by euthanasia or assisted suicide? Filmmaker Kevin Dunn uses powerful testimonies and expert opinion from both sides of the issue to uncover how these highly disputed laws affect society over time.ö

This film needs to be seen by as wide an audience as possible. The DVD is available to watch here at People for Life or to be borrowed for home viewing.

For legislative and other updates, e-mail "subscribe" to office@peopleforlife.org.

Page 2 **Candidate Survey for the May 18, 2021 Primary Election**

1. LEGAL PROTECTION If changes to the Roe v. Wade decision make it possible, would you approve or disapprove of a law prohibiting abortion except when necessary to prevent the death of the mother or prohibiting abortion with additional exceptions? (Please specify what additional 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 (approximately 22 weeks from conception)?

3. INFORMED CONSENT Do you approve of the provisions of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act that require abortion providers to offer basic information to a woman who is considering an abortion, including information about medical risks, alternatives to abortion, the

probable gestational age of the unborn child, the availability of detailed information (provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) about

Survey Table Key
D: Running on Democratic ballot
R: Running on Republican ballot
DR: Running on both ballots
Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are in BOLD UPPER CASE.
Y or y: Yes N or n: No
A: Approve d: Disapprove
nr: No response to current survey
 Blank; responded to the survey but did not answer yes or no to the question
 See &dditional Comments+
 Did not respond this time, but did
respond when running for office previously

fetal development, and the possibility of medical assistance benefits if the woman decides to continue her pregnancy?

4. WAITING PERIODS Do you approve of the provision of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act that requires a 24 hour waiting period, after a woman who is considering abortion has consulted with a physician and been given the information noted in Question 3 above, to allow the woman time to carefully consider her decision, before an abortion is carried out?

5. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT Do you approve of the provision of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act that requires the consent of at least one parent if the person seeking an abortion is less than 18 years old, unless a judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved?

continued on page 3

	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Judge of the Court of	of Cor	nmor	n Plea	is vo	te for	(1)			
DR	Marshall Piccinini	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
	Erie County	Exect	utive	vote	for (1)					
R	Brenton Davis	b♦	Y+	Y	Y	Y+	b♦	b♦	у	Ν
R	Shawn Wroblewskl	A+	Y	Y	Y	Y+	Ν	Ν	b♦	b♦
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	Erie County Coun	ncil 2n	d Dis	trict	vote	for (1)				
D	Andre Horton	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
	Erie County Coun	ncil 4t	h Dist	trict	vote	for (1)				
R	Timothy E. Gostomski	Α	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
D	Jim Winarski	Α	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
No re	esponse: Julia Ann Calipo (D), Ange				(D), Ke	evin Pa	astew	ka (D)	
	Erie County Coun	ncil 6t	h Dist	rict		for (1)				
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	Erie County Cle	rk of l	Recor	ḋs ∖	ote fo	r (1)				
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	Erie County Magister	rial Di	strict	06-1-	·04 vo	ote foi	r (1)	-		
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	City of Eric			ote fo						
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D	Teresa Stankiewicz	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
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LOOK FOR LAST-MINUTE UPDATES AT www.PeopleforLife.life/newsletter

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FROM PAGE 2 Candidate Survey

6. GOVERNMENT FUNDING Should government funds or tax credits be used to pay for elective abortions or used to fund insurance plans that cover elective abortions?

7. **INFANTICIDE** Should health care providers be permitted to deny medically indicated treatment to infants born alive during attempted abortions, even if such treatment would normally be provided under other circumstances?

8. ASSISTED SUICIDE Should physicians be allowed to prescribe drugs to be taken by a patient to deliberately end his or her life?

9. EMBRYO-DESTRUCTIVE RESEARCH Should government funds be used to pay for research that involves the killing of human embryos (e.g., embryonic stem cell research)?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Britni Burlingham ♦1 I really feel this

would be more than a just approve / disapprove decision depending on the situation. $\diamond 6$ I think this needs to be more of a discussed topic. $\diamond 8$ I cannot just answer yes or no to this.

Jeremy Coblentz ◆ Stop killing babies! Brenton Davis ◆1 Hypothetical. County Executive will never hold this power. Personally, I support pro-life. ◆2 Aside from life risk to mother and unexpected medical complications. ◆5 Parents should be involved in all medical care decisions for minor children. ◆6 I do not support government funds paying for abortions. Insurance considerations are too broad to answer. ◆7 I do not feel properly informed in current medical laws to answer. Medical care should be provided for all in need.

Steven Drake •9 I am not familiar enough with the process and overall outcome of stem

cell research to answer yes or no. I would probably lean towards no but would want to understand the whole process.

John H. Groh♦ As I have stated in previous surveys, I am Catholic and believe that all life is sacred. A disagree with Roe V Wade yet acknowledge it is based upon a Supreme Court ruling that I would have no part in overturning. Our daughter is adopted as was my late father along with two cousins. Adoption has played a large part in my life and family. I also believe in the protection of those with developmental and physical disabilities along with the homeless, many of which suffer with mental illness and addiction issues. I am also a Board Member with the local chapter of NAMI and also serve on the Board of Directors with the St Patrickøs Haven homeless shelter. In essence, all life is sacred. continued on page 4

<u>Memoríals</u>

Gíven by	In Memory of	Gíven by	In Memory of		
Brenda Belovarac	John M. Belovarac, Sr.	Marian Adelman	Leonor Lobo De Gonzalez		
The Grumblat Family	Scarlett Skye Berdis (9 days old)	Anita Smith	Cynthia Manna		
Cathy Truden	Tara J. Bisbee	Tracy Balczon	Rudolph Martone		
Lois Borowy	Mark Borowy	James Moskot	Susan Moskot		
Susan Barton	Susan Mary Burbules	Marla Pellegrino	Mother		
Gwen Campbell	Claudia Campbell, mother	Toni Scrimenti	Fr. Gerry Orbanek		
Ed & Barbara Burkett	Bob Dimerling	Randy & Nancy Pertl	Roger Pertl		
J. David Serfozo	Erie March for Life	Jerry Priscaro	Agnes Ruza Priscaro		
Richard Sawdey	A Fallen Police Officer	Matthew & Madeline Wagner	Michael & Joanne Wagner		
, Wilamowski Family	Bill & Elma Gregory	Keith & Melanie Wagner	Michael & Joanne Wagner		
The Grumblat Family	Grumblatt, Kinsinger, and Westbrook	Jean Wroblewski	Stan Widomski		
Patricia Grosso Gerry & Molly Vollentine	Husband and three children Elmer & Marge Kohlmiller	Gíven by	In Honor of		
Ronald Kopf	Patricia Kopf	Parishioners	Blessed Sacrament Staff		
Jerilyn Schultz	Alice Kuhn	The Family	Lisa Grumblatt Happy 64th Birthday		
Allen Erickson	Cornelius Legters	Judy Anderton	Helen Guth		
Frances Flatley	Bob Leuschen	The Family	Chloe Rolph Birthday 5/11/21		
Allen Erickson	Cornelius Legters	Judy Anderton The Family	Helen Guth		
NAME					
ADDRESS	E-MAIL				

ADDRESS		E-MAIL	
CITY		STATE	ZIP
Best Phone	Mobile? Yes 🗌 No 🗍 🦷 Other Phone _	Mobile? `	Yes 🗌 No 🗍 Do not text 🗋
AFFILIATED WITH (e.g., church, organization, bus	iness)	WORK/PROFESSIO	DN
1. DONATION: \$1,000 🗆 \$500	□ \$250 □ \$100 □ \$50 □ \$2	5 🗆 \$10 🗆 Other Amount	
2. MEMBERSHIP DUES (one year):	Individual \$10 🔲 Family \$20 🗌	Senior Citizen /Student \$5 🗌	New 🛛 Renewal 🗆
3. TRIBUTE DONATION AMOUNT	In Memory of 🔲 or	In Honor of 🗌	
4. TOTAL ENCLOSED			
Donations may also be made us	ing the DONATE button on www.peo	pleforlife.life or by calling-in yo	ur credit card information.
VOLUNTEER Pr OPPORTUNITIES Of	one Calling Public Den	nonstrations N eakfast Worker E	/larch For Life Bus Trip Worker /lotherœ Day Carnation Project Frie March for Life 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	The official registration and finan	ons or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are no cial information of People for Life, Inc. rr State by calling toll-free within Pennsylva Registration does not imply endorsem	nay be obtained from the Pennsylvania ania, 1-800-732-0999.
PEOPLE FOR LIFE www.PeopleforLife.life	phone (814) 882-1333 phone / fax (814) 459-1333 office@peopleforlife.org www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife	Mailing Address P.O. Box 1126 Erie, PA 16512	— Office Location — 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays Call for evening and Saturday hours

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

FROM PAGE 3 Candidate Comments

David E. Mitchell \leftarrow I was adopted. **Chuck Nelson** \leftarrow 1 Approve with additional exceptions \diamond 2 Without room for exceptions, I do not offer an answer. My concern is with viability. I have counseled situations where the child may be mature but not viable. \diamond 8 I do not offer an answer.

Elizabeth B. Sceiford ♦8 Unsure. Depends on circumstances.

Brian Shank ◆1 In case of rape.

Mark Sleppy \blacklozenge 8 In some cases it could be an option.

Tom Spagel ♦ We did not receive a completed questionnaire, but the candidate did visit our office to discuss human life issues. He exhibited a good understanding of the pro-life position and a genuine concern about the negative impact of abortion on the

individuals directly involved. **Sue Weber** ♦8 If the decision is made by the patient when they are mentally capable of making it.

Shawn Wroblewski

◆1 Only some special circumstances, rape / health issues ◆5 I believe both parents need to be informed. ◆8 Depends on the circumstances of the situation ◆9 Depends on the research and the uses.

Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life will be held at our office, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie on Monday, May 17, 2021. Our nominees are: Carol Struchen for treasurer, Shauna Jackson for secretary, Marielle Lafaro for first vicepresident, Gretchen Lorei for second vicepresident. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the proposed nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life. Only individuals whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting may vote. Not everyone who receives the *Erie Echo* newsletter is a current member.

Mother's Day Carnation Project

Our Motherøs Day Carnation Project is making a comeback this year. We want to thank the literally hundreds of people and scores of churches who are making it possible. The 2020 Project was completely shut down by COVID-19, although we did do a mini-Carnation Project for Fatherøs Day. If you are reading this prior to Motherøs Day weekend, it might not be too late to get involved. Just let us know if you would like to be a Carnation Project volunteer!

Statewide Judicial Candidates

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee reports that there

2021 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2022

May 9	Happy Mother Day! / Mother Day Carnation Project
May 17	Annual Election of Officers Mtg., 6:30 p.m 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
May 18	Pennsylvania Primary Election
June 20	Happy Fatheros Day!
June 25-26	National Right to Life Convention - Hilton Washington Dulles Airport
July 13-17	Educational Booth - North East Firemence Cherry Festival
Aug. 5-7	Educational Booth - Dan Rice Days, Girard
Aug. 10	Erie Gives Day - Please support the People for Life Education Fund.
8/30-9/4	Educational Booth - Erie County Fair at Wattsburg
Sept. 6-11	Educational Booth - Waterford Community Fair
Sept. 14-18	Educational Booth - Albion Area Fair
Oct. 9	Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk, 9 a.m Slade Park, Harborcreek
Oct. 18	Last day to register for the November election
Oct. 18	Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
Oct. 26	Last day to apply for a mail-in or conventional absentee ballot
Nov. 2	Election Day
Jan. 15	44th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast, 9 a.m Bayfront Convention Ctr.
Jan. 20	March for Life 49th Annual Bus Trip, 11 p.m. departure
Jan. 21	March for Life - Washington, DC
Jan. 29	Erie March for Life - Downtown Erie, PA

are a number of pro-life candidates running for positions on the state appellate courts. Running for the state Supreme Court (vote for one), Republicans Kevin Brobson, Patricia McCullough, and Paula Patrick are recommended. Republican Megan Sullivan is recommended by the PAC for the state Superior Court, and Republicans Drew Crompton and Stacy Wallace are recommended for the state Commonwealth Court (vote for two). None of the Democratic candidates returned a questionnaire, but Democrats can still vote for pro-life candidates by writing-in any of the candidates mentioned above.

2021 Life Run 5K/10K

Our eighth annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk will take place on Saturday, October 9, 2021 in the beautiful fruit farming region of north east Erie County. We will be based at Slade Park in Harborcreek Township. All events will be routed on mostly flat, blacktop roads. For the latest news, follow Life Run at: www.facebook.com/LifeRunErie.

Registration is \$15 for ages 7-15 and \$25 for ages over 15. Online registration will soon be available at: <u>peopleforlife.life/runinfo.html</u>. You may also download mail-in forms or request them by phone or e-mail.

There will be timing by Big White

Trailer, free Life Run t-shirts (register by September 29), free refreshments, free wine tasting at nearby Burch Farms Country Market (ages 18 and over), and convenient parking, not to mention the special ambiance of the harvest season in our local wine country. Brian Shank will be our DJ once again this year.

Business owners, professionals, and other organizations are invited to be Life Run sponsors. The levels are \$250, \$125, and \$50. Sponsors will be displayed on the race t-shirts and, with their approval, on our website. Sponsor registration is also available online at <u>/runinfo.html</u>.