

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

Vol. XXXIII No. 1

www.peopleforlife.org

January-February 2005

Olivia Gans slated to speak

27th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

- Saturday, January 15, 2005 - 9:00 AM
- Avalon Hotel, 16 West 10th Street, Erie, PA
- Tickets: \$8.50 (\$5.50 for children 3-10)
- Please buy tickets by Monday, January 10.

People for Life's 27th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2005 at the Avalon Hotel. You are cordially invited to share an inspirational and informative morning with fellow members of the Erie area pro-life community. Please bring your friends, family, and neighbors!

Our main speaker will be Olivia Gans. She will talk about her personal experience with abortion and how abortion hurts women. Olivia struggled for two years with acute emotional after-effects from an abortion she had as an unwed college student. She went on, however, to help organize one of the nation's first peer to peer post-

abortion support groups. For the past 18 years, Olivia has served as the director of American Victims of Abortion, an outreach project of People for Life's parent organization, the National Right to Life Committee, Washington, DC.

The Bread of Life Music Ministry from St. Joseph / Bread of Life Catholic Church will be on hand to share their inspiring musical message of joy and love.

If you will be attending the breakfast in a group of eight or more, please be sure to let us know in advance so we can reserve a table for you. This will help ensure that everyone will be able to sit together.

Tickets are \$8.50, but a reduced rate of \$5.50 is available for children ages 3-10. There is no charge for younger children. Get your tickets at either of People for Life's two locations, or send your payment to People for Life, Inc., P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. Please purchase tickets by January 10. Please call for more information.

Greater Erie March & Motorcade for Life

- Saturday, January 15, 2005 - 12:30 PM
- Will begin at 10th and State Streets
- Marchers should arrive by 12:15 PM
- Concludes with a brief Memorial Service in Perry Square

The March & Motorcade is a peaceful, dignified expression of love and concern for unborn children also for their mothers and fathers and for everyone else affected by abortion, including abortionists and all those who work in the abortion industry.

Numbers matter! Unless you join us, this year's March & Motorcade will not have the impact it really could. Larger numbers mean more extensive coverage by the local news media, thus better exposure for our message. Large numbers are also a convincing indication of substantial community support for People for Life, enhancing our credibility and fostering respect for our organization.

The March & Motorcade will begin at 10th & State. Marchers will assemble at 12:15 PM on the sidewalk in front of the Avalon

Hotel. Signs and banners will be provided. Other signs with positive pro-life messages may also be used.

The vehicles in the Motorcade will line up in the eastbound lanes of 10th Street between Peach and State Streets.

At 12:30 PM the March & Motorcade will proceed south on State St. to 18th St., west to Peach St., north to 15th St., east to State St., and north to Perry Square.

The March & Motorcade will conclude with a brief Memorial Service at the Gazebo.

All those who are able to march are encouraged to do so. Those who would have difficulty marching are encouraged to join the motorcade.

The theme of this year's March & Motorcade will be "Abortion hurts women." Special signs that say, "I regret my abortion" will be available for women who feel called to speak out about their own abortion experiences and warn others.

Please call for more information.

Washington, DC March for Life Bus Trip

- 32nd March for Life - January 24, 2005
- Will mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade (January 23, 1973)
- \$38.00 per seat
- Leave Erie Sunday, January 23 at 11:00 PM
- Church and student groups welcome

Just \$38.00 per seat and a little over 24 hours are all that is needed to be a part of the 32nd Annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Monday, January 24. Reserve your bus seat(s)

today and let People for Life handle all the details!

Some sponsorship money has been donated to help students and other deserving people who are unable to raise the necessary funds. If you would like to attend the March, but the cost is prohibitive, please ask about a sponsorship.

Reservations should be made as soon as possible so there is time to charter all the buses that will be needed. Please make your check payable to People for Life, Inc., and mail your payment to P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. Please provide a name, address, and telephone number for each reservation. Please call for more information.

FIND MORE JANUARY EVENTS INFORMATION AT: WWW.PEOPLEFORLIFE.ORG

Education Report

People for Life Education Director Cecil Daniel, Ph.D. gave an hour-long talk about abortion to the young people in the confirmation class at St. Boniface Church on December 19. Cecil's talk was enhanced by an interesting PowerPoint presentation, which he has been refining for the past several years.

Cecil was accompanied by Tim Broderick, president of People for Life. Tim spoke briefly about the mission and various projects of People for Life and updated the group on the American Women's Services abortion facility in Erie. Afterwards, the students broke out into smaller groups, providing an opportunity for Cecil and Tim to answer questions and participate in some interesting discussions.

Cecil, a native of India, is a mechanical engineer and project manager at GE Transportation Systems. He is available to speak to student groups and audiences of all ages. He would be happy to tailor a presentation for *your* group. Please contact People for Life for more information.

On November 30, Tim Broderick made a presentation about fetal development to a medical terminology class at St. Vincent Health Center. The presentation included a brief video. Tim touched on conception (fertilization) as the beginning of each human individual, the "milestones" of prenatal human development, the rapidly growing field of fetal medicine including surgery in the womb, neonatology, and new technologies such as 4D ultrasound that help us recognize the humanity of the unborn child.

Student Essay Contest

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is sponsoring a student essay contest. The deadline for entries is March 1. Essay word limits are 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. The essays must address abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia from a pro-life perspective. They should be e-mailed to lifelines@paprolife.org or mailed to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; 4800 Jonestown Road, Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA; 17109. Contact People for Life for more information.

Abortion Demonstrations

The fixed schedule of demonstrations at Erie's abortion facility, which had been in place for most of 2004, was recently discontinued. The Saturday demonstrations from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM will go on as usual, but instead of Thursday and Friday demonstrations at the same time every week, there will be only a single weekday demonstration. The day and time of that demonstration will change each week. Please call for the current schedule. When the abortion facility reopens, the demonstrations will be scheduled to coincide with the times when the unborn babies are being killed.

A FAMILY TRAGEDY

By Olivia Gans

This article is a critique of a first-person account that ran in the July 7, 2002 New York Times magazine.

Ever since I read the anonymous July 7, 2002, editorial entitled "Family Planning," I have been on a roller coaster of rage and tears for a young girl I may never meet. Nonetheless, I know her as well as I know myself. A young lady so violated and ignored that even her last desperate cry for respect and support went totally unheard even by her own parents.

Almost 30 years of abortion and the myths about freedom of choice have come full circle as the first generations to reach maturity after *Roe v. Wade* are now trying to live with our decisions. Decisions that often demand that others do as we did so that we can keep on believing it was the right thing to do.

In the case of this tragic young girl's story the roar of justification, selfishness, and denial of all those around her drowned out her own lonely voice. All her feeble attempts to have her wishes respected went unheard. In the end, she cried out, as her own father admits, but in cowardice refused to hear, "I have no choice!"

My heart felt an ache so piercing for her as I recalled the voices that surrounded me when I was a student and pregnant in 1981. Over and over I was told how childish and stupid it would be for me to give birth to my own child. Planned Parenthood counselors and four abortionists told me to do what my boyfriend wanted because "Since I was pregnant I couldn't think clearly for myself!"

Our abortions just left us with painful memories of children that stay with us, haunting our hearts . . .

The women who surrounded this poor, young girl are all women I know. Since 1982 I have listened to hundreds of women just like them all over the USA. I have heard the same defiant ones struggle to justify bad and irreversible decisions. The urgency which so many of us bring to this issue is quite disturbing. Many have even become leaders in pro-abortion groups. So much energy is spent making what was so awful somehow feel right. Even sometimes by forcing our own children into the same hopeless situation with no regard for the scars we will burn into their hearts.

I have held still more of these women as they cried tears that never seem to cease. I have worked side by side with those brave ones who have struggled to find real peace by telling the truth about the devastation that their abortions caused in their lives and families. The truth that for so many of us is so very hard to hear. The abortion actually never solves any real problems because the baby wasn't really the problem. Our abortions just left us with painful memories of children that stay with us, haunting our hearts until we find the deeper strength to acknowledge our pain and take responsibility for their deaths.

The father of this desperate young girl speaks of his daughter's struggle so carelessly. In the same way, he seems to be oblivious to his own selfishness. A self-centeredness that saw the possibility of helping to raise his own grandchild as a sentence of hard labor. Does their daughter already sense that they feel the same way about her?

Clearly his daughter is in deep trouble. Just how many times does a child have to flaunt dangerous behavior under her parents' noses before they stop their own wheels long enough to help? Getting pregnant was not the problem. It was only the result. It could also have been a chance for true strength and growth. Tragically for her, her parents had not been able to turn off their own self-interest long enough to embrace and anchor a troubled and frightened daughter. Alone, she struggled to protect herself and her own child, their grandchild, from a hostile world they helped to create!

Abortion is always a hopeless choice. Women and their children deserve so much more.

How long will this sad country deny the damage we have done to our entire culture by promoting abortion? Railroading so many isolated and hopeless young women into believing that they have no choice except to have an abortion? Abortion is always a hopeless choice. Women and their children deserve so much more.

Ironically this father claims that he has hope for his child and that he knows what is in her heart. He tells us of a compassionate child who gave of herself lovingly and bravely to a dying friend. How sad for her that her own father and mother refused their own little girl the same generous support and care when her moment of need came.

Her father says he believes that the same happy, loving girl will come home to him someday. Well, she did and he wasn't home for her. His cowardly and heartless rejection of her wishes to save her baby, his grandchild, will never be far from her memories.

New Study: Abortion and Traumatic Stress

A major study of the harmful psychological effects of abortion was published in the October issue of *Medical Science Monitor*. Induced abortion and traumatic stress: A preliminary comparison of American and Russian women by Vincent M. Rue, Priscilla K. Coleman, James J. Rue, David C. Reardon reported a study that involved 548 women (331 Russian and 217 American) who had experienced one or more abortions.

The researchers found that 65% of American women and 13.1% of Russian women experienced multiple symptoms of increased arousal, re-experiencing and avoidance associated with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) [and] 14.3% of American and 0.9% of Russian women met the full diagnostic criteria for PTSD.

Rep. English to Cosponsor Unborn Child Pain Bill

People for Life has been assured by the a representative of Congressman Phil English that the congressman will sign on as a cosponsor of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act as soon as the new session of Congress convenes. The legislation already had 115 cosponsors before Congress adjourned last year. The measure would require that a woman requesting an abortion be told that her baby is able to feel pain, if the gestational age of the child is 20 weeks or more. The bill would further require that if the she chooses to proceed with an abortion the woman be given the option of having pain medication administered to the child before the abortion is carried out.

Please contact Rep. English and thank him for agreeing to cosponsor the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act!

Abortion Facility Update

Signs of increased activity at the American Women's Services (AWS) abortion facility in the Professional Building, 1611 Peach Street, Erie suggest a possible reopening of the facility in the near future. A People for Life volunteer observed an abortion facility worker visiting the AWS offices on Christmas Eve and again on December 30.

Election Fallout

We are all expecting a battle on the Supreme Court. The number of anti-choice restrictions will be increasing. We'll be fighting that day in and day out.

NANCY KEENAN, president, National Abortion Rights Action League

Memorials

Given by

Marian Adelman
Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Sullivan
Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald
Dr. Stephen & Toni Scrimenti

In Memory of

Roland Hebets
Mrs. Marion Mailles
Mrs. Nancy Phinney
Al Markowski
Rita Sgarlata

Given by

Dan & Tanya Fitzgerald
Jean & Ed Hammer

In Memory of

Al Markowski
Mary Froess

Given by

Mary Romanowicz

In Honor of

Ray & Peg Fitzgerald

People for Life is an all-volunteer, non-profit, 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. Together, we can create a society in which all human lives are held sacred.

The *Erie Echo* is published bimonthly in Erie, Pennsylvania by People for Life, Inc. Tim Broderick, editor

PEOPLE FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP		NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>
NAME _____		DATE _____	
ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____		STATE _____	ZIP _____
E-MAIL _____		PHONE _____	FAX _____
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT _____	ORGANIZATION _____	OCCUPATION _____	
<small>Church, Business, Civic Organization, etc.</small>			
MEMBERSHIP DUES		INDIVIDUAL \$10 _____	FAMILY \$20 _____
STUDENT \$5 _____	GROUP \$25 _____	PATRON \$50 _____	BENEFACTOR \$100 _____
ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR: Peach Street Billboard _____		Other Purpose (please specify) _____	
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Breakfast	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Center Attendant	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March & Motorcade for Life	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalk Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip		
<input type="checkbox"/> Literature Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Booths	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Carnation Project		
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling	<input type="checkbox"/> Call when you need an extra hand.		
<i>Please make your check payable to:</i>		<i>Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.</i>	
PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC. 1625 West 26th Street P.O. Box 1126 Erie, PA 16512		<i>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.</i>	

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**PEOPLE FOR LIFE
PRO-LIFE CENTER**

1625 West 26th St., Erie, PA, near I-79,
between Oakwood and Greengarden

"In the Oakwood Plaza"

814-459-1333 H 814-882-1333
pfl@peopleforlife.org

— HOURS —

Tuesday - 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Wednesday - 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Thursday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Saturday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Schedule subject to change

Extended Hours - January 3-14

DOWNTOWN LOCATION

Alternative Choices for Women

1611 Peach St., Suite 321
Monday thru Friday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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...and more!

2005 PRO-LIFE DATEBOOK 2005

Jan. 15	Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast - Avalon Hotel, 9:00 AM
Jan. 15	Annual Erie March & Motorcade for Life - from 10th & State, 12:30 PM
Jan. 22	Anniversary of <i>Roe v. Wade</i> - 32 years of unrestricted abortion
Jan. 23	Annual March for Life Bus Trip leaves for Washington, DC - 11:00 PM
Jan. 24	32nd Annual March for Life - Washington, DC
Jan. 31	Shield of Roses - St. James Church, 7:00 PM
Feb. 21	People for Life General Meeting - Pro-Life Center, 7:00 PM
March 1	Deadline for PA Pro-Life Federation Student Essay Contest
Mar. 21	People for Life General Meeting - Pro-Life Center, 7:00 PM
April 18	People for Life General Meeting - Pro-Life Center, 7:00 PM
June 16-18	National Right to Life Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Oct. 1-2	PA Pro-Life Convention - Valley Forge, PA

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OLIVIA GANS

Please use the enclosed posters to help promote People for Life's three January Events!