

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

Vol. XLVIII No. 1

Circulation 5,437

January 2020

Life has purpose!

The Pro-Life Breakfast this January 11 will feature a very remarkable guest speaker, Ryan Bomberger: Emmy Award-winning creative professional, broadcast media designer, producer, columnist, passionate activist, international public speaker, and author of the powerful book, *Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong*.

Ryan describes himself as "the 1% that is used to justify 100% of all abortions." That is because Ryan was conceived by an act of rape. As many pro-life advocates are well aware, one of the most common arguments in favor of *Roe v. Wade*, in other words, abortion-on-demand throughout pregnancy, is pregnancy due to rape. Ryan's life, however, is an eloquent argument against abortion, under any circumstances. (In fact, pregnancies due to rape that end in abortion account for less than one-half of one percent of all abortions,

according to abortion industry statistics.)

Ryan is living proof that every one of us is here for a reason. Ryan sums it up in three words, "Life has Purpose." Taking it a step further, Ryan is a reminder that the most difficult situations can and often do bring forth the most extraordinary blessings.

Thankfully, Ryan's birth mother did not resort to abortion. Instead she gave birth and placed little Ryan for adoption at six weeks of age. He grew up in a loving, multiracial Christian family of 15. With siblings of various ethnicities, Ryan has a strong appreciation for diversity. Ten of the thirteen children were adopted. Ryan also defies the myth of the "unwanted" child. He was adopted and loved and has gone on to do great things with the life he was given and allowed to keep.

Ryan and his wife Bethany are raising



four home-schooled children, two of which are adopted. Ryan says they are his "daily inspiration in illuminating that every human life has purpose." Ryan and Bethany are also

continued on page 3

Erie March for Life

The Erie March for Life will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2020, just six days before the more famous March for Life in Washington, DC. Students from Erie-area universities will march up front with the Erie March for Life banner. Coincidentally, as we are marching for life in Erie, a pro-abortion "Women's March" will be raging in the streets of Washington, DC.

January 22 will mark the 47th anniversary of the nationwide legalization of abortion-on-demand in 1973. So, the tragedy of abortion will be uppermost in our minds. But as we have said at least a thousand times: We just as resolutely oppose government-sanctioned killing to solve personal or societal problems at every stage of human existence. We don't just care about babies before they are born, as some pro-abortion critics foolishly charge. We believe in an equal right not to be put to death, whether you're an embryo, fetus, preemie, infant, toddler, tween, teen, adult, or senior citizen!

Details

The Erie March for Life will begin at 11 a.m., so try to be at the Perry Square Pavilion, on the west side of State St., by 10:45 a.m. The March will proceed west on W. 6th St. from

Perry Square to Sassafras, south on Sassafras, east on W. 10th St., north on State, and back to Perry Square. This is a 1.1 mile loop. The marchers will return to the Pavilion by 11:30 a.m. or so.

Preparations for the closing program are ongoing, but we are very pleased to report that Rev. Ed Huntley of the Federated Church in East Springfield, a great pro-life advocate, will offer the opening prayer. The program will conclude at approximately 12:15 p.m. Watch for announcements about additional speakers at www.peopleforlife.life, on our Facebook pages, and in our E-Mail Updates.

Signs will be available for those who would like to carry one. Hand-crafted signs with positive pro-life messages are welcome. People for Life does, however, reserve the right to exclude messages that do not reflect the purpose and spirit of the March. If you need some ideas for your own sign, consider the theme of this year's March.

Weather

Please don't be deterred by a little rain or snow. No matter the weather, we will make the best of it. Just dress accordingly, with warm layers and waterproof, non-slip footwear.

The Erie March for Life has always gone on regardless of the weather. However, if in the highly unlikely event that the March has to be cancelled because of a blizzard, announcements will be posted on the People for Life website and Facebook page.

Theme

The theme of this Erie March for Life will be, *Undeniably Human, from Day One*. On Day One each of us became a living, physical reality in time and space. Day One was the day of our conception. Right from the beginning all of us were 100% human and 100% alive.

Our physical reality during our first 24 hours of life was in the shape of a single-

continued on page 2

Four ways to make reservations BREAKFAST OR BUS TRIP

- 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK**
People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512
- 2. VISIT OUR OFFICE**
1625 W. 26th St., Erie Call for hours.
- 3. GO ONLINE**
Visit www.peopleforlife.life/january2020. Use the BREAKFAST and BUSTRIP REGISTER+BUTTONS.
- 4. CALL 814.459.1333**

FROM PAGE 1**Erie March for Life**

celled, but complete and completely human organism – an individual being, either male or female, with his or her own human origin, human essence, and human destiny. We swiftly increased in size and complexity, a physically unified, self-directed, self-integrating, and maturing human being from Day One.

Each of us was indeed a collection of cells in the womb, or as some people would say, *just* a collection of cells. In any case, we were a collection of cells already embarked on the adventure of a human lifetime, undergoing in the first few months the most astounding developmental process ever discovered in the universe.

Each of us has a unique genome in 46 human chromosomes, which is the living essence of who we are, and who we were on

Day One as a brand human being. Our chromosomes irrevocably determine exactly who we are in physical / biological terms. But they are also the physical medium through which even non-material things, such as personality, talents, and intelligence, were transmitted to us directly from our parents!

Every adult human, materially speaking, is still *just* a collection of cells, same as an embryo or fetus. Yet your *collection* of cells is inseparable from *you*, a human person with all of your potentials, realized and yet-to-be realized. You are that collection of cells and it was also you on Day One.

It is only in the light reason, reflection, and love that are we able to get beyond the superficial, pseudo-scientific mindset that pervades our materialistic culture and recognize our fellow human beings for who and what they really are: far more than just a collection of cells! We must shine that light

especially brightly when challenges arise during the most fragile moments, especially at the dawn and twilight of every life.

January 2020

www.PeopleforLife.life/january2020

www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Pro-Life Breakfast

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9 a.m.

Erie Bayfront Convention Center

Special Guest Speaker: Ryan Bomberger

www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

Erie March for Life

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 11 a.m.

Begins and Concludes at Perry Square

March for Life Bus Trip

Leave Erie January 23, 2020 at 11 p.m.

Return about 1:30 a.m., January 25

\$55 per seat

www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip

March for Life Bus Trip

The 2020 Washington, DC March for Life will take place on Friday, January 24. And for the 47th year in a row, People for Life has arranged safe, convenient, and economical transportation to and from the event. The cost per seat is still only \$55. Some extra money is needed for Metro fare and meals.

If you would like to be part of the biggest annual pro-life event in the world this January, please join us. Come by yourself and connect with some of the other marchers on your bus or round up a group of your own to bring with you. We welcome church, college, and high school groups, extended families, and groups of all types and sizes.

Darkness and light

There will, sadly, be a pro-abortion march in Washington on January 18, a week before the March for Life. The abortion people will probably be out in force. They are feeling the pressure like never before and fearful for the future of abortion-on-demand because of President Trump, his commitment to the pro-life cause, and the actions he has taken so far during his first term. Most troubling for the abortion people is the President's appointment of two conservative Supreme Court justices and scores of conservative, and in many cases very overtly pro-life, lower court judges. They also fear that he will be reelected this year and continue shrinking the numbers of activist, pro-abortion justices and judges.

The March for Life will undoubtedly be compared with the anti-life march. But guess what? We are energized as well! This could be, and deserves to be, the biggest March for Life – the largest gathering for human rights – that our nation's capital has ever witnessed.

Details

Our Anderson motor coaches will set out from Erie at 11 p.m. on Thursday, January 23 and return about 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 25. The buses will load and unload, at St. George Church on Peach St. There will also be a stop for passengers at the Edinboro Exit of I-79. We will be in Washington from approximately 6:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

If it's been a few years since you have been on the buses, you will be pleasantly surprised by our new way of accessing the DC Metro system. The buses drop us off right at the entrance to the West Falls Church Metro station. There are no more long walks to and from the buses at RFK Stadium as in years gone by. It is still a straight shot to the National Mall and the various points of interest around Washington. Because we avoid a lot of rush hour traffic and save some miles, there is more time available for breakfast and sightseeing. Those going to the Catholic Basilica are now able to arrive *before* the start of the Mass that concludes the overnight National Prayer Vigil for Life.

Things to see and do

The March for Life program does not officially begin until noon, so there will be time to explore our nation's capital throughout the morning. There many interesting places to visit and memorable things to see.

A sure bet for breakfast is the Longworth Food Court in the Longworth House Office Building, just south of the U.S. Capitol on Independence Avenue. There are many other good places for breakfast as well.

Consider visiting the March for Life Expo at the Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel, 999 Ninth St. N.W. It will be open from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 7 p.m.

There will be ample time to tour the Capitol Building or the White House, visit Smithsonian Museums, or check out the new Museum of the Bible, which opened just a few years ago. A tour of the Holocaust Museum is a sure way to renew and deepen your commitment to the pro-life cause. The March will begin just outside the Museum of Natural History and near the new Black History Museum and the Washington Monument.

The beautiful National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, mentioned above, is also a very popular place to visit. The largest Catholic Church in North America and one of the 10 largest in the world, it is something to see for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. It is a moving experience to be at the Basilica with literally thousands of fellow marchers. They have a nice cafeteria with reasonable prices, too!

Sponsorships available

Thanks to the love and kindness of local contributors, we are once again able to offer sponsorship assistance to students and others on tight budgets. Inquiries are strongly encouraged. We don't want anyone to miss the March due to financial constraints. Please give us a call or send an e-mail.

Register today

If the March for Life Bus Trip sounds interesting, don't put it off for another year. Register and find more information at www.peopleforlife.life/january2020 and follow the Bus Trip at www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip to get the latest news. Registration payments can also be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512 or hand-delivered to People for Life, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie.

We look forward to hearing from you!

FROM PAGE 1

Life has purpose!

the cofounders of The Radiance Foundation, a life-affirming non-profit in which Ryan's primary job description is Chief Creative Officer.

Ryan was the creative force behind the first ad campaign to expose abortion's hugely disproportionate impact in the Black community. Using billboards and online resources, the campaign, TooManyAborted.com, had an surprisingly powerful impact. The effort resulted in massive news coverage by: *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *LA Times*, CNN, MSNBC, the Associated Press, *Washington Times*, Fox News, and ABC World News. And of course, it inspired and energized the pro-life community across the country. The extensive media attention enabled The Radiance Foundation, and Ryan's personal story of adoption, to reach millions.

In 2018, Ryan collaborated with pro-life leaders in Cleveland, Ohio to assert the truth about abortion during Black History Month with another powerful initiative, WhatAbortionReallyIs.com. Cleveland was covered with billboard messages declaring:

“Abortion is systemic racism,“ “Abortion is fake feminism,“ “Abortion is violence,“ “Abortion is lost fatherhood,“ “Abortion is injustice anywhere,“ and many more. This ad campaign was crafted in response to billboards that had been erected by Cleveland's infamous Preterm abortion facility. The abortionists targeted neighborhoods with the high percentages of black residents using the messages: “Abortion is sacred,“ “Abortion is a necessary“ (sic), “Abortion is gender equality,“ and “Abortion is good medicine.“

Ryan's next speaking engagement after appearing in Erie will be at the Arkansas March for Life on January 19 in Little Rock.

FROM PAGE 4

PA Legislation Briefs (HB 321 cont.)

Passed by the state Senate 27-22. Voting YES: Brooks, Hutchinson. Voting NO: Laughlin. Vetoed by pro-abortion Gov. Tom Wolf on November 21.

HB 1058 Compassion and Care for Medically Challenging Pregnancies Act: Would require that information on the option of perinatal support care programs be given to a woman if her baby is diagnosed with a life limiting

condition. Main Sponsor: Rep. Kathy Rapp. Passed by the House 116-76. Voting YES: Longiotti, Nesbit, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting NO: Bizzarro, Harkins, Merski. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee 7-4, with N.W. PA senators Brooks and Hutchinson voting YES. Awaiting action by the full Senate. ACTION: Contact your PA state Senator!

Bus Sponsors: Thank you!

We thank everyone who has already donated to sponsor marchers who will be taking our buses to the DC March for Life! Sponsorship donations are still being gratefully accepted. The full cost of one seat is \$55, but any amount will be helpful and appreciated.

TRUMP JUDGES

As of December 10, the U.S. Senate has confirmed 173 of President Trump's judicial nominees, including two conservative Supreme Court justices. A recently confirmed nominee is Sarah Pitlyk: former lawyer at the pro-life Thomas Moore Society, former law clerk for Judge Brett Kavanaugh, and founder of Yale Law Students for Life.

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Mrs. Maureen Anthony Frederick J. Condon Ed Hammer Ronald & Bernadine Kerner Edwin & Jennifer Smith Lawrence F. Berdis Duane & Marcie Kerstetter Sara E. Matlak Rose Mary Weber Darleen & David Wilkinson	Judge Fred Anthony Judge Fred Anthony Judge Fred Anthony Judge Fred Anthony Judge Fred Anthony Johanna Berdis Mark Borowy Elaine Buseck Elaine Buseck Donald & Jeannine Miller	Barbara A. Baumann Julie A. Hauser David & Penny Jones Leonard & Patricia Zielewski Gretchen & Paul Lorei Darleen & David Wilkinson <i>Given by</i> John & Marjorie Walsh	Ellie Prischak Ellie Prischak Ellie Prischak Ellie Prischak Anne Sherer Donald & Jeannine Miller <i>In Honor of</i> Tom Walsh, 52nd birthday

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME _____ DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____ MOBILE _____ *Do not text*
 AFFILIATED WITH _____ PROFESSION _____

1. MEMBERSHIP DONATION New Renewal DUES: Individual \$10 Family \$20 Senior Citizen \$5
 Student \$5 Group \$25 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100

2. MEMORIAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ In Memory of or In Honor of _____
 3. ADDITIONAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ Please earmark for _____ 4. TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

___ Educational Booths	___ Liaison to Another Organization	___ March For Life Bus Trip Worker
___ Phone Calling	___ Public Demonstrations	___ Mother's Day Carnation Project
___ Office Attendant	___ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	___ Erie March for Life Worker
___ Newsletter Mailing	___ Life Run Worker	___ <i>Call when you need an extra hand.</i>

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 within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.
 Registration does not imply endorsement.

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

PA Legislative Briefs

HB 1890 Final Disposition of Fetal Remains Act: Would require that human remains resulting from miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion be cremated or interred, by the parents if they choose or by the medical or abortion facility. Passed the state House 123-76. Voting YES: Longiotti, Merski, Nesbit, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting NO: Bizzarro, Harkins. Bill now awaiting action in the Senate. Pro-abortion Gov. Tom Wolf has vowed to veto the bill. ACTION: Contact your PA state Senator!

SB 857 Regulation of Telemedicine: Would allow doctors to render some medical services from a remote location using

2020 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2020

Jan. 11	Annual Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center, 9 a.m.
Jan. 18	Erie March for Life - Downtown Erie, 11 a.m.
Jan. 23	March for Life buses leave Erie, 11 p.m. (March is on the 24th.)
Jan. 25	March for Life buses return, approximately 1:30 a.m.
March 2	Last day for statewide PPLF Student Essay contest entries
March 7	Outreach Table WCTL Women's Conference - McKean
March 29	Last day to register to vote in the PA presidential primary election
April 10	Last day for statewide PPLF High School Oratory Contest entries
April 18	People for Life High School Oratory Contest
April 20	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
April 20	Last day to submit People for Life Student Essay Contest entries
April 28	Pennsylvania presidential primary election
May 10	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project
May 18	Annual Election of Officers Mtg., 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie

computer technology. The bill was amended by the House to ensure that telemedicine will not be used if federal or state statutes or regulations require a medication or health care service to be delivered in a health care

or abortion facility setting, as is the case with abortion pills. Passed by the House after amendment 111-77. Voting YES: Longiotti, Nesbit, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting NO: Bizzarro, Harkins, Merski. A final Senate vote is imminent. ACTION: Contact your PA state senator!

HB 321 Down Syndrome Protection Bill: Would prohibit abortions expressly for the sole reason that the unborn child has been diagnosed with the Down syndrome disability. Passed by the House 117-76. Voting YES: Longiotti, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting NO: Bizzarro, Harkins, Merski. Absent: Nesbit. continued on page 3

Pro-Life Breakfast January 11

Start off the new year on a powerful pro-life note by coming to hear Special Guest Speaker Ryan Bomberger at People for Life's 42nd Annual Pro-Life Breakfast on January 11, 2020. The event will come very quickly



Hear and Meet Ryan Bomberger!
"Conceived in rape. Adopted and loved."

after the holidays, and reservation payments are due by Monday, January 6, so there is no time to lose. Make your reservations today!

The Breakfast will be held again this year at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Doors will open and pro-life literature and merchandise will be ready to browse by 8 a.m. Merchandise from The Radiance Foundation will also be available, including our speaker Ryan Bomberger's book, *Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong* and his wife Bethany's latest and just published book, *PRO-LIFE KIDS!* The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$18 for ages over 12 and \$10 for ages 3-12. Children under three are welcome to attend at no cost. Please purchase tickets by January 6. There are no ticket sales on the day of the event. Choose the most convenient way to purchase your tickets from the options in the box on page one.

Plans are still evolving as this newsletter goes to print, but we are pleased to report that U.S. Representative Mike Kelly and Catholic Bishop Lawrence Persico are planning to attend. Prayers will be offered by Rev. Dr. Parris Baker, Pastor of Believers International

Worship Center; Fr. Nicholas Mihaly, Pastor of Saint Nicholas American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church; and Rev. Marc Miller, Pastor of West Erie Presbyterian Church. People for Life VP Marielle Lafaro will serve as MC. Music will be provided by Tom Beam. Tom is active in music ministry at the Federated Church in East Springfield. His musical talents are especially well-known throughout the West County area.

If you are going to have a party of eight or more but the tickets are being purchased individually, please let us know so we can place a reserved sign on your table and make sure that everyone in your group will be seated together.

Ushers will be available at the doors to direct people to their group tables as well as seat smaller groups and individuals. The tables seat a maximum of 10 people.

Free child care with fun activities for all ages will be available while the adults are listening to the speakers.

For more information and to get updates about the Pro-Life Breakfast, visit www.peopleforlife.life/january2020 and follow www.facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast.