

THE ERIE ECHO

"a voice for life"

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November 2023

Breakfast Speaker: Sherif Girgis

People for Life's 46th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will be held on January 13, 2024 at the Bayfront Convention Center.

Our Special Guest Speaker will be a young man with very interesting personal and professional stories to tell. Born in Egypt, his name is Sherif Girgis. His passion for truth and justice is contagious. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and his curriculum vitae is imposing. But don't let that fool you. He is plainspoken and a very down-to-earth person.

Sherif Girgis joined Notre Dame Law School in 2021. His work at the intersection of philosophy and law—including criminal law, constitutional theory, and jurisprudence—has appeared or is forthcoming in academic and popular venues including the *New York University Law Review*, the *Virginia Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *Yale Law Journal*, the *American Journal of Jurisprudence*, the *Cambridge Companion to Philosophy of Law*, the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times*. He is coauthor of *What Is Marriage?* (Encounter Books, 2012), cited in a dissent in *United States v. Windsor* (2013), and *Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Prior to joining Notre Dame, Sherif practiced appellate and complex civil

litigation at Jones Day in Washington, D.C., having previously served as a law clerk to Justice Samuel Alito, Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Thomas B. Griffith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Now completing his Ph.D. in philosophy at Princeton, Sherif earned his J.D. at Yale Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and won the Felix S. Cohen Prize for best paper in legal philosophy. He earned a master's degree (B.Phil.) in philosophy from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and a bachelor's in philosophy from Princeton, Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude*. Best of all, he is completely and unapologetically pro-life!

Pro-Life Breakfast Details

Get ready to be inspired and enlightened at the 2024 Pro-Life Breakfast. Last January's event was a sellout, so early reservations are extra-advisable. Tickets are \$26 for ages over 12 and \$22 for ages 3 to 12. There is no charge for younger children, and childcare will be available. Doors open at 8 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 11:30 a.m. Online registration will be available soon at peopleforlife.org. Registrations can also be completed by mail or by visiting People for Life headquarters at any time.

The Pro-Life Breakfast will feature a special presentation by Gannon student Clare



Caulfield of her nationally award-winning speech in defense of Pregnancy Resource Centers. Clare most recently presented her speech at the PA Pro-Life Federation Banquet in Harrisburg. The speech earned first place at the National Right to Life Oratory Contest this past June.

Pro-life government and community leaders will also be on the program.

The year 2024 will be another critical crossroads for our nation and the Right to Life. Let's kick it off together, as pro-life Americans united to defeat one of the most serious evils facing America and humanity.

Erie March for Life: No More Frostbite

Did you know there will not be an Erie March for Life this January? The Erie March has been held in January every year since 1976, to mark the January 22 anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. That fateful decision forced legalized abortion on the people and pre-born children of all 50 states.

Under *Roe*, abortion killing was unrestricted in all cases until approximately 24 weeks, when the baby would be able to survive if separated from his or her mother. *Roe* also legalized abortions in the last three months of pregnancy whenever the mother would, in the opinion of an abortionist, be better off if her child were destroyed.

Roe no longer prevents the American people from respecting the basic rights of

human beings in the womb. That does not mean, however, that all pre-born children are already protected. Unfortunately, many people are under the mistaken impression that this is the case.

Sadly, the demise of *Roe* caused new difficulties for the pro-life cause. It produced a frenzied backlash from the corporate news media and corporate America in general, while the lies and distortions coming from the abortion special interest groups spun out of control.

Public pro-life events are needed now more than ever. That's why we have not cancelled the Erie March for Life but only moved it to warmer weather, to the month of May. This, we hope, will boost the attendance

and breathe new life into the venerable, 50-year tradition.

The 2024 Erie March for Life will take place on May 4, one week in advance of Mother's Day. Let's not be too optimistic, about attendance, though. For many decades, we left no stone unturned in terms of promotional efforts, yet attendance numbers have seldom exceeded 200 to 300 people.

Probably the only advertising that can produce the results we are hoping for is word of mouth advertising. Each of us should resolve to personally attend the Erie March for Life and make a sustained, deliberate effort to bring other people along with us. It is not too soon to begin spreading the word and planting the seeds.

Candidate Survey: November 7 Municipal Election

Unless otherwise noted, all candidates included here were mailed a human life questionnaire, and those who did not respond to the first mailing were mailed a second copy.

Survey Questions

1. Do you accept the premise that a living human being exists from the moment of conception and onward through pregnancy?
2. Does the human right to life entail a duty on the part of civil authorities to defend every human being from life-threatening physical harm?
3. Does the right to life belong to the human being at his or her earliest stages of growth, beginning at conception?
4. Are there any classes of human beings, including classes based on age or ability, that may be justly denied protection by government or society?
5. One's right to act freely is understood to extend only so far as the actions do not injure another person. Does this principle apply to the relationship between a mother and her pre-born child, in the absence of any imminent risk to the mother's life?

6. Do you favor legal protection from abortion for all pre-born human beings unless an abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the mother or prevent serious, irreversible physical harm to the mother?
7. Are crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) performing a valuable service when they provide pregnancy support in order to make it more likely that fewer women will choose to get an abortion?
8. Do you think that legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide diminish perceptions about the value of individual human lives?
9. Do you think that legalized assisted suicide may have the undesirable side effect of causing other forms of suicide to become less problematic or more acceptable to the general public?

Survey Table Key

D: Democrat R: Republican
I: Independent L: Libertarian
DR: Cross filed

Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are in BOLD UPPER CASE.

Y or y: Yes N or n: No
n/r: No response to current survey
✦ See Additional Comments

| Party | Name | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|----------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Judge of the Erie County Court of Common Pleas Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Pete Sala ✦ | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| R | Eric Mikovch ✦ | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| Erie County Council District 1 Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Terry Scutella | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| R | Cody Foust | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| Erie County Council District 3 Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Rock Copeland | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| R | Kim Hunter | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Erie County Council District 5 Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Chris Drexel | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| R | Brian Shank | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Erie County Council District 7 Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | Ellen Schauerman | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| Erie City Council Vote for not more than THREE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Tyler Titus ✦ | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| D | Kathleen Schaaf | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| D | Ed Brzezinski | Y | Y | Y | N | n | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| I | Roland Witherow | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Erie City Council two-year term Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Ed Brzezinski | Y | Y | Y | N | n | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Harborcreek Township Supervisor Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | Dean Pepicello | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Millcreek Township Supervisor Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Samuel Comfort | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| R | Jim Bock | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Corry Area School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | Kathryn Divittorio ✦ | unknown | | | | | | | | |
| NO RESPONSE: Amanda Cox (DR), Justin Amy (DR), Doris Gernovich (DR), William Nichols (DR) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Angie Amatangelo ✦ | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| D | Gwendolyn Cooley ✦ | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b |
| R | Zakaria Sharif ✦ | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| NO RESPONSE: John Harkins (DR), Linda Graff (DR), Troy Woodard (R), Linda Graff (DR), Sumner Nichols (DR) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie School Director two year term Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| DR | Zakaria Sharif ✦ | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |

| Party | Name | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|--|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Fairview School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| NO RESPONSE: Michael Naber (R), Emily Chivers Yochim (DR), Carin Shollenberger (R), Geoffrey Grundy (D), James Lyons, Jr. (DR), Pamela Liccardi (D), Lori Petruso Sobin (DR) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fort LeBoeuf School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| DR | Scott Taylor | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NO RESPONSE: Benny Hunt (D), James Dwyer IV (DR), Robert Oberlander (DR), Paul Albrecht (D), Michael Rose (R), Renee Turi (R) | | | | | | | | | | |
| General McLane School Director At Large Vote for not more than TWO | | | | | | | | | | |
| NO RESPONSE: Carrie Eastman Crow (D), Kevin Webber (D), Chris Kovski (R), Mark Pifer (R) | | | | | | | | | | |
| General McLane School Director District 2 Vote for not more than TWO | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | Mark Kernick | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NO RESPONSE: Ashley Foulkrod Olson (DR), Andrew Schulz (D) | | | | | | | | | | |
| General McLane School Director District 3 Vote for ONE | | | | | | | | | | |
| DR | Timothy Wise | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| Girard School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | Sean Dunn | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | b |
| NO RESPONSE: Melissa Smith (DR), Richard Brown (R), Joseph Meka (DR) Brady Sager (DR), Christopher Davis (D) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harborcreek School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| NO RESPONSE: Ryan Cowser (D), Keith Farrell (DR), Thomas Fortin (DR), Amy Parente (DR), Terri Brink (DR), Jeffrey Willis (R) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Iroquois School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | Jeremy Coblentz | Y | Y | Y | N | n | n | Y | Y | Y |
| NO RESPONSE: Daniel Quiggle (DR), Amber Miller (DR), Jennifer Sheldon (DR), Karl Bush (DR) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Millcreek School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| NO RESPONSE: Shirley Oligeri Winschel (DR), Sue Pasquale (DR), Michael Lindner (DR), Jason Dean (DR), Wade Brink (DR) | | | | | | | | | | |
| North East School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | Glenn Craig | Y | Y | Y | N | n | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NO RESPONSE: Katie Phillips (DR), Alene Rohde (DR), Charles Ferruggia (DR), Mackenzie Luke (DR), James Wargo (DR) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northwestern School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | Shelly Rea Rice | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| R | Sam Ring | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NO RESPONSE: Shelly Rea Rice (R), Meghan Dalaba (R), Trisha Pratt (D), Kristy Bolte (DR), Amanda Kulyk (D), Beth Hough (DR), Melissa Linville Thatcher (D) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Union City Area School Director Vote for not more than FIVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| NO RESPONSE: George Trauner (DR), Christopher Brenner (DR), Kim Thomas (DR), Kyle Troyer (DR) | | | | | | | | | | |

Additional Notes

- ✦ **Angie Amatangelo** Endorsed by the Erie chapter of a radically pro-abortion, far-left, statewide organization.
- ✦ **Gwendolyn Cooley** "I believe every

human being has the right to choose for themselves what is right, if properly educated on the pro's and con's [sic]."

✦ **Kathryn Divittorio** Although running as a Libertarian, the candidate has been active in the Democratic Party.

✦ **Eric Mikovch** In a personal conversation, the candidate indicated that he supported legal protection from abortion killing and that he was willing to respond to our questionnaire. However, questionnaires continued on page 3

FROM PAGE 2
Candidates Additional Notes

were sent on three separate occasions and no response was received.

◆ **Pete Sala** In a personal conversation, the candidate refused to say anything about his position on legalized abortion killing and also indicated that he would not respond to our questionnaire.

◆ **Zakaria Sharif** Appears on the ballot as a Republican but is a Democrat. The candidate is endorsed by the Erie chapter of a radically pro-abortion, far-left, statewide organization.

◆ **Tyler Titus** The candidate is endorsed by the Erie chapter of a radically pro-abortion, far-left, statewide organization.

Statewide Judicial Races

The PA Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee has made the following recommendations with respect to the current statewide judicial races.

- Justice of the Supreme Court (vote for one): Carolyn Carluccio (R)
- Judge of the Superior Court (vote for no more than two): Maria Battista (R) and Harry Smail (R)
- Judge of the Commonwealth Court (vote

- for one): Megan Martin (R)
- Superior Court Retention (vote “yes” to retain): Vic Stabile (R)

Too Late for Early Voters?

Many readers have told us how much they appreciate the candidate information they receive in these newsletters. And many of you have urged us to publish the newsletter a little earlier, in time to help those who are voting by mail. This issue does not fulfill those requests. We might have done better were it not for Life Run 5K/10K on October 14 and the PA March for Life Bus Trip on the 16th. Both events took time away from the newsletter preparation.

We did get the candidate information out much earlier this time through our Email Updates, in early October. But whereas the newsletter is mailed to over 5,300 addresses, the Email Updates only reach about 1,500. If you are not receiving our Email Updates, please subscribe. We encourage you to receive both the Erie Echo and the Email Updates, as the content is not usually the same. We will keep trying to do better with the newsletter, but the Email Updates can serve as a good backup.

If all else fails, remember that we are only

a phone call or email message away.

FROM PAGE 4
Outreach

appreciate the help we received from several individuals who earmarked their donations for helium. Balloons are indeed a big expense but not inordinately so. The hundreds of volunteer-hours that are invested in every successful outreach season are a much bigger thing and something for which we could never afford to pay in wages and benefits.

PA March Bus Trip Briefly

The third PA March for Life has held in Harrisburg on October 16. It was 10:30 a.m. when People for Life’s bus arrived at the state Capitol after a five-and-a-half-hour ride from Erie. Four of us were from Corry. Three were from Cathedral Prep. Some of us visited the offices of: Gov. Josh Shapiro, Sen. Dan Laughlin, Rep. Jake Banta, and Rep. Bob Merski. A few of us spoke with pro-life Rep. Brad Roae on the Capitol steps. Tim Broderick and a few others ran into Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life after the March. Everyone was back on the bus at 2:15 p.m. and back in Erie by 9 p.m., tired but ready to do it again next year.

Memorials & Tributes

| <i>Given by</i> | <i>In Memory of</i> | <i>Given by</i> | <i>In Memory of</i> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lois Borowy | Mark Borowy | Toni Scrimenti | Sister James Francis Mulligan |
| Fr. Leo J. Gallina | Phil & Marcia Gallina | Marian E. Adelman | Ruth Nosko |
| Fr. Leo J. Gallina | Leo & Jessie Gannina | Dr. Frank & Jane Pregler | Nancy Jean Zimmerman |
| Anita Smith | Cynthia Manna | <i>Given by</i> | <i>In Honor of</i> |
| Ryan Eggleston | Steve Savnik, Father-in-Law | Ryan Eggleston | Julia, his Wife |
| Darleen & David Wilkinson | Donald & Jeannine Miller | | |
| Marla J. Pellegrino | Mother | | |

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Best Phone _____ Mobile? Yes | No Other Phone _____ Mobile? Yes | No Do not text

AFFILIATED WITH (church, club, organization, business, etc.) _____ WORK/PROFESSION _____

1. DONATION: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$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 using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.org or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Booths | <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison to Another Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> March for Life Bus Trip Help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie March for Life Help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Call me when you need a hand. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Run Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Special skill? Tell us! |

Please make your check payable to: **PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.**
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.
Registration does not imply endorsement.

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1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA
Usually open 10 to 5 weekdays.
Call for evening and Saturday hours.

DC March for Life Bus Trip

The future of our annual Bus Trip to the Washington, DC March for Life is regrettably in doubt because of skyrocketing costs and flagging interest. We need to know by December 10 how many people are serious about going to the March this January.

With seats priced at \$65 last January, we had only one bus for the first time in decades. Half of the seats would have been empty except for two student groups, one high school and the other middle school. This October, only 33 people signed up for the comparatively easy trip to the PA March for Life in Harrisburg, despite a heavily subsidized cost per seat of only \$30.

Bus seats for the DC March for Life this January 19 will cost \$90. The big price jump is largely due to the cost of fuel and a shortage of drivers. We do not know what impact \$90 seats will have on participation, and we cannot afford to take a chance on spending \$5,000 for a bus that might be only half-filled, or worse.

There will be sponsors who are willing to help. Before we call for sponsors, however, we need to determine if a 51st Bus Trip is even in the cards. Please let us know if you are interested.

Life Run 5K/10K

Many thanks go out to everyone who helped make our 10th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk a successful and memorable event, even if the memories include a cold, steady rain. The looming 100% probability of rain understandably put a dent in registrations, but out of the 75 who registered, there were only 15 no shows. So, we first of all thank our runners and walkers. We also thank the Life Run planning team: Race Director Karli Van Der Volgen, Megan Bonk, Tim Broderick, Gretchen Lorei, Trisha & Richard Schreiber, and Carol Struchen. We are very thankful for our 30 business and professional sponsors. We can only mention

the top sponsors here: Dave Hallman Auto Group, Brighter 2 Morrows Counseling, and Dr. Frank Pregler. All 25 sponsors will be listed on peopleforlife.org. We also thank: Harborcreek and North East townships for the use of their facilities, Erie County Councilman Brian Shank for donating his DJ services, Burch Farms for providing free wine tasting as they have for the past 10 years, and Jim Lang for his electronic timing services. Last but not least, we thank our more than two dozen volunteers, including some students from Cathedral Prep. Life Run could not have happened without you!

Surplus Life Run t-shirts are available for a donation of \$12 for heavy duty cotton and \$14 for Sport-Tek fabric. The shirts are black, white, orange—and very sharp.

Community Outreach

Our community outreach season consisted a table at the WCTL Women's Conference and pro-life booths at six outdoor events: Lake City Fire Company Carnival, Waterford Heritage Days, Dan Rice Days, Erie County Fair at Wattsburg, Waterford Community Fair, and Albion Area Fair. Interest in the booths was very encouraging.

We were especially impressed with the response at the Albion Fair. The booths are not about raising money, but we do receive some donations. More donations generally mean more visitors. The amount of this year's donations was approximately double



People for Life at the Albion Area Fair

the average for the previous 10 years.

We were thrilled with our location, which allowed us to display a large banner on the outside of the booth. It featured a 12-week pre-born child and the caption “Yes! It’s a baby.” The banner could be seen from afar. It loomed large over the nearby Republican and Democratic parties’ booths.

The focus for this year was on restoring funding for Pennsylvania’s pregnancy support agencies and the curse of the Mifepristone “abortion pill.” We distributed a brochure outlining the dangers of Mifepristone and the recent government moves to end the health and safety

precautions that were but in place over 20 years ago. We gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions to the CVS, Right Aid, and Walgreens pharmacy corporations, asking them not to turn their stores into abortion pill dispensaries.

“I Love Life” balloons were a strong magnet, as usual, increasing traffic and extending our message beyond the booths. We went through about two and a half cylinders of helium. At \$500 per cylinder, we still consider the money well-spent. We really

continued on page 3

2023 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2024

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Nov. 7 | Election Day, polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. |
| Jan. 13 | 46th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast – Bayfront Convention Center |
| Jan. 19 | 51st March for Life – Washington, DC |
| March 31 | Easter Sunday |
| April 15 | Membership Meeting – 1625 W. 26th St., Erie |
| April 20 | People for Life High School Oratory Contest – Erie |
| April 23 | Pennsylvania Presidential Primary Election (tentative date) |
| April 29 | People for Life Essay Contest Entries Due |
| May 4 | 47th Annual Erie March for Life, 11 a.m. – downtown Erie, PA |
| May 12 | Mother's Day |
| May 20 | Annual Election Meeting – 1625 W. 26th St., Erie |
| June 16 | Father's Day |
| June 28-29 | National Right to Life Convention – Crystal City, VA |
| Nov. 5 | Presidential Election |