

SUMMER 2023

Lifelines

There's always a reason to choose life.

Today Will Always Be The Most Important Day to Protect Life!

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Pro-Life Leadership

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Summer & Fall



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A Message from Our Executive Director

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On behalf of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, let me welcome you to the *FIRST* edition of *LifeLines* published as its Executive Director!

Since my introductory address last fall, much of the dread I had for the pro-life movement in Pennsylvania has sadly come to pass. We are in a definite pitched battle for life in this Commonwealth. While *Dobbs* was an undoubted watershed for the pro-life movement nationally, it was only the first step in the ongoing fight to save the lives of both mothers and children in the states. Pennsylvania is no stranger to this phenomenon and is now at its forefront. It has long been a safe haven for both mothers and their babies. Unfortunately, the results of last fall's election cycle have jeopardized this safety.

As my intrepid *Legislative Director Maria Gallagher* informs me each day, the current session of this Assembly has induced particular anxiety. The longstanding protections of the *Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act* are now endangered on every front. Funding for *Real Alternatives* and the pregnancy resource centers they support is in jeopardy. I salute Maria's tireless efforts to defend life both within and

outside the Capitol - along with the publication of her *SECOND* book, *Mercy's Power!*

We are also blessed to introduce our new *Education Director, Remil Teny*. Remil has joyfully entered the fray to capture the hearts and minds of those affected by abortion and euthanasia in her calm yet compelling way. Through the Federation's website, articles, online newsletters, podcasts, and speaking engagements, we seek to spread the pro-life message with the clarity and force needed to dispel the tangled web of lies perpetuated by the abortion industry.

For my part, I have already travelled to many corners of our great state, connecting with chapter and local leaders to strengthen the roots that will continue to nurture the pro-life movement. From prayer breakfasts in Lititz and Lewistown to conferences in Grove City and Harrisburg to banquets in Bedford, Reading, Scranton and Philadelphia, I do my best to spread the message of the Federation through platforms that amplify it.

Please continue to support my staff as we continue in this great work. I was blessed to inherit the leadership of a great organization from *Michael Ciccocioppo*. It is my sincere hope that I can continue to drive its mission forward to the best of my abilities.

As the above demonstrates, while the *Dobbs* high-water mark was met with an electoral and media rollback deliberately inhospitable to it, there is hope.

In the past year I saw my college teammate *Mark Houck* become the object of a predawn FBI raid and federal trial based on... his peaceful

protest of Planned Parenthood. *Mark's subsequent acquittal serves as vindication that our cause is and will always be just.* In the Northern District of Texas, *Judge Matthew Kacsmayk* exposed the FDA's politically based approval and progressive deregulation of the dangerous abortion pill mifepristone. While the case will likely go back to the Supreme Court, it underscores the importance of holding those who aid and abet the abortion industry legally and morally accountable for the children and women they endanger.

Since the Federation serves as the "Keystone" for the pro-life movement, we are proud to showcase our flagship contributions to it.

In this issue of *LifeLines*, we feature informative articles on chemical abortion and how women's lives are forever changed by this or any abortion decision. We provide updates on current legislative efforts to attack the pregnancy resource centers that support these women as well as preview a fall election that hopefully signals a mandate for life on the part of Pennsylvania voters. As youth is the lifeblood of this mission, we feature the work of the junior and senior winners of our statewide essay contests.

Finally, we mark the anniversary of *Dobbs* with reflections from past and present Federation directors.

In closing, I invite you to attend the *NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION in Pittsburgh on June 23-24th*, which we are proud to host as the official state affiliate of the NRL. *And please save the date for our CELEBRATE LIFE BANQUET on October 28th!*

SPECIAL STATEMENT ON 'CONSENSUS'

There is a fast spreading "abortion compromise" that is extremely alarming - proposals to find a national abortion "Consensus" that would place abortion limits after 15-weeks of pregnancy. There are similar limitations (bans) being proposed that begin after the first trimester or 12 weeks of pregnancy which are just as misguided.

The PA Pro-Life Federation is opposed to these arbitrary abortion bans that would allow 93-95% of the abortions to continue. There is no principled explanation for aborting a child at 14 weeks but not at 15 weeks.

Those seeking a national Consensus on abortion risk misleading individuals into accepting a 12-15-week ban to "solve" divisions over this issue, a position that would save only about 5% of the babies from the horror of abortion.

Some may claim that placing politically expedient limits on abortion achieves "incremental" progress. However, the *Dobbs* decision made it clear that there is no reason to place self-imposed restraints on any pro-life legislation, especially now when any affirmative pro-life legislation is doomed to fail at the federal and state levels.

Consensus does not indicate progress, it indicates finality. It is highly unlikely that states passing these laws now will want to open them up to revision later. Legislators could see any abortion limits as a solution to the battles over abortion and a way to get this behind them. All efforts to achieve further pro-life goals would come to a halt.

The best strategy now for the pro-life movement is to stay the course toward our goal of securing the most principled pro-life legislation possible when politically feasible, without undermining our credibility by pursuing arbitrary limits that do not advance the pro-life cause.

- Susan Rogacs

President, Board of Directors,
The PA Pro-Life Federation

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MIFEPRISTONE IS SAFE!???! A thread in the web of lies the abortion industry has spun.

The Abortion Pill made a brief appearance in the hallowed halls of the Supreme Court recently before being sent back to the Fifth Circuit Court after its approval status was challenged by the Alliance For Hippocratic Medicine (AHM) late last year. What began in a lower district court, is swiftly making its way up in one of the most marked modern litigations surrounding abortion.

So, What's The Story Here? Let's Start At The Beginning.

RU-486 was developed in the 1980s in France as a 4-day birth control pill that could “terminate a pregnancy”. The creator of the pill, Prof. Etienne-Emile Baulieu hoped “that once Governmental bodies such as the Food and Drug Administration in the United States certify it as harmless, health and population organizations will supervise studies in how it can best be used.” [1]

This was despite the fact that in the first clinical trial, only two of the 11 women were reported to have ‘slight bleeding’. There were two failed abortions which required “aspiration” - a surgical procedure to end the pregnancy and “in one woman aspiration was used to cut the process short because of heavy bleeding.”

The pill *needed* the approval of the FDA to give it credibility before its effects could be fully studied. FDA's approval of the drug, under the name “mifepristone”, in 2000 had been challenged from the beginning but has found the limelight in the legal courts only after the *Dobbs* ruling in June 2022.

Why Was It Being Challenged?

The abortion pill's approval was fast-tracked through a process intended for “new drugs for serious or life-threatening illnesses” which required distribution to be regulated by strict controls. In their complaint AHM states, “The only way the FDA could have approved chemical abortion drugs was to use its accelerated drug approval authority, necessitating the FDA to call pregnancy an ‘illness’ and argue that these dangerous drugs

provide a ‘meaningful therapeutic benefit’ over existing treatments.” [2]

In March 2016, these protocols were relaxed to alter dosages, reduce the number of in-person office visits, and increase the gestational age limit from 7 weeks to 10 weeks. All of this occurred a short five years after the abortion pill was placed under the REMS safety system owing to the deaths of multiple women from the use of the abortion pill. Furthermore, the FDA eliminated crucial safeguards by expanding prescriptions by health-care professionals who were not doctors and removing the requirement to report non-fatal adverse effects from the use of the drug.

Under the Biden administration, it lifted the requirement for abortionists to provide in-person dispensing of mifepristone and temporarily allowed mail-order chemical abortions during the COVID pandemic in 2021. To top it all, this year in January, the FDA announced that with a prescription, the abortion pill can be picked up at pharmacies. The only requirement is for the pharmacist to be specially certified, making them accomplices in the death of the unborn child.

The initial approval and the ongoing deregulation of the abortion pill poses significant health risks to the women taking it, not to mention the potential for abuse and coercion with its wider availability.

Is Chemical Abortion All That Safe?

According to the Guttmacher Institute, chemical abortion accounts for 53% of all abortions that take place in the US. [3] You would think that for all the numbers on abortions that exist there would be reliable data to show that it is indeed safe. Since the law that required hospitals or abortion clinics to report adverse effects from taking the drug was removed, there has been no concrete statistics to point to. Many of the studies that aim to prove the safety and efficacy of the drug are found to be lacking on account of a percentage of subjects lost to follow up. [4]

Abortion facilities like Planned Parenthood do not follow up with their patients to monitor the progress of chemical abortion or the effects it had on the woman's body. When

complications arise, women are advised to go to emergency rooms and generally do not return to the abortion facility itself.

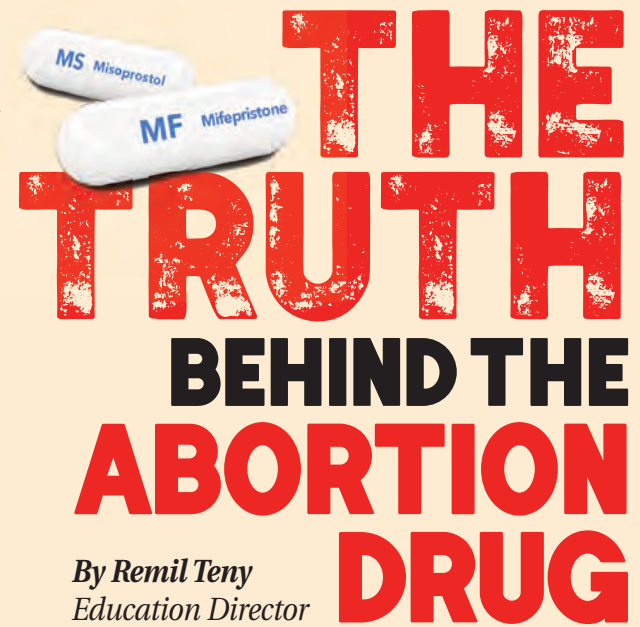
Chemical abortion, apart from killing the unborn baby, is dangerous for the woman. The risks to the woman's physical health are great – extreme cramping, hemorrhaging and even instances of death have been reported in recent years. In many cases, excessive bleeding or

cramping occur requiring serious medical attention or hospitalization. The use of the pill in the case of an undetected ectopic pregnancy is even more serious – excessive bleeding from rupture could be mistaken for the “normal” bleeding to be expected, delaying reaching out for medical help. Infection as a consequence of retained fetal parts can lead to sepsis, a life-threatening medical emergency.

Consider a woman who is pregnant who consults with an abortion pill prescriber without an in-person visit, makes a guesswork of how far along in the pregnancy she is, without an ultrasound to rule out ectopic pregnancy, walks into the pharmacy to pick up her pills and goes home not knowing the risks associated with it. She looks to the “experts” and the medical professionals to assess any safety concerns. Removing regulations around its use can lead to more women experiencing adverse effects while being told that it is safe.

The effects the abortion pill has on women's bodies have not changed since its initial development. The only thing that has is the reckless abandonment of safety and normalization of putting one's life at risk under the guise of healthcare.

Many women are coming forward with their abortion pill story and it is not uncommon to hear words like “terrifying” or “traumatic” when they speak of it. A woman described it as “a violent unnatural pain”, another as like being “in a horror movie”. One woman said, “it was worse than being in labor”. [5] When women are lied to and told to expect something like a heavy period or a bloody clump of tis-



THE TRUTH BEHIND THE ABORTION DRUG

*By Remil Teny
Education Director
lifelines@paprolife.org*

sues, they are caught off-guard by the sight of a tiny, formed, recognizable human baby in the bloody aftermath of taking the pill. One can only imagine the trauma being inflicted on young girls and women as they do this alone in their homes or college dorms! Many report recurring nightmares and depression after the experience. The abortion pill, far from empowering them, leaves women vulnerable and wounded physically and psychologically.

Mifepristone always kills at least one innocent human life and causes damage to the well-being of the one taking it. It was created to destroy, not preserve life and should never have been approved. As we follow the course of this legal battle, there is reason to be hopeful that the war for justice is still being waged and accountability demanded of those who have a responsibility to the people in their care.

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[2] ALLIANCE FOR HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE v. U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION Complaint <https://adfmedi-legalfiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/AllianceForHippocraticMedicineComplaint.pdf>

[3] Medication Abortion Now Accounts for More Than Half of All US Abortions
<https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/02/medication-abortion-now-accounts-more-half-all-us-abortions>

[4] Addressing Many of the Myths the Media is Repeating about the FDA's Approval and Management of Mifeprex (Mifepristone), National Right To Life News Blog
<https://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2023/04/addressing-many-myths-mifeprex-mifepristone/>

[5] Live Action's "My Abortion Story - I Saw My Baby" videos



But at the heart of it all, is the woman making the decision to abort. This begs the question: why do women choose it?

The compounding consequences of the sexual revolution and the five decades of legalization of abortion, have declared that the woman's capacity to bear a life within her is an obstacle to pleasure, success and bodily autonomy. To the younger, developing feminist mind, pregnancy is essentially presented as an unnatural consequence of sexual activity – the exception, not the norm. And fertility as something that can be effectively controlled with barriers, pills and whatnot. This

What makes the idea of abortion appealing to a woman in a crisis pregnancy?

Many of the women do not make the decision to abort lightly. For a lot of them, love is perceived as the driving force behind choosing an abortion – love for her parents, her partner, the children she already has. For others, it is the thought of taking away from their future or the family and children they hope to have. The abortion industry has unabashedly reinforced the utopian idea of a promising future that awaits women who choose abortions. And in more recent years, women have

helping those in crisis pregnancies.

Their first and most important advice, “Give the woman a chance to ‘empty her bucket’ and actively listen.” This simply means to hold space for the woman to share her thoughts, fears, anxieties, hopes and dreams; to become a safe place for her to bare all before one other person who is willing to listen to the depths of her heart. Facts, logic, morality, reasoning, even encouragement, can find no place in her mind until she is able to untangle the threads binding her.

Mikayla Covington from Promise Of Life Network shares another way to approach abortion-minded women. She says “We live in a society, where even though we are touting feminism left and right, we are constantly telling women that they are essentially incompetent and not good enough to have children or be mothers. They are being told that their bodies are not strong or capable of doing some really cool things.” She continues that encouraging women by reminding them that they are strong, good and capable has been “a life-changing affirmation” for so many of the women they serve.

Many women with abortion regret are known to say something along the lines of “If only one person in my life had said, ‘you can do this’...” Women do not choose life over arguments, advice and facts, but when they are empowered to believe in their own ability to be good, true, beautiful and enough.

What her hurting heart needs most of all is HOPE. And someone to help her find it. We may not always have the right words, but with the right disposition and a listening heart, we can always offer her hope. Alexander Pope said it best when he said,

*What future bliss,
he gives not thee to know,
But gives that hope
to be thy blessing now.
Hope springs eternal
in the human breast.*

THE HEART OF AN

Abortion Minded Woman



By Remil Teny
Education Director
lifelines@paprolife.org

“To be a mother innately means to cultivate, to guard, and to develop true humanity.”

These words of Edith Stein, a feminist philosopher in her own right, speak an eternal truth. There has never been a time in history like the present where motherhood is aggressively attacked and violently desecrated. We look around and see the devastation that a single law wreaked on the American nation.

leaves her vulnerably exposed to a fractured state of being that is rudely shattered by the reality of the conception of a life within her. The child conceived is then seen, not as a gift, but a threat to her well-being or an unwelcome guest invading her body.

She has been told that abortion is the best choice she has. She has been told that this pregnancy will limit her. She has been told that she just killed any chance of a good future by getting pregnant. She has been told she must do this if she loves him. She has been given an ultimatum by her mother and threatened with consequences. She has been taught to form hard callouses around her tender heart to protect herself and survive the harshness that awaits her if she chooses to go through with it. A dozen seemingly insurmountable obstacles have been placed before her.

She lives in a world that is hostile to her body, her child and her pregnancy.

been convinced that the *most loving thing they can do* for a child that was unexpected or unplanned, or who comes with the doctor's prenatal diagnostic stamp, is to end his life. For still others, the need to be loved and accepted becomes the primary motivation for their choice.

There is deep turmoil raging within her breast as she considers her options – which most often, comes down to the quick, if not easy, way out.

In the midst of all this, there is another side to her that has been left unexplored – the maternal instinct, the natural production of hormones in her body, the unspoken intuition that this is indeed life. There is also her own personhood that is lost to the crisis of the present moment. It is this often-overlooked part that will become the defining factor of her choice.

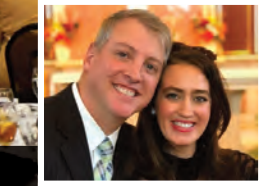
The Sisters of Life, who seem to have gotten the inner workings of pregnant women somewhat down to a theology, share some wonderful insight into

SAVE *the* DATE!
10 | 28 | 2023

2023 Celebrate Life Banquet



The Hershey Lodge
325 University Dr,
Hershey, PA 17033



Mark Houck

to receive 2023 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Leadership Award

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Other Honored Guests will soon be announced. You won't want to miss this event as it promises to be a sell out! • 717-541-0034 • www.paprolife.org

The Pro-Life Banquet You've Been Waiting For

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28th, for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's 2023 CELEBRATE LIFE Banquet!

We return to the Hershey Lodge for the second straight fall with another distinguished lineup of guests.

I will be proud to present my friend, colleague and college teammate **Mark Houck** with the Federation's *Pro-Life Leadership Award*.

Mark exemplifies the quiet courage and calm witness emblematic of our winners, from the predawn FBI raid and federal trial emanating from his peaceful protest in

front of Planned Parenthood, to his more recent testimony before Congress regarding the current weaponization of the FACE Act.

Other distinguished guests will soon be announced so please reserve your spot now!

Christopher E. Puchaw, Esq.
Executive Director & General Counsel

I'm looking forward to meeting you!
— Chris



You're Invited to the National Right to Life Convention on June 23 & 24 in Pittsburgh!

Making Abortion Unthinkable

Please join us in Pittsburgh on June 23-24th for the National Right to Life Convention!

As Pennsylvania has a long and storied pro-life tradition, as its official NRL affiliate the Federation is proud to serve as host! The theme of this year's Convention is "Making Abortion Unthinkable."

We will serve as a national showcase for the pro-life movement in its first year after the *Dobbs* decision overturned *Roe*. There will also be an auxiliary *Teens for Life Convention* occurring in tandem.

Our own **Maria Gallagher** will also be signing copies of her recently published book, *Mercy's Power*, so please stop by our table!



For full details, please visit National Right to Life Convention (www.nrlconvention.com) or call our office at (717) 541-0034.

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Endangered Species More Protected than Unborn Children in US!



certain endangered species in the animal kingdom. However, the government enthusiastically condones the murder of helpless children. There are only twelve states that have a near-total abortion ban. However all 50 states have passed conservation laws, showing that they place more value on the lives of animals than of humans. The United States government has been funding the extermination of the African American race in America by funding Planned Parenthood and other abortion centers that are situated in these minority communities.

In conclusion, the abortion movement was founded in deep racism against minority communities. Margaret Sanger's targeting of these communities proves this point. We have also seen a clear double standard in the way that animals are handled as opposed to humans in the womb. Furthermore, abortion is morally wrong because we have seen that abortion is murder. ***Congress needs to pass a law that will outlaw abortion in all fifty states because abortion takes away every person's right to life.***

Essay Contest Winners Junior Division



#1 Kenneth Stoddard III
Grade 8, CBC Homeschool Co-Op
Quakertown PA



#2 Kyleen R. Stoddard
Grade 8,
CBC Homeschool Co-Op
Quakertown PA



#3 Mark Sicree
Grade 9,
Homeschooled
Boalsburg, PA

*By Kenneth Stoddard III
Quakertown, PA*

Abortion is one of the most controversial topics to discuss currently. The abortion movement started with a movement for birth control. The leader of this movement was Margaret Sanger. Margaret Sanger once said, "The most urgent problem today is how to limit and discourage the over-fertility of the mentally and physically defective." She wanted to keep mentally challenged, physically deformed, and minority people from reproducing. She supported the sterilization of mentally ill people and minorities and believed in selective breeding.

The media presents abortion in a positive light,

spreading misinformation. However, let's look at what an abortion is. First, a woman gets pregnant, meaning that she conceived a separate human life. Then she or someone involved in the situation decides she does not want the baby. Third, she goes to a doctor, who kills the baby in the womb. Abortion is murder because it kills a human life. The doctor is the killer, and the mother is the willing (or in some cases, unwilling) accomplice. Abortion is just as bad as murder because it is murder. No question about it, abortion should be illegal.

There is a clear double standard between the life of a child and the life of a rare animal. There are laws to protect

“Speak” for Life!

It's always inspiring when young people use their voices and reason to speak up for the dignity of human life. This year at **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's annual Oratory Contest**, we saw students speak

passionately in defense of life and share the sober reality of abortion and other life issues. *We are proud to announce the winners!*



Clare Caulfield

In the senior high division, **Clare Caulfield**, a homeschool senior from Waterford, took first place with her speech - a case for abortion clinics to be closed. Coming in second was **Sarah Hamilton**, a homeschool junior from Windber. **Matthew Levri**, a homeschool junior from Altoona, took third place.

Homeschool freshman, **Mark Caulfield** from Waterford, captured the first place in the novice category. Second place went to **Wyatt Tanner**, a freshman at Grade Commission Schools and placing third was **Adrianna Levri**, a homeschool freshman from Altoona.

Clare Caulfield will represent Pennsylvania at the **National Right To Life Oratory Contest** which will be held in Pittsburgh in June this year. ***We wish her all the best and congratulations to all the winners!***



The Ongoing Need!

Essay Contest Winners Senior Division



By Sarah Hamilton
Windber, PA

THE SETTING:
Planned Parenthood.

THE SITUATION: *She's pregnant. She has an ultimatum: choose abortion, or choose life. But wait — what if she chooses life?*

Many women choose abortion. What about the ones who choose life? What happens to them? Who is there to help them, to give them care?

Mary Alice Cloukey plays a quiet role in helping women make the decision to choose life. Mary Alice assembled a small team of prayer warriors to pray at Planned Parenthood in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The team didn't carry signs or wear special shirts. They simply stood across the street and prayed silently, marching around the center seven times as the Israelites marched around the city of Jericho in Joshua 6. In an interview, Mary Alice stated, "I know he can do mighty things through our prayers, even if we never see the results" (Cloukey 2023).

Since the 1970's, when Mary Alice chose life for her baby, she has felt a connection to the abortion issue and women in need.

Doctors warned her that, because of a medical diagnosis, neither Mary Alice nor her daughter were guaranteed life. Despite the pressure to abort, she pressed forward. Mary Alice reminisced, "When she was born, she was perfect. She was beautiful, she's a brilliant person," (Cloukey 2023). Mary Alice's personal story inspires her to stand up for the unborn.

Prayer warriors fighting in the unseen realm for children and mothers are vital to the care we give women in crisis. There are also more visible organizations that help those who need assistance.

Polly Claire's Tea Room of Chattanooga, Tennessee, closed in March 2022. Pastor Deven Wallace took the opportunity, creating Genesis House of Tea—named for new beginnings and her adopted daughter, Genesis (Dixon 2022). Their mission is to restore women's "digniTEA" (Genesis House of Tea). All the surplus revenues of the tearoom go to non-profits that assist women in crisis (Dixon 2022).

Some fundraise for other non-profits who help women in need. Others, such as Precious Life, Inc. of Western Pennsylvania, help women directly. The ministry began in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1985 with a 24-hour hotline for

women in crisis. It has now expanded to three locations in the area and a center in Romania (Precious Life, Inc 2023). I spoke with Reverend Scott Manganella, the executive director and cofounder of Precious Life. "Precious Life is...designed to provide positive alternatives to abortion," he stated (Manganella 2023). They provide free pregnancy testing, counseling, and clothing for mothers and children.

The St. Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home in Warsaw, Nebraska, is another place for mothers in crisis. Women can live in the home for up to three years after the birth of their children, receiving vital care, parenting classes, and other support (Armstrong 2023).

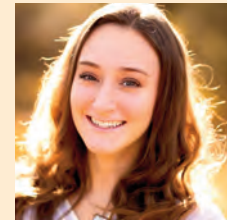
Whether it's praying at a Planned Parenthood center in Johnstown, manning a 24-hour hotline in Altoona, operating a tearoom in Chattanooga, or running a maternity home in Warsaw, people are coming alongside women who choose life. However, they need our help. They cannot operate alone; there is too much to do for families in need. It is time for us to join forces with those who are already serving. However, maybe it is not your calling to run a ministry. What are other ways you can support women in crisis?

You can pray like Mary Alice. You can fundraise like Genesis House of Tea. You can gather and distribute supplies like Precious Life. You can open your house and heart for women in crisis like the Gianna Home. You can become a foster parent, or adopt like the Wallaces.

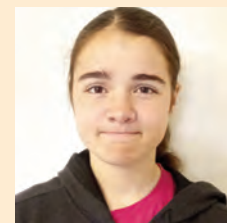
Not only can you do these things, but there are many more ways to help women in need. For example, find out if your church has a program that ministers to women who chose life. Search for those in your community who need support. Offer to help



#1 Sarah Hamilton
Grade 11, Homeschool
Windber, PA



#2 Veronica Stangl
Grade 12, Bethlehem
Catholic High School
Bethlehem, PA



#3 Helena Sicree
Grade 11,
Homeschool
Boalsburg, PA

with childcare, buy Christmas and birthday presents for the children, or invite the family over for dinner. Perhaps, every time you go shopping, buy one extra item, such as diapers, wipes, or baby formula, for them. Or, donate the items to a ministry like Precious Life.

These are all ways to make a difference in the lives of a woman and her child. The size of the aid you give does not matter: it can still be life-changing. It is time to join the countless volunteers who have dedicated their time to the ongoing needs of women in crisis. Let's get to work.

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One Year After Dobbs – A Reflection on the Overturn of *Roe v. Wade*



Reflections compiled by
Maria V. Gallagher,
Legislative Director
gallagher@paprolife.org

Where were you when you found out that *Roe v. Wade* had been overturned?

The historic event, made possible by the **Dobbs** decision, is seared in the minds of many of us who struggled for so long and so mightily to see *Roe* eliminated. What follows are the reflections of those who will never forget the elation they felt when the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision was finally and mercifully overturned.

► There are two “I was there” events in my life I shall never forget. One was walking crosstown during 9/11. The other was attending the National Right to Life Convention in Atlanta last year, when the **Dobbs** opinion finally issued. I was in a morning seminar which ironically focused on how “trigger bans” would take effect should *Roe* be overturned. As the draft opinion had been leaked weeks before, the attendees were on high alert for possible protests or worse during the Convention.

When **Dobbs** dropped, all we heard from inside the conference room were screams from the hallway. While I originally feared the worst, in coming to my senses I realized how blessed I was to be in THAT moment in the epicenter of the national pro-life movement. We had waited 50 years, and the majority of us thought the day would never come when we could walk in a country not darkened by *Roe*'s shadow.

As I hugged my colleagues from across the country in relief, I noticed the tears both of joy and sorrow from women who had lived through this awful scourge to see this day of triumph. Sadly, the work in Pennsylvania has just begun, but we at least labor in these fields knowing that the scales of justice tip back in our favor.

— **Christopher Eric Pushaw, Esq., Executive Director & General Counsel, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation**

► Meanwhile, **Michael Ciccioppo**, former executive director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation from 2002 – 2022, was also attending the National Right to Life Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, when *Roe* was overturned:

On Friday morning, June 24, 2022 most of the speculation was that the Supreme Court was going to wait until Monday morning to announce their final decision in the **Dobbs** case. So the opening session of the annual convention got underway as usual.

What wasn't usual was the number of news media people present. I attended most of these conventions during my 21 years at the Federation. The news media tended to ignore our gatherings. But this year many news outlets were present and covering the convention. They wanted to know what the nation's premiere pro-life organization was saying about the possible overturn of *Roe*, and they wanted to get firsthand accounts of our reactions regardless of the final decision.

I was monitoring the situation in Washington on my cell phone. So when the decision was announced I left the convention room right away to make some phone calls. Maura Sirianni, a reporter from www.NEWSY.com, was in the hallway with a camera person. I was the first person she saw. She asked me if she

could immediately interview me LIVE on the air for a reaction to the Supreme Court decision.

I agreed. She consulted by phone with her producers and within minutes we did a quick mic check and started the interview. Her first question was, “Are you surprised that the Court overturned *Roe*?” I told her that I was not surprised. I explained that I had been telling audiences for over 20 years that *Roe* would be overturned. What surprised me was that it took 49 years for it to happen.

► **Maryann Lawhon**, a seasoned pro-life advocate, runs a life-affirming outreach called **The Voice of John**. She was at church the day of the **Dobbs** decision:

Little could I have imagined turning on the news later that day and hearing the words “The United States Supreme Court has overturned the U.S. Constitutional right to abortion.”

Tears just flowed as I sat alone in disbelief. Tears for JOHN, for 63 million children dead, for mothers wounded. Tears for the lives that would be saved. An overwhelming sense of hope and simultaneously, the question of what “Constitutional right” were they alluding to.

A civil rights victory had been won that day, and yet I knew that our work was not yet done. But on that day, I knelt before my statue of the Sacred Heart and said those words from 2 Chronicles “If my people, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” I felt empowered to continue the good fight; I felt honored to have had some small part in the greatest civil rights battle in history. God save the people.

► **Bonnie Finnerty** formerly served as Education Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. Here are her insights:

Sometimes it's years or even decades after a particular event that one realizes its significance. That was not the case with the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. The import of the **Dobbs** decision was immediately felt and to us pro-lifers it was a feeling of sheer exuberance.

I happened to be attending the National Right to Life Convention when the news broke. Hundreds of us were listening to a presentation inside a huge ballroom when an excited voice from the hallway boomed “*Roe* is overturned!”

Quiet blanketed the attendees. And then the dam broke! Joyful exclamations, teary hugs, and prayers of thanksgiving flooded the ballroom. We gleefully rode the massive wave of a long-awaited, hard-fought victory!

As a relative newcomer to the movement, I looked around and realized that many in the room had worked against all odds, overcame innumerable obstacles, and experienced discouraging setbacks as they sought to restore legal protection of the unborn. But they persisted, laboring diligently for 30, 40, even 50 years for this precise moment!

THIS was the culmination of their life's work! Their blood, sweat, and tears in fighting for the fundamental right to life were now paying off. I was overcome with gratitude for their commitment to justice. I am so thankful for such heroes. They are the civil rights champions of our generation.

While everyone at the convention remained elated, there was a recognition that the fight is not quite over, just shifting.

Yet a new day has dawned. A new hope is rising. And the pro-life movement is the brightest and strongest it has ever been!

Pregnant Women Find Sanctuary of Support Through *Real Alternatives*

By **Maria V. Gallagher**
Legislative Director
gallagher@paprolife.org

As the new father reached out his hands to receive the baby blanket, his tears began to fall. The blanket, he explained, looked exactly like the one that his family had given to him when he himself was a child.

The hand-knitted blanket was a gift from **Morning Star Pregnancy Services**, a pregnancy care center in the heart of Pennsylvania's Capital City. Morning Star is one of a network of pregnancy centers administered by *Real Alternatives, Inc.*

Real Alternatives runs Pennsylvania's Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services program — the first program of its kind in the nation. The program provides comprehensive counseling and support to pregnant women—more than 340,000 women throughout PA have been served, comforted, and empowered as a result of the program, which has become a model for the rest of the country.

Unfortunately, the abortion industry and its allies have been circulating falsehoods about the groundbreaking program, which exists to help pregnant women in their time of need. Here, Kevin Bagatta, president and CEO of *Real Alternatives*, sets the record straight:

Claim: Real Alternatives-funded centers deceive or manipulate the women they serve.

This is absolutely false.

Real Alternatives takes measures to ensure that it only contracts with organizations that provide compassionate and caring client services. Misleading a woman in unexpected pregnancy about the scope of available services is not only dishonest, it is neither compassionate nor caring. *Real Alternatives* reviews each potential Service

Provider's phone procedures and advertisements to ensure potential clients are made aware that only life-affirming services are provided.

Claim: The service providers funded under the program and the counselors are not qualified.

This is absolutely false. The network of service providers is composed of pregnancy support centers, maternity homes, social service agencies and adoption agencies. All of these groups are required to be experienced and qualified in providing core pregnancy support services that promote childbirth over abortion for a period of at least one year prior to beginning the review process towards potentially becoming a Program Service Provider. The approval process is rigorous and takes a considerable period of time prior to approval being considered. *Real Alternatives* analyzes all aspects of the potential Service Provider's operations including its corporate structure and documentation, its operational policies and procedures, its staff training materials, its client education materials and programs, as well as an on-site inspection of all areas utilized in providing client services. Any deficiencies in the potential Service Provider's operations must be corrected prior to approval being considered.

The majority of our service providers employ counselors who have Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work or nursing. As with other state social service programs, some service providers also use trained volunteer mentors to assist our clients.

Real Alternatives often receives media inquiries about its work as the statewide program administrator for the award-winning Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program. In an effort to respond to those media inquiries, we have assembled answers to questions we have been asked in the past.

Claim: Services are not confidential under the program.

This is absolutely false. There has always been a confidentiality requirement for services to clients in the Pennsylvania Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Programs. The PA (Department of Human Services) agreement with *Real Alternatives* covers confidentiality extensively. Confidentiality of client information is the highest priority and mandated in the agreements. None of the billing information sent by service provider counselors to *Real Alternatives* contains personal identification of the client. All client records and case notes are



(above) **Stephanie Diecidue** of Morning Star Pregnancy Services in the center's ultrasound room.



(left) **State Senator Scott Martin** (R-Lancaster County) tours Morning Star.

maintained securely in locked filing cabinets at the service provider site.

Claim: The program does not have any oversight or accountability.

This is absolutely false. The PA DHS contract with *Real Alternatives* specifically spells out the financial reports that *Real Alternatives* monthly provides to the agencies, and the performance reporting requirements that *Real Alternatives* files on a quarterly and end-of-year basis.

As you can see, *Real Alternatives* offers a sanctuary of support for pregnant women and their families. It is important that you contact your PA state Senator and state Representative and let them know you support its outreach and want it to be fully funded.

For more information about the fantastic, life-affirming work of *Real Alternatives*, please visit www.RealAlternatives.org.

YES! I WANT TO HELP PREBORN CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS!

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

THIS GIFT IS FOR: PA Pro-Life Federation, Inc. (Not tax deductible)

PA Pro-Life Federation Educational Fund (Tax deductible)

Payment by: Check Amex Mastercard VISA Discover

ACCOUNT #: _____

EXP. DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

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EMAIL: _____

THIS IS MY "GIFT FOR LIFE." The enclosed gift is: \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIFT PRESENTED BY: _____

Send letter of acknowledgment to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

I will give online by visiting www.paprolife.org and clicking on the red "Donate" and completing the form with my credit card info. I will enter "LifeLines" in the field that says "Instructions/Prayer Requests/Memorials."

I want to join the **Life Champions Team** by pledging \$ _____ per month quarter

Please send me the "**A Legacy of Life**" brochure on charitable bequests for the Federation

Please clip this **LifeLines** coupon and send it with your donation to:

PA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION, INC. • 4800 Jonestown Rd. Suite 102 • Harrisburg, PA 17109-1741

Gifts to the general fund are not tax deductible. However, you may make tax-deductible contributions to the PA Pro-Life Federation Educational Fund. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

PENNSYLVANIA
PRO-LIFE
FEDERATION



Election 2023: Your Vote Counts More than Ever!

By **Maria V. Gallagher**
Legislative/PAC Director
gallagher@papro-life.org

ONE VOTE MATTERS.

It may sound like a cliché, but it is a reality in Pennsylvania, especially in 2023.

A single vote separates the majority from the minority in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. That one vote makes a life-or-death difference in terms of legislation.

With pro-abortion Democratic majority control of the PA House, pro-life bills simply cannot advance. As much as we would like to pass additional protections for preborn children and their mothers, it is impossible at this point in time.

And with the pro-abortion leadership in the House has arisen a tsunami of anti-life legislation. These bills run the

gamut—from a brazenly pro-abortion proposed Constitutional Amendment to a bill that would end the Keystone State's long-standing ban on doctor-prescribed suicide.

We need to engage with our lawmakers as never before to try to protect current PA law, which includes such provisions as protection against late-term abortion; a 24-hour waiting period for abortion; along with parental consent and informed consent for abortion. Without these safeguards, thousands more preborn babies will die and countless numbers of women will suffer the tragedy and trauma of abortion.

What's a pro-life voter to do?

The answer: **FOCUS**. Focus on the upcoming general election, which includes races for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Superior Court, and Commonwealth Court. Encourage your pro-life friends and family members to register to vote. Ask your pastor if you can conduct a voter registration drive at your church. Consider taking time to volunteer to work at the

polls in November. Volunteer to distribute our popular pro-life voter's guide in advance of the election. Let the pro-life people in your community know that, come election time, **they can find a personalized voter's guide on our website at www.papro-life.org.**

Engage and mobilize on the pro-life issue. Share ultrasounds of your children or grandchildren on social media. Celebrate the beauty and goodness of babies. Be willing to answer questions about pro-life topics—or volunteer to research the answers to burning questions.

Don't fall for the discouraging narrative that your vote does not matter. It simply is not the case. **Time and time again, elections are decided by a relatively small number of votes.** When you become despondent, consider this question: **IS A CHILD'S LIFE WORTH YOUR VOTE?**

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee has made the following recommendations for the November general election: **Carolyn Carluccio for PA Supreme Court; Maria Battista**

and Harry Smail for PA Superior Court; and Megan Martin for PA Commonwealth Court. Please consider volunteering for these critical campaigns, which will decide whether the Constitution and the rule of law are upheld or whether pro-abortion laws are made from the bench.

The post-*Roe* era is filled with promise and possibility. Nationwide, an estimated 32,000 precious preborn babies' lives have been saved as a result of last year's historic *Dobbs* Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe*. But we cannot pass meaningful pro-life legislation—or have our critical pro-life laws upheld—without winning elections. The path to victory begins with a single baby step.

So please join us as we embark on another campaign journey. With your help, we can achieve the results which will safeguard the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians from harm.

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There's always a reason to choose life...



Your Special Gifts of Any Amount Will Memorialize or Honor Those Who Are Very Special to You – While Supporting Life-Saving Efforts to Protect Those Who Are Most Vulnerable Among Us.

In Memory of:	Given By:	In Memory of:	Given By:
Annette M. BosseDawn L. Bosse	George C. EukerJohn T. Euker
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Christmas Gift to Therese Bosse in Memory of her father, Gerard BosseAnnette M. Bosse	In Honor of:	Given By:
Douglas BradleyJoseph & Susan Rogacs	Dr. Thomas Angello BirthdayJoan M. Bostic
Ruth M. CareyJohn T. Carey	Michael Ciccocioppo for years of serviceRaissa S. Federline
Barry Corrigan Jr.Maryann E. Zeffer	Michael Ciccocioppo Service to PPLFConstance L. Maguire
George C. EukerAlice L. Ballent	Michael Ciccocioppo RetirementMartin E. Martin
George C. EukerTeresa Burrows	Michael D. Gingrich's BirthdayJohn & Rosanne Gingrich
George C. EukerRose Marie DeSanctis,Diane Jones and Leslie Waltz	Christian Gingrich's 1st BirthdayJohn & Rosanne Gingrich
		Richard & Therese VanKeurenLinda A. VanKeuren

Your Legacy of Life Lives Long After You're Gone

When you create or update your Will, please make a bequest to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund which is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. We promote the dignity and value of human life from conception to natural death. Even when abortion, infanticide and euthanasia are illegal there will be a continuing need to educate the public on these issues to win hearts and minds of all Pennsylvanians for life.

You may bequeath a specific amount of your estate using the following language: *"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund, a nonprofit corporation located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the sum of \$ _____, for use in promoting the pro-life message."*

If you prefer, you may bequeath a percentage of your estate using the following language: *"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund, a nonprofit corporation located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, _____% of my residual estate, both real and personal, for use in promoting the pro-life message."*

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund's Tax Identification Number is: **25-6255722**

Please Help Us Help Others Learn About the Life-Giving Alternatives to Abortion, Euthanasia, and Assisted Suicide. *There's Always a Reason to Choose Life!*

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The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is a grassroots right-to-life organization with members statewide. As the state affiliate of National Right to Life, PPLF is committed to promoting the dignity and value of human life from conception to natural death and to restoring legal protection for the preborn. Through legislation, political action, education and other legal means, we proclaim the truth about abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia.

CHAPTER EVENTS



▲ Our team threw an informal **Book Signing Party** for our Legislative Director, *Maria Gallagher* in honor of her new pro-life book *Mercy's Power*.



▲ The Bedford County Chapter Citizens Concerned for Human Life hosted their annual **Pro-Life Dinner** on April 28, 2023. The keynote speaker was *Christine Flowers*, a syndicated columnist and outspoken pro-lifer.



◀ **Sarah Hamilton**, (2nd from right) winner of the Senior High Essay Contest with guest of honor Christine Flowers, Michael Ciccocioppo and wife Peggy.



▲ Our former Executive Director, *Michael Ciccocioppo* received **The Margaret Way Hoffner Award for Outstanding Pro-Life Witness** at the **Pennsylvanians for Human Life Annual Dinner** in Philadelphia on December 3, 2022.



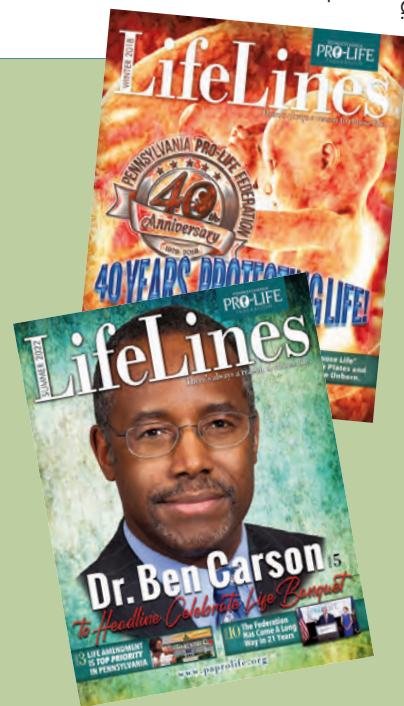
▲ **Citizens Concerned for Human Life** sponsored a showing of the highly acclaimed movie **Lifemark** at the Bedford Pitt Theatre on February 11 and OLV School Auditorium in State College on April 22 & April 23.



▲ **The York Chapter** has been busy putting up several educational exhibits at churches, diversity fairs and vendor shows. This one is from their mission table at their local church.

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Pregnant?

Worried? Need Help?

Call toll free for free, confidential assistance from compassionate counselors who understand what you're going through and can help you find the best alternative for you and your family.

Pennsylvania's *Real Alternatives* hotline:
1-888-LIFE-AID

For the help center nearest you, you may also see your local Yellow Pages under "Abortion Alternatives" or call the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation at **717-541-0034**.

NATIONWIDE PREGNANCY HELP HOTLINES:

CARENET: 1-800-395-HELP
Bethany Christian Services:
1-800-BETHANY
Birthright: 1-800-550-4900