

We Turn 50 in November!! Commemorative Booklet is Planned

In the Fall of 1969 the Bishop of the Lansing diocese (before the Kalamazoo diocese had been established) urged parishes to create “respect life committees” to educate church members of the growing abortion crisis. Here in Kalamazoo Dr. Joe Kincaid formed such a committee at his local parish as did many others across the diocese. While the other respect life committees gradually faltered and disbanded, Kalamazoo’s committee thrived. In November, 1969 Dr. Joe expanded this effort by creating Kalamazoo Right to Life. Many people joined from the Catholic community as did members of Reformed and Christian Reformed, and Lutheran (Missouri Synod) churches.

Fast forward fifty years--we are still here carrying on the same mission that Joe advanced in 1969. While many other pro-life affiliates emerged in the early 1970s and about two dozen of them formed Voice of the Unborn in 1972 to defeat a pro-abortion referendum, Kalamazoo Right to Life remains the oldest surviving pro-life group in the state.

As our 50th anniversary approaches we are planning on producing a 50th Year commemorative booklet to highlight our history. The booklet will include photos and articles that chronicle the past. Most of the articles were featured in previous newsletter during 2018. If anyone is interested in helping under-write this project please send a check to Kalamazoo Right to Life, 4200 W. Michigan Ave. Suite 10, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. The booklet will be available for sale in the spring of next year and at our annual Focus on Life dinner



Michigan Values Life Petition Drive in Full Swing

As the summer draws to a close, the Dismemberment petition drive sponsored by the Michigan Values Life coalition continues in full swing. In fact, with summer vacations over and the Labor Day holiday past, more voters are home-bound and available to sign petition forms. If your church has not signed on to conduct a petition drive in the next month or two contact our office at 269-372-8123. We have training manuals and petition drive forms.

On August 27 a top staffer at the RLM state office informed KRTL president Rob Karrer that while no preliminary numbers were available, petition forms “are coming in at a good pace.” That’s good to hear. We in Kalamazoo County must help and do our part to make the petition drive a roaring success.

On a final note ... **have you signed the petition yet?**

Kalamazoo Right to Life Annual Business Meeting

All members are invited to attend our annual business meeting, **Monday September 16 between 7 - 8 pm.** We have a new location: **the Gourdneck-Long Lake Room at the Portage Public Library, 300 Library Ln, Portage, MI 49002.**

Pizza, soft drinks, and water will be available.

Our slate of officers for 2019-2020 are:

Rob Karrer: president
Geneva Crawford: vice-president
Candy Courtney: treasurer
Preston Talanda-Fisher: secretary

State Representative Matt Hall will provide an update on pro-life legislation.

Pro-Life News Round-Up

Six states have only one abortion clinic

Currently, there are six states that have only ONE remaining abortion clinic. They are Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, and West Virginia. The lone clinic is St. Louis, Missouri is hanging on by a thread.

Democratic candidates (focus on Pete Buttigieg)

South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg is a top tier candidate running for the Democratic nomination. His youth and gentle demeanor leads one to think that he is a moderate candidate, someone possibly acceptable if looking for a candidate other than President Trump. He even speaks about his Christian faith. However, this supposed facade of moderation is not based on reality. His position on abortion is a case in point. On August 21 he attended a town hall sponsored by NARAL. He stated his opposition to the Hyde Amendment that prohibits federally-funded abortions. It is “especially important” for men to be “able to demonstrate our commitment to women’s reproductive freedom.” Back in May he defended late-term abortion at another town hall. “I think the dialogue has gotten so caught up on where you draw the line, that we’ve gotten away from the fundamental question of who gets to draw the line, and I trust women to draw the line when it’s their life.” Again, we see a candidate who has blinders on. He seems incapable of seeing the baby in the womb as if it doesn’t exist.

Democratic candidates: the list thins

While the primary season does not begin until January with the Iowa Caucus, a few candidates have dropped out of the race. One, former Colorado governor John Hickenlooper, announced on August 22 that he has now decided to challenge Senator Cory Gardner for reelection. Gardner is 100 percent pro-life while Hickenlooper is solidly pro-choice. If pro-life senators want to retain their razor-slim majority and continue to approve pro-life judges to the federal judiciary, Gardner’s reelection is vitally important.

Ohio Supreme Court hands down pro-life victory

On August 21 the Ohio Supreme Court ruled against a Dayton, Ohio abortion clinic when it refused to hear a challenge to a 2016 policy that revoked the clinic’s license. The Women’s Med Center had failed to meet the state’s health and safety standards. Dr. Martin Haskell, a prominent late-term abortionist who runs the clinic, challenged the ruling by the Ohio Department of Health. The Dayton clinic had been operating without a license since 2016. Pro-lifers can now celebrate that the clinic where 3,000 babies are aborted every year is no longer in business!

Sick-minded in New York disregard popular vote to celebrate abortion activist

Chirlane McCray, wife of New York mayor Bill de Blasio, launched a program called “She Built NYC” by erecting statues to honor women who made significant contributions to the city. She sought public input and people could nominate or vote for their preferred woman. Mother Frances Cabrini, the Italian immigrant who founded schools and several orphanages, received the most votes. McCray and her committee, however, rejected the Cabrini selection and instead decided to honor abortion-rights activist Helen Rodriguez Trias and two obscure drag queens. Trias had received 7 votes while the Catholic saint received more than 200. So much for listening to the voice of the people!

Missouri Heartbeat law blocked by federal judge

On August 27, a federal judge in Missouri placed a temporary injunction on Missouri’s heartbeat law. The law, passed by the legislature and signed by pro-life governor Mark Parson in 2018, would prohibit abortion after a fetal heartbeat could be detected. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU challenged the law. Missouri has been at the forefront of pro-life/pro-choice battles. The state has only one abortion clinic in operation. Pro-life lawmakers have been aggressive in advancing a strong agenda that directly challenges *Roe v. Wade*.



What has happened to the Democratic Party?

Once upon a time there were pro-life Democrats. Bob Casey, the governor of Pennsylvania in the 1990s was probably the most prominent pro-life Democrat. There were about 125 congressmen who voted pro-life back in the 1980s. Now there are only about three pro-life Democrats in the House of Representatives. Where did they all go? Or a better question is: why did the party turn its back on protecting unborn human life and push for all out abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy?

Beto O'Rourke of Texas and Pete Buttigieg of Indiana (and nearly the entire field of candidates running for the Democratic nomination) recite the same mantra. When asked if they oppose late-term, third trimester abortions, they don't really answer the question. They say, "I trust women to make the difficult decision regarding their reproductive health."

Let's unpack this response. First, the whole issue arose when the New York Assembly passed a bill that would permit abortion up to the final weeks of pregnancy--in the third trimester. Then the governor of Virginia commented on a bill before the state legislature that if a baby had survived an abortion (and possibly have only hours to live), the doctor would resuscitate the baby and consult the mother as to what she wanted to do. What if she said, "Do nothing. No live-saving measures. Let it die of neglect." Where is her ounce of humanity that she would not love and comfort that dying baby into eternity? Was not this baby, for the brief moments of his life, an American citizen. a fully human person?

Second is the matter of the Supreme Court. In *Roe v. Wade* the Court admitted that as pregnancy advanced the rights of the mother decreased. By the point of viability the mother's right was put in check. States could enact legislation to prohibit abortion and protect the developing fetus after viability except for the life or health of the mother.

True, the inclusion of "health" opened up the floodgates and prevented many states from enacting laws restricting third trimester abortions. Still, fetal viability has remained the benchmark for the federal courts.

Third, the position of the Democratic candidates runs counter to public opinion. Surveys show that some 85 percent of Americans oppose late-term abortions. When Beto or Pete take their stand they are roundly applauded

by the radical, ideological, pro-abortion zealots in the audience. But do they represent the majority of voters? No. Do they even represent the majority of American women? No. Beto and Pete appeal to their narrow base that wants unrestricted abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

Unfortunately, Beto O'Rourke and Pete Buttigieg and Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, and Cory Booker and Kamala Harris and all the rest have not the intellectual fortitude to answer basic pro-life questions like: Is the unborn fetus a human? Does the fetus have a beating heart? Does the fetus have brain waves? Is the fetus's DNA different from that of its mother? Given modern medical advancements, is not the point of viability changing? Do fetal surgeries prove the human existence of the fetus? Have you seen 3-D ultrasounds? Can you still deny that what you see in that ultrasound is not a living human being worthy of respect and protection? Democrats used to stand for the weak and helpless. Who is more weak and helpless--the mother or the fetus?

I can guarantee that no pro-choice Democrat will ever want to answer those basic questions. They have only one pivot. Let the woman decide.

Rob Karrer

Calendar of Events

KRTL Annual Business Meeting

Monday September 16, 2019, 7 - 8 pm
Gourdneck-Long Lake Room
Portage Public Library
300 Library Ln.
Portage, MI 49002

40 Days for Life

September 25-November 3, 2019
8 am - 8 pm. in front of Planned Parenthood
Monday - Saturday
If interested in signing up for a time slot
contact Brenda Sinkovitz at 269-491-0377
or at sinkofam@gmail.com

Life Chain

October 6, 2019
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm. along S. Westnedge

President's Corner

Rob Karrer

First, a little housekeeping. In the May-June issue of the KRTL Lifeline I compared the Dismemberment bill with the Heartbeat bill and mistakenly stated that if enacted the Heartbeat bill “would replace our 1846 law”--a law that bans abortions throughout the entire pregnancy. I misspoke. The Heartbeat bill “could” replace our existing (but not enforceable due to Roe v. Wade) law. Would/could may not seem like a huge difference but I was imprecise. I regret that it may have caused some confusion.

In mid-August Planned Parenthood decided to refuse Title X funds in order to continue its abortion business. This is no surprise or shock. Planned Parenthood is an abortion profiteer of the first rank and makes no pretense to the contrary. Last month it tossed out its short-lived president, Dr. Leana Wen, because she was not as politically partisan as was her predecessor Cecile Richards. “The best way to protect abortion care is to be clear that it is not a political issue but a health care one,” said Wen. Well, that did not sit well with top PP executives and abortion-rights zealots. To hard-core pro-abortion ideologues, abortion IS a political issue and anyone who would have the audacity to stray from the party line has no place in leadership.

Back to Title X. The Trump administration issued a new rule that forbids referrals for abortion or lose Title X funds earmarked for family planning programs that provide birth control for low-income women. Almost immediately Planned Parenthood announced that it would withdraw from the federal program, losing millions of dollars. Interestingly, though PP serves some 40 percent of the 4 million women under Title X it decided to leave these women in a lurch so it can provide abortions for only 3 percent of its clients who want abortions. That's the big joke--that only 3 percent of PP's patients receive abortions when we all know that abortion is the company's cash cow--its biggest source of income. In that sense money talks. PP can make more money providing abortions than it can by receiving Title X money for the poor. I am not surprised by anything PP says or does.

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