

Special Update.....Special Update.....Special Update

Coronavirus Fallout: KRTL Dinner Postponed!!

Due to the recent COVID-19 virus that has wreaked worldwide havoc, on March 17 the KRTL Board decided to postpone our annual spring fundraising dinner. Many of you already received an announcement of the May 14 dinner in the mail. We announced the dinner on our website and some of you have even reserved seats for the dinner using the website. We are now looking into a September, 2020 date.

While we recalibrate for a fall dinner, we are pleased to report that Dr. Yoest will still be our guest speaker.

More details will come in our next newsletter. For anyone wishing to have their purchased ticket refunded just call 269-372-8123 or email to info@kazoortl.org. Otherwise we will hold those seats in your name for September. We apologize for any inconvenience but we want to be prudent and pro-active during this time of uncertainty, and safeguard the health of our friends.

Focus on Life Benefit Dinner

May 14, 2020

Heritage Foundation Vice-President to speak

Kalamazoo Right to Life will once again be hosting a fundraising dinner for the Right to Life of Michigan Education Fund. The dinner will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at the Kalamazoo First Assembly of God Church's Ministry Center, 5550 Oakland Dr. Portage, MI 49024. Doors will open at 5:30 pm and the program will begin at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per adult, \$10 for students of any degree, and for those with disabilities.

This year's guest speaker is Dr. Charmaine Yoest, a vice-president at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC. After receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia she worked in public policy for many years. Recently she served in the Trump White House and was an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health and Human Services. For eight years Dr. Yoest was the President and CEO of Americans United for Life, one of the nation's strongest and most effective pro-life organizations. She has appeared on many news programs and cable networks and been published in top national magazines and newspapers.

Reserve your seat by going to our new and improved website: kazoortl.org. A registration form and place to pay is found under the "Events" category at the top. It's a simple and easy way to make that reservation.

Kalamazoo Right to Life Focus on Life Benefit Dinner

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Dr. Charmaine Yoest

You cut this out and hang it on your fridge.



President's Corner

Rob Karrer

I am no fan of celebrities, be they politicians or performers or preachers. Far too many Americans drool over people on TV, from sports figures, Hollywood entertainers, Fox News pundits, even President Trump himself. I find a certain level of pride and narcissism in their personal behaviors. Many lead shallow lives, consumed by their money and status. I am reminded of Mark 8:36: "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" That's a warning for all of us. However, I also believe in quoting another verse, Romans 13:7, that we should pay "respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed."

There is a woman in Kalamazoo who is deserving of such honor. Dr. Robin Pierucci is a Neonatologist at Bronson Hospital, saving many tiny premature babies in need of lifesaving care. Dr. Pierucci has become a prominent pro-life advocate, appearing on the Catholic TV network EWTN on many occasions. She has spoken on the sanctity of human life all over the country and published articles of the same. She also serves as a Charlotte Lozier Institute Scholar associated with the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List. Back in September, 2019 she and three other pro-life women testified before 43 members of Congress concerning the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. And then on February 11, 2020 she appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee for the same Born-Alive Protection Act. Dr. Pierucci is NOT a local celebrity. She is a PRO-LIFE HERO. There is a clear distinction between the two. Thank you Dr. Pierucci for your brave defense of the innocent babies just waiting to live.

The following is Dr. Pierucci's opening statement before the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 11.

I am here today because as a neonatologist my job is to care for babies.

After 20 years of practice in a 50 bed neonatal intensive care unit, I can state, that if born alive, all



Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley

Dr. Robin Pierucci

babies should be cared for. The Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) provides a consistent, research informed guideline for how to help a newborn baby transition from intra-uterine to extra-uterine life. Clearly, the more premature a baby is at birth, the more at risk they are for requiring significant help making this transition. However, the NRP's algorithms are specifically designed to guide neonatal teams' assessment and intervention for even our sickest and smallest babies. NRP defines the medical standard of care that all live-born newborns are to receive; it defines the standard of care that the medical staff are responsible for providing.

The NICU I work in is the regional referral center for our area and we have a transport team which is deployed whenever we are called about a baby who is too ill for the services available where he or she has been born. While studies have demonstrated that extremely premature babies have better outcomes when born in a facility that routinely cares for their unique needs, we and other NICUs with transport programs throughout this country successfully transport babies into our units every day. Emergencies happen, that's just one reason why we in the NICU will show up when called. This is the medical standard of care for all physicians and we promise to apply it consistently to every human being. There is no ethical reason

why this medical standard of care should be abandoned for a subgroup of people because they might be less “wanted” than others; wantedness does not determine humanness. Put another way, it would be an abandonment of my medical and ethical duty if I only respond to the needs of some babies and not to others.

While it is always my duty to care for every baby, this does not mean every baby should be resuscitated. Exactly like patients seen by most other doctors, there are patients that are beyond our ability to heal. The NRP acknowledges this, stating, “The birth of extremely premature babies and those with significant chromosomal abnormalities or congenital malformations frequently raises difficult questions about the initiation of resuscitation...each situation is unique, and decision making should be individualized.”

The point is, a living baby is a real patient, and just like every other patient, newborns need to be both skillfully and compassionately evaluated. Just like every other living patient, we err on the side of life, with a simultaneous awareness that there are times when keeping our patients safe and free from unnecessary pain or procedures that offer minimal benefit, is the better “medicine”. This is providing good palliative care.

Over the years, there have been times when the baby was dying and the parent was not able to be present. It is at those times that I have had the privilege of taking those impossibly tiny hands into my own and simply holding the little one for the duration of his or her life. Mother Teresa stunned the entire world by picking up dying, disregarded people from the gutters of Calcutta and tending to them whether or not they could be cured. We too should never allow a baby, especially a baby, to die anywhere but in the warmth of our arms, nestled securely against our hearts.

Conclusion:

A newborn’s first and primary diagnosis is, it’s a baby. All other diagnoses (prematurity, respiratory distress, sepsis, etc) are secondary and never negate the first one. Because of their primary diagnosis,

whether or not we have the ability to heal, are always obligated to care. This means that all human babies who are born alive are our patients and medical personnel should be ready to either directly provide the medical standard of care or be prepared to stabilize the baby until a team with more advanced training arrives. I offer this testimony in the hope that by consistently caring for all babies, we will simultaneously also better care for their mothers, which will extend to an entire family tree of affected loved ones. This remains my privilege to do.

Congratulations Clarissa!

Clarissa Krajewski, our office manager a few years ago, took the plunge a few weeks ago. Clarissa and Clark Thompson were united in marriage on February 8, 2020 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Battle Creek. May you both be blessed beyond measure.



Pro-Life News Round-up

Rob Karrer

Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act fails in Senate

There is a tragic and disappointing post-script to Dr. Robin Pierucci’s recent appearance before the

Senate Judiciary Committee. On February 25, the Senate voted on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act. Actually, the vote was to cut off a Democratic-led filibuster on the bill. In the end the vote (to invoke colture) was 56 to 41, four votes short of the required 60 to end filibusters. All 53 GOP senators voted for the bill along with three Democrats (Casey of PA, Jones of AL, and Manchin of WV). Three other Democrats who would have voted NO were Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Amy Klobuchar still on the campaign trail. Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska was especially outraged by the failed vote, claiming that the bill had nothing to do with abortion, but only protected babies already born. Regardless his commonsense remarks, pro-choice Democrats seem unable (and definitely unwilling) to go against the wishes of the radical feminists who want unlimited abortion throughout the entire pregnancy. If seems that the radicals will not even consider a baby a person who had the audacity to survive an abortion.

Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Fails in Senate

Like the Born Alive Survivors Act that failed when pro-life senators could not muster 60 votes to defeat a Democratic led filibuster, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act suffered the same fate. The February 25 vote to cut-off the filibuster was 53 to 44, seven votes short. One Republican senator, Susan Collins of Maine, voted with the Democrats, while two Democrat senators, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and Joe Manchin of West Virginia voted pro-life. The bill would have prohibited abortions past the 20th week of pregnancy when many doctors and researchers believe that the unborn can feel pain. Pro-life senator Ted Cruz of Texas criticized his pro-choice colleagues. “Today, Democrats had an opportunity to stand on the side of science, to stand on the side of reason, and to stand on the side of precious life. Instead, [they] stood on the side of barbarity and cruelty.”



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