

Say It Ain't So, Joe

Baseball enthusiasts will rightly say that the above quote refers back to the Black Sox Scandal of 1919 and the team's superstar "Shoeless" Joe Jackson. But there is a new scandal brewing in the nation's capital revolving around President Joe Biden.

In his first week in office he reversed the Mexico City policy, a program that denies federal funds to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that promote abortion as a method of family planning in Third World countries. He supports eliminating the Hyde amendment that prohibits federal funds from paying for most abortion through Medicaid. He favors legislation that would codify *Roe v. Wade* in the likelihood that if the Supreme Court were to overturn *Roe* that the right to abortion would still be protected by federal statute. He has very recently stated that he wants major revisions in the Senate filibuster rule that would make it easier to pass a pro-abortion bill with 50 votes (the tie-breaking vote then coming from the Vice President). He will be nominating pro-abortion judges to the federal courts. And to begin his term, Biden has nominated several very pro-abortion cabinet members. Let's look at a few.

Xavier Becerra: confirmed as Secretary of Health & Human Services. Becerra was California's Attorney General. His office has actively pursued charges against David Daleiden,

the undercover journalist who exposed Planned Parenthood's policy of selling baby body parts. Becerra went after the Little Sisters of the Poor when they challenged ObamaCare's contraceptive mandate. He is a hard-core pro-abortion politician.

Gina Raimondo: confirmed as Secretary of Commerce. She was the former two-term governor of Rhode Island from 2011 to 2021. Though groups like NARAL and Planned Parenthood give her a "mixed-record" on reproductive choice for signing a 2015 bill limiting insurance access for abortion, Raimondo is, like Becerra, a very pro-choice Catholic. In 2020 she signed a state bill that codified *Roe v. Wade* into state law.

Pete Buttigieg: confirmed as Secretary of Transportation. As a candidate for the 2020 Democratic nomination Buttigieg made several very strong pro-abortion statements.

Jennifer Granholm: confirmed as Secretary of Energy. We know all about Granholm, the former governor of Michigan who blocked every pro-bill passed in the legislature.

Other top posts: John Kerry as Special presidential envoy for climate. Kerry, the former 2004 Democratic candidate for president, once bragged that his first speech in the Senate was a stirring defense of abortion rights. He is another pro-abortion Catholic...to his shame.

Life Chain Returns, May 2, 2021

The annual Life Chain, usually held on the first Sunday in October, was postponed due to the Covid pandemic. Life Chain organizers have announced that the event is rescheduled for Sunday, May 2. People and/or churches will be positioned in the same location as in past years. The Life Chain will be held from 2:30-3:30 pm.

Oratory Contest Winner Announced

We are pleased to announce that high school sophomore James Asher won first place in the Kalamazoo Right to Life Oratory Speech Contest. James received a cash award and will give his presentation at our Focus on Life Dinner sometime this fall.

We Mourn the Recent Loss of Four Significant Pro-Lifers

Joe Scheidler

On January 18, 2021 Chicago's fire-brand activist Joe Scheidler passed away at the age of 93. Already active in the pro-life movement, in 1980 Scheidler formed the Pro-Life Action League, the first genuinely activist group that regularly picketed abortion clinics. In 1985 he wrote *Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion*, a guide to pro-life activism. More recently he wrote his memoir: *Racketeer for Life: Fighting the Culture of Death from the Sidewalk to the Supreme Court* (2016). The term "racketeer" refers back to actions in the 1980s when pro-abortion groups filed a lawsuit against Scheidler claiming that his activities were part of a coordinated effort to block access to abortion. Pro-abortion attorneys cited RICO laws in attacking Scheidler. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court. The justices ruled in his favor. He came to Kalamazoo on a few occasions to picket at the PP abortion clinic.

Deacon Ed Feltes

On February 14, 2021 Kalamazoo lost one of its truly best pro-life advocates when Deacon Ed Feltes passed on to his eternal reward. He was a deacon at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Portage. If there was a rally or prayer service in front of Planned Parenthood--he attended. If called upon to fill a few tables for our annual Focus on Life dinners, he and his wife Jessica always came through, usually filling three tables. If willing to brave the weather for our annual Roe v. Wade memorial events (whether in front of Planned Parenthood or in Bronson Park), the Feltes family was always there. Deacon Ed had a very gentle and loving spirit. We will all miss his zeal in defending life at all stages. He was totally committed to the pro-life cause. His death at age 65 was our great loss but heaven's even greater gain.

Jane Muldoon

Former Right to Life of Michigan president Jane Muldoon passed away on February 6, 2021. In 1970 she and a few others formed Grand Rapids Right to Life. It became the second largest pro-life group in the state. In early 1972 Muldoon and her group joined a coalition of about two dozen other independent groups to form Voice of the Unborn in an effort to defeat a pro-abortion referendum that would have legalized abortion in Michigan up to the 20th week of pregnancy. She served on the steering committee working alongside Dr. Joe Kincaid, our founder in Kalamazoo. Voice of the Unborn defeated the referendum 61 to 39 percent. When Voice of the Unborn relaunched as Michigan Citizens for Life in 1973 she served on its executive committee. From 1974 to 1980 she was president. Though Jane stepped down as president of Right to Life of Michigan (the new name since 1979), she served as executive director until 1995. For many years she was Michigan's delegate to the National Right to Life Committee. Jane Muldoon was one of the most effective and resourceful pro-life leaders in the nation.

Jack Welborn

Jack Welborn wore many hats in his long life: husband, father, grandfather, Cooper Township Commissioner, State House representative from 1973 to 1974, State Senator from 1975 to 1982, candidate for governor in 1982, State Senator again from 1985 to 1994, owner of the Welborn Antique Shop for 25 years. We remember Jack when he served in Lansing. He was one of the most committed pro-life legislators at the Capitol. He was very instrumental in helping to secure passage of a bill to ban state-funded abortions in 1987-1988. He passed away on March 7, 2021 at the age of 88. Pray that God raises up more dedicated public officials who have the strength of their convictions like Jack Welborn!

An Open Letter to President Joe Biden

Rob Karrer

Often we make decisions based on fact. Other times we decide based on feelings or perceptions. Or on what others think. Or on how we want others to think about us. In the matter of human life, unborn or pre-born human life, we must decide what is right or wrong, not according to the whims of the majority, or even what our elected officials expect, or what is “politically correct” in our current dysfunctional societal climate, but according to sound, reliable, consistent, provable scientific fact.

If I had the ability I would conjure up Mr. Peabody and Sherman (from the old *Rocky and Bullwinkle Show*) and have them set the Wayback Machine to 1857. In fact, if I could travel back in time we would land inside the Supreme Court's chambers in the Capitol building on March 6, 1857. The Court had just announced that the black man Dred Scott was not entitled to seek a legal remedy to sue for his freedom because he was a slave and a black slave could never become an American citizen. The entire South hailed the decision as a great victory, a judicial stamp of approval on the South's “peculiar” institution. Filing out of the chamber that morning I saw Joe Biden, Delaware's young senator. I listened as a reporter asked him a pertinent question. Do you support the *Dred Scott* decision? His reply was perplexing but straight-forward. “My family has never owned slaves. In fact, I believe that keeping people in perpetual bondage is a violation of God's law and the message of the New Testament that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. But on the other hand, vast sections of our country hold to a different view of slavery. It would not be right for me to IMPOSE my own opinions on slavery to those of the South. Slaveowners must make their own decisions. They must have the freedom to chose whether or not to own slaves. So, to answer your question, yes, I support the *Dred Scott* decision.”

I ask you, “Would that have been Joe Biden's answer?” NO. NO. NO. NO. A million times no!!! He would have said that the South was morally wrong on slavery. The South was always wrong on slavery and it didn't matter if half the

country loved slavery. He would oppose it. He would introduce bills to block its extension into new territories. Would he have IMPOSED his Northern anti-slavery convictions on the South?

Yes. Yes. A million times yes.

Let's reset the Wayback Machine to May 17, 1954. Now we are in the new Supreme Court building and the Court has just ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that “separate but equal” facilities for blacks and whites were inherently unconstitutional. Schools must integrate all across the nation. Many white people in the South objected. The KKK was angry. White Citizen Committees all across the South protested the Court's imposition on their “time-honored” Jim Crow laws.

Filing out of the Supreme Court building that day was a much older Senator Joe Biden. A young reporter asked the senator if he supported the *Brown* decision. Senator Biden replied, “I have always opposed segregation. I led the way in my own church to integrate black and white parishioners. I truly believe that under-funded, all-black schools are inferior to well-funded white schools. However, the public schools in the South have had separate schools since the Civil War. Now is not the time to IMPOSE integration on people who oppose blacks and whites intermingling with each other. For that reason I oppose the *Brown* decision.”

Would Joe Biden have said that? A billion times...NO!!! He would have demanded that all-white schools integrate immediately. What the Klan wanted was irrelevant. The Jim Crow laws in two dozen states should have been dismantled decades ago. Would he IMPOSE integration on the South? YES. A billion times he would have shouted from the rooftops that he didn't care what the racists and bigots and segregations believed. He knew the truth and it was settled. IMPOSE.

I have returned to 2021 and thanked Mr. Peabody and Sherman for the historical journey. Now I find that a very old Joe Biden is no longer a senator from Delaware. He is now the President of the United States. And someone just asked him if he supports the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

“I have always agreed with my Church that life begins at conception. I have always considered abortion to be an unspeakable crime committed against an innocent child in the womb. And I have always supported the Hyde amendment. In fact I once said, ‘The government should not tell those with strong convictions against abortion, such as you and I, that we must pay for them.’ But, half the nation supports the “right to choose” including many women. Women have relied on the right to abortion for decades and I cannot IMPOSE my beliefs on people who hold to a different view or are not Catholic.”

Is that the position of the President of the United States? YES. A trillion times YES.

I find it ironic that a much younger Joe Biden would have argued that *Dred Scott* was wrongly decided and he would have IMPOSED his belief on the South to end slavery. I also find it ironic that an older Joe Biden would have demanded integration in the South even though Southerners opposed the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. He would have IMPOSED integration and would have cared less what the South believed. Yet, when we come to abortion and the sanctity of human life Joe Biden feels that he cannot IMPOSE. Sixty million babies have been murdered in the womb since 1973 and Joe Biden CANNOT IMPOSE? Something is wrong with this logic.

Doctors, scientists, embryologists, neonatologists all agree that a new human life begins when sperm meets egg. The growing embryo has different DNA from her mother. As the fetus grows she will have a different brainwave than her mother, different fingerprints than her mother. Before birth this little female fetus will have in her own small ovaries eggs that will someday help to produce new life. Yet, Joe Biden does not believe in the science. He prefers to hide behind the slogans and decades-old science that the baby is part of the mother and that abortion is nothing more than a medical procedure, and that the “product of conception” can be removed like a tumor.

And please, don't give me that malarkey that I am comparing apples to oranges. American slaves or disenfranchised black men during Jim Crow days were human. They were created in God's image, too. They were endowed by their

Creator "with certain inalienable rights...life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." So too the human baby in the womb, the offspring of two human parents.

Why IMPOSE in 1857? Because slavery was immoral. It denied basic human rights. It considered some people as less than human, mere property to be bought or sold like cattle. Why IMPOSE in 1954? Because Jim Crow laws denied black Americans of their basic rights as citizens. Because black schools could never compete with their white counterparts in scholastics, in funding, or in facilities. Segregation was humiliating, degrading, racist, and immoral. Why IMPOSE pro-life laws in 2021? Because killing babies in the womb is immoral, a denial of their right to be born, their right to become a citizen of the world. Because science tells us that a baby is human at conception and has all the unique, individual DNA distinct from every other person who has ever lived. Because killing human offspring is a form of barbarity that was prevalent in ancient times, not in modern periods (save the Holocaust). Death by dismemberment is a cruel and unusual punishment. See the 8th Amendment in the Bill of Rights.

If Joe Biden truly believes in what his Church teaches (and the Catholic Church bases its defense on the sacredness of human life on biblical passages, natural law, and science) then why is he a prisoner to the extremists in the Democratic party? When he faces his Day of Judgment (as we all will) and God asks him what did he do to protect babies in the womb will he justify his actions by saying that he knew what was right but just couldn't IMPOSE? If that is what he says, that answer will ring very hollow with God. I am reminded of Matthew 16:26: “What good will it be to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul.”

God, awaken President Biden's eyes to see the truth. Are there complications that sometimes attend unwanted pregnancies? Yes. But murdering innocent babies in the womb by dismemberment or suction is barbaric. Do we not live in the 21st century? Let's act like we live in a civilized society. Love for others is greater than love of self. Did not Jesus ask that we should love “the least of these”? Wake up, Joe! Grow a spine. Show some moral courage. Do what's right.

As a gentle reminder to renew your membership in Kalamazoo Right to Life, we have provided the form below for your convenience. If you prefer, you can renew your membership on-line by visiting our website at kazoortl.org. Thank you in advance!

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Kalamazoo RTL Annual Membership 2021

Name _____ New Renewal

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ \$25 \$100 Platinum

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ \$20 \$50 Gold

Email _____

Church _____ \$10 Student/Disabilities

Occupation _____

How would you like to receive your Newsletter?
 Email Website US Postal Service

As a member you will be sent the KRTL Newsletter, the RLM News, and special mailings from the Right to Life of Michigan Office. Your contributions and gifts to Right to Life are not tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Kalamazoo Right to Life. Mail to: Kalamazoo Right to Life, PO Box 2366, Kalamazoo, MI 49003.

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Large Turnout for Prayer Rally!

Kalamazoo Right to Life joined about two dozen other pro-life and pro-family organizations and several area churches for Kalamazoo's Prayer for Life Rally. Considering the weather (it's always cold for this event!) the January 24th event was very well-attended. Estimates of crowd size ranged from 250 to 350 people, a huge increase over past years. This year the prayer rally was held on the grounds of Kalamazoo Christian High School. The following photos capture the event. Thanks to the St. Michael's Elementary School Choir for leading in song.



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President's Corner by Rob Karrer

Recently, I have been seeing articles that address the topic of “buyer’s remorse.” Political buyer’s remorse. Many Christians decided to vote for Joe Biden back in November, convinced that he would not only restore civility to the White House, but be a moderating voice on abortion policy. While it is true that Donald Trump’s bluster turned off as many voters as appealed to others, some pro-life voters seemed willing to overlook Trump’s solid pro-life successes and only focus on the negative aspects of his personality and demeanor. On the other hand, these same pro-lifers decided to cast their lot with Joe Biden because they perceived him to be a moderate politician, a gentleman, and a sincere Christian, and disregard his 40+ years as a pro-abortion lawmaker. The only area where Biden stood with pro-lifers was on the Hyde amendment. Well, that’s gone too! Even though Biden announced last fall (during the campaign) that he no longer supported the annual rider to an appropriations bill, these pro-life Christians either didn’t care or didn’t know. Was their dislike for Donald Trump so profound that they were willing to give the reins of power to a pro-abortion ideologue like Joe Biden? Sadly, that seems to be the case. And now, some of these self-same Christians are complaining that the new president is too pro-choice! “If I had known that Biden would do this,” some have stated, “I would have never voted for him.” Buyer’s Remorse. It’s a little late and a dollar short to complain now. We all knew Biden was pro-abortion. We all knew that the Democratic party has been almost completely taken over by NARAL, NOW, Planned Parenthood and other extreme pro-abortion groups. Yet, somehow some of us didn’t know? Hard to believe. Let’s hope these Christians wake up in time for the 2022 mid-term election and vote for people who are truly and genuinely pro-life.