

Right to Life of Michigan meets in Kalamazoo

On September 21 about 200 pro-lifers from all over the state descended on Kalamazoo for RLM's 44th annual conference. The day-long event was held at WMU's Fetzer Center. The theme of the conference was "Turning the Corner for Life"--the belief that the pro-life movement has finally entered that stage in which Roe v. Wade may be overturned in the next five years.

RLM's Barb Listing presented Rebecca Kiessling with the 2017 Life Achievement Award. Rebecca was Kalamazoo Right to Life's featured speaker at our Focus on Life Dinner last spring. She established and serves as president of Save the 1, an international organization of people who have been conceived from rape or became mothers from rape.

We were treated to two presentations.

First, Sarah Zagorski spoke. She was the executive director of Colorado Citizens for Life. Her life story was complicated; she was the product of an extra-marital affair, her mother already had seven children and the home life undesirable. Doctors induced labor, and Sarah was born at 26 weeks. Initially she was born not breathing and doctors recommended, "Do not treat." Sarah's mom said NO. Because she was in a dysfunctional home, Sarah was placed in foster care at 16 months with a middle-aged couple. It took seven long years before the couple finally adopted the now 9 year-old Sarah. Reflecting on her years in foster care, she said that it was "a short life compared to the whole." She emphasized the importance of adoption in the abortion controversy.

The second presentation was by Mary Rathke, a woman conceived in rape. Due to the fact that both of her parents had health and mental health problems, they decided to relinquish their custodial rights. Mary was officially adopted when she was five years old. She made several important statements on the value and worth of all people, even those conceived in rape. They too deserve the right to be born and live out the life that God has ordained for them.

*"My mother and I were both victims. You don't
kill one victim to make the other feel better.
Pregnancy is temporary. Death is permanent."*

*"An abortion does not end the memories of a rape,
it only ends my life."*

*"I was not given away [through adoption], I was
given a family."*

We enjoyed several workshops and an excellent lunch. In short, the RLM Conference was a great experience. Over the years national speakers have singled out RLM's success, not only in helping to pass pro-life legislation or its track record in PAC endorsements, but also for producing some of the best pro-life commercials. We are truly blessed to be part of the strongest pro-life group in the nation.

Pro-Life News Round-Up

Liberal Courts Reject Two Pro-Life Laws

In 2015 the Kentucky legislature passed the bill that mandated that abortionists must conduct an ultrasound before performing an abortion and give the woman the option of seeing the image or hearing the heartbeat. The ACLU challenged the bill in federal court on behalf of the state's lone clinic. On September 28, 2017 the court declared the law unconstitutional. When women should be given more information to make an intelligent decision, the courts are holding back. Too much information! Maybe woman might change their minds. In this abortion-crazed society, choice is all that matters as long as that choice is abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (along with the ACLU) was able to convince a federal court to overturn an Indiana law that prohibited abortions based solely on the basis of the fetus's sex, race, or disability. The court ruled on September 26 that the law violated the 14th Amendment's Due Process clause--the very place where the Supreme Court "found" that women had the right of privacy and the right to obtain an abortion. The opinion rejected Indiana's belief that it was a "biological fact" that the fetus was "a human being." The Supreme Court had not reached that conclusion. In its infamous Roe decision, Justice Blackmun wrote, "When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy, and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary, at this point in the development of man's knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to the answer. [Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. at 159]. The Court also ruled that before fetal viability, states could not interfere with a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy. In the 1992 Casey ruling, the Supreme Court stated, "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the of the universe, and of the mystery of human life. Beliefs about these matters could not define the attributes of personhood were they formed.

under compulsion of the State" In other words, the woman can decide, with all of her constitutional rights beside her, to do as she pleases, to decide for herself if she wants a boy or a girl. No state can tell her other-wise. She can decide the meaning of life by her own rules. There are no moral absolutes in modern American law. We become lawmakers. And in the matter of abortion, the woman has the power to terminate that innocent life if it's a boy and she wants a girl.

Maryland Clinic Sold to Pro-Lifers!!

Because the number of abortions had dropped and because he had been forced to spend more money on security, Todd Stave, the owner of a Maryland abortion clinic, sold the property to the Maryland Coalition for Life, an organization that runs crisis pregnancy centers. The abortion clinic had performed late-term abortions. In fact, notorious Nebraska abortionist Dr. LeRoy Carhart, who specializes in late-term procedures and partial-birth abortions (and twice took the issue to the Supreme Court, see *Stenberg v. Carhart* (2000) [he won] and *Gonzales v. Carhart* (2007) [he lost]) worked there part-time. Stave feels that he is letting the public down by closing his doors. One could look at it another way: Aborting unborn babies truly is all about the money for many abortionists and clinic owners.

Attention Portage City Residents RLM-PAC Endorsement in Portage Mayor Race

Right to Life of Michigan PAC announced that it has endorsed both **Nasim Ansari** and **Patricia Randall** in the upcoming race for Mayor of Portage. After interviews with both candidates, RLM-PAC stated that that both candidates meet the criteria for endorsement. Ansari has been a long-time county commissioner and Portage City Councilman and is currently Mayor Pro Tem in. Randall has served on the Portage City Council for almost a decade. The election is set for November 7, 2017.

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Pro-Life Movement **Memories of Kalamazoo Right to Life**

Editor's Note: The pro-life movement emerged in 1967 as a response to legislation that liberalized anti-abortion laws. That year Colorado, North Carolina, and California reformed their abortion laws. On July 14, 1967 the Kalamazoo Gazette printed the first of many letters to the editor by Dr. Joseph Kincaid. He later chaired a "Respect Life Committee" at his local church. In the fall of 1969 he formed Kalamazoo Right to Life, one of the first pro-life groups in the state of Michigan. Over the next several issues, this newsletter will print articles that trace the history of Kalamazoo Right to Life.

Did You Know Father Sullivan?

by Dr. Joe Kincaid

By 1970 the push for abortion reform was sweeping across Michigan and the rest of the nation. In Michigan the broom rested primarily in the hands of State Senator Lorraine Beebe. Born in Kalamazoo and a graduate of Western Michigan University, Beebe was now living in Dearborn where she had successfully run for state senator in 1966 becoming the only woman in the Senate. The campaign to reform Michigan's abortion laws became one of her primary goals. On one occasion she told her astonished colleagues in the Senate that she had had an abortion years earlier. Because of this announcement she became the leading spokesperson for the state's pro-abortion movement.

She traveled throughout the state reserving auditoriums, libraries, and churches, one after the other, to make pro-abortion presentations. She would also allow pro-life rebuttals. Finally she returned to her hometown of Kalamazoo and reserved a WMU auditorium for the planned

spectacle. Her presentation would surely outshine any opposing remarks from pro-lifers. She advertised in the Kalamazoo Gazette and on the radio for people to come and testify on the abortion situation. All people would be heard. Because of the gravity of the topic two speakers in favor of abortion would speak then one person against abortion could speak if they so desired. This pattern would be used until all had been heard.

The presentation went as planned. However, in the early afternoon Senator Beebe arose and announced that it appeared that all had testified and she thanked everyone for their participation. From the bleachers stood a tall young man in a brown WMU jacket who said, "But Senator Beebe, there are still more than fifty students from Father Sullivan's ethics class at Saint Thomas More Parish down the street that haven't had a chance to testify yet and there are more than one hundred students that have written letters because they could not be here today." With that Senator Beebe turned a deep red and muttered under her breath, "This is no class assignment. This is a full crusade from Father Sullivan." But she gathered her spirits and let the afternoon go on.

Senator Beebe returned to Lansing and continued to work hard for abortion rights. She felt totally satisfied when in 1973 the Supreme Court came through with Roe vs. Wade.

But, whatever happened to those students of Father Sullivan's? It has always been said that the pro-lifers and Right to Life members from Michigan seem more intense in their purpose than those in other states. Occasionally at their meetings you will see individuals in their middle to late-sixties greet each other and ask, "Don't I remember you from Father Sullivan's?"

Personal Musings and the Upjohn Boycott Comes to Kalamazoo

by Rob Karrer

I consider myself to be a second wave pro-lifer. I was not there in 1972 when Dr. Joe Kincaid and Dorothy Talanda pioneered the movement in Kalamazoo and helped defeat the pro-abortion state referendum called Proposal B. My first introduction to Kalamazoo Right to Life came in 1980 when then KRTL Vice-President Gary Bergel visited my church to conduct a membership drive. (I was among that great surge of evangelicals who finally joined the movement in 1979-1980 thanks in part from the 1979 Francis Schaeffer-C. Everett book, *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?*)

Gary Bergel had been an art professor at Western Michigan University and an elder at Agape Christian Fellowship. I had known Gary back in the early-1970s when I attended Agape. The year 1980 would be a transition year for him. He made a significant contribution to the pro-life movement when he wrote the popular booklet *When You Were Formed In Secret*. Three million copies were sold and distributed to pro-life groups all over the country. The publisher was the small prayer ministry called Intercessors for America. In 1981 Gary relocated to suburban Washington, DC where he pastored a new church and joined the Board of Directors of Intercessors. He was its executive director in 1985 and president from 1988 to 2009.

I did not become active until the fall of 1984 when I wrote a pro-life "Viewpoint" article for the *Kalamazoo Gazette* just before the November presidential election. The evening the article appeared, KRTL President Connie Anders called, asking if I would consider attending the next board meeting. I did and stayed. There were other great people on the board during the mid-1980s: of course, Dr. Joe Kincaid was there along with Dorothy Talanda, Esther Ring, Jack and Betty McGraw, Roselyn Casey, Larry Verdon, Cheryl Boodt, Don and Celeste Stoneburner, Steve and Kathy Kucinich, Laurie Monsma and Rob Patterson. Jean Krol was the very efficient, longtime office manager who steered the ship with great skill.

I joined Rob Patterson in public relations dropping off press releases to local radio stations and the *Gazette*. I also became the newsletter editor for about two years. A good pro-life friend who gave us great publicity during the mid-1980s was John Prange, the editor and publisher of a small weekly newspaper called the *Kalamazoo Times*. While it could not compete with the *Gazette* in sales and size, the *Times* provided a clear pro-life perspective that the *Gazette* did not offer. John is the owner of JP's Coins and Collectibles on South Burdick just south of the State Theater.

KRTL's big project for 1986 was a rally to protest the Upjohn Company's active participation in the abortion business. This Protest Upjohn Rally was set for Saturday, May 19.

Since 1974 Upjohn had been manufacturing a second-trimester abortifacient and pro-life leaders called for a boycott of Upjohn products to persuade the company to get out of the abortion industry. Don Stoneburner, a Ph.D. scientist at Upjohn, was heavily involved in "Uplife", a pro-life group of Upjohn employees. He and others actively promoted the anti-Upjohn rally. To draw attention to the upcoming rally, KRTL brought in prominent speakers: Barbara Willke, wife of the National Right to Life Committee president, Jack Willke, Beverly LaHaye, president of Concerned Women for America, Curt Young, executive director of the Christian Action Council, Yehuda Levin, a leading pro-life Orthodox Jewish rabbi from New York, Ann-Louise Lohr, an attorney with Americans United for Life, and RLM president Barb Listing.

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Personal Musings and the Upjohn Boycott Comes to Kalamazoo

We held a pre-rally event the night before at Chenery Auditorium. Curt Young spoke as did Barbara Willke and Beverly LaHaye. He called Upjohn an abortion "profiteer," its involvement in the abortion trade as a type of commerce "reminiscent of the slave trade...trafficking in human misery."

May 19 arrived and so did the rain. Indeed, the weather had been absolutely horrible the previous week also. It rained every day and we all hoped that by Saturday the dreary weather would have finally left the area. Not so. The 700 people who attended the rally in Bronson Park enjoyed the speakers while dogging raindrops and umbrellas. But Rabbi Levin reminded us that rain was a sign of God's gift of life and showed His approval. LaHaye spoke of America in Dickensian terms: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." America was best when science and technology made unsurpassed achievements. We were at our worst when immorality, child abuse, and abortion ravaged the land.

After the rally many participants marched to the downtown Upjohn facility carrying pro-life signs. Upjohn employees looked out from office windows as we marched. They may not have agreed with us but at least they read our message: "Save the Babies: Stop Abortion."

National News: A Mixed Bag

On November 7 voters in Alabama will choose the replacement for Jeff Sessions, who resigned his office to become Attorney General. The Republican candidate is Roy Moore, a very conservative, social issue, pro-life former judge. He may not be everyone's idea of a US senator, but when it comes to abortion, he is with us 100 percent.

The Republican-led Senate has been unable or unwilling to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. The ACA, with its contraceptive mandates, has been very unpopular to many Americans who have seen their premiums increase. Included in this setback was the defunding for Planned Parenthood.

Beginning in October, the Trump administration will work with Congress in attempting to change the tax code. Since the issue is taxation, it is possible that pro-life lawmakers will resurrect the defund Planned Parenthood matter and add it as an amendment to an overall tax reform bill. We shall see.



Upcoming Events

40 Days for Life continues until **November 5, 2017**

November 7, 2017: Election Day for local races.

January 22, 2018: Roe v. Wade Memorial Service. More details will come in our next newsletter.

April 26, 2018: Kalamazoo Right to Life Focus on Life Dinner. We have secured the Ministry Center at Kalamazoo First Assembly of God Church. The board will now concentrate on lining up another excellent speaker. Mark your calendars; more information to come in future newsletters.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY ROB KARRER

Politics. You either love it or hate it. In my home, I lean toward the former, my wife is of the latter persuasion. However, my "love" for politics doesn't mean that I don't get frustrated when legislation, whether coming from Lansing or Washington, seems to creep along. Talk about watching paint dry! How come it takes so long to get anything accomplished?

The effort to defund Planned Parenthood is a case in point. PP receives over \$500 million in taxpayer dollars. Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization. Non-profit, you ask? Well, it sure looks like they are profiting from hard-working Americans. For all their talk of providing services to woman and that only 3 percent of their services are derived from abortion, just remember, they perform around 330,000 abortions per year. That's a whole lot more than 3 percent of its total patients.

PP's political arm, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, is a 501(c)4 tax-exempt non-profit as well. In the last three election cycles (2012, 2014, 2016) this PAC, its employees, and their families have donated \$38 million to pro-choice candidates. Only two percent has gone to pro-choice Republicans. So basically, PP's PAC is an arm of the Democratic party. If PP claims that it would be devastated if losing the federal subsidy, then how are they so flush with cash when it comes to political campaigns? I realize that most PAC money comes from outside donations, and PPFA is a separate entity from its PAC, but trust me, PP is not struggling financially.

Pro-lifers in Congress...do your job. The horrendous videos that the Center for Medical Progress released in 2015-2016 should have been enough to get the ball rolling to defund. If you can't get an amendment passed, introduce a stand-alone bill. If Senate Democrats filibuster, then take a stand, fight, and explain the truth of PP's lies. Break through reputation and stand with the facts. Please, don't just sit and wait for the next election. That may be too late.

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