

Year in Review

Top 10 of 2022

1. Court overturns *Roe* in *Dobbs* decision!!!!

On June 24, 2022 the United States Supreme Court announced that the *Roe v. Wade* decision, a fixture in American law since 1973, had been reversed and sent packing to the ash-heap of history. *Roe*, one of the most horribly consequential and evil decisions in the history of the Supreme Court, had ushered in a radical abortion policy, legalizing the procedure through the first six months of pregnancy, and in the final trimester for the vague reason of “health.” Abortion-on-demand delivered unspeakable violence to the innocent unborn child. Some 63 million unborn babies had been aborted since 1973, one of the greatest civil rights or human rights abuses committed in the annals of recorded history. The millions of people murdered under Hitler or Stalin pale in comparison to the number of deaths attributed to legal abortion in America. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Association*, the five-justice majority stated that *Roe* had been wrongly decided from the day it was announced. It had

ignored or misrepresented historical facts and relied on faulty legal foundations. The opinion stated that it was time to set the record straight. Justice Sam Alito wrote the majority opinion, joined by fellow conservatives Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Barrett. It is worth noting that *Roe* would not have been overturned had Donald Trump not been able to nominate three justices during his presidency. In *Dobbs*, Alito announced that the decision to set abortion policy would no longer reside in the judiciary but be returned to the people through their elected state officials, a situation that existed prior to the *Roe* decision. States would now decide. Liberal states like New York or California would be able to enact liberal pro-choice laws while conservative states like Alabama and Oklahoma could ban the procedure. *Dobbs* was based on a Mississippi law (the Gestational Age Act of 2018) that imposed a 15-week abortion ban, a direct challenge to *Roe*’s Act of 2018) that imposed a trimester framework and the issue of fetal viability. Here, even Chief Justice agreed, voting that the viability standard could no longer be maintained.

2. Pro-Life loss as Proposal 3 passes

On November 8, Michigan’s voters approved the radical pro-abortion Proposal 3 constitutional change referendum, over-turning the state’s 1846/1931 law that prohibited abortion through all stages of pregnancy. The vague and confusing text (that was concealed from the voters) became a permanent part of our state Constitution. The vote was a very disappointing 55 percent to support legal abortion. After a successful petition drive that netted 750,000 signatures, pro-abortion groups received

over \$50 million from many rich donors Citizens to Support MI Women and Children, struggled to match its opponents in fundraising, receiving about \$21 million. The pro-abortion lobby bombarded voters with commercials. Governor Whitmer made abortion her principle issue. The voters were misled by a deceptive campaign. We lost because we were unable to match the other side’s overwhelming financial advantage AND because the media convinced voters that *Dobbs* had made abortion illegal and women were now second-class citizens.

3. Mixed results in Mid-Term election

Although political observers expected voters to repudiate the Democratic party and blame Biden for the economic mess most Americans were facing, the opposite actually happened. Republicans were to win at least two or three new seats in the Senate and possibly 30 in the House. In fact Democrats gained one Senate seat and would control the chamber 51 to 49. Republicans did take the House but by a handful of seats. They would now control the House 222 to 213. Kevin McCarthy of California would become new Speaker after 15 votes in early January. In Michigan, Republicans were routed. Gretchen Whitmer was reelected as were all other top officeholders. For the first time in decades, Republicans lost control of both state House and Senate. Pro-abortion Democrats now control the state government.

4. States enact pro-life laws (post-*Dobbs*)

After the *Dobbs* decision several states (primarily in the South and Central Plains) quickly adopted new legislation that severely restricted abortion. In the immediate aftermath of the Court's decision, Missouri was the first state to ban abortion. In the weeks following Utah, Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Oklahoma joined the list. Ohio soon followed with a heartbeat bill. By the end of the year more states have also banned abortions: Alabama, Idaho, Louisiana, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Georgia has a six-week heartbeat ban. Arizona and Florida have 15-week bans, Utah has an 18-week abortion ban, and North Carolina has a 20-week ban.

5. Alito draft opinion leaked

In December, 2021 the Supreme Court heard oral argument in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. The Chief Justice assigned Justice Alito to write the majority opinion. On May 2, 2022, the left-leaning website Politico released the contents of Alito's first

draft, apparently a leaked manuscript from someone among the Court's employees. This was the first time in US history that a draft opinion had been leaked to the press—an unparalleled breach of confidentiality. The leaked caused an uproar in pro-abortion circles. *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned! Almost immediately pro-abortion activists launched demonstrations at the Supreme Court Building, then paraded in front of the homes of the conservative justices' homes, a clear violation of federal law. A California man flew to Washington intending to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh. He was arrested. Pregnancy care centers, pro-life offices, and churches were targeted by pro-abortion activists. Over 100 buildings were vandalized. Though Chief Justice Roberts announced that an investigation would find the leaker, by year's end no one had been named. Most analysts believed that the leaker was probably a pro-choice advocate who wanted to make the leaked draft a campaign issue in the mid-term election...to energize voters to defeat pro-life conservatives. Unfortunately, that strategy succeeded.

6. Media response to *Dobbs*

The response to the *Dobbs* decision (and the leaked draft in May) became as much of a story as the ruling itself. When the draft opinion was leaked the liberal media reacted with outrage over what Justice Alito had written. They seemed totally disinterested in the leak itself. Conservative media (few in number) were more shocked by the leak and the breach of confidentiality at the Court. When pro-life offices and pregnancy care centers were vandalized, and when Supreme Court justices' homes were picketed, the liberal press looked the other way as if to imply: "they had it coming." Conservative media focused on the lawbreakers. When *Dobbs* was announced in June, CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, and NPR were almost uniformly shocked and attacked the opinion with venom and hostility. Objectivity was in short supply. Fox News and other conservative news outlets were far more reserved. They tended to support the decision but allowed pro-choice commentators to appear to voice their opinions.

focus on life

2023 Annual Benefit Event

May 11, 2023

Kalamazoo First Assembly
of God Ministry Center



May 11, 2023

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.

Event Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Kalamazoo First Assembly of God Ministry Center

5550 Oakland Dr.
Portage, MI 49024

Mailing Address

Kalamazoo Right to Life
P.O. Box 2366
Kalamazoo, MI 49003

For More Information

Rob Karrer
(269) 599-4954
rckarrer@sbcglobal.net

Home Grown Celebration

Featuring the following guest speakers:

Pastor Lee Cummings

Pastor, Radiant Church, Richland MI

Tracy St. Clair



Please Reserve My Place

Please return the completed form with payment by **May 5** or make a secure on-line payment at www.kazoortl.org.

Reservations

_____ \$10 Student/disabled

_____ \$30 Individual

_____ \$240 Table of 8

Donation

I am unable to attend. Enclosed is
my contribution of \$ _____ .

Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Table Captain (if applicable)



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Right to Life
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Member Sign-up



Fill out application below or Scan Code to complete membership sign-up online.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

E-mail

Annual member status:

- New member Renewing member
- Check if new address since last renewal

Member level (Please select one):

- Regular \$25 Senior (60+) \$20 Student \$10

Note: \$2.00 of your membership contribution will be shared with Right to Life of Michigan. Make checks payable to Kalamazoo Right to Life. Membership dues and charitable contributions are not tax-deductible.

Mail this form with payment to:

Kalamazoo Right to Life
P.O. Box 2366, Kalamazoo, MI 49003

or

Scan Code to complete membership online at kazoortl.org and learn how to GET INVOLVED!



Membership Renewal Time

Here is the 2023 renewal form for Kalamazoo Right to Life. We value your membership as we strive to help save the lives of unborn babies. After the loss of Proposal 3 we need your active participation more than ever!

Fill out the form and send it with a check to:

Kalamazoo Right to Life

PO Box 2366

Kalamazoo, MI 49003

Thank you in advance!

40 Days for Life

The next 40 Days for Life campaign will begin on February 22 and conclude on April 2, 2023.

Volunteers pray in front of the Planned Parenthood

abortion clinic located at 4201 W. Michigan Ave,

Kalamazoo, MI 49006 between 8 am and 8 pm.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for a one-hour time

slot should contact Joe Magalski, the local area leader.

His email is: 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com

Or call Joe directly at 989-992-6085.

7. Pro-abortion groups target pro-lifers

After the leaked draft opinion on *Dobbs* was leaked in May, pro-abortion activists vented their fury at Supreme Court justices. However, that harassment expanded when pregnancy care centers and pro-life offices became targets as well. Paint was tossed on office doors, graffiti was spray-painted on walls, a few buildings were set ablaze, windows were broken. Over 100 cases of vandalism were reported. Remarkably, even though one radical group called Jane's Revenge took credit for at least 13 cases of violence, by the end of the year not one person from the group had been arrested or charged by police, the FBI, or Biden's Justice Department. Dozens of churches were also attacked with vandalism. Some of the instances of pro-abortion action were beyond the pale. During Mass at a church near Detroit, a woman disrobed and shouted pro-abortion slogans to the shock of congregates. Such was the hate in 2022.

8. Justice Department arrests two dozen pro-lifers

During 2022, the Department of Justice arrested 22 pro-life activists and charged them with violating the FACE Act (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act), a Clinton-era law that punished pro-lifers from physically blocking the entrances of abortion clinics. The most notable arrest was of Mark Houck, an activist who regularly engaged in sidewalk counseling and prayer at Philadelphia abortion clinics. In 2021 he pushed a clinic escort when the man refused to stop verbally harassing Houck's 12-year-old son. No charges were brought at the time. However, in 2022 he was charged with a FACE Act violation. If convicted Houck faced an 11-year prison sentence and a \$350,000 fine. His trial began in January, 2023. On January 30 he was acquitted of all charges. The jury deliberated for just one hour, perhaps an indication that jurors found the Justice Department's case very weak.

Several other people were arrested in 2022 for equally flimsy charges. The Biden administration is determined to silence and intimidate pro-life activists who minister outside abortion clinics.

9. Father Pavone removed from priesthood

On November 9 authorities at the Vatican sent a letter announcing that Father Frank Pavone, the director of Priests for Life and one of the more prominent leaders of the pro-life movement, had been removed from the priesthood. Pavone was not notified of his status until informed of the matter by the Catholic News Agency on December 17. His removal stems from a charge of profane language and his supposed disobedience to his bishop. Pavone has had issues with his bishop in the past over matters of fundraising. It remains to be seen if the church can force him out of Priests for Life but it has also been stated that since his status at Priests for Life does not involve his priestly function he will probably be able to retain his position.

10. GOP contenders emerge for 2024 election

Whether good or bad in the modern era, the race for the White House now lasts close to two years. Once the mid-term election was over, potential candidates began to line up. Among Democrats, Joe Biden will probably run for reelection. His age, his mental capacity, his policies, and his new problem with classified documents may lead him to reconsider running for office. The list of Republicans is much larger. On November 15 Donald Trump announced that he was seeking the GOP nomination. After Governor Ron DeSantis's massive victory in Florida in the mid-term election, his name has jumped to the top as a potential candidate. Other candidates may include former Vice President Mike Pence, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former governor Nikki Haley, and South Dakota governor Kristi Noem.

Kalamazoo Right to Life, Inc.
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Kalamazoo, MI 49003

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Veep Corner

Rob Karrer, Vice-president, KRTL

The new year has arrived and we can put aside (but not neglect) the impact that passage of Proposal 3 will have on the good people of Michigan. This year has already sent us some good news. Mark Houck, the pro-life activist, sidewalk counselor, and prayer warrior from the state of Pennsylvania, was charged with violating the FACE Act (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act). I hope all of you are up to speed on how the FBI arrested him back in September. Check out the many news stories that report on his trial in late January and subsequent acquittal, yes acquittal after jury deliberations of one hour. Let's face the truth...this was not a real trial in the sense that crimes were committed and justice needed to be meted out. This was a political trial, a show trial sponsored by the Joe Biden Justice Department. It was meant solely to intimidate and silence other pro-lifers from engaging in similar activities outside abortion clinics.

In other local news, KRTL president Jean Talanda sent out a letter to most of you to renew your membership. The form is included in the inserted page in this newsletter. Though we were defeated in Prop 3 we have not closed our doors. We have not gone home. We are still in the fight of our lives. What better cause than to rescue from death the lives of precious babies just waiting to be born? Didn't Jesus talk about letting the children come to him, and don't hinder them from coming? We have great plans for 2023. Be a part of what's happening at Kalamazoo Right to Life. Please renew today.

We are announcing this year's Focus on Life Dinner as well.

See the other side of the insert. This is our big educational and inspirational event of the year. You don't want to miss it. Fill out the form and mail it in to our PO Box with your check or donation. These are great dinners! If you haven't attended in the past, let this year be your year to come. You will not be disappointed.