

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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May 2018

2018 Breakfast, Marches

January 2018 will be long remembered for record-setting snow accumulations and frigid temperatures, but it will also be warmly remembered for three amazing gatherings of right to life advocates from every corner of Erie County and beyond. Amazingly, and thankfully, the severe weather had only a minor impact.

First of all we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the wonderful people who contributed to the success of each of our three events. We are grateful for each and every person who attended one or more of them, and all those who helped as volunteers.

PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

The 40th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast was held on January 13 with approximately 500 people attending. The turnout would have been higher if the weather had been more favorable. Still recovering from a Christmas snow storm, we were hit again with freezing rain and then another snow storm during the night before the Breakfast. The event went well, nevertheless, and our special guest speaker, Ann McElhinney, just in from another event in Houston, was outstanding.

Ann will be remembered as one of the most passionate speakers in the history of the Breakfast. There were also stirring messages from Congressman Mike Kelly, state Senator Michele Brooks, and Catholic Bishop Lawrence Persico.

Congressman Kelly had to dig out his driveway very early that morning and drive all the way from Butler to be with us.

Congressman Glenn Thompson had

been planning since last summer to attend the Breakfast. Unfortunately, weather-related delays for flights out of Washington, DC required the him to cancel his plans at the last minute.

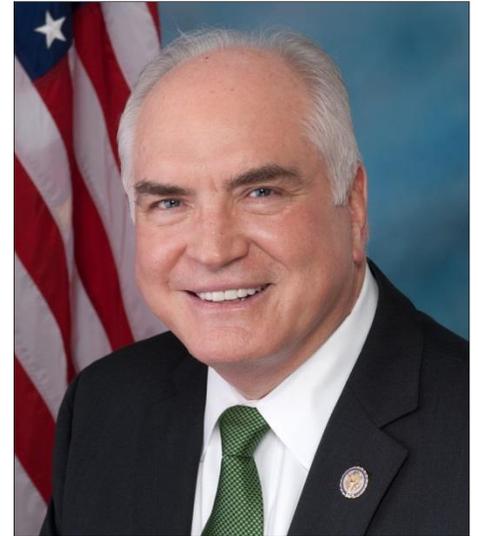
MARCH FOR LIFE BUSES

The 45th Annual Bus Trip to the Washington, DC March for Life also went remarkably well. Our three motor coaches left Erie at 11 p.m. Thursday evening, January 18. We had dry roads and smooth sailing all the way to Washington, arriving well ahead of schedule at Falls Church, Virginia. From there we were whisked away by the Metro to downtown DC in a matter of minutes.

Once again, the weather made some very strong impressions and will be long remembered. But this time it was unusually excellent weather: 50 degrees, calm winds, a deep blue sky, and warm sunshine! It was a perfect day to stand on the National Mall gathered with what appeared to be a record number of marchers to see and hear the President and Vice-president of the United States affirming their support for us and for our mission to save babies and everyone endangered by the culture of death. President Trump and Vice-president Pence spoke via live streaming video from a pro-life ceremony taking place simultaneously in the White House Rose Garden, just a few blocks away.

ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE

On January 27 we gathered at Perry Square in downtown Erie for the annual Erie March for Life. The special event fees paid to the City of Erie for use of Perry Square, the Pavilion,



Congressman Mike Kelly

Drove from Butler despite a snow storm

and the streets, and for police oversight, proved to be a good investment. The local TV stations provided a considerable amount of positive news coverage.

Gannon University Students for Life led the March carrying the Erie March for Life banner.

The closing program featured a stellar lineup of speakers: Mr. Matt Blackburn, Western Pennsylvania Director for U.S. Senator Pat Toomey; state Senator Michele Brooks; Mr. Tim Butler, District Director for Congressman Kelly; Fr. Jamie Power, Parochial Vicar of St. George Church; and Gannon Students for Life President Molly Ramich.

Mother's Day Carnation Project

One of the many nice things about springtime is connecting with old friends and making new ones through our Mother's Day Carnation Project. This annual fundraiser has become a local pro-life tradition, and one that would not be possible without the faithful support of literally hundreds of volunteers and scores of Erie-area churches.

Carnations in a variety of amazing colors will be distributed throughout northwestern Pennsylvania to help celebrate Mother's Day on May 13. They will be available at many

area churches for worshipers to bring home for their mothers and grandmothers, friends and neighbors, and anyone who might enjoy being surprised by a dazzling bundle of color. (The pure white ones are beautiful as well!)

Our pro-life carnations will also be available all weekend at the Millcreek Mall Community Booth and from our central distribution point at ROG's Inc. The Community Booth can be found in the J.C. Penney concourse near Macy's. For carnations

from ROG's, use the entrance on the east side of German St. between 18th and 19th.

Several local businesses will also participate by offering a People for Life carnation to each of their customers.

Carnations are well-known for their durability, lasting as long as a week or even two. But long after Mother's Day when the carnations have faded away, all of those \$1 donations will be helping People for Life carry on its educational mission all across our region.

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Carnation Project

You can become part of this great pro-life springtime tradition by making a donation and enjoying some our carnations, but also by volunteering, either directly with People for Life or by hosting a Carnation Project fundraiser at your church.

Besides permission from your pastor, all you will need are tables, seed money, and a few extra helpers. We will supply the carnations on consignment and offer a few tips to ensure that the project is enjoyable as well as successful.

If your church already participates, please check with the coordinator and see if they need additional volunteers.

Breaking with tradition just a little, we are also offering red roses for \$3 each on a limited basis this year.

Volunteers will be needed during the week prior to Mother's Day, especially on Friday, May 11 (all day) to process the orders. Middle school and high school students are welcome to volunteer for service hours.

To sign up as a volunteer or to get more information, please call or text (814) 882-1333, send an e-mail, or send a Facebook message as soon as possible.

Pro-Life Giving

Erie Gives Day Our People for Life Education Fund will be participating in Erie Gives Day, on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Please mark your calendar. Your online donation, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. only, will be increased with a matching gift through the Erie Community Foundation.

As you can imagine, telling the truth about something as controversial as equal justice under law for human beings prior to birth does not attract financial support from the government, the corporations, or the philanthropic foundations. We depend heavily on people like you.

Amazon Smile Another way to give more without paying more is the Amazon Smile program. When shopping on Amazon.com, specify the People for Life Education Fund as your designated charity, and a percentage of your regular purchase price will be sent our way. To get started, click the *Amazon Smile* logo at www.peopleforlife.life or go directly to smile.amazon.com/ch/47-3379714.

Employer Matching Gifts If your employer has a matching gifts program, please be aware that our Education Fund is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization and will almost certainly be eligible for your employer's matching gift program.

Donations made specifically to the Education Fund are deductible for income tax purposes. Membership dues, however, cannot be paid to the Education Fund and remain non-deductible.

Bequests We hope you will also remember People for Life in your will. Your bequest will be an investment in a local pro-life organization with a 45-year track record of faithful pro-life advocacy and a strong, local network of hundreds of volunteers whose generous efforts continue to win minds and hearts from month to month, season to season, and year to year all across northwestern Pennsylvania.

High School Oratory

People for Life's annual High School Oratory Contest was held on April 14 at the Blasco Memorial Erie County Library.

Peter Caulfield, 16, was the first place winner in the upper level competition for juniors and seniors. Peter is a home school student in his senior year. He spoke about human stem cell science, explaining the grave ethical problems associated with embryonic stem cells and the remarkable, practical results that have been achieved using adult stem cells to treat many different medical conditions.

Grace Larimer, 18, was the second place winner in the junior / senior contest. Grace is also a senior and a home-school student. Her topic was adoption. Grace considered the reasons why adoption can sometimes be the right choice. She discussed the ways that adoptions can be tailored to fit the needs and personal preferences of the birth mother, and she described some of the rewards as well as the challenges that can be part of an adoption experience.

Ethan Junkin, 15, was the first place winner in the contest for freshmen and sophomores. Ethan is a sophomore at Cathedral Prep. He reflected on the recent Parkland High School shooting and how difficult it is to fully comprehend the tragedy of the loss of even one life, particularly a life ended prematurely. Ethan noted that feeling empathy rather than merely expressing sympathy can require a deliberate effort on our part. He cautioned that a tragic loss of lives can even be callously ignored, as in the case of the hundreds of thousands of lives lost every year to abortion.

Any widespread indifference toward the tragic loss of human lives is very unfortunate. But, as Ethan suggested, it is even more disturbing that some people consciously deny that the lives of abortion victims are as valuable as other human lives, even insisting that those young lives do not deserve the respect or protection we claim for our own lives and the lives of those we do empathize with.

Valerie Larimer, 14, was the second place winner in the freshman / sophomore competition. Valerie is a home-school student and high school freshman. Her topic was euthanasia and doctor-prescribed suicide. Valerie warned about the danger of a bright to die morphing into a duty to die and the possibility of coercion, especially by people

for whom the victim has become a burden. She also noted that if dispensing death becomes a standard medical service, there is a likelihood that doctors will be pressured or forced to cooperate in the practice. We are already witnessing a concerted push in this direction, Valerie rightly noted, in Canada.

To all of our Oratory Contest participants: Thank you for sharing your talents and for all of your hard work!

Down Syndrome Bill

Please contact Pennsylvania state Senator Dan Laughlin and urge him to support H.B. 2050, the Down syndrome protection bill.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved H.B. 2050 on Monday, April 16 by a very strong, veto-proof margin of 139-56. However, a closer vote is likely in the state Senate, and Sen. Laughlin's vote could be crucial.

This legislation prohibits abortion in cases where a baby would be terminated solely because he or she has a Down syndrome diagnosis. Down syndrome is a relatively common chromosomal abnormality. An estimated 1 in every 350 babies conceived has this condition. However, it is also estimated that as many as 90% of those babies who are diagnosed before birth are killed by abortion.

The following northwestern Pennsylvania Representatives voted FOR H.B. 2050: Pat Harkins (D-1), Lee James (R-64), Mark Longiotti (D-7), Tedd Nesbit (R-8), Curt Sonney (R-4), Kathy Rapp (R-65), Brad Roae (R-6), and Parke Wentling (R-17). State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro voted AGAINST the bill. State Rep. Florindo Fabrizio (D-2) was not present for the vote.

A vote against this modest legislation seems especially bone-chilling when you consider that the bill does not positively preclude the termination of a baby with Down syndrome. What the bill actually does is disavow the proposition that simply being affected by Down syndrome, a common disability, ought to be accepted as a valid reason for depriving a person of his or her life. That might seem like mere symbolism to some, but probably not to the 300,000-plus Americans who live with the condition.

Please remember to call Sen. Laughlin at (814) 453-2515 and/or e-mail him at dlaughlin@pasen.gov. And please let your state representative know how you feel about his or her vote on H.B. 2050. Find contact information for all northwestern PA legislators at www.peopleforlife.life/legislators.

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

You've probably seen vehicles with this bright red bumper sticker. Get yours free from People for Life. Free installation, too!

DEFUND!
Planned Parenthood

Election Coverage

The Pennsylvania Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018

The following evaluations contain information provided by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and are based on voting or administrative records, questionnaires, public statements, and/or interviews with the candidates. The two congressional reports and the 2nd District state House of Representatives report also contain information from People for Life's own records and research.

GOVERNOR Republican candidates Laura Ellsworth, Paul Mango, and Scott Wagner are pro-life. The Democratic candidate, incumbent Tom Wolf, is pro-abortion. Scott Wagner has a 100% pro-life voting record as a legislator.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Republican candidates Jeff Bartos, Kathleen Coder, Marguerite Luksik, and Diana Irely Vaughan are pro-life. Democratic candidates Nina Ahmad, Kathleen Cozzone, John Fetterman, and Mike Stack are pro-abortion. The position of Democratic candidate Ray Sosa is unknown.

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U.S. SENATE Republican candidates Jim Christiana and Lou Barletta are pro-life. The Democratic candidate, incumbent Bob Casey, says he is pro-life but has an 80% pro-abortion voting record and supports government funding for organizations that carry out abortions, including Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the United States. Both Republican candidates have 100% pro-life voting records as legislators.

15th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT U.S. Representative Glenn Thompson is running unopposed for the Republican nomination in the newly-created 15th Congressional District. Congressman Thompson is pro-life and has a 100% pro-life voting record. He currently represents the 5th Congressional District. The position of Democratic candidate Susan Boser is unknown. Democratic candidate Wade Jodun is pro-abortion. He describes himself as "strongly opposed" to laws that interfere with "a woman's reproductive rights."

16th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT U.S. Representative Mike Kelly is running unopposed for the Republican nomination in the newly-created 16th Congressional District. Congressman Kelly is pro-life and

has a 100% pro-life voting record. He currently represents the 3rd Congressional District. The new 16th District was gerrymandered to exclude a large section of Congressman Kelly's home county of Butler, potentially his strongest base of support. There are three candidates in the Democratic primary: Chris Rieger is pro-abortion. Robert Multari's position is unknown. Ron DiNicola was pro-abortion when he ran against Congressman Phil English in 1996. Whether or not that position has changed is unknown.

2nd DISTRICT STATE HOUSE The only contested race in northwestern Pennsylvania for the state House of Representatives is in the 2nd District, which has an open seat due to the retirement of state Rep. Flo Fabrizio. People for Life sent a letter and questionnaire to each of the candidates. Republican candidate Tim Kuzma returned a questionnaire with 100% pro-life responses. Republican candidate Laban Marsh responded with a message expressing some personal pro-life sentiments. No response has been received from any of the Democratic candidates as this newsletter goes to press. Rick Filippi did return a questionnaire with all pro-life responses during the 2005 Erie

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Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Ray & Peg Fitzgerald Lois Borowy Carolyn Hammer Kathleen & Anthony Mollise Amy Mulligan Elizabeth & TJ Jemetz Marielle Lafaro Betty & James Dalessandro Mike & Karen Giannamore	Donald Adams, Jr. Mark Borowy Mark Borowy Jeremy F. Byrnes KJ Carroll Fred A. Crowley Fr. Gilio Dipre Geraldine Hannah Shirley Ireland	Allene Kraus Cynthia Manna Barbara Volgstadt <i>Given by</i> Allison, Brian and Stella Gieda Allen Erickson Jack & Margie Walsh	Richard Kraus Mary Pat Ringhand Gerald "Jerry" Volgstadt <i>In Honor of</i> Merry Christmas to Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald Cornelius Legters Lori Sue Walsh

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME _____ DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____ MOBILE _____ *Do not text*
 AFFILIATED WITH _____ PROFESSION _____

1. MEMBERSHIP DONATION New Renewal DUES: Individual \$10 Family \$20 Senior Citizen \$5
 Student \$5 Group \$25 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100

2. MEMORIAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ In Memory Of or In Honor Of _____
 3. ADDITIONAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ Please earmark for _____ 4. TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.life or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Booths	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Carnation Project
<input type="checkbox"/> Office Attendant	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March for Life Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Run Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Call when you need an extra hand.</i>

Please make your check payable to:
PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512

*Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.
 The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.
 Registration does not imply endorsement.*

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 Open 9:30 to 4:30 weekdays
Call for evening and Saturday hours

FROM PAGE 3 Election Coverage

mayoral race. Bob Merski responded with substantially pro-life answers during his run for Erie mayor last year. We also sent Jay Breneman a questionnaire in 2013 and 2017, but did not receive a response.

Any additional information will be published online and by E-Mail Update.

5K, 10K & Fun Walk

People for Life's 5th Annual Life Run will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at Burch Farms, between Harborcreek and North East. The event will feature timed 5K and 10K races plus a Fun Walk. Register now or by October 1 to be sure of getting a free t-shirt.

There will be door prizes, free wine tasting, free child care, and convenient parking ó not to mention the wonderful fragrance of vine-ripening Concord grapes!

Registration is \$15 for ages 7-15 and \$25 for ages over 15.

We would be honored to count your business or organization as a Race Sponsor. Sponsors are displayed on the race t-shirts and, with permission, online at www.peopleforlife.org. Sponsorship levels are \$200, \$100, and \$50.

Runners, walkers, and sponsors may register online at www.peopleforlife.org/runinfo or opt to download a mail-in form. You may also request forms by phone or e-mail or provide your credit card information and register over the phone.

Membership

Is your People for Life membership expired or coming due for renewal? If you are not sure, we can check for you. Not everyone who receives the Erie Echo newsletter is a member. Memberships normally expire after 12 months, but the newsletter is not automatically discontinued.

Membership dues as well as regular donations can be mailed along with the form on page 3. Payments can also be made with a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account using the *Donate* button on the front page of www.peopleforlife.life. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and the reason for the payment (dues, memorial donation, general donation, etc.) in the special instructions section. Thank you!

Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life will be held at our office, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie, Pennsylvania on Monday, May 21, 2018 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Members whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting will be eligible to vote. The nominees are: Tim Broderick for president, Carol Struchen for treasurer, Shauna Jackson for secretary, Marielle Lafaro for first vice-president, Gretchen Lorei for second vice-president, and Dale Klobusnik for third vice-president. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life.

Save the Cartridges

We are still accepting used ink and toner cartridges. Please bring them to People for Life, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie, and we will convert them to cash for advancing the pro-life cause. Not all printer cartridges are reusable, so feel free to check with us to find out which ones you should hang on to. Also feel free to turn in everything you have and let us pick out the ones we can use.

Prep Students: Thank you!

People for Life received a surprise \$200 donation recently from Cathedral Prep. A few days later, an e-mail arrived from Ethan Rys and Alex Pol, the President and Treasurer, respectively, of the Cathedral Prep National Honor Society. People for Life, they wrote, was selected to receive the donation by the executive board of Cathedral Prep NHS because we believe in what you are doing and hope to support your cause. The money came from one of the



dress down days sponsored by the Prep NHS. Thank you, Ethan, Alex, and everyone at Cathedral Prep! Your donation will indeed help the cause, and we were honored, more than you might ever imagine!

Pro-Life Wins

President Trump has set a new course for America with a number of pro-life achievements: Strong conservative, Neil Gorsuch appointed to the Supreme Court; many additional pro-life judicial appointments; a law allowing states to defund Planned Parenthood; no money for overseas abortionists or the UNFPA; Obamacare plans must disclose abortion coverage; conscience protection for health care workers; key executive appointments (e.g. Mike Pence)...

2018 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2018

May 12-13	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project
May 15	Pennsylvania Primary Election - Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
May 21	Annual Election of Officers, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
5/30-6/2	Educational Booth - Erie Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival
June 6-7	Educational Booth - French Creek Festival, Union City
June 14-16	Educational Booth - Lake City Fire Company Carnival
June 17	Father's Day / Father's Day Carnation Project
June 28-30	National Right to Life Convention - Kansas City, Kansas
July 6-7	Educational Booth - French Creek Festival, Union City
July 10-14	Educational Booth - North East Firemen's Cherry Festival
July 20-22	Educational Booth - Waterford Days
Aug. 2-4	Educational Booth - Dan Rice Days, Girard
Aug. 14	Erie Gives Day - Please support People for Life Education Fund
Aug. 16-19	Educational Booth - Celebrate Erie
8/27-9/1	Educational Booth - Erie County Fair, Wattsburg
Sept. 3-8	Educational Booth - Waterford Community Fair
Sept. 11-15	Educational Booth - Albion Area Fair
Sept. 28-30	Educational Booth - Wine Country Harvest Festival, North East
Oct. 13	5th Annual Life Run 5K, 10K, and Fun Walk - Burch Farms
Oct. 15	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
Oct. 18	PA Pro-Life Federation Banquet - Radisson Hotel, Harrisburg
Nov. 6	Election Day
Jan. 18	March for Life - Washington, DC (buses leave Jan. 17, 11 p.m.)