

Livingston County Life-Line

Winter 2006-2007

Right to Life
Livingston County, Inc.

Office Hours
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and by appointment

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Why is it when three people die from E. coli poisoning, spinach is immediately pulled off the shelf in virtually every corner of the world, but when eight women die from RU-486, the at-home abortion pill, no one even raises an eyebrow?

Why is it...

By Barb Listing

Why is it after 33 years of legalization, abortion is still the best-kept secret in America? (A recent study showed less than three in 10 people realize abortion is legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason whatsoever.)

Why is it that abortion, the number-one cause of death in the United States annually, is so badly misunderstood? (Forty-five million dead and counting.)

Why is it that the average America will be an eyewitness to murder and mayhem, in every conceivable form, thousands of times per year, on both television and in the movies, but the media feels that it is inappropriate to provide the general public with a factual description of even a first trimester abortion, let alone a partial-birth abortion?

Why is it that on one floor of many U.S. hospitals they will abort babies left and right, but on another floor of that same hospital, they'll spend \$100,000 to save a child born at the same gestational age as the children being aborted two floors below?

Why is it that when a woman is happy about her pregnancy, it's a "baby." She's asked questions like "When is your baby due?" or "How far along is your baby?" But when she wants an abortion...it's suddenly a glob of tissue or a product of conception?

Why is it that you can kill an unborn baby anytime you want to, for any rea-

son under the sun, but if you destroy a turtle egg on a Florida beach, you go to jail? (I've seen reports of a \$4,000 fine for killing cats, a \$1,300 fine and 60 days in jail for torturing and killing rabbits, and a \$10,000 fine for killing an historic tree.)

Why is it when a woman goes into an abortion clinic, the champions of "choice" only offer the choice of abortion?

Why is it if abortion is supposed to be available to give a woman a "choice," that illegal coercion is the number-one cause of abortion in America today? (The number-one cause of death among pregnant women is murder.)

Why is it that many do not see the handwriting on the wall...that abortion is a catalyst to infanticide, euthanasia, assisted suicide, human cloning, tampering with human genetics, cross-breeding humans and animals, only to name a few contemporary assaults on the sanctity of human life?

Why is it that more people don't understand if we lose the abortion debate, none of us, and I mean no one, is safe?

Why is it that major Fortune 500 companies will proudly and publicly support Planned Parenthood, the number one provider of abortion services on the planet, but prolife companies are scared to death to openly support the unborn for fear of retribution in the marketplace?

Why is it that Planned Parenthood has a budget of over \$200,000,000 a year, while prolife organizations are forced to eke out projects and programs on a shoestring budget?

Why is it that church leaders and whole

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Christian denominations would take a position in support of abortion on demand, even evoking the name of God and the Bible to support their position? More importantly, why isn't there an outcry from the membership of those denominations?

Why is it that a lot of proliferators, includ-

Why is it when a woman goes into an abortion clinic, the champions of "choice" only offer the choice of abortion?

ing pastors, insist on declaring that abortion is a political issue and therefore has no place in the church? (Abortion is not a political issue. It is a spiritual and moral issue that has political ramifications. It is a violation of the Sixth Commandment.)

Why is it that in every election cycle God-fearing citizens will cast their vote for politicians who support abortion-on-demand?

Why is it that when looking at candidates for public office, a position on the

economy is of greater importance than a position on the value of human life?

Why is it that we consider our government to be "by the people and for the people," but in the August 8 Michigan primary only 17.8% of those registered to vote bothered to show up?

2nd Annual Vigil for Life

Right to Life Livingston County Inc. in conjunction with Life Summit presented the Second Annual Vigil for Life on Sunday, October 1, 2006 at the historic courthouse in downtown Howell.

We know that every day, nearly 4000 babies die from "choice". To symbolize this statistic, two hundred small flags were passed out to the youth. Each flag represented two hundred babies killed through abortion. The vigil was a visible representation of the irreplaceable loss of innocent life that takes place each and every day.

Individuals from many prolife organizations worked together to make this event a success. Nearly 250 people attended and a lot of them were teens and families.

There were also several testimonies, both from local people and representatives of Silent No More. They shared the very real heartache of the abortions in their lives and the healing they have been blessed to experience.

October 1, 2006 gave us the opportunity to both pray together during Life Chain and to be a visible reminder of the devastating effect abortion has had on our community during the Second Annual Vigil for Life.

Our thanks to those who participated as supporters for the unborn on this beautiful fall day. Life Chain and Vigil for Life allowed us to once again remind the community that abortion is never a good choice.

Pregnancy Help Clinic

- **Free & Confidential Services & Information**
- **Free Pregnancy Testing**
- **Free Abortion Information & Counseling**
 - **Free Ultrasound**
- **Free Post-abortion assistance**
 - **Free Material assistance for pregnancy and early childcare**

**7743 W. Grand River Suite 101,
Brighton, MI 48114**

**24 hr hotline
810-494-5433**

Call today

Gifts Made In Memory and Honor

We have received many donations made in memory and in honor of the following people.

In Honor of Jo Sartor-Birthday
By Duane & Jane Billingsley

In Honor of April Foster-Birth
By Cary & Barry Davis

In Honor of Hannah DeRoerck-Birth
By Cary & Barry Davis

In Memory of John Rogers
In Memory of Cecelia Clancy
By Joseph & Kathleen Clancy

In Honor of Mother's Day
By Janet Gray

In Honor of Isabella Restauri for her adoption and arrival in America
By Grandparents Don & Madolyn Restauri

In Memory of Joe Anderson
By Sharon Anderson
Mike & Lisa Hartwell
Chuck & Suzanne Stolz
Adams Family

In Honor of Michelle Santoni-Birthday
By Christine & Steve Klaserner

In Honor of prolife volunteers
By Nina Cedar

In Memory of Mason Cantu
In Honor of Donna Cantu-Mother's Day
By Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gray

In Memory of Henry Alberta, infant grandson of Donna & Richard Alberta
By Cary & Barry Davis

In Honor of Mother's Day & Father's Day
By Marie & Ken Foster

Deceit Works to Push Embryonic Stem Cell Research

By Nina Cedar

There are always details missing from most mainstream discussions of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). Many authors will paint a picture of future cures, medical miracles and even fiscal recovery if only taxpayers would fund and otherwise support ESCR. Hiding the real truths about ESCR is key to making the destruction of humans acceptable to many people.

During the fall, several articles appeared in our local paper, written either by editorial staff, or as letters to the editor. A rebuttal from this affiliate was never printed and this article will certainly clarify cloudy half-truths.

It is true that embryonic stem cells will transform into any cell in the human body; this naturally takes place in every single human as we grow from an embryo to newborn and adult. We were all at one time a single cell that quickly became a clump of cells, smaller than the head of a pin. It is at this size, that a human is destroyed when embryonic stem cells are harvested. Size, shape and level of development are phases that everyone in the human family grows through.

You rarely hear mention of embryonic stem cells being rejected by the recipient. Embryonic stem cells do face the risk of rejection because they come from the body of another human, with different DNA. Many researchers would like to get around this by creating cloned human embryos in order to treat the patient that the clone was created from. Of course, this research always requires the death of the clone.

There will often be bills proposed with the words "cloning ban" somewhere in their titles. Our legislators know that the voting public remains adamantly opposed to cloning. The fine print of most cloning ban proposals states that cloning would be legal (in order to harvest embryonic stem cells), but bringing a full term clone to birth would be illegal. A better title for most cloning ban legislation is "clone

& kill bills". This is another attempt to muddy the truth about ESCR.

You will also read that ESCR would be successful, except for numerous roadblocks that are preventing the development of cures. If there were any successes in using embryonic stem cells, your and my tax dollars would not be necessary. The private business sector however, will not indefinitely fund failure. Hype, misinformation and empty promises are made to play on emotions in order to garner support for still unsuccessful research.

Another trick is to discuss the many accomplishments of "stem cells", without ever naming what type of stem cell was used. Adult stem cells have been used in the treatment of over 70 human conditions while embryonic stem cells have not been successful in treating a single human. Over 20 years of research using mice embryonic stem cells has failed to deliver promised cures. This research has instead resulted in the growth of tumors or other unwanted tissues and has even caused the death of the animals being treated. So far, there are no indications that taxpayer investment will change the outcome of this research on embryonic stem cells.

As you may often have read, it is illegal to perform research on live human embryos, fetuses or neonates in our state. You may even have heard of the eventual harm to our state as geneticists flee in order to do their research. What you won't read is that the law does allow researchers in Michigan to experiment on embryonic stem cells that were taken from other states or countries. Scientists today are studying embryonic stem cells at University of Michigan (see for yourself at <http://www.lifesciences.umich.edu/research/featured/people.html>), and did not have to leave the state to do so.

Polls tell another story and we know the wording is extremely important. When a poll is non-specific with vague questions about "stem cell research",

there is huge support. In contrast, a recent poll by International Communications Research of over 1,000 adults was worded more objectively. Its question was as follows: "Stem cells are the basic cells from which all of a person's tissues and organs develop. Congress is considering whether to provide federal funding for experiments using stem cells from human embryos. The live embryos would be destroyed in their first week of development to obtain these cells. Do you support or oppose using your federal tax dollars for such experiments?" The results were: Support - 24%, Opposed - 70%, Don't Know and Refused - 6%. Further, only 18% supported "all stem cell research" while 67% supported "only adult stem cell research."

Does the size, level of development, age or location of a human embryo, child or adult make that embryo, child or adult something other than human? Is it ever ethical to allow experimentation such as embryonic stem cell research? Is it ever ethical to sacrifice the lives of one group of people, for the potential to help another group of people? The people of Michigan deserve the truth about embryonic stem cell research.

With the recent election, even more pro-life candidates are in office. Unfortunately, our governor has shown to be emphatically in support of abortion without any limitations. Embryonic stem cell research and human cloning are sure to be the next focus for the pro-abortion extremists holding office in our state.

The liberal media has sanctioned the ongoing deception, imposed on the public, about ESCR and human cloning. Don't allow this trickery with words to deceive you. Find out more about all stem cells at www.stemcellresearchcures.com.

For me, it's the most wonderful time of the year! I love Christmas. Seems I always have. The celebration of the birth of Jesus

Christ, our Savior makes me

hopeful that the best is yet to come. It's an affirmation of our heavenly Father's love for us and all his people.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Christmas could be like that for everyone. We can make it happen. Our concern for the less fortunate, the forgotten and lonely as well as those people who just have a hard time during this time of the year can make a real difference.

We can all make a difference in the lives of those around us. Just take a few minutes to make a phone call, send a personal message or even a quick visit to brighten the day of someone suffering alone. This is one way we can share God's love and let people know that they are important and that this world,

without them, just wouldn't be the same.

All of us probably know someone who has been touched by abortion. Statistics show that 1

in 4 women in our country has personally experienced an abortion. When you consider the boyfriends or husbands who encouraged or supported the decision to abort their child, you double those affected. Add parents who will not be grandparents, missing siblings, cousins and friends, and the list grows and grows. The tragedy of abortion can put a cloud over many families.

During the Christmas Season it's easier to try and make a difference in the lives of those around us. New Year's Eve is a time when many will resolve to help people who may be suffering in some way. The biggest challenge though is to remember these commitments throughout the year, as our lives become increasingly busy.

The board and volunteers of Right to Life - Livingston County, Inc. recently enjoyed an afternoon of sharing and fellowship before Christmas. We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring group of wonderful people. We hope you and yours will have opportunities during this sacred season and the coming new year to do the same.

From all of us at Right to Life - Livingston County, Inc., we wish everyone a holy and happy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

God bless and thank each and everyone of you for your love and concern not only for the unborn, but for the men, women and families of abortion who need our love, compassion and encouragement throughout the year.

God bless,

Penny Sobonya
Board Chair

FROM THE BOARD....



Right to Life Livingston County, Inc.

In commemoration of the
34th anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Invites you to remember the victims of abortion on

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

in a

Memorial Service

Hosted by

Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church
9455 Hilton Rd
Brighton, MI

Sunday, January 21, 2007
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Refreshments and fellowship follow the service

Legislative Update

State Legislation

Abortion-free Insurance: Rep. Scott Hummel introduced **House Bills 4246-47** on 2-9-05. The bills establish that health insurance coverage for elective abortions not be a "built-in" benefit, but rather must be a coverage added by an optional rider paid for by the purchaser. The bills were referred to the House Insurance Committee. No change.

Ban Aborted Tissue Research & Trafficking: Sen. Cameron Brown has reintroduced legislation to prohibit medical/scientific research using tissue from aborted babies (**H.B. 4675**). **H.B.4676** will prohibit the sale or trafficking of fetal tissue for financial consideration. **S.B. 9** was introduced on 1-12-05 and referred to the Senate Health Policy Committee. The House bills were introduced on 4-26-05. No change.

Live Ultrasound Requirement: H.B. 4446 was signed into law. This law requires abortionists to give every woman considering an abortion the option to see a live image of her baby on the ultrasound screen, and receive photo printout of the image if she desires. Within a few months of the law taking effect, a prolife pregnancy resource center reported that a woman decided against abortion after seeing the ultrasound. We may never really know how many babies are saved because of this law.

Stillborn Child Tax Credit: S.B. 1176 was signed into law. Families who suffer a stillbirth after 20 weeks of pregnancy are allowed a tax credit. The tax credit amount does not really compensate for the real financial costs of a late pregnancy loss. It does provide some relief and more importantly, acknowledges that the child was a real member of that family. This "official" acknowledgment of the child is deeply appreciated by the families.

Adulterous Spouse-Guardian: Rep. Joel Sheltroun introduced **H.B. 4752** on 5-10-05 to place a presumption in law that a spouse who is acting as a legal guardian for an incapacitated spouse and who is engaged in an openly adulterous relationship shall be considered to have a legal conflict of interest. That conflict will prohibit the spouse from being able to authorize withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. No change.

Coercive Abortion Prevention Act: The CAPA package will die with the close of the session this month and will have to be reintroduced next year.

Wrongful Death Revision: H.B. 4777 has become law. Our Prenatal Protection Act of 1998 allowed a family to sue an individual whose criminal action caused the death of an unborn child. Cases had been dismissed after judges incorrectly interpreted the law. In order to permanently end that problem, H.B. 4777 clarified conditions under which

the lawsuits can be brought. No future court misinterpretations are expected.

Abandon Baby Law Update: S.B. 1292 was introduced late in this session to provide some updates to the Safe Delivery Act (aka Abandoned Baby Law) that RLM helped pass back in 2000. The bill was presented to the Governor on 12-21-2006, which she is expected to sign. The original law has saved nearly 3 dozen babies from being abandoned

Court Challenges

Northland Family Planning, et. Al. v. Cox (Legal Birth Definition Act challenge): Oral arguments made before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals were heard on 10-26-06 in Cincinnati, OH. Two of the three judges on the panel appeared open or favorable to the arguments made by the Attorney General and RLM's counsel from the Thomas More Center. A ruling in this case will not come until after the U.S. Supreme Court rules in the Carhart federal partial birth abortion case. See below.

Carhart et. Al. v. Ashcroft: Three challenges were brought against the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban last year. The law was ruled unconstitutional in all three federal courts. Appeals are now pending in the cases. The Bush Administration is strongly defending the law through the Justice Department. No change.

Elections Create Challenges & Opportunities

As a result of the General Election, Democrats will control the Michigan House of Representatives for the first time in 12 years. While several prolife Republicans were defeated, a near-equal number of prolife Democrats were elected. Hence, the number of prolife votes in the House is within one vote of the strong majority we currently have. For the first time in history, 100% of the House Republicans will be prolife. And the prolife wins among the Democrats pushes their caucus to 25% prolife. We are definitely moving forward in our

question to make everyone prolife, regardless of political party.

In addition, the Democrats have chosen rock-solid prolife Rep. Andy Dillon to be their leader, who will serve as Speaker of the House in the next session. This is a great blessing and will keep us from being entirely shut out of the legislative process for the next two years.

In the Michigan Senate we gained two new solid prolife votes, increasing our

strength in that chamber. Again, for the first time in history the entire Republican caucus in the Senate is prolife. With the addition of another prolife Democrat, the Senate Democratic caucus is also 25% prolife. Sen. Mike Bishop, a long-time prolife supporter, has been elected to be Senate Majority Leader for the next session. So while there were some big disappointments, especially at the top of the ticket, prolife issues and RLM will still be a major factor in Lansing.

The Truth Behind the Michael J. Fox Stem Cell Research Deception

By Wesley J. Smith
November 2, 2006

LifeNews.com Note: Award winning author Wesley J. Smith is special consultant to the Center for Bioethics and Culture Network. His current book is Consumer's Guide to a Brave New World.

Actor Michael J. Fox burst into the news recently when he taped a series of political television ads supporting Democrat U.S. Senate candidates in Missouri, Wisconsin, and Maryland. Political advocacy by movie stars is nothing new, of course. But Fox's ads were different.

Struck at a tragically young age with Parkinson's disease, Fox used his pronounced physical symptoms to shock people into supporting "stem cell research" as the "hope for cures."

The controversy grew white hot when talk radio star Rush Limbaugh suggested that Fox was either "acting" or had "not taken his medications" in order to make a more shocking appearance in the ads. Limbaugh also chastised the actor for deceiving the voters by hiding the fact that he, Fox, was actually supporting human cloning.

Limbaugh was off the mark about Fox being off his meds: The actor claimed that he was actually over-medicated, which inadvertently exacerbated his physical symptoms. But Limbaugh was on the money when he accused Fox of engaging in deception by hiding his support for human cloning. As proof, we need only review the relevant text from the ad that played in Missouri: As you might know I care deeply about stem cell research. In Missouri, you can elect Clair McCaskill who shares my hope for cures. Unfortunately, Senator Jim Talent opposed expanding stem cell research. Senator Talent even wanted to criminalize the science that gives us a change for hope.

Rarely have so few words conveyed such a profoundly deceptive message. When Fox uses the term "stem cell research," he is actually referring to embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), which is highly controversial because it requires the destruction of nascent human life.

Moreover, the "stem cell research" that Senator Talent supposedly wanted to "criminalize" isn't stem cell research at all: It is human somatic cell nuclear

transfer (SCNT), better known as human cloning.

Cloning advocates like Fox pretend that SCNT is a synonym for ESCR. But they are diametrically different processes.

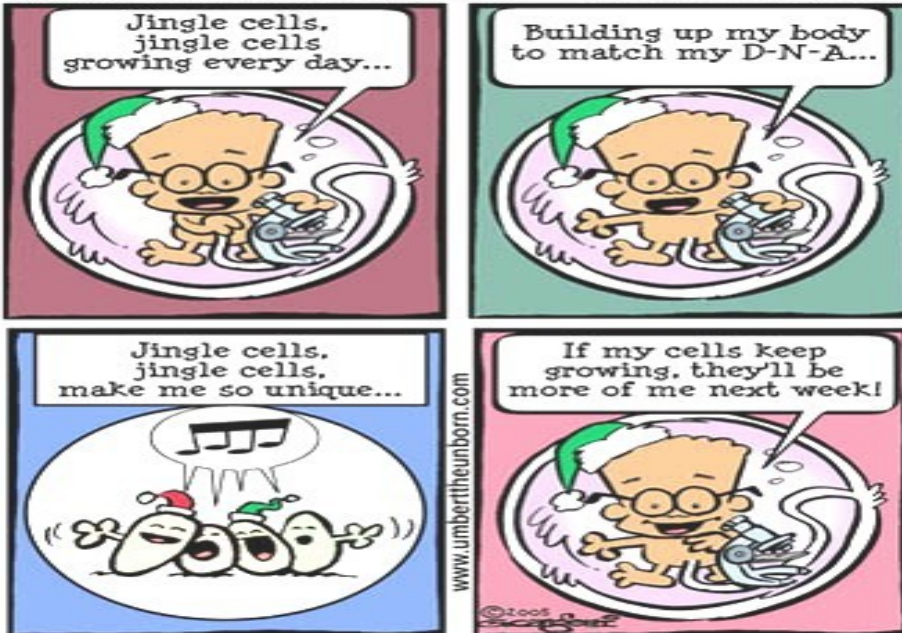
In human SCNT, an embryo is brought into being through the same "asexual" process by which Dolly the sheep was created. In contrast, ESCR destroys an already existing human embryo--whether created through fertilization or, theoretically, through cloning--to derive its embryonic stem cells. Thus SCNT creates embryonic life, and ESCR destroys it; which are not the same thing at all.

Fox taped a similarly deceptive ad for use in Maryland, stating in part, "Stem cell research offers hope to millions of Americans with diseases like diabetes, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's." But it is well known that ES embryonic stem cells are highly unlikely to effectively treat Alzheimer's. This is because Alzheimer's is a whole brain disease involving billions of different neurons, synapses, and nerve tissues, which makes it highly unlikely to respond to ES cell therapies.

But cruelly exploiting the hopes and yearnings of Alzheimer's patients and their families is par for the pro-cloning course. Indeed, one notable biotech researcher told the Washington Post that the biotech sector permits Alzheimer's patients and their families to believe false assertions such as Fox's because "people need a fairy tale."

Michael J. Fox ads exemplify what is so wrong with the larger pro-cloning political campaign: Long on hype, steeped in deceit, preying on the fears of disease victims, exploitive of our national fixation with celebrities, and appealing strictly to the emotions so that we will "feel" rather than "think". The ads were a profound disservice to those striving to grapple with the crucial ethical issues surrounding embryonic stem cell research and human cloning.

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



Pure Style 2007 Fashion Show

The third annual Pure Style 2007 Fashion Show will take place at Crystal Gardens on February 11, 2007.

Local youth, from grades 5-12 will participate in this fashion show which features modest dress styles. Models have already been chosen after filling out an application and answering two questions in writing.

The program will feature a runway fashion show with local teens modeling

modest yet fashionable styles. Sheri Prescott, former Miss Iowa and the author of *How to be a Super Model: A Guide to Inner Beauty* is the guest speaker and will address the tough issues girls face today. The event also includes a light tea-time meal.

The fashion show is an outreach of Pregnancy Helpline's On F.I.R.E. abstinence education program. Show sponsors are still needed.

Last year's show was attended by 1000 people, but only 600 tickets are available this year. Tickets cost \$20 and are sold on a first come first served basis. To reserve your seat today call 810-355-6289.

For more information, call Pregnancy Helpline at 810-494-5433.

Pregnancy Help Clinic

Mark your calendars! Thursday, March 22, 2007 is Pregnancy Help Clinic's annual fundraiser. The guest speaker is David Beright, the National Director of STOPP. David became a prolife advocate after Planned Parenthood announced plans to build an abortion clinic in his hometown in Texas, in 1998. The event will once again be held at Brighton Nazarene Church. To order tickets or for more information call 810-494-5433.

Life Summit

Life Summit is a consortium of life organizations working in Livingston County. Together we communicate our individual activities and missions, so we can work alongside one another, each fulfilling their unique purpose in the life movement. All prolife groups are invited to participate. The meetings are held at Pregnancy Helpline-for more information call 810-494-5433. We are excited to be a part of Life Summit, and look forward to expanding local public awareness of life issues.

Membership Donation Form

We are proud to be partnering with the local community on behalf of the unborn. The abortion rate in our state and for teens has decreased, saving lives. Education about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and assisted suicide is working to change the minds and hearts of many about life issues. In addition to education, the election of prolife candidates has enabled our legislature to pass laws protecting the innocent unborn and elderly frail. This is possible because of your efforts, prayers and financial support. We need you!

\$15 New/Renewal \$5 Sr. Citizen \$5 Students

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For your convenience, we also accept charge cards, above address information required for charging

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Card number _____	Expiration date _____
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**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
 Memorial Service**
 Sunday-January 21, 2006
 Cornerstone EPC - 7 p.m.

In Loving Memory and Honor of

You may honor a deceased loved one by making a memorial contribution to Right to Life-Livingston County. This memorial gift is a fitting way to remember a lifetime of love for the unborn. Your contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, new arrivals, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any other special occasion. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount will be kept confidential.

Enclosed is my (our) gift of
 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other

Made in memory of: _____

Made in honor of: _____

Occasion _____

Please notify:

 Name

 Address-City-State-Zip

My (our) name is _____

I would like a notice of this gift in the next newsletter- yes no

Any donation entitles you to one-year free membership.

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations."

Patrick Henry