



Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.



God
 Rock
 Savior
 Messiah
 Immanuel
 Holy • Child
 Mighty • God
 Lord • Of • All
 Lamb • Of • God
 Christ • Of • God
 King • Of • Kings
 The • Word • Of • God
 Alpha • And • Omega
 Prince • Of • Peace
 Light • Of • The • World
 Head • Of • The • Church
 Son • Of • The • Highest
 Everlasting • Father
 Resurrection • And • Life

JESUS

Christianity.com

Most people believe in God. But all too many are afraid to approach Him. They are convinced He exists, but are not convinced that He is on their side.

Questions like "What does God expect of me?" or "How does He want me to worship Him?" remain unsolved mysteries.

Moreover, the thought of approaching an unseen, almighty Being who fills the universe in all its parts is both puzzling and scary. Christmas is meant to change all that.

Christmas is God in human language, God revealing Himself by becoming one of us, so that He can tell us plainly who He is.

Some are afraid to approach an almighty Spirit ... but who is afraid to approach a little baby? God becomes a little baby to call us all to come near to Him.

God comes at Christmas to reveal that He is indeed on our side, that He conquers our enemies, and that what He expects of us is to follow the teachings of that child who grew up to proclaim the Gospel.

We live in strange times, because even though God made Himself a little baby, some are even afraid of that. Abortion is the primordial evil of our day for many reasons. One reason is that it rejects even the child, the chosen way God invites His people to draw near to Him.

The birth of every child reflects the joy of the birth of Christ and the meaning of Christmas. Let this New Year bring the world closer to reverence for every birth, every child, every life.

~ Father Frank Pavone
 Priests for Life



Mother Wins \$12 Million in Wrongful Birth Lawsuit

Another mother recently won a huge lawsuit after arguing that she would have aborted her unborn son if she had known he had special needs before birth.

A British judge awarded Omodele Meadows £9 million (about \$12 million) for the “wrongful birth” of her son, Adejuwon, who has autism and a severe form of hemophilia, the *Metro* reports.

Meadows argued that she loves her son, but she would have had him aborted if her doctors had done their jobs and informed her that she carried a hemophilia gene that could be passed on to her children.

Ms. Meadows went on to sue GP, Dr. Hafshah Khan, whose lawyers “admitted that, but for her negligence, Adejuwon would not have been born.”

Khan’s lawyers said they would pay £1.4 million as well as additional costs related to Adejuwon’s care; but Meadows and her lawyers wanted more.

British Justice Yip recently awarded Meadows £9 million, a record for such cases, according to the report.

Cases like Meadows’ are becoming more common in the western world. Parents have won millions of dollars in “wrongful birth” lawsuits involving children born with special needs. In the cases, parents argue that they would have aborted their child if their doctor had not been negligent in diagnosing the child’s health problems or counseling them on their options before the child’s birth.

In 2013, a Washington state couple won \$50 million in a lawsuit after they argued they were denied information that could have led them to abort their disabled baby, LifeNews reported.

In 2014, an Illinois mother also sued her doctor, claiming that he botched her tubal ligation and it led to the birth of her daughter who has sickle cell disease.

Excerpts - LifeNews 11/24/17

FBI Requests Planned Parenthood Documents, Signaling Possible Investigation

An FBI request for unredacted Planned Parenthood documents from the U.S. Senate could signal an investigation into whether the abortion giant illegally sold fetal tissue from aborted babies.

The request was made to the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman, Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, referred Planned Parenthood and several other organizations that perform abortions to the FBI after the committee investigated their practices of transferring fetal tissue. The report comes from *The Hill* news site, which cited unnamed sources familiar with the document request.

The Center for Medical Progress in 2015 released undercover videos appearing to show Planned Parenthood and other abortion industry leaders engaged in the illegal sale of the tissue and body parts.

Federal law generally prohibits the sale of human organs but does allow for the transfer of fetal tissue for medical research with compensation, provided the compensation is not “valuable consideration,” but is “reasonable,” to cover expenses such as operating and shipping costs.

In December, Grassley said the committee’s final report had uncovered enough evidence to show that abortion providers had charged research firms more than their actual costs for fetal tissue and aborted babies’ body parts.

Grassley said there was “substantial evidence” that the providers or their employees may have violated the law.

One firm paid \$60 for an unborn baby’s body that had been aborted at a Planned Parenthood facility. They transferred various parts for \$2,275 and charged fees for shipping and disease screening, the committee report said.

Some companies engaged in after-the-fact accounting to rationalize their fees, the report said, charging that they have been free to “receive substantial payment with impunity” by relying on an expansive interpretation of an exception to the law against buying and selling fetal tissue.

Dana Singiser, vice president of government affairs for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said Planned Parenthood strongly disagreed with the

recommendations to refer the question to the Department of Justice.

“These accusations are baseless and a part of a widely discredited attempt to end access to reproductive health care at Planned Parenthood,” Singiser said, claiming the agency “has never, and would never, profit while facilitating its patients’ choice to donate fetal tissue for use in important medical research.”

Grassley’s staff is reportedly working to fulfill the document request in compliance with Senate rules. If copies of the documents need to be transferred to a grand jury, a full Senate vote would be required, *The Hill* reports.

Documents hacked from the Open Societies Foundation and posted to the site DCLeaks.com last year appeared to show Planned Parenthood’s allies and funders engaged in a multimillion-dollar damage-control campaign to counter the fallout from the videos.

“While Planned Parenthood has had to defend against a variety of attacks by abortion opponents in recent years, the release of these videos and the related attacks were severe and without warning,” one document said. “Countering this offensive requires an enormous amount of resources and staff time, which is the intent of the opposition.”

The document, apparently written weeks after the July 2015 release of the first Center for Medical Progress videos, cited a need to defend the reputation and credibility of the provider and to defend it against potential loss of federal funding.

Excerpts - CNA/EWTN News 11/15/17



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From the President ~

Receive Your Gifts Gratefully and Humbly

Having just celebrated Thanksgiving and with Christmas right around the corner, this is a great time of the year to reflect on our blessings.

Sometimes we get so busy with the tasks at hand that we forget to slow down and remember the many blessings God has showered on us.

First, is the very gift of life. At the miraculous moment of conception, our lives begin. At that moment, we were given two things—our body and our soul. The Holy Spirit has been in us every minute of every day for our entire lives. What incredible first gifts!

We must then use our gifts to glorify God. I love the old adage:

- Receive God's gifts gratefully
- Cultivate them responsibly
- Share them lovingly
- Return them with increase



Steve Rupp

RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS GRATEFULLY

Virtually every person I've met at Missouri Right to Life and in the Pro-Life community is humble, faith-filled, hard-working, and grateful. Grateful prayers of thanksgiving are common at Pro-Life events. They know from where their gifts come.

CULTIVATE THEM RESPONSIBLY

Scripture says, "To whom much is given, much is expected." What are we doing with His gifts? Are we taking His gifts for granted and just doing enough to get by? Just enough to make us feel good? Or are we honing those gifts and striving to get better at what we do so that we can have a greater impact in the lives of the unborn and those considering abortion. Often-times honing those gifts may mean doing some things that are uncomfortable. It might be working the Missouri Right to Life booth at a fair, giving a talk at a school, or praying in public witness at Planned Parenthood. Doing what may be uncomfortable helps to cultivate our skills — and our passion. It has been said that success is right on the other side of inconvenience. It's not enough to serve His people. We must do it well.

SHARE THEM LOVINGLY

Abby Johnson is a former Planned Parenthood Director in Texas and now an ardent Pro-Life speaker and author. Abby said that her escape from the abortion industry came from the love of one prayerful, Pro-Life witness that she saw every day on the sidewalk in front of her abortion clinic. This young lady was always positive, joyful, and loving. Abby was drawn to her because this woman treated Abby as a human being, not a monster. That's a hard thing for us to do. But it is a *must!* Scripture tells us, "You have heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." The knowledge imparted to us from scripture is in itself a loving gift from God! We must share that love.

RETURN THEM WITH INCREASE

We have an obligation to use our gifts to help those who are at risk — confused parents and their innocent children in the womb. Maybe God has put Missouri Right to Life in our path as a vehicle to fulfill that obligation. What if we accept His challenge gratefully and humbly. What if we cultivate those gifts in a purposeful and responsible way. What if we have the courage to see the loving face of Christ in the clinic escort, the abortionist, and the pro-abortion relative.

What if, when we finally stand before God, He says, "Well done my good and faithful servant!"

Merry Christmas!

Steve Rupp

One-hour-old “Baby Hope” left in Safe Haven Box, doing well

For a busy volunteer fire department, “this one call made their year”

It’s a good thing perseverance won out at the Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department in La Porte County, Indiana. According to Marcella Raymond of WGN-TV, it had taken a big fight to get a Safe Haven Baby Box installed.

When it went in in April 2016, it was only the second such device in the nation, according to a post on the La Porte County Sheriff’s Office.

Lo and behold about 10:30 the night of November 7, the box’s silent alarm went off and the fire chief’s pager buzzed. (“The boxes are equipped with alarms that notify local officials when a baby is placed inside,” Raymond reported. “They are designed to be a warm and secure environment until officials arrive.”)

Since no baby had ever been placed in the Safe Haven Baby Box, Chief Mick Pawlik thought it might be a false alarm, triggered by someone placing a cat or a

dog in the heated box.

But nonetheless Chief Pawlik arrived at the station within five minutes.

“So I open it up and that baby just looked me right in the eyes,” Pawlik said. “Now the baby is quiet, calm, I checked her out real quick inside of the box.” The baby was so young – maybe an hour old – she was still covered in blood.

He called 911, then rode with the child to the hospital in an ambulance, the *Tampa Bay Times* reported.

“When this box was installed, we hoped that it would never be used yet we’re thankful that it exists for cases just like the one Tuesday night,” Pawlik told the *Times*. “We are grateful that the mother had this option and made this choice, and we remain concerned for her health.”

Appropriately, the volunteers named her “Baby Hope.”

Assistant Chief Warren Smith added, “I would really like to thank the mother who did this for doing the right thing,” according to Raymond. “She stepped up to the plate and did the right thing. She turned the baby into the Baby Box instead of us finding the baby in a ditch or woods. We hear so many horrible stories.”

For a busy volunteer department that responds to nearly 1,200 calls annually, this one call made their year. They felt like proud papas.

“Until you’re a firefighter, cop, medic and see all the bad stuff that we see. I’m elated for once we see something good,” Pawlik said.

Baby Hope is at the hospital now and soon Indiana Child and Family Services will find her a home. Police said the infant appears healthy and in good condition.

Ca. and Pa. Attorneys General sue to take away Little Sisters of the Poor’s religious exemption

Seek to force them to provide health insurance coverage for ‘morally unacceptable’ products and procedures

Nobody said it was going to be easy.

Last month NRL News Today reported that the Department of Justice had reached a settlement so “that plaintiffs would not be forced to provide health insurance coverage for ‘morally unacceptable’ products and procedures.”

That was a reference to the infamous Obama mandate issued by the Department of Health and Human Services under a provision of ObamaCare that required employers — even those with deeply held religious objections — to provide health coverage for drugs and procedures to which they had moral or religious objections.

Among those who had joined a lawsuit of more than a dozen religious nonprofits including charities or universities were the Little Sisters of the Poor.

That nod to their religious freedom and rights of conscience was too much for the attorneys general of California, Xavier Becerra, and Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro. According to the Becket Fund, the duo has sued the Catholic charity to force them to fund coverage in their healthcare plans.

The Little Sisters of the Poor is asking the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to stop the two states.

“[N]o one needs these guys reigniting the last administration’s divisive and unnecessary culture war,” said Mark Rienzi, senior counsel at Becket, the law firm that is representing the Little Sisters of the Poor.

As Bill Morris of the *Washington Free Beacon* explained in his story, “Becerra and Shapiro have both received substantial political support from the abortion industry.”

Planned Parenthood of Pennsylvania was one of Shapiro’s largest campaign donors in his 2016 campaign, shelling out nearly \$20,000 in the race, according to the National Institute on Money in State Politics. Shapiro’s campaign website features a Stand with Planned Parenthood page and said he would make abortion rights a top priority. He announced his lawsuit challenging the Trump administration at a press conference held in a Philadelphia Planned Parenthood clinic.



How to Help a Friend Who Wants an Abortion

By Shana Schutte
shanaschutte.com

If you have a friend who confides in you that she is pregnant, she may think that getting an abortion will easily solve her problem and that there's nothing wrong with it.

She probably doesn't know that abortion isn't just a fast, easy procedure with no long-term complications. Rather, research and personal testimonies of millions of women show that abortion can have emotional and medical repercussions that last a lifetime.

What can you do to help guide your friend away from abortion and toward choosing life for her baby? More than you might think.

Begin with love, care, acceptance, and emotional support.

Your friend may have the false view that anyone who is pro-life is mean, uncaring, judgmental or a religious fanatic. However, with love and care, you can help change her perspective and lead her to safer and wiser options than abortion.

You will probably not be successful in steering your friend away from abortion unless you genuinely care about her — and not just because you are trying to stop her from getting an abortion. If you are perceived as only caring about not wanting her to do it because abortion is killing a baby, your friend may be tempted to run to someone who is more emotionally supportive.

The first way you show that you care is by not judging her.

When one of my friends came to high school pregnant the fall after our junior year, I was relieved that she didn't choose abortion. I was also certain that given the right circumstances and temptations, any girl in our class could've ended up in a similar situation. This perspective helped me to accept her.

I thought Jennifer probably already struggled with shame, so rather than judge her by asking, "What were you thinking?" or "You shouldn't have had sex with your boyfriend," I told her that I would still be her friend no matter what. The result? She asked me to be her bridesmaid at her wedding, and 20 years later at our high school reunion she said, "You were one of the only friends who didn't judge me."

Judging can show up in our body language, the condemning things we say, and when we come across with a prideful, "correcting" attitude.

An important thing to remember is that your friend is experiencing grief. She may feel like she's losing many things: her youth and a good relationship with her boyfriend and parents. You can be a safe place by listening without correcting and not talking behind her back.

Tell her the truth when she asks if you think she should get an abortion.

It may be very difficult to tell your friend not to have an abortion because you might feel that it's her decision. However, because abortion will negatively affect both her and her baby, the best way to be a genuine friend is to tell her the truth.

When she asks you for your opinion or advice, you'll have an open opportunity to say, "Please don't have an abortion." Give her a hug, tell her that you know she's afraid, and reassure her that you won't abandon her. Let her know there are other options. If she's comfortable with it, you can also hold her hands and pray for her.

Take her to a pregnancy resource center.

Think back to the last time when something in your life devastated, confused, and hurt you. No matter how hard you tried, you simply couldn't go through your tough time alone. Neither can your friend. Most likely, she's feeling myriad emotions: fear, anger, disappointment, self-hatred, anxiety, and confusion. These emotions can keep her from thinking clearly. This is where you come in.

Tell your friend that you would like to support her by taking her to a pregnancy resource center where she can receive free confirmation of her pregnancy, along with confidential, non-judgmental counseling regarding her options. You can find one in your area by visiting OptionLine.org, or by looking in your local listings under "Abortion Alternatives." Make every effort to accompany your friend rather than just give her the center's telephone number.

Encourage her that the visit will be a chance for her to gather the information she needs to make a good decision and that the counselors at the center have no financial interest in what she chooses, unlike an abortion clinic.

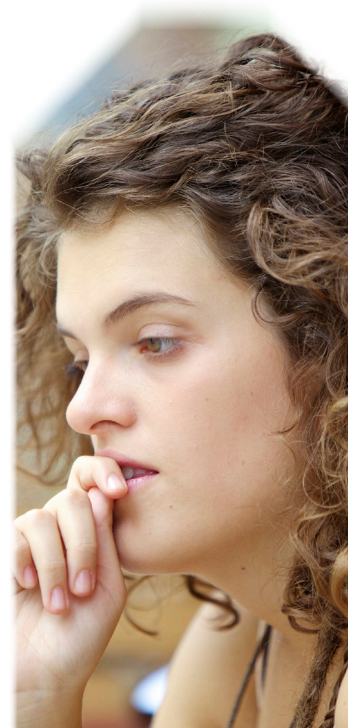
If she is reluctant to go, remind her again that she's not alone, and that she doesn't have to make any decisions right away. This way she won't have to make a rash choice in a panic that could negatively affect her for the rest of her life.

The center will provide the support that you need, too, because you won't be able to walk her through her crisis alone. Many pregnancy resource centers offer free ultrasound services, prenatal care, low- and no-cost baby supplies, adoption referrals, and plenty of other services. Staff members are often women who have experienced unplanned pregnancies and abortions themselves, so they can provide comfort, an understanding ear, and reassurance.

Remember that this is a process.

Once you've encouraged your friend, told her the truth about abortion, and taken her to a pregnancy resource center, remember that she'll continue to need you as she walks through her pregnancy. It will be a process of listening and supporting as she shares many emotions over the months ahead.

Who knows? Maybe she will be like my high school friend, and 20 years from now she may recall that you were a true friend in the midst of her crisis.



... 20 years later at our high school reunion she said, "You were one of the only friends who didn't judge me."

“We Are The Pro-Life Generation”

.... and young pro-lifers work to declare their belief. We see them at the March for Life in Washington D.C., at “Show Me Life” Pro-Life Action Day in Jefferson City, at all the Students for Life events, and countless other pro-life occasions. They’re everywhere!



Pictured are two activities that the “pro-life generation” took part in during October’s Respect Life Month.

In St. Louis (below left), St. John Vianney High School Pro-Life Club students erected a display of crosses with each one representing five abortions performed in our country every day.

Their sign’s message says, “We stand for life, we pray for the unborn,” and, “Jesus reminds us: ‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.’”

In Kansas City MO (below right), St. Thomas More 8th graders displayed their own crosses in memory and in sorrow for the millions of unborn children lost to abortion -- some possibly might have been their friends, classmates, peers.

Pray that these valiant young pro-lifers will have the wisdom and the courage to continue their work toward a society that respects all innocent life.



Southwest Area Holds Leadership Meeting

Pictured below, Texas County Chapter-MRL and Howell County Chapter-MRL leadership and members recently met with Missouri Right to Life leaders to receive updates on our work in Washington with National Right to Life and to hear about the legislative and educational pro-life work being done in Missouri and around the country.

Those gathered for the meeting are (from left to right) MRL PAC Chairman Dave Plemmons, Dusty Klein, MRL Executive Director Susan Klein, Texas County Chapter Chairman Daniel Broyles, MRL Southwest Regional Secretary Alice O’Connor, State Representative Hannah Kelly, State Representative Robert Ross, Texas County Chapter Vice Chairwoman Nancy Cichon, and Howell County Chapter Vice President Arleen Stehn.



East Central Area-MRL Chapter members gathered for their annual Celebrate Life Banquet held on October 19. Guest speaker for the event was Steve Rupp, Missouri Right to Life President.

Memorials

In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend, these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.

In memory of ~

Paul Mills

Mary Ann Heberlie

Given by ~

Theresa & Don Yorker

Rita Deves



Missouri Right to Life thanks those who honor their deceased loved ones or who celebrate an important event by making a gift to MRL.

ELECTION OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE DELEGATE-AT-LARGE

Every two years, MRL members elect a Delegate-At-Large to represent them on the State Board of Directors. This is in addition to the participation encouraged at the chapter, region, and state board levels. It is again time for members to elect their representative to the Missouri Right to Life State Board.

To cast a vote, please check the box next to a name. Vote for only one candidate. If there are two members in the household, boxes are provided for each. Use this ballot to vote; do not copy it. Your name, address, and member number appear on the back of the ballot and will validate your vote/votes.

The candidates nominated to serve the 2018-2020 term are:

1st
Voter

2nd
Voter

Each member may vote for only one candidate.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pam Manning. Pam is currently the <i>Missouri Right to Life News</i> editor. She served on the MRL-Eastern Region board for 18 years, including several years as its chairman. She has served on the Missouri Right to Life State Board for 34 years, including four years as president. She has served as the 2nd and 3rd Congressional District MRL PAC coordinator and was the MRL PAC chairman for six years. She is the current Delegate-at-Large. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Philip Sherman. Philip began his pro-life work as a teen working at the Sedalia chapter's MRL booth at the Missouri State Fair. After being away from the area for several years, he returned in 2015 and began attending chapter meetings. He now serves as Co-chapter chairman for the MRL-Sedalia Chapter. Philip says that he wants to see abortion ended just like Abraham Lincoln wanted to end slavery! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Beth Sykora. Beth has been involved in pro-life work for the last nineteen years. She currently serves on the Missouri Right to Life State Board of Directors. She is also an active member of the MRL-Western Region Board of Directors. Beth has attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. numerous times and also the National Right to Life Convention for several years. |

The ballot must be received in the State Office by December 29, 2017. Clip and return it to:

Missouri Right to Life, P. O. Box 651, Jefferson City MO 65102

MRL Members, Chapters, Regions participate in 40 Days For Life



As they do every spring and autumn, countless Missouri Right to Life members, chapters, and regions spend time in prayer at 40 Days For Life vigils across the state. Pictured are just two examples of prayer warriors from the recent fall campaign.

At left are Northeast Region-MRL members at the Columbia MO Planned Parenthood site. Front row, L to R: Mary Wilt, Sue Wortmann, and Geri Graves. Back row, L to R, Becky Franke and Therese Sander.

Pictured below are East Central Area Chapter-MRL members who each campaign show, through their prayerful presence at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood killing center, their concern for babies and moms.

Thanks to all of you for being on the front lines!

Good news from

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

In the campaign that just ended, we are aware of 693 babies spared from abortion!

Here are the blessings we have witnessed since 40 Days for Life began in 2007:

- 5,251 total campaigns
- 741 cities
- 47 countries
- 750,000 individual participants
- 19,000 churches
- 13,998 lives saved from abortion
- 170 abortion workers quit their jobs
- 90 abortion facilities closed



Inside -

- ***"Baby Hope" left in Safe Haven box***
- ***How to help a friend who wants an abortion***
- ***Your MRL Delegate-At-Large ballot***



45TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE
Washington, D.C.

Missouri Life Caravan bus trip (St. Louis metro area) - Jan. 18-20. Registration/Trip costs \$190 per passenger until December 22, 2017, increases to \$205 after that date. (Meals not included; bring extra spending money). All reservations must be received by January 2, 2018. For questions or information, call Missouri Right to Life-Eastern Region at 314.434.4900 or email mrl.eastern@yahoo.com. In other areas, call the MRL State office at 573.635.5110. Complete registration information at www.missourilife.org

Sedalia March for Life bus trip - Jan. 17-20. Depart Sedalia Jan. 17, return Jan. 20. One night stay in DC on Jan. 18. Fare includes: bus, hotel room, metro pass, driver tips.
1 person room: \$425; 2 person room: \$325/person;
3 person room: \$290/person; 4 person room: \$270/person.
For questions or information contact, Carol Turner at 660.620.1590.

Missouri Right to Life

"Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda



***"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not."***

Dr. Seuss The Lorax

Plan to come to Pro-Life Action Day to encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation, then join the noon rally for inspiration, information, and instruction for the best pro-life action!



See you next year in Kansas!
**NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE
CONVENTION 2018**
JUNE 28, 29, & 30

Yes, just across Stateline Road in Kansas City KS!

What a great opportunity for you!

The NRLC Convention -- learn from the best, mingle with pro-life friends, hear and meet amazing speakers, and leave feeling rejuvenated and ready to go home, get to work, and save lives. Plan to be there!