



February 2011

## Missouri receives big “F” from NARAL

### Helping moms and unborn babies earns failing grade

According to National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), a well-known group promoting abortion on demand, the state of Missouri gets an “F” because we’re just too good at helping women and preventing abortions.

In a recent state-by-state report, *The Status of Women’s Reproductive Rights in the United States*, Missouri is among 19 states where laws such as bans on partial-birth abortions, conscience clause measures for medical workers, and limits on taxpayer-funded abortions have earned them a failing grade.

And Missouri Right to Life is so proud of that “F” -- it means that Missouri is among the leading states in protecting women and their unborn children!

MRL is also pleased that, over the years, our General Assembly has been open to accomplishing so much to nurture human life!

This year’s legislative session again presents another opportunity. MRL is working with pro-life legislators on a bill that would ban abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy based on fetal pain.

Overall, the NARAL report indicates state legislatures approved numerous new pro-life limits since 1995, when there were only 18 pro-life measures enacted. That rose to 644 pro-life laws on the books in various states, producing a two-decade drop in abortions to historic lows in the mid 2000s.

In addition to Missouri, the states receiving a failing grade for pro-life legislation that promotes a culture of life are Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Following close behind was Kansas with a D-.

NARAL gives its top marks to California and Washington, which aggressively fund abortions and the Planned Parenthood abortion business with taxpayer dollars. They received A+ grades while Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, and Oregon received A grades from the pro-abortion group. Alaska, District of Columbia, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Vermont rated A- grades.

## Clergy demand answers as statistics show 41% of 2009 New York pregnancies ended by abortion

Some of New York City’s most prominent religious leaders are publicly demanding answers as to why decades of social welfare programs aimed at making abortions a rarity have not only failed, but failed so dramatically.

The leaders issued their demand at a press conference, saying they are galvanized by data showing that 87,000 abortions were performed in New York City in 2009, a figure that accounts for 41% of all pregnancies across the five boroughs.

“The Statue of Liberty should be the symbol of this city, not the grim reaper,” declared Archbishop Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York. The press conference drew leaders of the Catholic archdiocese and other leaders including Rabbi David Zweibel, the executive president of the Agudath Israel of America, the Reverend Michael Faulkner, founder of New Horizon Church in Harlem, and Leslie Diaz, spokeswoman of Democrats for Life.

The group noted that the abortion statistics point to a startling trend: older women utilize easily-available abortion services as one of many birth control options open to them. Abortion, it seems, is no longer just the scourge of the frightened teenage mother.

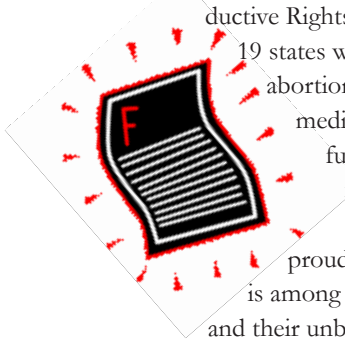
Just 10% of all pregnancies in New York City were with teen-age mothers and that age group accounted for 16% of abortions. More than half the abortions were with women in their 20s, 30% among women in their 30s and 40s.

“We’ve been hearing for many years from pro-choice supporters that abortion should be made safe, legal, and rare. If that’s the goal, we’ve clearly, abysmally failed, especially here in New York City,” Rabbi Zwiebel said.

More alarming, say the religious leaders, are the abortion rates among certain groups. Far more African-American women had abortions (40,798) than births (27,405) for an abortion rate of 60%. Among non-Hispanic, black teenagers, there were 2,791 abortions for every 1,000 live births in 2009, a 74% abortion rate.

“The leading cause of death among African Americans is abortion, and ... New York City has the highest abortion rates in the world,” Reverend Faulkner said.

*Information from an article published in the New York Sun, Jan. 6 2011*



## The Legacy of Roe and Doe: 52 Million and Counting

January 22, 2011, marks 38 years since the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton Supreme Court decisions were handed down. These concurrent rulings legalized abortion in the United States through all nine months of pregnancy for any reason, including social and economic reasons.

Roe struck down all state laws restricting abortion during the first three months of pregnancy and said that the states could impose restrictions during the final six months of pregnancy unless the life or health of the mother was threatened. Then in Doe, the Court defined "health" to mean "all factors" that affect the woman, including "physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age" -- anything the mother wanted it to be.

While the Supreme Court stated that the law protects only legal "persons," and that "legal personhood does not exist prenatally," science tells us that an unborn child is a living human being, totally separate from her mother. An unborn child has her own unique genetic code, develops a heartbeat at 18 - 21 days after conception, brain waves at 40 days, and sucks her thumb as early as six weeks. All body systems are working at 11 weeks, and by 20 weeks an unborn child responds to painful stimuli. The only difference between an unborn child and a born child is size and location.

Under the banner of "choice," 52 million children have been legally aborted in the last 38 years.

While some promote abortion as a "woman's right," organizations like Silent No More testify to the physical and emotional consequences of abortion to women. They suffer higher rates of sterility, miscarriage, depression, substance abuse, and suicide. Their risk of breast cancer increases as confirmed in 28 out of 37 studies worldwide.

Abortion disproportionately impacts the black community. While black women represent only 12% of the female population, they obtain 35% of U.S. abortions. According to the Center for Disease Control, more blacks have been aborted than have died by all other causes combined.

To visualize the significance of 52 million abortions, consider that this number represents the cumulative populations of 18 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

With the solvency of Social Security and Medicare under debate, consider the impact on those programs if millions more citizens participated. Millions more Americans producing and consuming products and services -- buying homes, clothing, groceries -- creating an economic stimulus unattainable by legislative fiat.

Abortion relies on a lack of hope for the future. A woman's decision to abort her child can only seem plausible when giving birth seems impossible. Women deserve better.

Abortion will end when women know the truth, when motivated citizens vote to protect innocent human life, and when legislators make that protection a legislative priority. Abortion will end when we restore the "inalienable right to life" recognized by our founders. Abortion will end when we remember that each and every unborn child has inherent value and is created in the image and likeness of God.

*Blessings,  
Pam Fichter*



Pictured at the December state board meeting of Missouri Right to Life, standing left to right around the table, are Bonnie Diefendorf, Pam Manning, Jim Wilcox, Mary Wilt, Beth Sykora, Steve Boltinghouse, Bill Winters, Shirley Church, Darlene Loeb, Pam Fichter, Peggy Bull, Susan Klein, Patty Skain, and Sara Dickson. Seated from left to right at the table are Jerry Nieters, Sandie Colbert, Dave Spiering, Tina Boltinghouse, Maggie Bick, Jan Boyle, and Chelsea Zimmerman.



**Missouri Right to Life**

P. O. Box 651

Jefferson City MO 65102

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**Missouri Right to Life News**

Pam Manning, Editor

573-635-5110

<http://missourilife.org/news/newsletters.html>

## Abortionist Kermit Gosnell's "House of Horrors"

The case against abortionist Kermit Gosnell and nine associates, including his wife, is so revolting that seemingly nothing could further shock the reader: eight charges of murder, including -- according to the grand jury report -- "seven specific incidents in which Gosnell or one of his employees severed the spine of a viable baby born alive."

But the second-day stories also paint a picture of "what amounts to a scathing denunciation of state regulatory officials and, to a much lesser degree, the city's public health department," according to Marie McCullough's very thorough story in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

According to the grand jury, for more than two decades, "government health and licensing officials had received repeated reports about Gosnell's dangerous practices. No action was taken, even after the agencies learned that women had died during routine abortions under Gosnell's care."

"Had state and local officials performed their duties properly, Gosnell's clinic would have been shut down decades ago," the grand jury wrote. "If inspectors had looked solely for violations of Pennsylvania's abortion regulations, there would have been ample grounds to revoke the approval of Gosnell's clinic as an abortion provider -- as was demonstrated when DOH [Department of Health] inspectors finally entered the facility in February 2010."

At a press conference Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams "accused state officials of neglecting the safety of abortion seekers not by accident, but 'by design,'" the Associated Press (AP) reported. "Pennsylvania is not a third-world country," Williams said. "There were several oversight agencies that stumbled upon and should have shut down Kermit Gosnell long ago."

Indeed the grand jury report charges that "State officials knew that Gosnell and his clinic were offering unacceptable medical care to women and girls, yet DOH failed to take any action to stop the atrocities documented by this Grand Jury."

According to the AP, the initial one-year license given to Gosnell's Women's Health Clinic expired in 1980.

"Other testimony and evidence revealed that: Gosnell's clinic was reinspected in 1989, 1992, and 1993," the AP reported. "Each time, deficiencies were found, including no nurses overseeing the recovery room,

## THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW . . .

missing lab work, no obstetrician-gynecologist on staff, and out-of-date medication. Yet each time, state evaluators reapproved the clinic without requiring or verifying corrective actions."

"The final inspection came in April 1993, four years after Gosnell had promised to hire nurses. There were none. The state cited Gosnell for expired medications and missing lab work but said they had been remedied -- though there was no follow-up inspection -- three months later."

Adding to the horror is the sheer brutality and indifference on display and the hapless women whom Gosnell preyed upon.

Williams said Gosnell "forced the live birth of viable babies in the sixth, seventh, eighth months of pregnancy and then killed those babies by cutting into the back of the neck with scissors and severing their spinal cord." Gosnell "typically worked weeknights, arriving hours after his unskilled staff administered anesthesia and drugs to induce labor," according to the AP.

("Authorities charged that Gosnell deliberately hired unqualified staff so he could pay them low wages," the AP reported. "Besides the five charged with murder, five other clinic employees, including Gosnell's wife, were charged with conspiracy, drug and other crimes. Pearl Gosnell, the doctor's third wife, performed extremely late-term abortions on Sundays when the clinic was otherwise closed, the report said. All 10 charged were in custody.")

In addition to 41-year-old Karnamaya Mongar, who died at the clinic in November 2009, "and another woman who died, scores more were injured from perforated bowels, cervixes and uteruses, authorities said."

The origins of the year-long investigation had nothing to do with abortion but stemmed from tips that police had received that "Gosnell was illegally selling thousands of oxycontin prescriptions to 'patients' he had never examined," according to Teresa Masterson of NBCPhiladelphia.com.

Instead they "stumbled upon a stench-filled clinic with bags and bottles of aborted fetuses scattered throughout the building," the AP reported. "Gosnell also kept jars of severed feet on his shelves, Williams said. Gosnell also had a taste for macabre jokes, once muttering that a nearly six-pound baby born alive to a 17-year-old who was 7 1/2 months pregnant could 'walk me to the bus stop,' the

report said."

According to the grand jury report (which can be read at [www.phila.gov/districtattorney/grandJury\\_WomensMedical.html](http://www.phila.gov/districtattorney/grandJury_WomensMedical.html)), Gosnell's staff testified about "scores of gruesome killings" of infants born alive. "These killings became so routine that no one could put an exact number on them," the grand jury report said.

Perhaps the best explanation why this could go on for decades came in this comment from the report. "We think the reason no one acted is because the women in question were poor and of color, because the victims were infants without identities, and because the subject was the political football of abortion."

Today's News & Views, 01/20/11



## Senator Files Planned Parenthood Funding Ban

Senator David Vitter of Louisiana has filed a new bill in Congress that would revoke taxpayer funding from the Planned Parenthood abortion business that it currently receives under Title X, the part of the budget that funds family planning efforts.

On the first day of this latest session of the U.S. Senate and the first day senators are allowed to officially submit legislation, Vitter reintroduced his bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to entities that perform abortions.

"My Title X amendment would end the practice of allowing taxpayer funds to be used to pay for administrative costs and other services offered by abortion providers, a practice that allows other funds to be used for abortion practices," he told LifeNews.com.

The bill is the Senate companion to legislation Congressman Mike Pence of Indiana has sponsored in the House that is expected to receive a debate and vote by the pro-life House Republicans that lead the chamber. However, whether pro-abortion Senate Democrat leader Harry Reid will allow a vote on the legislation in the Senate is another question. Vitter may have to attempt to filibuster legislation or attach his anti-funding bill to another measure as an amendment in order to get consideration for it.

LifeNews.com 01/25/11



# PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

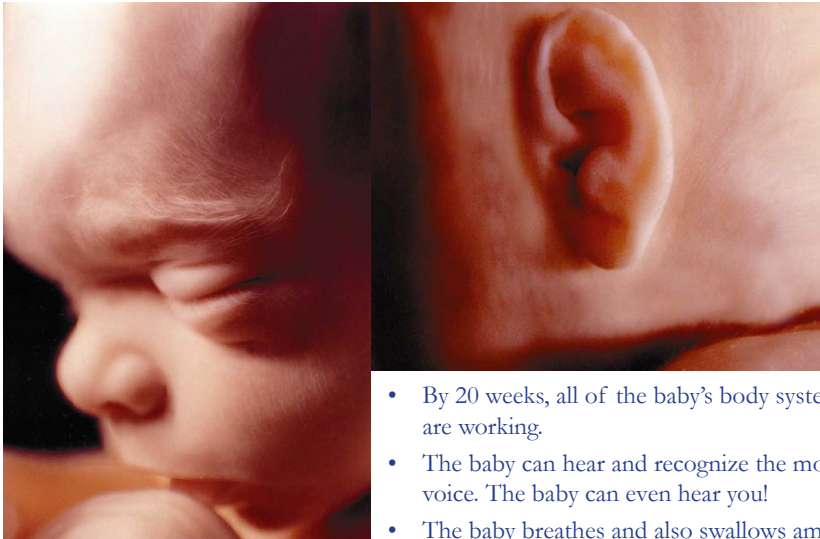
## “Abortion Hurts, Stop the Pain”

Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda ~ Jefferson City, MO  
Registration 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon ~ Lobbying 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Noon Rally with Featured Speaker Abby Johnson

Sponsored by Missouri Right to Life

*Do you hear me?*



20-week unborn babies

- By 20 weeks, all of the baby's body systems are working.
- The baby can hear and recognize the mother's voice. The baby can even hear you!
- The baby breathes and also swallows amniotic fluid.
- The toenails and fingernails are growing.
- An unborn child at 20 weeks is fully able to feel pain.
- Robert J. White, MD., Ph.D. professor of neurosurgery, says, “Without question, [abortion] is a dreadfully painful experience for any infant subjected to such a surgical procedure.”

Missouri Right to Life supports and urges passage of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act to prohibit abortion after 20-weeks gestation. Plan to be at the Capitol to encourage your senator and your representative to support this important legislation.

For more information, please call 573-635-5110 or visit [www.missourilife.org](http://www.missourilife.org).  
Watch our website for a contact list of transportation information for your area.

**WEAR RED FOR LIFE!**

**STAND UP FOR LIFE**  
**STUDENT ACTION DAY**

Information on MRL website, [www.missourilife.org](http://www.missourilife.org)

Featured Speaker

**ABBY JOHNSON**

Planned Parenthood

Director

Turned Pro-Life Advocate

Abby Johnson's life was changed on October 6, 2009.

That was the day she resigned from the largest abortion corporation in the nation after she saw something that forever transformed her. Abby was asked to assist with an ultrasound-guided abortion procedure. On the screen she saw a 13-week-old baby in the womb fight for its life . . . only to lose the battle in the end.

Not knowing where to go, Abby turned to the pro-life group that had been praying outside of her facility for years. She explained the events she had witnessed and swore she would begin to advocate for life in the womb instead of destroying it.

And well she has!

Missouri Right to Life is honored to present Abby at our Pro-Life Action Day Rally.

Following the rally, she will have a book signing of her powerful witness for life, *unPLANNED*. It will be held from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., at Selinger Center, St. Peter's Church, across from the Capitol. Books will be available for purchase. During the book signing, she will also answer informal, one-on-one questions on sidewalk counseling.

An excerpt from Chapter One of Abby Johnson's powerful book which will be available at Pro-Life Action Day

## unPLANNED

### The true story of a former Planned Parenthood director's courageous choice in favor of life.

CHERYL POKED HER HEAD INTO MY OFFICE. “Abby, they need an extra person back in the exam room. Are you free?”

I looked up from my paperwork, surprised. “Sure.”

Though I'd been with Planned Parenthood for eight years, I had never been called into the exam room to help the medical team during an abortion, and I had no idea why I was needed now. Nurse-practitioners were the ones who assisted in abortions, not the other clinic staff. As director of this clinic in Bryan, Texas, I was able to fill in for any position in a pinch, except, of course, for doctors or nurses performing medical procedures. I had, on a few occasions, agreed at a patient's request to stay with her and even hold her hand during the procedure, but only when I'd been the counselor who'd worked with her during intake and counseling. That was not the case today. So why did they need me?

Today's visiting abortionist had been here at the Bryan clinic only two or three times before. He had a private abortion practice about 100 miles away. When I'd talked with him about the job several weeks before, he had explained that at his own facility he did only ultrasound-guided abortions — the abortion procedure with the least risk of complications for the woman. Because this method allows the doctor to see exactly what is going on inside the uterus, there is less chance of perforating the uterine wall, one of the risks of abortion. I respected that about him. The more that could be done to keep women safe and healthy, the better, as far as I was concerned. However, I'd explained to him that this practice wasn't the protocol at our clinic. He understood and said he'd follow our typical procedures, though we agreed he'd be free to use ultrasound if he felt a particular situation warranted it.

To my knowledge, we'd never done ultrasound-guided abortions at our facility. We did abortions only every other Saturday, and the assigned goal from our Planned Parenthood affiliate was to perform 25 to 35 procedures on those days. We liked to wrap them up by around 2 p.m. Our typical procedure took about 10 minutes, but an ultrasound added about five minutes, and when you're trying to schedule up to 35 abortions in a day, those extra minutes add up.

I felt a moment's reluctance outside the exam room. I never liked entering this room during an abortion procedure — never welcomed what happened behind this door. But since we all had to be ready at any time to pitch in and get the job done, I pushed the door open and stepped in.

The patient was already sedated, still conscious but groggy, the doctor's brilliant light beaming down on her. She was in position, the



instruments were laid out neatly on the tray next to the doctor, and the nurse-practitioner was positioning the ultrasound machine next to the operating table.

“I'm going to perform an ultrasound-guided abortion on this patient. I need you to hold the ultrasound probe,” the doctor explained.

As I took the ultrasound probe in hand and adjusted the settings on the machine, I argued with myself, *I don't want to be here. I don't want to take part in an abortion.* No, wrong attitude — I needed to psych myself up for this task. I took a deep breath and tried to tune in to the music from the radio playing softly in the background. *It's a good learning experience — I've never seen an ultrasound-guided abortion before, I told myself. Maybe this will help me when I counsel women. I'll learn firsthand about this safer procedure. Besides, it will be over in just a few minutes.*

I could not have imagined how the next 10 minutes would shake the foundation of my values and change the course of my life.

I had occasionally performed diagnostic ultrasounds for clients before. It was one of the services we offered to confirm pregnancies and estimate how far along they were. The familiarity of preparing for an ultrasound soothed my uneasiness at being in this room. I applied the lubricant to the patient's belly, then maneuvered the ultrasound probe until her uterus was displayed on the screen and adjusted the probe's position to capture the image of the fetus.

I was expecting to see what I had seen in past ultrasounds. Usually, depending on how far along the pregnancy was and how the fetus was turned, I'd first see a leg, or the head, or some partial image of the torso, and would need to maneuver a bit to get the best possible image. But this time, the image was complete. I could see the entire, perfect profile of a baby.

*It looks just like Grace at 12 weeks,* I thought, surprised, remembering my very first peek at my daughter, three years before, snuggled securely inside my womb. The image now before me looked the same, only clearer, sharper. The detail startled me. I could clearly see the profile of the head, both arms, legs, and even tiny fingers and toes. Perfect.

And just that quickly, the flutter of the warm memory of Grace was replaced with a surge of anxiety. *What am I about to see?* My stomach tightened. *I don't want to watch what is about to happen. . . . .*



# Hundreds of thousands assemble against abortion in D.C.

Over 4,000 Missourians  
March for Life





## Meeting, greeting all of your pro-life legislators!



Susan Klein, Legislative Liaison  
Jerry Nieters, Legislative Chair

The 2011 session of the Missouri General Assembly kicked off on January 5<sup>th</sup>, and it has been an exciting time of meeting, greeting, and discussing pro-life issues with numerous new pro-life legislators as well as the returning pro-life incumbents.

Missouri Right to Life's priority goal is to ban abortion after 20 weeks of gestational age when it has been shown that a baby can feel the pain inflicted during an abortion. This bill, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, is similar to a bill successfully passed last year in the Nebraska legislature.

MRL would love to ban abortions outright, but, if we sent a bill banning abortion to the U.S. Supreme Court right now, we know there would not be the votes to uphold it. Thus, it would run the risk of reaffirming Roe vs. Wade and knocking down some of the pro-life legislation that many have worked so hard to pass into law over the last 38 years. We know that a ban on late term abortions stands a chance of being upheld in the courts based on the passage of this type of law in other states. We start where we know we can save lives and move forward from there. We want to make sure that the abortionist is not the deciding factor in whether or not the baby in the womb or outside the womb is viable.

Other bills that we are supporting are HB 28 (Sponsor – Rep. David Sater), to protect a pharmacy from being forced to carry abortifacients; HB 129 (Sponsor – Rep. Jay Barnes), to protect women from being required by the court to have an abortion in order to gain or maintain custody of other natural born children. Other legislation to be filed soon: extending the pregnancy resource tax credits, updating abortion statistic reporting, and pro-life protective language on business incentive bills. The new freshmen legislators have many pro-life ideas, and Missouri Right to Life is working with them to get these ideas into legislative form.

Please remember to attend MRL's Pro-Life Action Day on April 5, 2011. Your encouragement of your senator and your representative to vote pro-life is vitally important. Additionally, your support through prayers and donations to Missouri Right to Life is essential in the days ahead as we work to build relationships with these representatives and senators to move legislation that will save innocent human lives.



**Mildred Tichacek**

**Step right up and receive  
sincere and heartfelt gratitude  
for your 38+ years of service  
to Missouri Right to Life and MRL Eastern Region!  
You are an example to all of a true pro-life warrior.**

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

## You Shop ~ We Earn.



**Couldn't be easier!**



Don't forget that now you can support Missouri Right to Life Education Fund with your Schnucks eScrip card or at 1,000s of your favorite online merchants.

The eScrip program is a simple, automatic way to direct a percentage of your Schnucks purchases to the MRL Ed Fund. For those that have Schnucks in their communities, ask for an eScrip card from any Schnucks store.

*And*

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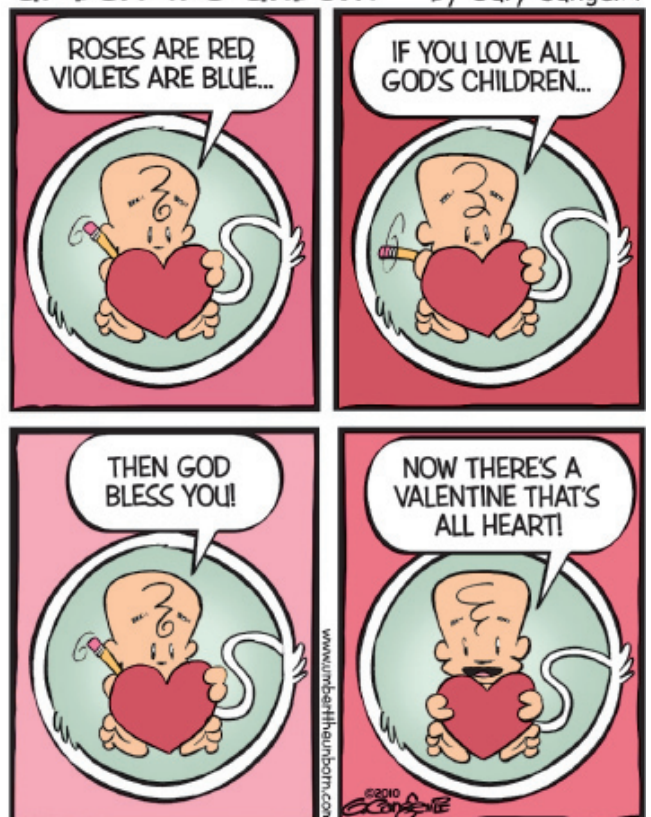
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Simply click on the eScrip Online Mall logo on our website, [www.missourilife.org](http://www.missourilife.org). By shopping at the Online Mall, MRL Ed Fund will earn contributions automatically.

**Shop...for LIFE!**

## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





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**Pro-Life Action Day flyer  
to copy and distribute**

Have you returned your  
membership mailing yet?  
If not, please help support MRL's  
pro-life work by returning it as soon  
as possible -- or, if needed, use the  
envelope in this issue. Thanks!



## 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:*

Patricia L. Deolin  
Kay Gilmour  
Adeline Gramann  
Robert T. Gravlin  
Cason Gene Hampton

John Humm  
Dr. Mildred Jefferson  
Mary Sidebottom

*Given by:*

Charles & Diann Humm  
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Catherine Gravlin  
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Charles & Diann Humm  
Clyde & Peggy Ball  
Donald & Shirley Andrews

*In Honor of:*

Cathy Wombacher

*Given by:*

Paul Rohde

*Missouri Right to Life encourages you to consider a gift  
in memory of or to honor a family member or a friend.*



## Celebrate a lifetime of giving...

... by giving *beyond a lifetime!*  
Invest in your vision – a world  
in which every human life is  
protected and respected.

## Yours is a Legacy of Life and Love

Your decision to enact a planned  
gift to Missouri Right to Life (MRL)  
and/or the MRL Education Fund  
(tax-deductible) reflects your com-  
mitment to grassroots pro-life work  
across Missouri. It is a gift that lives  
on – and saves lives.

For more information or to request  
a confidential consultation, contact:  
Pam Fichter at 573-635-5110.

**“One life,  
a little  
gleam  
between  
two  
eternities.”**

~ Thomas Carlyle