



April/May 2012

## Thousands Rally for Religious Freedom at the Missouri State Capitol

It was a sea of red in the Capitol rotunda and everywhere you looked – even up to the second and third floors - at the Rally for Religious Freedom on Tuesday, March 27!

Rally participants, wearing “Red For Life,” started arriving early and kept coming to the Capitol in a steady stream.

“According to the number of registrations and packets handed out, I would have to put the attendance at 3,000 people or more,” said Patty Skain, Executive Director of Missouri Right to Life.

Religious leaders inspired and energized the large crowd at the noon rally.

Darrin Rodgers, Director of Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, read a statement from the Superintendent of the General Council of Assemblies of God, Dr. George O. Wood. Maggie Karner, Director of Life and Health Ministries for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, eloquently reinforced what we all know to be true, that this is not an issue of women’s rights but of religious liberty.

Dr. John Yeats, Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, moved the crowd with his fiery admonitions to the Obama administration. Calling this “a defining moment in history”, he said, “Those who bow to the god of secularism believe in the preeminence of their faith. So, the goal is to marginalize the people who are devoted to a different faith, especially Christianity. If the one-size-fits-all civil society can crowd the public square with their bully rulings, then non-compliant faith-based institutions will soon become relics.”

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of the St Louis Archdiocese pledged the Catholic Church’s strong response to the challenge and boldly stated that the Catholic Church would not obey. He said, “We will render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar, but we



Photo courtesy of Julie Smith/Jefferson City News Tribune

*Thousands attend the noon gathering, even filling the second- and third-floor mezzanines, at the Rally for Religious Freedom.*

will *not* render unto Caesar what belongs to God!”

“Tuesday’s rally was truly an historic event that inspired all of us to courageously demand our rights as citizens. Our country was founded on the principle of freedom of religion which the Obama administration threatens to fundamentally change. All of the speakers, representing different faith backgrounds, spoke in unity to urge us to stand up and speak out in defense of our faith,” said Pam Fichter, President of Missouri Right to Life.



*Religious leaders from many denominations attend the Rally for Religious Freedom including (left to right) Archbishop Robert Carlson, Bishop Robert Hermann, Bishop John Gaydos, Bishop James Johnston, Dr. John Yeats, Ms. Maggie Karner, and Mr. Darrin Rodgers.*



*Emcee Steve Rupp, Vice President of Missouri Right to Life, kicks things off at the Rally for Religious Freedom at the Missouri State Capitol.*

## Spring 40 Days for Life again saves lives, spares mothers

Across the country, 40 Days for Life participants are praising God for the 576 babies -- and their mothers -- saved from the horror of abortion during this year's spring campaign. Additionally, eight abortion workers have quit their jobs and five abortion sites have closed their doors.

In Missouri, campaigns were held at Planned Parenthood abortion sites in St. Louis and in Columbia, and across the state line at Planned Parenthood in Overland Park, KS.

The Columbia coordinator sent this picture of students from St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City who visited the 40 Days for Life vigil. "The children came to pray," she said, "and pray they did!" Thank you to these courageous young prayer warriors for witnessing for life.

The spring 40 Days For Life ended on April 1. The fall campaign will be held from September 28 - November 6. Mark your calendars to be part of this prayerful witness to clinic patients and employees, and to the entire community, that evil is in our midst and that, with God's help, it will be defeated.



*Students from St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City come to pray at the Columbia MO spring 40 Days For Life*



## Thought You'd Like To Know . . .

### Adult Stem Cells Grow New Heart Blood Vessel

The good adult stem cell successes keep on pouring in. The latest: A little girl with a defective heart is being given a better chance at life. From the *Wall Street Journal* story:

Four-year-old Angela Irizarry was born with a single pumping chamber in her heart, a potentially lethal defect. To fix the problem, Angela is growing a new blood vessel in her body in an experimental treatment that could advance the burgeoning field of regenerative medicine. Doctors at Yale University implanted in Angela's chest in August a bioabsorbable tube that is designed to dissolve over time. The tube was seeded with (adult) cells, including stem cells, that had been harvested from Angela's bone marrow. Since then, the doctors say, the tube has disappeared, leaving in its place a conduit produced by Angela's cells that functions like a normal blood vessel.

"We're making a blood vessel where there wasn't one," says Christopher Breuer, the Yale pediatric surgeon who led the 12-hour procedure to implant the device. "We're inducing regeneration." Angela, who had little stamina before the operation, now has the energy of a regular kid. She is on several medications, but Dr.

Breuer and her parents think she'll be able to start school in the fall. "Embryonic stem cells are the only hope!" That used to be the mantra. But they can't say that anymore, can they? Here's the thing: It was never true.

Secondhand Smoke 3/20/12

### "I tried to kill her" - Florida dad thanks his "lucky stars" abortion wasn't legal in 1964.

Although pro-abortion groups often deride the days before legalized abortion as the "dark ages," a Florida man recently wrote that his greatest blessing came about because he was unable to find a doctor willing to break the law when he was a 19-year-old expectant father.

"I am so thankful the law existed that prevented us from getting that abortion," Gary Hartley of Fort Pierce, Florida, wrote in a letter to TCPalm.com entitled, "Thanking my lucky stars that abortion was illegal in 1964."

Hartley wrote that he and his then-girlfriend believed they were "in no way ready for a settled married life," so they asked a doctor at a local mental hospital for a prescription that would induce a miscarriage. It failed.

"We contacted him again to see if he would perform an abortion. He wouldn't.

It was illegal."

Because of what abortion proponents call "forced birth," the couple and their community were enriched forever.

"Our daughter will turn 47 this month," he wrote. "She's a math and physics teacher, and counselor for at-risk children. She is a marvelous human being who has positively impacted the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of young people, and I tried to kill her."

"There are lots of reasons that a woman may want to have an abortion and they are all valid. The problem is, every time an abortion is performed, somebody dies."

"You can say it's not a child," Healey concluded, "but give her a few months and she'll prove you wrong."

LifeSiteNews 3/26/12

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*From the Executive Director ~*

## **Don't be fooled by the red herring of "contraception"**

**Contraceptives are not the issue. What's at risk is Religious Freedom.**

**T**he media, abortion advocates, and the Obama administration are working very hard to convince the public that the issue concerning the health care mandate is contraception. People of faith know that is not the issue.

Contraception, of course, is a "red herring" because our opponents know that the majority of folks either have no problem with contraceptives or actually support the use and funding of contraceptives because they mistakenly believe that contraceptive use reduces the rate of unplanned pregnancy and abortion. Numerous studies show just the opposite. The pregnancy and abortion rates in communities where contraceptives are readily available are higher than in communities that promote abstinence or where contraceptives are not encouraged so heavily. It is believed that is due to the increased sexual activity it promotes.

Additionally, the other issue is the fact that contraceptives, as defined by the media and the pro-abortion community, include a number of abortifacient devices and drugs. We know that the IUD and the drug "Ella" are strictly abortifacient in nature. They either block the fertilized egg -- a human being in its very first hours of existence -- from reaching the nutrients it needs or destroys those nutrients so they are not available. Other methods that are considered more widely as "contraceptives" are also abortifacients if used at specific times. Plan B, while it is designed to prevent ovulation and therefore conception, in fact does not always (or perhaps even rarely) act in that fashion. If sexual activity and the taking of the "morning after pill" occurs right before, during, or right after ovulation, it likely does not prevent ovulation and, if the woman becomes pregnant from the sexual encounter, induces an early abortion. Birth control pills themselves can also be abortifacient in nature due to the low doses of hormones that they contain. The hormones were reduced several decades ago to prevent problems with blood clots and other side effects. These low doses allow what is called break-through ovulation 20% of the time. If sexual activity occurs at those times, pregnancy can result. If it does, the birth control pill is designed to block nutrients to the new embryonic baby.

Pro-lifers know a red herring is being used to shift the debate from what it really is -- a question of religious freedom guaranteed to all Americans by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. We also know that if the Obama administration succeeds with this, people of faith will not only be penalized for refusing to take part in activities to which they morally object, they will also be forbidden to speak out on a variety of subjects that they object to morally, some involving the life issue, like embryonic stem cell research or assisted suicide, and other subjects such as homosexuality and pornography. One has already been labeled a "hate crime."

Don't be trapped into discussing contraceptives with proponents of this mandate. Contraceptives are not the issue. What's at risk is Religious Freedom.

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."*

*Amendment 1 to the Constitution of the United States - 1791*

*In Respect for Life,  
Patty Skain*



**Patty Skain**



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## Pro-Life Bills Moving in General Assembly – your calls needed!

**Thank you to all who made Pro-Life Action Day and the Religious Liberty Rally a great success! Keep up the great pro-life work that you do in your communities!**

While crowds gathered in the halls and the first floor rotunda on March 27 to protest the attack by the Obama Administration on our religious liberties, the House and Senate worked to pass pro-life bills.

Both gave first round approval to bills which provide protections for the rights of conscience for religiously affiliated health care providers. Additionally, a bill in the House which extends the provisions regarding tax credits for pregnancy resource centers was given first round approval. The bills now move to the opposite chambers for debate.

Other legislation in the process ranges from various forms of conscience clauses, a ban on tele-med/video conferencing abortions, regulation of RU 486, to funding for alternatives to abortion, and protections to prevent funding of abortion services, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

Access the complete list of legislation at <http://missourilife.org/legislation/03232012.htm.org> for bill numbers and descriptions of legislation that Missouri Right to Life is working to pass.

Your interaction with your legislators is very important! Please call your State Representative and your State Senator, and, as legislation could be amended at any time in the process, we suggest that you say, "Please vote for the legislation supported by MRL."

## MOSIRA ruled unconstitutional

On Monday, February 20, Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green ruled The Missouri Science Innovation and Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA), which passed during last year's special session as SB 7, to be unconstitutional. Missouri Right to Life, Missouri Roundtable for Life, and Lawyers for Life had joined in a lawsuit challenging the implementation of MOSIRA.

MOSIRA sets up a stream of funding that could be used for embryonic stem cell research, abortion services, or human cloning. The legislature defeated Missouri Right to Life's attempt to amend the bill by adding protective language. However, the language of the bill specified that it could only be implemented if a companion economic development bill (SB 8), commonly known as the "China Hub" or the "Aerotropolis" bill, also passed during the special session. It was MRL's position that the failure of SB 8 to pass nullified SB 7 and that it could not, therefore, be implemented. The court's ruling supported that position.

Judge Green prohibited Gov. Jay Nixon's administration "from taking any action, including but not limited to the use of public funds, to implement or otherwise effectuate any provision" of the law known as the "Missouri Science Innovation and Reinvestment Act." Judge Green also ordered Nixon, Attorney General Chris Koster and others "to rescind all actions taken to implement or otherwise effectuate any provision of" the law. The state had the right to appeal which Attorney General Koster has done.

## PAC Endorsements on the Horizon

Another election year is upon us -- and this one promises to be of utmost importance to pro-life voters across the country. As Republican candidates vie for the right to oppose the most anti-life president in our country's history, pro-life voters are seeking the best possible information on candidates at every level.

Many have asked Missouri Right to Life why our PAC has not endorsed a candidate in the GOP primary. As an affiliate of National Right to Life, we make no endorsement in this race until they do. They have chosen not to endorse a candidate in the GOP primary and to save their endorsement for the November election. Comparison sheets on the presidential candidates are available at [nrlc.org](http://nrlc.org) and [frcaction.org](http://frcaction.org).

With redistricting in Missouri, it has been challenging to determine the scenario as filing to run for office ended. Missouri Right to Life's Political Action Committee (MRL-PAC) has mailed surveys on our core pro-life issues to candidates. The PAC will be reviewing those surveys, examining candidate voting records for those who have held office, conducting interviews in many

cases, and researching campaign donor history and public statements.

With this information, MRL-PAC will meet in June to make endorsements for the August primary and, where possible, for the November general election. We will publish endorsements in our July newsletter, post this information on our website, and notify members electronically.

MRL-PAC was established as the political arm of MRL with the directive to endorse candidates for political office who, according to its bylaws and criteria, would be the best and most effective voice for life in the office they seek. This requires that it considers the unique dynamics and political realities of each race.

Some things to remember are:

- a candidate who doesn't submit a signed survey is ineligible for endorsement;
- some candidates will also be invited for an interview with MRL-PAC before being considered for endorsement;
- MRL-PAC may be unable to make an endorsement in all races;
- the dynamics of a race play an important

role in the endorsement process;

- a pro-life incumbent for a particular seat is eligible for a single endorsement even if other candidates in the race are also considered by MRL-PAC to be pro-life;
- in races with multiple pro-life candidates and one or more un-endorseable candidates, it may be necessary for MRL-PAC to make a single endorsement of one pro-life candidate in order to avoid splitting the pro-life vote and allowing the pro-abortion candidate to win.

We will give candidates a rating on their position on our issues including those candidates who are not endorsed. These ratings will be listed on MRL-PAC website.

The endorsement process is one of the most important roles for MRL-PAC. It takes the responsibility very seriously. No other pro-life organization tracks every vote on life issues and researches every candidate in an effort to give the most comprehensive information and guidance to the pro-life voters of Missouri.

A complete explanation of our endorsement process is on the website at [www.missourilifepac.org](http://www.missourilifepac.org).

# Memorials

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

In honor of her granddaughter's birthday

Given by *Marlene Scantlin*

In memory of Bernadine Spaunhorst

Given by *East Central Area Missouri Right to Life*

In memory of Kathryn Brookman

Given by *Rita Wich*

In memory of Mary Alice Smith

Given by *Mark & Ann Riti*

In memory of Jake & Margaret Arment

Given by *Sandra Arment*

In memory of Lisa Workman

Given by *Tammy Cossey Trent, CPA & Scott Trent*

In memory of Patricia Shocklee

Given by *Katherine C. Bauer Donna & Ed Dougherty John & Margaret Lord  
Jim & Barb Schuette Joe & Eileen Weyerich Denise J. Hein, R.N.  
Martha Smith Mike & Patty Guignon Darice Kelley Mariann & Rick Wedel*

In memory of Charles Tichacek

Given by *Julia M. Bisesi James & Betty Schulze Frances B. Brown Ed Goedeker  
Kathleen O'Toole Bill & Virginia McMullan Jerry & Kay Jacobsmeyer  
Carol Christy Harold & Judith Schott Mr. & Mrs. David Dew Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bettag  
Jonathan & Rosie Adams Frank & Doris Laube Ms. Jane Knobbe Dorothy Holland  
Allen & Katherine Brillhart Yolanda & Bill McKenney Eugenia Wappelhorst  
John & Janet Minor Helen Claire Schott John & Marge Asbury  
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Wiese Edward & Joan Stolle Jacob & Lesley Whittle  
Susan & David Metherd Walter & Mary Gerau Mrs. Theresa R. Forthman  
Art & Dianne Mees George & Pat Herzing Mr. & Mrs. Frank LaFata  
Lawrence Treinen Doris Callahan & Family Anna Cattaneo Max Kaiser, Jr.  
Mrs. Joyce M. Knobbe Donna Dubinsky Ray & Emily Newsham  
Steven & Angela Juergensmeyer Grace J. Miller Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Cureton & Family  
James Mack David & Marian Stones Henry & Joan Lee Llewellyn  
Tom & Pam Manning John & Sue Dunn Lorraine Sekarski & Family  
Henry & June Nichols Sr. Sara Schnurbusch, FSM Krista Grueninger  
Mark & Sue Schneider Audrey Kohnen Margaret Holmes Celestine Miller  
Ron & Bonnie Hakenewerth Betty Vogler & Family Carole Vogler Gary Vivian  
Connie & Jim Thorpe Carla & Kevin Doherty Our Lady of Sorrows Women's Guild  
Peggy Smith Sue Riley Chris Georgevitch Shirley McDaniels Marie Schiller  
Mary Lou Goettinger Mary Ann Steck Charles & Nicole Gillick  
Mike & Cathy Goedeker Jim & Mary Weiss Luke & Nancy Proctor  
Mary Rasco & Family Garry & Pat Orf Gregory Stocker  
Douglas & Margaret Munsell Missouri Right to Life-Eastern Region  
Dale & Donna Shilharvey Our Lady of Sorrows Men's Sodality  
John & Debbie Borders & Family The Joseph & Sandra Witte Family  
Cleonise Meiburger Katherine C. Bauer Mr. & Mrs. Waltr Hoff Carolyn Cracchiolo*



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



## *A Tribute to Dad on Father's Day*

*This Father's Day be sure you say thank you to your Dad!*

*God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad*

*~ Author Unknown*



*One way to do that is with a Gift of Life donation to Missouri Right to Life Education Fund in honor of your father.*

*He will receive a Father's Day card to let him know of your gift and will be honored in a Father's Day Tribute in the July issue of Missouri Right to Life News.*

*The Father's Day Tribute sign-up form is on our website at:  
<http://missourilife.org/secure/fathersday.html>*

## Every so often . . .

. . . people ask us how to avoid patronizing businesses that support abortion, embryonic stem cell research, or other anti-life activities. One source of information for this is Life Decisions International. The web address for their information is [www.fightpp.org/](http://www.fightpp.org/). Life Decisions International recently released an updated list on which their staff has spent much time to provide accurate information for the discerning public.

## Did You Know?

"Ella" is a selective progesterone receptor modulator (SPRM) available for "emergency contraception (EC)." This class of drug blocks progesterone which is necessary to maintain a pregnancy. It disables the uterine lining which nourishes the fertilized, implanting new human baby. This effectively deprives the brand new human child of oxygen and nutrients, and the child dies. This is abortifacient action.

Ella is chemically related to Mifepristone (RU 486), the "medical abortion" drug that kills the baby by blocking placental function. Ella has the same action: they are both selective progesterone receptor modulators (SPRM).

## Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



**There's still time to send a tribute for your mom!**  
Just go to <http://missourilife.org/secure/mothersday.html>



# What if newborns had no rights?

Colleen Carroll Campbell

It's a provocative question abortion opponents have been asking for years: If it is ethical to kill an unwanted child before birth, why not kill her afterward?

Pro-lifers pose that question rhetorically, as a means of exposing the weakness of pro-choice arguments that devalue the human fetus until the moment she clears the birth canal. But when bioethicists Alberto Giubilini and Francesca Minerva asked it last month in an article for the London-based *Journal of Medical Ethics*, they were not playing rhetorical games. They were making the case for infanticide — or, as the authors dubbed it, “after-birth abortion.”

“We propose to call this practice ‘after-birth abortion’, rather than ‘infanticide,’ to emphasize that the moral status of the individual killed is comparable with that of a fetus (on which ‘abortions’ in the traditional sense are performed) rather than to that of a child,” the authors wrote. “Therefore, we claim that killing a newborn could be ethically permissible in all the circumstances where abortion would be. Such circumstances include cases where the newborn has the potential to have an (at least) acceptable life, but the well-being of the family is at risk.”

To explain their position, the authors began with a premise widely accepted among abortion-rights advocates, one they took to its logical and chilling conclusion.

“Merely being human is not in itself a reason for ascribing someone a right to life,” Giubilini and Minerva said; that right belongs only to “an individual who is capable of attributing to her own existence some (at least) basic value such that being deprived of this existence represents a loss to her.”

Because newborns are no more capable of valuing their own existence than fetuses, they argued, newborns qualify only as “potential persons” whose interests are “always trump[ed]” by those of the “actual persons” such as “parents, siblings, society.”

Giubilini and Minerva were careful to note that while their argument applies to children with conditions such as Down syndrome that were not detected before birth, it also applies to newborns with no abnormalities whose mothers simply realize that raising them will be a “burden.” Don't bother suggesting adoption as an alternative for homicidal new mothers, since a woman who surrenders a newborn she otherwise would have killed “might suffer psychological distress.” And don't try asking these ethicists if they would have minded if their own mothers had chosen to suffocate them when they were squawking, sleepless newborns. The answer is no, Giubilini and Minerva said, because in doing so, their mothers “would have harmed someone who does not exist.”

That philosophical view of unborn and even some newborn children — as essentially non-existent — is not simply the province of a few odd intellectuals spouting off in academic journals. Milder variants of it have found their way into the

political and medical mainstream with real-world consequences. Infant euthanasia already is legal in the Netherlands and common in Belgium. Here in the United States, laws aimed at protecting newborns who survive late-term abortions have been opposed by prominent politicians — including then-state senator Barack Obama of Illinois — on the grounds that the status they accord unwanted infants might undermine abortion rights.

A new outgrowth of this view is the trend toward “wrongful birth” lawsuits, in which parents of disabled or developmentally challenged infants sue doctors and hospitals that fail to detect their children's imperfections before birth, when those children legally could have been destroyed. Just last week, an Oregon jury awarded \$2.9 million to Ariel and Deborah Levy, parents who sued Legacy Health System after their daughter was born with Down syndrome despite a prenatal test that showed no abnormalities. The couple said the hospital system should shoulder the lifetime financial burden for their daughter's care, since the Levys would have aborted her if they had known of her condition.

Such lawsuits rile parents like Leticia Velasquez. The mother of a child with Down syndrome and a cofounder of Keep Infants with Down Syndrome, a group that aims to reduce the nearly 90 percent abortion rate of infants diagnosed prenatally

with the condition, Velasquez recently published a book on the subject. “A Special Mother Is Born” tells the stories of 33 parents whose joyful experiences parenting special-needs children challenge the depersonalizing logic exemplified in the Giubilini and Minerva article and Levy lawsuit.

“It cuts me to the quick when parents seek damages for the ‘wrongful life’ of their own child,” Velasquez answered, when I asked for her take on the Levy verdict and the larger trend toward devaluing unwanted or “imperfect” infants. “It makes me angry for [the daughter] and at the parents who did not love her enough to either appreciate her unique gifts or give her up for adoption. There are over 200 parents in America waiting to adopt children with Down syndrome.”

The anger sparked by the Levy verdict makes sense, as does the outrage that Giubilini and Minerva provoked with their infanticide defense. It is outrage that even some abortion-rights supporters share. Still, the question remains: What, exactly, is the moral basis for the distinctions we draw in such cases, saying that the Levys had the right to kill their daughter before birth but not after? And is that basis strong enough to justify the million-plus legal abortions that occur in America every year?

Colleen Carroll Campbell is a St. Louis-based author, former presidential speechwriter, and television and radio host of “Faith & Culture” on EWTN. Her website is [www.colleen-campbell.com](http://www.colleen-campbell.com). Originally published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on March 15, 2012.

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## Inside ~

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Some of the very large crowd of pro-lifers arriving for the Rally for Religious Freedom on March 27 at the Missouri State Capitol. More pictures and coverage on the front page.

**Missouri Right to  
Life counts on you  
to see us through!**

**Please use the enclosed  
envelope to send your gift  
to continue your generous  
support for *Life*!**

**Thank you!**