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As we celebrate this Holy Season, as we begin a new year, we pause to thank you for your many gifts and your invaluable support for Missouri Right to Life's mission. We are all family working together to restore respect for the sanctity of life!

Thought you'd like to know...



Pope Francis: Abortion “cries out in vengeance to God”; Church will never change teaching

In a high level teaching document released November 26, Pope Francis has firmly responded to those who have expressed hope that the Catholic Church may one day change its teachings on abortion, writing, “the Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question.”

“I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or ‘modernizations,’” he added.

Entitled “*Evangelii Gaudium*” (The Joy of the Gospel), the Apostolic Exhortation noted, “Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us.”

He lamented that, “Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this.”

“Frequently, as a way of ridiculing the Church’s effort to defend their lives, attempts are made to present her position as ideological, obscurantist, and conservative. Yet this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right.”

“It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development,” he said. “Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would

always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.”

The document marks the pope’s most in-depth discussion of abortion since his election.

In previous remarks in September, the pope had condemned abortion as a manifestation of a “throwaway culture.”

“Every unborn child, though unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of the Lord, who even before his birth, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world,” the pope said at the time.

LifeSiteNews 11/26/13

Once-Paralyzed Man Given New Lease on Life Thanks to Adult Stem Cells

Here is the latest in the many stories we’ve carried about the remarkable improvements in patients who have been treated not with embryonic stem cells (there have been no such improvements) but with ethically unobjectionable adult stem cells which are obtained from bone marrow, blood, fat tissue, umbilical cord blood, and other tissues after birth.

Fox 5 in Baltimore reported the story of Shawn, a 42-year-old Utah man who woke up 15 years ago with transverse myelitis, an autoimmune disease that causes the nerve ending to the spinal cord to deteriorate.

Within just over a year, he was paralyzed from the chest down and told by five doctors he’d never walk again. The reporter writes as if scientists had just discovered how powerfully adult stem cells can work in humans. In fact over 60,000 people are helped worldwide every year.

The good news for Shawn is that six years ago stem cells were taken from his own bone marrow and placed in the diseased areas.

According to Fox 5, “Today he’s able to walk up to a half mile on the treadmill – a huge achievement considering just a few years ago the only thing he could do was wiggle his big toe a quarter of an inch. Though he still uses a wheelchair for longer distances, he now works full time at Home Depot and has even started his own lupus foundation. He’s currently working on writing a book about his journey.

‘I want to thrive,’ Shawn said. ‘I want to live, I want to experience, I want to have and enjoy my life.’”

Asked to comment, stem cell expert Dr. David Prentice told NRL News Today, “Besides treatments for spinal cord injury, cancers and anemias, adult stem cells are now showing success at treating heart damage, multiple sclerosis, juvenile diabetes, and dozens of other diseases.”

Prentice added, “And by the way, adult stem cells also have the only reported case of successful treatment of a Parkinson’s patient documented in the scientific literature.”

NRL News Today 10/17/13

Retired Pastor Norm Stone, 66, Walking for Life

Pastor Norm Stone has begun an 8,000 mile walk around the continental United States, calling our nation to regain its moral compass by restoring the rights of the unborn and renewing its belief in a loving God.

Norm started walking in 1985 as a pilgrimage for the unborn. Jerry Horn, now with Priests for Life, accompanied Norm on that first walk, at the conclusion of which the “Petition For Life,” with nearly three million signatures, was presented to then-President Ronald Reagan. That walk led to six others which concluded in 2003, covering every state and over 24,000 miles.

His new walk began in Spokane, WA, in July 2013 and will go west through Portland, then to southern California, then east along the southern states towards Florida, then north to Maine, then west back to Washington state. He anticipates his eighth walk will take approximately five years.

To follow Pastor Stone’s incredible prayer trek, go to www.circlethenation.com.

Priests For Life News Nov-Dec 2013

Missouri Right to Life News

P. O. Box 651

Jefferson City MO 65102

Pam Manning, Editor

Contact MRL at 573-635-5110 or

www.missourilife.org



From the President ~

With Gratitude ...

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers ..."

Ephesians 1:16

A Thanksgiving tradition for many families gathering around their tables is to take turns sharing one thing for which each person is thankful. We've never done that with my group of comedians because I know that they would be more inclined to do a 10-minute stand-up comedy routine rather than share a sincere expression of gratitude for something specific. Another reason my family would balk at such an exercise is that I tend to get very sentimental and would get weepy and choked up and would go on and on until I had everyone reaching for a Kleenex. Yet I know that each of their hearts is full of gratitude for the many blessings in their lives.

The most important way of expressing our gratitude is not just what we say out loud, but also the gratitude we hold in our hearts. And that's what I wish to share with you: a deep and sincere gratitude for the many sacrifices and gifts from you, our members.

I'm very blessed that the Missouri Right to Life State Board recently elected me to serve another year as president of MRL. Even though I know there will continue to be challenges every day, I'm grateful for each and every one of you who helps in our efforts and helps MRL fulfill our special mission.

Above all, I am grateful to God who has inspired you to volunteer your time, contribute financially to our work, and support us in prayer. God is the author of all life, and it is to Him that we dedicate our work and give thanks for His many blessings.

May God bless you and your families during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

"Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ..."

Ephesians 5:20

*Blessings,
Pam Fichter*



Pam Fichter



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 and/or our Education Fund (tax-deductible) through your will, trust, or an annuity reflects your commitment to pro-life work across Missouri. It is a gift that lives on – and saves lives.

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

~ Thomas Carlyle

For information or to request a confidential consultation, contact Bill Zobrist, Director of Development, at 573-635-5110 or by email at bill.z@missourilife.org.

Memorials

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

In memory of Marlene Altemueller
Given by East Central Area Chapter

In memory of Harold Boltinghouse
Given by Mary Wilt

In memory of Dale Duncan
Given by Donna Duncan

In memory of Robert Schaefer
Given by Shirley Bertin

In memory of Tony Simon
Given by Teresa Simon



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

Problems at St. Louis Planned Parenthood

Over the last 4 years it has been reported that more than 23 ambulances have been called to the St. Louis Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. An inspection report issued by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, after a January 2013 inspection, details 14 pages of violations at the abortion clinic. Although Planned Parenthood claims to have taken corrective action on these violations, the ambulances keep coming.

Following are some of the violations cited in the January 2013 inspection. Imagine the kind of care a woman receives with these violations and you will have no doubt as to why ambulances are a normal sight at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood abortion clinic:

- Violations of infection prevention protocols
- Rusty surgical tables, suction abortion machines, IV stands, and other equipment
- “Copious amounts of dust” in surgical rooms and on equipment
- Retained left-over drugs that were to be destroyed after a single use
- Expired drugs
- Expired postpartum balloons used to reduce hemorrhage after abortion

When you put these facility violations with the following cited deficiencies in medical training, you will see why ambulances are still a normal sight at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood abortion clinic:

- Lack of appropriate drug-handling policies
- Hiring individuals without performing a mandated search of the Employee Disqualification List

Missouri Right to Life calls upon our Missouri Legislators to protect women by passing legislation requiring greater oversight and accountability for abortion procedures. Missouri women deserve better than dirty clinics and untrained staff.

Missouri Right to Life’s Legislative team is working to finalize the main legislation for the 2014 session. Priorities include increasing oversight and accountability on abortion clinic inspections. With the numerous incidents of ambulances being called to St. Louis Planned Parenthood (see related article), it is important that regulation at this site be intensified.

MRL will also be working on the Medicaid transformation legislation; and as always, watching economic development proposals to ensure that they have pro-life protections. Continued funding for alternatives to abortion programs and pregnancy resource center tax credits are also priorities.

On a related issue, MRL became involved with a proposed Jackson County (Kansas City area) tax increase. Opposition to the initiative resulted from learning that the \$800 million estimated to be raised would have no prohibitions in the language of the proposal to prevent any of that vast sum from being used for cloning or embryonic stem cell research. In addition, the money to be raised would be controlled by a new “institute” that would include members from the pro-cloning Kansas City Life Sciences Institute. Fortunately, our efforts – and that of several other groups – resulted in an overwhelming defeat of this proposal. Hopefully, the size of the defeat of this proposal will discourage similar efforts in other parts of the state.



Supreme Court agrees to hear two lawsuits against Obama mandate

Mandate compels employers to provide health coverage for drugs and procedures to which they have moral or religious objections

By Dave Andrusko, National Right to Life

As widely anticipated, the Supreme Court this morning (November 26) agreed to hear two lawsuits challenging the HHS mandate which compels employers to provide health coverage for drugs and procedures to which they have moral or religious objections.

Plaintiffs had prevailed in one case -- Hobby Lobby — and lost in a second — Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. There are other similar cases but the justices did not announce whether they will hear them at this time.

First legal challenge to ObamaCare to reach Supreme Court

This represents the first legal challenge to ObamaCare to reach the Supreme Court since it upheld the law's "individual mandate" 17 months ago. Early speculation is that oral arguments in *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* and *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Sebelius* will be held in March with a possible ruling by late June.

Because there was a split among circuit courts and because the Obama Administration in September asked the justices to hear the Hobby Lobby case, it was widely assumed the justices would hear at least some of the lawsuits against the mandate. (The HHS mandate are regulations adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services under a provision of ObamaCare, formally known as the "Affordable Care Act.")

The core arguments are that the mandate violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment's free exercise of religion clause.

"My family and I are encouraged that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide our case," said David Green, Hobby Lobby's founder and CEO. "This legal challenge has always remained about one thing and one thing only: the right of our family businesses to live out our sincere and deeply held religious convictions as guaranteed by the law and the

Constitution. Business owners should not have to choose between violating their faith and violating the law."

"The cases will decide who gets to exercise religion -- it's really that simple."

"This is a major step for the Greens and their family businesses in an important fight for Americans' religious liberty," said Kyle Duncan, general counsel of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and lead lawyer for Hobby Lobby. "The cases will decide who gets to exercise religion — it's really that simple," Duncan told POLITICO. "The idea that the protection of religious liberty is confined to only certain pursuits ... from our perspective, that's disturbing."

In July, U.S. District Judge Joe Heaton granted the company a preliminary injunction against the HHS mandate. Prior to that the full 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also ruled in favor of Hobby Lobby, which employs

more than 13,000 full-time workers.

As noted on the day prior to the Supreme Court agreement, Adam Liptak (writing for the New York Times) explained how the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals applied "the First Amendment logic of [the 2010 case of] *Citizens United*" in ruling for Hobby Lobby.

"We see no reason the Supreme Court would recognize constitutional protection for a corporation's political expression but not its religious expression," Judge Timothy M. Tymkovich wrote for the majority.

The potential penalties for non-compliance with the mandates are staggering. "[L]arger for-profit corporations must comply or face fines of \$100 per day per employee, which could total \$475 million a year in Hobby Lobby's case," CNN reported today. "An alternative — dropping employee health insurance altogether — would cost \$26 million in annual penalties.

Senator Blunt's Response To Supreme Court's Decision To Take Up HHS Mandate



Senator Roy Blunt

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) released the following statement on November 26 in response to the Supreme Court's decision on that date to take up the controversial Health and Human Services' (HHS) health care mandate, which violates Americans' religious freedoms:

"By failing to protect religious freedom, the Senate guaranteed that the courts would have to act. I'm pleased the Supreme Court has decided to hear this important case. The HHS mandate is an enormous government overreach, and it violates Americans' constitutional rights.

Employers should not be forced to choose between giving up their business for their faith or giving up their faith for their business."

The Supreme Court decision comes after new polling showed 59% of Americans oppose the mandate requiring religious individuals, faith-based institutions, and businesses cover services that violate their deeply-held religious beliefs.

“I am only one, but still I am one.

I cannot do everything, but still I can do something ...”



Members of MRL's Johnson County Right to Life participate in the Life Chain for the Unborn gathering at Bethel Baptist Church, Sunday, October 6th. Special thanks to Julie White for spreading the word about Life Chain on the Bott Radio Network. Thank you, Pastor Richard Ricard, for allowing the Church grounds to be the site for Life Chain. And thank you all for your witness for Life!



The MRL-Eastern Region “old timers” -- a group representing 1000s of volunteer hours for MRL -- at their annual luncheon. Front row, l-r, Marcia Buterin, Pat Hanley, Mary Kempf, Loretto Wagner, and Kitty Bauer. Back row, l-r, Valerie Volk, Mary Beth Bettag, Susan Metherd, June Nichols, Dorothy Sutter, Jeanne Meredith, Barb Hackett, Ron Meredith, Jerry Buterin, Jan Boyle, Pam Manning, and Judy Cassily.



Sedalia Chapter members, l-r, Louise Rouchka and Bonnie Diefendorf at the chapter's pro-life display at State Fair Community College.



... to **Mary Ernstmann**, the retiring office manager for MRL Western Region. Bravo, Mary, for a job well done!

... to **Bill Gegg**, outgoing East Central Area Chapter-MRL chairman, and to new chairman **Dan Schwartz**. Many hours, much passion for life!

... **Shirley Maune**, East Central Area Chapter “Years of Service” Award Recipient -- and a prime example of a dedicated pro-lifer!

... to **Tom Fitzpatrick**, outgoing Johnson County Chapter-MRL chairman, and to new chairman **Michael McCormick**. Splendid job, Tom -- and Michael will do a great job keeping the pro-life message alive in Johnson County!



Warrenton Chapter-MRL celebrates their first anniversary at their November meeting. Congratulations! Keep up the good work for Life! Chapter Chairman Diane Foland is at the far right of the gathering.



Bill Gegg, Shirley Maune, and Dan Schwartz (l-r) at the October East Central Area Chapter's Pro-Life Banquet. St. Louis Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Robert Hermann was the banquet's keynote speaker.

Pro-Life Across Missouri

save date

Jan. 22, 2014 **March for Life, Washington, DC**

March 11, 2014 **MRL Pro-Life Action Day and Youth Workshop, Jefferson City -**
Complete information in the next *MRL News* and online at missourilife.org

Missouri Right to Life t-shirts and polo shirts are now available -- particularly appropriate for Pro-Life Action Day! Visit missourilife.org for information.



Missouri Right to Life has a billboard on Highway 19, twelve miles south of Hermann at Swiss. It's always important to remind folks to *Vote Pro-Life*! The next election cycle will be here before we know it!



For many years, MRL-Eastern Region's South County Chapter has fulfilled the mission of educating on pro-life issues through its billboard project. This is the most recent billboard, located on Highway 55 just south of Reavis Barracks Rd. It moves about every three months, but is always in the vicinity of the I-55/I-270 corridor. It is supported by approximately 100 members of the South County billboard club and by proceeds from Christmas card sales at 30 local churches.

Wise Pro-Life Giving

Concern has been raised by a Missouri Right to Life member about the legitimacy of some groups soliciting donations from pro-life people. This concern is well founded. In any social or political activist movement, there are those who see "godliness as a means of gain."

Keep in mind that there are many sincere, dedicated pro-life organizations. Missouri Right to Life and National Right to Life are, of course, two. And MRL has many sister organizations that meet needs and fill niches of service.

Yet there are some whose motives may be questioned.

MRL's member related receiving several calls from a supposed pro-life group of which he was very skeptical. While MRL cannot publish a list of questionable organizations, we do have some suggestions to determine the legitimacy of any such group.

A good rule of thumb is to do some investigating. As our member discovered, an internet search revealed red flags. When you receive calls from a group with whom you are unfamiliar, ask about their mission and for a financial statement telling you how past donations were spent. While this requires work and time on their part, any legitimate group will comply. They have nothing to hide!

MRL's desire is to see that your donations go to the cause for which you intend. There is much work to be done and many good organizations doing it.



41st Annual National March for Life

Join Missouri pro-lifers and thousands from across the nation for this huge pro-life gathering in the nation's capital marking the anniversary of the tragic *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the U. S.

St. Louis Missouri Life Caravan - Jan. 21 - 23, 2014 (Tues -Thurs).

Departs from several locations in St. Louis city and county, Jefferson county, and St. Charles county. Reservation must be received by Jan. 5, 2014! For information, contact MRL-Eastern Region, 314-434-4900, or email LifeCaravan@missourilife.org

Voice For Life Pilgrimage - Jan. 20 - 23, 2014, sponsored by the Springfield/Cape Girardeau Diocese. Departure points in Springfield, across the diocese, then in Cape Girardeau. (NOTE: deposit due for this trip is/was Dec. 16. For information on possible space available, contact Kathleen at 573-334-7298 or 573-986-3320(cell), or email kkeesee@charter.net.

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DON'T FORGET!

PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY

MISSOURI CAPITOL

TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH

*Missouri Right to Life wishes
a Joyful Christmas
and God's many blessings
in the New Year to you
and to all of your little angels!*

