



Pro-Life Candidates Prevail Across Missouri and the Nation

Missouri Right to Life Political Action Committee depends on the work of volunteers across the state. You are Missouri Right to Life PAC! The many successes in this year's elections wouldn't have happened without you. Thank you for your efforts this election season!

Missouri Right to Life PAC, Missouri's most active and successful social policy political action committee, congratulates the pro-life candidates who ran and won their elections on November 4th. MRL PAC proudly stands alongside these principled Missourians who support the protection of innocent human life from conception to natural death.

MRL PAC endorsed candidates in a total of 125 races statewide. In these races, MRL PAC supported the winning candidate in 112 of those contests, making our success rate 89+% in all races in which we were involved.

Although there were a few disappointments, MRL PAC is grateful that not one MRL PAC-endorsed incumbent lost their seat. Several anti-life candidates, including some incumbents, lost to pro-life, MRL PAC endorsees.

In Missouri, there is much to be accomplished to fortify the pro-life advances of the last several years. In Congress, our pro-life delegation will be challenged more than ever to stand for life in the face of a stridently anti-life President Obama.

Missouri has one of the largest pro-life legislative majorities in the nation. Pro-life voters will look to those who won to fight valiantly for life in Missouri and in Washington. Let us pray and work as we encourage the continued successful efforts for life.

National Right to Life Report

A post-election poll of voters conducted by The Polling Company/WomanTrend, found that the issue of abortion once again played a key role in the elections and that National Right to Life and its state affiliates were key to getting out the pro-life vote.

*Thank you for your efforts this election season!
You made a difference for LIFE!*

Missouri Right to Life
Political Action Committee got out the **Pro-Life** vote for **Success across Missouri!**

89+%	112 of 125 endorsed pro-life candidates won their races
85+%	6 of 7 endorsed pro-life candidates for the U.S. Congress won their races
84%	In MO House races between a MRL PAC-endorsed candidate and one with an anti-life or unknown position, the MRL PAC endorsee won

Let's get out the Pro-Life vote for Victory Across America!

3.3 Million +

identified pro-life, registered voter households contacted

1.3 Million

pieces of literature hand-distributed by local grassroots volunteers

1.5 Million +

radio ads aired on over 12,000 stations in key states and districts in Spanish and English

33,000

pro-life households called reminding them to vote for the pro-life candidate

Twenty-three percent said that the abortion issue affected their vote and voted for candidates who oppose abortion. This compares to just 16% who said abortion affected their vote and voted for candidates who favor abortion, yielding a 7% advantage for pro-life candidates.

The poll of 806 actual voters was conducted November 4, 2014, and has a margin of error of +/-3.5%.

These poll results help explain the victories experienced by the right-to-life movement in the general election. National Right to Life's political committees were actively involved in 74 races. In those races, 53 (72%) pro-life candidates prevailed.



LIFE in the News

Two Kansas City area businesses win against Obamacare mandate

Two Missouri businesses are claiming victory over the Obama administration's contraception and abortion drug mandate.

In the Nov. 12th decision that has been expected since the Supreme Court ruled against the administration in *Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby*, U.S. District Judge Ortrie Smith said that Reed Automotive Inc. and Sioux Chief Manufacturing Co. (both based in the Kansas City metro area) did not have to follow the mandate's requirements.

In the *Hobby Lobby* case, the Supreme Court ruled that closely-held for-profit corporations may refuse to follow the mandate under the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The Court noted that the mandate was a more restrictive method of accomplishing the government's goal of providing contraceptive and abortifacient access -- as well as sterilization insurance coverage -- than was necessary.

"It's always great when you can score a win for religious liberty, especially when you have an attempt to force these owners of companies that have sincere religious convictions to violate those convictions under threat of severe penalties," said Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Kevin H. Theriot, who represented the businesses.

Smith's ruling came days after he overturned Missouri's marriage amendment, saying it was unconstitutional. His latest decision joins the vast majority of rulings related to the mandate. According to a count by the law firm The Becket Fund, 103 lawsuits have seen 11 rulings in favor of the mandate and 75 against.

LifeSiteNews -
Dustin Siggins 11/15/14

Courageous teen with terminal brain cancer awarded with her own Wheaties box

No one would be surprised by the outpouring of "high fives" and tears for 19-year-old college freshman Lauren Hill. Hill, a freshman at Mount St. Joseph University, is gamely battling terminal brain cancer which she refused to allow to stop her from fulfilling one of her bucket list items: playing in a college basketball game.

It's no big deal in the cosmic scheme of things, but Hill is now featured on her own Wheaties' box. But, on the other hand, that puts her in some very rarified company and is yet another signal just how her courage has struck such a responsive chord.

... At half-time (of the game in which Lauren played), legendary women's basketball coach Pat Summitt presented the Pat Summitt Most Courageous Award to Lauren.

Summit, the epitome of courage in her own way, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2011. "She yielded the floor to one of her former players, Tamika Catchings, to present Lauren with the award," according to Paul Daugherty of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

As a high school senior, Lauren was diagnosed with a very deadly form of brain cancer -- Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) -- which is inoperable. She underwent nearly a year of chemotherapy and radiation. In September doctors told her she had months to live, her brain tumor the size of a lemon. But this young woman is nothing if not determined.

Her school convinced its opponent, Hiram College, to move the game forward to accommodate her declining

health. Here's Daugherty's portrait of what happened:

In the pregame layup line, Lauren's teammates shot with their non-dominant hands, in tribute to Lauren, whose cancer has affected her right side and thus her own dominant shooting hand.

Lauren heard her name announced as part of the starting lineup. Fifteen seconds into the game, she crossed the lane from right to left, took a pass and made a left-handed layup. Mount coach Dan Benjamin called time out. His girls mobbed Lauren at center court.

"The look on her face was priceless," Hiram College coach Emily Hays said. "She had that big smile. I'm like, 'That's why we're here.' It's more emotional now than it was even at the game. It kind of hits you even more when you're looking back at it."

Hill came back into the game in the closing seconds to score another basket in her team's 66-55 win. Standing at center court, Hill said, "Today has been the best day I've ever had." Daugherty, who was there, wrote:

She cried then, we all did, but just for a second. It could have been a day for tears, buzzer to buzzer, but crying would have missed the point. Besides, that's not Lauren's style, either.

She came to a news conference after the game, unassuming and a little overwhelmed but no less eloquent. She was poetic, in fact:

"It was so thrilling," she decided, "to feel the roar of the crowd and the vibration of the floor boards. I just feel so blessed."

Daugherty's conclusion was perfect:

Lauren Hill will tell you she lived her dream Sunday. Lauren knows the wisdom of living fully in the moment, and she has the poise to actually pull it off. She wants you to know it, too.

NRLC News Today -
Dave Andrusko 11/06/14



From the President ~

Passing the Torch

"He who saves a single soul, saves the world entire"

The Jewish Inscription on Oskar Schindler's ring given to him by the Jews at Brunnlitz

When the infamous 1973 Roe v. Wade decision was handed down, I sought a way to make a difference for life. The greatest opportunity to do that has been the privilege of serving as President of Missouri Right to Life for the past eleven years. During that time, I have been blessed to play a small role in the passage of many pro-life bills including increased oversight of abortion clinics, a ban on late-term abortions and web cam abortions, and an extension of the required reflection period to 72 hours. Through the work of the MRL PAC, I have tried to help in building one of the largest pro-life majorities in any state legislature.

I have heard first-hand from many people across the state of their respect for the mission and the work of Missouri Right to Life. As President of the only Missouri affiliate of National Right to Life, I have had the opportunity to participate in their life-saving work at the federal level. All of these great privileges and blessings for me have been because of Missouri Right to Life.

I thank the board for giving me this opportunity, and I thank our dedicated staff for their tireless work. Any success that I had in my role was only because of the support of these wonderful people. I thank the regional boards, the chapter leaders, and the thousands of members of Missouri Right to Life for sharing this journey with me.

With a grateful heart and my very best wishes, I pass the torch of leading MRL to my very dear friend, Steve Rupp. Steve has been part of the pro-life battle for many years serving as Vice-President of MRL, Chairman of the Eastern Region and St. Louis Chapter, bus captain of the Missouri Life Caravan, and in many other pro-life endeavors. I know that Steve's leadership will bring many blessings to MRL.

Therese Sander, former state legislator and long-time board member of MRL, will serve as Vice-President. Her experience in the legislature and commitment to MRL's mission gives her unique insight into our legislative efforts. She will be a great support and resource for Legislative Liaison Susan Klein and Legislative Director Jerry Nieters in our work in the Capitol.

I will always support the work of MRL and know that new opportunities to make a difference for life are ahead of me. A new generation of pro-life Fichters is in the wings! Tom and I will be taking our oldest grandchild to Washington in January for her first March for Life. I pray that this new generation will be the last generation to fight this battle.

Whenever the holocaust of abortion comes to an end, as it surely will, I know that Missouri Right to Life will play a role in that victory. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting me share in this great work.



Pam Fichter

*Wishing You a Joyous & Blessed Christmas,
Pam. Fichter*

Abortion Clinic Worker Quits After Seeing Aborted Babies, “They Were The Faces of God’s Children”

~ by Steven Ertelt

In a tiny room with a “Biohazard” sign on the door I met God. In tiny little petri dishes, neatly displayed with a patient name sprawled on each label . . . were the tiny little faces of God’s children.

The pro-life movement is blessed to have quite a number of former abortion practitioners, abortion clinic operators, and abortion facility staff who are now passionately pro-life. They are some of the leading figures talking about the horrors of what goes on in abortion clinics — where unborn babies and women are both violated by abortions.

In many cases, what led them to exit the abortion industry was a confrontation with abortion itself and a final awakening of their senses that they were involved in the sad and tragic destruction of human life.

On her Facebook page, Abby Johnson shares the story of an abortion worker who called it quits on August 8th. She was concerned about quitting because of the adverse financial impact it would have on her family. After all, the abortion industry and jobs in it are lucrative.

Here is her story:

“I left the abortion clinic I worked at August 8th. My husband and I were in no shape financially for me to leave, and there were many great perks that came with my job there. I had excellent pay, health and life insurance that were no cost to me, three weeks of paid vacation annually, tuition reimbursement, and a 401k that they would match dollar for dollar to what I contributed.

Every morning as I walked in, I would hear a kind voice outside the fence, a bit distanced from the shouting crowd, that would offer to help me find a new job. I usually ignored it. I sat behind bullet proof glass every day and watched the sad, hardened faces of so many women walk up the steps to the clinic and walk out drugged, teary eyed, and heartbroken.

I was set up to start training in the pathology lab in the coming weeks and I was scheduled one day just to “sit in” and

see what happens in there.

In a tiny room with a “Biohazard” sign on the door I met God. In tiny little petri dishes, neatly displayed with a patient’s name sprawled on each label with the giant letters POC printed on them were the tiny little faces of God’s children. Some of them weren’t recognizably human but most of them clearly were. There I sat face to face with about twenty people. Twenty people who you couldn’t see walk through the door, twenty people who didn’t get to plead their case in the counseling room, twenty people whose little hearts were barely able to beat, twenty people who didn’t get a choice, twenty people who would be tossed in a freezer at the end of the day to wait and be carted off to a burn site as medical waste. Medical Waste or Product of Conception were the only names these people would ever be given.

I left work that day with such a heavy sorrow in my heart. I have never felt those type of intense emotions before. I prayed to God that night to show me a way out. I shamefully went into work the next morning, and I heard the kind voice outside the fence again. But everything was different that day. I decided when I left I was going to reach out to these people and I wasn’t going to remain a part of this.”

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Missouri Right to Life News

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www.missourilife.org

National Right to Life Affiliate

Missouri Right to Life Education Fund

Your gifts making a difference!

Missouri Right to Life Education Fund provides support to Missouri Right to Life for educational activities and with our legislators (within the legal boundaries of a 501(c)(3) organization). Your gift of any amount will enable the Education Fund to continue its commitment to life!

Missouri Right to Life Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization approved by the IRS. Donations are tax-deductible. Gifts may be returned in the enclosed envelope.



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Suicide is not “Dignity” -- it is Suicide

~ by Wesley J. Smith

Beware movements that word engineer and deploy gooey euphemisms to further their agenda. It generally means there is something very wrong with the agenda.

In the wake of Brittany Maynard’s death, suicide promoters are now using the word “dignity” as a synonym for suicide, more than implying that dying naturally is not dignity.

That is not only cruel, it is wrong.

Dignity is intrinsic. Sick and dying people, seeking to be assured they still have it, look at us – our faces – like mirrors. If they see us thinking they are less than they once were, it can be devastating.

In the *Guardian*, Brian Smith – obviously no relation – says his father should have been able to commit “dignity” rather than die of old age and the effects of post-polio syndrome.

From, “What Do You Tell Your Father When He’s Ready to Die?”

But over time, his body began to break down, and breathing became labored. The polio had come back, this time in the form of post-polio syndrome, which weakens muscles that were affected the first time around. Dad’s ailment would slowly strip him of his independence, his ability to move and, eventually, his ability to breathe. If this was death’s door, he was rapping it with what knuckles he could. His decline would last nearly a decade before his doctors gave up on treatments and assigned visits from hospice nurses.

For my father’s disease, there is no cure.

But there is always care – and love – which the Smith family apparently gave dad in bounteous quantities. Good.

But Mr. Smith continued to decline:

As his days devolved into a drudgery of pills, bad daytime TV, and constant reliance on a breathing machine, Dad told us he was ready to die. “I’m done,” my father said. But choosing to die, or even assisting someone who wants to die, is a felony in California. Our options to humanely end the suffering were limited.

Self-starvation and dehydration remain the only legal ways to

Saying, “I’m done,” isn’t the same thing as saying, “I want to commit suicide!”

help someone choose when they die in the state. But few of us can muster the strength to starve to death, and caretakers – including Medicare-supported hospice nurses – are not in the business of starving people.

Saying, “I’m done,” isn’t the same thing as saying, “I want to commit suicide!” Yet, that is what Smith wished for his father. Indeed, Smith never writes that his father asked to be killed.

I have been there. When my dad was dying of colon cancer, a moment came when he was sitting on his bed and we were talking. He suddenly looked up at me and sighed deeply with an expression that said, “I’m done,” more loudly than if he had uttered the words.

That wasn’t the same thing as saying, “Kill me.” Dad wasn’t saying, “Get me

the poison pills.” He was saying, “I am done fighting.”

We moved to hospice mode, and he died a few months later – with true dignity. He did not commit suicide.

As the column notes, people can make themselves dead if they really want to. Do we really want to make suicide easier?

And note the consequences of accepting the destructive meme that suicide is dignity. One commenter takes Smith’s advocacy to its logical place:

The Oregon law is a good beginning, but it should apply also to those facing incurable pain, paralysis or imprisonment that could go on for years.

Exactly right. When it comes to assisted suicide, in for a penny, in for a pound.

The question isn’t terminal illness. Many people suffer more and for longer than the dying.

The issue is whether facilitated suicide is a right. If it is, it can’t be limited to the dying. Indeed, perhaps other than to those with only a transitory desire to die, it can’t be limited at all.

So, let’s have an honest debate. A right to facilitated suicide? Yes or no. Just don’t call it “dignity.”

P. S. My good friend, the late poet and disability rights activist, Mark O’Brien, contracted polio at age 6 and lived the rest of his life in an iron lung. Mark was adamantly against assisted suicide. He too died from post-polio syndrome. He died with dignity, not by suicide.

Lawyer and award-winning author Wesley J. Smith is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute’s Center on Human Exceptionalism and a consultant for the Patients Rights Council.
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Pro-Life Across Missouri



The MRL-East Central Area Chapter celebrates *Life* at their annual banquet on October 23rd. Some of those in attendance are (left to right) Mary Serafino and Faith Otten with Coalition for Life, Vikki Glosemeyer, East Central Area Chapter Service Award recipient, Pam Fichter, Missouri Right to Life President, Bridget Van Means, Director of Thrive, and Chapter Chairman Dan Schwartz.

James' Story

Editor's note: November was recognized as National Adoption Awareness Month. In thankfulness for their gift, a Missouri Right to Life member shares her special story.

On September 19th, our James celebrated his second birthday. This little boy was to be a victim of forced abortion, but God intervened and brought him into our family.

Our daughter and son-in-law were introduced to a young Chinese student at the local university. She was pregnant by her Chinese boyfriend. They were to be married, but he left her. This young woman's father and her former boyfriend joined together to force her to abort the baby.

Through a woman who ministered to foreign students at the university, she was directed to a local pregnancy care center, and she decided to carry the baby to term. Fearful of her former boyfriend, she came to stay with our daughter.

After a few months of living in their home, she approached our daughter and son-in-law about adopting her baby. The legal work was accomplished, and on September 19th they found themselves in a hospital room next to the delivery room awaiting the birth of James. Just a few minutes old, James came into our lives. I know that I am a little biased, but he is such a sweet, precious little boy, with dimples and a laugh that is infectious.

His adoption is finalized -- he is ours!

His birth mother is pursuing her graduate degree and



President Pro-Tem of the Missouri Senate Tom Dempsey (left) and Missouri Speaker of the House Tim Jones (right) are in Washington, MO, for the October 1st ceremonial signing of the 24-hour reflection bill. MRL Legislative Director Jerry Nieters (far right) and MRL Legislative Liaison Susan Klein (behind the legislators) join Washington-area legislators and pro-lifers in celebrating the added protection for mothers and their babies.

save⁺ date

Jan. 22, 2015

March for Life, Washington, DC

Several Washington, DC trips are planned. Information on the St. Louis metro trip is on the back cover. For trips from other areas of the state, call the MRL office at 573.635.5110

March 10, 2015

MRL Pro-Life Action Day and Youth Workshop, Jefferson City

Complete information in the next *MRL News* and online at missourilife.org

attends church with our daughter and her family, including James of course. She visits him occasionally.

James has welcomed a big sister, also Chinese, adopted from an orphanage in China. She is a year older, and she calls him "baby." I'm not sure that this will be appreciated as he gets older! What an amazing family. Yes, there are challenges, but the joys surely outweigh these.

We can't imagine our lives without these two wonderful kids. We are so blessed to be able to watch and participate in their future lives, marveling as they grow to be what God has planned for them.

Surely this is a call to all of us to open our hearts and our homes to those that would have been killed in an abortion clinic. Adoption is a better, and *wonderful*, option!

2015 Missouri Legislative Session on the Horizon

As we look back at victories in the 2014 elections, we look forward to working with these great pro-life friends in the 2015 legislative session. Passing good pro-life legislation will help continue the decline in Missouri resident abortions as shown on the chart below. Pro-life legislation does save lives!

After the swearing in, the numbers of the Missouri General Assembly will change by the following:

Missouri House of Representatives:

2014 - 108 Republicans, 52 Democrats, and 3 vacancies

2015 - 118 Republicans and 45 Democrats.

Note: MRL counts 2 pro-life Democrats.

Missouri Senate:

2014 - 23 Republicans, 9 Democrats, and 2 Vacancies

2015 - 25 Republicans and 9 Democrats.

Note: MRL counts no pro-life Democrats.

We are very excited and hopeful for the passage of Missouri Right to Life's priority legislation for 2015 which includes: a bill that will require annual abortion clinic inspections; a bill to ban dismemberment abortions; a bill to ban public funding for human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and abortion services.

We need your support and prayers as we enter a new year with a historic

number of pro-life legislators in Missouri and a Congress in Washington that can stop the Obama agenda. Our goal for 2015 is to pass legislation that will decrease the number of abortions in Missouri.

In Washington we will work with National Right to Life to restore common sense and respect for life.

May God bless our work in 2015!

Mark your calendar for Pro-Life Action Day – Tuesday, March 10, 2015.



MISSOURI ABORTION STATISTICS 1973 - 2012

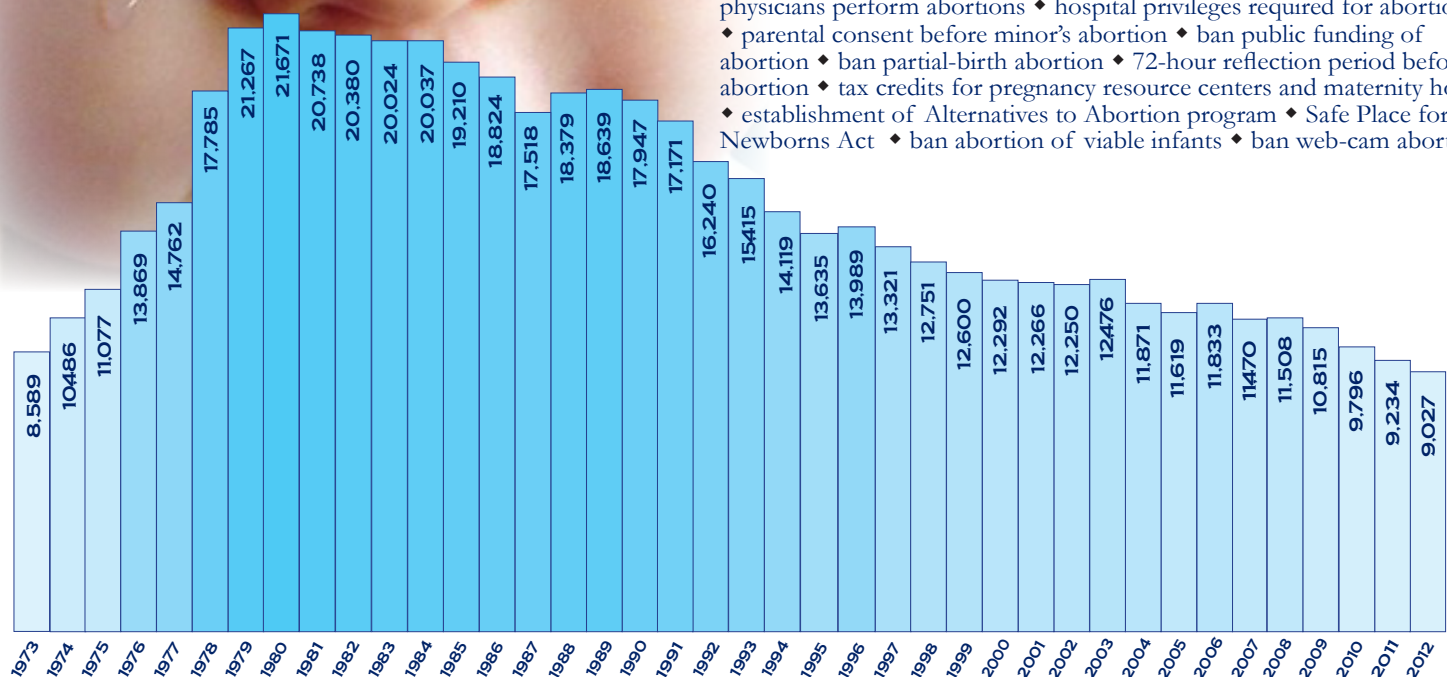
STATISTICS FROM THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES.
GRAPH PREPARED BY MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE.

LEGISLATION SAVES LIVES

The Missouri General Assembly has passed over 45 pro-life laws since the 1973 Roe v. Wade U. S. Supreme Court decision. Missouri Right to Life has been a leader in writing, lobbying, and passing these pro-life statutes. Through Missouri Right to Life Political Action Committee, pro-life voters have been informed and have consistently elected bipartisan pro-life majorities which make these life-saving legislative successes possible.

Among the pro-life laws in Missouri statute are those that require: ♦ only physicians perform abortions ♦ hospital privileges required for abortionists ♦ parental consent before minor's abortion ♦ ban public funding of abortion ♦ ban partial-birth abortion ♦ 72-hour reflection period before an abortion ♦ tax credits for pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes ♦ establishment of Alternatives to Abortion program ♦ Safe Place for Newborns Act ♦ ban abortion of viable infants ♦ ban web-cam abortions.

OF MISSOURI RESIDENT ABORTIONS PER YEAR



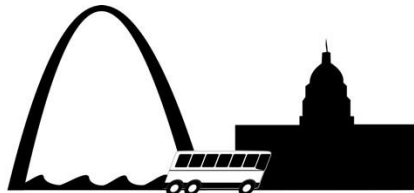
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Joy to the world
THE LORD
HAS
COME
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO YOU



Missouri Life Caravan

Annual Bus trip to Washington, DC
42nd Annual National March for Life

January 21-22-23, 2015

Join us and thousands of others from across the nation for this huge pro-life gathering in the nation's capitol.

- **REGISTRATION/TRIP COSTS:** \$140 per passenger (meals not included; bring extra spending money).
- **DUE BY:** All reservations must be received by January 5, 2015.
- **LOCATIONS:** Buses are available from several pick-up points in the St. Louis metro area.

Have questions? Need additional information?

Want to sponsor someone to go on the trip?

Call Missouri Right to Life-Eastern Region at 314.434.4900
or email mrl.eastern@yahoo.com

**Follow Missouri Right to Life
on these social networking sites**



or visit MRL's blog at

<http://missourilifenews.wordpress.com/>

Every so often people ask us

how to avoid making contributions to organizations that support abortion, embryonic stem cell research, or other anti-life activities. As year-end gifts are considered, one source of information for this is American Life League which has researched charitable organizations to learn their current positions. They released their research in August 2013 with updates in summer 2014.

Missouri Right to Life is not in a position to give any opinion about particular organizations mentioned by ALL.

American Life League's information may be accessed at <http://www.all.org/charities>.