

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- July & Aug. 2006** Certain week-ends RTL-CM will have booth at various community fairs; to help, contact Susan (scviv@comcast.net and put RTL in subject)
- July 10, 2006** Last day to register for August Primary Election
- Aug. 8, 2006** Primary Election
- Oct. 10, 2006** Last day to register for November General Election
- Oct., 2006** Annual Regional Dinner (date TBD)
- Nov. 7, 2006** General Election

Someone You Know May Benefit From Project Rachel

By Joanne Ales

Due to pressure from boyfriends, family members and peers, countless women have had abortions. Initially convinced it is a woman's right to choose, a political issue and not a moral issue, many of these women silently suffer later from post abortion syndrome, experiencing feelings of loss and despair. They suffer emotional, physical and spiritual problems, believing that their sin of abortion is unforgivable leading to estrangement from the Church. These women often feel no one understands especially when friends reply, "Why don't you just get over it?" Because of feelings of guilt and embarrassment in some cases a woman may not even feel able to share her abortion experience with anyone. Men who have been an equal participant in the unplanned pregnancy and consequent abortion may also suffer similar feelings of guilt and shame.

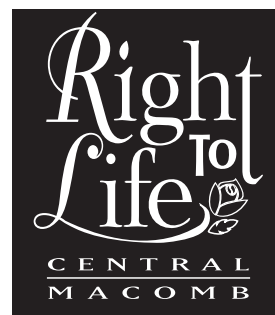
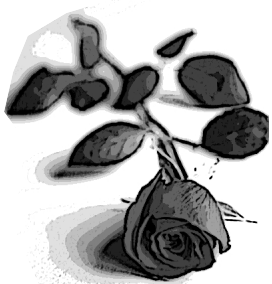
If you fit this description or know someone who has had an abortion, Project Rachel may be just the resource you need. Project Rachel's purpose is to help women and men who have had an abortion, come to experience a loving and forgiving God and Church in an atmosphere of compassion and concern. Begin by calling the Project Rachel Hotline at 1-888-Rachel5 (1-888-722-4435). The person staffing the line is aware of local counselors, priests, and support group programs that are available to help you arrive at peace and a sense of forgiveness. Professional counseling in each county is available through the local Catholic Services office with staff trained by Project Rachel. Many individuals have found the Project Rachel time-limited weekly small group series to be a powerful healing experience. Help spread the word about this resource that has the potential to transform the pain of the past into hope and love. ☪

MICHIGAN #1 A prolife legal defense firm called **Americans United for Life** recently released an extensive state-by-state review and analysis of state laws dealing with prolife issues. The report, entitled *Defending Life 2006*, examined legislation dealing with abortion, end of life issues, bioethics and the conscience rights of health care workers. After analyzing the laws in all 50 states, **Defending Life 2006 ranked Michigan the #1 Best State for Life.** The hard work of Michigan prolife citizens and lawmakers has paid off in Michigan as we are leading the nation in defending the lives of the most vulnerable.



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Summer 2006

RIGHT TO LIFE CENTRAL MACOMB

Newsletter

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The Ethics of Stem Cell Research

BY MIKE CAHILL

For many Americans, ethical concerns over embryonic stem cell research are too great to justify potential benefits. It's a debate not only over when life begins, but also about the value of all humans, young and old, healthy and ill.

Stem cells are cells that have not developed for any special function, such as the creation of skin, muscle or bone tissues. These cells can be harvested from adults, from the umbilical cord blood and placenta of newborns, and from embryos.

Gathering stem cells from adults is harmless. Adult stem cells are used today to help people with Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, sickle-cell anemia, heart damage, corneal damage, and dozens of other conditions.

But to obtain stem cells from an embryo, the embryo must be destroyed (aborted). Medical science has proven that life begins at fertilization - the moment the 23 chromosomes of the mother's egg are fertilized by the 23 chromosomes of the father's sperm. All characteristics of a baby at birth are present at that moment of fertilization.

A human embryo is a human being in the first 8 weeks of development after fertilization in the womb or in a Petri dish (in vitro fertilization). Embryonic stem cells have never treated a human patient, and animal trials suggest that these cells are likely to form lethal tumors or be rejected.

To prevent rejection, the DNA from a patient's body cell is inserted into a woman's egg whose own genetic material has been removed, and the egg is then stimulated to begin embryonic development. This cloned embryo is destroyed (aborted) to provide stem cells genetically matched to the patient, so the cells will not be rejected as foreign tissue. Some cloning is also done to create embryos with illnesses from the body cells of sick patients to help study their disease.

One of the main arguments for embryonic stem cell research is that all unused embryos will be destroyed anyway. This is not true. Parents of 3 children who were adopted as embryos held a news conference July 16, 2001, to show President Bush and Congress that leftover embryos can grow if given a chance. A California-based adoption agency has begun allowing infertile couples to adopt so-called "leftover" embryos.

"There are no lives that are not worth living; there is no suffering, no matter how grave, that can justify killing a life; there are no reasons, no matter how noble, that make plausible the creation of human beings, destined to be used and destroyed."
(Pope John Paul II, November 9, 2004) ☪

Sources: Wesley J. Smith (The Washington Times, December 1, 2004); Claudia Kalb (Newsweek, December 6, 2004); David Maluchnik (Focus, February 2005)

IMPORTANT RENEWAL REMINDER!

Please check your address label! A date on the last line indicates when your membership expires or has expired. If there is no date, your name was obtained from a one-time donation and no current membership exists. Please use the membership form on pg. 3 to RENEW TODAY and continue receiving up-to-date newsletters from our affiliate and RTL-MI, especially as we enter a crucial election period!



Right to Life Central Macomb is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, all-volunteer organization that works within the law to help protect the unborn, the handicapped and the elderly through education, legislative action and community assistance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Adoption Assistance:

Bethany Christian Services
248-414-4080
1435 E. 12 Mi. Rd.
Madison Hts., MI 48071

Catholic Services of Macomb
586-416-2300
15945 Canal Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Crisis Pregnancy Centers:

Abigayle Ministries (Sheltering Home)
586-323-1411
12313 Nineteen Mi. Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48313

Birthright of Macomb
586-254-5930
45464 Van Dyke
Utica, MI 48317

Compassion Pregnancy Center
586-783-2229
37540 Gratiot Ave.
Clinton Twp., MI 48036

Project Hope
586-416-2300
1-888-4-BABYDUE
15945 Canal Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Right to Life of Michigan
Crisis Hot-Line
1-800-57-WOMAN (1-800-579-6626)

Educational Assistance:

RLM Macomb County
Resource Center
586-774-6050
27417 Harper
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

Michigan Right to Life
616-532-2300
www.rtl.org
Field Representative, Chris Zielinski
czielinski@rtl.org

Post-Abortion Assistance:

Project Rachel
(Archdiocese of Detroit)
1-888-722-4355

LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING

Federal:

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
202-456-1414
president@whitehouse.gov

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313-228-6020
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Senator Debbie Stabenow
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Washington, D.C. 20510
313-961-4330
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Congresswoman
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202-225-2106
cmiller@mail.house.gov

Congressman Sander Levin (Dist. 12)
2300 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
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slevin@mail.house.gov

State:

Governor Jennifer Granholm
P.O.Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
www.michigan.gov

For other elected state officials:

www.rtl.org

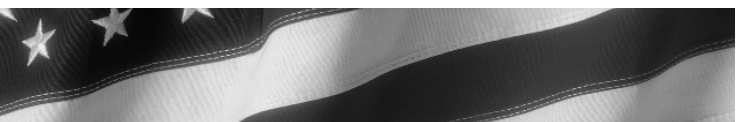
RLM Resource Center
586-774-6050

Legislative News

BY SUSAN VIVIANO

'Life at Conception' Constitutional Amendment & Petition Drive: Michigan Citizens for Life is a newly formed committee sponsoring a petition drive to place on the 2006 November election ballot an amendment to the Michigan Constitution declaring human life to begin at conception. Right to Life of Michigan determined that it could not support this petition drive and amendment for these reasons: **1.)** Michigan already has a law banning abortion (MCL 750.14) which is positioned to go back into effect as soon as Roe is reversed. **2.)** Due to the wording of the amendment a public debate over this proposal would involve controversial issues peripheral to abortion. **3.)** Currently, there are only four votes on the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Roe. A future battle in the U.S. Senate over at least one more pro-life appointment to the Court will truly determine whether Roe will fall. Our most important focus is electing a pro-life senator this November. For a more detailed explanation go to www.rtl.org.

It is important to vote pro-life! This election season it is crucial to "get out the vote" for pro-life candidates. Unfortunately, we have had a very pro-abortion governor and U.S. Senator. Gov. Granholm vetoed the Legal Birth Definition Act. (RLM changed that with the People's Override.) She supports embryonic stem cell research, wants to make therapeutic cloning legal in MI, and has vetoed H.B. 4478 - a bill that would have eliminated "judge shopping", thus creating a standard in parental consent judicial bypass proceedings. RLM has already endorsed the Governor's challenger, Dick Devos. Sen. Stabenow has voted for funding of overseas pro-abortion organizations, voted against the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, voted against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, and voted to reject Chief Justice John Roberts.



Both of the Senator's opponents, Keith Butler and Michael Bouchard, have already been endorsed by RLM. Current RLM members will receive a voter's guide in the mail listing endorsements. If you did not receive one, or wish extra copies, please feel free to contact me at scviv@comcast.net. (Please put Right to Life in subject line.) Support pro-life candidates – with your vote and your time! We will also need assistance at the polls to pass out voter guides. Please contact me if you want to help.

LOCAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Thank you to Macomb County Commissioner, Peter Lund for his successful work in eliminating abortion coverage from the insurance policies of union and non-union labor contracts at the county level.

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- H.B. 4745-46 - Protects employers who purchase insurance, and protects insurance companies from having to purchase or offer coverage for objectionable treatments or procedures; passed in the House 4/26/06.
- H.B. 4446 – An ultrasound must be done and the mother given option to see it before an abortion; Governor approved 3/23/2006.
- H.B. 4777 - Clarifies that civil lawsuits can be brought for causing the death of an unborn child prior to viability under the Wrongful Death Act; Governor approved 12/18/2005.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- S. 403 - Urge our U.S. Senators to cosponsor the Child Custody Protection Act; should reach Senate floor soon.

For more information about life issue bills go to www.rtl.org or www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home/

**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION
(Right To Life Central Macomb and
Right to Life of Michigan)**

Your contribution brings you the Right to Life Central Macomb membership newsletter, Right to Life of Michigan News and other educational materials. Gifts and payments to Right to Life Central Macomb are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

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Make check payable to Right to Life Central Macomb, P.O. Box 831, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046-0831

THE CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Robert J. Woolhouse** to Chair **The Church Organization and Development Committee** for the Right to Life-Central Macomb affiliate. The goal of the committee is to partner with all churches in a united effort to provide alternative solutions, treatment, material and emotional support to deal with the issues of abortion, post-abortion syndrome, infanticide and euthanasia. Mr. Woolhouse is a retired native of Michigan and owner of GAIT Companies. He describes himself as "a servant who is dedicated to working for the body of Christ to the glory of God." Let him know if you are willing to work with him on this important effort by e-mailing him at gait@pathwaynet.com.