

CALENDAR of EVENTS

• 2008 •

- January 20** Memorial Mass for Women & Unborn Children, 9:50am
St. Thecla, Clinton Twp.
- January 22** March for Life, Washington, D.C.
- April 3** K of C RTL Benefit Dinner
Burton Manor, Livonia
- April 23** RTL - MI Legislative Day, Lansing
- April 24** Dinner Auction
Ukranian Cultural Center, Warren
- May 10-11** Mother's Day Flower Sales, local churches

Local Teen Promotes March for Life!

Below is the personal testimony from Luke Popiel, a senior at DeLaSalle High School in Warren, about his experience at the March for Life 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Before going to the March for Life, I would say that I was Pro-Life, but that is where it would end. I was not actively helping the cause. I have always wanted to start something new at De La Salle, a private Catholic high school in Warren. When I signed up to go to the 2007 March for Life, I did not know what affect it would have on me. This was my first March for Life.

There were about 144,000 people taking part in the march. Seeing the young people marching made me think about what I could do to help those who may not have a chance to live. The young people created many cheers while marching. The youth from my group created a cheer "Great Day to be Pro-Life, Great Day to Save Babies."

One thing that stopped me and made me ponder about why I was not doing anything to help stop abortion was seeing pictures of aborted babies on a wall that was on the side of the road where everyone was marching. This made me realize that De La Salle did not have a Pro-Life Club. In the following weeks after the March, I worked with my Campus Minister, Brother Michael Schubnell, on what I had to do to start this club. Please pray for an end to abortion. The babies cannot say anything so that means somebody has to say something for them.

God Bless and thank you for letting me share my experience, Luke Popiel

Since early 2007, Luke's Pro-life Club at DLS has joined with Regina High School's Teens for Life Club and together they have 78 students involved! Check out their activities at delasallehs.com (click on 'students', then 'activities'). The 2008 March for Life will be held on January 22, 2008 to peacefully protest the U.S. Supreme Court decisions of 1973, Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, which legalized abortion on demand. For details on attending, see box at the bottom of pg. 2. ☺



May the Christ Child bring you His gifts of peace and reverence for Life this Christmas and in the New Year

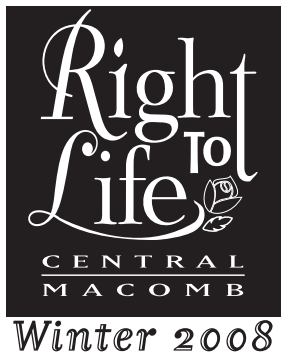
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Newsletter

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The Embryonic Stem Cell Research Battle

BY SUSAN VIVIANO

Stem cell research is the most misunderstood life issue. Most people do not realize that stem cells can be obtained from numerous adult sources, umbilical cords and placentas – without ending the life of a developing human being. Stem cells from human embryos are not needed for stem cell research to continue. **In fact, currently, 73 conditions or diseases have been treated (either cured or improved) with Adult Stem Cells. The number of cures from Embryonic Stem Cells is zero.** Even with these numbers, there is a group here in Michigan that is trying to allow tax dollars to go toward Embryonic Stem Cell Research (ESCR) and the killing and trafficking of cloned human embryos. They are working to accomplish this either legislatively, or, if not successful, by a ballot initiative.

On September 28, 2007 the pro-ESCR group filed with the state a "ballot question" committee named Stem Cell Research. Filing for ballot question status allows the group to begin soliciting donations for an election campaign. Also, on October 16th, the Detroit News published an article noting that A. Alfred Taubman (a very wealthy real estate developer) has donated 1.4 million dollars to the Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research and Cures (the pro-ESCR group). The article also notes that Taubman has pledged to financially support a possible ballot initiative to repeal Michigan's pro-life laws.

This past November hope from another state finally came (unlike California and Missouri ballot proposals in the past). A New Jersey ballot referendum to authorize the state to borrow \$450 million over 10 years to finance embryonic stem cell research went down to defeat. "Question 2" lost 53% to 47%.

The pro-embryonic stem cell bills in Michigan are H.B. 4616, 4617, and 4618. H.B. 4616 lifts the prohibition on embryonic stem cell research and allows experimentation on cloned human embryos imported into the state. H.B. 4617 increases the penalty for reproductive cloning, and

H.B. 4618 lists the sentences for felonies committed. H.B. 4616 would amend the current ban by allowing research on and the destruction of live human embryos created for fertility purposes and donated by their parents. The bill would also permit cloned human embryos to enter the state and have their embryonic stem cells harvested, while destroying them in the process. In other words, the actual cloning process would remain a violation here in Michigan, however the extraction of the stem cells from clones imported into the state would be allowed, thus killing the live human cloned embryo.

The most important points to remember about this issue:

- ❶ Obtaining embryonic stem cells requires killing embryos. A 5 – 7 day old human embryo must be destroyed to obtain the embryonic stem cells. It is often referred to as "extracting" the stem cells, or "disaggregating" the embryo, but these are terms to disguise that a live human embryo is killed in order to obtain ESCs.
- ❷ Embryonic Stem Cell treatments will require the cloning and killing of embryos. As in organ transplants, immune rejection is why the embryos will have to be cloned for each patient needing treatment.
- ❸ ESCR has produced no results!
- ❹ Adult Stem Cell Research has produced 73 treated diseases or conditions!

You will receive more detailed information about ESCR in future newsletters, and are strongly encouraged to become well informed about this issue. Please visit <http://stemcellresearchcures.com/> for more information or call (586)596-7430 for brochures for yourself and your family and friends.

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.



www.rtlcentralmacomb.org

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.

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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
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Post-Abortion Assistance:

Project Rachel
(Archdiocese of Detroit)
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www.michigan.gov

For other elected state officials:

www.rtl.org

RLM Resource Center
586-774-6050

GET ON THE BUS FOR 2008 MARCH FOR LIFE, WASHINGTON, D.C.!



Right to Life of Michigan will be sponsoring a traditional "red-eye" bus trip experience which will leave from pick-up points in Warren, Dearborn, Ann Arbor and Temperance. Buses will leave on the late afternoon of January 21, and return in the early morning of January 23. The cost of this trip is only \$95 for adults and \$90 for students and seniors. For more information, contact Rachel Miller at 248/553-8800 or rmiller@rtl.org. ♡

Legislative News

BY SUSAN VIVIANO



STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

The state legislature has spent the majority of its time on the state's budget deficit regarding spending cuts and tax increases, so very little has changed in pro-life legislation. Here are a few that have had some action recently.

- H.B. 4613 (Rep. Brian Palmer) and S.B. 776 (Sen. Cameron Brown) are currently in committee. This legislation makes it a felony when a physician or any other individual performs a partial birth abortion, except to save the life of the mother, or if the mother's life is "endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury." It is especially important to establish state statute outlawing Partial Birth Abortion since the Legal Birth Definition Act (LBDA), which would effectively ban PBA in Michigan, was once again ruled unconstitutional by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals on June 4, 2007.
- H.B. 4616,7,8 (Rep. Andy Meisner, Rep. Mark Meadows) were introduced 4/19/07. A vote is expected 11/25/07 or 12/5/07. See the Embryonic Stem Cell article (pg.1) for an explanation of these bills.
- H.B. 5261 (Rep. Matthew Gillard) was introduced on 9/24/07 and referred to the House

Committee on Families and Children's Services. This bill requires employers who provide leave with pay for an employee after the birth of a child, also provide the same benefit for an employee who adopts a child at birth.

Northland Family Planning, et. al. v. Cox (LBDA challenge): Attorney General Mike Cox filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court arguing that the Michigan Supreme Court should have been allowed the opportunity to interpret how the law would apply, instead of the federal court making that interpretation. Likewise, RLM through our ballot question committee, STTOP, filed an appeal claiming we were wrongly denied an opportunity to join in the defense of the law. The law remains enjoined, and a decision on whether the Supreme Court will hear the case could take 4 to 6 months. The Court accepts only 1 out of every 150 appeals it receives, so we must be realistic while we are optimistic about this filing.

For further pro-life state legislation, go to www.rtl.org or for federal legislation <http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home/>

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