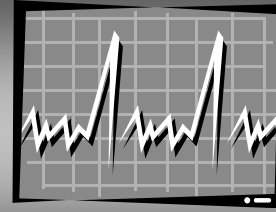


# Lifelines



June 2009

www.midlandrtl.org

## Midlanders March for Life in Memorial Day Parade



Photo by: Katie Rey

Approximately 40-50 pro-life supporters, both young and old, marched with Midland Right to Life in the Midland Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25. We followed the parade route, starting at our meeting place on Auburn, to Main Street and then to Rodd St.

The float, with the acronym LIFE – Life is for Everyone, a Midland Right to Life banner, and a banner saying “Thanks Veterans for Protecting All Life”

was followed by marching children and adults, strollers, and a 20’ by 30’ American flag carried by 14-16 adults. Kids enthusiastically walked behind the float, ran underneath the flag, and threw Smarties with labels saying “Be Smart Choose LIFE.”

Thanks to everyone who came to march for life in the Memorial Day Parade. It was a wonderful witness to the community to the dignity of every human life.



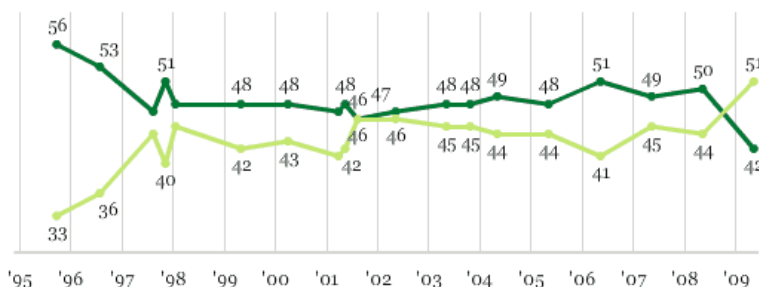
Photo by: Katie Rey

## Pro-Life Pluses

- + The **majority of Americans** are **pro-life**, according to a recent Gallup Pole.

*With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?*

■ % Pro-choice    ■ % Pro-life



GALLUP POLL

<http://www.lifenews.com/nat5053.html>

- + **“We're proud of our ‘F’ ”** Michigan has once again received a failing grade from NARAL (the National Abortion Rights Action League). NARAL gives “grades” annually to each of the 50 states based on how states restrict or do not restrict abortion. Higher grades are given to states with few or no pro-life laws and low grades—like the one given to Michigan—are given to states with numerous pro-life laws. According to Right to Life of Michigan, “[t]hese laws (including a ban on tax-funded abortions, regulations on abortion providers, as well as parental and informed consent laws) have helped decrease the number of abortions performed in Michigan by 49.7% since 1987.”  
[http://www.rtl.org/legislation/legislative\\_legal.html](http://www.rtl.org/legislation/legislative_legal.html)
- + Oklahoma passes **pro-life legislation**. The first bill prevents abortion based on sex-selection. The second bill, according to National Right to Life’s website, now provides “the nation’s strongest abortion reporting requirements.” Abortionists in Oklahoma are now required to record the mother’s age, marital status and education; the number of prior pregnancies; the reason for and method of abortion; and the nature of the mother’s relationship with the father. The first violation is subject to a \$10,000; the third violation is \$100,000.



## Key Pro-Life Legislation Discussed at Legislative Day in Lansing

Approximately 300 pro-life advocates from around the state of Michigan, including students, newly active pro-life supporters and long time Right to Life of Michigan (RLM) supporters from various affiliates attended Legislative Day in Lansing, MI.

The day mainly consisted of talks, including a brief review of pending and proposed federal legislation from RLM president Barb Listing, a detailed summary about legislation in Michigan from RLM legislative director Ed Rivet, and an address from Luther Elliss, a former Detroit Lion. The participants also enjoyed a luncheon and a tour of the capital, where many learned more about the legislative process.

At Legislative Day, the attendants learned about seven key pieces of legislation that are going to be pushed this year. The information from the handout is as follows:

Adoption Equity (H.B. 4470) “requires employers who provide leave for an employee after the birth of a child, also to provide the same benefit for an employee who adopts a child up to twelve months in age.” This bill is meant to encourage adoption and the critical bonding experience between mothers and newborns.



Adoption Reporting – Hispanic Ethnicity (H.B. 4406) “closes the gap by adding a check-off box for those with ‘Hispanic’ ethnicity to the abortion report.” This added demographic can provide accurate data to track Hispanic abortions in order to target and reduce abortions in the Latino community.

The Coercive Abortion Prevention Act (CAPA) has two parts: H.B. 4525 and H.B. 4526. The first part, CAPA H.B. 4525, “defines as a crime an act, or threat to act, against a pregnant woman as a means of intimidating or coercing her to seek an abortion.” This includes two tiers: “acts that already constitute physical crimes” as well as creating “a misdemeanor charge for nonviolent actions or threats that constitute a coercive element.” H.B. 4526 builds on the fact that the leading cause of death among pregnant women is homicide and the compiled research that reveals that many women feel forced by others to have an abortion. It “details the sentencing guidelines for those convicted of the crime.”

The Partial Birth Abortion Act (PBA) “coincides with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling which upheld the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban, *Gonzales v. Carhart* on April 18, 2007. Even though there is a federal ban, it is very important to pass a law at the state level in order to provide for more responsive enforcement, as federal enforcement resources are overextended.”

Expand Definition of Individual (S.B. 3) “would amend MCL 8.3, which provides definitions and applications for all of Michigan law, by adding section 3(x) which states, ‘The word ‘Individual’ shall be construed to mean a natural person and to include a fetus.’ This would essentially add an unborn fetus, beginning the eighth week after conception through birth, to the definition of an ‘individual.’ ”

The Embryo Research Accountability Act is a package of bills that “addresses the questions left unanswered in the aftermath of Proposal 2” in which “[t]he citizens of Michigan voted to amend the state constitution to allow embryos ‘leftover’ in fertility clinics to be donated to destructive research, with their parent’s permission.” The Embryo Research Accountability Act basically “codifies the new amendment into law and clarifies what it does and does not do.” IVF Clinic Informed Consent and Reporting “requires couples to provide in writing, informed consent to any services provided” and “requires providers of IVF services to collect data on their activities regarding eggs and embryos produced, and report to the Department on an annual basis.” This act also prohibits cloned human embryo trafficking into the state.

The Employee Accommodation Act “is a renamed, revised version of the original Conscientious Objector for health care bills introduced in the last few sessions. It requires an employer to make work duty accommodations if an employee asserts a conscientious objection to participating in certain medical procedures or research.” Currently, health care workers or health institutions can only refuse to participate in an abortion, and so “[t]his bill would protect health care providers and institutions with regard to any medical procedure or research that violates their deeply held religious or moral beliefs, including embryo research, cloning or genetic manipulation, withdrawing medical treatment or nutrition, dispensing abortion pills or morning after pills, etc.”

For more detailed information about these acts, feel free to email Midland Right to Life at [midlandrtl@yahoo.com](mailto:midlandrtl@yahoo.com) or visit <http://www.rtl.org/legislation/pendingstate.html>.



**Knights of Columbus**

GRAND KNIGHTS		FINANCIAL SECRETARIES
Dennis Taylor <i>St. Agnes</i>		Frank Cieszak <i>St. Agnes</i>
Mike Grekowitz <i>Father DuRussel</i>		Paul Card <i>Father DuRussel</i>
Tom Erickson <i>Cardinal Hickey</i>		Bruce Grant <i>Cardinal Hickey</i>

St. Agnes Council No. 8043 of Sanford  
 Father Henry P. DuRussel Council No. 2141 of Midland &  
 Cardinal Hickey Council No. 14056 of Midland  
*Support the work of Right to Life of Michigan!*

**Midland Area Catholic Churches**

	<b>Assumption BVM Parish</b> 3516 Monroe Road Midland MI 48642 989 631-4447	<b>Saint Bridget Parish</b> 207 Ashman Street Midland MI 48642 989 835-7121
	<b>Blessed Sacrament Parish</b> 3109 Swede Avenue Midland MI 48642 989 835-6777	

*Respecting Life from Womb to Tomb*

# Know What You Believe

*Anti-Life Argument:* Abortion needs to be available for the hard cases of rape, incest, and the life of the mother.

*Practical Pro-Life Response:* There are two practical aspects of this argument. First of all, only 0.09% of abortions are because of rape and incest and only 0.36% are because of the mother's life or health. The total percentage of "hard cases"—which also includes abortions because of fetal birth defects—is only 0.69%. This is a very small percentage of abortion, and is not a valid reason to allow abortion on demand.

Secondly, the most often cited excuse for allowing abortion is rape/incest. Obviously, these are both highly traumatic experiences. The horrible physical and psychological effects of abortion only add to that trauma, thus making the experience more harmful. In fact, many victims of rape/incest have stated that carrying their baby to term was actually a beneficial healing process.

These statistics were taken from *The Facts of Life An Authoritative Guide to Life and Family Issues* by Brian Clowes, PhD. Clowes' statistics are from pro-abortion sources.

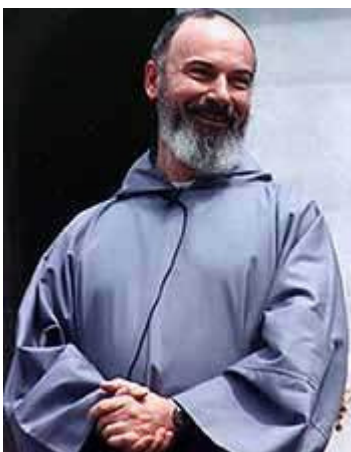
## Right to Life Oratory Contest

Five students participated in the Right to Life oratory contest at New Life Vineyard. They were Kari Jordan, a freshman at Calvary Baptist Academy; Laura Mier, a freshman at Midland High; Adam Johnson, a freshman at Midland Christian School; Jason Swarthout, a junior at Calvary Baptist Academy; and Martin Card, a junior home schooler. Topic choices were abortion, infanticide, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research and euthanasia. Even though they all spoke on abortion, Midland Right to Life treasurer Joanne Bober noted, "Every speech was unique."

The winners were awarded \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. The first, second and third place winners were Martin Card, Jason Swarthout and Kari Johnson, respectively.



Oratory Contest Participants



## Memorable Quote

"The lame argument that they (politicians) personally oppose such things as abortion, yet vote for them repeatedly, demonstrates the most virulent form of moral and political schizophrenia yet to afflict mankind. That they succeed in duping millions of otherwise intelligent people with this absurd and twisted logic does not bode well for the future of the nation that votes for them."

~ Fr. John Corapi ~

# Obama's Abortion Rhetoric

By Jennifer Rey

Many people have discussed President Obama's rhetoric. He has often been praised for his eloquence. America has been drawn to him during his campaign and in his presidency. His speeches are highly anticipated for their impressive rhetoric.

Rhetoric is the art of persuasion, and Obama knows it well. He speaks eloquently and makes numerous promises that—although ambiguous—capture the hearts of Americans. But the question is: does Obama keep those promises?

Obama's rhetoric indicates that he seeks reconciliation between the two opposing sides on the abortion issue. He often speaks about finding "common ground." Obama's actions, however, would suggest otherwise.

An examination of Obama's actions concerning abortion, both before and since inauguration, indicates a staunch pro-abortionist with no intention of finding "common ground."

An example of his pro-abortion actions as a senator is his opposition of the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act.

After election and before inauguration, Obama chose long-standing abortion advocate Rep. Rahm Emanuel as his White House Chief of Staff, along with six other staunch pro-abortionists to his staff. In addition, on December 10, 2008, the Obama transition team published a memo from dozens of pro-abortion groups that listed the pro-abortion actions that they wanted him to take.

This pattern continued after inauguration. Obama chose numerous other pro-abortionists for his staff and other various political positions.

On January 22, 2009, Obama released a statement wholeheartedly supporting the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court Decision of 1973 that has resulted in at least 50 million abortions.

On February 27, 2009, Obama began work on reversing the pro-life conscience protections enacted by George W. Bush.

On March 5, 2009, the Obama administration prevented pro-life groups from attending a White House-sponsored health care summit, while Planned Parenthood—along with other pro-abortion groups—received invitations.

Through various actions, Obama forced American tax dollars to support pro-abortion groups in *other* countries that either support or perform abortions, to fund abortions in America, to pay for pro-abortion litigation, and to fund embryonic stem cell research.

Other blatantly pro-abortion actions by Obama and his administration include: reversing an executive order to press searching for other ways to get embryonic stem cells without destroying human life, promoting an unlimited right to abortion and denying the negative effects of abortion at a United Nations meeting, giving \$54 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN population agency that has been criticized for not only promoting abortions, but also closely working with Chinese population control officials who employ involuntary sterilizations and forced abortions, eliminating all funding for abstinence-only education, and releasing a document that states that pro-life advocates may partake in violence or extremism.

These actions are not bringing the two sides on the abortion issue to "common ground." Rather, they either antagonize pro-lifers or they blatantly push Obama's pro-abortion agenda. These actions show that Obama has no intention of working with pro-lifers to find "common ground."

For a complete list Obama's pro-abortion actions since the election, visit <http://www.lifenews.com/obamaabortionrecord.html>.

Right to Life of Midland County, Inc.

PO Box 463

Midland, MI 48641-0463

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## Calendar of Events

**Midland Right to Life Monthly Meeting**, Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m. at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, Conference Room A.

**Focus on Life Dinner**, Tuesday, September 29 at 6 p.m. at the Messiah Lutheran Church. The speaker is the founder of Silent No More, Georgette Forney. Tickets: \$35; table of 10 for \$350.

**Midland Right to Life Garage Sale**, Friday and Saturday, July 17-18 at Lorie Shane's house: 1850 S. Poseyville (The Shane home is directly across from Poseyville United Methodist Church, about three-quarters of a mile south of the corner of Gordonville and Poseyville Roads.) Donations can be dropped off any evening that week (or make arrangements with Lorie at 835-1964). You can also volunteer to help out at the garage sale.