



## **Citizens Concerned for Human Life Cambria-Somerset Chapter**

*Winter/Spring 2023*

**W**elcome to all who receive and read the newsletter! I hope this day you and your loved ones are safe and well!

As we are all aware, the pro-life cause took a beating this election, especially in the race for the Senate and the Governor's seat! Despite all of our efforts and prayers, many pro-abortion politicians were elected! The disappointment is real and saddens our hearts! Take comfort in Providence and know that God always protects and provides; He is always faithful to His word! We put all our trust in Him, because He is the one who creates and loves all His Creatures, and He will not be outdone in love and generosity! And also, only He can change hearts and we know He will do exactly that, but in His own time!

Abortion is no longer the law of the land and can be challenged in the courts of each individual State, as well it should be. This is because our Constitution does recognize the Right to Life as the "Preeminent Right", a right that precedes all other rights! Therefore no one has the "right" to end an innocent human life, in the womb or otherwise!

When our laws reflect this truth, then we will truly be a Nation of Peace and Justice! Keep working for the Right to Life of the pre-born child!! Now that Roe vs. Wade has been overturned, our efforts must intensify in every sense because we are being attacked like never before! We are being attacked by many in the Abortion business, the Entertainment field, the Media and even Environmental Protection supporters who somehow believe they are doing the right thing by keeping abortion legal!

So, we have our work ahead, with God's help we will be able to overcome all the lies the abortionist proclaim!

When you have a chance on a forum to speak or write about the horror of abortion and the harm it does to the individual (the child, the victim) and the mother who is convinced she needs an abortion; [this also extends to] the harm the procedure does to society itself. Be brave and speak out against it! If you cannot speak or write about it, ask someone you know to do it, like me or someone else who is active in our group. My name and number are always included in this newsletter! I am at your service when it comes to battling this grave injustice!

Have a very Merry, Blessed and Healthy Christmas and New Year and may God bless you and your loved ones abundantly!

Ann E. Poole

## **CCHL Officers**

President - Ann Poole (814) 472-8584  
Vice President - John Poole (814) 472-8584  
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Education Director - Chelsey Miller (814) 270-6213  
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CCHL Website: <http://www.prolifecambriasomerset.org>

## **An Unforgettable Evening!**

We had high hopes. And we were not disappointed! Our Celebrate Life Banquet on October 21, 2022 was our largest and most successful to date. Twelve hundred pro-life supporters of all ages and backgrounds gathered at the Hershey Lodge to hear Dr. Ben Carson share his own rags-to-riches success story and his unwavering pro-life convictions. He shared compelling stories of operating on babies in utero, doing everything he could to save their precious lives. Prior to the event, Dr. Carson and his wife Candy warmly greeted Silver, Gold, and Platinum sponsors for pictures.

Board President Susan Rogacs gave opening remarks regarding the upcoming transition in the Federation's leadership (see article on back). Rabbi Yitzchak Kolakowski, Chaplain for the State Correctional Institution at Waymart, then provided the Invocation. After dinner, the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Margie Becker of Lifeline of Southwest PA and the Leadership Award to Cecily Routman of the Jewish Pro-life Foundation.

The evening ended with Benediction given by Reverend Reginald C. Johnson, Sr., Executive Director of People for People, Inc. and Co-Chair of the Hope Pregnancy Center! Thank you to all our chapters for your support of this event! We couldn't have done it without you!

## **PA Pro-Life Federation "Celebrate Life" Banquet**

*"As a surgeon, I have operated on infants pre-birth. I can assure you that they are very much alive."*

*— Dr. Ben Carson*

On October 21, 2022, 1,200 pro-life individuals across the Commonwealth attended the 'Celebrate Life' banquet hosted by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation in Hershey. Every year, the Federation secures remarkable speakers, and this year was no different. Dr. Ben Carson, world renowned neurosurgeon, 17th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and founder of the American Cornerstone Institute presented the keynote address. Like previous years, those in attendance left that night feeling uplifted, encouraged, and equipped to continue the fight for the lives of all preborn children in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Carson shared how his pro-choice views turned pro-life when he was reading about slavery and thought, “What if the abolitionists said, ‘I don’t believe in slavery, but you guys can do what you want to do.’ If that was the case, where would the United States be today?” Thankfully, the abolitionists of those days did not back down but stood firmly in the truth of the evils of their day. And we are called to do the same in this generation. We have a moral responsibility when we know that innocent babies are being slaughtered in their mothers’ wombs, which is supposed to be the safest place on earth. We have a responsibility to raise our children to know the truth; a responsibility to share the pro-life message to our family, friends, and neighbors; and a responsibility to be active members in our respective local pro-life organizations. Dr. Carson is a fantastic example to each one of us. Standing up for the truth isn’t always the easiest thing to do, but it is always the right thing to do. Children deserve someone to speak up for them and if we are alive and breathing today, God has a purpose for each and every one of us.

We must plant our feet firmly in the truth and together we will change hearts and minds and we will change the culture to one that respects and defends life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.

By Chelsey Miller, Education Director

Because CCHL is an organization that celebrates life and the wonderful gifts that God sends forth, we would like to acknowledge your precious gift in our newsletter. If you or someone you know has recently given birth, you would like to remember an anniversary or remember a loved one who has passed away and you would like us to share this information in our newsletter, please send us your information and it will be included in our next newsletter.

**I would like to make an acknowledgement in your newsletter.**

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

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PO Box 1588, Johnstown, PA 15907-1158

**Thank you for your gift. Please clip this form and mail it along with your gift. God bless you.**

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

1. **CCHL Prayer Group:** Every Thursday from 3 PM to 4 PM there is a prayer vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood office in Johnstown, on Franklin Street. Please join us in prayer to end abortion.
2. **CCHL Monthly Meeting.** Every second Tuesday of the month at Saint Michael's Church Hall. Saint Michael's, PA, at 7:00 PM. Meetings are open to the public. Come and join us.
3. **January 2023 - Yellow Ribbon Campaign.** This is our main fund-raising project for the year. The money raised assists with our pro-life education efforts, the March for Life and other expenses. Please prayerfully consider donating your time and money to this important event.
4. **January 20, 2023 - March for Life, Washington, D.C.** this year we will celebrate the 50th annual March for Life and the momentous overturn of Roe v. Wade! Please join us. The theme of this year's march is, **Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America.** Our bus coordinators are Bill and Patti Frederick, (814) 344-6521 and Ann and John Poole (814) 472-8584.
5. **March 2023 - State Essay & Oratory Contests.** The PA Pro-Life Federation's Essay and Oratory Contests are excellent opportunities for students grade 7 through 12 to learn about pro-life issues. Encourage students that you know to enter the state and regional student contest. More information can be found at: [PAProlife.org](http://PAProlife.org)

Call any of the CCHL officers to get the details about, or to help with, any thing listed on this page. Officers and their phone numbers are listed below.

## 2022 Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast Speaker

This year's Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast was a great success. It was humbling and heart-warming to see so many people come out on a Saturday morning to celebrate life. While we have much to be grateful for, the repeal of Roe v. Wade for instance, now is not the time to relax, our real battle for life is just beginning.

Two awards were presented at this year's breakfast. The Pro-Lifer of the Year Award was presented to



Chelsea Miller for her tireless efforts in promoting pro-life causes throughout the year, including organizing the first 40-Days for Life campaign in Johnstown. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Chris Marz and her mother Marie for witnessing to the truth of the sacredness of human life for many years. Neither Chris nor Marie was able to attend this year's breakfast.

There were more than a couple moist eyes in the room as the McDonald's sang a beautiful pro-life song, "Here I am Lord, send me." A special thanks goes out to Matt and Stacey for sharing their

gift of music.

This year's keynote speaker was Nikki Bruni, the coordinator of 40-Days for Life in Pittsburgh, PA. Nikki shared her slow, gradual faith journey as God worked in her life. She talked about how God saved her from sin through the Evangelical Church. She talked about how her personal relationship with God grew as she read His word, how she began to fall deeper in love with Him through His word. She told about how she was broken by the story of Peter being redeemed by Christ asking, "Do you love me?" God eventually called Nikki to the pro-life movement where she was introduced to 40-Days for Life in 2010. Nikki was led to the Catholic Church, which she describes as, "the greatest blessing of my life," by the Rosary. Nikki has gone on to organize 25 consecutive 40-Days for Life prayer vigils.



Nikki is also an accomplished artist. She brought one of her paintings with her and displayed it during the breakfast. The painting is an eight-foot replica of, "The Innocence," by artist Adolphe-William Bouguereau. Each of the 2,380 squares making up the mosaic has the face of a baby on it; 2,366 squares represent the



number of babies killed by abortion at the Planned Parenthood on Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh in 2013. There are 14 gold squares within the mosaic representing the number of babies saved by 40-Days for life that year. She created the painting to recognize the dignity and humanity of each baby lost to abortion.

The closing prayer and remarks were given by Retired Pastor Jon Gulnac, of Salix Methodist Church. Pastor Jon reminded us that the pro-life movement is not about politics, it's not about denominations, we are gathered here amid spiritual warfare, we are journeying and battling together for the life of children. And, as he prayed for all women considering abortion, "Lord, use us as your army to bring hope to these women's lives."

By Bill Frederick

### **Please complete and Return ASAP!**

I would like to renew my membership. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$10 suggested annual dues) Make check out to CCHL Cambria/Somerset.  
I would like to help with mailings, fair booth, annual breakfast, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_.

Please remove my name from the mailing list. Print your name & phone #

\_\_\_\_\_

Citizens Concerned for Human Life – Cambria/Somerset Chapter  
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Johnstown, PA 15907-1588

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## **A special farewell from our leader**

I want to personally thank all chapter leaders for everything you have done over the past 21 years to welcome me and our staff to your local activities. I learned so much at your breakfast, dinners and other activities. Special thanks to so many of you who organized pro-life town halls for our educational Director and myself to take the pro-life message into your counties. One of the best parts were the lunches and dinners with local chapter leaders where we really got to know each other. My heartfelt gratitude also extends to all who sponsor tables at our Celebrate Life Banquets over the years and sent delegations from your chapters to experience these incredible events no matter where they were held. Finally, particular thanks to all who gave up two days to participate in our first Chapter Summit last May. Your commitment above and beyond the call of duty was impressive! As I move back into the rank and file of the pro-life movement, please know that I will cherish all of my memories of you, and I will come in you and your people to the Lord in prayer every day! Thank you and God bless you and those you love.

Michael Ciccocioppo,  
Executive Director  
PA Pro-life Federation