Life

Citizens Concerned for Human Life
Cambria-Somerset Chapter

Spring 2025

Appreciate you taking the time to read this. Let's dive into something that weighs heavily on our hearts and our nation's future.

As a Respect-Life group, we are very pleased with the results of the last general election. However, that election is tempered with the reality that procured abortions still happen every day (except for maybe Sundays) in most states throughout our country!

This reality is most injurious to our relationship with a loving and providential God and with our continued existence as a good and Holy Nation! As St. Teresa of Calcutta -- who most know as Mother Teresa -- has said, "A nation that kills its children by Abortion is a Nation without hope."

We want to "Make America Great Again," but we must ask if that is even possible when we disregard the "right to life" of our most vulnerable citizens.

Looking back in history, how agonized we were to hear and see the evidence of the Nazi concentration camps of World War II. In Auschwitz, Poland, many people [men, women, and children] were taken against their will to camps that treated them as less than human; some were starved to death, some were used in cruel and inhumane experiments, while many more were gassed to death and buried in mass graves.

We as a world community have condemned this horrid atrocity! As a nation were proud that we fought the Nazi Regime to bring about an end to this grave injustice! Over six million people (most of whom were Jewish) were murdered! The war in Europe ended in May 1945, with many people declaring, "Never again" will the world allow such an injustice to humankind! That is a good slogan, but is it enduring?

How is it possible that the very nation that ended the Holocaust of Nazi Germany in World War II has, for the past 52 years, taken the lives of over 60 million innocent pre-born children? Even after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June 2022, abortion clinics continue to operate daily, profiting under the guise of providing women with 'reproductive rights.'

But this so-called 'right' is a lie. The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence affirms that no one has the right to take an innocent human life. "We hold these **truths** to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

According to this founding document, no federal or state law can take away the right to life from any innocent human being. Life is the first and most fundamental right affirmed in the Declaration.

Therefore, procured abortion is already illegal in all 50 states—it is not merely a state-by-state issue. Abortion is an abomination that has left our nation morally bankrupt, even surpassing the horrors of Nazi Germany in the last century.

"Legal" abortion must be challenged for this very reason in the Supreme Court. If we do this, we can win, end all abortions, and we can truly "Make America Great Again."

God bless you and your loved ones and our nation abundantly!

Ann E. Poole

Respect Life Presentation at Luncheon

By Dennis Ryniak

On Sunday afternoon, January 19th, 2025, the Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Cambria-Somerset Chapter, held their Annual Membership Appreciation Luncheon. The Luncheon was held at St. Michael Church Hall in St. Michael, PA.

This year, we were honored to host a Presentation developed by the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese Respect Life Committee. The Presentation was made by Tony Conrad, who also serves as co-chairman of the committee. Although the weather was not particularly inviting that day, we still had a good turnout with twenty-one attendees.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown's Respect Life Committee has a mission to help create a culture of life throughout the diocesan area by supporting existing Respect Life programs and developing new versions. The group focuses on services that promote pregnancy support and provide education to the faithful. Building on the Church's teaching on life issues while providing practical support and prayer.

The Abortion Presentation covers five key components. The Church's teaching on abortion, fetal development, abortion methods including chemical abortion, loving alternatives, post-abortion healing, and common myths. Other component topics also include Euthanasia and end-of-life issues.

The Presentation lasts about 50 minutes and includes a PowerPoint presentation with pictures and videos. This is ideal for Christian and Parochial High Schools, Campus Ministry, churches, and service groups. The program is also adaptable to speak to Protestant churches and service groups. And has already been presented to protestant denominations in the area.

Whether Catholic or Protestant, we should all agree on the need to provide pregnancy support. Especially for women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and who need emotional, material, and spiritual support or post-abortion healing.

Everyone should consider supporting a pregnancy center that provides alternatives to abortion. Likewise, everyone should support and defend the lives of preborn children at every opportunity!

As scripture teaches us, verbal faith, that is, faith consisting of words without actions, is insufficient. It cannot save, serve, or survive. But everyone profits when the love of God abides in the believer and is expressed through good works. While salvation is not earned by works, they serve as a necessary evidence of true conversion and a transformed life. Real faith results in a compassionate life. Any professing Christian who refuses to help a brother or sister in need casts doubt on the integrity of their faith.

Faith unaccompanied by works was never alive. A workless faith is a worthless faith. As Martin Luther said, "It is impossible to separate works from faith as it is to separate burning and shining from fire." A better interpretation argues that although good works will never earn salvation, true faith always produces good works because true faith motivates a person to please God. According to Charles Spurgeon, "The child of God works not for life, but from life; he does not work to be saved, he works because he is saved."

Now is the time to begin your work and defend Pre-born Children!

In Loving Memory of	**Given by:**
Barbara C. Gray	Dan and Lynn Beseth of Lewiston, NY
Florence Rizzo	Blair Senior Services
Florence Rizzo	Co-Workers of Maria (Rizzo) Pierce, Daughter of
Florence Rizzo	John and Ann Poole

Because CCHL is an organization that celebrates life and the wonderful gifts that God sends forth, we would like to acknowledge your precious gifts in our newsletter. If you or someone you know has a life event you'd like to share, such as a recent birth, anniversary, or the passing of a loved one, please send us the details. We'll be happy to include this information in our next newsletter.

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Editor's Note: *You can now make donations directly on the Citizens Concerned for Human Life: Cambria- Somerset Chapter website. Go to https://prolifecambriasomerset.org/ and click the "Donate" button in the top right corner.*

Helpful Snippets from the PA Pro-Life Federation

- The number of abortions has increased by 5%, reaching a total of 34,848, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This marks the highest number in ten years. In contrast, the National Right to Life Committee reports that approximately 89,000 babies have been saved since the overturn of Roe v. Wade.
- Recently, the abortion pill has been linked to the deaths of Amber Nicole Thurman, Candi Miller, and Alyona Dixon—cases that gained significant media attention.
- As Maria Gallagher states, 'Abortion is the taking of an innocent, unrepeatable human life. It kills the defenseless, vulnerable preborn child and leaves the woman to grieve the loss of that child.'

Calendar of Upcoming Events

1. 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.

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 out with mailings, fair booth, annual breakfast,

_____.

Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Print your name & phone #

_____

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A Reason to Choose Life

by Cristian A. Ridilla

As an editor of this publication and a member of this community, I have learned an immense amount about why we are so "Pro-Life" as a group. I love how Mother Teresa of Calcutta (a recently canonized Saint) describes how life should be our only option. "If you want peace, end abortion". This is so direct but truthful at the same time.

Although the opponents of this community call themselves "Pro-Choice", this is a serious misnomer and a deceptive one at that. Where does the choice come in when in crisis, a woman must pick death or the individual is required to set aside their morality? I don't believe this is a valid "choice" or range of options.

In contrast, one may choose a vow of celibacy with a charitable heart, marriage, or be preferentially unmarried by one's own decision. The best part is that all three of these paths are charitable, faithful to God, and truly decided by the person.

Always remember Mother Teresa and her zeal for the preborn. "Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby, and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three-quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers."

Please pray for all women, especially the most vulnerable, and encourage a spirit of Life and love.