

Life Lines

A publication of Right to Life of East Texas

"To promote respect for the worth and dignity of all human life, including the life of the unborn child from the moment of conception."

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PROTECTING LIFE SINCE 1977

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LET'S LIFE CHAIN EAST TEXAS

The 28th annual Life Chain-Longview is planned for Sunday October 7, 2018 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The time may vary for locations other than Longview, so check for your city at the website below. This annual event promotes awareness of our pro-life position to people throughout East Texas.

We encourage you to help organize your church or other group. We will provide the signs to your church the week before the Life Chain. Contact us so that we can bundle the signs and prepare a map for your church. If your church doesn't participate as a group, individuals are always welcome; stop by the Hobby Lobby parking lot to

pick-up a sign before 2 pm on October 7.

In Longview, we will assemble on North Loop 281 near the Longview Mall. We will gather this year, rain or shine, come dressed for the weather.



In addition to Longview, Chains are typically held in more than 20 East Texas cities including Athens, Mount Enterprise, Canton, Crockett, Brownwood, Henderson, Diana, Marshall, Jefferson, Hallsville, Harleton, Diana, Atlanta, Carthage, Centerville, Nacogdoches, Palestine, Paris, Texarkana and Tyler. You can check <http://LifeChain.net> for

information about the Life Chain nearest you.

Please remember that the Life Chain is intended to be a prayerful time of public witness. It is suggested that each person stand about ten feet apart. Do not obstruct traffic. Bring a chair if you aren't able to stand for an hour. A hat or umbrella is recommended for weather protection.



Consider the following from Psalm 24:11-12;

“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this,’ does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done”.

Please join us as we witness to our communities to turn expectant mothers away from the slaughter of abortion.

SANCTITY OF LIFE BANQUET

The fourth annual Sanctity of Life Banquet is planned for Monday October 8, 2018. The event is from 6-8 pm at Rose Heights Church in Tyler. This event is open to all people across East Texas who wish to promote a culture of life; we especially encourage pastors and elected officials to attend. The banquet is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Tyler. **For reservations go to www.easttexaslifebanquet.com**

The speaker, expected to be a well-known pro-life advocate, was not confirmed at the time of our printing, so check the website for details.

GREGG COUNTY FAIR BOOTH

We will participate in our oldest activity, the Gregg County Fair, for nine days, from September 7 to 15. Right to Life of East Texas has had an educational booth at the fair for 40 years.

Our pro-life information is always well received. Teenagers, pregnant women and mothers of young children are especially interested in prenatal development. The fetal models and poster display provide accurate information to show that an unborn baby is a human person.

We hope this newsletter reaches you before the fair ends; **please contact us if you would like to volunteer to**

staff the booth. We can pair you with an experienced volunteer if you haven't helped before.



MERCY MANOR NEWS

Mercy Manor provides a residential facility for pregnant girls under age 18. They will hold their **annual banquet on Sunday September 16 at 5 pm** at the Maude Cobb Convention Center in Longview. The theme is a tailgate party (inside), wear your favorite team's jersey. Reservations can be made by calling 903-932-9079 or www.mercymanor.com.

They are also searching for house parents for the residential facility. If you or someone you know has a heart for this ministry, please contact Mercy Manor. They also are looking for men to serve on their board.

OBITUARY

We are saddened to report the death of Charles Dance on July 26, 2018, he was 83 years old. Charles is survived by his wife of 65 years, Wanda, two daughters and three son-in-laws, six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in a death by a daughter and son. Charles supported Wanda as founder of Living Alternatives in Longview. They were longtime supporters of RTLET.

END OF LIFE ISSUE

Jonathan Michel lay in a Tyler hospital with a brain injury from a fall and was about to have all medical treatment removed, which would have likely caused his death. Thankfully his parents, Karen and Wren Michel, arrived in time to stop this and demand a hearing before the hospital ethics panel, which agreed that Jonathan was not dying nor terminally ill.

The conflict centers around Jonathan's estranged wife who is still his legal guardian. She stated that prior to their separation, Jonathan made it clear to her that if he were in such a condition that he "would want nature to take its course." Since Jonathan opens and closes his eyes when prompted, moves his limbs and is able to do other tasks, his parents believe he is aware of his circumstances and that further medical care is appropriate. Jonathan no longer requires "life support" care. His father was granted

temporary (65 days) guardianship on August 8 to assure he receives the proper and appropriate care.

Mark Dickson, pastor of Sovereign Love Church and RTLET director helped the Michels find legal help from Texas Right to Life and the Terri Schiavo Life and Hope Network (founded by Terri's brother Bobby Schindler who spoke at the February 2018 RTLET banquet in Longview). Donations to help with legal costs may be made to RTLET and we will forward to the groups providing the assistance.

This report is current only through August 9; please watch social media for updates.

<p>...BUT NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS</p>

We congratulate Jonathan Trost, a student at LeTourneau University, who was selected as one of 26 Dr. Joseph Graham Fellows for the 2018-2019 school year by Texas Right to Life. The students attended a one week training course in June which equipped them with pro-life knowledge and leadership skills to use on their campus. This year's group included students from 20 different Texas universities.

From *Rewire* in 2013, former surgeon general C. Everett Koop said he was "a man of science" who "put science before personal ideology" further said: "Protection of the life of the mother as an excuse

for abortion is a smoke screen. In my 36 years of pediatric surgery, I have never known of one instance where the child had to be aborted to save the mother's life."

The Centers for Disease Control has released statistics that show the number of abortions and the rate of abortions have steadily declined for 30 years. The number of abortions has dropped from 1.36 million in 1995 to 970,000 in 2014 (and other data shows a further decline since then). Since the number of abortions is affected by the number of women of child-bearing age, it is important to note that the rate of abortion per one thousand women age 15-44 has also dropped from 22.5 in 1995 to 14.6 in 2014. This rate is in fact the lowest since 1971 when abortion was legal in only six states. (It isn't clear why the CDC monitors abortion statistics since neither pregnancy or abortion are diseases?)

For those of us that grew up in the 1960's and 70's, you probably remember being warned of disastrous fallout from a "population bomb." Many "experts" were concerned with the rising world population and limited resources. One professor went so far as to suggest adding contraceptives to drinking water and issuing an antidote to only a limited number of couples per year. Fifty years later most countries are instead facing a population deficit. Even China has changed their one-child policy. The U. S. fertility rate is the lowest on

record at 1.76; Canada is reported at 1.54; and Japan and most of Europe are in a demographic crisis with a constantly aging population. For those of you under 50, be thankful the idea of required contraception wasn't started or you wouldn't be reading this!

2019 FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE

We rely on the annual fundraising garage sale for most of our operating budget. Limited storage space is available now for donations if you aren't able to keep your extras until March. Please contact us if you would like to donate your slightly used articles now. We DO NOT ACCEPT BOOKS OR TV'S. Please note that we have changed the sale to be **during spring break** for most Longview area schools, rather than the week after. This would be a great opportunity for a service project for your teens. We will receive donations at St. Matthew's Saint John Paul Family Center at 2904 Arrow Lane starting Monday March 11, 2019 and the sale is Friday and Saturday March 15 and 16. **Volunteers are always welcome to help sort, price and sell, starting on Monday March 11.**

NOVEMBER ELECTION

The 2018 mid-term election on November 6 will be critical to continue a pro-life Texas and federal Congress. We have not seen a

specific pro-life voters guide but you can check www.texasrighttolife.com when we get closer to election day, since they usually provide this resource. We are not able to endorse candidates but encourage you to know the candidates' position on life issues which besides abortion includes euthanasia and futile care.

The 2017 Texas legislature did pass Senate Bill 11 which revised the procedure to authorize a *do not resuscitate order* (DNR). The bill which took effect April 1, 2018, now requires the consent of the patient or their legal representative. Previously doctors and other medical personnel could issue a DNR unilaterally. Another Texas law (Texas Health and Safety Code 166.046) still allows hospitals to discharge or withdraw treatment to patients after ten days notice if they feel further care is "futile." This hidden euthanasia law needs to be repealed or modified by the 2019 legislature.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018
 Sept 7-15 Gregg Co Fair
 Sept 16 Mercy Manor Banquet
 Oct 7 Life Chain
 Oct 8 Sanctity of Life Banquet

2019
 Jan 12-27 Cemetery of the Innocents
 Feb, tbd Celebrate Life Banquet
 Mar 15 and 16 Garage Sale

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

**MAIL TO: RIGHT TO LIFE OF EAST TEXAS
PO BOX 9294
LONGVIEW TX 75608-9294**

_____ **YES**, I would like to become a member of Right to Life of East Texas.

Enclosed are membership dues (\$10 for a family; \$7.50 for a single, valid for 12 months).

I agree to promote respect for all innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

County _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

[You will receive this newsletter that will keep you informed of pro-life activities and news.]