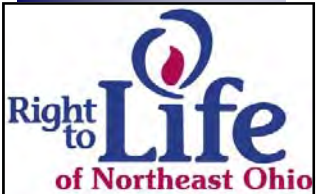


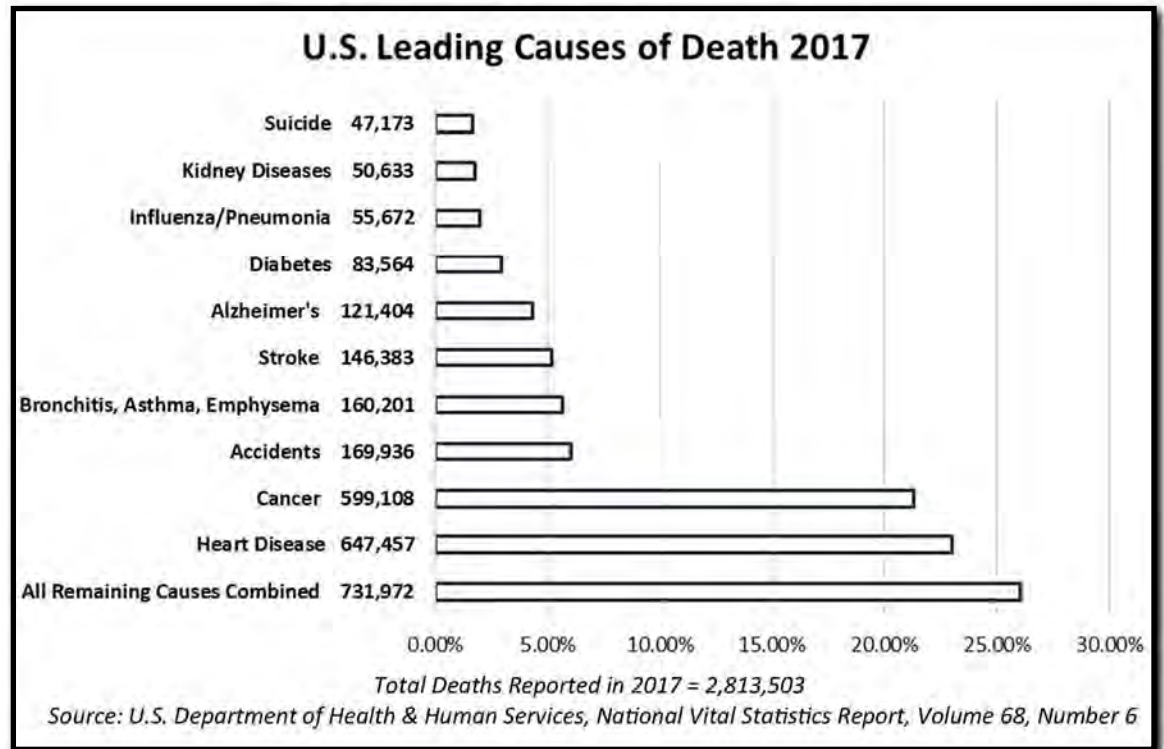
Lifelines



Spring 2020



What's Wrong With This Picture? by Denise Leipold, Executive Director



These past few months, our country has been totally occupied with fighting the corona virus. Every day when we listen to the news, we are getting reports on how many people have become infected with a big focus on how many people have died. As of April 23, (when this article was written) the U.S. total for those who have died from the virus was 47,992. Tragically, the amount rose by approximately 8,000 deaths in just one day from when the first draft of the article was written. The impact of this virus is so serious because of its highly contagious nature. Majority of the people who get the virus have little or barely noticeable symptoms. The danger lies in the impact it has on both the elderly, and those with underlying conditions that make it difficult to survive the virus.

I'm not here to defend nor am I going to disagree with the virtual shutdown of the country. I'm not an expert in dealing with viruses nor am I an expert at dealing with the financial impact this has had on our country's economy. What I AM an expert at is dealing with life issues.

The chart above is a representation of the leading causes of death in the United States in 2017, which is the most recent compilation of statistics available. In 2017, there were

2,813,503 deaths recorded in this country. The top ten causes of deaths were those listed above.

What you DON'T see listed on the chart above is *the number of deaths attributed to abortion*. The *National Vital Statistics Report* from which this chart was created is a 76 page document that goes into extensive detail about death and its causes. It even has a separate section dealing with infant deaths. There are 130 selected causes of infant deaths specified, and *none of them is abortion*.

In 1981, several of our nation's top scientists testified at a senate hearing on the Human Life Bill. These scientists unequivocally stated that human life begins at the moment of fertilization. Just a short 9 years earlier, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun said in the court's opinion on *Roe v. Wade* that *no one* could agree on when life began! The bill did not pass, but since that time, **it has become accepted scientific fact that life begins at conception**. Pick up any human embryology text book and this will be corroborated. With this being the case, why aren't deaths from abortion included in the *National Vital Statistics Report*?

(Continued on page 5)

I recently read this quote written in 1707 by Jonathan Swift. Even though it is old, it is relevant for today: *"Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through."*

This is so true, especially when it comes to laws affecting abortion. For instance, we passed a law in Ohio several years ago stating that no abortion may be performed if a pre-born infant is found to be able to survive outside of a mother's womb, which is considered to be possible starting at about 21 or 22 weeks gestation. The problem with this law is that the abortionist is the one that makes the determination through ultrasound technology, and it is very easy to manipulate the ultrasound just by changing the position of the ultrasound probe!

I get complaints all the time from anti-abortion advocates regarding laws like this, called incremental legislation. They want to know why we don't support or pass laws in Ohio to just completely ban abortion, or at least stop it when the heartbeat begins. They tell us that we are just regulating abortion, and not stopping it.

Most people just don't understand the law. While we may not like it or agree with it, when Roe v Wade was passed by the Supreme Court, it took away the right of each state to stop abortion before the point of viability. It specifically stated that a woman's choice to have an abortion outweighs the state's interest in prenatal life. However, from the point of viability, the state's interest in prenatal life outweighs the mother's liberty interest. What that means is that **states cannot ban abortions based on concern for prenatal life. After the point of viability, it can.** This has been upheld by the Supreme Court many times over the years.

Does this mean that we are not doing anything to stop abortion before viability? Absolutely NOT!!! Doing legislative work is only a very small portion of our mission. In fact, as a registered non-profit, IRS rules and regulations require that we devote no more than 15% of our time and energy to legislative activities. For that reason, we are very selective in the legislation that we choose to support since we want donor funds to be used only to support laws which we know have an excellent chance of withstanding a court challenge. The biggest part of our mission is education and advocacy, to change hearts and minds so that even if the laws never change, the abortion clinics will go out of business due to lack of clients.

The reality of federal law is that states can pass all the heartbeat bills, life at conception acts, or any other bill that bans abortion before viability, and they will be struck down by the courts. Many states that pass these laws think that it will be the law that makes it to the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v Wade, and maybe it will, but very unlikely due to many precedents. I'm not sure what case will eventually overturn Roe v Wade, but there are several on the books other than these enjoined laws that I am hopeful for. Based on the chatter I hear around the country and in state and federal legislatures, and based on the changing makeup of the Supreme Court, I do think that this can happen in the foreseeable future.



If and when Roe v Wade is overturned, it doesn't automatically make abortion illegal across the country. What it does is to return the power to the states to decide. In Ohio, abortion was NOT illegal prior to 1973, so it would remain legal when Roe v Wade is overturned. To help right this wrong, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio has helped to structure a new bill that was introduced into the legislature shortly before the corona virus shutdown occurred. The Human Life Protection Act (HB538) proposes to make abortion illegal in

Ohio and becomes law when the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) overrules Roe v Wade and returns control of life decisions back to the states. Because this law is "triggered" by the overturning of Roe v Wade, it has been nicknamed the "trigger bill". This precedent was upheld by the Ohio Supreme Court and does not conflict with the Ohio Constitution. That means the bill can only go into effect upon a condition precedent by the Supreme Court. *It would save lives sooner than any other previously passed legislation* since it would go into effect immediately after Roe v Wade is overturned. Other legislation that had been enjoined by the courts would need to file a case to overturn the injunction, taking time. The trigger bill is akin to the bee or the wasp that breaks through the spiderweb of abortion!

It is tragic and sad that we have to pass laws to stop mothers from killing their preborn children. A law is valuable, not because it is a law, but because there is right in it. The right to life for ALL human beings should always be the law.

For Life,

Denise Leipold, *Executive Director*



Webster's Dictionary defines pandemic as a disease "prevalent throughout an entire country, continent, or the whole world." Induced abortion certainly fulfills that definition. It ends the life of one or more unborn human beings and increases the risk of physical and mental problems for the mother. The mortality rate for legal abortion is over 50%. Some abortions involve multiple fetuses, as do "selective reduction" abortions, and the CDC's latest report (11/29/19) indicates 439 women died from legal abortion in the U.S. between 1973 and 2015. That number probably should at least be doubled, since not all maternal deaths resulting from abortion are reported as such. (See our Summer 2018 issue for details). From January 1973 through 2019, there have been over 61 million abortions in the U.S.

An organization called U.S. Abortion Clock, using various sources, estimates that since 1980, there have been over 1.6 billion induced abortions worldwide. The Guttmacher Institute states that "During 2010-2014, an estimated 56 million abortions occurred each year worldwide."

Pro-Choice and Pro-Life Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic apparently began because of lax safeguards at a Wuhan, China research lab. The first patient there was admitted to a hospital on 12/16/19, although the disease was not identified as such at that time. Resulting from overseas travel, the first case in the U.S. was confirmed by the CDC on 1/21/20. On 1/25/20, President Trump restricted air travel from China, but the pandemic was upon us.

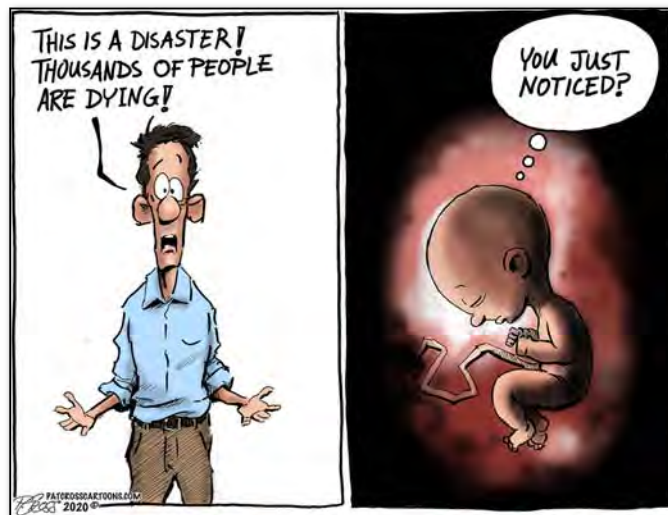
Not wanting any crisis "to go to waste," the pro-choice movement was quick to respond, seeking to define elective abortion as a necessary medical procedure. Several of the states had defined other medical procedures as "elective" and therefore non-essential. The latter included cancer treatment, knee and hip replacement, and stent placement in blood vessels to prevent blockages

providers have reported an increased demand for abortions because of the coronavirus pandemic. Chicago abortionists reported some women were coming from Texas and Alabama to obtain abortions, since those states defined abortion as an elective, non-essential procedure. Pro-life sidewalk counselors have reported seeing several out-of-state license plates on cars in clinic parking lots, with patients entering without protective gear, and/or waiting in line close to one another if the clinic was not yet opened.

Planned Parenthood (PP) hopes to offer telemed (webcam) abortions in all fifty states by the end of April. In this procedure, without seeing a doctor in person, women consult one over a webcam with the abortion pills being dispensed from a remote-control drawer, or a by a staff member.

However, webcam abortions are illegal in 18 states, with Ohio State Senator Stephen A. Huffman offering similar legislation here. Further, physicians at the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists point out that such abortions generate more patients to be seen in emergency rooms already overburdened by the virus pandemic. Two studies in the medical literature, together involving almost 50,000 women, found pill abortions were more likely to result in complications than early surgical abortions. The most common complications were hemorrhage and incomplete abortions, which then require surgery.

The American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has stated that, "To the extent that hospital systems or ambulatory surgical facilities are categorizing



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to vital organs! Led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, 19 other state Democratic AGs (and the D.C. AG) requested the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to waive the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) governing the dispensing of the abortion pill Mifepristone. In response, 159 members of the U.S. House and Senate called on the FDA to "continue to robustly enforce" REMS. The FDA maintains this protocol is necessary to assess the duration of pregnancy accurately, diagnose ectopic pregnancies, provide surgical intervention in cases of incomplete abortion or severe bleeding, or to have made arrangements for others to provide such care.

Planned Parenthood and other

(Continued on page 4)

procedures that can be delayed during the coronavirus pandemic, abortion should not be categorized as such a procedure.” Nancie Schwarzman, board member of PP of Southern New England, noted that abortion is “time-sensitive,” saying, “Can you imagine anything more essential?” Meera Shah, chief medical officer for three PP clinics in New York City suburbs stated, “Pregnancy-related care, especially abortion care, is essential and life-affirming.” But Dr. Christina Francis, chair of pro-life OB-GYNs, says “Abortion is not essential healthcare; it doesn’t treat a disease process.” Moreover, if abortion were essential health care, most OB-GYNs would provide it. But 85% do not do elective abortions. Reflecting the pro-choice propensity to deny the humanity of the unborn, Governor Andrew Cuomo D-NY, referring to the CORONAVIRUS pandemic said, “...we’re not going to accept a premise that human life is disposable ... The first order of business is to save lives, period.” On January 23, 2019, Cuomo signed an abortion bill that legalized abortion up to birth for nearly any reason.

State Policies and Judicial Responses

Once President Trump declared coronavirus to be a public health crisis, it became incumbent upon each state to develop policies to deal with the situation. Part of this involved classifying medical procedures as essential or non-essential, in order to marshal medical staff, facilities, and equipment to deal with the virus, and to prevent its spread. In Ohio, under pro-life Governor Mike DeWine (R), Department of Health Director Amy Acton, mandated on 3/17/20 that non-essential surgical procedures (to include elective abortion) cease. However, on 3/30/20,

U.S. Judge Michael R. Barrett of the Southern District of Ohio ruled the same day that closing abortion facilities would cause “irreparable harm” to women.

the ACLU and PPFA took emergency action to nullify the mandate. U.S. Judge Michael R. Barrett of the Southern District of Ohio ruled the same day that closing abortion facilities would cause “irreparable harm” to women. On 4/2/20, Judge Barrett further ruled that abortion providers themselves could determine if abortions are essential or not on a case by case basis, and therefore could remain open. Ohio AG Dave Yost indicated he intended to appeal the ruling, and was joined by 15 other state AGs in an amicus brief.

Although the situation is fluid, here is what we know of the actions in other states as of this writing. **The**

following states considered abortion non-essential and sought to stop them during the pandemic. (In this list after the state’s policy, if there was court action, CA = Court Affirmed, and CO = Court Overturned).

Alabama (CA)	Iowa	Ohio (CO)
Alaska	Kentucky	Oklahoma (CO)
Arkansas (CA)	Louisiana	Tennessee (CO)
Indiana	Maryland	West Virginia
	Mississippi	

Of these 13 states, 11 have Republican governors, and 2 (KY, LA) have Democratic governors. **The following states considered abortion essential and allowed clinics to remain open during the pandemic lockdown:**

California	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Kansas	New Jersey	Rhode Island
Maine	New Mexico	Virginia
Massachusetts	New York	Washington
Michigan	North Carolina	

All 14 of these states have Democratic governors.

Texas originally defined abortion as non-essential, and sought to close clinics, but during the third week of April, pro-life governor Greg Abbott (R) issued an executive order permitting elective surgeries to commence if they are considered to correct a serious medical condition. His order did not mention abortion. When asked about it later, Abbott told reporters, “Obviously, that will be a decision for courts to make.” Planned Parenthood and other clinics interpreted his order to mean they could perform elective abortions again. Of the 21 states whose policies have not been in the news, 8 have Democratic governors, and 13 have Republican governors.

Is Abortion an “Essential” Medical Procedure?

One newspaper’s editorial answered this question quite directly, and we shall quote freely from it. “Merriam-Webster defines ‘essential’ as meaning ‘of the utmost importance: basic, indispensable, necessary.’ The primary determinant of whether abortion meets this threshold is whether or not it is medically required. ... But almost all elective abortions completely fail the test of being an essential medical procedure in this time of pandemic ... abortion-rights activists’ own rhetoric, which constantly casts abortion as a woman’s sacrosanct personal choice, further undermines any claim of it being medically essential. ... As Mark Harrington, president of the pro-life group Created Equal pointedly remarked, ... ‘If abortion is a choice, then abortion is an elective procedure.’ ... (N)on-essential medical procedures are being discouraged ... for the same reason as every other nonessential procedure: to minimize the potential of spreading the coronavirus. In this context, it is salient to spotlight the documented reality of the substandard

(Continued on page 6)

What's Wrong With This Picture? (Continued from page 1)

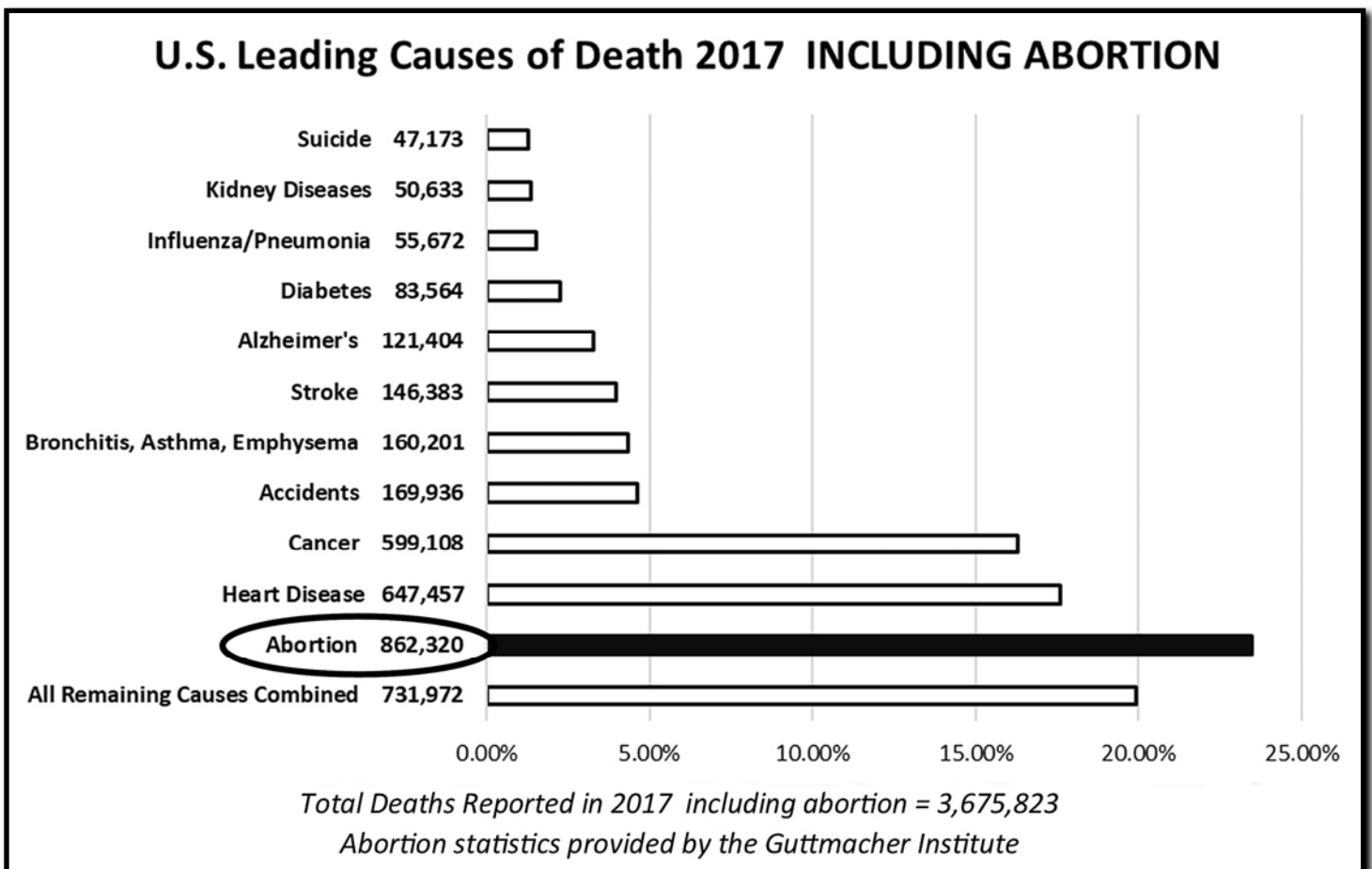
If you look at the chart on the bottom of this page, we've recreated the previous chart and added 862,320 deaths (the number of reported abortions in 2017) to the national total, bringing the adjusted total to 3,675,823. What's so astonishing is what we already know that is being ignored by abortion advocates and the liberal media: **abortion is the leading cause of death in the United States.** Heart disease, the next highest cause of death, was responsible for 17.61% of total deaths in 2017 (with abortion added in), while **abortion was responsible for 23.45% of total deaths that year!**

I'm not making light of heart disease, cancer, suicide, or any of the other causes of death on this chart. What I'm trying to do is to put it in perspective. We're constantly hearing about the push to cure cancer, heart disease, diabetes and more. We hear even more controversy about guns being the cause of death. While gun deaths are included in the statistics, it is not readily apparent. In 2017, there were 39,773 deaths attributed to guns. 23,854 of those deaths were from suicide. 14,252 were from murders, 486 were unintentional or from accidents, 553 involved law enforcement, and 338 were undetermined.

The national cry for gun control is at a fever pitch! I don't deny that deaths from guns are tragic. But again, we need to put it in perspective: **gun deaths accounted for 1.08% of total deaths in 2017, while abortion accounted for 23.45%—and abortion deaths were intentional!** For abortion to be considered legal makes this an even more heartbreaking tragedy.

We've shut this country down to combat the corona virus. Let's use the corona virus statistics to make another comparison. We'll "guesstimate" that corona virus deaths will be around 75,000. If this had happened in 2017, the total deaths caused by the corona virus (adding 75,000 to the death total on the chart below bringing it to 3,750,823) the deaths from the corona virus would have accounted for approximately 2% of the total U.S. deaths that year. However, abortions deaths would still account for 23% of the total deaths. **The lack of response to abortion deaths that are intentionally caused by the mother of the preborn human being is astounding in comparison to the huge response to the corona virus.**

God help us all if we can't make people understand that abortion kills a human being and it needs to be stopped NOW! ■



We Marched for Life!



Right to Life of Northeast Ohio led a sold out contingency to Washington, DC, on January 24, 2020 for the annual March for Life, the largest peaceful pro-life gathering in the world! We started off the day by attending the National Prayer Service for the Unborn. We also attended the March for Life Rally on the National Mall where we were privileged to hear President Donald Trump address the massive crowd as the first sitting president in history to personally attend the March for Life. At the end of the March, we attended a reception in the senate office building where we got to personally meet with several legislators, including Senator Jim Jordan, Congressman Anthony Gonzalez, Congressman Warren Davidson, and Ohio State Senator Kristina Roegner.



Coronavirus and the Abortion Pandemic (Continued from page 4)

medical and hygienic practices in many abortion facilities.” (See our Winter, 2017 and Spring 2018 issues on that topic).

Is Religious Freedom Under Attack?

It is no secret that the pro-choice movement has little respect for organized religion and religious freedom. Disregarding strongly held moral and religious beliefs, they want all citizens to pay for abortion with their tax dollars, and to support Planned Parenthood, the nation’s biggest abortion provider.

Several examples of apparent hostility to religion (primarily toward Christians) have surfaced during the coronavirus pandemic. These have occurred in at least fourteen communities in eleven states and involve both pro-life sidewalk counselors at clinics and church-goers. For example, in Charlotte NC, police arrested seven pro-life sidewalk counselors outside of “A Woman’s Choice” abortion center, even though they were maintaining the six-foot social distance directive, and had face masks and hand sanitizer. They were charged with violating the Guilford County stay at home order. The order allowed activities such as golfing as an “essential” outdoor activity, and gave no indication why civil public activism would not qualify. On 4/7/20, Christians in Greenfield MS were given citations of \$500 each for sitting in their cars with the windows rolled up listening to the pastor’s sermon over their car radios. The mayor, Errick Simmons (D) announced the day before that all church buildings be closed for “in person and drive-in church services” until the governor’s shelter in place order was lifted. Those in the cars had to roll down their windows to receive the tickets from the policeman’s bare hands. Pastor Scott told a radio host, “One of the police officers said the mayor wanted to make an example of our church.”

At least ten of these Christian communities responded to protect their religious liberty, however. They have either filed or won suits, or have had the authorities rescind their orders or back down when challenged. On April 14, responding to these and other similar instances, U.S. Attorney General William Barr promised to look into these threats to religious liberty, saying, “the First Amendment and federal statutory law” prohibit governments from “imposing special restrictions on religious activity that do not also apply to similar non-religious activity.” ■

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*Protecting the sanctity of human life from conception
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The Main Issues

*Abortion
Embryonic Stem Cell Research & Cloning
Euthanasia & End of Life Decisions*

Our Goal

Building the Culture of Life

Our Strategies

***Educate** with the facts concerning life issues
Legislate by promoting laws protecting innocent
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Advocate as a voice for the voiceless
Unify those seeking to defend life
Multiply our voices to increase in strength*

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