2020 Election Kicks Off in Michigan on March 10

It seems like we've already been in election season since 2016, but the official kick-off of the 2020 election season in Michigan is the presidential primary on Tuesday, March 10.

For the first time in many years, Michigan will be a true battleground state. In 2016, Donald Trump became the first presidential candidate endorsed by the Right to Life of Michigan Political Action Committee (RLM-PAC) to win Michigan since 1988. In the final months of previous elections, most presidential campaigns redirected resources away from Michigan. In the final 100 days of the 2016 election, President Trump visited Michigan more than twice as often as his opponent Hillary Clinton did.

Michigan voters should expect more attention—and more election ads—in this year’s presidential election compared to previous elections.

The presidential primary election will be very similar to typical primary elections in Michigan. Voters will receive one ballot, and must choose between casting a vote in the Democratic or Republican presidential primaries.

All other primary races for the Michigan House and other offices will be decided during the typical primary election, this year on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

So far, the RLM-PAC has endorsed President Trump for re-election, and John James for his U.S. Senate race against Senator Gary Peters. A full list of other RLM-PAC endorsements for the August 4 primary election will be released in June.

The March 10 presidential primary is an excellent opportunity for Michigan voters to become familiar with new election rules put in place in 2018. The biggest change is no-reason absentee voting; now you can request an absentee ballot without having to give a reason.

If you want to vote from the comfort of your home rather than showing up at your local precinct on election day, here are the steps and important points you need to know:

- No reason is needed to request an absentee ballot.
- Get the application form online at www.michigan.gov/elections
- Return the application to your local clerk by mail, fax, or e-mail.
- An absentee ballot will be mailed to you. Fill it out and send it back via mail or in-person drop off to your local clerk.
- Absentee ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

You can also vote early in your local clerk’s office until Monday, March 9. Visit the office, request your ballot and fill it out right there.

You can also sign up to be on a permanent absentee voter list; an application for an absentee ballot will be sent to you before each election. Use the absentee application form or contact your local clerk to be added to the permanent list.

2020 Petition Drive Signatures Await Final Verification

The Michigan Values Life coalition submitted 379,419 signatures believed to be valid to the Michigan Bureau of Elections on December 23, 2019, to initiate legislation to ban dismemberment abortions in Michigan.

The dismemberment abortion procedure is the most frequently used late-term abortion procedure. The procedure works exactly like it sounds; an unborn child is dismembered and removed from her mother’s womb, one limb at a time. In 2018, there were 1,908 dismemberment abortions in Michigan reported to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

As of print time, the Bureau of Elections is still in the process of counting and verifying these signatures to confirm their validity. It’s expected they will be finished in early March.

The legal signature requirement for citizen-initiated legislation in Michigan is 340,047, based on the total votes for governor in the previous election.

Our committed all-volunteer force persevered through significant obstacles that kept being put in their path this year. An estimated 420,000 signatures were received at the Right to Life of Michigan office, but roughly 40,000 signatures with errors or mistakes were not submitted to the Bureau of Elections.

A change in the petition law in 2018 required a change in Right to Life of Michigan’s time-tested validation process. Each petition received has been checked at least four times, compared to one or two times in previous petition drives.

Right to Life of Michigan and prolife allies set a state record for the highest signature validity rate with the 2004 petition drive to ban partial-birth abortions. The final validity rate of those submitted signatures was 97 percent.

Once the Bureau of Elections has finished reviewing the submitted signatures and checking the validity of a random sample of them, those who wish to challenge the validity of the signatures in the sample have 10 business days to do so. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU have suggested they are considering challenges.

After considering any potential challenges, the Board of State Canvassers gives final approval that there are 340,047 or more valid signatures, and the dismemberment ban will be sent to the Michigan Legislature. The Legislation will have 40 days to consider the bill. If majorities in the Michigan House and Senate vote to approve the bill, it will become law without Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s signature. Initiated legislation that isn’t passed into law is placed on the general election ballot for a public vote.

The 379,419 people who signed their names on this life-saving dismemberment ban should be confident that the prolife majorities in the Michigan Legislature will pass the bill again. Back in May, the Michigan House and Senate voted favorably for an essentially identical bill.

For updates on the state of the petition drive, you can visit the Right to Life of Michigan website, RTL.org, or follow us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
Banning Dismemberment Abortion the Hard Way

Barbara Listing, President
Right to Life of Michigan

Throughout our lives there are times we just know we are called to immerse ourselves in a project or a cause. I witnessed this calling through the thousands of volunteers during our dismemberment abortion ban petition drive.

Throughout a long six months, Michigan prolifers left their comfort zones hitting the streets to face their fellow citizens with information about a heinous abortion method. Daily I heard stories about courageous and determined people who became champions for unborn babies. There were senior citizens who went door to door in their neighborhoods or stood at Secretary of State offices collecting signatures. There were home-schooled children accompanying their mothers to rallies and events. There were business owners who opened their doors to petition circulators.

These determined prolifers faced everything Mother Nature threw at them: July heat, October rain and snowy December. These were everyday citizens simply answering the call to do the extraordinary because of their desire to stop this slaughter of live babies.

When we started this attempt to ban late-term abortions, it was because Governor Whitmer had pledged to veto any prolife law—any attempt to protect innocent unborn children. We thought, this attempt to use a constitutional method of introducing and passing legislation would be like our previous four attempts: quickly done and with opposition only from pro-abortion forces. Throughout the campaign, the opposite proved to be the case.

Despite the opposition and slanderous attacks, the volunteers prevailed, and 379,419 valid signatures were presented to the Secretary of State’s Bureau of Elections on December 23. “Valid” means the petition sheets were carefully checked by Right to Life of Michigan staff, and any signature not meeting state requirements was not submitted to the Secretary of State.

In all, we estimate at least 420,000 signatures were mailed into our office to be checked.

Hopefully by the time you read my column, the signatures will be certified by the Secretary of State, and the dismemberment abortion ban will be on its way to be approved by the Michigan Legislature. We do know the Election Bureau’s staff is methodically going through each petition searching for any invalid signature. They have no deadline, but we are estimating they should be finished with their part of the process by early March. We also know Planned Parenthood and the ACLU have claimed their desire to challenge the validity of our signatures. Watch for updates on our website at RTL.org.

Thank you for answering the call to use your valuable time in being a vital part of ending this brutality of ripping apart live unborn babies. Success would not have been possible if you had ignored the call and instead remained in the comfort of your homes.

Right to Life of Michigan is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization of prolife groups in the state of Michigan, committed to articulating and protecting the right to life of defenseless human beings, born and unborn.

This commitment is derived from a belief that each human being, from the time of fertilization to natural death, has an immeasurable dignity and inalienable right to life. The RLM News is a publication distributed to members and supporters of Right to Life of Michigan and its affiliate groups.

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SAVE THE DATE

47th Annual Conference
Thursday, September 24
Lansing, MI
Eagle Eye Golf & Banquet Center
Capitol Report: Abortion Pill Reversal Informed Consent Bill Introduced

In 2006, Dr. Matthew Harrison from North Carolina received a call from a local pregnancy center telling him that a young woman had taken the abortion pill under pressure from her boyfriend, but now wanted to save her baby. Dr. Harrison theorized that progesterone would block the effects of the abortion pill, and his patient was willing to give it a try. Weeks of progesterone injections led to the reversal of the abortion pill and to the birth of a healthy baby girl who is now 12 years old.

A few years later, on the other side of the country in California, Dr. George Delgado received a similar call from a sidewalk counselor asking for help for a woman who had immediately had a change of heart after taking the abortion pill. After reading about Dr. Harrison’s success, Dr. Delgado also prescribed progesterone and had a successful outcome with the birth of a healthy baby. That is how the abortion pill reversal protocol network began.

In 2018, Dr. Delgado along with Dr. Mary Davenport conducted a retrospective case study of 754 women who sought abortion reversal. The study showed the success rate was up to 68% effective, which is significantly better than the 25% survival rate if the women only takes the first abortion pill and no additional treatment is offered.

There was no increased risk of birth defects or pre-term births involved with abortion pill reversal.

The abortion pill, RU-486, is part of a two-pill regimen designed to kill unborn babies up to 10 weeks gestation. The first pill, mifepristone, blocks the pregnancy hormone progesterone which is necessary for the baby to receive nutrients. The second part of the abortion pill protocol is misoprostol, which is taken 24 to 48 hours after the first pill and causes the uterus to contract and expel the baby.

If a woman takes the first abortion pill but changes her mind about the abortion, there is still the possibility of saving her baby. If she is able to access progesterone treatment through APR (abortion pill reversal), that chance can be as high as 68%.

Some women immediately regret taking the first pill and look for information about how to stop the abortion process. Because there is a delay between taking the first and second pills to induce a chemical abortion, there is time for her to receive progesterone to counteract the effects of the RU-486. If, however, she has taken the second of the two-pill regimen, it is too late.

Because APR is so time-sensitive, having access to information immediately is critically important. Due to this, several state legislatures passed bills that would require abortion providers to give women information about the possibility of reversal if a chemical abortion is prescribed. With the introduction of H.B. 5374, Michigan could be the 10th state.

Rep. Beth Griffin introduced H.B. 5374 to add a provision in the state law requiring informed consent for abortion that simply gives women the information to make a truly informed choice. The abortion industry claims to be “pro-choice,” yet they have come out opposed to giving women the “choice” to change her mind.

Progesterone has been safely used in pregnancy for more than 50 years and is commonly prescribed for recurring miscarriage, artificial reproductive technology and to prevent pre-term births due to shortened cervix. Despite these common uses, the abortion industry has tried to claim that APR is “unsafe.” They want us to believe that two of the three women in dire condition were from the placebo group and had only received the abortion pill—not APR. Massive bleeding is a known side effect of the abortion pill.

The women in the study who had received APR had no further complications, and 4 of the 6 women who received APR had continuing pregnancies. Presumably these children who experienced a temporary reprieve were later killed in surgical abortions. The study confirms that APR is safe and effective, and it is the abortion pill that is dangerous, not APR.

More than 900 babies have been saved through abortion pill reversal, and there is currently a network of more than 400 doctors nationwide who will administer APR. For more information, go to abortionpillreversal.com
Right to Life of Michigan affiliates hosted numerous events across the state for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 19, and the annual memorial of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton on January 22. These events are to honor the value of every human life and remember the lives of more than 59 million children who have been lost to abortion since 1973.

Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state took 20 buses and more than 1,000 people to the national March for Life on January 24 in Washington, D.C.

Ogemaw County Right to Life held a march to remember the unborn with 50 people in attendance.

Upper Downriver Right to Life held a March for Life. Participants assembled at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish in Wyandotte and then marched to Mt. Carmel Cemetery. After the event, an open house was held at the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Resource Center in Wyandotte.

Holland Area Right to Life had 185 attend their event to honor the unborn.

Tuscola County Right to Life’s Sanctity of Human Life Sunday service began on the Tuscola County Courthouse steps. Attendees held 43 white crosses in honor of the 43 babies from Tuscola who were aborted in 2018.

31 people attended Gladwin County Right to Life’s Sanctity of Life Prayer Service at the Gladwin County Courthouse. Pastor Lynn Chappel of the Beaverton United Methodist Church led the group in opening prayer. Several speakers including State Rep. Jason Wentworth spoke about protecting the unborn.
The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) is hosting a multi-day run to build awareness for Down syndrome leading up to National Down Syndrome Day on March 21. Sanilac County Right to Life president and Right to Life of Michigan Board Member, Amy Roggenbuck, was selected to be a part of the team of over 20 people who will run from the United Nations headquarters in New York City to the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. This will be a relay-style run going nonstop from March 19-20. Each member of the team will run at least 25 miles, adding up to a collective 250 miles. As a part of the team, Amy needed to raise at least $3,500 for the NDSS. She partnered with her friend Mark Heberling, a local barber who hosts an annual 5k called Mark the Barber’s Polar Run/Walk for Life. Mark decided to raise the money for the NDSS, and through the Polar Run they exceeded Amy’s goal and raised more than $5,000. We are excited for Amy as she helps raise awareness for a population heavily targeted for destruction by abortion.
U.S. Supreme Court to Hear June Medical Services LLC v. Gee on March 4

On March 4, the U.S. Supreme Court will be hearing arguments in the case June Medical Services LLC v. Gee. The world is watching intently as this will be the first major case involving abortion since the recent court nomination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

June v. Gee involves a Louisiana law, The Unsafe Abortion Act, which was enacted in 2014. This law requires abortionists to have active admitting privileges to a hospital no more than 30 miles from the abortion facility. It was blocked in court from going into effect in 2017, and in February 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court indicating they would likely hear the case. In October 2019 the case was formally scheduled for arguments.

Admitting privileges to hospitals are crucial for the safety of women. If this law was enforced, hospitals would have important information relevant to the patient to be able to treat her immediately. Repeated experience shows that many abortion facilities are careless about their patients' health, often having unlicensed medical staff, unsanitary conditions, and unsafe procedures. Women have been dumped at emergency rooms after botched abortions, and the abortionists can’t be reached by hospital staff. Being able to receive immediate medical care in an emergency after an abortion could mean the difference between life and death for a woman.

Just last March, a woman experienced extreme complications after a first trimester abortion in a Louisiana facility. She experienced heavy bleeding and dangerously low blood pressure. When she reached the hospital, she had to be given four blood transfusions and eventually had to have a complete hysterectomy, meaning she will be unable to have children in her future.

Abortion advocates claim Louisiana's law places an “undue burden” on women seeking an abortion, because Louisiana may be left with only one abortionist who is able to maintain hospital admitting privileges to hospitals. However, this is no excuse to jeopardize the safety of women by ignoring common sense medical standards. It seems the abortion industry believes Roe v. Wade requires that abortions in back-alley conditions performed by dangerous abortionists must be given legal blessing.

Right to Life of Michigan Files Brief Asking for Reversal of Roe v. Wade

Right to Life of Michigan filed an amicus curiae brief on January 2, 2020, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. The brief involves the U.S. Supreme Court case June Medical Services LLC v. Gee and offers the Supreme Court an opportunity to return to their rightful role in our government system.

Michigan voters overwhelmingly chose to keep our state's abortion ban in place in a public vote on November 7, 1972. Just weeks later on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court blatantly overstepped its bounds by inventing a right to abortion through all nine months of pregnancy in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton.

The brief argues that the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision went beyond the scope of their power, violated the process for amending the U.S. Constitution and has undermined the legitimacy of our nation’s judicial system.

The Supreme Court has recognized that the government has an interest in protecting the life of unborn children, and the brief asks the Supreme Court to live up to their own standards.

Since Roe v. Wade was decided, an estimated 60 million unborn children have had their lives unjustly taken from them. No voter or elected official consented to strip away their right to life. It’s time for this stain on democracy to be overturned to allow the people to once again have a voice about our most fundamental human right.

If the Supreme Court is unwilling to revisit Roe v. Wade yet, the brief argues that Louisiana’s law should be allowed to stand, requiring abortionists to maintain admitting privileges at a nearby hospital.

Louisiana's law is constitutional even under the faulty standards of Roe v. Wade and the 2016 case involving a similar Texas law, Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt.

The brief was prepared by lead counsel Professor William Wagner and the Great Lakes Justice Center.
A View of a Common Abortion Myth

On the February 6 episode of The View on ABC, presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg illustrated one of the most common abortion myths.

In response to a question about allowing late-term abortions—even infanticide—he said the following: “If this is a late-term situation, then by definition it’s one where a woman was expecting to carry the pregnancy to term. Then she gets the most perhaps devastating news of her life. We’re talking about families that may have picked out a name, may be assembling a crib, and they learn something excruciating and are faced with this terrible choice. And I don’t know what to tell them morally about what they should do.”

By any definition, his description of why late-term abortions happen is dead wrong. Perhaps Buttigieg was lying, or perhaps he has been coached to say that, or perhaps like many Americans he has seen news coverage of the issue and just believes that most late-term abortions are done for some reason connected to the health of the woman or child.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute is the abortion industry’s gold standard researcher. Despite their abortion industry ties and former open affiliation with Planned Parenthood, they are often cited in the media as dispassionate, unbiased researchers. They’ve done a recent study on the topic: “Who Seeks Abortions at or After 20 Weeks?”

The study authors admit the topic of late-term abortion hasn’t been studied very well and that most commentary on it involves exceptional cases: “We do not know how accurately these narratives characterize the circumstances of women who seek later abortions for reasons other than fetal anomaly or life endangerment. But data suggest that most women seeking later terminations are not doing so for reasons of fetal anomaly or life endangerment.”

That’s it, right there from the abortion industry itself.

Their study goes on to look at that group of “most women” who have late-term abortions to determine their reasons, and their study found they fit one of five profiles:

- Women raising children alone
- Women who are depressed or using drugs
- Women in conflict with a male partner or experiencing domestic violence
- Women who had trouble deciding
- Young women with several children

While we can sympathize with the very real conflicts these women might be facing, the compassionate response is not to take the life of a child—inside the womb through abortion or outside it through infanticide.

Generosity and Forethought!

Have you ever heard stories about men and women who lived seemingly ordinary, everyday lives who left significant gifts to non-profit organizations through their estates? I certainly have. Many times, in fact! Each time I marvel at the generosity and forethought of the donor to make plans for that kind of a gift.

Most of us lead ordinary, everyday lives too. We raise our families, go to work each day, financially support organizations in our state and local communities, as well as volunteer our time. Perhaps at this time in our lives, we might only be able to make modest financial donations to organizations/causes we believe in. But when we die, we have a chance to leave a more significant gift through our estate.

Some people will tell you that they plan to leave their entire estate to their children and grandchildren. Others will say they don’t want to enable their children and grandchildren, so they’ll leave a portion of the estate to their family, with the rest going to organizations they wish to support.

It’s not unusual to see individuals and couples name 10% or more of their estate for non-profit cause-related organizations. For example, when you simply say 10% of a $250,000 estate, it doesn’t seem like much, does it? But actually, it’s $25,000—a significant amount. That $25,000 could be broken down into specific gifts for each organization you wish to gift, such as 3% to your church ($7,500), 2% to your college alma mater ($5,000), 2% to your local soup kitchen ($5,000), and 3% to Right to Life of Michigan ($7,500).

According to a 2019 survey, only 40% of adults have a will or a living trust. Having no will or living trust means when you die, a probate court judge might be the one to determine how your lifelong assets are distributed. Take charge now and talk to an estate planning attorney about drafting and completing those documents. Don’t throw your rights away! Not sure how to get started? Simply check the box below and request a free RLM Will Kit.

Information provided above is for the purpose of providing general answers to commonly asked questions. None of the information contained herein is intended as legal advice or legal opinion relative to specific matters, facts, situations or issues. Please contact an attorney for specific legal advice.

Visit RTL.org for more information or to register securely online.
In Memory Of:          Given By:

Mrs. Barbara Armstrong .................................................................Robert Armstrong
Mr. Ronald Benecke .................................................................Elaine Keinath
Anita Bennett ...................................................................................Eric Bennett
Robert Boh ...............................................................Elizabeth Phelan
Catherine Boucher (1953-2019) .........................................................Michael Boucher
Robert Bowen, Sr. ..............Rita & Roger Johnson; Dawn Bowen
Mrs. Judy L. Bucholtz ..................David & Claudia Maqura; Irene Marek; Fred & Ladene Schoen; Carol Stewart
Ted Buzałski .......................Tim & Cheryl Czerny; Curt & Dianne Glupker; Phil & Nita Hood; Ted & Jan Kuzma; Jim & Karen Piccard; Judy Platte; Stephen Platte; Jackie Preston; Paula & Tim Ryan; John Shutich
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Mrs. Anna Hazen ..............Tricia & Richard Hampp; Betty Farhat
Dwayne Heiman & Nancy Bolt ..........................................................Marvin & Lois Van Heuvel
Mr. Terry Hodgson ..................Robert Edenberg; Kyle Flynn; James George; Gordon Food Service; Gordon & Nancy Jacobson; Jake’s friends & co-workers;
Don Kostimider; William & Corinne Potvin; Ed & Betty Powell; Gary, Carrie, Sharon & Thom, Ken
Mrs. Linda Hurd .................................................................Marian Sheridan
Robert J. Irwin .................................................................Janet Irwin
Mary Kay Jermycc .................................................................Brian and Pam Cumack Family
David Kansa .................................................................................Constance Kansa
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Charlotte Koerber .................................................................Bay County RTL
Mary Lou Kramer .................................................................Frank Kramer
Diane Kwaske .................................................................Steve Kwaske
Robert & Peggy Laginess ......................................................................Marianne Britten
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Mary “Cathy” Raymond ..........................................................................
Joan Reutter .................................................................Stout Rius & Ross
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Orvel Roggenbuck .................................................................Right to Life of Sanilac County; Amy S. Roggenbuck
SSGT Andrew Self, USMC ..................................................................Charlotte Nels
Karen Silvia .................................................................................Right to Life of Sanilac County; Amy S. Roggenbuck
John E. Steffens .................................................................Sharon Steffens
Gerald Steward .................................................................Ford Motor Company
Mr. Mike “Chico” Stewart .................................................................Charles Poon
John Stollecki .................................................................................Belva Stollecki
Thomas N. Thelen .................................................................Thomas & Christine Herk; Patrick & Teresa Villano

Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Jennie Volland .........................................................Robert Volland
Mrs. Natalie Williams .................................................................Fred & Joyce Johnson
Natalie “Mickey” Williams .............................................................Alicia Farnsworth
Jerry Wit .................................................................Patricia Pajot
Virginia Yezbick .................................................................Thomas & Suzanne Guffy; Mary & Jonathan Johnson; Loretta Moylan; Sue & Jim Ream
Marian Zielinski .................................................................................Christopher Zielinski

In Honor Of:          Given By:

Happy Birthday
Mrs. Joan Bellamy .................................................................Teresa Bellamy; Gayle Beckner; Chris Beckner
Marietta D’Alio (10) ......................................................................Raffaella Castagnini; Holly Goscia; Sally Jerema
Lauren Mankovsky .................................................................................Bob & Annette Gainer
Michael Petchauer .................................................................................Barbara Callahan; Judy Stalter
Blanche Swish .................................................................Kim & David Swish

Merry Christmas
Mr. & Mrs. William Bull ...........................................................................Dennis & Barbara Rotary
Yole Campbell; Aaron Dekker
Mrs. Mary Celusnak .................................................................Thomas Singer
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Dr. Gregory Montpetit .................................................................................Glora Mason
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Linda & David Tubergen .........................................................................Kristi & David Washbourne

Bob & Barb VanAssche .............................................................................Tracy VanAssche
George & Mary Blaha .................................................................................Paul Moses
Greg & Sandy Duyle .................................................................................William Duyle
Mrs. Elaine Marshall .................................................................................Rachel & Joseph Jackson
Mary Jo, Cierra, Brenda, Alyssa & Abby; Kenneth MacDonnell
Mrs. Theresa McCarthy .............................................................................Marc Rybinski (Co-lead Parish Nurse St. Paul of Tarsus)
Mrs. Julie McCormich .................................................................................Mary Peleman
(Successful Kidney Transplant)
Mrs. Jane Muldoon .................................................................................Jane & John Van Houten
Augustine & Dorothy Perrotta .................................................................Dr. & Mrs. Michael Nigro
Laury Rowly (Because she chose life!) ..................................................................Maria Russell
Ms. Ashleigh Shiffer .................................................................................James Shiffer (Professional Career Commitment)
Ms. Meaghan Shiffer .................................................................................James Shiffer (Professional Career Commitment)
Ms. Sarah A. Shiffer .................................................................................James Shiffer
Ms. Therese Shiffer .................................................................................James Shiffer (Her passion for the born and unborn children)

In support and prayers for .................................................................Mark Spaulding; Brian Edwards; Sabrina Black; Jane Tulus; David & Kathryn Lomasney
Faith Smith .................................................................................Lowell & Kathy Glad
Mary Ellen Sobetsky .................................................................................Verna E. Sommerville
Jean Wickett .................................................................................John Wickett
Mr. & Mrs. John Zelenka .............................................................................Christine & Ray Lefebvre (Hanakkuh)