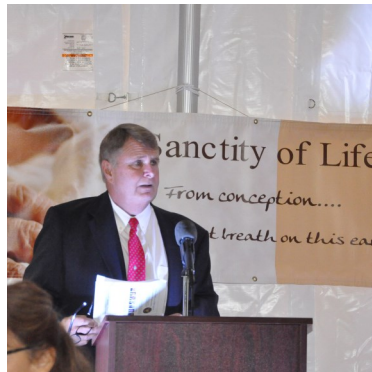




Irene W., a 96 year old seven decade voter!

LAKESHORE LIFE NEWS

TCRTL: Thankful For YOU, Our Loyal, Life-Promoting Patrons!



Above: Mike Grillo, Master of Ceremonies for the evening. See more photos on our website... TriCitiesRightToLife.org



Above: Sept. 28, 2020—Watch Party attendees enjoy an outdoor, tent event, limited to one hundred this year. Photos by Suzie McCabe and Jennifer Miller.

As you can see in the above photos, our event not only went on as scheduled, it was enjoyed by all—with some even calling it ‘the best yet’. One reason for this may have been the outdoor setting amid color-tinted trees and freedom from masks. The cash bar this time was also a hit. But this year’s event seemed unique in every way. The Watch Party aspect, while adding a sizable technical challenge that left no room for mistakes, also allowed two notable figures to ‘join us’ via the big screen. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, former White House Press Secretary shared a very moving pro-life, pre-election message, and musical artist, Matthew West, theme song composer for the movie

Unplanned, performed another original song. But first, our popular keynote speaker, Pastor Christopher Thoma, started with a humorous book giveaway. Then he showed one of his prayers delivered in the legislative chamber at our state capital, during which he boldly ignored the censors’ rules to avoid certain topics (you can

probably guess what those are). His talk centered on the strong forces the pro-life movement confronts, abortion as the devil’s ‘sacrament,’ and also the results of a Barnum study looking at how well pastors engage with their flocks on moral issues. He stressed that they should *not* be afraid of the Johnson Amendment, and that courage to speak out starts with defining love well (i.e., LOVE equals ACTION). The evening concluded with our first ever Pro-Life Hero Awards! Congratulations, again, to Reenders Blueberries, the men of K of C Council #2975, Chris Iwan, Shar Boerema and Jennifer Miller. For the full story & more photos, please visit our website!



SAVE the DATE

Giving Tuesday

Is Dec. 1st on your calendar?!

To give, please use the enclosed envelope or our **online** form at —

<https://give.cornerstone.cc/TCRTL>

Thanks4Giving!

Election Benefits

By Theresa Giacalone, TCRTL President

We hear it all the time: “*Thank you* for what you do. I was almost aborted, so it really matters to me!” I keep a special file for these messages to both honor the senders and to read at our meetings. You see, these notes of gratitude help spur us on when the going gets tough; and few things are as bleak as the great schism we are currently enduring in our nation! The divide is wide.

If you think Tri Cities Right to Life is a neutral player between candidates, let me clarify. While we *are* a non-profit corporation, and non-partisan, as an affiliate of Right to Life of Michigan, we do participate with them in actively interviewing and granting endorsements for pro-life candidates in every election all the way down the ballot. This means that, yes, our event on 9-28 had Trump, James, Huizenga, Roebuck, et al, signs proudly stuck in the grass. Not because we

picked a party, but because we picked a *platform*— one that advances our mission to defend life. We start, naturally, where life does— at the beginning, with the most vulnerable; but tragically, only one party agrees.

So, part of our pre-election efforts involves calling our local supporters— *you*, to ensure that you have all the information you need to go to the polls confidently with knowledge of our endorsed candidates on the ballot. While making calls (nearly 1200!), we just keep dialing, usually connecting with more machines than people. One day in late October, it was a nice surprise when a local woman not only answered her phone, but was eager to share her story, too. First, we got the business out of the way: She had already voted, and she volunteered that her vote went to Trump. As an avid EWTN watcher, this woman I’ll call ‘RK’,

... heard Mother Angelica describe what they do to babies in an abortion. The shocking truth made her even more grateful for her personal story. As she continued, the images of her experience long ago began filling my mind. She and her daughter entering an abortion clinic. Her husband in the car outside. Three figures flanking the door, and their subsequent disappearance soon after. She explained that her daughter, when 19 years old, wanted an abortion. It was a clear November day in the mid 90’s; and the mother, RK, chose to accompany her daughter for no other reason than because a mother loves her child. As they entered the facility, walking past the three figures, the waiting room was starkly empty without even a worker at the desk. When the procedure room door was swung open, she saw the place her grandchild’s life would be taken. It was there that RK paused, almost as if to jerk herself back to the present day— because such memories can completely engulf those who survive them. She went on. “Finally, I couldn’t hold it back and burst into tears saying, ‘I love you, but I cannot do this! I just can’t do this!’” She then fled the room, running past where the three figures had been (but now were gone) and straight to their family car. She asked her husband to leave. Landing at a nearby diner, and visibly upset, she tried to explain. (Cont. pg. 3)



Meet Denise



Left– Denise Simcik, Tri Cities Right to Life Board member and Secretary on her wedding day in Malta; and above, one of her prized nativity sets.

Have you ever considered how very little we know each other— even those we share a pew with every Sunday or sit next to in a monthly meeting? So it was with Denise Simcik, our TCRTL current (but retiring) Secretary.... *until* I started asking questions, that is. My call was first met with her usual humble response, “Why me?” After some persuasion, she began with, “Well, everybody has a story to tell.” So true. And Denise’s story started on Malta, the island on which St. Paul was shipwrecked. It was there,

ironically, that during a Navy tour of duty, a young sailor named Mike, met Denise, swept her off her feet, and brought her stateside, to Illinois. They had two children and later moved to Saugatuck where they transformed a historic home into a Bed & Breakfast and helped start the town’s B&B Association. One of Denise’s best memories, though, is of December, 1983, when she became a U.S. Citizen. “I am an American citizen by *choice*, a great privilege!” she said — with a slightly heavy accent. She actually speaks, writes, and reads

(Denise, cont.) four languages, thanks to a robust education at an all-girls’ school run by a French order of nuns. She also has a deep love for nativity sets that she attributes to DNA from her great grandfather who was Ambassador Counsel to the Hungarian-Austrian Empire, and the first there to begin building mechanical nativity figures and scenes. Maybe you’ve seen Denise’s collection featured on the cover of the Grand Haven Tribune. It includes 54 statues made of Maltese clay! (see image above)

With that lead-in to Advent, I invite you to read the rest of Denise’s fascinating story on our website! [↪](#)

♥ **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**
Jan. 17th, 2021

♥ **Put some dates on your calendar.** Start with the Memorial.

<<<—

(all events subject to change)

♥ **Culver's Night of Sharing**
Tues., Feb. 23rd, 5 - 8pm

Your meal \$support\$ **TCRTL!** Dine-in or drive thru. WE serve YOU and garner 10% of the profits. Win/win!

♥ **Oratory contest info soon!**

♥ **Legislative Day!** May 4, 2021 in Lansing. Details soon.

♥ **You can be a pro-life rep at your church!** Call or email: Info@tricityrighttolife.org 616-201-7813

♥ **Attend a meeting!** Generally held on the 2nd Tues. each month. See our website for updates.

♥ **RLM Annual Conference**
Thurs., Sept. 30, 2021 in Lansing
Details soon from **RTL.org**

♥ **Benefit Dinner** 9/23/21 Trillium Event Center, Spring Lake, MI

Two Questions:

Need a cozy, meaningful gift?
Think TCRTL stadium blankets custom embroidered with "*Love Protects Life*" \$15 each

Are you a business owner or know someone who is? The credit card processing fees you pay can help fund our pro-life work. Find out more by emailing: TG@TriCitiesRightToLife.org

COVER:

96 year old Irene W. has voted in an estimated 33 elections!
Read about her here:

TriCitiesRightToLife.org/blog/

"By Our Love"

A Memorial Service

for the Unborn

Jan. 23, 2021

To solemnly mark the 48th anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Please join Tri Cities Right to Life and local interdenominational faith communities for our annual memorial service and walk in remembrance of the 570 lives lost to abortion in Ottawa and Muskegon counties in 2020.

With current restrictions in place, our tentative plan is to begin at 10:30am at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 920 Fulton St., where we will gather in solemn unity for "*By Our Love*", a service of prayer, healing & hope. Afterward, everyone is invited to participate in a short, public walk.*

Please watch our website for any updates: TriCitiesRightToLife.org

Email: info@TriCitiesRightToLife.org or call 616-201-7813

*Pro-life signs will be provided. MarchForLife.org "*Together Strong: Life Unites!*"

(cont. from Election, pg. 2) "I just couldn't help kill our grandson!" "Yes. But you know it's a boy?" he asked in surprise. Just then, their daughter walked in. She had easily found them, but better still, appeared so relieved saying that she couldn't go through with it! She also thanked her mom for her courage, adding, "Mom, they showed me the ultrasound. The baby is a boy!"

RK is so proud of the young man her grandson has become. Though he was almost extinguished as if nothing at all, he is, in fact, living proof for her that miracles happen. The three figures outside the doors that day she is convinced were angels. With much

emotion she expressed how grateful she is to not be burdened with life-long regret, and to have been given so many signs and wonders in her life. My sign? That while elections (and SCOTUS decisions) have consequences such as 'abortion on demand', there is much good that pushes back. Lives are saved, thankfully; but even small advances like sparked courage, being forced out of our comfort zones to debate morality, making calls, and seeking truth before an election... is all an invitation to engage, and it adds up! To those who thank us, I say, "Right back at ya!" You, your stories, prayers said so lives are saved during 40 Days for Life— it's ALL proof that ...(cont. pg. 4)

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See story page 2

Tri-Cities Right to Life

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Website: www.TriCitiesRightToLife.org
[facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/)



Our Mission

To raise public awareness about the issues of abortion, embryo destructive research, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. To be a community resource for area organizations about pro-life issues. To educate legislators and to promote legislation by grassroots lobbying. To support pro-life candidates for public office as endorsed by the Right to Life of Michigan PAC.

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Vickie Tober
Cheri Ter Haar ▪ Ron Streng
Pastor Wayne Muri
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Open Seat — Vice President
Theresa Giacalone — President

Thank you for all the ways you protect and promote **LIFE** in its many ages and stages from conception to natural death.

In every moment, let us live intentionally, and with gratitude, for the life surrounding us, for it is nothing less than the very fingerprint ... of God.

If you know a youth group member or a family who could use a scholarship to attend **March for Life in DC**, please contact us for a chance to receive \$250 toward your expenses.
info@TriCitiesRightToLife.org

(cont. from pg. 3) ...what we do is **essential**. Be watching for more testimonials from us. They're a way to get to know others— to close that divide just a little bit more, and also great encouragement when faced with the negative consequences that some elections can bring. I am so grateful for the Philippians 4:8 way we can keep finding some *good* no matter what Jan. 20th brings.

Theresa G.

PS: Be encouraged with more neutral news. Try *The Epoch Times*, *OANN*, *Newsmax*, and *One News Now*