

Illiana Right to Life Newsletter

Winter 2026

ALL LIFE IS SACRED

www.IllianaRightToLife.org

March for Life 2026: "Life is a Gift"

On the morning of Thursday, January 22nd, a flight took Illiana area pro-life highschoolers and adults to Washington D.C. to attend the 53rd annual March for Life. This year's theme for the march was titled "Life is a Gift", emphasizing the truth and center of the pro-life movement - that every life is a gift from God, regardless of any circumstance, and that every life is worthy to be lived out. This theme encourages those in attendance of the march or those who see/hear of the March for Life to embrace and treasure all life, even from the very beginning within the womb.

Before the march began, a rally was held with many noteworthy speakers and featured performers. Performing at the rally was an award winning Christian band called Sanctus Real, as well as the National Anthem performed by the Friends of Club 21, a chorus of young adults with Down Syndrome. Some memorable speakers from the rally this year included the March for Life President, Jennie Bradley Litcher, the Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, and our Vice President, JD Vance. Jenny Bradley Litcher emphasized that our fight to end abortion can be conducted peacefully with confidence and joy because of the center of the pro-life movement - that every life is a gift. Mike Johnson highlighted that, for the first time since Roe Vs. Wade was reversed, the White House, the Senate, and the House are all working together to execute pro-life victories. He also highlighted that each and every single person is made by our Creator, that our rights derive from God Himself, and we owe our responsibility of life itself to God. JD Vance shared multiple key points of success for the pro-life movement so far this administrative cycle - they have stopped the imprisonment of those who pray outside of abortion clinics, they have terminated taxpayer funded abortions where they could, they have secured religious freedoms and stopped the censorship of religion, and they have expanded faith-based foster care and adoption. A recent local pro-life victory that JD Vance recounted during his speech was that the current administration took action to force Illinois into compliance with the Weldon Amendment, putting an end to making healthcare providers refer for abortions.

The following day, the National Pro-Life Summit was held and Illiana area highschoolers and adults were able

to attend. This Summit is a one-day event where attendees are able to take part in a variety of pro-life training workshops, break out sessions, as well as listen to different speakers such as Kristan Hawkins, Riley Gaines, Dr. Abby Johnson, Kevin Sorbo, and Nick Freitas - to name a few. The workshops that were offered had topics and discussions such as men & abortions, chemical abortion, laws and litigation for the pro-life cause, advanced apologetics, why embryonic humans must matter, and many more.

Below are highlights from attendees from this year's March for Life trip:

"Saturday, before returning to the airport in the afternoon, IRTL sponsors the group to attend the National Right to Life Summit. I attended a pro-life apologetics break-out session, which gave me concise and well thought out answers to many pro-choice arguments.

It is encouraging to see how many young people attend the march each year, carrying signs that say "1/4 of my generation was lost to abortion" and "I am the pro-life generation".

If you are reading this and have never attended a March for Life before, I highly recommend attending at least once! Illiana Right to Life gives a great opportunity to further your passion and education for supporting the pro-life cause!"

- Jenn D.W.

"The highlights of the trip for me were the Rally, the March, and the Summit the following day. There were so many great speakers at the rally. Vice President JD Vance really stood out for his comments and views towards Faith, Family, and Future. He easily acknowledged Jesus Christ as Lord and King. The March is always very encouraging to join with thousands of like minded prolife people who respect and protect life."

- Brenda V.M.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual IRTL Banquet

Mark your calendars - the Annual Illiana Right to Life Banquet date and location has been set!

When? Thursday, October 8, 2026

Where? Avalon Manor Banquet Center, Merrillville, IN

The night's keynote speaker and emcee will be announced at a later date.

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Organizational Support Highlight: Illinois Family Institute

Illiana Right to Life supports multiple local organizations within the community - one being the Illinois Family Institute. The Illinois Family Institute (IFI) is an independent, non-profit ministry located in Tinley Park, IL. IFI is dedicated to upholding the values of liberty, family, life, and marriage within Illinois. Their overall mission is “to boldly bring biblical principles to public policy in Illinois.”

To complete this goal and mission of theirs, IFI educates Christians and the general public on issues that impact families and the values that make them strong. These values and issues, they state on their website, include sanctity of life, the homosexual/bisexual/transgender agenda, religious liberty, pornography/decency, drug use, marriage, and family policy. They accomplish this education through hosting/promoting events within IL, offering speakers from their organization for different church or organizational events, and through a vast variety of articles and videos on their website, illinoisfamily.org. There, you can find a tab called “Categories” that feature a plethora of topics with attached articles/videos to support them. These educational topics include Faith, Federal, Gambling, Marriage/Family/Culture, Drugs/Alcohol/Addiction, Sanctity of Life, and many more.

To learn more about Illinois Family Institute, you can find them on Facebook, X, Instagram, and at their website illinoisfamily.org.

Defending the Pro-Life Argument

Since the overturn of Roe v Wade, our pro-life convictions have likely been challenged by friends, family members, classmates, coworkers, or even strangers. One way to defend the pro-life position is through apologetics, especially when you may be interacting with others who are not religious. The following concepts are from Scott Klusendorf, founder of the Life Training Institute (www.prolifetraining.com):

1. Clarifying the issue: Pro-life advocates contend that elective abortion unjustly takes the life of a defenseless human being. This simplifies the abortion controversy by focusing public attention on just one question: Is the unborn a member of the human family? If so, killing him or her to benefit others is a serious moral wrong. It treats the distinct human being, with his or her own inherent

moral worth, as nothing more than a disposable instrument. Conversely, if the unborn are not human, killing them for any reason requires no more justification than having a tooth pulled. In other words, arguments based on “choice” or “privacy” miss the point entirely. Would anyone that you know support a mother killing her toddler in the name of “choice and who decides?” Clearly, if the unborn are human, like toddlers, we shouldn’t kill them in the name of choice anymore than we would a toddler. Again, this debate is about just one question: What is the unborn? At this point, some may object that your comparisons are not fair—that killing a fetus is morally different than killing a toddler. Ah, but that’s the issue, isn’t it? Are the unborn, like toddlers, members of the human family? That is the one issue that matters.

2. Defend your pro-life position with science and philosophy. Scientifically, we know that from the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. Leading embryology books confirm this. ... Philosophically, we can say that embryos are less developed than newborns (or, for that matter, toddlers) but this difference is not morally significant in the way abortion advocates need it to be.

3. Challenge your listeners to be intellectually honest. Ask the tough questions. When critics say that birth makes the unborn human, ask, “How does a mere change of location from inside the womb to outside the womb change the essential nature of the unborn?” If they say that brain development or self-awareness makes us human, ask if they would agree with Joseph Fletcher that those with an IQ below 20 or perhaps 40 should be declared non-persons? If not, why not? True, some people will ignore the scientific and philosophic case you present for the pro-life view and argue for abortion based on self-interest. That is the lazy way out. Remind your critics that if we care about truth, we will courageously follow the facts wherever they lead, no matter what the cost to our own self-interests.

Did you know? Illiana Right to Life is on Facebook and Instagram! Follow us at @illianarighttolife. You can also now donate to Illiana Right to Life electronically by scanning the QR code.

