

Johnson County  
**RIGHT TO LIFE**

*Engage Educate Embrace*



Christmas 2021

**A Note From Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director**

Nearly 50 years after *Roe v. Wade*, we face a historic opportunity: a chance to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that has resulted in the death of millions of innocent lives. *Dobbs. v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which the Supreme Court heard on December 1, could overturn *Roe v. Wade* and allow states to enact laws protecting the unborn based on the values and beliefs of their citizens.

Since that tragic day in 1973 when abortion was legalized, the pro-life movement has gained strength with each year and has led to the conversion of many in the abortion industry. One notable and early conversion was that of Dr. Bernard Nathanson, who was known as the "Abortion King" for his role in deceiving America to decriminalize abortion. He co-founded the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws in the late 1960's [NARAL Pro-Choice America], ran the largest abortion facility in the western hemisphere, and trained Planned Parenthood doctors how to abort babies.

By God's grace, just a few months after the *Roe and Doe* U.S. Supreme Court decisions, Dr. Nathanson witnessed for the first time, a new technology: real-time ultrasound. He observed an unborn child in the womb – smiling, stretching, and wiggling her toes. In that moment, he realized he had two patients: the mother *and* her child. In that moment, Dr. Nathanson became a leading advocate for life.

Dr. Nathanson resigned from NARAL on the second anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. In his resignation letter he wrote: "The judgments of the Supreme Court were never meant to be infallible or eternal. **And what if we've been wrong – if the Court should soon reverse itself on the abortion issue in the light of changing times and/or new scientific evidence?** What an incalculable injustice will have been perpetrated. What an immeasurable, irretrievable loss will have been suffered."

The prophetic statement by Dr. Nathanson echoes now in the historic case before the Supreme Court. Many prominent pro-lifers who listened to the oral arguments were encouraged by the questions asked by a majority of the justices. Shawn Carney, President of 40 Days for Life, was hopeful as he stated, "We don't just uphold things because of precedent. If the Supreme Court did that, we would still have slavery. The Supreme Court's greatest victories are often overturning their greatest errors."

Let us pray this Christmas and in the new year that God's truth and justice will prevail to protect the right to life from conception; for babies made in the image of God who have beating hearts, who can smile, who can feel pain, and who can respond to their mother's voice.

***"Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven." Psalm 85:11-12***

Thank you for your generous support and, on behalf of all of us at Johnson County Right to Life, I wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas.

# Write for **LIFE!**

## Essay Contest 2022

Write a pro-life essay on abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or stem cell research.

*Be a voice  
for the  
voiceless!*

### Junior Division (Grades 6-8)

**\$200 (1st), \$150 (2nd), \$100 (3rd)**

### Senior Division (Grades 9-12)

**\$300 (1st), \$250 (2nd), \$200 (3rd)**



**Submission DEADLINE is May 2, 2022**

**For more information and contest rules, visit [JCRTL.org](http://JCRTL.org)**

## How much do you know about *Roe v. Wade*?

The American people remain deeply divided over *Roe v. Wade*. How much do you know about this controversial decision?

1. **How many women were on the Supreme Court when *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973?**  
a. 3    b. 2    c. 1    d. 0
2. **Which of the following abortion restrictions have been struck down under the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling?**  
a. Laws limiting abortion after 5 months of pregnancy  
b. Bans on aborting a fetus because of its sex/gender  
c. Parental consent to a minor daughter's abortion  
d. All of the above
3. **Which of the following Supreme Court justices have criticized the legal reasoning of *Roe v. Wade*?**  
a. Clarence Thomas    b. Sandra Day O'Connor  
c. Ruth Bader Ginsburg    d. All of the above
4. **What would happen if *Roe v. Wade* were overturned?**  
a. Abortion would be illegal in the United States  
b. Abortion would remain legal under federal law  
c. Each state would be free to adopt its own abortion policy  
d. Abortion would be available, but strictly limited

**Check your answers on the next page...**



**Help Save Lives by  
Praying for an  
End to Abortion in  
our Community!**

**March 2 to April 10**



Learn more at [JCRTL.org](http://JCRTL.org)

# What to Say When

## The Complete New Guide to Discussing Abortion

With the Supreme Court taking up abortion, the topic is likely to come up in your conversations this winter. We need to recognize that many of our friends, relatives, neighbors, and colleagues here in Johnson County consider themselves pro-choice. Rather than remaining silent out of fear of offending others, we must have the courage to speak the truth. ***What to Say When*** is the book that will prepare you to do just that!

The authors, Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen, have spent thousands of hours on the sidewalk outside abortion clinics as leaders of 40 Days for Life. They know all the crazy arguments pro-abortionists make. The goal should not be to abruptly change their mind, but rather, to make them rethink their position. They suggest listening more than talking. The most effective way to do that is by asking the right questions, of which they offer many examples. A few of my favorites: “When are you comfortable with a baby being aborted? Is there a point in pregnancy when you would oppose abortion? Are babies to you more valuable at twenty-five weeks than twelve weeks? Is the source of our human dignity the wishes our parents have for us? Do you think infanticide is ever justified?”

After asking the questions, make yourself be quiet and listen! Then ask, “Explain what you mean by that.” The conversion of hearts and minds is not going to be immediate. We are not the side relying on gut emotion. Our job is to ask the right questions, and then pray that the Holy Spirit guides them to eventually recognize that their pro-abortion position is wrong.

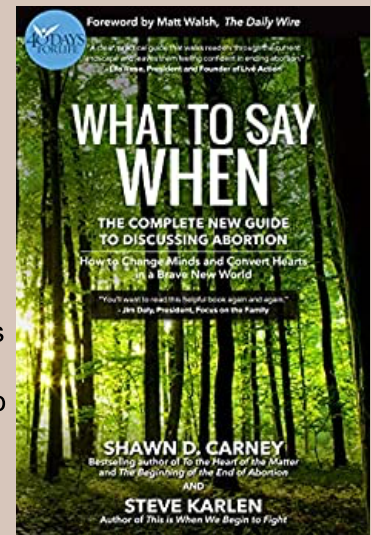
When I have been out in front of Emma Goldman Center, I have noticed that what I have learned from the book has at times allowed me to diffuse a heated situation. When a passerby stops to berate or verbally attack me, it can throw them off-guard when I calmly listen and ask them questions. Shawn and Steve devote entire chapters on how to handle common pro-abortion arguments such as population control, saving the life of the mother, contraception, and rape.

After reading this book, you will never awkwardly mumble, “we *believe* life begins at conception” again! In this modern age, science is now on our side! Authors Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen explain how to use this sound logical advantage.

Abortion kills an innocent child. “To avoid speaking the truth about abortion is to cancel ourselves, and that’s a greater tragedy than being canceled or censored by others.” Read this book and speak up for life!

By Kimberly Cronk

Copies available with donation - contact Sheryl at [director@jcrtl.org](mailto:director@jcrtl.org) to receive your copy.



### Quiz Answers

1. **d. None.** All 9 justices on the 1973 court were men.
2. **d.** Courts have struck down restrictions like these under *Roe v. Wade*.
3. **d.** All of these justices have criticized *Roe*’s reasoning, including progressive icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
4. **c.** If *Roe* is overturned, the citizens of each state would be free to allow or limit abortion.

(From [prolifeaction.org](http://prolifeaction.org) - Learn more at [AboutRoe.org](http://AboutRoe.org))



# 40 Days for Life Leader Symposium Round Up

Thanks to Johnson County Right to Life, we had the opportunity to attend the **40 Days for Life Leader Symposium** in Houston this past August. It was a packed weekend, filled with inspiring speakers! Here are some inspirational quotes from the speakers:

**Matt Britton, 40DFL Senior Counsel** said, "We'll fight in the courts and win on our knees." That idea permeated the weekend packed with humble, joyful speakers who've sacrificed hours on pro-life activities.

**Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood manager**, reminded us that God has been changing the trajectories of people's lives through the witness of those praying outside, "Just pray...it's the most powerful thing you can do because you are interrupting Satan's plans...and so there will be attacks on us. Persist!" Abby stated that close to 600 "Quitters" have left the abortion industry. The organization Abby founded, *And Then There Were None*, continues to offer financial, spiritual, emotional, and job search help to those who leave.

**40 DFL President Shawn Carney** spoke about how the pure love of Jesus is our closing argument. That we are not above being berated, and that God will use that! "Don't lose hope...in times of adversity, that's when Saints are made!"

So many creative methods emerged as we listened to varied campaign organizers share suggestions for increasing involvement: free t-shirts for committed vigil participants; organize half or full days to "adopt" and fill each week by separate organizations; podcasts aired on local channels; involve church leaders and clergy; choose specific "day captains" to coordinate prayer volunteer hours; and provide recognition to prayer warriors after vigils have ended.

The "Big News" announced at the meeting - a short Sidewalk Outreach Training through a newly created **40 Days for Life University is HERE!** Anyone interested can now sign up for a mere \$29 and learn how to respond to questions, receive a free t-shirt and book, *What to Say When*, co-authored by Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen! Check it out at : <https://www.40daysforlife.com/university>

While on the 40DFL website, you can purchase beautiful Christmas ornaments! You will find all the past weekly podcasts under the "media" tab. The podcast is a great way to stay on top of what is happening concerning abortion in the grassroots of the nation, as well as at the Supreme Court.

We sincerely thank JCRTL for our plane tickets to Houston! Three different generations of women became fast friends. It was an unforgettable experience that filled each of us with new fervor for the pro-life movement!

For LIFE, Sharon Hude, Sophia Schuster, and Kimberly Cronk



## Johnson County Right to Life

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**JCRTL.org**

**Johnson County Right to Life** is dedicated to protecting the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death. We seek to engage and educate our community to embrace and value the most vulnerable among us; the unborn, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Our ultimate goal is to ensure legal protection of all human life.

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