

## **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC Announces Recommendations For The Nov. 4 Statewide Judicial Races**

The Pennsylvania Pro-life Federation PAC announced recommendations for the November 4, 2003 statewide judicial elections for state Supreme Court and state Superior Court.

“There’s a clear difference between the candidates running for the state Supreme Court,” said Mary Bellevue, Legislative/PAC Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-life Federation. “The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC is urging voters to go to the polls November 4 and vote for Superior Court Judge Joan Orie Melvin for promotion to the state Supreme Court.”

Her Democratic opponent, Max Baer, has the strong backing of the pro-abortion group NARAL-PA, Planned Parenthood, and other organizations that support abortion. Baer was quoted on the NARAL primary voter guide as saying, “I am pro-choice and proud of it.”

In the Superior Court election, the Pro-Life Federation PAC recommends Grainger Bowman (R), Palmer Dolbin (R), John Driscoll (D) and Jack Panella (D). While four candidates have earned the PAC’s recommendation, voters will only be able to vote for three Superior Court candidates on November 4.

## **Concerned Citizens Invited to Join Local Catholic Congregations for January Pro-Life Rally in Washington**

Three Tioga County Catholic congregations are sponsoring a bus trip for the Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C., on January 22, 2004 — the 31st anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The bus plans to leave Mansfield about 5:00AM and return about 11:00PM. Round-trip tickets for DC’s Metro are being reserved to take participants from Catholic University in Washington to and from the National Mall for the speakers and March, to be held early afternoon.

Father Al Leonard of Holy Child Church estimates the cost for the trip will be \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. All interested people — particularly high school and college age students — are invited to join them in this important event.

For more information or to reserve a seat on the bus, call Fr. Leonard or the parish secretary at 570-622-7773 or 570-662-3568.

## **Positive News on the National Level and Why Judicial Elections Are Important**

**October 21, 2003** — The Senate today voted 64-34 to ban a type of abortion in which a fetus is partially delivered before being killed. The House approved the legislation earlier this month, and Bush has urged Congress to get it to his desk.

“This is very important legislation that will end an abhorrent practice and continue to build a culture of life in America,” President Bush said, referring to the practice, commonly known as Partial Birth Abortion. “I look forward to signing it into law.”

“Today we have reached a significant victory as we continue to build a more compassionate society and a culture that values every human life,” said Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., the bill’s sponsor. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., a heart surgeon, said the ban could save the lives of thousands of babies yet to be born, adding “I can say without equivocation that partial birth abortion is brutal, it is barbaric, it is morally offensive, and it is outside the mainstream practice of medicine.”

**Abortion rights advocates said they would immediately go to court to stop the law**, citing the 5-4 Supreme Court ruling in 2000 that a similar Nebraska state law was unconstitutional because the definition of “partial birth” was too vague.

Senator Santorum assured supporters that this legislation meets the constitutional questions by tightening the definition and offering extensive findings that the procedure was never needed to protect the health of the mother.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, urged Attorney General John Ashcroft to put up a stiff legal defense. “Given an activist judiciary, the prospects for the ban surviving a court challenge are dim unless the attorney general is ready to pour resources and energy into the fight to defend it.”

**October 21, 2003** — The Florida Legislature and House passed bill 35E—Terri’s Bill—into law. This law allowed Florida’s Governor, Jeb Bush, to issue an Executive Order allowing nutrition and hydration to be returned to Terri Schiavo, the disabled Florida woman who had been deprived of nutrition and hydration for more than 6 days. **Terri’s feeding tube was removed October 15, after a court order by Judge George Greer** allowed her husband Michael’s request that her life be ended.

Terri’s parents have not been given any information about her current medical condition, but she appears to be doing well and is responding appropriately to the presence of her loved ones.