

What a Night! Focus on Life Dinner Another Great Success

by Rob Karrer

I love these dinners. I really do. It's a lot of hard work and planning, especially the day of the event, but it's worth every bit of effort. And it's the one time of the year when pro-lifers from all over the area can meet and greet each other. Sometimes we can feel all alone in this struggle to defend the lives of the unborn, but then we come to the dinner and realize (or are reminded) that we are not alone. Many others, good friends each, are like-minded in this movement. We share the same goals, the same values, the same faith in God, the giver of all life. Each year Kalamazoo Right to Life hosts the Focus on Life Dinner, a fundraiser for Right to Life of Michigan. This year's dinner was no exception. On May 14, about 260 people filled the First Assembly of God's Ministry Center.

The day began when Augusta's Light of Christ Academy sent a dozen students under the able direction of teacher Carrie Jewett. The St. Monica Youth Group also sent a smaller group. They do it all—clear the room of extra chairs, set up tables and rented chairs, cover with tablecloths, place water goblets, silverware, preprinted materials at each place setting, and prepare the caterer's set up—tables, tablecloths, dinner plates. In the afternoon a few KRTL board members arranged flowers at each table, curtesy of Wedel's Nursery, Florist & Garden Center. By mid-afternoon the room was ready. For the second year, Mark Romstadt of Mark's Diner Catering did the honors with a delicious meal. Harding's Market supplied sheet cakes for dessert. After the meal, speakers took to the platform. First to speak was the 2026 KRTL Oratory Contest winner Faustina Plotz, a home school freshman.



Set up crew from Light of Christ Academy



The Ministry Center ready for the Focus Dinner



Professor William Wagner gives his presentation.

Her six minute speech was well received. Following her address, MC Tim Brown introduced Professor William Wagner, the main speaker. Professor Wagner is the president and CEO of Salt & Light Global, an organization that promotes Christian values as the bedrock of Western societies. He has also worn many hats: lawyer, university law professor, federal magistrate, an expert on international law who has addressed many American and European legislative or judicial groups.

The following are excerpts of his speech: The battle

for life is a defining moment, it matters how the lens by which we see the world is shaped...that we are made in the image of God. There are three foundational truths: all human life possesses inherent value from conception, constitutional self-governance depends upon the acknowledgement of that truth, the Church and the people of faith must courageously lead with conviction and compassion.



Oratory winner, Faustina Plotz gives her speech.



Hon. William Wagner





The battle for life is ultimately about the value of human identity. What does it mean to be human? Human dignity does not come from government or the Supreme Court.

We are facing a moral crossroads—the issue is not whether the unborn child is human but that society recognizes the reality that already exists.



KRTL president Jean Talanda, RLM president Amber Roseboom, Hon. William Wagner

Roe v. Wade was morally wrong. It was also constitutionally wrong. The *Dred Scott* case stated that certain human beings, because of the color of their skin, fell outside the protection of the law. *Roe* repeated that catastrophic principle... different victims, but the same dehumanizing logic.

True freedom is not license to kill innocent life, true freedom is the freedom to live according to truth and virtue.

There are two worldviews: life is sacred or life is disposable.

For decades we have been drifting from transcendent truth, replaced moral absolutes with personal preferences, replaced virtue with self expression, replaced responsibility with entitlement.



The future of the pro-life movement!

If we are going to change the culture we have to begin by changing hearts...one at a time. We're not going to change the future in the legislature or the courtroom. It must start with us.

