

**"It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times."**

I couldn't help but be reminded of this famous quote from Charles Dickens as I thought about the events of the last few weeks. In Ohio, we celebrated a new Governor, Mike DeWine who has shown in his first days, how important his family is to him. His children and grand-children were included in his inaugural events and his theme was "Faith. Family. Friends." As pro-lifers, we see Governor DeWine and his wife Fran as wonderful witnesses for building a culture of life. Later in the month, we also watched many of our fellow Buckeyes "March for Life" in Washington with hundreds of thousands more. What an uplifting encouraging start to the month!



DeWine Family Inauguration

Contrast these Ohio moments with the heartbreaking news out of New York. On January 22, 2019, New York's Governor signed a piece of legislation that allowed babies to be killed at any time--up until their own birthday. This same legislation also removed protections from children born alive from

“botched abortions” and made it legal for other medical professionals, non-doctors, to commit these heinous procedures. (My gut tells me they felt the need for this last provision, because they knew it may be difficult to find “real” doctors to perform these late term abortions.) Again, in contrast, the New York Governor celebrated the loss of children and family and then promoted it by stating, “we hope these actions serve as a model for equality across the nation.”

What are we say about this? Who do we blame for this tragedy in New York? The Church? The legislature? The Left? The Right? The Middle? I say all of the above. Laws like this happen can happen when pro-life folks aren't paying attention or think someone else will stop it.

All of us have an opportunity, and a responsibility I believe, to affect change in our community. What we allow in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our city, and in our state, is up to us. The same goes for what we do not allow. I am truly thankful that I live in Ohio, where the protection of life is something many of my fellow citizens espouse. These same citizens also understand that life is something to be vigilantly guarded. If not, we may “wake up” in a few years and New York’s laws may be ours!

Dayton Right to Life and its statewide partners will vigilantly guard life in our communities, but we need all of you to do your part. Make a New Years resolution to be more vigilant and more aware of what is happening in our communities. Go to our webpage, www.daytonlife.org, and click on the "Stay connected" button. Let's be a state that always celebrates families and children, our greatest resource for the future.

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