Dear Pro-Life Partners, September 11, 2025

I spent the day at the hospital yesterday while a family member had surgery. The operation was a success, praise God. Even so, my daughter and I left the hospital in shock and tears, for it was in that waiting room that we learned of the brutal shooting death (aka assassination) of 31-year-old Charlie Kirk—husband, father of two, pro-life warrior, and conservative activist.

Charlie had a particular passion for educating young people across the country (through spirited debate, of course). He founded Turning Point USA at 18-years old, which hosts conservative events on college campuses and now has 850 chapters. So it is no surprise that Student for Life presented him with the Defender of Life Award in January of this year.

Kristan Hawkins, President of Students for Life described Kirk this way when presenting his award. “Charlie Kirk stands as one of the ‘Davids’ in this fight, who works alongside of us to fight the abortion Goliath who use their taxpayer-funded padded budgets and influence to attack the least of these. He has applied the fighting skills of David to his life and his life mission, multiplying and equipping a new generation of fighters for the most vulnerable in the nation.”

Here is a truncated excerpt from his speech at that event. “If I had one piece of feedback to the pro-life movement, it’s ‘You need to stay involved in politics.’ I know it’s tempting at times to say that politics is dirty. I am not asking you to ever compromise your values, but imagine. If we didn’t control the White House people would still be in the Gulags facing multiple years in prison for praying outside of abortion clinics. The Mexico City Policy would still be up and running. The Democrat Party wants to eliminate and criminalize pro-life activism. The pro-life movement in the United Kingdom and France is gone, it’s non-existent, because they have basically and effectively outlawed pro-life activism, and it has retreated. You are the center of the planet for pro-life activism around the world. Stay involved, stay engaged, and hold your elected leaders accountable. I understand that some people in the Republican Party say that abortion should no longer be mentioned in the party platform. I’m here to tell you right now that not only do we want it to be mentioned, but if we don’t fight for life, what good is politics. If we don’t fight for the unborn, what good is (insert political issue). Overturning Roe v Wade, was not the end. It was just the beginning of the fight. Now we have to win referendums in states. We have to win hearts and minds. Be ready to go through the apologetics of abortion. Human rights do not stop just because of the location, size, or development of an individual.”

Many students brave enough to try to debate Charlie used rape as a justification for abortion, which he would effectively dismantle. One response I loved was when he said that if he were to bring up two people, one the product of rape and one the product of marriage, you wouldn't be able to tell the difference. So why should the circumstances of conception dictate a death sentence?

On a note of local pride, Facebook posts indicate that Patrick Mahomes has called for all NFL teams to have a moment of silence before each of their games this weekend. It also reports that Butker posted a prayer, and Mahomes and Kelce (among others, such as Aaron Rodgers) have donated significantly to Charlie Kirk's family.

Charlie Kirk was welcomed into heaven on September 10, 2025, but he will be missed here on earth. May we strive to fill the void and continue his relentless stance for life. We may not be able to match his breadth and depth of knowledge or his impressive ability to always have an answer. We may never be on the front lines as he was or maintain his level of energy. But we can defend life as he did—with boldness and conviction. May life win. And in the face of this hateful act, may love prevail.

Partnering with You for Life,

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR