

MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR LIFE



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Cover: Participants at Massachusetts March for Life on Boston Common
(Photo by Domenico Bettinelli)



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A Message From President Anne Fox

The English language has more words than any other language. Yet we are so deficient in some areas. We say “I love God” and “I love chocolate ice cream” and we “love” everything in between. We all learned that the ancient Greeks distinguished among *agape*, *eros*, *philia*, and *storge* (this is love of parent for child). I think they still didn't have enough words.

I heard a Massachusetts pro-lifer say the other day, prefacing something good that President Trump has done, “Of course I don't like him, but...” I question: why do we have to like a president? I admire the way Queen Elizabeth does her job. Do I like her? How can I when I have never even met her? This talk in recent elections about which candidate would you rather have a beer with or bring home to dinner actually shows the paucity of civic knowledge these days. I admire John Adams immensely for representing the British soldiers, for writing the Massachusetts Constitution and so many other seminal documents, for being a good family man, etc. I doubt that I would have “liked” him if I had lived next door. One could like the policies, decisions, actions or accomplishment of a leader. Without meeting and interacting with that leader, how could one like or dislike? And, really what does it matter?

In looking back over the year, there are many decisions and actions to like.

We again have the Mexico City Policy extending much farther than it did under President Reagan, UN Population Fund defunded, UNICEF defunded, deconstruction of Obama's anti-life executive orders, abortion being pulled out of government and insurance coverage. President Trump favored allowing child tax credits for unborn babies, which was just defeated in the Senate. That would have been a landmark recognition of the humanity of the unborn. All the important appointees in this administration are pro-life. Obama left open a lot of judgeships. President Trump's advisors on judiciary appointments are impeccable.

According to reports, Supreme Court Justice Kagan does not like Justice Gorsuch. He must be even better than we thought! The activity at the federal level was out-

standing. Even though Congress has held up many other initiatives of the president, most pro-life efforts have moved forward successfully. Now we are even talking about what our job will be when *Roe v Wade* is overturned. What a year it has been!

Yesterday as I write this, the hard work of the pro-lifers in the Worcester and Middlesex district working with the MCFL State PAC elected a pro-life state Senator from the Fitchburg Leominster area. He replaces a pro-abortion senator.

It has been 45 years since the infamous *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton* decisions legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. During that time we have had the most amazing good fortune in Massachusetts with the many people who have worked to restore protection – doctors, nurses, clergy, teachers, and so many others. Right after the decisions, the Massachusetts League of Women Voters took a pro-abortion position. Many of the leading women in the League moved right over to Mass Citizens, bringing their expertise and never missing a beat. At the Assembly for Life every five years, we honor the activists who have gone before us. As Congressman Henry Hyde observed, the babies are there to welcome them. We need your help to be sure we forget no one (See page 13).

We had a baby shower last week at my church. Pat brought a pack of onesies for preemies. We thought how wonderful to have those when a mother needs them. Everyone was fascinated. Not only are these onesies tiny, but they are proportionately more narrow. Of course, that makes sense because the baby does not need fat under her skin when she is warm in the uterus so she gains it at the end of her nine months.

Even these pro-life mothers were awed by this little peek at pre-natal development. Please read the article on page 19 about the importance of knowledge about pre-natal development in our life-saving work.

You will also find an article on the Massachusetts Medical Society decision to take a “neutral” position on doctor-prescribed suicide on page 11. I have learned since that the British Medical Association has always been strongly opposed to DPS except for



MCFL President Anne Fox talks with Joan Bailey, Linda Thayer, and Ken Evans at a South Shore chapter meeting on Sept. 19.

one 12 month period when they were hijacked. If the BMA can get back on track, so can the MMS. We'll be working on that as well as continuing to work to keep the bills at the State House from passing.

When we think about the huge drop in the number of abortions in Massachusetts, we come back always to our educational efforts. Besides the Speakers' Bureau and all our educational events, we have been working hard on the MCFL webpage and social media outreach. Each of our events this year has had more participants and more young adults than last year (the Banquet was sold out a week ahead). We feel these are the fruits of this outreach.

We have a fine young intern from the Christo Rey School, a new outreach to Evangelical Churches, and we are re-developing our Spanish outreach. This is the year of the Oratory Contest where the winning high school junior or senior will represent the state at the national level.

Things are happening and moving in the right direction because of hard work – yours and mine. We'll keep it up until all life is protected!

Addendum: In the summer of 2015 David Daleiden released the earthshaking tapes documenting Planned Parenthood selling baby parts. The Trump Justice Department has just announced its investigation. Last night when the press called, what could I say, before dancing back to my Christmas decorating, except that we are delighted that this long-overdue investigation is finally taking place.

MCFL Board Member Profile

Danielle Cohn: Influencing youth culture through pro-life solidarity

How did your growing up affect your pro-life formation?

I grew up in Dedham, Massachusetts, the youngest of five siblings. I was raised Catholic, though my father's family is Presbyterian. I cannot say that I remember becoming pro-life, or really even learning about most of the life issues. My earliest memories of thinking about abortion are in high school, through our parish Life Teen program. However, the memory of that experience is not a strong one, and the experience wasn't formative. As I remember it, being pro-life was more of a natural disposition, consistent with all of the values that were instilled in us as children – Christian values: seeing the dignity of every person and living in a way that honors that dignity.

I do remember vividly when I realized the necessity of translating my pro-life disposition into activism. As a freshman in college at The Catholic University of America, I went to a meeting of the pro-life club to decide whether or not to join. The Chaplain, Fr. Bob, said, "This is the most important group on campus, because what you do has a tangible effect. It is a matter of life and death." Throughout my years at CUA I joined the group praying on Saturday mornings outside of Planned Parenthood. I also had the great privilege of attending two retreats with Msgr. Philip Reilly at the convent in Brooklyn and learning how to be an effective sidewalk counselor.

As my involvement in the pro-life movement grew, I came to understand the profundity of Fr. Bob's words, echoed and embodied with intensity in the words and witness of Msgr. Reilly; I realized that it was during these times of ministry and prayer for the pro-life movement that I felt closest to God, and as though I was living with a purpose. It became clear to me that the pro-life movement, in all of its dimensions, is the most important thing with which I can be involved at this time and place in history. It is the most tangible way to live in solidarity with the most vulnerable among



MCFL Board member Danielle Cohn with her husband Peter and daughter Clara

us, which is the deepest desire of my heart.

You worked for the Archdiocese of Boston. How does that influence what you bring to MCFL?

Upon graduating from CUA it was my desire to work either in the pro-life movement or with youth, or to further my education in psychology. The Archdiocese was at the time hiring for a new position in a new office that served youth and young adults. I applied, was hired, and began working there in 2008. I remained in the Archdiocese until just recently, holding three separate positions, all of which allowed me to participate in the ministry of discipleship.

Although my positions at the Archdiocese were not focused on pro-life work, they directly and indirectly involved me in the movement. In a direct way, I was part of the team that brought hundreds of young

people each year on a pilgrimage for life in D.C., as part of the March for Life. During these pilgrimages I had the great privilege of teaching young people about pro-life issues, and about their own dignity. Through my work with youth, I have learned that many young people in today's generation are naturally disposed to being pro-life. They are compassionate, and have a deep desire to help those who are suffering. However, along with their deep compassion, this generation is hallmarked by a desire to be accepting of all, and often this desire has misled many of them into thinking they should be pro-choice.

In another direct way, the Archdiocese has for the past several years participated in the Mass. March for Life in Boston run by MCFL. Through my work in the office, I was able to help promote the March, reaching out to many youth leaders encouraging more involvement.

Pro-Life 2018 at a Glance

Jan. 12: Board of Directors meeting, Boston

Jan. 19: MCFL Caucus, March for Life, Washington, D.C.
New Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-106

Jan. 21: MCFL Assembly for Life with Fr. Frank Pavone
New Location: Mechanics Hall, Worcester

February–May: Student Lobby Days
Massachusetts State House, Boston

March 9: Board of Directors meeting, Boston

March 17: MCFL Table, Worcester Men's Conference

May: Spring Social, Western Mass.

May 11: Board of Directors meeting, Boston

June 8: Annual Meeting and Election

June 28-30: National Right to Life Convention,
Washington, D.C.

July–Aug.: Summer Academy for high school students

Aug. 4: All day Board planning meeting

Sept.–Oct.: MCFL Booth, Big E, Springfield

October: Massachusetts March for Life

Oct. 12: Board of Directors meeting, Boston

Oct. 25: Annual Fundraising Banquet, Norwood

Nov. 9: Board and Chapter Officers meeting

Dec. 7: Board Christmas Party

The MCFL Board of Directors meets at the Boston office, 529 Main Street. All MCFL members are welcome to attend.

Chapters meet monthly or on other schedules. Please check: www.masscitizensforlife.org for dates and times. Everyone living in the area of a chapter is welcome.

MCFL Speakers' Bureau reaches more than 10,000 people every year. To arrange a local presentation, call (617) 242-4199 or (413) 583-5034

Less directly, I think the same thing that draws me to the pro-life movement draws me to working with young people. Pope Saint John Paul II coined the term “culture of death” when talking about the consumerist climate of our world in the nineties. Since that time we have in many ways progressed further into darkness (abortion, physician-assisted suicide, the opioid crisis, teen suicide, broken families, to name a few examples that have touched all of us). I believe that helping young people, who have grown up in a culture of moral relativism and despair, is one of the most important ways that we can begin to change things – not only by forming them in the truth, but by helping them to recognize their own dignity and worth. In my mind there is nothing more pro-life than this.

What MCFL activities: projects, events, educational opportunities, are most important to you?

I have been most involved in MCFL through my position as a board member and in helping with the Mass. March for Life in Boston. My heartfelt desire for MCFL is that more and more young people will see how crucial the organization is to the social and political condition and future of our state, and therefore of our country. I will keep trying to get more young people involved in MCFL, given current opportunities, and work within MCFL to brainstorm new ways of expanding the possibilities of involvement. The energy and passion of youth are essential to the continued success of the organization and therefore of the movement at large.

You've just gotten married and had your first child

My husband Peter and I were married in September of 2016 and had our first child, Clara, on July 29th of this year. It has already been the most rewarding experience of my life - learning to be wife to my husband and mother to my daughter. We are daily filled with gratitude for the many blessings we have received and that we continue to receive in and through our vocation to family life. Among those great blessings is the opportunity for me to stay home with our daughter. I look forward to growing in this new vocation and building the culture of life through our own little family.

Are you finding any time for leisure activities?

In my leisure time I most enjoy reading a good book and exploring new coffee shops, or popping into an art museum. When possible I love to ride my bike and to run. My husband and I also enjoy taking car rides all over New England to go hiking, or explore beaches, vineyards, and markets – although doing these activities with our additional cargo is a whole new kind of adventure!

I am also eager to get back to painting and drawing – as of late my artistic energies have been more or less concentrated into decorating our new house.

Lastly, I hope to continue to work with young people, whether through Church ministry or speaking engagements. I also hope to continue to find new and more direct ways to serve the pro-life movement.

PRO-LIFE EVENTS 2018

March for Life January 19 in Washington, D.C.

Map Key

1. The Capitol
2. Senate Offices:
Russell, Dirksen, Hart

House Offices:

3. Cannon
4. Longworth
5. Rayburn
6. Metro-Capitol South
7. Metro-Smithsonian
8. Rally Stage: 15th St.
at Constitution Ave.



2 Hart Senate Office Building
Sen. Elizabeth Warren Room 317

2 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Senator Edward Markey Room 255

2 Dirksen Senate Office Building
MCFL Caucus Room SD-106

3 Cannon House Office Building
Rep. Joseph Kennedy Room 434
Rep. James McGovern Room 438
Rep. Richard Neal Room 341

5 Rayburn House Office Building
Rep. William Keating Room 2268
Rep. Stephen Lynch Room 2369

4 Longworth House Office Building
Rep. Michael Capuano Room 1414
Rep. Katherine Clark Room 1415
Rep. Seth Moulton Room 1408
Rep. Niki Tsongas Room 1714

MCFL Pre-March Caucus January 19 New Location Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, D.C.

The 2018 MCFL Caucus will be held at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room SD-106, from 9:30AM - 11:00AM. Coffee and pastries will be served.

You can hear from inspiring nationally recognized speakers addressing the latest developments in the pro-life cause, especially from a national legislative or judicial viewpoint. After, there's often an opportunity for you to lobby your Members of Congress in person.

Speakers currently scheduled include: Dr. Michael New, assistant professor of political science at Ave Maria University and associate scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute; University of Massachusetts Professor of Law Dwight Duncan; and Professor Michael Pakaluk of The Catholic University of America.

MCFL Assembly for Life January 21 Mechanics Hall, Worcester



Fr. Frank Pavone

Fr. Frank Pavone was ordained in 1988 by Cardinal John O'Connor. In 1993 he became National Director of Priests for Life. He is also the President of the National Pro-life Religious Council, and the National Pastoral Director of Rachel's Vineyard. Fr. Pavone was asked by Mother Teresa to speak in India on the life issues, and has addressed the pro-life caucus of the US House of Representatives.

Appointed by the Vatican to the Pontifical Council for the Family, Fr. Pavone also serves as a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life. He was present at the bedside of Terri Schiavo as she was dying and was an outspoken advocate for her life. Fr. Pavone received the "Proudly Pro-life Award" by the National Right to Life Committee, as well as numerous other pro-life awards and honorary doctorates.

March for Life Buses to Washington, D.C.

Arlington & Burlington, MA – January 17-20, 2018 (3 Days, 2 Nights)

Pick-ups at: St. Margaret Church, Winn St., Burlington, MA & St. Camillus Church, Dow Ave., Arlington, MA.

Hotel: Hampton Inn, Silver Spring, MD

Cost: \$279 per person (double hotel room occupancy); \$359 per person (single room occupancy). Please note there is no guarantee of reimbursement if the event is cancelled due to hazardous weather. Also a \$100 per person deposit is required with registration. The full balance is due December 29, 2017. Make checks payable to March for Life/Arlington and mail to March for Life/Arlington, c/o Joseph Kolb, 250 Main St., #214, Hudson, MA 01749-2357.

For more information contact: Thomas Harvey: 617-710-3616, tharveyesq@aol.com; or Joseph Kolb: 781-844-0350, joskol5@yahoo.com.

Burlington, MA – January 17-20, 2018 (2 Days, 1 Night)

Pick-up at: Burlington Mall, Burlington, MA at 10pm, Wednesday, January 17.

Hotel: Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel

Cost: Bus arrives in DC on Thursday, Jan. 18, about 7am. On Friday, Jan. 19, Mass at the hotel and then March for Life. Bus returns that evening. Trip packages start at \$171 per person for a group of four; \$229 for a group of two. Ask about the individual rate. Price includes bus, hotel room, taxes and fees.

For registration or more information call: Brian Murphy: 844-633-3968 or email Brian@mvpregnancy.com.

Cape Cod, MA – January 17-20, 2018 (3 Days, 2 nights)

Pick-up: Buses will depart on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018 and return Saturday, Jan. 20. Travel in motor coaches.

Hotel: Hampton Inn, Washington, DC

Cost: Non-refundable fee of \$305/adult and \$230/youth includes roundtrip transportation, two nights at the hotel, with breakfast each morning, and pizza party the night of Jan. 19.

For more details call Kevin Ward at: 508-291-0949 or Vanessa Cloutier at 508-566-2884. If unable to make the trip, donations can be made to “Cape Cod Bus for Life, Inc.” and mailed to P.O. Box 175, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532.

Worcester, MA – January 18-20, 2018 (No overnight stay)

Pick-up at: St. Paul’s Cathedral, Worcester following Respect Life Mass at 7:30 PM.

Hotel: No overnight stay. Traveling Thursday night, Jan. 18, 2018 to Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in time for Mass on Friday morning, Jan. 19, followed by March for Life at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March, arriving back at St. Paul’s at approximately 1am on Sat., Jan. 20.

Cost: \$75 per seat for registrations post-marked by Dec. 31; \$90 per seat after Dec. 31.

Details and registration forms available at www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life. Registrations accepted on first-come, first-served basis until all seats are filled.

Win a trip this summer!

The Dr Mildred F Jefferson Oratory Contest

High school juniors and seniors (or the equivalent homeschooling levels) may win a chance in this contest to represent Massachusetts at the NRLC Convention finals on June 30 in Overland Park, Kansas.

The 2016 winner was Isabelle Germino and she received a trip, including a parent or chaperone, to the National Right to Life Convention, July 7-9, 2016. She and her parent also heard the wonderful speakers at the Convention and met active students from around the country. As the Massachusetts winner, Isabelle also gave her winning speech at the Assembly for Life, Jan. 22, 2017 in Faneuil Hall.

Please note that the Massachusetts contest is held every other year, so juniors should be sure to participate when eligible. The contest is held during the MCFL Convention. The next scheduled contest is Spring 2018. Contest participants will be our guests for the Convention and lunch. Anyone considering entering should [check the rules, on the NRLC site](#) and register with Linda Thayer, MCFL Vice-President of Educational Affairs, action@masscitizensforlife.org. More information at www.masscitizensforlife.org/oratorycontest



Isabelle Germino

MCFL 2017 Annual Fundraising Banquet



Students from the Montrose School pro-life club in Medfield

Photos By Domenico Bettinelli

On Thursday, October 26, Massachusetts Citizens for Life brought together pro-lifers from across the Commonwealth to re-connect with each other, to honor those who have given long-time selfless service to the pro-life cause, and to be invigorated by a wonderful keynote speech from philosopher and internationally renowned author Dr. Peter Kreeft.

Emcee Matthew Hanafin introduced the evening's honorees. Robert W. Joyce, Esq., director of the Pro-Life Legal Defense Fund, received the Ignatius O'Connor Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the pro-life movement in Massachusetts. Jack Rowe received the Peggy McCormack Award, given to a member of the MCFL Board of Directors who has contributed significantly to the work of the Board. Jack was first elected to the board in 1976 and has served continuously since that time for 41 years.

Several MCFL Chapters also presented awards. Fr. Andrew Johnson received the Pro-Life Community Award from the Great-

er Fall River Chapter. Fr. Johnson serves two parishes in Fall River. Joan Bailey received the Service Award from the South Shore Chapter. Joan is a member of the MCFL Board of Directors and is also executive director of Friends of the Unborn, a sheltering home for pregnant women in Quincy. Paul Williams also received the Chapter Service Award from the Peggy McCormack Chapter in Braintree/Weymouth. Paul has stood in front of the Planned Parenthood facility in Boston every Saturday morning for the past two decades, regardless of weather, as well as engaging in many other pro-life activities.

MCFL President Anne Fox remarked that through the work of dedicated pro-lifers, from the height of abortions in the late 80's, the number of abortions in the country as a whole has dropped by one third. During that same time, the number of abortions in Massachusetts has dropped by two thirds – down from approximately 44,000 to 17,000. In those 30 years, 400,000 babies have not been aborted in Massachusetts.

Fox noted the effect of the 2016 election

on pro-life policies. "The reach of the Mexico City Policy extends even farther than it did under President Reagan," Fox said. "The UN Population Fund has been defunded, UNICEF has been defunded, Obama's anti-life executive orders have been countermanded, and abortion is being pulled out of government and insurance coverage. All the important appointees in this administration are pro-life. Obama left open a lot of judgeships. President Trump's advisors on judiciary appointments are impeccable. Now we are even talking about what our job will be when *Roe v Wade* is overturned. What a year it has been!"

Boston College Professor of Philosophy Peter Kreeft's keynote speech was the highlight of the evening. "The conversion story of St. Paul goes straight to the heart of our motivation to being passionate about the pro-life cause and why we are so obsessed with ending abortion. The story must be taken literally," Kreeft said as he began his explanation. "Saul of Tarsus believes he is doing righteous deeds by exterminating



Keynote speaker Boston College Professor of Philosophy Peter Kreeft



Emcee Matt Hanafin of the Heritage Foundation was formerly MCFL Director of Outreach

Christians who offend God by worshipping a mere man who claimed to be God. If Christ is not God, then he is a great blasphemer. A light from heaven knocks Saul down, then he hears these words: 'Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' Literally, God says 'you are persecuting me.' These exact words change Saul's world. Saul was absolutely certain that he knew the true God, leading him to admit that he did not know God. Saul asks: 'Who are you Lord?'

"There is a second shock for Saul as God answers him literally: 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.' This turns everything upside down in Saul's conception of God. Is Jesus literally the one he was jailing and torturing? Aren't his followers mere men?

"In persecuting Christians, Saul was persecuting Christ. Jesus is literal about this, he did not water down these words. And this further illuminates His words in Acts 9: 'Truly, truly I say to you, whatever you are doing to the least of my brethren, you are doing to Me. I am there, I am truly present in that body.'

"If we reject the least of our brethren, we reject Him. If we accept them, we accept Him. We are members of His body.

"That is why we work to end abortion. Because we cannot bear to face that face in heaven and see its tiny shards and crushed skull and burned skin and broken pelvis and hear those words: 'This is what you did to Me.' That is why in this work to abort abortion we will never, never, never, never, never give up.

"Who is this we who will never give up? We, who constitute Massachusetts Citizens for Life, we diverse individuals united by our common love of life, especially where life is in greatest peril. We need your help, your passion, your prayers, and your pennies. Many, many pennies. Your coins with Caesar's head on them. Paying out your coins to undermine Caesar's rule over your children, over God's children, is simultaneously rendering unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and unto God what belongs to God.

"For who is our Caesar? Anyone other than Christ who speaks the sacred words over any innocent citizen, born or unborn: 'This is my body.' Moloch and Ashteroth uttered these words in ancient Canaan in the valley of Gehenna. The Aztec god of the smoking mirror with the unpronounceable name uttered those words in 16th century Mexico.

"Those false gods, those evil spirits, those fallen angels, are real. They are not myths and they arise age after age, place after place. For they are immortal. They are our enemies, not flesh and blood. Not even the flesh and blood that deliberately kills its own flesh and blood. And not even the flesh and blood that finances that killing.

"Unless God's Word lies, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of this present darkness, against spiritual wickedness in high places. That is why we must never, never, never, never give up."



Greater Fall River Chapter Chair Barbara Wenc and MCFL President Anne Fox with Fr. Andrew Johnson, recipient of the Pro-Life Community Award



Paul Williams, recipient of the Chapter Service Award; Anne Fox, and Jean Healey, Chair of the Peggy McCormack Chapter

Pro-life Social Doctrine Program Develops the Activist's Mindset Towards

A Serene Urgency

MCFL chairman Dr. David Franks is now teaching an innovative new course, open to everyone, that seeks to rebuild the American future by cultivating a unifying social consciousness from the pro-life perspective. It draws on Scripture and theology, philosophy, political theory, American history, and literature. The inaugural class of students has just met for its third monthly session.

The pro-life defense of dignity grounds an understanding of the conditions that promote true human freedom. Dr. Franks prepares his students to grasp the impulses behind, and ramifications of, the American proposition: that government exists to secure the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"The mission of a pro-life organization, such as MCFL, is to restore the right to life of the innocent in law," Franks said. "A consistent ethic of life makes it essential to change the law. If the right to life of the innocent is not expressed in law, we do not have justice."

The first session of Franks's program in October cited Pope Benedict's 2010 Lenten Message to explain "political theology," that is, the political implications of the Kingdom of God: the consequences of the justice or justification created by Jesus' self-sacrificial love. "We understand politics as bringing into society the loving justice that flows from the justice of God worked on the Cross and manifested in Christian faith and love. The classical definition of justice is 'to render every man what is his due.' However, this definition doesn't specify what is due. Pope Benedict explains that man needs more than law. He needs a gift, the love of God. What does this love entail?"

"A genuine understanding of love means we cannot walk over the bodies of others in the quest for justice, as rationalized by political theories such as Marxism," Franks said. "Marxism only sees the material needs that must be met; it doesn't see love. Without love, we can't even get material needs right."

Pro-life advocates must come to accept

that they cannot completely and immediately fix everything that is damaged by evil. "We need to feel revolutionary fire at the bleeding injustice of children being killed, but resist being overwhelmed in the face of all those children we cannot save," he said. "The key to this is a serene urgency. We have to feel urgent at every moment, but also have a serenity that comes from trust in God."

He also noted that a republic exists as a way for citizens to stand together as one in solidarity, which is a stance of "pro-existence," of living and acting for the good of others: the very truth of freedom. Abraham Lincoln, in his Gettysburg Address, cites the Declaration of Independence to claim that our country was "conceived in liberty." A "new birth of freedom" would result from this conception. Franks noted, "The conception found in the Declaration of Independence needs to come to birth as a defense of every single human life. The Declaration, as our founding law, is 'dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.' This is the whole basis of a democratic republic: every human being is equal under the law."

Franks cited Lincoln, who combined a burning desire to end slavery with a refusal to be a "burn it all down" abolitionist, to illuminate pro-life political strategy. "Lincoln wanted to put slavery 'in the ultimate course of extinction,' by advancing the newly formed Republican Party's platform to outlaw slavery in the territories. This incrementalist approach is similar to that of the pro-life movement. We are all abolitionists in intention. We want to see abortion completely destroyed. But prudence and humility require us to play by the constitutional rules of the republic. Our responsibility is to convince our fellow citizens that a civilized society cannot tolerate abortion without existential contradiction. Incrementalist laws, such as limiting abortion when a fetus can feel pain, are just and prudentially necessary means to realize our love for the powerless, as well as for the common good as a whole."

"In speaking of the memory of the



Dr. David Franks

dead at Gettysburg, Lincoln said that their memory has to be kept alive if we are going to have a future," Dr. Franks continued. "We remember the inhumanity of the past in order to bring it about that there be less inhumanity in the future. Lincoln assured us that a new birth of freedom was possible by honoring the dead. Our increasing devotion to their memory would ensure they had not died in vain."

"That's the same issue we have right now, conceived in the same principles that Lincoln acknowledged," Franks said. "Will we recognize as an American people that 'all human beings are created equal, are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights'? Will we see a 'new birth of freedom' in which that basic republican principle is acknowledged?"

The first session ended with encouragement. "Our solidary hope is the great proof of the pro-life movement's greatness. Pro-lifers are acting for someone else. We are completely given over to the protection of a social class that is not ours. The end of legal abortion doesn't do anything for us; it's saving others. There's nothing in it for us; it is for others who are suffering. That's a powerful way to show the credibility of this great cause."

Find out more about the Pro-life Social Doctrine Certificate Program, which meets one Saturday per month at MCFL's Charlestown offices at www.masscitizensforlife.org/certificate.

MMS “Neutral” on Doctor-Prescribed Suicide

The Massachusetts Medical Society has voted to drop its opposition to physicians prescribing lethal drugs for their patients (doctor-prescribed suicide).

The society says it will be “neutrally engaged”, which “allows the organization to serve as a medical and scientific resource as part of legislative efforts that will support shared decision making between terminally ill patients and their trusted physicians.”

In Oregon and Washington states, where DPS is legal, fewer than 1 percent of licensed physicians write prescriptions for physician-assisted suicide. This obviously involves doctor shopping, not “trusted physicians.”

That bit about being a resource doesn’t sound at all “neutral.”

The Society sent out surveys to 25,000 members. Of the 12 to 13 percent that were returned, approximately 60 percent of respondents wanted the medical society to rescind its opposition to doctor-prescribed suicide, while 40 percent wanted to keep the policy.

This would say that approximately 720 of the 35,000 doctors in the state (not all are members of the MMS) now have decided that all doctors should help people commit suicide.

Beyond the obvious concerns, doctors who oppose the legalization of DPS have special concerns. They became doctors to heal, not to help kill. They are concerned that their patients will lose trust in them. They are concerned that patient care in general will suffer.

A ballot question that would have allowed physician-assisted suicide failed in 2012. Legislation to reconsider the issue is pending in the state Legislature.

Testimony on pro-DPS bills was heard in September, 2017. The bills currently are in the Health Care Committee, which has until mid-March to vote on them. In the past, lobbying against legalizing DPS by the MMS has been very effective. As the fight goes forward, there will be one fewer group lobbying with us.



MCFL President Anne Fox, Director of Community Engagement Domenico Bettinelli, Jr., Chairman of the Board Dr. David Franks, and Dr. David Stormberg testify at the State House in Boston against the legalization of doctor-prescribed suicide on Sept. 26.

Photo by Andrea St. Germain



At least 80 percent of the testimony came from pro-lifers opposed to DPS, including many medical doctors. Thanks go especially to Dr. Bill Lawton (left), who assembled many of the very impressive doctors; and Dr. Mark Rollo (center), who was the backbone for success.

Canada Expanding Eligibility for Euthanasia and Doctor-Prescribed Suicide

It has only been two years since Canada's Supreme Court decriminalized doctor-prescribed suicide (DPS) and euthanasia, but Canadian courts and legislatures are already entertaining proposals to expand the eligibility criteria to vulnerable populations that include children, persons with Alzheimer's disease, and those unable to give voluntary consent. Some doctors are even refusing to treat survivors of failed suicide attempts.

After the passage of Bill C-14 in 2015, legislators were given two years in which to decide how the practice should be regulated. Currently, an adult with a "serious and incurable illness, disease or disability," experiencing intolerable "physical or psychological suffering," may request DPS or euthanasia if their natural death is "reasonably foreseeable." Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, said that Health Canada's report on assisted dying says that there were 1,982 reported deaths in the first year after legalization.

If the United States, with a population roughly nine times that of Canada, euthanized its vulnerable citizens at the same rate, almost 18,000 Americans would be dead.

Schadenberg enumerated the extensive list of problems associated with assisted death. For one, the self-reporting system, where the doctor who gives the lethal injection is the same doctor who reports the death, enables the possibility of under-reporting and abuse of the law. Also, disabled persons report pressure from doctors to choose assisted suicide even when they haven't asked. A recent Québec euthanasia report said that 14% of the assisted deaths did not comply with the law. "The law does not protect conscience rights for medical professionals, forcing physicians who oppose killing to 'effectively refer' their patients to a physician who will kill," Schadenberg said.

Bioethicist Wesley Smith commented on current discussions in Canada about expanding the eligibility criteria, such as an independent review that must decide by 2018 whether children under the age of 18 should be eligible for assisted death. He

cited a *Toronto News* story that said legislators were being asked by family members about modifying the law so relatives with degenerative illnesses, such as Alzheimer's, could access the procedure. *Toronto News* further reported that experts are looking into the "complex question" of expanding the law to have it apply to people who are deemed "legally and clinically unfit" to give consent.

"In Quebec, which has legalized lethal injection euthanasia, some doctors have been letting people who attempt suicide die without treatment—even though they could be saved—thereby 'completing' their suicides," Smith further reported. He said a bulletin from the Quebec College of Physicians reminded doctors of their duty to save the lives of suicidal patients. The bulletin added that it would be ethical to withhold treatment from a failed suicide survivor who had previously expressed a wish to die in cases where a physician has "irrefutable proof of the patient's wishes in the form of an advance medical directive or a do-not-resuscitate order."

This was "all part of a plan before passage," wrote Tim Bradley for the Charlotte Lozier Institute. "The proceedings leading to C-14's passage establish that Parliament already had in mind an extension of eligibility beyond those whose deaths are 'reasonably foreseeable,' whatever that language might mean. The extension of eligibility for assisted suicide and euthanasia to the mentally ill carries the air of inevitability about it—because it was already countenanced by half of the Canadian parliament during the bill's original passage, yes, but also because of the logical implications of a society commit-

ting itself to the premise that an acceptable response to human suffering for anyone is PAS or euthanasia."

Bradley said the evolution of DPS and euthanasia in countries that have decriminalized the practices, and in the U.S. where states are beginning to normalize them piecemeal, is familiar. He cited Richard Doerflinger: "In the Netherlands, Belgium, and other countries with longer experience of this agenda, the killing has moved steadily from PAS to euthanasia; from terminally ill patients to those with chronic illness, mental illness, or simple weariness of life; and from voluntary to nonvoluntary euthanasia."

Bradley rebutted proponent's arguments that DPS and euthanasia are an extension of freedom and choice. "In truth, it represents the government signaling to another group of people that their lives are not worth living." He again quoted Doerflinger who argued that "allowing assisted suicide for one vulnerable class of people actually subjects them to the will of others – from greedy or uncaring relatives, to ethically challenged doctors, to society itself. When we exempt a whole class of people from the usual laws protecting life, that's not about freedom – it's about the government's decision that some people are worth protecting, but other people are not."

The lesson to learn from Canada and other countries is how quickly assisted death spreads once it becomes accepted by the medical community. Pro-life advocates in the United States have the will to continue the battle. We work to guarantee the safety of those who depend on others for compassionate care.

"The extension of eligibility to the mentally ill carries the air of inevitability about it – because of the logical implications of a society committing itself to the premise that an acceptable response to human suffering for anyone is PAS or euthanasia."



Top row: Gov Edward J King, Rabbi Samuel Fox, Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson
Middle row: Cong. Henry Hyde and Tom Hamill, Dr. Joe and Mary Stanton, MCFL President Ruth Pakaluk, Bob Delery
Bottom row: Bill Farrell, MCFL President Kathy Healy, MCFL President Elinor Rafferty, Rose Thoman

ROLL CALL

MCFL's 2018 Assembly for Life will honor each departed pro-life advocate by name

Help us remember those who deserve our thanks.

We have been blessed over the years with committed, enthusiastic, and effective pro-life activists, such as Dr. Joe Stanton, Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson, and Rabbi Samuel Fox. Every five years, at the Assembly for Life, we honor those activists who have gone before us. We have a list of people on the website. There will be many others whom you remember. Please check the website and give us any other names of people to be honored at the 2018 Assembly.

Massachusetts March



A beautiful day greeted participants at MCFL's Massachusetts March on Oct. 1. Boston Common was filled with hundreds of enthusiastic pro-lifers enjoying great music by the Delmore Band and taking to heart the inspirational messages of leaders who represent a wide range of organizations helping to save unborn lives. Marchers were joined en route by Cardinal Séan O'Malley who encouraged the crowd assembled in front of the State House. The march wound through the streets of the city, returning to the Parkman Bandstand, enabling all to publicly witness their genuine respect and love for the dignity of human life.

Photos by Edward Boylan and Domenico Bettinelli



Rep. Jim Lyons, MCFL Board Chairman Dr. David Franks, Rita Russo of 40 Days for Life, and MCFL President Anne Fox



Marianne Luthin and Mary Jo Kriz from the Archdiocese of Boston Pro-life Office, Joan Bailey Executive Director of Friends of the Unborn, and March Emcee Helen Cross





Fr. Matt Williams gets the crowd ready to march

Franciscans of the Primitive Observance sport new headgear

March Baby Benjamin and his mom Stephanie O'Connell



AUTUMN 2017

MCFL Goes to the Fair

By Rob Hale

The Eastern States Exposition, also known as “The Big E,” draws nearly a million people to West Springfield, Massachusetts, annually. Starting the second Friday after Labor Day and running continuously for the next 17 days, the Big E provides a variety of family entertainment amid a historic agricultural fair designed to showcase New England businesses and industries. Since the late 1970s, the MCFL’s pro-life booth has been a visible part of this exhilarating scene.

In a sprawling brick and steel building, tucked in among scores of vendors hawking everything from cowboy boots to vacuum cleaners, MCFL has maintained a continuous, dignified, educational and informational presence where passers-by can stop to ask a question, look closely at the life-size models of pre-born babies in their mother’s uterus, or pick up some pro-life literature.

“We are very open and approachable,” says Peggy Bradford, who is in charge of setting up and staffing the pro-life booth with volunteers. “People are naturally curious. Our job is to tell them the truth about fetal development, and to let them see that it really is a baby in there.”

“We don’t accept any money at the booth, and everything we offer is free. One of the most popular items is a little two-inch long plastic model of a 12 week old pre-born baby. We have them in pink and brown. Kids and teenagers will pick it up and look at it. We tell them that, ‘You were that size once.’ Everything is anatomically accurate. Another item that we like to give away is a card or brochure with a time line showing the number of days from conception it takes for everything to develop. Did you know that the baby’s eyes, lungs, fingers, toes, taste buds and fingerprints are formed at 11 weeks, and that the baby can swallow and respond to stimulation at 12 weeks, before the mother can yet feel anything?” according to John Diggs, MD,



Rob Hale with Dr. John Diggs, former member of the MCFL Board of Directors at the Big E in Springfield (2016 photo)

who also volunteers at the pro-life booth.

“In the early days, we used to get some vocal opposition,” says Peggy Bradford, “but, in recent years, most of our visitors have been friendly and supportive of the pro-life cause. Those who are not pro-life, either pass us by, or they stand off and watch us from a distance. It’s difficult to guess what they are thinking, but at least the fact that we are here gives them something to think about. In either case, we always try to be friendly and polite to everyone. If we show them love and pray for them, there is always hope that God will change their hearts.”

Some of our visitors want to talk theology, but we try to steer them away from sectarian debates. Others have questions about when life begins. Frequently, we will have a visitor who will share a personal story about how a friend or family member was saved from abortion. Often, the woman will be standing with her grown son or daughter, beaming with pride and overflowing with gratitude for the child whose life was spared.

Other stories are not so happy. This September, 2017, a man stopped by when I was working at the booth with Dr. Diggs. With tears in his eyes, he told us how his wife had undergone an abortion, without his knowledge. After a few years of living with this untold secret, the marriage relationship had deteriorated to the point

where the couple had divorced, and, as they were divorcing, his wife had finally told him, not only about her abortion, but the gender of the child who had never been born. The man, who was now in his sixties, had never had any other children. With his head bowed, he said, “You know, that was my only son.”

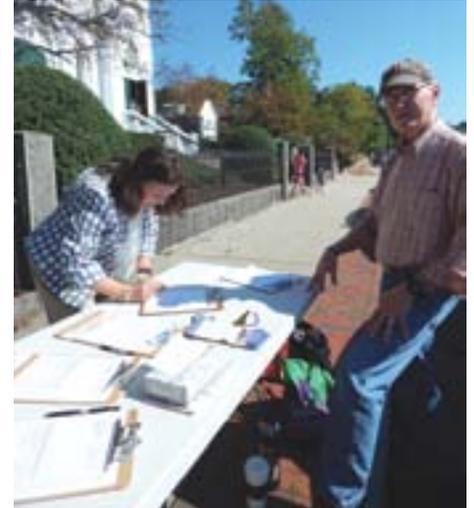
We also have brochures available that talk about the ethical and practical implications of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

This year, four girls in their late teens or early twenties came up to have a closer look at the display cases and announced that they were nursing students, although one said she was studying physical therapy. The loudest one, who appeared to be the ringleader, brazenly announced that she would have no trouble pulling the plug on a terminally ill patient, or killing a patient who said they wanted to die. She said this, of course, in a manner that was calculated to be shocking and provocative, to impress her friends. As Dr. Diggs calmly engaged this young woman and one of her comrades in a sober, factual discussion at one end of the counter, I quietly carried on a separate conversation with another member of her group, who had some sincere questions and concerns for decisions that she might need to make for her own young life. Who’s to say whether we changed anyone’s minds or hearts that day, but at least we made some friends.

It is time to recognize the stupendous work of Tom Harvey, MA Alliance to Stop Taxpayer Funded Abortion, and his hundreds of volunteers! In this day and age, when petition drives are done by paid professionals, Tom's effort shows how strongly people feel about being forced to pay for abortions. So many people worked so effectively and learned so much.

To get on the ballot, it is necessary to collect 64,750 certified signatures and the Secretary of State's office reported 57,396 - 7,354 signatures short.

Tom says, "We are seeking to end taxpayer funded abortions, but our ultimate goal is to save the lives of unborn babies. And that issue is too important for us to give up the fight. Accordingly, with your valuable assistance, we intend to begin another signature campaign in the fall of 2019."



Collecting signatures for Tom Harvey were (left) Maria Marra and Andrea St. Germain at Shaw's in Harwich and (right) Priscilla Keough and Ed Boylan at St. Paul's Church in Hingham



Nancy Valko, R.N. spoke about the dangers of doctor-prescribed suicide at Corpus Christi Parish Center in Sandwich on Sept. 23



Kate French, Gib Gailius, and Catherine Morrissey related their unique perspectives concerning adoption on Nov. 12 at Resurrection Church in Hingham



DeMary Parker is our intern from the Christo Rey School, which aims to prepare students to be successful in classroom and corporate settings. Demary comes into the MCFL office five days a month to help with routine work. She also helped at the DPS State House hearings.

I Am Mass Pro Life



dbettinelli@masscitizensforlife.org

I'M IN

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

CONTACT

New MCFL Web Site Lays A Foundation for the Future

By Domenico Bettinelli, Jr.,
Director of Community Engagement

In 2018, the web site for an education and advocacy organization like Massachusetts Citizens for Life must be more than just a bulletin board or reference file. It must also be a communications platform that connects pro-lifers to MCFL and to each other in a way that multiplies our effectiveness at spreading the pro-life message and creating effective action.

You may have noticed that MCFL has a new web site that went online this fall. While the site still has all of the same great content as before, it can now do more than ever, with much of the new power under the hood, so to speak. Up front, the site has a great new look and feel provided to us by the Texas web design firm Vici Media, who worked on such high-profile projects as the

Trump transition team web site last winter. They also designed the great web site for Ohio Right to Life (ohiolife.org), which is what led us to them and to the platform we now use, NationBuilder.

NationBuilder is the engine for many of the best political campaign and charitable organization sites out there. What makes Nationbuilder better than our previous site engine, WordPress, is that it has built-in tools specifically for organizations like ours that allow us to connect with you, the pro-life community, in many different ways—the various social media, email, text messages and so on—while giving you the ability to access our content easily and share it with others. While we used to need to pay several different services to accomplish a similar goal, we now have one place to coordinate all our communications. That not only saves money, it also means there's

less overlap in our messaging.

Another benefit of the platform includes a better donation, membership and event registration system that uses the same reliable e-commerce systems as the big internet retailers, without having to rely on Paypal. Meanwhile, we will continue to produce the same great content, including daily blog posts on current events relevant to you and pro-life news that will inform and educate, as well as in-depth reference materials and comprehensive listing of pregnancy resources throughout Massachusetts.

But in order for this new platform to be most effective, we need you to connect with us there. If you're not receiving emails from us, please visit www.masscitizensforlife.org, enter your email address in the big white box, and then click on "I'm in." Then follow the prompts from there to join us as we use these new tools to build a pro-life future.

MCFL Speaker's Bureau: Changing Hearts and Minds

Many people are concerned to find their children defending the pro-abortion position because of the situation of the mothers. Of course we are concerned about helping the mothers – after all, there are many more [pregnancy resource centers](#) in the state and country than there are abortion facilities.

How to explain this support for abortion? Hard as it is to believe, many people honestly do not realize that we are dealing with a baby human being when we discuss abortion. Consider the education young people are receiving. The schools rarely teach pre-natal development. The media certainly dehumanizes the unborn baby. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has changed its literature for pregnant mothers, now using only “fetus”.

After hearing an MCFL presentation on pre-natal development, the students and many adults say the information is brand new to them and has completely changed their minds. There are many curricula, being used mostly in religious settings, which talk about the sanctity of life. They do not first explain what this life is. If the children do not know there is a baby, exhortations to protect it have no meaning for them.

This is the why the [MCFL Speakers' Bureau](#), led by Linda Thayer, has been so successful and has contributed greatly to the decline in abortions in the state. Our speakers present the biological facts of prenatal development. They show the [beautiful, actual pictures of unborn babies](#). The students leaving these presentations draw their own conclusions, which become a part of them, that these little ones must be protected. If the MCFL speakers could speak to every student in the state, that would be the beginning of the end of abortion. For more information on hosting a speaker, email us at action@masscitizensforlife.org.



Linda Thayer runs a class at the 2017 Summer Academy. What's the most effective way to help kids become the pro-life? Show them images of the unborn child. “They get it,” Thayer says.

Memorials

Janet Callahan
Gerald Bates

Dick Corrigan
Ken and Anne Fox
Needham Pro-Lifers

Tony Cutella
Diane Paquette

Annamarie Donovan
Anne Fox
MCFL Board of Directors

Charles Hanafin
Anne Fox
MCFL Board of Directors

Gale Harrington - Mahon
Catherine A. Harrington-Mahon

Katherine Hill
Jean Mullen

Angeline Hyatt
Anne and Ken Fox
MCFL Board of Directors

Robert Ludden
Mary Ludden

Mary McDonnell
Anne Fox
MCFL Board of Directors

Lloyd MacDonald
Anne Fox
MCFL Board of Directors

Mildred McHugh
Maureen Dunne
John McHugh

Warren Murray
Barbara A. Hoefsmit

Ann Naughton
Anne and Ken Fox

Elizabeth Paulin
Mary Donahue
Joseph and Claudia Wells
Shirley Raymond
Patrick Lee
The Stephanou Family Trust
Billerica Municipal Employees
Credit Union Town Hall
Patrick K. McCann
Rev. Thomas Bouton

Anna Saulnier
Anne Fox

Dr Cyril Shea
Anne Fox
MCFL Board of Directors

Hugh Sheridan
Ken and Anne Fox

Happy Birthday and best wishes to **Patricia McNamara, Fr Dick Rieman, and Lida Dini**. The Cambridge Somerville Chapter is especially grateful for Lida's good work and good cheer.

Welcome to **Eloise Frances White** from her proud sisters Amelia, Beatrice, Clara, and Darcy, her brother Finn, her parents, Brian and Betsy, and her grand parents, Ken and Anne Fox

A donation made in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one's birthday, wedding, anniversary, or new baby, will help us continue our life-saving work. Mail to: MCFL, 529 Main St., Suite 1M9, Boston, MA 02129-1122

The Schrafft Center
529 Main Street, Suite 1M9
Boston, MA 02129-1122

Coming Events

MCFL Caucus

January 19

New location:

Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

MCFL Assembly for Life

January 21

New location:

Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Keynote Speaker Fr. Frank Pavone

MCFL Convention 2018

March 24



Hi, I'm Clara!
Meet me and my mom and
dad on page 4.

Mission

In recognition of the fact that each human life is a continuum from conception to natural death, the mission of Massachusetts Citizens for Life is to restore respect for human life and to defend the right to life of all human beings, born and preborn. We will influence public policy at the local, state, and national levels through comprehensive educational, legislative, political, and charitable activities.

2018 MCFL Assembly Keynote Speaker

Priests for Life
Fr. Frank Pavone

Mechanics Hall
321 Main St., Worcester
2-4PM

