

Massachusetts Citizens for Life

CLARA
*Then
and
Now*



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In This Issue

- 4 MCFL Student Profile**
2018 Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson Oratory Contest winner Gabrielle Landry competes in the Nationals
- 6 Mass. March Hits the Common**
Father's Day walk benefits mothers and children
- 8 Clarity Pierces the Darkness**
Mercy for those who take their own lives
- 9 Pro-life Advocates in Training**
Students hone their oratory skills at the Summer Academy in Framingham
- 10 MCFL 2018 Annual Banquet**
Join Second Lady of the United States Mrs. Karen Pence on October 25
- 12 Adult Stem Cell Use Update**
A successful treatment for arthritis, advances in obtaining blood stem cells, a boy grows new skin
- 14 Where I Be?**
A poetic answer to a child's question on existence
- 15 If Roe Goes**
Mass. Constitution enshrines abortion as a state right; other states have laws that would protect unborn life
- 16 In Vitro Fertilization: You May Not Know**
Assisted reproductive technology has troubling ethical problems and risks
- 18 Rose Drives May 2018**
- 19 Memorials**

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A Message From President Anne Fox

I want to draw your attention to some of the articles in this issue.

We are delighted and honored to have [Second Lady Karen Pence speaking at the Banquet](#). This dialogue is happening over and over between fellow pro-lifers (FPL) and me.

Anne: "I am so excited that we are having Karen Pence to speak at the Banquet" (much arm punching, etc).

FPL: "How did you get her?"

Anne: "I asked her."

FPL: "What made you think to ask?"

Anne: They said at the National Right to Life Board meeting that Karen had served on that Board, so I knew she is in tune with our work."

FPL: "I'll be there. And I plan to sponsor this great event!"

One of the most exciting days in my life came in the spring of 1980. I was driving to Megan's soft ball game and heard on the radio that Pope John Paul II had decreed that priests could not serve as elected government officials. When I got to the game I was able to share the fabulous news with some of the other mothers who had made phone calls against [Congressman Robert Drinan, SJ in the 1978 elections](#). We knew, given the choice, he would continue as a priest over being a congressman because he would have more influence. That meant a pro-abortion leader would be out of Congress. Fr. Drinan continued his pro-abortion advocacy, penning pieces in the *New York Times* against the [Partial Birth Abortion Ban](#) until shortly before his death.

While the press and the elite are trying to make suicide seem glamorous in order to pass legislation legalizing doctor-prescribed suicide, those states which have the laws are seeing spikes in "regular" suicide rates. Rev. [Peter Stamm has some excellent thoughts on suicide](#).

The article on [adult stem cell successes](#) reminds me to remind you that Helen puts this magazine online with all her documentary links. It is a tremendous resource!

Please note the list of people who bring their expertise to the [Summer Academy](#). We are most fortunate!

After I wrote the article on what may

happen post *Roe v Wade*, I realized that there are many people who do not understand how abortion is enshrined in the Massachusetts Constitution because they remember that the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court ruling in 1981 was about funding.

At that point (1981), according to *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton*, the U.S. Constitution gave women the "right" to abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy for any or no reason but not the right to have it funded by tax moneys. The Massachusetts Constitution, therefore, would have to offer at least as many "rights" and could offer more. The SJC added the right for women to have their abortions paid by tax funds.

We are sending the magazine to the printer on July 26. By the time you receive this issue, [Judge Kavanaugh](#) may already have been confirmed - let's hope. I want to point out that he said at the White House that a judge should interpret the law, not make the law. That is all we want. *Roe v Wade* is an egregious example of the Court making law. Judge Kavanaugh has called *Roe v Wade* (in an American Enterprise Institute speech) "freewheeling judicial creation of unenumerated rights that were not rooted in the nation's history and tradition." This may be the clearest indicator yet that he thinks the case was wrongly decided.

I am so sorry that each and every one of you could not have attended the [National Right to Life Convention in Kansas City](#) Kansas! It was a wonderful Convention. Every session and work shop was packed and all the important issues were covered. On top of that was the special buzz caused by the SCOTUS decision in favor of pregnancy resource centers in California and the announcement of his resignation by Justice Kennedy coming the Tuesday and Wednesday before the Convention. It was so encouraging to be around regular people!

It was my pleasure to chaperone [Gabby Landry for the NRL Oratory Contest](#). Gabby had the absolute best opening. She intoned nine names. We didn't know whether those were nine aborted babies or what. When she had our full attention, she told us those are the names of her nine brothers and

sisters. She was delightful!

Kansans drove from all over the state. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Congressman who represents that area, and many State legislators attended. Their welcomes and participation were not pro-forma – these people were genuine pro-lifers! Kansas has passed 31 pro-life laws.

All the important topics were covered by the experts. One particularly exciting person was Roger Severino, graduate of Harvard Law, who now heads the Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights which now considers complaints that might previously have languished and will also engage in public education and, possibly, policy-making. Training and research activities also will be covered. Severino said that the OCR has seen a "pretty dramatic uptick" in health-care workers' complaints related to moral and religious beliefs since Trump's election. Of course, people now know their conscience rights are being protected.

There are wonderful people who speak who, literally, have survived abortions and eventually been adopted. This year we heard a very articulate young man who survived in a different way. Dan Compton's mother went to Dr. George Tiller, the notorious late-term abortionist. Instead of aborting her, Tiller brought her to his home for the rest of her pregnancy and delivered her baby. To this day, Dan has no idea why Tiller acted that way.

[Stephen Mosher explained that China is short in the labor force](#). They have decided they need to have a 3.0 birth rate so they plan to enforce that just as horribly as they did the 1.0 child policy.

And, of course, there was much talk about the U.S. Senate seats we need to take and the U.S. House seats we need to save. Things are so unpredictable right now, but many of those seats are in districts won by President Trump.

Please be sure to vote in the Primary Election on September 4 and the General on November. Be sure to check the Mass Citizens web site [for the life positions of candidates in your area](#).

MCFL Student Profile

Jefferson Oratory Winner Gabrielle Landry Competes at National Right to Life

You come from a large family. It seems like your upbringing would naturally translate into a pro-life viewpoint.

I am the fifth child in a family of ten kids, and being in a big family with two loving parents has definitely shaped my pro-life views. I have learned from my parents as they raised us (and fostered children when I was younger) about the value of life and of children. As I grew older and understood what it meant to be pro-life in action, I was able to put these values into practice and join my pro-life club in high school.

My siblings have often participated in pro-life activities alongside me; this year, for example, my 16-year-old brother joined my school group in attending the March for Life.

What was the Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson Oratory Contest experience like?

The [oratory contest](#) was overall a fun and insightful experience. It would not have been possible for me without MCFL. I heard about the contest through Jackie Rose, my Montrose School's pro-life group advisor, and she encouraged me to participate.

Tell us about the competition at the National Right to Life Convention.

After winning at the state level, MCFL generously funded my trip to the National Right to Life Convention in Kansas City, KS, where I heard from excellent speakers and attended workshops and sessions on a variety of life-related topics.

On Saturday during the conference, I competed in the [oratory contest](#) against 14 other exceptional high school/rising college students. Although I didn't advance to finals, I loved hearing from the other students, and I made some great friends.

What will you be studying this fall as you go to college? How will it influence your pro-life future?



Gabrielle (second from right, second row) with contestants in the National Right to Life Oratory Contest held at the NRLC Convention in Kansas City in June

I'm attending Harvard in the Fall, and I'm thinking about studying English and Pre-Law. I would love to use whatever field I end up in to advance the pro-life cause. I'll definitely join [Harvard Right to Life](#).

Envisioning your post-college career. What do you think might be your dream job?

I honestly don't know what my dream job would be, but probably something that involves writing, in some capacity. I'd like to get married and have kids (maybe not ten) someday.

What do you like to do for fun? What are reading these days.

In my free time, I like to read, write (poetry, journalistic writing), and spend time with my friends and family. I like reading anything – fiction, nonfiction, poetry.

I've been reading a lot of American history and political philosophy-related books recently. Some of my favorite books are *Man's Search for Meaning*, *To the Lighthouse*, and the Harry Potter series. I love T.S. Eliot's poetry, and I've been getting into John Keats' work as well lately.



Gabrielle (right) relaxes during a break in the competition

An Intellectual and Cultural Adventure for a Post-Roe World

The Pro-Life Social Doctrine Certificate, our eight-month intellectual and cultural formation program for pro-life activists and others interested in a renewal of civic action, had a wonderful inaugural year. Starting in October, a new session will begin, and the program will bear a new name: the [Social Ethics and Solidarity Certificate](#). Based on feedback from [the inaugural class](#), Dr. David Franks, the program director (who holds a Ph.D. in theology from Boston College), decided that the goal of reaching populations which have not had much experience with the organized pro-life movement was best served by the name change.

Corresponding to this change will be a more thoroughgoing reliance on philosophical approaches as opposed to, say, [Catholic social doctrine](#), though Dr. Franks's expertise in that area will continue to inform class discussions. Insofar as theology continues to be used in the program, it will be approached philosophically. The pro-life movement has always welcomed people of whatever religion and of no religion. All questions and viewpoints are welcome. Together, let us seek to rebuild social consciousness from the pro-life perspective, that is, from a preferential option for the weakest human life.

With the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, the hope that *Roe v Wade* will be overturned in the next couple of years becomes an earnest hope. If that were to happen, here in Massachusetts we would need to secure an amendment to the state constitution in order to restore in law the right to life of the unborn child. And for that to happen would require pro-life activists who have returned to, and can effectively draw from, the common sources of humane responsibility for the powerless: science, social ethics, political philosophy, and the [principles of the American founding](#).

The program will approach social and political questions in the spirit of the liberal

arts, and add to the mix theology, critical theory, American history, art, music, and literature (especially poetry).

The Social Ethics and Solidarity Certificate program is pedagogically innovative, taking seriously the fact that education must be holistic to forge the kind of ever more profoundly and consistently and passionately pro-life activists credible enough to foster a consensus in Massachusetts on behalf of the victims of abortion and [euthanasia](#).

We will read authors including Dante, Aquinas, Lincoln, Maritain, John and Abigail Adams, Hannah Arendt, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, as well as explore composers and artists along the way.

The program takes place at the MCFL office in Charlestown, running every first Saturday of the month from November through May. However, the first session will be October 13th. Please plan on attending, and please spread the word. We also need scholarship and general program donors.

You will enjoy this grand intellectual adventure!



Dr. David Franks teaches the inaugural season of the Pro-Life Social Doctrine Certificate program at the MCFL office.

Pro-Life 2018-2019 at a Glance

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

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

2019

Jan. 19: March for Life, Washington, D.C.

Jan. 21: MCFL Assembly for Life

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

Before you vote...

In the primaries on September 4 and the elections on November 6. Go to masscitizens.org, so that you will [know the life positions of the candidates](#) in your area!

Mass. March Makes for a Pro-Life Father's Day

Sunday, June 17 was a wonderfully warm Father's Day in lots of ways. Enthusiastic pro-lifers at MCFL's Massachusetts March enjoyed inspirational music by the Delmore Band and responded with cheers to poignant messages from leaders who represented a wide range of organizations helping to save unborn lives.

Fr. Michael Sheehan led the March to the State House and through the streets of the city returning to the Parkman Bandstand enabling all to publicly express their genuine respect and love for the dignity of human life.



MCFL Board Chairman David Franks (left) along with Franks kids Benedict, Caterina, Thérèse, and John Paul lead the way from Boston's historic Parkman Bandstand.

Photos by Edward Boylan, Jacqueline Tetrault, John Curry



Friends of the Unborn's Joan Bailey promotes the sheltering home for pregnant women.



Choose Life license plates founder Merry Nordeen explains how the plates raise money for adoption services.



Fr. Michael Sheehan encourages the crowd to witness.



A proud MCFL dad enjoys this special day in the city advocating for life before dinner out with his family.



40 Days for Life founder Rita Russo and husband, John, enjoy a break from the sun at their sign-up booth before the march.



The March route allows walkers to demonstrate their support for life through the crowded Boston Common and up to the steps of the State House. Fr. Sheehan leads prayers that elected officials would stand up to defend the [right to life guaranteed by the US Constitution](#).



Toddlers and babies enjoy the festive day, even those who aren't old enough to hold their own signs.

Elisabeth Nordeen and the [Delmore Band](#) lift the crowd spirit with pro-life, contemporary folk, and Christian rock tunes.



[New England Students for Life](#) leader Abby Young poses at her table ahead of the march.

A Franciscan appreciates the shade with friends before taking to the streets.

A Clarity That Pierces the Darkness

Suicide is now the 10th-leading cause of death in the U.S., responsible for 45,000 deaths in 2016. – National Institute of Mental Health

These are excerpts from the homily of Fr. Peter Stamm, Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Needham, on June 10.

In early June, [Anthony Bourdain ended his life, as did Kate Spade](#). It's a sorrowful reminder that although someone may seem to have everything that the world says makes for a happy life - virtually unlimited money, fame, the best food, the best homes, the best vacations - there can also coexist with these things terrible pain, isolation, and despair. And sometimes a person's inner struggle, for whatever reason, ends badly, in a way it never had to or should have. And then many people, in sorrow, are left trying to make sense of a choice that makes no sense.

In a family, it's usually a bad sign if a particular topic is placed behind a wall of silence, whether it be sex, addiction, depression, suicide, whatever the taboo may be. Silence may spare us some discomfort by masking the problem, but rarely or never does it actually help anyone.

Similarly, in our spiritual family which is the Church, from time to time we need to speak plainly about difficult topics as part of our care for each other.

Suicide is a miserable reality which ends one life and begins a lifetime of suffering for those who are left behind. There is absolutely nothing elegant, austere, poignant, or profound about taking one's own life. That may be how it's portrayed in a movie or on a Netflix series but the real thing is always ugly, banal, empty, and thoroughly awful. I say this not in judgment of anyone's soul or condemning any particular person, but speaking of the action itself, and as one who has personally experienced the loss of family and friends to suicide, and having accompanied families who have suffered these losses.

Many people probably think they already know what the Church teaches about suicide ("it's wrong"), but they may have an incomplete picture. Let's take a moment to fill in some of the gaps. The Catechism of

the Catholic Church offers us some [insight which brings together truth and mercy](#).

"Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for his honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of. Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate his life. It is gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations. Suicide is contrary to love for the living God."

Now please pay extra attention to this next part, because this is what people don't always think the Church accounts for - "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide. We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives."

And none of this is new, by the way. I'm reminded of the [story of a woman who approached St. John Vianney](#), and this was back in the nineteenth century, in France. She was inconsolable because her husband had committed suicide, and she was afraid that he would necessarily be in hell. Weeping, she knelt before the man of God and told her story. St. John had the gift of reading souls and of receiving infused knowledge from God. He told her, "Ah, madam, do not weep. Your husband is not in hell but in purgatory. For in the space between the bridge and the water, he received the grace of repentance."

God's mercy is beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. It is this mercy that we see in our First Reading. Adam and Eve are at the lowest, darkest moment of their lives. They've just lost everything, and betrayed all that was good. Surely, they must have

felt the darkness of despair descending all about them. Would anything ever be right again? What could they possibly do? And then, in the midst of this unfixable mess, a voice. God's voice: "Where are you?" God hadn't given up on them. Yes, they would have a long, tough road ahead of them east of Eden. But at the end of that road, across centuries and down the twists and curves of the journeyings of a people, would stand a cross and an empty tomb. The triumph of life over death.

I love the [Byzantine icon of the Resurrection](#). It shows Jesus risen, reaching down into the grave with left hand and right, pulling Adam and Eve up, restoring them to life. God's mercy was greater than their sin. God fixed what they broke. For this cause, St. Paul is able to see the storms and sorrows of life with new eyes. He speaks in our Second Reading: "Therefore, we are not discouraged...For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." This from a man whose share of sufferings would go beyond what most of us would consider a "light momentary affliction." But he sees all things in light of knowing "that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence."

As we continue our worship, let us commend to God's mercy Anthony Bourdain, Kate Spade, and any persons we've personally known and loved who have concluded their earthly lives in a similar way. Let us pray for all family and friends who bear the pain of these losses.

And let us pray for anyone whose struggles bring them temptations toward suicide, that they may reach out for the help that is always available, that they may know themselves to be loved and worthy of love, and that they may realize with a clarity that pierces the darkness, that they are never, ever, ever beyond hope.

MCFL Recognizes Summer Academy Speakers

We are so grateful to all the wonderful people who share their talents and their expertise to help train and [inspire our Summer Academy students to be pro-life leaders!](#) We wish to recognize:

Fr. Paco and the staff at St. Stephen's Church, Framingham who graciously allowed us to use their school.

Linda Thayer, who not only teaches about fetal development but about how to [approach the issue with your friends.](#)

Maria Arias, native of Columbia, relates to our Hispanic students, telling them of [the work she does at Mass Citizens](#) and about her commitment to life.

Cori Connor-Morse, who shares the nightmare of having had an abortion.

Rachele Monbouquette, who tells of the work done by pregnancy resource centers, especially [Pregnancy Help](#) in Natick, Brighton and Brockton and about the help offered to post abortive women by [Project Rachel.](#)

Henry Luthin, Esq., who explains the [Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton decisions](#) and their ramifications and leads the students in role playing as lobbyists.

Ariana Gilbert, who [shares her experiences](#) speaking to Evangelical Youth groups.

Mark Rollo, MD, who [teaches about euthanasia, suicide and the doctor-prescribed suicide bills](#) and laws in the nation and in the state.

Abby Young, who coordinates [Students for Life](#) in New England, explains the ways students can join or form pro-life groups.

Dr. David Franks, who commissions the students as Ambassadors for Life.

John Curry, who shows the riveting movie, [October Baby.](#)



Summer Academy students James Peruzzi and [Eddie Flanagan](#) with MCFL Speaker Ariana Gilbert.



Students share a laugh and pizza before the sessions begin. They will have the opportunity to [hone their oratory skills.](#)



Caterina Franks and Cori Connor-Morse. [Connor-Morse's story of post-abortion regret and healing](#) becomes an unforgettable part of the Summer Academy experience.

MCFL 2018 Annual Banquet

Featuring

Mrs. Karen Pence, Second Lady of the United States



**Tiffany
Ballroom
Four Points
by
Sheraton**

1125 Boston Providence Turnpike
Norwood, MA

**Thursday,
October, 25**

Karen Pence, wife of Vice President Mike Pence, is a mother, educator, and award-winning watercolor artist. As Second Lady of the United States, Mrs. Pence works to bring attention to art therapy and to the sacrifices made by military service members and their families.

Mrs. Pence dedicated 25 years in the classroom as an elementary school teacher before becoming the First Lady of Indiana in 2013. In her role as First Lady of Indiana, Mrs. Pence created the Indiana First Lady's Charitable Foundation to encourage and support youth and families of Indiana. The Foundation's board awarded over \$600,000 in grants to charities throughout Indiana in three years.

Mrs. Pence earned a B.S. and M.S. in Elementary Education from Butler University in Indianapolis. She is a Blue Star mom with a son in the United States Marine Corps. Mrs. Pence and Vice President Mike Pence have been married since 1985 and are proud parents of their adult children, Michael and his wife Sarah, and daughters Charlotte and Audrey.

Mrs. Pence illustrations appear in the delightful children's book, *Marlon Bundo's A Day in the Life of the Vice-President*, written by her daughter, Charlotte Pence. In the past few months, the book has appeared on many best-seller lists. Proceeds from the book benefit [Tracy's Kids](#), an art therapy program, and [The A21 Campaign](#), which works to combat human trafficking.

When her husband was the Congressman from Indiana, Karen served on the Board of Directors of the [National Right to Life Committee](#). She and her husband are influential, "out in front" pro-lifers. We are thrilled to have her join us at the Banquet.

To [learn more about how you can hear Karen Pence](#), visit our website masscitizensforlife.org

ABOUT 2018 Annual Banquet Award Winners

State Award Recipients

Dr. Joseph R. Stanton
Award

Professor
Mary Ann
Glendon

John W. McCormack
Award

Mayor
Thomas P.
Koch

Professor Mary Ann Glendon

The recipient of the Dr. Joseph R. Stanton Award is [Mary Ann Glendon](#), the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and the former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. She is a commissioner of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and a member of the Board of Supervisors for the Vatican's Institute of Religious Works.

She served two terms on the U.S. President's Council on Bioethics and is a former president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. She has represented the Holy See at various conferences, including the 1995 United Nations women's conference in Beijing where she led a Vatican delegation that advocated for the dignity of women and children in the face of international pressure to expand abortion access.

As a scholar, Glendon is [widely published in family law, legal ethics, human rights, constitutional law, international comparative law and civil rights](#). Her book *Abortion and Divorce in Western Law* won the Scribes Book Award for best writing on a legal subject, followed by *The Transformation of Family Law* (1989), winner of the legal academy's highest honor, the Order of the Coif Triennial Book Award.

Her most recent book is a series of biographical essays exploring the relation between political philosophy and politics-in-action, *The Forum and the Tower: How Scholars and Politicians Have Imagined the World, from Plato to Eleanor Roosevelt* (2011).

We have long been grateful for Mary Ann's speaking, writing and leadership in defense of life. Now many of her former students hold influential positions in Washington where they are furthering the rights of those at the edges of life.

Mayor Thomas P. Koch

The [John W McCormack](#) Award, named after former Speaker of the U S House and former MCFL Board member John McCormack, is given infrequently to elected officials who show outstanding pro-life leadership and courage. Previous recipients have included President Ronald Reagan and [Congressman Henry Hyde](#).

After the Chair of the Democratic National Committee announced that all candidates must take the party's pro-abortion position, [Mayor Koch changed his registration](#). "The party platform is so far left on abortion it's sickening," said Koch, who was first elected in 2007.

The mayor turned ten years old on January 22, 1973, the day of the infamous *Roe v Wade* decision.

"It was a big issue in my house," he said and it has remained so.

His father stopped working actively in the campaign of then-Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's when Kennedy became "pro-choice,".

We at Mass Citizens for Life applaud the honesty and courage of Mayor Koch who has put his principles right out front to the point of switching from the party of his birth. His courage will help to save those on the fringes of life.

Stem Cell Research Stories

Successful Treatments, Breakthroughs Bringing Hope

Fred Galvin's Marine Corps service of over 26 years in combat operations took a toll on his body. Arthritis pain, caused by the wear and tear on his back and knees, left him unable to stand for more than a few minutes. Recently, Galvin's been given his life back owing to a new regenerative treatment using his own stem cells. His pain has been greatly reduced and his range of motion has increased.

Galvin's inspirational story "[Cutting-Edge Stem Cell Therapy Heals Decorated Combat Officer](#)" by *CisionPRWeb* is a featured article on [Stem Cell Research Facts \(SCRF\)](#). SCRF is a Charlotte Lozier Institute project committed to educating the public on adult stem cell clinical trials and treatments. The web site lists results validated by published research and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Their mission is to demonstrate how current adult stem cell treatments and therapies directly impact the lives of patients and their families today.

Galvin found a company that was offering a brand [new stem cell therapy](#) to patients suffering from a variety of orthopedic conditions "The RegenMax non-invasive stem cell therapy allowed me to return to the pain free and active lifestyle that I enjoyed," Galvin says. "The best part about it is that it's my own body healing itself and it doesn't involve synthetic drugs or surgery. I recommend it for others who face pain and limited mobility due to injuries or arthritis."

The *CisionPRWeb* article further describes the [RegenMax therapy](#). "It is a composition of super concentrated stem cells, platelets and bioactive growth factors. This powerful regenerative cocktail is isolated from a patient's own body in a non-surgical outpatient procedure so patients have minimal recovery time. Unlike amniotic, umbilical or placenta type products, RegenMax Injection Therapy contains living, highly functional stem cells so it maximizes the opportunity for tissue regeneration offering benefit to

combat soldiers that have been injured by high-impact explosions and other activities during war. This treatment has been used to treat a wide range of musculoskeletal injuries and degenerative arthritis in wounded soldiers, active seniors and [athletes](#) who might otherwise face invasive surgeries with long recovery times, chronic pain and a diminished quality of life. This is done by harnessing a patient's own incredible healing power, concentrating it and then injecting it directly into an area of need such as an injured or arthritic joint."

SCRF highlighted several more exciting adult stem cell advances. A *Newswise* story "[Researchers Discover Faster, More Effective Way to Harvest Blood Stem Cells for Bone Marrow Donation](#)" found that scientists have developed a new way to harvest blood stem cells for bone marrow donation. The improved procedure is faster and demonstrates increased effectiveness. Researchers hope that by making donation easier it will increase the number of people willing to donate life-saving stem cells.

The research team included scientists at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and Glaxo SmithKline. The findings were [published in the journal Cell](#).

Newswise explains, "Blood stem cell transplants can help prolong the lives of people with certain cancers or other serious diseases, such as multiple myeloma and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, for whom these transplants of healthy adult stem cells can help stave off their diseases.

"The current method of donating stem cells requires people to undergo twice daily injections of the drug G-CSF for multiple days, which prompts the blood-forming stem cells to be released from the bone marrow into circulation so they can be collected. But this process can be a significant lifestyle disruption for donors. In contrast, the new method, as tested in mice, required just one injection of a combination of the



Fred Galvin

signaling molecule and a bone marrow-stimulating drug called AMD3100 (Plerixafor)." The therapy resulted in higher-quality, easily transplantable stem cells.

In November 2017, [Ariana Eun-jung Cha's article in the Washington Post](#) described research [published in the journal Nature](#). Scientists used genetically modified stem cells to grow skin that was successfully grafted over nearly all of a child's body. Researchers hope this will greatly advance the treatment of victims of burns and skin diseases.

"The research, involved a 7-year-old boy who suffers from a genetic disease known as junctional epidermolysis bullosa (JEB) that makes skin so fragile that minor friction such as rubbing causes the skin to blister or come apart," Cha writes. "By the time the boy arrived at Children's Hospital of Ruhr-University in Germany in 2015, he was gravely ill. Doctors noted that he had 'complete epidural loss' on about 60 percent of his body surface area, was in so much pain that he was on morphine, and fighting off a systemic staph infection. The

The Exciting and Ethical World of Adult Stem Cells

doctors tried everything they could think of: antibiotics, changing dressings, grafting skin donated by his father. But nothing worked, and they told his parents to prepare for the worst.”

Doctors used an experimental procedure to genetically engineer skin cells. Michele De Luca, of the Center for Regenerative Medicine harvested cells from a small patch of skin on a healthy part of the boy's body and brought them into the lab to be genetically modified. The cells no longer contained the mutated form of a gene that causes JEB. The healthy cells were grown into patches of genetically modified epidermis. The researchers found that “the human epidermis is sustained by a limited number of long-lived stem cells which are able to extensively self-renew.”

Writes Cha, “In three surgeries, the child's doctors took that lab-grown skin and used it to cover nearly 80 percent of the boy's body — mostly on the limbs and on his back, which had suffered the most damage. The boy's recovery was stunning. Researchers reported that the new skin 'firmly adhered to the underlying dermis.' Hair follicles grew out of some areas. And even bumps and bruises healed normally. Unlike traditional skin grafts that require ointment once or twice a day to remain functional, the boy's new skin was fine with the normal amount of washing and moisturizing. 'The epidermis looks basically normal. There is no big difference,' De Luca said. He said he expects the skin to last 'basically the life of the patient.'”

So far, the boy is doing well and does not require any medication. He is being carefully monitored signs of recurrence of the disease. but so far all of the transplanted areas appear healthy.

Another one of the [inspirational videos linked to the SCRF's web site](#) was an update on Laura Dominguez-Tauer, a name that may sound familiar to people who have been following advances in stem cell therapy over the years. Dominguez-Tauer was one of the first spinal cord injury patients in the world to be treated with adult stem cells. Dominguez-Tauer recounts her progress after being almost totally paralyzed after a car accident at the age of 16. Doctors

had told her that she had no chance of ever walking again. “My father researched adult stem cells on the internet,” Dominguez-Tauer says. “After the procedure I started to regain feeling and could get up and walk with help.” She has continued to improve and has regained feeling in her entire body. Dominguez-Tauer married in 2010 and gave birth to a beautiful baby boy in 2016.

Dr. David Prentice, Vice President and Research Director for the Charlotte Lozier Institute, commented on bioethics in an article “[Exciting Technologies and Ethical Applications](#)” for the Christian Medical and Dental Association's blog. Prentice notes, “One reason scientists say they don't consult bioethicists or think about the ethical implications of their research is because ethicists usually say 'no' to new technologies, or that ethics is arbitrary. But what they are really avoiding is the necessity of setting rational limits on science, thinking they can thereby avoid any limits on their work. Limits that protect all human beings, even nascent human life, are not arbitrary and actually say 'yes' to some exciting – and ethical – applications of new technologies.”

“Adult stem cell research is one of those areas that emphatically says 'yes' to new technology,” Prentice continues. “While often derided as insufficient by those who promote embryo-destructive research, adult stem cells already have a proven track record of success. They can be obtained without harm to the donor (unlike embryonic stem cells or fetal tissue which rely on destruction of the donor) and are the true gold standard

of stem cells when it comes to development of successful therapies for patients. Cutting-edge research that can and does lead to new treatments for previously-intractable conditions is a hallmark of adult stem cell studies.”

Prentice says progress in adult stem cell biotechnology is leading to life-saving treatment for patients right now. The work of researchers such as Dr. Michele De Luca demonstrates the power of saying “yes” to ethically-directed research.

Stem Cell Research Facts contains a link to [Clinicaltrials.gov](#), a database of privately and publicly funded clinical studies conducted around the world. A resource provided by the U.S. National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health, the site contains a wealth of information on current research pertaining to all facets of stem cell research. [Users may research a particular disease or condition or sign up to enter a clinical trial.](#) Clinical Trials.gov has registration information for almost 270,000 studies in over 200 countries, and has posted summaries of results for over 30,000 registered studies, it is a fantastic tool for both basic and advanced informational searches.

While embryonic stem cell research appears to be fizzling out, adult stem cell research seems to be the avenue that offers an [ever widening avenue of hope](#) to patients all over the world.

“Limits that protect all human beings, even nascent human life, are not arbitrary and actually say ‘yes’ to some exciting – and ethical – applications of new technologies. All done without destroying or manufacturing a single human embryo, and resulting in a life saved and the promise of more to come.”

– Dr. David Prentice



WHERE I BE?

Norm Walker Answers Mattie's Question

In the Headmaster's office at [St. Sebastian's School](#), there is a very large, sepia photograph of two little boys trudging along a path in Ireland. They are Will and Danny, the two oldest sons of Bill and Patty Burke. When the next Burke son, Mattie, reached that age, he would look at the picture and ask, "Where be I? Where be I?" Bill's good friend, Norm Walker, wrote this poem for Mattie.

Mattie's Question

*Where I was, Dad? – this question you pose,
My lad of three years, – where you were, son,
Nobody knows...
Even now, even now, just today...
Where you are... I'm not sure what to say...*

*What I think may soon shift
Like the face of the moon:
In your hair I find earth,
Smell the heat of the sun;
At your wrist I feel blood
Slowly throb like the tide,
To remind us of water
That lives in your breath
That embraced us at birth
That leaves us at death
As I hug you beside me right now,
I know what I want –
This flood of life, ever to last!
But we ride a thin wind*

*That can rob us of sight
As it spins into space
Into holes in the night.*

*Before my loins loosed
And your mother unfolded
You rose in the bole of the trees,
Rode the streak of the storm;
You were cold,
You were warm.
On our knees we both knew
You were weak
You were strong.
In the glib; – glop of streams
You ran swiftly and slow;
You were old,
You were young
In the glow of our dreams.
Where you are?
Where you'll go?*

Where you were?

This I do know:

*We are one in the flesh, in the blood,
Of He who said Eat;
So I do
And in spite of the flood or the fire
I have Him, so I live and I love,
But how can I ever, forever hold you?*

*Like water in sieves
You will leave – you will run
Through my veins, through my hand
A sweet rain, you will fall in my life,
Then one night He will call
And we're done.*

Norm Walker was a devoted family man, thoughtful intellectual, gifted writer, man of faith, the winningest public high school football coach in New England, and the winningest private high school football coach in New England.

Forty years ago this fall, at great sacrifice to his wife and family, Norm [ran against Congressman Robert Drinan](#), SJ, who was a leader of the pro-abortion forces in Congress. Norm lost the election. Before the next election, Pope John Paul II announced that priests could not serve as elected officials. That had international ramifications, especially in Latin America. Later, Vatican sources confirmed that it was Norm's run which caused the Pope's action.

Norm died in 2011 at the age of 73. He was soon followed by his dear wife, Phyllis. The world is indeed a better place...

If *Roe* Goes: Abortion Law in Massachusetts and the States

Pro-abortion forces and their cheerleaders in the media are threatening that *Roe v Wade* will be overturned within 18 months and “people will die”. Actually, people are dying now - more than 2500 babies each and every day!

In Massachusetts, there are still some old abortion restrictions on the books. Of course they have not been enforced or enforceable since *Roe v Wade*. The other side is working to remove these laws.

They claim, that, if or when *Roe v Wade* is overturned, those old laws will kick in and abortion will be illegal in Massachusetts. That would be wonderful but it is exactly the opposite of the truth.

The truth is that Massachusetts is one of the fifteen states which have abortion enshrined in their state Constitutions. Overturning *Roe v Wade* will change nothing in the Commonwealth! Not one baby would be saved.

It is a fact that a state Constitution can offer more rights than the federal Constitution but not fewer. The Mass. legislature passed the Doyle-Flynn bill mandating that no state funds would be used for abortion – our state Hyde Amendment - and Gov. Ed King signed it in June, 1979

The U.S. Supreme Court had found that the [Hyde Amendment was constitutional](#). Instead of saying the Massachusetts Constitution could offer greater right to life, the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court looked at abortion rights and found, in 1981, that the MA Constitution would offer more rights to abortion and abortion funding than the U.S. Constitution.

The Massachusetts Declaration of Rights affords a greater degree of protection to a woman's right to decide whether or not to terminate a pregnancy by abortion than does the Federal Constitution, as interpreted by *Harris v. McRae* (1980).

When *Roe v Wade* is overturned, it will not affect the Massachusetts Constitution. The only way we will be able to pass any abortion restrictions will be to [amend the Massachusetts Constitution](#), not just on funding, but on abortion as a whole.

Some states have already added protec-

tions for life in their laws.

From the Rhode Island Constitution, Article 1, Section 2 (passed in 1986): “All free governments are instituted for the protection, safety, and happiness of the people. All the laws, therefore, should be made for the good of the whole; and the burdens of the state ought to be fairly distributed among its citizens. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied protection of the laws. No otherwise qualified person shall, solely by reason of race, gender or handicap be subject to discrimination by the state, its agents or any person or entity doing business with the state. Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant or secure any right relating to abortion or the funding thereof.”

Tennessee passed the following Amendment in 2015: “Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion. The people retain the right through their elected state representatives and state senators to enact, amend, or repeal statutes regarding abortion, including circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest or when necessary to save the life of the mother.

Amendment 68 of the Arkansas Constitution states: Sec. 1. Public funding – “No public funds will be used to pay for any abortion, except to save the mother's life.” Sec. 2. Public policy – “The policy of Arkansas is to protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth, to the extent permitted by the Federal Constitution.”

Other states have ballot questions in the fall elections. West Virginia ballot 2018 (put on the ballot with a two-thirds vote of the legislature) says, “Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of abortion.”

On the ballot in Alabama: (a) “This state acknowledges, declares, and affirms that it is the public policy of this state to recognize and support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, including the right to life.”

(b) “This state further acknowledges, declares, and affirms that it is the public policy of this state to ensure the protection of the rights of the unborn child in all manners and measures lawful and appropriate.”

(c) “Nothing in this constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion.”

The Missouri proposal states: “Nothing in this constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion.”

However, the other side is doing its work. They are challenging abortion laws across the country on the basis of – you guessed it – state Constitutions protecting more rights than the federal Constitution.

Kansas is an extremely pro-life state. When pro-abortion activists challenged the first in the nation dismemberment ban, a lower court judge declared that the Kansas Constitution, separate from the U.S. Constitution, protected abortion rights of women in the state. The Kansas Court of Appeals deadlocked on appeal, sending it to the Kansas Supreme Court, which has not ruled.

Stephen McAllister, representing the state of Kansas, understands judicial philosophy better than the *Roe* Court when he said the Supreme Court was being asked by opponents of the abortion statute to engage in a brand of judicial activism that ignored text of the state's constitution and the well-established, anti-abortion preference of Kansans.

“If the people of Kansas want to create a constitutional right to abortion, they have a ready mechanism for doing so — the constitutional amendment process,” he said. “Kansans have not been shy about utilizing it. In fact, there have been at least 29 amendments approved in the last 40 years since *Roe v Wade* was decided.”

We have a lot to learn from the states which have amended their Constitutions! We will have to double our efforts to restore protection in Massachusetts for all human beings from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death.

In Vitro Fertilization: What You May Not Know

Besides the ethical problems, assisted reproductive technology, ART, has many physical and psychological problems which are not publicized. While ART may produce a baby for couples struggling with infertility, its uncertainties are troubling. Are there risks, to both mother and child, in the use of powerful chemical and invasive interventions? Should technology companies commodify human reproduction as a matter of consumer choice?

These issues were addressed in an [amicus curiae brief for the California surrogacy case of Cook v Harding](#). In the brief, the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists (AAPLOG), the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI), and the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) identified numerous studies that confirmed the potential harmful effects of in vitro fertilization (IVF) to both mother and baby.

Research finds that women who conceive a single baby through ART are at a higher risk of severe complications including hypertension, gestational diabetes, placenta previa, hemorrhage, and cesarean section, compared to women who conceive a single baby spontaneously. IVF also produces more multiple pregnancies. By themselves, multiple pregnancies carry increased risks of medical complications. Women carrying multiples have an increased risk of hyperemesis, gestational diabetes, hypertension, anemia, hemorrhage, and cesarean delivery.

Babies conceived by IVF may have problems unrelated to multifetal gestation. Research has shown that single babies conceived by IVF are also at significantly increased risk of preterm birth and low birthweight – the two most important factors indicative of a newborn's health. Children conceived by IVF have higher rates of birth defects, genetic disorders, and other anomalies.

The brief continues, “A 2013 meta-analysis of 45 studies found a statistically significant increased risk of birth defects. These include musculoskeletal and urogenital malformations, septal heart defects, cleft lip with or without cleft palate, esophageal atresia, and anorectal atresia.”

“Further, children conceived by IVF are

up to ten times more likely than the general population to suffer from certain serious genetic disorders, such as Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome and Angelman Syndrome. Children conceived in vitro are at elevated risk of many other diseases and disorders as well. In vitro conception is associated with quantitative differences in DNA methylation and that some of these differences may have a significant effect on gene expression.”

Epigenetics refers to biological mechanisms that switch genes on and off. [Research into the association of childhood cancers and IVF](#) looks at the possibility of epigenetic disturbance, changes to genes in the cells that line blood vessels. Animal studies support the theory that IVF can cause imprinting errors in DNA. Epigenetically altered genes have been identified in many human cancers, and in pediatric cancers including Wilms tumor and retinoblastoma.

Are there psychological problems associated with IVF children as they grow up? While the elevated health risks have been studied, the psychological effects have not. “Looking at children born from other, closely related technologies, like anonymous sperm donation, [researchers are finding that these children face significant difficulties in dealing with their feelings and emotions as they grow older](#),” says Fr. Tad Pacholczyk of the NCBC. He quotes the experience of British writer Christine Whipp who was conceived by anonymous sperm donation. “My existence owed almost nothing to the serendipitous nature of normal human reproduction, where babies are the natural progression of fulfilling adult relationships, but rather represented a verbal contract, a financial transaction and a cold, clinical harnessing of medical technology,” says Whipp.

“It ought to come as no surprise that subtle psychological burdens may be placed upon children born from donor sperm as they subjectively struggle with broken or absent relationships, and experience a sense of being a 'commodity' or an 'object' because of how they were created,” Pacholczyk continues. “These dark and morally troubling aspects of modern reproductive technologies need to be more fully acknowledged and discussed in our society, as they unleash

powerful forces that profoundly affect the future of the human beings who are thereby brought into the world.”

CLI's Dr. David Prentice notes the [shortcomings of IVF even when successful](#). “Many times a number of their siblings did not survive to birth, or were discarded, or were placed in a frozen stasis in cryofreezers with their fate uncertain,” he says. “Millions of younger human lives have been sacrificed in experiments, destroyed to extract their embryonic stem cells - which have still not saved any lives in return for the sacrifice. Very few nations have grappled with using IVF technology while still trying to respect and preserve all human life. For the most part modern society has considered such lives a commodity, working to improve the manipulation of young life to produce the desired baby, and disregarding the lives destroyed in the process.”

Should ART be dictated by the demands of the marketplace? [CLI reports on a company offering an “improved” selection process for embryos that shows the depths to which IVF can lead](#). Expanded Pre-Implantation Genomic Testing will screen embryos created in vitro for over 300 single-gene disorders. The test will use polygenic risk scores to predict an even greater variety of complex diseases and genetic abnormalities. Abnormal embryos will be flagged. These embryos have higher risks for complex diseases such as diabetes, schizophrenia, autoimmune disorders.

CLI says, “Polygenic scoring has demonstrated accuracy in adult testing and is currently used for cattle breeding to predict the amount of milk cows will produce. A founder of the company and board member, Stephen Hsu, predicted that 'billionaires and Silicon Valley types' are to be the first to use their technology. The rest of society will catch on after seeing their healthier, more exceptional children, he says.”

The notion that human life should be treated to the same manufacturing protocols as livestock should be repugnant. While the technology of IVF might seem like a blessing, anything that is based on unethical foundations will lead to such inhumane actions.

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is smiling warmly as she holds a newborn baby. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt. The baby is held in her arms, and she is gently cradling its head with her right hand. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting a window or a well-lit room. The overall mood is tender and affectionate.

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Interns Making an Impact



Anthony Mollica, MCFL's intern from [St Anselm's College](#), working on Candidate Questionnaires. Before you vote on Sept. 4 and Nov. 6, be sure to check [masscitizensforlife.org](#) so that you will know the life positions of the candidates in your area!



Bridget Rose has been in active in Mass Citizens her entire life. Her sister, Anna, was a Walk Baby and her sister, Emily, spoke at the [Summer Academy last year](#). We are so proud of Bridget, who served as a White House Intern!

Memorials

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January 21, 2019

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.