Victory! United Effort to Defeat Question 2 Prevails

The story behind Question 2, the proposal to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide in Massachusetts, has all the elements of a classic underdog movie. The heroes take on a seemingly invincible machine whose goal is to bring death upon the state. The underdog heroes are a mix of people from across the political and ideological spectrum who want to save the state. The bad guys, rich and supremely confident, are sure they will have their way. Just when all seems lost, the heroes prevail. We love these kinds of movies, don’t we?

Just how did all of this come about? On August 2, 2011, just hours before the deadline, Compassion and Choices, formerly known as No On 2), the pro-doctor-prescribed suicide group, campaigned how the battle would be fought because the stakes are enormous. Beersworth elaborated on the strategy proposed by Rita Marker. “Stay focused on one, simple message. ‘Doctor-prescribed suicide is a dangerous, risky public policy.’ Raise doubts that this is a good idea,” she said. Beersworth also described how the battle would go and told pro-lifers not to get disheartened. “The polls will be against you. The media will try to make you lose. The media will try to make you lose.”

Rita Marker, Executive Director of the Patients Rights Council, outlined a strategy that had proven successful in defeating numerous nationwide attempts to legalize assisted suicide. “Legalization turns doctor-prescribed suicide into a legitimate medical treatment,” Marker warned. In order to win, religious and right to life groups would have to join forces with others who didn’t share the same view on abortion but who would fight fiercely against doctor-prescribed suicide fearing that it could be used to deny expensive healthcare to poor and disabled persons.

John Kelly, Director of the disability rights group Second Thoughts, worked tirelessly to express the fears that doctor-prescribed suicide could be used to control costs by denying coverage to those requiring expensive care. “This is the first assisted-suicide campaign in which the disability rights perspective has reached so many people,” Kelly said later. Wayne Cockfield, a disabled Vietnam veteran, said that medically vulnerable people feared having to pass “values” test before they could claim a right to live. “Disabled people are living in the bulleseye of euthanasia,” Cockfield said. “Medical abandonment is not compassion.”

The Catholic Church called doctor-prescribed suicide a “threat to human dignity,” a social injustice contrary to the common good. “Suicide is Always a Tragedy” was the theme of the Campaign Against Physician-Assisted Suicide. A coalition of medical groups, disability rights advocates and interfaith communities. The Campaign focused on the significant flaws in the initiative calling it poorly written and flawed.

Early Victories

The December 3, 2011 decision by the Massachusetts Medical Society to uphold their long-standing opposition to doctor-prescribed suicide was an important early victory. Explained Dr. Rollo, “In Oregon, doctor-prescribed suicide proponents got the medical society to capitulate. When Oregon physicians agreed to remain neutral on the issue, that’s all the pro-doctor-prescribed suicide forces needed. We hit doctors in the face with the language of the Hippocratic Oath, ‘I will give no deadly drug if asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect.’ We pointed out the abuses in Oregon, such as the case of Barbara Wagner, who was denied coverage for her expensive cancer treatments but was told that a prescription for suicide would be covered. We explained that legislation would not just allow for suicide, but would create a new medical procedure. Once you did that, insurance companies would cover inexpensive care but refuse to cover more expensive care. This really made the doctors stand up.”

Doctor-prescribed suicide foes achieved another early victory at a State House hearing on March 6, 2012. “This was an overwhelming win for our side,” continued Rollo. The coalition presented a broad array of perspectives, from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, hospice care workers, attorneys, the disability community, legislators and members of pro-life/pro-family organizations. “Doctor-prescribed suicide opponents had reasoned arguments. The few people who spoke in favor all had emotional arguments. There was one doctor who had a seriously ill son. He said that if he couldn’t find a cure, he wanted to be able to provide suicide for his son.”

“I believe that the Massachusetts legislature was gutless in not taking up this question,” Dr. Rollo added. “A matter of this importance should be debated and not left to a ballot question that is decided by who has the best commercial.”

In March and April 2012, the Vermont Alliance for Ethical Healthcare, the alliance fighting doctor-prescribed suicide in Vermont, repelled two attempts to legalize it in their state. Had either attempt succeeded, it would have given proponents momentum coming into the fall election and legitimized their contention that thinking on doctor-prescribed suicide had shifted to acceptance. MCFL President Anne Fox said, “We have dodged a huge obstacle. A win in Vermont for doctor-prescribed suicide would probably mean certain passage here.”

Mary Beersworth, organizer of the successful Vermont battles, came to the MCFL Annual Convention on June 9 with a stirring message, “Get your passion up.” Beersworth exhorted. “You must be passionate about the fight because the stakes are enormous.”

The MCFL Assembly went to bed on the night the polls closed in Massachusetts feeling the victory was a sign of things to come.

Question 2 Vote

No 1,516,584
Yes 1,453,742

MCFL Assembly

Former Planned Parenthood facility director Abby Johnson will be the keynote speaker at the MCFL Assembly for Life on January 27 at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Glendon Gives Keynote Address at MCFL Dinner

Professor Mary Ann Glendon outlined successes and challenges for the pro-life movement at MCFL’s Annual Dinner on October 19.

March for Life and MCFL Caucus in Washington, D. C.

Warm up before the March and hear the latest from the pro-life newsmakers of 2012 at MCFL’s Caucus on January 25.

Walk Baby Contest Goes Online

Entries are now being accepted for the online Walk Baby Contest to find the face for the 2013 Respect Life Walk to Aid Mothers and Children on April 28.
Long Fight to Defeat Doctor-Prescribed Suicide is Successful

On Nov. 13, 2011, MCFL hosted Rita Marker of the Patients Rights Council who outlined a strategy that has been successful in defeating numerous attempts to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide across the U.S.

“Medical abandonment is not compassion,” disabled Marine veteran Wayne Cockfield told the audience at the MCFL Assembly for Life on Jan. 29, 2012.

On November 6, 2012, MCFL Chair and Mass. Alliance/No On 2 Chair and MCFL Board member Robin Loughman, R.N. sent out appeals for money. The Alliance needed to quickly raise cash to finance a major media campaign. MCFL also brought in national experts with significant experience in defeating doctor-prescribed suicide, Tim Rosales and Yvette Ollada. MCFL Field Director Stephen Lombardo continued to coordinate the one thing Dignity 2012 couldn’t buy, passionate grassroots support.

After successfully repelling two attempts to legalize assisted suicide in March and April 2012, Vermont’s Mary Beerworth appeared at the MCFL Convention on Oct. 9. “Our passion up because the stakes are enormous,” Beerworth said.

Second Thoughts Director John Kelly speaking with a reporter at a State House press conference on December 8, 2011. Kelly said that disabled persons feared abuse by insurers and the healthcare system if the Initiative became law. He testified at the State House hearing on March 6.

Mary Beerworth of Vermont was ecstatic. “The news from Massachusetts is awesome! In Vermont, as in Massachusetts, rejection of doctor-prescribed suicide is the only question was whether the remaining shreds of support would last through the final weekend.

By November 5, one day before the election, polls showed an almost dead heat 44-42% and the grassroots could press its advantage. In a final fund-raising letter, MCFL President Anne Fox wrote, “We must make a stand here because we know the pro-doctor-prescribed suicide advocates already have plans for efforts in New Jersey, California, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Colorado and Vermont. We have the chance to deal them a defeat here and now.” The intensive field work by Stephen Lombardo and MCFL office staff paid off as the ground troops came out in droves. In Brockton, over twenty people eager to receive the No On 2 poll signs, were waiting for Lombardo’s arrival. This would make all the difference.

Victory

“Massachusetts is proof that we can win against those who falsely push death as a social good.” - Wayne Cockfield

Incredibly, in mid-October cracks appeared in the airwaves. “Massachusetts is proof that we can win against those who falsely push death as a social good.” - Wayne Cockfield

In a press release after the election, No On 2 consultant Tim Rosales wrote, “This ballot question was packed with opportunities for abuse and Massachus-

to turn this into a religious issue in order to marginalize your opposition. The other side is enormously well-funded. It will all come down to that final weekend before the election. Put on your streetfighter mode because if Massachusetts fails, doctor-prescribed suicide will sweep across this nation.”

Through late spring and summer, MCFL continued to bring various groups together to educate and motivate its pro-life base. This enabled members to educate the public through Letters to the Editor and by responding to polls conducted by area newspapers. An effective email network helped respondents to quickly turn polls showing support for doctor-prescribed suicide into surrounding defeats. Every defeated poll was one less public relations weapon left in the pro-suicide camp.

Overwhelmed

Then, as foretold by Rita Marker and Mary Beerworth, a Sept. 10 article describing opposition to doctor-prescribed suicide (now known as Question 2) as religiously motivated, appeared in the Boston Globe. A poll conducted by the newspaper showed support as 75-22%.

Desperately underfunded, the Mass. Alliance/No On 2 Chair and MCFL Board member Robin Loughman, R.N. sent out appeals for money. The Alliance needed to quickly raise cash to finance a major media campaign. MCFL also brought in national experts with significant experience in defeating doctor-prescribed suicide, Tim Rosales and Yvette Ollada. MCFL Field Director Stephen Lombardo continued to coordinate the one thing Dignity

warn of the public policy dangers of the proposed legislation. Attorney Patricia Stewart became one of the most sought after speakers, specializing in visiting local Councils on Aging. “It seemed like a natural way to reach out,” Stewart said, “knowing that elders’ votes would be key in the decision. I never told people how to vote. I approached the topic from my perspective as an attorney saying that the bill was poorly written and flawed. Safeguards touted by suicide proponents were porous, incomplete, or missing. It was October before the issue hit people’s radar screens and they were alarmed asking why they hadn’t heard anything about it. This education gave them pause.”

October

With only a month to go before the election, the passage of doctor-prescribed suicide seemed like a sure thing. Positive articles featuring assisted-suicide supporter Dr. Marcia Angell appeared in both the Boston Globe and the Herald. Polls showed support for doctor-prescribed suicide at 68-20%. Eager to capitalize on their victory, proponents had already filed a bill in New Jersey.

Undaunted, the Alliance kept raising money and mobilizing the base and the Archdiocese of Boston hosted a virtual Town Hall Meeting, “Preventing Assisted Suicide.” Television and radio ads hit the airwaves.

Incredibly, in mid-October cracks appeared in the seemingly invincible facade. A slew of articles exposing the flaws and dangers in the legislation appeared in a variety of publications expressing opposition through a spectrum of political viewpoints from Greg Pfundstein in the Public Discourse to Rita Marker in the New York Times. Liberals were actually declaring in the New York Times that doctor-prescribed suicide was not a progressive value.

Two unexpected allies appeared as former WRB anchor Liz Walker and Senator Ted Kennedy’s widow, Victoria, had pieces opposing doctor-prescribed suicide in the Boston Globe. By October 31, a Globe poll showed support had waned to 47-41%. Most major newspapers editorialized against the bill. Now the only question was whether the remaining shreds of support would last through the final weekend.

By November 5, one day before the election, polls showed an almost dead heat 44-42% and the grassroots could press its advantage. In a final fund-raising letter, MCFL President Anne Fox wrote, “We must make a stand here because we know the pro-doctor-prescribed suicide advocates already have plans for efforts in New Jersey, California, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Colorado and Vermont. We have the chance to deal them a defeat here and now.” The intensive field work by Stephen Lombardo and MCFL office staff paid off as the ground troops came out in droves. In Brockton, over twenty people eager to receive the No On 2 poll signs, were waiting for Lombardo’s arrival. This would make all the difference.

Victory

“The wait on election night was excruciating. Throughout the evening and what happened in Brockton. We expected to do well in cities other than Cambridge, Springfield, and parts of Boston. But when results came in from Springfield, we were amazed at how well ‘No’ did there. We won everywhere there were people at the polls holding No On 2 signs.”

Dr. Mark Rollo agreed, “Central Massachusetts really carried the day. While affluent communities in western Mass. went for suicide, it was the blue collar people who were opposed. They knew the people who would suffer would be the poor ones like Barbara Wagner who are dependent on Medicaid.”

In a press release after the election, No On 2 consultant Tim Rosales wrote, “This ballot question was packed with opportunities for abuse and Massachus-

Dr. Mark Rollo agreed, “Central Massachusetts really carried the day. While affluent communities in western Mass. went for suicide, it was the blue collar people who were opposed. They knew the people who would suffer would be the poor ones like Barbara Wagner who are dependent on Medicaid.”

In a press release after the election, No On 2 consultant Tim Rosales wrote, “This ballot question was packed with opportunities for abuse and Massachus-

"Medical abandonment is not compassion," disabled Marine veteran Wayne Cockfield told the audience at the MCFL Assembly for Life on Jan. 29, 2012.

Second Thoughts Director John Kelly speaking with a reporter at a State House press conference on December 8, 2011. Kelly said that disabled persons feared abuse by insurers and the healthcare system if the Initiative became law. He testified at the State House hearing on March 6.
United Forces Celebrate Defeat of Suicide Initiative

Wayne Cockfield

"I am thrilled at the victory in Massachusetts, especially since we started from so far behind in the polls. What this proves is that the citizens of Massachusetts, when they have clear explanations of the issue, choose to care for those members of our human family that need true compassion instead of medical abandonment.

"The struggle for the intrinsic value of all life is a struggle for the soul and future of our country. Massachusetts stood in the gap and turned back the onslaught of those who believe that medically vulnerable people must first pass a "values test" before they can claim a right to live. The value of life is not a Democrat or Republican value nor is it a liberal or conservative value; it is a human value.

"All of us who have physical limitations and live in the bulls eye of euthanasia are breathing a little easier now, thankful that Massachusetts took a stand for life.

"It was a privilege for me to come to your state and do my part to help. When I heard the news on election night of your wonderful victory, I gave thanks to God for Massachusetts Citizens for Life and their effort that made this victory possible. I know that other states will look toward MCFL’s achievement when they too are confronted with the specter of Doctor Prescribed Suicide." 

Mary Beerworth

"The news from MA is so awesome! When voters in Massachusetts rejected the ballot initiative that would have legalized doctor-prescribed suicide they proved, once again, that as people learn the risks and hidden dangers of such law, support for the measure will drop. We witnessed the same drop in support here in Vermont where doctor-prescribed suicide legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate for years. The legislation was widely expected to pass smoothly. Instead, testimony and close examination of the potential for abuse led to the defeat of the legislation in the House in 2007 and again in the Senate in the spring of 2012.

"In Vermont, as in Massachusetts, rejection of doctor-prescribed suicide has had little to do with being liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican. Instead it has to do with people who are able to recognize that a bad law leads to dangerous public policy - and caring enough about vulnerable people to vote NO.

Those who promote doctor-prescribed suicide will focus again on Vermont despite the good news from Massachusetts and the 2012 defeat of the VT Senate bill. The group, formerly known as the Hemlock Society, has deep roots in our State and we can expect a return of the same-old tired debate. The organization, now disguised as Patient Choices Vermont, invested tremendous dollars in the 2012 elections and will expect a return on their monies.

"But, we will be ready for them. "In the meantime, congratulations to those who fought so hard in MA to defeat the ballot initiative."

More From:

Robin Loughman

"People now will live instead of die because of your efforts against Doctor Prescribed Suicide. The medically vulnerable and devalued will be cared for and protected. Massachusetts is proof that we can win against those that falsely push death as a social good. It was a great victory! I am so happy for you and thankful that Massachusetts said, "Not here."

Tim Rosales

"In a stunning two point upset, the voters of Massachusetts soundly defeated Ballot Question 2 on Election Day. Tonight was a victory for the people of Massachusetts, especially those at those at the most vulnerable times in their lives. This ballot question was packed with opportunities for abuse and Massachusetts voters saw through it. Massachusetts voters saw through the rhetoric and outright misinformation put out by those supporting assisted suicide.

"Opposition to assisted suicide cuts across all partisan and ideological groups because the more people learn about the issue, the more they have second thoughts. Assisted suicide doesn’t expand choice, it limits choice – and that puts at risk anyone living with a disability, mental illness or serious illness.

"A late September poll sponsored by the Boston Globe and conducted by the University of New Hampshire showed 68% of Massachusetts voters in favor with just 19% opposed. We knew from the beginning this would be an uphill battle and this campaign certainly exceeded a lot of expectations."

Robert St. Jean

"The news from MA is so awesome! When voters in Massachusetts rejected the ballot initiative that would have legalized doctor-prescribed suicide they proved, once again, that as people learn the risks and hidden dangers of such a law, support for the measure will drop. We witnessed the same drop in support here in Vermont where doctor-prescribed suicide legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate for years. The legislation was widely expected to pass smoothly. Instead, testimony and close examination of the potential for abuse led to the defeat of the legislation in the House in 2007 and again in the Senate in the spring of 2012.

"In Vermont, as in Massachusetts, rejection of doctor-prescribed suicide has had little to do with being liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican. Instead it has to do with people who are able to recognize that a bad law leads to dangerous public policy - and caring enough about vulnerable people to vote NO.

"Those who promote doctor-prescribed suicide will focus again on Vermont despite the good news from Massachusetts and the 2012 defeat of the VT Senate bill. The group, formerly known as the Hemlock Society, has deep roots in our State and we can expect a return of the same-old tired debate. The organization, now disguised as Patient Choices Vermont, invested tremendous dollars in the 2012 elections and will expect a return on their monies.

"But, we will be ready for them. "In the meantime, congratulations to those who fought so hard in MA to defeat the ballot initiative."

Wayne Cockfield

"I am thrilled at the victory in Massachusetts, especially since we started from so far behind in the polls. What this proves is that the citizens of Massachusetts, when they have clear explanations of the issue, choose to care for those members of our human family that need true compassion instead of medical abandonment.

"The struggle for the intrinsic value of all life is a struggle for the soul and future of our country. Massachusetts stood in the gap and turned back the onslaught of those who believe that medically vulnerable people must first pass a "values test" before they can claim a right to live. The value of life is not a Democrat or Republican value nor is it a liberal or conservative value; it is a human value.

"All of us who have physical limitations and live in the bulls eye of euthanasia are breathing a little easier now, thankful that Massachusetts took a stand for life.

"It was a privilege for me to come to your state and do my part to help. When I heard the news on election night of your wonderful victory, I gave thanks to God for Massachusetts Citizens for Life and their effort that made this victory possible. I know that other states will look toward MCFL’s achievement when they too are confronted with the specter of Doctor Prescribed Suicide." 

Mary Beerworth

"The news from MA is so awesome! When voters in Massachusetts rejected the ballot initiative that would have legalized doctor-prescribed suicide they proved, once again, that as people learn the risks and hidden dangers of such a law, support for the measure will drop. We witnessed the same drop in support here in Vermont where doctor-prescribed suicide legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate for years. The legislation was widely expected to pass smoothly. Instead, testimony and close examination of the potential for abuse led to the defeat of the legislation in the House in 2007 and again in the Senate in the spring of 2012.

"In Vermont, as in Massachusetts, rejection of doctor-prescribed suicide has had little to do with being liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican. Instead it has to do with people who are able to recognize that a bad law leads to dangerous public policy - and caring enough about vulnerable people to vote NO.

"Those who promote doctor-prescribed suicide will focus again on Vermont despite the good news from Massachusetts and the 2012 defeat of the VT Senate bill. The group, formerly known as the Hemlock Society, has deep roots in our State and we can expect a return of the same-old tired debate. The organization, now disguised as Patient Choices Vermont, invested tremendous dollars in the 2012 elections and will expect a return on their monies.

"But, we will be ready for them. "In the meantime, congratulations to those who fought so hard in MA to defeat the ballot initiative."

"People now will live instead of die because of your efforts against Doctor Prescribed Suicide. The medically vulnerable and devalued will be cared for and protected. Massachusetts is proof that we can win against those that falsely push death as a social good. It was a great victory! I am so happy for you and thankful that Massachusetts said, "Not here."

Tim Rosales

"In a stunning two point upset, the voters of Massachusetts soundly defeat-ed Ballot Question 2 on Election Day. Tonight was a victory for the people of Massachusetts, especially those at those at the most vulnerable times in their lives. This ballot question was packed with opportunities for abuse and Massachusetts voters saw through it. Massachusetts voters saw through the rhetoric and outright misinformation put out by those supporting assisted suicide.

"Opposition to assisted suicide cuts across all partisan and ideological groups because the more people learn about the issue, the more they have second thoughts. Assisted suicide doesn’t expand choice, it limits choice – and that puts at risk anyone living with a disability, mental illness or serious illness.

"A late September poll sponsored by the Boston Globe and conducted by the University of New Hampshire showed 68% of Massachusetts voters in favor with just 19% opposed. We knew from the beginning this would be an uphill battle and this campaign certainly exceeded a lot of expectations."
When people are asked to self-identify, Massachusetts is the most liberal state in the country. In these “worst of times,” we Right to Lifeers in Massachusetts also had some very good things happen last year. We worked on a bill, which is now state law, which requires that parents who receive a pre-natal diagnosis that their baby may have Down Syndrome, will get proper support.

We know from families who have had such a diagnosis and went on to have their baby, that the medical response has been to predict a sub-human life for the baby and assume that the parents will abort the child. Those couples who refuse to abort have been helped to know what to expect, how to prepare, etc.

You and I know these children and adults are loving, positive additions to their families, but think how the prospective parents feel. It was not the expressed purpose of the legislation, but this could lead to some of those 90% of babies who are now aborted being saved.

We had another important legislative victory. As part of the huge health cost containment package, the legislature had a bill which required doctors to give patients with terminal prognoses all of their end of life options. This was supported by Hospice because they know some patients are not aware of Hospice and palliative care. That is wonderful.

The vote was in June, however, when support for doctor prescribed suicide polled at 75%. Of course we were extremely concerned that, if DPS passed, the legislation would require doctors to offer to write lethal prescriptions. Legislators honestly had not thought about this until constituents who were members of Mass. Citizens began calling members of the Conference Committee. We were able to get language which specifically excluded the doctor having to mention anything about a lethal prescription – thanx to your calls.

Of course, when we DEFEATED QUESTION 2, that made the language unnecessary for the moment. At the beginning, polling as showing 75% of the persons to do some kind of act of lobbying on the Hill while they’re here; not only to peacefully protest, but to make an appointment with their legislators and to go and talk to them about the necessity of pro-life legislation, and to do so in a positive and compelling way.

Monahan’s goal jibes nicely with that of MCFL. Massachusetts pro-lifers regularly visit their legislators right after the Caucus which is held in the Russell Senate Office Building.

Monahan named New March for Life President

Jeanne Monahan has been named the new President of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. Former President and Founder Nellie Gray died in August 2012. Monahan was previously Director of the Center for Human Dignity at the Family Research Council. Monahan also worked at the Department of Health and Human Services.

In a November 21 article by the Catholic News Agency Monahan said she wanted to increase the March’s appeal to young people.

The article quoted Monahan, “One major goal I have is to get all of the participants to do some kind of act of lobbying on the Hill while they’re here; not only to peacefully protest, but to make an appointment with their legislators and to go and talk to them about the necessity of pro-life legislation, and to do so in a positive and compelling way.”
Assembly for Life Marks the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
Featuring: Abby Johnson, Remembrance of Pro-Lifers

If pro-lifers are looking for a reason to recommit after 40 years of legal abortion and a discouraging election, let these words from former Planned Parenthood employee Abby Johnson re-stoke your fire. “While working at Planned Parenthood, we subscribed to pro-life group’s email lists to see what they were doing,” recounted Johnson. “We saw disagreement in pro-life strategic moves and would laugh, ‘these pro-lifers will never be able to get it together.’ We would read their emails and feel very secure in our employment. ‘We will never be taken down, we are too big, we are everywhere, we are in their schools, in their communities, they can’t stop us.’ We would giggle with pride, we were united in our common cause.” (From Abby Johnson’s blog)

Johnson became the victim of a vicious backlash from the abortion giant after the horror of assisting in an abortion caused her to leave her job as director of a Planned Parenthood facility in Texas. She will be the keynote speaker at the MCFL Assembly for Life on January 27, 2013 at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

As part of the 40 years remembrance, the Assembly for Life will also honor the work of earlier pro-life activists. Said MCFL President Anne Fox, “We’ll do what we did at the 25th Assembly. As people enter, a young group of hand bell ringers from St. Brendan’s Parish in Bellingham will read the names of the deceased. After each name they will toll the bell. So many people have worked so hard to get us where we are. As we prepare to recommit and fight harder, it is appropriate to honor them.”

Musician, writer and singer Jaymie Stuart Wolfe will be Master of Ceremonies. Through her apostolate, Loaves and Fishes, Wolfe is dedicated to teaching, evangelism and prayer through word and song. She also has a bi-weekly column in the Boston Pilot.

As people enter, a young group of hand bell ringers from St. Brendan’s Parish in Bellingham will read the names of the deceased. After each name they will toll the bell. So many people have worked so hard to get us where we are. As we prepare to recommit and fight harder, it is appropriate to honor them.”

Musician, writer and singer Jaymie Stuart Wolfe will be Master of Ceremonies. Through her apostolate, Loaves and Fishes, Wolfe is dedicated to teaching, evangelism and prayer through word and song. She also has a bi-weekly column in the Boston Pilot.

In Memoriam

Joseph Stanton, MD, Needham
Mary Stanton, Needham
Katherine P. Healy, Wellesley
John Day, Ludlow
Patricia Day, Ludlow
Mildred Fay Jefferson, MD, Cambridge
Ruth Pakuluk, Worcester
Teresa Hanley, Westwood
Hon. Frank O’Connor, Shrewsbury
Hon. Charles Doyle, West Roxbury
Gov. Ed King, Winthrop
Fr. Donald Sullivan, Danvers
Priscilla Lavoaga, Belmont
Ed Packard, Danvers
Marguerite Philbin, Clinton
Mary Sheehan, Sandwich
Leo Coyney, Needham
Charlie Ross, South Boston
Wendy Morgan, South Boston

John Spillane, Esq., Worcester
Bob Young, Melrose
John Doogan, Dorchester
Nancy Harrington, Dorchester
Margueret O’Hara, West Roxbury
Peggy McCormick, Braintree
Al Thoman, Hudson
Elena McConologue, Wellesley
Quentin Rollo, MD, Fitchburg
Hon. Henry Hyde, Chicago
Fran Watson, Huntington, RI
John Cardinal O’Connor, NYC
Ellen McCormack, Avon, CT
Charlie Swain, Lynn
Rita Sheehy, Norwell
Ann Connors, Hingham
Alice and C.J. Chisholm, Needham
Richie Hogan, Everett
Sir William Liley, MD, New Zealand
Eleanor Reilly, Andover
Jerome Lejeune, M.D. Paris

William Lynch, MD, Milton
Blessed Pope John Paul II
Roy Heffernan, MD, Milton
James Smith, Esq, Framingham
George Devlin, Esq., Dover
Peggy O’Shea, Worcester
Claire Smith, Pittsfield
Prof. Paul Ramsey, Princeton, NJ
Norm Walker, Newton
Jim McFadden, NYC
Robert McFadden, NYC
Patricia Deschamps, Lawrence
Bob Delery, Medford
Patricia DeGrinney, Scarborough, ME
William Clarkson, Cambridge
John T. McNulty, North Adams
Kathleen McNulty, North Adams
Robert Dean, North Adams
Lauchie Blake, Brighton
Rev. Francis Hagerty, SJ, Boston
George F. Gloster, North Adams

John Ring, Boston
Mary Gloster, North Adams
Paul Sparrow, Boston
Peter Travers, Boston
Michael Judge, North Attleboro
Marie Lueders, Needham
Bo Bledsoe, Needham
Kay Keefer, Arlington
Mary Welby, Jamaica Plain
Mike Phillips, Watertown

To honor a pro-lifer who has passed away, contact the MCFL office at (617) 242-4199 or by email to: jtriolo@masscitizensforlife.org
A capacity crowd filled Lantana’s ballroom to raise money to enable MCFL to continue its mission to protect life from conception to natural death. Pro-lifers enjoyed great food, good company and a rousing keynote address from Professor Mary Ann Glendon.

It’s a joy to be here,” began Harvard Law School Professor Mary Ann Glendon’s keynote address at the MCFL Annual Dinner on Oct. 19 at the Lantana in Randolph. “Even though the challenges and new threats to human life are as serious as we’ve ever faced, the pro-life movement has achieved success in the heart and minds of the American people.”

40 years ago Dr. Joseph Stanton prophesied that treating the unborn as disposable would eventually affect the way we treat the elderly. Suicidal proponents called physician assisted-suicide ‘compassionate’ for hard cases. This parallels abortion language. Just as abortion was called a compassionate response for women in hard cases, assisted-suicide is being marketed as ‘compassion.’ In the Netherlands suicide and euthanasia has risen so rapidly they now have mobile euthanasia units.

“The second challenge is the continuation of destructive embryonic stem cell research. Despite the successes of adult stem cell research, ESCR continues.”

“When the going gets tough...” The pro-life movement is in it for the long-run. Never have so many worked so hard for a cause in which they had so little to gain personally.”

Edward Ney Professor at Amherst College, Hadley Arkes, Ambassador Ray Flynn and Professor Glendon. Arkes introduced Glendon as, “a woman for all seasons. We are grateful that she brought her gifts into the political arena and her understanding of the natural law into the law, into a hostile atmosphere.”

Photos by Edward Boylan

Master of Ceremonies Dr. David Franks, Chairman, MCFL Board of Directors and daughter Caterina.

Rev. James Krikava, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Brewster and Cape Cod Chapter Chair, led the audience in a stirring Invocation.

Professor Mary Ann Glendon

Glendon quoted Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, a scientist at Kyoto University, who won the 2012 Nobel Prize for Medicine. “The embryo looks so much like my daughter there has to be a better way.” Dr. Yamanaka won the prize for research using ethical alternatives to embryonic stem cell alternatives, induced pluripotent stem cells (IPS cells).

“Massachusetts has approved the use of ESCR and cloning and lacks conscience protection for workers. By misusing the word ‘compassion,’ society legalizes what was once unthinkable. It also affects how people think of what’s right, ‘if it’s legal, then it’s okay.’

“The third challenge is the audacious attack on religious freedom from the Obama administration, the refusal to exempt religious employers from having to cover abortifacient drugs and sterilizations. This is an attempt to restrict opposition into a political agenda. There is more at stake than just the mission of the religious groups. We are witnessing an attack on social organizations that provide a buffer between the people and the state. The State will have the power.

“The title of my talk could be stated as, ‘When the going gets tough...’ The pro-life movement is it for the long-run. Never have so many worked so hard for a cause in which they had so little to gain personally.”

Burlington’s Matt Hanafin, the youngest member of the MCFL Board of Directors, ably handled the Fund-raising appeal portion of the evening.

Joe Clayworth accepted the Francis A. Schaeffer Award for All Girls Allowed Founder Chai Ling.

All Girls Allowed helped expose the devastating effect of China’s one-child policy on girls and mothers.
MCFL Annual Dinner Honors Pro-Life Service

St. Brendan’s Youth Group was presented with the newly created Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson Award. Dr. Jefferson’s love for young people and her support for the National Right to Life Oratory Contest where young prolifers could hone their speaking skills, made her name a natural fit for this award.

Rep. Angelo Scaccia (left) was honored for his pro-life work with a Community Service award. He was nominated by the West Roxbury/Roslindale Chapter.

Anne Fox with Community Service Award winner Irene Hickey of Everett. Hickey was nominated by the North Suburban Chapter.

Mike Murray, Chair of the West Roxbury/Roslindale Chapter and Chapter Service Award winner John Curry.

MCFL Treasurer Madeline McComish with Chapter Service Award winners Warren and Mary Murray of the North Suburban Chapter and Anne Fox.

Dick Carey, Chapter Service Award winner from the Needham Chapter and Laurie Goodrow.

Medford’s Connie and Cathleen Murphy received the Peggy McCormick Award for outstanding dedication and contributions as MCFL Board members.

MCFL’s 2012 Blackstone Fellow Jacob Merkel and his wife Weiyang.

Bea Martins and Anne Fox with Fr. Michael Racine of St. Bernard’s Church in Assonet. He was nominated for a Community Service award by the Greater Fall River Chapter.

Braintree Chapter Chair Jean Healey, Community Service award winner Fr. William Salmon of Immaculate Conception Church in Weymouth and Anne Fox.

MCI's 2012 Blackstone Fellow Jacob Merkel and his wife Weiyang.
March for Life  January 25, 2013 Washington, D.C.

Buses to Washington, D.C.

Red-eye Buses

1) Bellingham
Departs from: St. Brendan Parish, Bellingham
Departure Date & Time: Thursday, Jan. 24th at 9:00 PM
Return home: Friday, Jan. 25th after the March
Cost: $25 per person
Contact: Gladys or Pat at 508-966-9802

2) Berkshire County
Departs from: Adams, North Adams, Williamstown, Pittsfield and Great Barrington
Departure Date & Time: Thursday, Jan. 24th starting at 10:00 PM
Return home: Friday, Jan. 25th around 5-6 PM
Cost: $25 per person
Contact: Robin Loughman at 413-743-1329

3) Pioneer Valley
Contact Cathy Rogers @ 413-583-5034 or info.pvmcfl@verizon.net

4) Weymouth
Departs from: Immaculate Conception Church, Weymouth
Departure Date & Time: Thursday, Jan. 24th at 9:00 PM
Return home: Friday, Jan. 25th after the March
Cost: $50 Adult; $10 Students
Checks made payable to MCFL, Peggy McCormick Chapter may be sent to Sally Healy, 244 Jefferson St., Braintree, MA 02184
Contact: Sally Healy at 781-848-3796

5) Diocese of Worcester:
Buses will leave from St. Paul’s Cathedral on Thursday, January 24th following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 PM and will travel to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in time for Friday AM Mass followed by the Rally and March for Life beginning at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March, arriving back at St. Paul’s at approximately 1:00 AM on Saturday, Jan. 26th. Cost is $75 per person for registrations received by Dec. 31. After Dec. 31, cost is $85. Information and registration forms can be found online here: http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/NewsandEvents/MarchforLife/tabid/519/Default.aspx
Contact: Alison Ledoux at 508 929-4311 aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org

Buses with one or two overnight stays

6) Departs from: Burlington Mall
Departure Date & Time: Wed., Jan. 23rd at 10:00 PM
One-night (Thu.) stay at Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Hotel
Return home at 5:00 PM after the March arriving home around 2:00 AM
Cost: $199 per person, double occupancy (other rates available)
Contact: Theresa Gorey at 978-475-6673; Cell 978-886-2911; email thegoreys@comcast.net or Jane Finn at 978-658-6115; Cell 978-618-5005

7) Departs from the following locations:
Harwich, Sandwich, Wareham, New Bedford
Departure Date & Time: Early Thu., Jan. 24th
Two-night (Thu. & Fri.) stay at Holiday Inn, College Park, MD
Return home on Sat., Jan. 26th arriving home around 8:00 PM
Cost: $215 per person, double occupancy; $320 single (other rates available)
Contact: Janet Callahan at 781-324-3564 or janet.callahan@yahoo.com

8) Departs from: Immaculate Conception in Malden with second pick-up at St. Margaret’s in Burlington
Departure Date & Time: early morning, Thu., Jan. 24th
Two-night (Thu. & Fri.) stay at Holiday Inn, College Park, MD
Return home on Sat., Jan. 26th arriving home around 8:00 PM
Cost: $215 per person, double occupancy; $320 single (other rates available)
Contact: Janet Callahan at 781-324-3564 or janet.callahan@yahoo.com

9) Townsend:
Departs from: St. John the Evangelist Parish
Departure Date & Time: Thursday, Jan. 24th at 5:30 AM
One-night (Thu.) stay at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Return home on Friday after the March arriving home around 2:00 AM
Cost: $56 per person
Register: townsendcatholic.org/85 or 978-597-2291 ext. 10
MCFL Field Director Stephen Lombardo, is just 22 years old and has never missed the March for Life in Washington, D.C. He attended his first March in his mother’s arms as a 4-month-old baby. For the last three years, Stephen has led a group of students from Ave Maria University to the March, the largest group totaling 270 students.

Lombardo, and students from all over the United States, will again join with hundreds of thousands of participants to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision at this year’s March on January 25.

MCFL will host the increasingly popular pre-March Caucus at the Kennedy Caucus Room at the Russell Senate Office Building. Beginning at 9:30 am, walkers can fuel themselves with hot coffee, donuts and the latest pro-life news from a variety of experts.

Appearing at the Caucus will be Professor Michael New. The ebullient Professor New always gives caucus-goers a rousing analysis of the current state of the right to life movement in the country and in Massachusetts.

Congressman Steve Stockman, newly elected in a new district in Texas, is an old friend of MCFL. Although Massachusetts lost a district, Texas gained his. MCFL plans to formally induct Cong

ressman Stockman into the Massachusetts delegation. Pro-lifers in Massachusetts will have one pro-life vote.

Stephen Lombardo, who worked for MCFL the last six months of the Q2 campaign, will talk about his experience in helping to defeat Doctor-Prescribed Suicide in Massachusetts. He is also leading a couple of hundred of his fellow students from Ave Maria College in Florida at the March this year.

Also invited: Professor Dwight Duncan, Professor Mark Rienzi, who just won the conscience case for pharmacists in Illinois, Professor Hadley Arkes, and Professor Michael Pakaluk, all of whom have addressed past Caucuses and been very popular.
It's Never Too Early to Be Adorable!

2013 Families Walk to Aid Mothers and Children Begins Online Baby Contest

Imagine
Your Baby’s Picture Here!

The 2013 Walk Baby
YOUR Child, Grandchild, Niece or Nephew!

Margaret O'Brien: How Teens View Abortion

Margaret O'Brien of Ware, MA tied for first place in the 2012 National Right to Life Committee Pro-Life Essay Contest.

Then and Now:
40 Years of Legal Abortion

The state of the country in 2012 is very different from that of 1973. Over the last forty years, so many things have changed, some for better and others for worse. There have been many advances in technology and medicine and even life expectancy has increased.

Undoubtedly, one of the most damaging and distressing changes is the legalization of abortion by the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. Looking back, there were certainly far fewer babies killed by abortion pre-legalization. In the years before the tragic decision was made, a woman faced with an unexpected pregnancy would not have first thought of abortion but probably would have considered other options. Perhaps she had the baby and made a much more gratifying choice by giving the child up for adoption. Maybe her family came together to make it work. Sadly, some still opted to get abortions. The woman would have had to go to a secret abortionist who would perform a risky operation, sometimes resulting in the death of mother and child.

I think that the increase of abortions, especially in young people, is due not only to it’s legality but to the fact that they are so easy to get. Planned Parenthood and other abortion businesses deceive and lead many uninformed teens to believe that a baby in its early stages is nothing but a mass of fetal tissue. Confused and scared, girls will take the easy way out and believe the lies that the abortionists tell them resulting in the death of their innocent baby.

Today we have modern technology which enables us to see the baby moving in the womb. There are even 3-D images which can show us the baby sucking its thumb, hiccupping or kicking its feet. It is so obvious that a baby is a living thing, abortion is not seen as a sin.

Now, the only reason that a baby is aborted is because it is inconvenient or is interfering with someone else’s life. It is so obvious to those who are pro-life that abortion is not a medical procedure, it is a mass murder.

I think that the increase of abortion is due to the fact that a baby is a living thing and that abortion is not acceptable.

Margaret O'Brien of Ware, MA tied for first place in the 2012 National Right to Life Committee Pro-Life Essay Contest.
L

Lisa Julianne Olson, Seven months old. Anoxic Encephalopathy. Autopsy revealed subarachnoid hemorrhage with diffuse brain edema. The baby was pronounced dead at the scene.

Memorials

Eleanor Duncan
By MCFL Board of Directors

Patricia Joachim
By Robert Joachin

Anne C. Arcidi
By John A. (Jay) Zorzor
Peter and Julie Kondon
Robert and Anna Russo
Catherine Panduvolo
and Terri Flaherty

John and Catherine Daniel
Massachusetts Dental Society
Robert and Laura France
Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson
By Gary B. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett
By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected

By MCFL Board of Directors

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Patricia Joachim

Anne C. Arcidi

John A. (Jay) Zorzor

Peter and Julie Kondon

Robert and Anna Russo

Catherine Panduvolo

John and Catherine Daniel

Massachusetts Dental Society

Robert and Laura France

Reagan & Company, PC

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Shea

Dr. Camille Arcidi

Edith M. Olson

Rep. Joyce Spillett

By MCFL Board of Directors

Catherine “Kay” Keeler
By MCFL Board of Directors

Theresa Hanley
By Daniel T. Hatley

Elected
Letters to the Editor

Speak Out to Defend Life

How can we as a civilized society treat our youngest citizens so shabbily? There is no excuse that would justify the killing of the innocent. Babies are not dispensable and once conceived should be provided protection and be given the opportunity to live. Animals are treated with more dignity that what we provide for these tiny babies. You couldn’t delib- erately destroy a puppy without suffer- ing the consequences of such an act - as it should be. How can we then destroy human life? How can this happen?

We must continue to speak for those unable to speak for themselves. We must shout that all life is valuable and needs protection. When I hear one politi- cian after another proclaim a woman has a right to choose, we all know what that means. It means she should have a right to destroy her own baby. This goes against everything that is natural in a woman. What if these political figures instead stood for the protection of all of life? After all, it’s their duty to protect each and every citizen, even the smallest. How did it become OK for us to kill ba- bies while they are still in their mother’s womb?

Thomas Jefferson declared that every person has a “right to life.” Our country is on a downward slope and unless we do something to protect our youngest citizens, we are all in jeopardy. Modern technology shows each and every stage of a baby from conception to birth. We all know this is a baby. We need to stand up and be counted. When we hear peo- ple shout that abortion should continue to be legal, we need to speak the truth in love. All of life from conception to natural death deserves our protection. Let’s shout it from the rooftops that we believe in life.

Jane Newmann is a member of the MCFL Board of Directors. This letter appeared in the Braintree Forum on Oct. 11, 2012.

We know her as a founding member of the National Right to Life Committee and Massachusetts Citizens for Life as well as a tireless defender of the Right to Life and an orator without equal. The woman found Dr. Jefferson’s story so compelling that she watched all the You Tube videos she could find. When I mentioned that it was Dr. Jefferson’s appearance on the TV show, “The Ad- vocates” back in the 1970s that changed then-Governor Ronald Reagan’s mind on abortion, and that he had written her two letters about it, she said, “I know, I saw that. How amazing!” She was so intrigued that I am sure that she shared what she found with colleagues, family and friends.

Even in death, Dr. Mildred Jefferson continues to inspire and spread the pro- life message.

Janet Callahan is MCFL Director of Spe- cial Projects

MCFL Mourns Passing of Rep. Joyce Spiliotis

Representative Joyce Spiliotis (D. Peabody) passed away from cancer on November 29. Rep. Spiliotis was an ally on many pro-life concerns and co- sponsored Laura’s Law and MCFL’s sex-selection abortion ban.

Spiliotis represented the 12th Essex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She was preceded in office by John Slattery. Spiliotis was noted for being a “hands- on” and pragmatic politician. The Pea- body Patch reported, “Representative Spiliotis co-sponsored numerous laws that improved the quality of life and raised the standard of living for our el- ders, people with disabilities, families, veterans and members of the armed forces and their families.”

Said MCFL President Anne Fox, “Per- haps most importantly, before the elec- tion and soon before her own death as it develops, Rep. Spiliotis took a very public and decisive position against Doctor-Prescribed Suicide. None of us knew that she had a more personal perspective than most of us who also opposed Ballot Question 2. We ex- tended our sympathy to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.”

Humanity Loses When the Disabled Are Aborted

My brother Robert, died on January 7, 2010. He was 50 years old and had Down Syndrome. Robert had a full time job, graduated from high school and was the first handicapped person in New England to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. He was an usher at church and the cross-bearer at my first Mass at Sa- cred Heart Church in North Quincy in 1983. He loved people more than most people who would be considered “nor- mal.” At his funeral Mass I mentioned that Robert never judged people, as he was always inviting more and more peo- ple into his circle of friends.

When I hear that 80% of babies di- agnosed with Down Syndrome in utero are aborted, it makes me sad and sick beyond words. That’s one of the reasons why this issue is so important to me. Years ago I had a parishioner tell me I sounded like a broken record. He didn’t understand.

I’m also most appreciative of all the people in the pro-life movement who day in and day out, work faithfully, dili- gently, prayerfully and humbly, to end this holocaust which is far more devas- tating then the one during WWII.

Fr. Thomas Bouton Saint Ambrose, Dorchester

MCFL Mourns Passing of Rep. Joyce Spiliotis

Representative Joyce Spiliotis (D. Peabody) passed away from cancer on November 29. Rep. Spiliotis was an ally on many pro-life concerns and co-sponsored Laura’s Law and MCFL’s sex-selection abortion ban.

Spiliotis represented the 12th Essex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She was preceded in office by John Slattery. Spiliotis was noted for being a “hands-on” and pragmatic politician. The Peabody Patch reported, “Representative Spiliotis co-sponsored numerous laws that improved the quality of life and raised the standard of living for our elders, people with disabilities, families, veterans and members of the armed forces and their families.”

Said MCFL President Anne Fox, “Perhaps most importantly, before the election and soon before her own death as it develops, Rep. Spiliotis took a very public and decisive position against Doctor-Prescribed Suicide. None of us knew that she had a more personal perspective than most of us who also opposed Ballot Question 2. We extended our sympathy to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.”

Humanity Loses When the Disabled Are Aborted

My brother Robert, died on January 7, 2010. He was 50 years old and had Down Syndrome. Robert had a full time job, graduated from high school and was the first handicapped person in New England to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. He was an usher at church and the cross-bearer at my first Mass at Sacred Heart Church in North Quincy in 1983. He loved people more than most people who would be considered “normal.” At his funeral Mass I mentioned that Robert never judged people, as he was always inviting more and more people into his circle of friends.

When I hear that 80% of babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome in utero are aborted, it makes me sad and sick beyond words. That’s one of the reasons why this issue is so important to me. Years ago I had a parishioner tell me I sounded like a broken record. He didn’t understand.

I’m also most appreciative of all the people in the pro-life movement who day in and day out, work faithfully, diligently, prayerfully and humbly, to end this holocaust which is far more devastating than the one during WWII.

Fr. Thomas Bouton Saint Ambrose, Dorchester

Letters to the Editor

Speak Out to Defend Life

How can we as a civilized society treat our youngest citizens so shabbily? There is no excuse that would justify the killing of the innocent. Babies are not dispensable and once conceived should be provided protection and be given the opportunity to live. Animals are treated with more dignity that what we provide for these tiny babies. You couldn’t deliberately destroy a puppy without suffering the consequences of such an act - as it should be. How can we then destroy human life? How can this happen?

We must continue to speak for those unable to speak for themselves. We must shout that all life is valuable and needs protection. When I hear one politician after another proclaim a woman has a right to choose, we all know what that means. It means she should have a right to destroy her own baby. This goes against everything that is natural in a woman. What if these political figures instead stood for the protection of all of life? After all, it’s their duty to protect each and every citizen, even the smallest. How did it become OK for us to kill babies while they are still in their mother’s womb?

Thomas Jefferson declared that every person has a “right to life.” Our country is on a downward slope and unless we do something to protect our youngest citizens, we are all in jeopardy. Modern technology shows each and every stage of a baby from conception to birth. We all know this is a baby. We need to stand up and be counted. When we hear people shout that abortion should continue to be legal, we need to speak the truth in love. All of life from conception to natural death deserves our protection. Let’s shout it from the rooftops that we believe in life.

Jane Newmann is a member of the MCFL Board of Directors. This letter appeared in the Braintree Forum on Oct. 11, 2012.

We know her as a founding member of the National Right to Life Committee and Massachusetts Citizens for Life as well as a tireless defender of the Right to Life and an orator without equal. The woman found Dr. Jefferson’s story so compelling that she watched all the You Tube videos she could find. When I mentioned that it was Dr. Jefferson’s appearance on the TV show, “The Advocates” back in the 1970s that changed then-Governor Ronald Reagan’s mind on abortion, and that he had written her two letters about it, she said, “I know, I saw that. How amazing!” She was so intrigued that I am sure that she shared what she found with colleagues, family and friends.

Even in death, Dr. Mildred Jefferson continues to inspire and spread the pro-life message.

Janet Callahan is MCFL Director of Special Projects

MCFL Mourns Passing of Rep. Joyce Spiliotis

Representative Joyce Spiliotis (D. Peabody) passed away from cancer on November 29. Rep. Spiliotis was an ally on many pro-life concerns and co-sponsored Laura’s Law and MCFL’s sex-selection abortion ban.

Spiliotis represented the 12th Essex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She was preceded in office by John Slattery. Spiliotis was noted for being a “hands-on” and pragmatic politician. The Peabody Patch reported, “Representative Spiliotis co-sponsored numerous laws that improved the quality of life and raised the standard of living for our elders, people with disabilities, families, veterans and members of the armed forces and their families.”

Said MCFL President Anne Fox, “Perhaps most importantly, before the election and soon before her own death as it develops, Rep. Spiliotis took a very public and decisive position against Doctor-Prescribed Suicide. None of us knew that she had a more personal perspective than most of us who also opposed Ballot Question 2. We extended our sympathy to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.”

Humanity Loses When the Disabled Are Aborted

My brother Robert, died on January 7, 2010. He was 50 years old and had Down Syndrome. Robert had a full time job, graduated from high school and was the first handicapped person in New England to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. He was an usher at church and the cross-bearer at my first Mass at Sacred Heart Church in North Quincy in 1983. He loved people more than most people who would be considered “normal.” At his funeral Mass I mentioned that Robert never judged people, as he was always inviting more and more people into his circle of friends.

When I hear that 80% of babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome in utero are aborted, it makes me sad and sick beyond words. That’s one of the reasons why this issue is so important to me. Years ago I had a parishioner tell me I sounded like a broken record. He didn’t understand.

I’m also most appreciative of all the people in the pro-life movement who day in and day out, work faithfully, diligently, prayerfully and humbly, to end this holocaust which is far more devastating than the one during WWII.

Fr. Thomas Bouton
Saint Ambrose, Dorchester