

# MCFL 2012 Convention: Vermont “Street Fighter” Tells Massachusetts How to Defeat Suicide Initiative



Mary Beerworth, Executive Director of Vermont Right to Life, told participants at the MCFL 2012 Convention on June 9 how to defeat the petition to legalize Doctor-Prescribed Suicide. (Photo by Edward Boylan)

Vermont Right to Life Exec. Director Mary Beerworth pulled no punches in describing the battle against Doctor-Prescribed Suicide to attendees at the 2012 MCFL Convention at the Doubletree Hilton in Milford on June 9. “Get your passion up because it’s the same enemies,” Beerworth urged. “Those ad-

vocating suicide are the same people philosophically as the pro-abortionists. They are radical population controllers. Pro-lifers must become passionate for the stakes are enormous.”

Eager to start saving the lives of unborn children after becoming Executive Director in 1996, Beerworth instead found herself embroiled in fighting

assisted-suicide, a battle which originally began back in 1976 when the Hemlock Society introduced a bill in the Vermont legislature to legalize the deadly practice. “The people who loved the idea of assisted-suicide had already begun to set up shop in 1997,” Beerworth said, “and by 2007, the fight began in earnest.”

## Obamacare Ruling Sparks Cries For Repeal and Replacement



The objection to Obamacare by pro-life groups centers on threats to the vulnerable through massive funding for abortion and the rationing and denial of care.

The Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of Obamacare’s individual mandate, has led pro-life organizations to rededicate their efforts for repeal and replacement of the law. Said National Right to Life President Carol Tobias, “All voters who care about the value and dignity of human life must do everything they can to elect Mitt Romney and a Congress who are committed to repeal of ObamaCare.”

“If President Obama wins re-election, it will mean massive abortion subsidies and it will put the lives of millions at

risk through systematic government-imposed rationing of life-saving medical care.”

An analysis of the decision by Washington Wire, the Wall St. Journal’s Capital Bureau, said, “a divided court largely upheld the Obama administration’s health care law, saying the law’s penalty for those who ignore a mandate to carry health insurance counted as a tax and was justified by Congress’s constitutional taxing power.”

The National Right to Life Committee offered [this analysis](#) after the Court’s ruling in Na-

See COURT/Page 2

### The Battle Begins in 2007

Pro-suicide forces had garnered enough strength to make physician-assisted suicide a House Legislative priority in 2007. “We knew where our legislators stood on the issue,” said Beerworth. “The disability community stayed up front in

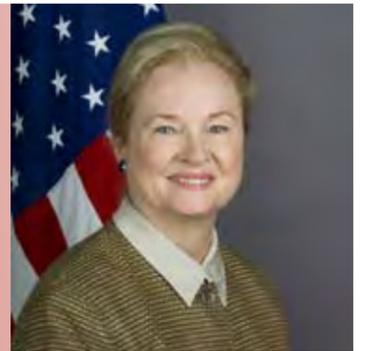
all public appearances and in all contact with the media. Medical professionals formed the Vermont Alliance for Ethical Healthcare and spoke out. Both pro-lifers and the religious community stayed focused on a sim-

See CONVENTION/Page 3

### Glendon Keynote Speaker at Annual Dinner

Save the date for Harvard Law School Professor Mary Ann Glendon on October 19.

4



### Arkes: The Court and the Commerce Clause

What weight has the Commerce Clause in deciding key issues such as Obamacare by the Supreme Court?

5



### Understanding the HHS Mandate

MCFL 2012 Convention-goers learn the background of the HHS mandate requiring contraception and sterilization in insurance coverage.

6



### MCFL Brags About Its Young Stars

It’s a busy season, from the MCFL Summer Academy to essay and oratory competitions at the national level.

8



### Suicide Bill Fatally Flawed

Legal analysis exposes “substantive defects” in Doctor- Prescribed Suicide legislation.

11



# Focus on Abortion and Euthanasia Issues in Massachusetts

A Message From President Anne Fox



MCFL President Anne Fox and Professor Hadley Arkes at the 2012 MCFL Convention on June 9 at the Doubletree Hilton in Milford.

As I write, we are awaiting the Supreme Court Obamacare decision. We will, literally, hold the presses until the decision comes. As we wait, I can't help but think back over the last three years of our fight against health care that funds abortion, causes rationing and denial of care, and slashes conscience rights.

On August 13, 2009, I participated in a National Right to Life conference call about the Stupak Amendment to remove abortion funding from the proposed health care bill. I wasn't sure why Massachusetts had been invited to participate in the call, given the weakness of our delegation. Afterward, I called back to see why we had been included. NRLC thought Congressman Richard Neal might vote with us. Obviously, if that were the case, there was a very good chance that Congressman Stephen Lynch might also vote with us.

That was a Thursday. By Saturday morning, the MCFL Board had appropriated money for an extensive radio campaign, I had met with a group of pro-life leaders in Neal's district, contacted the radio stations and newspapers, designed the radio ads, newspaper ads, phone calls, and printed materials. This was our opportunity for Massachusetts to have needed national impact!

Those of you who live in the Lynch and Neal districts will remember how hard we worked. People visited the congressional offices in Washington, D.C. and locally. One Tuesday afternoon, Congressman Neal's phones overloaded and went down. They didn't know why but we did and so did Howie Carr, who reported it on the radio.

Our radio ads targeted people who would be concerned about the proposed law but needed to know what they could do. Even programs where we weren't advertising started mentioning our efforts, thus reinforcing our message.

When the vote came in the House on the Stupak Funding Amendment, we were delighted that both Congressmen Neal and Lynch voted to protect the babies.

We did three rounds of heavy ads, featuring some of our members, to get the points across.

On August 25, Senator Edward Kennedy died. The Democrats in Massachusetts, who were afraid that Governor Romney could appoint his replacement if Sen. Kerry were elected President, had put in place a process that required the election of a senator to fill an unexpired term. That meant there would be an election on January 19, 2010. State Senator Scott Brown interested us because

he had voted with us on Beacon Hill. We continued to work for the defeat of the health care bill and to organize for the Senate race.

On Christmas Eve, it became obvious that Senator Brown, if elected, would be the 41st vote against the health bill, which would defeat it. In working for his election, the Massachusetts Citizens for Life Political Action Committee picked up the radio ads, using the same arguments against the bill, which showed people why they should vote for Brown. The PAC distributed 180,000 cards urging voters to vote for Sen. Brown because he would be a pro-life vote and be the 41st vote against the health care bill. The PAC and other pro-life PACs also called almost 500,000 people.

In the end, as you know, the Stupak coalition fell apart, although Congressman Lynch did vote against the entire bill. Scott Brown never got to cast the 41st vote because the leadership actually cheated and did not follow proper procedure. This resulted in the bill not having a severability clause, which we feel should be a big factor in the SCOTUS decision – so Sen. Brown's election may still be the thing that brings down the law.

Once the law passed, our work was for "repeal and replace." You and other members handed cards to 100,000 people across the state which showed why the law should be repealed and gave our proposals to "replace."

During the elections of 2010 the PAC again ran ads stressing the four

fatal flaws in the law. By then we had examples of things that were already happening - like 22,000 senior citizens in Massachusetts losing their Medicare advantage plan. We proposed – and still propose - "MCFL Healthcare" which:

- Allows people to buy only the insurance they need and find morally acceptable.
- Allows people, not employers, to buy and control their own insurance.
- Is funded by insurance not general revenue.
- Ensures that no individual will be turned down for coverage.
- Abolishes the current medical malpractice system.
- The money saved helps to buy insurance for those who cannot afford it.
- Gives the public the same standard of health care as the members of Congress.

In August of 2012, we realized that we could again have national impact. We decided to put on the state ballot an initiative petition that would repeal the individual mandate in the Massachusetts State health care system. We expected that this would keep the national spotlight on the things that are wrong with Obamacare. As you know, at the same time, the death lobby filed their Doctor-Prescribed Suicide, aka "Death with Dignity Act" This is so dangerous that we are focusing on it 110%. Thank goodness SCOTUS has taken over the job of keeping Obamacare in the spotlight!

## Pro-Life Groups Gearing Up For Obamacare Repeal Effort

COURT/From Page 1

tional Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius.

1) Federal tax-based subsidies will begin in 2014 to subsidize millions of private insurance plans that will cover abortion-on-demand, including some plans ("multi-state plans") that will be administered by the federal government.

2) Under another provision of the law, the federal government could even order many plans that do not receive federal subsidies to cover abortion as a "preventive" service. The law also created an array of other mechanisms and funding pipelines by which access to and subsidies for abortion can be expanded if President Obama wins a second term.

3) Moreover, few Americans realize that under Obamacare, private citizens' right to spend their own money to save the lives of their own families will be subject to drastic restriction.

4) Obamacare will give federal bureaucrats the power to impose so-called "quality" measures on all health care providers, under which treatment that a doctor and patient deem needed to save that patient's life or preserve the patient's

health but which runs afoul of the imposed standards will be denied, even if the patient is willing and able to pay for it.

In 2015 and thereafter, an 18-member "Independent Payment Advisory Board" is directed to inform the federal Department of Health and Human Services how to use those imposed standards to limit what private citizens are permitted to spend on their own families' health care to below the rate of medical inflation.

Echoing NRLC's call for the election of leaders who are committed to Obamacare's repeal, President Anne Fox said, "We always knew that Obamacare would be a defining issue in the upcoming election. The Court decision makes it more obvious that we need a House, a Senate and a President who are committed to repeal and replace. We at Massachusetts Citizens for Life feel that this Court decision will be great advantages to Mitt Romney and Scott Brown in the fall election."

Massachusetts Citizens for Life

### MCFL News

Anne Fox, President, Publisher Helen Cross, Editor  
 Elisabeth Cross, Reporter Jay Guillette, Reporter  
 Janet Callahan, Reporter

Mission Statement: 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 promote 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.

The Schrafft Center: 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129  
 (617) 242-4199, fax (617) 242-4965  
[massprolife.com](http://massprolife.com)

Pioneer Valley Office: P.O. Box 96, Ludlow, MA 01056  
 (413) 583-5034

MCFL News - USPS 25329 is published bimonthly by Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Inc., 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129-1100.

Send address changes to:

Massachusetts Citizens for Life - 529 Main Street - Boston, MA 02129

# Convention: Beerworth Reveals Keys to Defeating Suicide Initiative

CONVENTION/From Page 1



**Suicide rates have been rising dramatically in both Oregon and Vermont. “The message that suicide is about choice and only for people who are terminally ill is not always the message that is received,” Beerworth told Convention-goers.**

ple message: 'it's a dangerous, risky public policy, raise doubts.'

“In order to counter the claim that opposition to assisted-suicide was a religious, church-driven issue, the Vermont Alliance for Ethical Healthcare hired as lobbyist a former Democratic legislator who was the mother of a child with disabilities who was also a practicing Buddhist. After this, they couldn't in any way claim that this was religious,” Beerworth chuckled.

“Know your enemy. Know what motivates them and where the money to support DPS is coming from: the population-control lobby. The 'Death with Dignity' people in Vermont bought Planned Parenthood's mailing list. The abortion mentality increases the chance that people will think of the vulnerable as expendable who need to die and get out of the way. The founding members of the Vermont Hemlock Society were the Zero Population Growth fanatics from the 1960s. The Vermont players are all connected to Planned Parenthood, hoping to bring back the spirit of Margaret Sanger.”

Suicide advocates in the House leadership were caught off guard as the “raising doubts” campaign worked well with legislators. A daily postcard campaign of abuse cases was also successful. “Suicide supporters thought they had the votes,” Beerworth said, “but were surprised by a defeat of 82-63.”

## 2010 Election Results Erase Prior Success

After a two-year respite, Vermont found the battle joined again as newly elected Governor Peter Shumlin promised to pass legislation by March 2011. “Supporters of DPS controlled both the House and the Senate. Pro-suicide funds were pouring into Vermont and expectations for easy passage of the bill were growing. We realized we had to do something,” Beerworth said.

With “Goliath” now poised for an easy win, things couldn't have been more dire. The 2007 coalition was in disarray, there was little time and no money. “I refused to go down without a fight,” Beerworth continued. “In order to battle successfully you need a 'refuse to lose' mindset and be determined to overcome

the odds. We promised the governor a messy fight.”

“The biggest blessing was the new term, 'Doctor- Prescribed Suicide.' This was the shot in the arm we needed because it accurately describes what the bill would do. A doctor will prescribe suicide. You will take it home as you take your prescriptions home. The doctor is not going to be with you, this isn't going to be pleasant, this is suicide.”

“Terms are important, even though doctors hated the term 'Doctor- Prescribed Suicide,' we found that it was the most effective term in getting people to reject assisted-suicide. We started calling ourselves 'street fighters,' and part of being a street fighter is using terminology that works.”

The “messy fight” that Beerworth promised the governor included television and radio ads, a new postcard campaign that focused on abuse cases, and the hiring of additional lobbyists. The pressure eventually forced the governor to remove his support of assisted-suicide from his inaugural speech.

A letter writing campaign against physician-assisted suicide successfully argued that the use of “Doctor- Prescribed Suicide” was a more accurate description of the law. By September 2011 the state's largest newspaper adopted DPS language and moved away from using “death with dignity.”

## Best Arguments: Dispel Myths

“As street fighters, we need to be able talk tough to people who are going to go into the voting booth falling for the euphemisms of the other side,” Beerworth said. “We can rip those arguments apart, but we may have to say some things we don't want to say.”

“The argument against pain and suffering from a suicide supporter goes something like this: 'We don't let animals suffer, why should we let our loved ones?' But there are a lot of ways we treat our pets differently from a family member. I asked my veterinarian, 'would you send me home with a lethal dose for my elderly dog?’

“The vet said, 'Absolutely not. It would be irresponsible. What if a child got hold of that medication? What if it didn't go well? There's a lot we do for an animal.

We give them muscle relaxants and do a lot of things to make sure it goes well.' The vet wants to do it in a very controlled setting.”

“Another line from suicide supporters is the choice argument: 'I want to choose the time and manner of my death without interference from government and those who have religious beliefs.' This is a hard one and you just have to go ahead and hit it. There are no laws against committing suicide anywhere in the United States. This is a tough thing for pro-lifers to say, although we're not telling people to commit suicide, they already have the right to do so.”

A big turning point was the suicide of DPS supporter Congressman Dick Mallory who was suffering from terminal cancer. “He had appeared in all the pro-suicide commercials saying that he wanted this choice before he died,” Beerworth said. “It caused significant alarm among our supporters in the State House. But I told them, 'Senator Mallory has just shown us that you can do it, you don't need a law and you don't need a doctor.' It turned everything around.”

“There's another belief in 'one magic pill,' one pill that will help you end your life. In reality, the lethal dose is approximately 90 pills; you may get sick or go into a coma before they work. Suicide advocates say you can open up the capsules and help someone eat them by putting it into food. So much for 'self-administer.' Once those pills are out of the bottle, it's going to be easier to put it in grandma's applesauce and help her eat it.”

“Another big myth is that 'everything is working well in Oregon,' that is so untrue. Suicide rates in Oregon and Vermont have been rising dramatically. The suicide rate in Vermont has risen 13% in the last two years.

“It's a lot of teen suicides. A mother who was a former legislator in favor of the bill had her nineteen year-old son commit suicide. She tearfully testified that the message you send that it's about choice and people who are terminally ill, is not always the message that is received. The mother asked me not to say 'commit suicide' because that implies rationality. Someone who commits suicide is not rational. Instead, use the term, 'take one's own life.'”

“Another problem is elder abuse. Vermont alone has over 300 cases of uninvestigated elder abuse,” Beerworth said. One notable Oregon case was that of Kate Cheney. Cheney was twice denied assisted-suicide as her doctors thought she was mentally incompetent and was being influenced by her family. Her daughter went doctor-shopping and eventually found a physician who would write the lethal prescription. “To make sure that Kate would do what she was supposed to do, her family put her in a nursing home for a week. When she came out, she dutifully took the pills.”

“The Oregon Department of Health itself says 'we can't determine if physician-assisted suicide is being practiced outside the framework of the law.' There are many other documented cases of abuse.



**Beerworth asked her veterinarian if she would send her home with a lethal dose for her elderly dog. “The vet said ‘absolutely not. What if it didn't go well?’”**

So don't let them get away with saying that everything's all right in Oregon.”

Vermont opponents of Doctor- Prescribed Suicide have been successful in holding off two attempts at legalization this year. On March 13, the legislation failed to garner enough votes to pass out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. A last ditch effort on April 12 also failed, when suicide legislation attached to a bill banning minors from using tanning booths was rejected by the Senate.

Concluded Beerworth, “Put on your street fighter mode and get out. Get your passion up because the deadline is Tues., Nov. 6. Nothing is more important, important for the United States and for the world. If we fail, we are in big trouble.”

## Resources

### Massachusetts Alliance Against Doctor- Prescribed Suicide

P.O. Box 550121  
Waltham, MA 02455  
617-440-7572

### Doctors Against Suicide

**Secondhand Smoke**  
Blog of Bioethicist Wesley Smith

### Physicians for Compassionate Care Educational Foundation

P.O. Box 1933  
Yakima, WA 98907  
(503) 533-8154

### Patients Rights Council Euthanasia, Assisted-Suicide and Healthcare Decisions

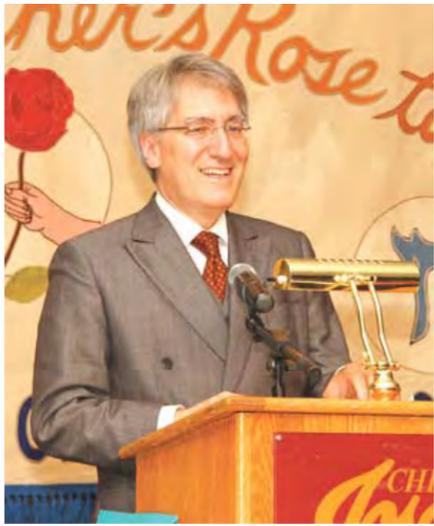
P.O. Box 760  
Steubenville, OH 43952  
(740) 282-3810

### The National Catholic Bioethics Center

6399 Drexel Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
(215) 877-2660

### National Right to Life Committee Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics

# Pioneer Valley Celebrates Life at 38th Annual Mother's Day Dinner



Princeton University's Professor Robert George, J.D., PhD, was the keynote speaker at the Pioneer Valley Mother's Day Dinner on May 3 at Chez Josef in Agawam.

The MCFL Pioneer Valley Region held their 38th Annual Mother's Day Dinner on May 3rd. Over 500 supporters attended the event which included a key note address

by noted author, professor and pro-life speaker Robert George, PhD, of Princeton University. Professor George, well known for his legal scholarship and civic service, spoke about his experience with radical pro-choice activists.

Said George, "These activists misuse their academic and other positions to introduce their ethical viewpoints into conversations, documents, and both civic and governmental discussions. Doctors and other professionals misuse their titles and the respect accorded to them by misrepresenting opinion as fact, and by introducing these ethical opinions into arenas where they were not asked. They masquerade these opinions as science."

The Pro-Lifer of the Year Award was presented to Don Golden, founder and leader of "Crusaders for Life," a sidewalk counseling ministry. The Mullins Award for "pro-life politicians" was presented to the father and daughter team of Chester Szetela and Susan Lopes who both serve on the Chicopee school committee. Youth awards were presented to the



Pro-Life Youth Award Winners Springfield's Cathedral High School Respect Life Club. (Photos by Alfredo)

Respect Life Clubs of Cathedral High School of Springfield and Westfield's St. Mary's High School. Both clubs were honored for their participation in regional events as well as their support for the annual March for Life.

Chairman of this year's dinner was James Brunault. James is Assistant Regional Director of the Pioneer Valley Chapter. Plans are currently underway for next year's 39th Annual Dinner.

You Don't Want to Miss This Event!

## Forty Years: Defending Life From Conception to Natural Death

Annual Fund-Raising Banquet  
Friday, October 19, 2012  
Lantana Restaurant, Randolph  
6:00 pm Social Hour 7:00 pm Dinner

*Come Help Us Celebrate and Rededicate Ourselves to Protecting Life*

**Peggy McCormick Award**



Connie and Cathy Murphy

**Inaugural Youth Award**



St. Brendan's Youth Group

**Keynote Speaker**



Mary Ann Glendon is the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. Professor Glendon has served as US Ambassador to the Holy See and on the President's Council on Bioethics.

**Francis A. Schaeffer Award**



All Girls Allowed founder Chai Ling was also a key student leader in the 1989 Tiananmen Square movement. All Girls Allowed seeks to end gendecide by restoring life, value and dignity to girls and mothers by revealing the injustice of China's one-child policy.

**Coming Soon!**  
The announcement of the 2012 Regional Pro-Life Community and Chapter Service Award Winners. It's our grass roots everyday heroes who make MCFL successful!

**Tickets**

- \$60.00 Individual
- \$500.00 Table for 10

Call for reservations: (617) 242-4199  
Or reserve online: [massprolife.com](http://massprolife.com)

# Arkes: Commerce Clause Key to Understanding Supreme Court Obamacare Decision

*The Commerce Clause, an enumerated power listed in the United States Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3), states that the United States Congress shall have power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."*

Participants at the MCFL 2012 Convention on June 9 may be forgiven if the connection between the law governing the US production of wheat and the basis for the Supreme Court's decision on Obamacare wasn't readily apparent. Amherst College's Edward Ney Professor Hadley Arkes laid out a variety of legal arguments that could be used to either uphold or strike down the individual mandate of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or be grounds for appeal.

## Commerce Clause

The constitutionality of the individual mandate, the requirement that everyone must purchase health care coverage, will not be decided on the basis of personal freedom, but "according to the law that's been built up over the Commerce Clause over the last 75 years, since the New Deal," said Arkes.

"Conservative judges, such as Rehnquist and Scalia, show their willingness to avoid unsettling the law. The willingness to sustain precedents from the past and to make only the slightest alteration to the law is a sign of a conservative judge. Because of this, the Obama administration didn't suffer the least doubt that the rationales, settled from the past under the Commerce Clause, would readily hold and even sustain this mammoth extension of controls under Obamacare."

Continued Arkes, "It was conceivable with the sort of jurisprudence that Scalia practiced that he might say, 'we are respecting the lines of jurisprudence we put in place, this may be an objectionable law but you'll have to defeat it politically, don't expect the judges to do your political work for you.' However, during oral arguments, Scalia was highly critical saying 'if we can sustain this reach of the federal government in virtually commandeering, commanding all persons of the country, even youngsters, to buy this private product, medical insurance, and put themselves under this vast, far-reaching federal legislation, if the federal government can do that, what is the limiting principle? Tell us what the federal government cannot reach?'"

Understanding the governing doctrines of the rationale of the Commerce Clause provides the basis for why liberals and even a few conservatives think Obamacare will be found constitutional.

In the 1942 case of *Wickard v Filburn*, the Supreme Court recognized the power of the federal government to regulate economic activity. During the depression, the US government had established limits on the production of wheat in order to increase prices. The government sought to bar farmer Roscoe Filburn from setting aside a portion of wheat grown on his farm even though it was for his private use only.

The Court reasoned that a single, pri-

ivate act may not amount to substantial economic activity, but many private acts aggregated could undermine the scheme that regulated the national production of wheat, affecting interstate commerce.

A similar argument was used in sustaining the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It was argued that if black people faced discrimination as they traveled, if they could be denied hotel rooms and restaurant meals, interstate commerce would be negatively affected. "So what was the wrong done to black people?" Arkes asked facetiously. "It was interfering with the interstate flow of meat."

"With the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal government had penetrated deeply into the order and regulation of the private sphere. It told people who were quite unwilling to have commerce with black people that they had to engage with black people if they wished to stay in business. It's a strange view of rights to say that I have a right to compel an unwilling vendor to sell me a product."

"Compared with forcing somebody to sell you something, forcing people to buy something, even a medical policy, no longer seems like a dramatic novelty, or a big deal. It loses its capacity to shock."

## Natural Rights Argument

Arkes advocates arguing the constitutionality of Obamacare not on the basis of the Commerce Clause, but on a natural rights basis. "Conservatives have never been able to talk liberals out of the extended reach of the Commerce Clause," he said. "Yet we find jurists willing to overthrow the doctrines of a lifetime when they collide with that vaunted 'right' to abortion. Under the logic of *Wickard v Filburn*, you could argue that singular, private abortion may be yours alone, but aggregated at 1.2 million a year, it has the most profound effect on the interstate sales of diapers, baby food, and bassinets, not to mention the loss of millions of future tax-payers. (See: [Was the New Deal Constitutional?](#))"

This is a compelling argument under *Wickard v Filburn*. But liberals would say 'now you are dealing with matters of freedom and privacy, it has nothing to do with the Commerce Clause. You are violating deep axioms of personal freedom.'

"The best way to put the argument against Obamacare forward, is not to claim that we have a natural right not to be coerced into buying things that we have no wish to buy, but that this scheme of national medical care is virtually bound to produce a scheme of rationing, as it has produced rationing in Britain and Canada. A scheme of denying medical care for people who may become entirely reliant on the government for the funding and provision of their care. Under the system of nationalized care the government is bound to deny treatment as is done routinely in Britain."

"We now have schemes for the commission of unelected people wielding vast discretionary powers set to be loosed entirely free from any tethers of restraint in 2019, likely to do the same rationing that comparable commissions do in other places. In Britain, premature

babies born under 1 pound in weight are denied the life-saving treatment currently available in the US. British citizens in their 80s are also denied dialysis.

"The denial of care won't be coming from an insurance company under arrangement people have chosen for themselves, but would come from an agency exercising the monopoly powers of law. The possibility of seeking an overturning of a decision from within the Obama bureaucracy, would be an experience out of Dickens.

"The government would have monopoly power to withhold medical care that seems to any person necessary in preserving his own life. That is the right of an innocent person to seek the preservation of his own innocent life through means that are thoroughly legitimate, involving no threat to others, and no moral injury sustained to himself. It's a rather firm axiom of personal freedom that comes into play here that are quite separate from the formulas that we've become familiar with under the Commerce Clause. The liberal side would have no hesitation to use this kind of argument while conservative lawyers seem to have an aversion to any argument that smacks of natural rights and natural law."

## Severability

Can Obamacare remain affordable without the individual mandate? "During oral arguments the justices were concerned whether certain issues were severable," Arkes said. "Could you strike down the mandate and guaranteed issue and keep the rest of the law in place?"

"It's possible that five conservative justices could strike down the mandate, and then change places with their liberal colleagues. The conservatives could possibly see a conservative basis for denying severability while the liberals suddenly discover serious issues in voiding all the strings that come along with the remaining parts of Obamacare that have to be reassembled on a vast scale."

Massachusetts was responsible for the sprawling nature of Obamacare because Scott Brown's election prevented the Democrats from having the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster. "That removed the possibility of pushing the bill through the Senate without moderating the bill as it came through the Senate," Arkes continued. "The elaborate system of payoffs comes crashing down if the system of paying for the whole ensemble is removed. They had to go with the unmoderated House version. If the individual mandate and guaranteed issue are removed, it's going to be the job of the Democrats to figure out how the payoffs are going to be made and how the pieces of the law are to be reassembled."

"If the mandate is struck down, the administration will blame a band of five Republican judges, acting politically, to deprive people of a measure that promised to deliver care widely in the land. Justice Scalia has said that judges should not make themselves into legislators by taking on the task of rewriting statutes. As a matter of principle, working through the 2,700 pages of the bill is not their function. It is a political matter to



Hadley Arkes makes a point at the MCFL 2012 Convention on June 9.

be decided, who is going to receive the benefits, who is going to pay the costs?

"It could be argued that this was a wreckage produced by the Congress when it sought to build a gargantuan edifice on terms so disfigured that they were unconstitutional. One thing is for certain; Obamacare with its costs could not be pushed aside in this political season. It would be the biggest issue in the campaign. A conservative battle cry could be, if Congress wanted to mandate a national program of health care, there may be a way to do it, but it must find a path compatible with the Constitution and face the Constitutional discipline of justifying to the public the taxes that they will be paying, not by trying to get around it by shifting the cost to other private parties and pretending it's not a public commitment.

"There may be unforeseen consequences as hospitals and insurance companies facing huge costs could be facing bankruptcy if the requirements are not repealed. They may ask for a bailout which is certain to create explosive political tensions. Scalia and the conservative judges may be blamed if the mandate is repealed and Obamacare starts to implode. It may be better to sweep away the entire statute and begin again.

"If Obamacare is sustained, Mr. Romney should not should take the constitutional judgment to mean that there is something good and approvable in Obamacare. He should make the case and summon the country to the cause of repeal and to stop relying on the courts to do political work. Awaken the country to the fact that extending the reach of the government threatens to remake the political order and the terms of principle on which we live together as people."

Concluded Arkes, "Mr. Romney needs to ask, what kind of people have we become? Are we the kind of people who actually prefer to have fewer doctors and nurses if they will not perform abortions? Fewer schools if they won't endorse the contraceptive mandate? Are we going to have the government deny lifesaving care to people who are willing to pay for it themselves under a system of rationing? Are we willing to settle for government having this kind of leverage over our lives to force these kinds of decisions?"

"This would be a moment for Mr. Romney to crystallize for the country the question of the kind of people we think we are. And then summon the voters to do the work that must be done."

## MCFL Convention 2012

## Discher: Secularism, Relativism at the Root of HHS Mandate



Professor Mark Discher told the Convention that the HHS mandate is part of the secular ideological beliefs of many in the Obama administration.

There was a little gasp from the audience when College of St. Mary Magdalen Professor Mark Discher opened his presentation at the MCFL 2012 Convention with these words, “The first thing I want to say to you is that the HHS mandate is not a big deal. You heard me. It’s not such a big deal.” Discher meant that once the ideological and cultural movements at the root of the mandate were understood, it would go a long way in explaining how it got to the point where the Obama administration would feel confident dictating policy to the Catholic Church.

#### Background

In January 2012, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius mandated, as part of the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act (Obamacare), that virtually every private health insurance plan provide coverage for contraception, sterilization and abortifacient drugs. The recommendation to include this in insurance coverage came from an Institute of Medicine committee whose members were all heavily biased in favor of legalized abortion.

After vociferous objection by Catholic bishops, a narrowly restrictive “compromise” exemption was offered. Private insurance companies were ordered to provide contraception and sterilization services free of charge. Only religious organizations who offered services solely to those of their own faith would be exempted. Catholic hospitals, who as part of their mission offer services to those of any faith, would still be forced to violate their consciences.

As a result, over 40 Catholic dioceses and institutions have filed lawsuits to seek redress from the mandate.

#### Language of the Debate

“That language is abused is nothing new, and that language is abused in heated political debates is so common that it has, unfortunately, come to be expected,” Discher said. “The debate surrounding the HHS mandate is no exception.

“Take ‘preventative services.’ At Health-care.gov, the official government web site on Obamacare, ‘preventive services help foster optimal health. It is the care needed to stay healthy and avoid or delay the onset of disease.’

“Preventative services must include ‘a fuller range of contraceptive education, counseling, methods and services so

that women can better avoid unwanted pregnancies.’ By including pregnancy under the label of ‘preventative services,’ pregnancy is a disease and a child is to be avoided in order that a woman stay healthy. Also, taking a very strong medication with many serious side-effects in order to halt the normal functioning of healthy female reproduction is ‘health care.’”

“Another abuse of language is the claim that the Church is imposing its dogma and beliefs on society. The Church has not asked that no one be offered birth control, only that they may decline from being forced to pay for it.

“What is true is that the government is, in the HHS mandate, imposing its values by the force of law, upon religious institutions. This really might constitute a violation of the First Amendment Free Exercise Clause.”

Does the resistance of the Church impede women’s access to birth control? “The debate is not about whether women have access to birth control; they already have it,” Discher said. “If, as has been widely asserted, 98% of women have used birth control at one time or another, then access is clearly not a problem.” Other religions whose traditions don’t forbid birth control stand with the Catholic Church on this issue. These faiths understand the issue as a matter of religious freedom; can the government dictate religious policy?

Responding to the charge of a “war on women,” Discher replied, “Yes, there’s a ‘war on women,’ but it’s a distortion of Orwellian proportion to say it’s being waged by the Church or Republicans. It’s a ‘war on women’ to create a contraceptive culture that expects women to take powerful and dangerous drugs to avoid pregnancy.” Virtue is punished because males can expect to get what they want without marriage and commitment. As society and marriages become less child-centered, divorce and abortion increase. “It’s a real war on women to create a contraceptive culture that harms children, including little girls, because it leaves tens of millions of them dead before they are born, and it leaves tens of millions more of them with broken homes.”

#### The Debate in a Wider Ideological Context

“The mandate is not a silo or monolith that stands in isolation from the larger landscape of ideological movements and commitments,” Discher explained. “It is part of a cultural phenomenon known as ‘radical secularization.’ Secularism undermines the Judeo-Christian understanding of reality, the underpinning of Western civilization, by undermining the basic distinctions given to man in the opening chapters of Genesis. This attack is known as the ‘culture war.’”

Discher started his examination of the ‘binaries,’ the distinctions that are at the

heart of the culture war, with the distinction between God and everything else.

“As Creator, God alone is the proper object of worship. It is with this understanding that man should respect, but not worship, the created sphere, not nature or the earth. Radical environmentalism is an example of this. In 2010, Christina Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, opened the summit with a prayer to the ancient, pagan earth goddess, Ixchel.

“The Obama administration’s pursuit of green energy is boundless. It remains undeterred even when confronted with massive failures, such as the tax-payer funded bankruptcy of Solyndra, a manufacturer of solar panels. All of this is in name of ecological sustainability.”

What is the distinction between man and animals, or all other creatures? Said Discher, “Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. This is the origin of man’s value. Animals do not possess this innate dignity. The uniqueness of man is being called into question by Princeton bioethicist Peter Singer, who claims Christianity is a hindrance to the animal rights movement. We are guilty of ‘speciesism,’ for giving man special moral status.

“Obama administration Science Advisor John P. Holdren, a radical population controller, endorsed population control and redistribution of wealth in his book *Ecoscience*. Holdren advocated that government should rigidly enforce a policy limiting families to two children and compulsory abortion.

“Is it any wonder why President Obama and his supporters never bring attention to the slaughter of female babies in China as a result of the one child policy?” Discher asked. “The Obama administration restored funding for the United Nations Family Planning Fund that had been removed by the Bush administration. The UNFPF sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Chinese State Family Planning Commission, the agency that implements China’s one-child policy.

“Human life is cheap and people are expendable, because environmental sustainability supposedly demands it.”

The distinction between male and female is now being called into question by university admissions policies that offer a third category of gender: male, female, or ‘other.’ Said Discher, “The biggest assault upon the male/female binary is the same-sex marriage push, because marriage is about, among other things, sex; and if gender doesn’t matter in sex, it doesn’t matter anywhere else, either.”

In 2011, the Obama administration announced that it would not support the Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA, a law enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in 1996 defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. By undermining the definition of marriage, the Judeo-Christian distinction between male and female is dismantled. When traditional influence is weakened, the secularist agenda grows.



College of St. Mary Magdalen Professor Mark Discher speaks to the MCFL 2012 Convention on June 9.

“Once these things are enshrined into law, there can be no discrimination against them. Employers, including churches, will have to hire candidates even if they oppose their teachings and values.”

How are the distinctions between good and evil to be understood? Moral relativism says there is no objective truth, only local customs and taste.

Explained Discher, “Relativism is sold in our culture as multiculturalism. It is used to promote a political agenda by wrapping it in the paper of tolerance, diversity and open-mindedness. Multiculturalism means that no culture is superior to any other, they are all equally good. A culture is better by virtue of its recognition that it is not better than any other culture.

“This is an intellectual sham. It is incoherent and self-contradictory. If all cultures are equal, and a superior culture realizes that it’s not any better than any other culture, then how can it be superior? Multiculturalism is a dogma in educational circles because it fosters a secularist agenda by erasing the distinction between good and evil. Moral, cultural and religious relativism doesn’t hurt anyone’s feelings, but at the expense of not allowing anyone to speak the truth.”

Discher concluded, “In order to really understand the mandate it is important to locate it in the ‘sea of secularism’ that’s threatening to drown the civilization. The strategy is to hollow out the Catholic Church and other faiths. Once they are out of the way, the government and secularists will have the power to enforce their agenda. This has to be done by force of law because the pro-life side is winning and *Roe v Wade* is in peril.

“Write your legislators and let them know you are watching. I also urge you to go to [stophhs.com](http://stophhs.com), and sign the petition. We are in a kind of culture war, but we are on the side of victory, even if we or our children must suffer some persecution in the meanwhile.”

To receive a copy of this essay, send request to Professor Discher

## MCFL Convention 2012

# Thayer: Health Frameworks Endanger Parental Rights



Thayer said that the Frameworks embed sexuality in the curriculum under the guise of 'health.'

MCFL Vice President Linda Thayer has been a self-described 'Paul Revere' ever since learning that the Mass. Health Curriculum Frameworks would teach students how to get an abortion or contraceptives without their parents' knowledge. "I'm trying to warn parents, the Frameworks are coming, the Frameworks are coming!" Thayer said.

"I began my career as a biology teacher in the Boston Public Schools the same year that the federal government began funding contraceptive services for kids in the local neighborhood clinics. At first, it didn't seem like my problem, I had my career to manage. I became an activist, because I saw first-hand that every problem contraceptives for kids was supposed to solve, went in the reverse direction. More kids became sexually active. There were more teen pregnancies. Abortions went up. STI's shot up; the only thing that went down was marriage."

"The Frameworks are the guiding document for all health education in the

state," Thayer explained. "Right now the Frameworks are recommendations; teachers retain some flexibility as to how they are implemented. Legislation has been introduced to require the adoption of the Frameworks for determining all health education in public schools. Anytime you see the word 'health,' know that sexuality is embedded in it.

"The Frameworks would eliminate any choice for parents in local communities in determining what would be taught to their children with respect to sexuality, contraception and abortion," Thayer said. "When I tell people what's in the Frameworks I think, 'no one is going to believe me.'

"The language of the Frameworks is hidden in a sort of code such as, 'Identify resources for treatment of reproductive health problems.' The Frameworks have kids looking at laws like Judicial Bypass, which allow a minor to seek an abortion if authorized by a judge. The Frameworks turn the intent of Judicial Bypass which was meant for hard cases only, into the norm instead of an exception. Now every girl in Massachusetts knows she can get a secret abortion."

"What is missing from the Frameworks?" Thayer asked. "Nowhere is there any information on the high failure rate of teen contraception and the limits of condoms in preventing diseases. Currently, one out of four girls has a sexually transmitted infection. In black communities, it's one out of two. Also missing from the Frameworks are resistance skills for social pressure, the benefits of marriage, and visuals of fetal development."



MCFL Vice President Linda Thayer presents a workshop on the dangers of the proposed MA Health Curriculum Frameworks at the MCFL Convention.

### Parental Rights in Danger

Kathleen Magno of the [Mass. Catholic Conference](#) presented specific examples showing how the design of the Frameworks endangers parental rights. "Instead of sex-ed being part of a Health class," Magno said, "Wellness' classes embed sexuality in a spectrum of topics." Mass. Sex Education Law requires that parents be notified of any curriculum primarily about sexuality and may opt-out their child from participation in the classes.

Magno showed an actual Grade 9 Wellness Class assignment based on the Frameworks that was given at Westborough High School. Under a selection of scenarios concerning accessing health information, one scenario was about helping a friend to get birth control without their parent's knowledge.

"One of the resources recommended for researching the scenario was the web site of the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute," said Magno. "Their web site tells students that 'MA State Law explicitly allows all minors to consent to services and 'the state funds a program that gives minors access to confidential contraceptive care.' The students were also required to list the name and addresses of places where their friend could

get 'services,' such as contraception and abortion for their 'problem.'

"Because there were five other scenarios, the lesson wasn't primarily about sexuality and gets around the requirement to notify parents." Added Thayer, "This is teaching kids to sneak around behind their parent's backs. It's a betrayal."

Magno recommends that parents be clear about values, expectations and the teachings of their faith. "Explain to your children the hazards of messages they get from the culture. Keep the lines of communication open.

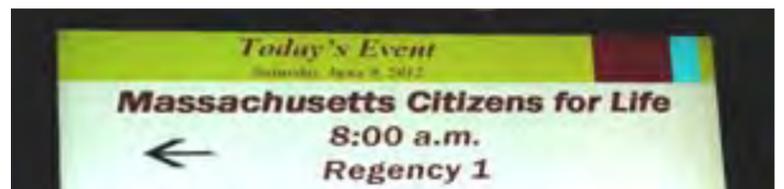
"Network with other like-minded parents and contact your legislators about mandatory programs. Talk with school officials. Ask what they'll teach about: abortion, birth control, marriage, homosexual behavior."

Concluded Thayer, "My biggest fear is that with a 'Wellness' curriculum, parents will lose their rights to opt-out if they don't like what's being taught. If the Frameworks become law, all parents' rights will be off the table."

Linda Thayer and members of the MCFL Speakers Bureau are available for presentations.



Patricia Stewart, Esq., enlists Convention supporters for the MA Alliance efforts to contact the Council on Aging in each town.



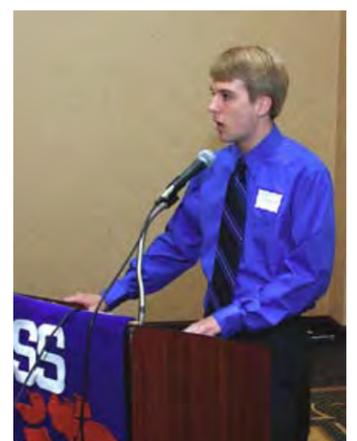
Convention photos by Edward Boylan



MCFL Board member Ryan Hawkes and John Triolo. Triolo presented two workshops, helping Convention-goers learn to write persuasive arguments against Doctor-Prescribed Suicide and discussed the technological improvements to MCFL's web site.



Marian Technology's Aaron Rodriguez and Gabe Nicolau discussed MCFL's improved web presence.



Board member Matt Hanafin acted as Convention emcee.

# 2012 MCFL Summer Academy Begins Second Year

The goal of the MCFL Summer Academy is to form and engage high school students as workers in the pro-life movement. Students are intended to become MCFL Ambassadors in their respective schools, churches, or homeschooling communities during the 2012-2013 school year, as both a leaven and liaison in their respective pro-life clubs.

An award certificate will be conferred during the last session, which will also serve as a "commissioning ceremony" for these MCFL Ambassadors.

The course will include a thorough overview of the pro-life movement's main issues and the various ways that students can and should get involved. Six weekly sessions will consist of a 45-minute expert presentation of content and a 45-minute interactive workshop. 30 minutes will be allotted at the beginning for informal fraternizing over dinner and soft drinks.

In order to provide a thorough formation, MCFL prefers students who can and will commit to attending all, or at least most, of the sessions.

### Schedule

- **Week 1, July 11: Fetal Development & Abortion Law.**
- **Week 2, July 18: Alternatives to Abortion and Consequences of Abortion.**
- **Week 3, July 25: Legislative Process and MCFL Bills.**
- **Week 4, Aug 1: Science vs. Propaganda: Stem Cells, Cloning and In Vitro Fertilization.**
- **Week 5, Aug 8: Student Presentations.**

**Free for pro-life high school students!**

then join...  
**MCFL Summer Academy!**

**Wednesdays, July 11 - August 8**

**Thursday August 16.**

**St Brendan's Church,**  
**Hartford Street, Bellingham**

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00p.m.**

- **Week 6, Thursday, August 16: Call to Ambassadorship, Conferral of Awards and Commissioning as Ambassadors**  
*Open to the General Public:* Medical and legal analysis of Doctor-Prescribed Suicide which will appear on the Nov 6 ballot. This open presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last until 8:30 p.m.



## Oratory Contest Winner Speaks at MCFL Convention

Jordan Hubacz to Compete Next at NRLC Convention in Washington, D.C.



Oratory Contest Winner Jordan Hubacz speaking to the MCFL Convention on June 9.

Dr. Mildred Jefferson Oratory Contest Winner Jordan Hubacz is set to compete nationally. He will recite his award winning speech at the Contest Finals held during the National Right to Life's Convention in June.

Hubacz presented his topic, "Why Are They Pro-Choice?" at the MCFL 2012 Convention. "Why are some professed Christians pro-choice?" he asked.

Hubacz argued that some Christians justify a pro-choice stance by using exceptions in hard cases, such as rape or incest. "A child is not responsible for the circumstances of his conception," he said. "People are duped to believe in exceptions. These exceptions sound noble, but are just an excuse."

"Abortion cannot sometimes be justified. We need to decide who is sovereign. God or the people?"



First runner-up, Thomas Gaudet

Thomas Gaudet accepted an award for second place in the Contest. "I want to thank MCFL, Anne Fox and Priscilla Keough for giving me this opportunity through the Oratory Contest," Gaudet said. "I didn't come here to accept this

award, but rather to accept it as an invitation to further my involvement in the pro-life movement. My mission is to be a face for the youth of my generation. Thank you for leading us and helping us and giving us this great opportunity."



Oratory Contest Chair Priscilla Keough, Finalist Melanie Hanafin, MCFL President Anne Fox, Finalist Kelly Coluci, Judge William Wise, Finalist Thomas Gaudet, Judge Edward Boylan, Winner Jordan Hubacz and Judge Marie O'Donnell at the contest finals at St. Sebastian's in Needham on May 12.

# MCFL Federal PAC Endorses Mitt Romney for President



MCFL Federal PAC Chair, John Rowe

The MCFL Political Action Committee has endorsed Governor Mitt Romney for President.

As the country's most pro-abortion president, Barack Obama has pursued a radical pro-abortion agenda.

In contrast, as governor, Mitt Romney worked closely with MCFL. He takes a strong pro-life position and is commit-

ted to implementing policies to protect the unborn, the medically dependent, the disabled, and the elderly.

Romney opposes abortion and has called the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, "a big mistake." He has expressed his support of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortion.

Romney proposes to repeal the Obama health care law which funds abortion, rationing, denial of lifesaving medical care, and slashes conscience rights. He has promised to reinstate the Mexico City Policy, which prevents federal dollars from going to organizations that perform or promote abortion overseas.

According to John Rowe, MCFL PAC Chair, "As the country's most pro-abortion president, Barack Obama has pursued a radical pro-abortion agenda. The MCFL PAC urges the voters of Massachusetts to unite behind Mitt Romney for the sake of unborn children, the disabled, and the elderly."



MCFL Federal PAC Chair John Rowe leads a workshop at the MCFL Convention on June 9.

"We are very pleased that every candidate who has run for the Republican nomination for president has taken a strong pro-life position and kept the life

issues at the forefront of the race. We look forward to Mitt Romney's election as our next pro-life president on November 6th."

## Massachusetts Student Wins National Right to Life Essay Award

Margaret O'Brien of Ware, Massachusetts, is one of the winners of the National Right to Life Pro-Life Essay Contest. O'Brien tied for first place in the contest, one of NRLC's youth outreach programs.

Contest essays were of 300 to 500 words and were judged on original thought, content, and accuracy. In addition to winning a cash prize, O'Brien will see her essay appear in the 2012 National Right to Life Yearbook.

MCFL President Anne Fox sent congratulations to Margaret and her parents. "This is such exciting news!" Fox said. "We are all so proud."

O'Brien, a tenth grade student, wrote an essay titled, "Today's Youth: A 'Lost Generation.'" In it O'Brien wrote, "The 'Lost Generation,' fits my generation, the youth of today, because not only have we lost millions of our contemporaries through abortion, but we are also growing up in an age that has lost respect for life."



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

Read [Margaret O'Brien's prize-winning essay](#).



Matt Hanafin and the rest of the 2012 Academy students started the five week program on June 25.

## Hanafin Attending National Right to Life Academy in Washington, D.C.

MCFL Board of Director's member Matthew Hanafin is currently attending the National Right to Life Academy in Washington, D.C. The intensive five-week course for pro-life college students equips student leaders with the tools they need to carry the fight for life into the future.

Megan McCrum, NRLC Academy Program Director said, "This summer we are pleased to host Academy

students from Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, and Florida. Thank you so much for supporting this program by sending or helping to send a student from your state!

"You may be interested in reading the [Facebook Profiles](#) of the 2012 class and discovering why they wanted to attend the National Right to Life Academy."

Congratulations Matt!

### Help Us Educate the Pro-Life Generation!

Send Checks To:  
MCFL, The Schrafft Center  
529 Main Street, Suite 1M9  
Boston, MA 02129

It's Easy to Donate  
Securely Online



## Use 2012 Questionnaire To Assess Candidates' Pro-Life Views

MCFL has designed a questionnaire for use when speaking to candidates for political office. Pro-lifers should find the questionnaire useful in assessing a candidate's views on a wide variety of life issues.

The candidates official responses, to be published in the next issue of the *MCFL News*, will come from a questionnaire sent by the MCFL office.

### 2012 Candidate Questionnaire

• Would you vote for legislation that bans partial-birth abortion?

• Would you vote for a law which makes the unborn child a second victim when a crime is committed against a pregnant woman?

• Would you vote for or sponsor A Woman's Right to Know Act/"Laura's Law," which would offer women facts about both abortion and childbirth and provide a 24-hour "reflection period?"

• Would you vote for legislation that bans sex-selection abortion?

• Would you vote for legislation requiring a woman to have the option to see an

ultrasound of her unborn child prior to an abortion?

• Would you support legislation that would prohibit abortion coercion?

• Would you vote for the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act which would require that no abortion should be done after 20 weeks because there is substantial evidence that unborn children can feel pain at this point?

• Are you opposed to Doctor-Prescribed Suicide (aka "Death with Dignity")?

# Rose Drives May-June 2012

Please note that the churches are listed by chapter in alphabetical order by city/town. Churches that are not covered by a chapter or region are at the end of the list in alphabetical order by city/town.



## Beverly Chapter

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Beverly	\$317.00
St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, Beverly	\$410.00
	<b>\$727.00</b>

## Peggy McCormick (Braintree/Weymouth) Chapter

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Braintree	\$665.00
Sacred Heart Parish, Weymouth	\$485.85
St. Jerome Parish, Weymouth	\$538.60
	<b>\$1,689.45</b>

## Cambridge/Somerville Chapter

Patronage of St. Joseph Parish	<b>\$352.00</b>
--------------------------------	-----------------

## Fr. Donald Sullivan (Danvers) Chapter

St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, Danvers	\$272.00
St. Richard of Chichester Parish, Danvers	\$604.00
St. Ann Parish, Peabody	\$408.00
St. James Parish, Salem	\$382.00
	<b>\$1,666.00</b>

## Fitchburg-Leominster Chapter

Holy Family of Nazareth Parish, Leominster	\$165.00
Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Leominster	\$442.00
St. Anna Parish, Leominster	\$539.26
St. Leo Parish, Leominster	\$440.00
St. Cecilia Parish, Leominster	\$688.00
St. Boniface Parish, Lunenburg	\$150.00
St. Anthony Parish, Fitchburg	\$361.00
St. Bernard Parish, Fitchburg	\$282.00
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Fitchburg	\$446.00
St. Joseph Parish, Fitchburg	\$485.00
Holy Cross, E. Templeton	\$174.00
St. Martin Parish, Otter River	\$26.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Winchendon	\$180.50
Matching Gift (Catholic Financial Life)	\$500.00
	<b>\$4,878.76</b>

## Greater Attleboro Region

St. Mark Parish, Attleboro Falls	\$383.00
St. Mary Parish, Mansfield	\$846.00
St. Mary Parish, North Attleboro	\$650.00
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Seekonk	\$819.00
	<b>\$2,698.00</b>

## Greater Fall River Chapter

St. Bernard Parish, Assonet	\$438.55
St. John Neumann Parish, East Freetown	\$300.00
Espirito Santo Parish, Fall River	\$475.20
Holy Name Parish, Fall River	\$676.25
Holy Trinity Parish, Fall River	\$479.25
Immaculate Conception Parish, Fall River	\$393.25
Notre Dame de Lourdes Parish, Fall River	\$375.00
St. Anne Parish, Fall River	\$262.00
St. Anthony of Padua, Fall River	\$373.00
St. Joseph Parish, Fall River	\$151.00
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Fall River	\$270.00
Santo Christo Parish, Fall River	\$671.00
Holy Name of the Sacred Heart, New Bedford	\$461.00
Immaculate Conception Parish, New Bedford	\$925.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Bedford	\$125.00
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, New Bedford	\$650.00
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, New Bedford	\$182.00
St. John the Baptist Parish, New Bedford	\$323.00
St. John of God Parish, Somerset	\$572.00
St. Dominic Parish, Swansea	\$362.00
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Swansea	\$333.00
St. Louis de France Parish, Swansea	\$178.00
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Westport	\$335.00
St. Patrick Parish, Wareham	\$331.00
St. George Parish, Westport	\$214.00
	<b>\$9,855.50</b>

## Greater Lawrence Chapter

St. Augustine Parish, Andover	<b>\$921.40</b>
-------------------------------	-----------------

## North Adams Chapter

Pope John Paul the Great Parish, Adams	\$531.00
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Cheshire	\$237.00
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, North Adams	\$674.00
Sts. Patrick & Raphael Parish, Williamstown	\$191.00
	<b>\$1,635.00</b>

## North Suburban Chapter

St. Anthony Parish, Everett	\$304.00
Immaculate Conception Parish, Malden	\$1,010.00
Sacred Hearts Parish, Malden	\$660.00
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Medford	\$456.00
St. Joseph Parish, Medford	\$468.00
St. Raphael Parish, Medford	\$785.00
Immaculate Conception Parish, Revere	\$1,138.00
St. Patrick Parish, Stoneham	\$1,274.00
	<b>\$6,095.00</b>

## PIONEER VALLEY REGION

St. Christopher, Brimfield & St. Patrick, Monson	\$254.00
Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Easthampton	\$725.50
St. Michael Parish, East Longmeadow	\$338.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Northampton	\$583.00
Divine Mercy Parish, Three Rivers	\$326.67
St. Cecilia Parish, Wilbraham	\$838.90
	<b>\$3,066.07</b>

## Chicopee Chapter

St. Anne Parish, Chicopee	\$376.00
St. Rose Parish, Chicopee	\$949.00
St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Basilica, Chicopee	\$465.00
Mary, Mother of Hope Parish, Springfield	\$285.00
	<b>\$2,075.00</b>

## Holyoke Chapter

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Holyoke	\$500.00
Immaculate Conception Parish, Holyoke	\$109.80
Our Lady of the Cross Parish, Holyoke	\$519.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Holyoke	\$517.00
	<b>\$1,645.80</b>

## Longmeadow Chapter

St. Mary Parish, Longmeadow	<b>\$533.00</b>
-----------------------------	-----------------

## Ludlow Chapter

Christ the King Parish, Ludlow	\$791.00
St. Elizabeth Parish, Ludlow	\$714.45
Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic, Ludlow	\$62.50
	<b>\$1,567.95</b>

## Springfield Chapter

Holy Cross Parish, Springfield	\$265.00
Holy Name Parish, Springfield	\$346.30
Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield	\$267.00
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Springfield	\$342.00
Springfield Wesleyan Church, Springfield	\$59.00
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Springfield	\$394.00
St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield	\$203.00
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Springfield	\$72.00
	<b>\$1,948.30</b>

## West of the River Chapter

Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Southwick	\$190.00
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, West Springfield	\$1,196.00
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Westfield	\$520.00
St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS), Westfield	\$108.00
St. Peter/ St. Casimir/St. Mary, Westfield	\$923.40
Word of Grace Church, Westfield	\$100.00
	<b>\$3,037.40</b>

## PIONEER VALLEY REGION TOTAL

**\$13,873.52**

## South Shore Chapter

St. Mary of the Sacred Heart Parish, Hanover	\$450.00
Resurrection Parish, Hingham	\$224.00
Our Lady of the Assumption, Green Harbor	\$500.00
St. Christine Parish, Marshfield	\$430.00
St. Jerome Parish, Weymouth (Plant sale)	\$565.00
	<b>\$2,169.00</b>

# Letters to the Editor

## Joyce tells Boston Globe: References to physician-assisted suicide must include its problems.

I was disappointed with the Associated Press article about the Oregon doctor who died by assisted suicide (“Dr. Peter Goodwin, 83; championed law allowing ‘Death With Dignity’ in Oregon,” *Obituaries*, March 13). By citing only advocates for physician-assisted suicide, and mentioning nothing about problems associated with the practice, the article presented anything but a balanced view.

The physician-assisted suicide bills and initiative petition pending in Massachusetts fail to require that lethal drugs be administered by disinterested people. They also deceptively lower the legal standard of care required of physicians and hospitals. These facts increase the risk of elder abuse, and unreasonably require a high level of trust from vulnerable patients.

I am a lawyer with front-line experience. I have had to obtain a temporary restraining order against a Boston hospital after its personnel had decided, against the will of an elderly patient, to deny him life-saving dialysis treatment. His quality of life, in their opinion, led them to determine that death rather than ongoing care would be his fate.

How much do you trust insurers, hospitals, and governments? Unless you answer, “With my life,” you should oppose the Massachusetts assisted-suicide efforts.

*Robert W. Joyce, Newton*

This letter originally appeared in the Boston Globe on March 19, 2012.

## Rebuttal to Boston Globe Magazine article on assisted-suicide

“Dying Wishes” in the April 29 Globe Magazine refers to ‘Death With Dignity,’ instead of what it really is, “Physician Assisted Suicide.” As stated by Chief Justice Rehnquist in the 1997 case of *Glucksberg v. Washington*, “An examination of our Nation’s history, legal traditions and practices demonstrates that Anglo American common law has punished or otherwise disapproved of assisted suicide for over 700 years...that such prohibitions have never contained exceptions for those who were near death...”

Rehnquist went on to state that there are at least five government interests to support the history, legal traditions and practices and they are prohibiting killing and preserving human life, preventing the serious public health problem of suicide, especially among the young, the elderly and those suffering from untreated pain or depression or other mental disorders, protecting the medical professions’ integrity and ethics and maintaining physicians’ role as their patient’s healers; protecting the poor elderly, disabled persons, the terminally ill and persons in other vulnerable groups from indifference, prejudice and psychological and financial pressure to end their lives; and avoiding a possible slide toward voluntary and even involuntary euthanasia. These are more than sufficient reasons to vote “No” on this ballot question.

*Philip D. Moran writes from Salem*

**Send submissions to:  
Letters to the Editor**



**“I’m not having any trouble holding down healthcare costs.”**

## Legal Analysis Finds “Fatal Defects” in Doctor-Prescribed Suicide

James Grady is a lawyer who writes from Marion. He has submitted an outstanding legal analysis of the suicide ballot question entitled, *Doctor-Prescribed Suicide (DPS) Has Fatal Defects*. We’ll be featuring sections of Jim’s article in this and subsequent News.

### Section 1: “Substantive Defects”

1. The proposed law at Sec. 3(2) expressly provides that only one of the witnesses to the patient’s written request to die must be disinterested. The second witness may be a relative, or a person entitled to a portion of the patient’s estate, or an employee or owner of the health care facility where the patient is a resident.

This should be contrasted to the provision for witnesses to a will in Massachusetts, which under General Laws Chapter 191 Sec. 1 and 2 mandates that both witnesses be disinterested. Similarly, the Health Care Proxy at General Laws Chapter 201 Sec. 2 requires that there be two disinterested witnesses.

Again, the failure of the proposed law to comport with our state laws regarding witnesses to testamentary type documents renders the law invalid and unenforceable.

2. The proposed law at Sec. 1 provides that DPS be available to patients “... suffering from a terminal disease that will cause death within six months...”

There is no limiting or modifying language to the “six months” provision. However, the definition of “terminal disease” at Sec. 1(13) adds the qualifier of “...within reasonable medical judgment.”

Apart from the question of doctors’ qualifications to render such a crucial opinion, there is the open question of under what circumstances should the six-month period be considered. For example, patients with diabetes that is insulin-dependent may live for many years, provided they maintain their regular regimen of insulin therapy.

However, if the patients fail to do so, they would suffer serious complications, which in a matter of weeks could result in their death. Further, examples of patients being given weeks or months to live by their attending medical professionals have, for a variety of reasons, lived on for much longer periods, despite the dire prediction of their early de-

mise. The medical profession’s prognoses in many cases are in error. They are not infallible and make errors in judgment, just as we all do. Would you stake your life on what, in many cases is only, at best, an informed “guesstimate?” I think not. Nor should any other human being.

3. The Massachusetts Medical Society’s House of Delegates recently voted 178 to 56 to affirm its long-standing policy of opposition to DPS. Its President, Dr. Lynda Young, stated that DPS “...is inconsistent with the physician’s role as healer and health care provider...” and that physicians “...support a patient’s dignity and the alleviation of pain and suffering at the end of life.” In this regard, it is interesting to note that the proposed law makes no reference to the term or concept of hospice care, comfort care or palliative care anywhere in its ten pages of provisions. The focus in the proposal is the alleged legal death of the patient, rather than the best interests of the patient.

### Conclusion

There are many other defects, substantive, legal and moral, that could also be pointed out. However, for reasons of brevity, they are not included herein. Our Supreme Judicial Court in the well-known “end of life” case known as the *Saikewicz Case* (1977) summed up the law of the State of Massachusetts at p. 741 as follows, “... the State has claimed interest in 1) the preservation of life; 2) the protection of the interests of innocent third parties; 3) the prevention of suicide; and 4) maintaining the ethical integrity of the medical profession. It is clear the most significant of the State interests is that of the preservation of human life...”

DPS is the antithesis of these stated principles of law; and the Courts, if called upon to do so, should firmly and boldly so declare.

We must never forget that human beings are exceptional, that all human beings have inherent dignity and intrinsic worth, and therefore, all human life should be honored, respected and protected.

The public welfare does not need or require Doctor-Prescribed Suicide and it should be soundly and convincingly defeated at the polls in November.



### Margaret O’Hara (West Roxbury) Chapter

St. John Chrysostom Parish	\$766.00
St. Theresa of Avila Parish	\$1,318.00
	<b>\$2,166.05</b>

### Parishes/Organizations Unassociated with Chapters/Regions

St. Bridget Parish, Abington	\$425.00
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Chestnut Hill	\$875.00
St. Mark Parish, Dorchester	\$598.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Hopedale	\$200.00
Immaculate Conception Parish, Marlborough	\$625.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Milford	\$517.00
St. Mary Parish, Milford	\$485.00
St. Joseph Parish, Needham	\$1,200.00
St. Patrick Parish, Rutland	\$156.00
Immaculate Conception, Salem	\$500.00
Sainte Anne Parish, Salem	\$677.00
St. Mary Parish, Winchester	\$400.00
Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Worcester	\$180.00
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Worcester	\$180.00

**Grand total for all churches \$55,744.68**

# MCFL Elects New Board of Directors at Annual Meeting



Elected to the MCFL Board of Directors: Michael Wiseman, Elinor Rafferty, Jack Rowe, Linda Thayer, Juan Carmona and Helen Cross. Missing: Tom Day, Fr. David Mullen, Maria "Joey" Alarcon, Rosalie Berquist and Christopher Oravetz.



MCFL Board member Ryan Hawkes congratulates Dr. David Franks on his reelection as Chairman of the MCFL Board.



Anne Fox was reelected to another term as MCFL President.

Perhaps it was adrenaline, or the chance to discuss a whole passel of bylaws; but many indefagitable souls remained after the conclusion of the MCFL 2012 Convention to attend the Annual Members Meeting and Board Election.

Bylaw changes published in the May-June issue of the *MCFL News*, were unanimously adopted after a brief discussion.

Anne Fox was reelected as MCFL President. Dr. David Franks was also reelected as Chairman of the Board.

Photos by Edward Boylan



Clerk Michael Wiseman ran the meeting until the election of the Board Chairman.

## Is July the Month to Renew Your MCFL Membership?

Help Massachusetts Citizens for Life with its life-saving work and continue to receive the *MCFL News* without interruption.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Membership (Check One)

- Family \$50
- Individual \$30
- Youth \$10
- Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Make checks out to: Massachusetts Citizens for Life  
 Mail to: Massachusetts Citizens for Life  
 The Schrafft Center-Suite 1M9  
 529 Main Street  
 Boston, MA 02129-1122

[Renew Online](#)

## Memorials

**George E. Donovan, Esq.**  
 By Kim M. Notarangelo  
 Barry & Diane McDonough

**Mary V. Nicholls**  
 By Albert W. Nicholls

**Anne Marie Biggins**  
 By MCFL Board of Directors

**James T. Shaughnessy**  
 By Debbie Galvin and Lisa Wicks  
 Robert and Frances Mahoney  
 Diane and Heinz Scheralis  
 Dennis and Roberta Fitzgerald  
 Robert J. Balsis, D.D.S.

**Joseph Haverty**  
 By Irene C. Hickey

**Richard Long**  
 By MCFL Board of Directors

In memory of my wonderful adoptive parents, **Barone and Alma Mathews**  
 By Joyce M. Ingemi

**Virginia Wertz**  
 By MCFL Staff

Welcome baby **Elizabeth Williams**,  
 daughter of Christine and Michael

**Donald W. Gray, III**  
 By Ken and Anne Fox

Congratulations to  
**Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edward Ryberg**  
 on the occasion of their marriage.  
 Mrs. Ryberg is our dear Gail Besse.

**Ruth M. Kucharski**  
 By Sandra Kucharski

**Frances C. Spatola**  
 By Michael Spatola

In honor of my mother, **Rita Casoni**  
 By Joseph L. Casoni