



Living With Dignity: MCFL Assembly Jan. 29



Marine veteran Wayne Cockfield makes a point while Rep. Angelo Scaccia and Jean Armano look on.

There always seems to be a threat just on the horizon," Emcee Rep. Angelo Scaccia told the audience gathered for the 39th MCFL Assembly for Life on January 29 at Faneuil Hall. "In 2012, Massachusetts voters are being asked to legalize Doctor-Prescribed Suicide. As a Marine officer in Vietnam, I understood that preserving and defending the life

of the Marines entrusted to my command was my responsibility. I understood that life is a gift from God; truly sacred, blessed, something to be thankful for, and something to always fight to protect.

"On Nov. 28, 1969, 20 year-old Wayne Cockfield was wounded by a land mine while on riverboat patrol in Vietnam. He endured twenty-nine surger-

ies and spent over two years in hospitals. Wayne understands pain, fear and uncertainty about the future. He is increasingly concerned about health care for people with disabilities, especially against the threatening backdrop of assisted-suicide. He is a true American hero who still fights on a daily basis to preserve and defend God's gift of life."

Cockfield was smiling as he rolled his wheelchair to the microphone accompanied by the strains of the Marine's Hymn. "You're gonna hear a bona fide South Carolina accent," Cockfield drawled to the laughter of the audience. But his tone quickly became solemn.

"I like to be happy, joyful and laugh," Cockfield began, "but we are in a serious and grave time in this nation. We are making decisions now which will profoundly and gravely impact our future. This is very serious. What is being called for today with Doctor-Prescribed Suicide is to once again withdraw con-

stitutional protections and the rule and protection of law from a segment of American society."

"Doctor-Prescribed Suicide is directed towards disabled people, senior citizens, the chronically ill and other medically vulnerable people. The term, 'death with dignity' says that in order to get dignity, people have to die in a socially-approved way. Let me make one thing clear, dying is not dignified." Cockfield received a huge round of applause for his state-

ment, "What we need for devalued people is living in dignity, not dying in indignity."

"Shouldn't people have a right to suicide? Shouldn't that be their free choice? Isn't this nation about freedom? It's no accident that the other side uses words like 'choice' or 'freedom' when they're talking about killing people. I want to make something clear, physician-prescribed suicide is not about freedom. No legislature, no doctor

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Legislator's Breakfast

Assembly keynote speaker Wayne Cockfield tells legislators what's wrong with assisted-suicide.

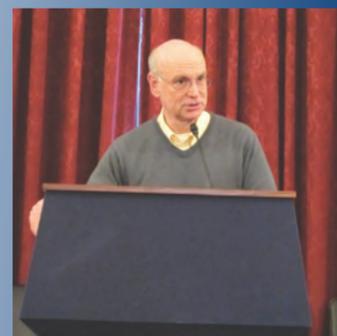
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Conscience Rights

The Health and Human Services contraception mandate is evidence of an extremely limited view of religious liberty says Dwight Duncan.

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Dr. Mildred Jefferson Oratory Contest

MCFL is pleased to announce the Dr. Mildred Jefferson 2012 Oratory Contest. First prize is a trip to compete on the national level at NRLC Convention in Washington.

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Legal Writing Award Established

Notre Dame Law School student Michael Fragoso becomes the first winner for a pro-life article published in a law review.

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March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Nearly half a million pro-lifers take to the streets to commemorate the 39th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

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Students Jam State House for Lobby Day



Kelly Coluci and Rob Ackerman participated in MCFL's Student Lobby Day at the State House on Feb. 21

The next time MCFL has an event, they might want to include a few more chairs. Student Lobby Day, on Feb. 21, found more than a few young bodies sitting on the floor of the State House as they learned about the workings of the Massachusetts legislative system from elected representatives and MCFL staff.

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A family waits for the MCFL Caucus to begin at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. on January 23.

MCFL Caucus in Washington, D.C. Draws Standing-Room Only Crowd

At 9:30 am, Monday, Jan. 23, the Kennedy Caucus Room in Russell Senate Office Building was filling fast. With still a full half hour to spare before the start of the MCFL Caucus, people who had traveled all night in buses, cars and trains were eagerly awaiting the latest from an array of pro-life all-stars.

The experts tackled a variety of themes: the meanings of dignity and equality, the pro-

tections of the law imperiled by abortion and euthanasia, assisted-suicide, conscience rights and pro-life progress for 2011.

Law Professor Dwight Duncan opened the Caucus by reading a section from "The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God," a book based on the letters and speeches of Ruth Pakaluk, a former MCFL President who died of breast cancer in 1998. The book recounts Pakaluk's

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Focus on Abortion and Euthanasia Issues in Massachusetts

A Message From President Anne Fox



Dan Avila, father Frank, wife Elaine and Anne Fox at the MCFL Caucus in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 23 where Avila was the keynote speaker.

The other day, my good friend Natalie said exuberantly, "What a great time to be pro-life!" I couldn't agree more. We pro-lifers learned years ago that politics was our friend, that elections always brought our issues to the public eye. We could not afford the media coverage. Whether or not we liked politics we knew that we benefited when people had to face the life issues. I remember, in 2000, John Henning sitting in my living room postulating that abortion would not be an issue in the upcoming New Hampshire primaries. I assured him that abortion always was an issue, which ended up being the case that year also.

This year the life issues are receiving coverage beyond our dreams. Headlines appear all over about the "social issues" predominating. Defunding Planned Parenthood is mainstream discussion; the proper place of conscience and First Amendment rights is on most tongues; legislation is pending in D.C. to outlaw sex-selection abortions; states are passing laws outlawing abortion after babies can feel pain; protection of life at its end is on the ballot in Massachusetts; the Republican Presidential primaries are about which candidate has been the most pro-life for the most time; Google shows 113,000,000 hits for Massachusetts Citizens for Life.

Would it be better if none of the life issues were issues because all life was protected at all stages and everyone abided by that? Of course! Since we have the duty to restore such protection, we can take satisfaction that the media, which tries to pretend we don't exist, has to cover our issues and give our opinions a hearing.

How will we pro-lifers in Massachusetts best maximize this biannual opportunity? The national media calls constantly about Governor Romney, which gives us a chance to get out our positions.

A Vermont poll found that when assisted-suicide is described as Doctor-Prescribed Suicide, support drops from 74% to 54%.

Even though the Presidential race is the most exciting and we have a huge stake in change at that level, we must face the fact that Massachusetts will not have an impact on the results in November. We must concentrate where we can make a difference. We have possible Congressional races; a definite U.S. Senate race; races for State Representative and Senators. We have Senator Brown and many incumbent state legislators to protect.

Our biggest job this year – indeed the biggest job we have had since 1973 - is to defeat the Doctor Prescribed Suicide,

aka "Death with Dignity", ballot question. This petition will allow a Massachusetts resident over 18 years with a prognosis of six months or less to live to receive from a doctor a lethal dose by which he can kill himself. It doesn't take close reading to see that there are no real safeguards, no idea of treating people who are depressed or scared, no caring at all for those who are not "perfect". It is a recipe for elder abuse. A lethal dose will become a medical treatment. Compassion will become medical abandonment.

We need people to vote "no". A blank vote will not do it. To this end MCFL has made 300,000 phone calls, brought in Rita Marker, a national expert in this area, to speak all over the state and Wayne Cockfield, a wounded vet who speaks across the country. This is the fourth MCFL News that we have devoted to educating you on the issue. We have sent out many emails and will continue to do so. I know that you are all talking to other people because I hear back from them. That is what we need to do. We need to show more than half the people in the state that this petition is dangerous. Different people will have different concerns. It is up to each and every one of us to find just one thing that bothers the person to whom we are talking.

Even though this petition will be on the ballot on November 6th (the same

day as the Presidential and other elections), hearings are being held at the State House on March 6th. We have worked on testimony with committees of doctors, nurses, lawyers, and pharmacists. Pharmacists? Should this become law, it will have all kinds of ramifications for untold people. Yes, pharmacists will have to distribute the lethal doses knowing what they will be used for.

You are probably finding the same thing that I am – this issue is hard to discuss. With abortion we know that we are dealing with a human being and that it is wrong to take a human life. Doctor-prescribed suicide gets into discussions of autonomy, pain control, "I wouldn't want to live that way", expense, etc. It is



Anne Fox and Rep. Ryan Fattman, 18th Worcester District, at the MCFL Legislator's Breakfast on Jan. 25.

much harder to have a cogent presentation. There are many resources for each of us to prepare ourselves to fight this battle one-on-one. Besides the past issues of MCFL News, the following web sites are extremely helpful:

<http://stopassistedsuicide-ma.com/>,
<http://doctorsagainstsucide.com/>,
<http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/>. Very soon, probably by the time you receive this paper, there will be web sites sponsored by nurses, pharmacists, and lawyers. We'll email the addresses and you'll also find them as links on <http://stopassistedsuicide-ma.com/>. We also have for loan at the MCFL office Wesley Smith's book on pain control, *Power Over Pain*, and many copies of Brian Johnston's *Death As A Salesman*, both of which have been very helpful in other states.

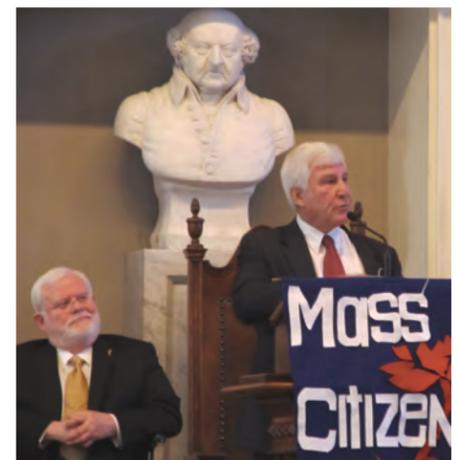
A recent poll in Vermont found that, when people are asked about "Death with Dignity", 74% of them agreed. When asked about "Doctor Assisted Suicide", 64% agreed. "Doctor Prescribed Suicide" garnered only 54%. You can see how important it is for us to speak to everyone we know. The 3-1 vote at the Mass Medical Society shows that, the more people know, the less they support the concept. We must try to have the general public know as much about the issue as the doctors.

MCFL, The Massachusetts Alliance Against Doctor Prescribed Suicide, and these other groups will continue to put out information for you. We will be prepared and we will succeed!

Rep. Scaccia Receives ECAC Award

Rep Angelo Scaccia has been awarded the Red Hill Award for 2011 as the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) football official of the year. Scaccia received the award on Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. MCFL Executive Director Ed Shanahan also attended the event.

The award, presented by Field Turf at the ECAC Awards Banquet, was part of the 2011 Lambert Meadowlands Awards program which also included presentation of the ECAC Teams of the Year, ECAC Players and Rookies of the Year as well as the ECAC Football All-Stars.



Assembly emcee Rep. Angelo Scaccia speaks as Wayne Cockfield looks on.

Massachusetts Citizens for Life

MCFL News

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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.

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Veteran Tells Assembly: Assisted-Suicide is Not Freedom

ASSEMBLY/From Page 1



Members of the Burlington Chapter and the Burlington High School Lifeline Club helped Heartbeat Pregnancy Help Center repeat as winner of the Flatley Trophy.

and even most people on the other side would agree that a twenty-year old woman should be able to walk into a hospital and say 'my husband threw me out of the house, I want to die. Starve me to death or give me a cup of poison.'

"But it's already happened, although there was a difference, in the famous court case of Elizabeth Bouvais. She literally went into a hospital and said, 'my husband has thrown me out of the house, I want to die.' When it went to court a psychiatrist testified that this was a perfectly rational viewpoint. The psychiatrist was Faye Girsh who later became the head of the Hemlock Society, a pro-suicide organization. Girsh testified that Elizabeth Bouvais' desire to die was rational. Why? There's a little thing about Elizabeth, she had cerebral palsy. She was devalued.

"Don't fall for the propaganda that this is 'freedom.' No, it's 'freedom' only directed towards a small group of Americans. If this is a freedom, why are 90% of people in Massachusetts excluded from having it? It's only for the elderly, the chronically ill, the disabled. It's really about quality of life. What you have is people saying, 'these people, who would want to live like that? I couldn't stand it, I would rather be dead. Wouldn't they rather be dead? Let's help them. Let's have compassion, let's put them out of their misery.'

Cockfield received an ovation for his statement, "Let me make a point about compassion. The Latin meaning of compassion is 'to suffer with.' Medical abandonment is not compassion.

"When I was a teenager, I saw an extremely disabled man. In those days, in the '60s, we didn't have the accessibility laws that allow me to travel the country. We didn't have curb cuts and ramps and accessible bathrooms. You didn't see disabled people the way you do now going down the street. I was shocked, absolutely shocked when I saw this man. I'd never seen anything like this. My grandmother was blind, but she could walk. I looked at that man and I said, 'I would rather be dead than live like him.' But you know what?" Cockfield asked laughing. "The irony of it is that I am now like him."

"The interesting part is that I was only fifteen when I saw that guy, God kept that memory sharp in my mind. Because

I understand how people think. People fear disability. I would not have chosen this wheelchair. It's okay to say, 'I don't want to be like that.' It gets very dangerous when you turn that around and say, 'He should not be like that.' That's what physician-assisted suicide does.

Studies have been done in Oregon, where assisted suicide is legal. They found that 26% of the people requesting suicide were depressed. How many were offered mental health therapy? Not one. They were all given suicide drugs. Here's the situation, if anyone here in the audience was depressed, let's say one of the young singers, came with me and we both went to a hospital and said, 'we're depressed we want to die.' The singer would be given suicide-prevention counseling and I would get suicide-assistance counseling.

"We are literally looking at two futures. We can have a future where the medically vulnerable, our aged population, our disabled people, are cared for and given help when they need it. Real help, and a price is not put on their lives, because when you put a price on life the price goes down.

"What kind of future are we going to choose?" Cockfield concluded. "This is very serious, this is critical. I am asking for you to fight for the right to life of all people from birth to natural death and to let people live with dignity not die with indignity."

The program included MCFL President Anne Fox. She emphasized the importance of Massachusetts in the upcoming elections. "Massachusetts had a huge increase in the number of pro-life state representatives elected this past year," she said. "The US Senate can have a pro-life majority. Massachusetts must re-elect Scott Brown who votes pro-life."

"We must defeat assisted-suicide to prevent it from spreading across the country. A Vermont poll shows that when assisted-suicide is called Doctor-Prescribed Suicide, only 54% of people are in favor. Proponents of DPS can outspend us, so it's vital for people to talk to others and educate them why this is such a bad idea."

"We are truly a grass roots movement," said Fox in presenting the William Casey Award for Outstanding Chapter to Greater Lawrence Chapter Chair Jean Armano. "When chapters support edu-



Jean Armano, Chairman of the Greater Lawrence Chapter receives the Casey award for Chapter of the Year. Applauding are MCFL Board Chairman David Franks (left) President Anne Fox and Rep. Angelo Scaccia (right).

cation, they give people a chance to do things they couldn't do on their own. This chapter has blossomed and is doing wonderful things, including getting a National Geographic video on the biology of prenatal development into the schools."

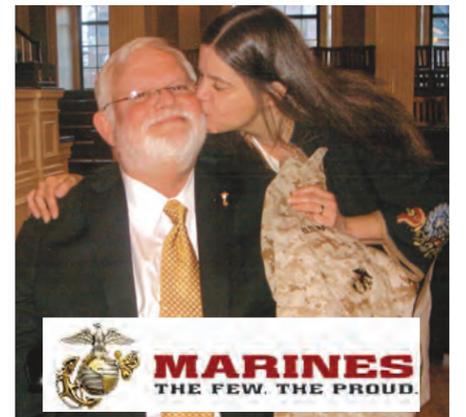
Bakhita Thordarson, a singer and student from the Montrose School offered a young person's reason for participating in the Jan. 23 March for Life in Washington, D.C., "We will not stand idly by while million of innocent lives are being taken," she said.

"Despite a long, exhausting bus ride and cold, wet weather, there was energy in the air. We visited Senators Kerry's and Brown's offices and urged them to stand up for the unborn and the innocent. We must spread the message that every human, no matter how small, has an inherent dignity that must not be violated."

The Flatley Trophy went to its first repeat winner, Burlington's Heartbeat Pregnancy Help Center. Accepting the award for Heartbeat's Executive Director Muriel Ostrowski, Cathy Colucci thanked the Burlington High Lifeline Club, St. Margaret's Parish, and many volunteers "for their caring, dedication, faithful and loving service."

The Most Reverend John P. Boles, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus from the Archdiocese of Boston, concluded the event. Arriving late because of other duties, Boles was impressed by the Assembly program. "Your energy and enthusiasm is extraordinary," he enthused. "Upholding the dignity of every human being is a personal responsibility. You

have been given the grace to continue the fight, this is blessed work, and will be in God's good time, very effective. Remember the sudden fall of the Berlin Wall. For preserving that in our country and in our society, all of you deserve a very special thank you. Stick with it, a successful outcome may be closer than you realize."



Wayne Cockfield gets a smooch from MCFL News editor Helen Cross.



MCFL Board of Directors member Steve D'Eon and wife Mary.



The Montrose School Treblemakers, an a cappella choir led by Karen Demirjian, entertained the audience with a variety of musical selections.

Cockfield Addresses Legislator's Breakfast, Jan. 25



Wayne Cockfield and his assistant Holly Gatling, Executive Director, South Carolina Citizens for Life.



Cockfield addresses representatives and senators at the State House on Jan. 25

True to his training as a US Marine, Wayne Cockfield, keynote speaker for the MCFL Assembly for Life, hit the ground running with a series of speaking engagements immediately after his arrival in Boston. Cockfield, a disability advocate who lost both legs after a land mine explosion in the Vietnam War, spoke on the dangers of the legalization of Doctor-Prescribed Suicide at the MCFL Legislator's Breakfast at the State House's Nurses Hall on January 25.

Cockfield used his unique perspective to address the issue that suicide be available for those suffering with unbearable pain by telling legislators, "I understand pain and suffering. I've been connected to machines. Machines saved my life, machines can save your life. I love doctors, doctors saved my life. But Doctor-Prescribed Suicide turns a noble profession from life-saver into life-taker. It says that only valued people have rights. This issue is not about the right to die. It's about quality of life being used as the factor to decide who will be offered assisted-suicide. The quality of life is not a determinant of a happy life. Doctor-Prescribed Suicide opens the door to killing people who are not considered of value to society."

Speaking pointedly to the assembled representatives Cockfield reminded

them, "Legislators have a decision and a responsibility to act on this issue. Medical abandonment is not compassion." Cockfield said medically-vulnerable people fear that their disability places them at risk. He cited the case of Elizabeth Bouvais, a depressed woman who was offered assisted-suicide because she had cerebral palsy.

Rep. Peter Durant said, "The flashy name 'death with dignity' sounds good at first to a lot of people, but it leads to a slippery slope." Rep. Jim Lyons agreed. "We need to protect life in all stages. I have a mentally disabled sister that we care for. Society needs to value all lives. We have an obligation to protect all human life. This legislation chips away at what lives are considered meaningful and degrades the definition of dignity."

Cockfield's busy week also included a speaking engagement in Worcester on Feb. 26 and appearances on several Boston area radio and cable television programs. He taped two segments for the West Roxbury Chapter's cable show, *Vital Concerns*.

Cockfield received a standing ovation from legislators after his presentation at the State House. "The choice is whether we are going to have a benevolent society or a predatory society," he concluded. "We need to stand for life, stand for real dignity, not 'able-ism.'"



Rep. Sheila Harrington, MCFL Assistant Director of Special Projects John Triolo, and MCFL Lobbyist Eva Murphy chat with Cockfield.



Representatives Peter Durant, Keiko Orrall, Geoff Diehl and Kevin Kuros

Executive Director Finds Facebook Post Exposes a Painful Truth



MCFL Executive Director Ed Shahan with Rep. Geoff Diehl

A funny thing happened on the way to writing something legislative . . .

My original article for this issue was to be something substantive about a pend-

ing legislative issue that would capture your interest, but plans change. When I started my lobbying practice back in 2004, I quickly realized that more and more legislators were developing Facebook pages and if I wanted to develop the relationships necessary to succeed as a contract lobbyist, I would have to "get on Facebook," and I did.

I blame it on my age that I'm not as diligent "Facebooking" as some, but I did go on recently and was quite interested in a post from one of my "Facebook friends."

Now this friend, who was a pro-choice former elected Massachusetts official back a few years ago, had come upon a movie trailer (www.itsagirlmovie.com) that was disturbing enough to prompt my friend to post both the video trailer and a comment. The comment read that

it ". . . is difficult to watch, especially as a [parent] of three extraordinary daughters. But it is so important for the world to notice."

"It's A Girl" is a documentary movie slated for release sometime in 2012 that tells about '200 million girls missing from the world' because of what's called gendercide, that is the elimination of girls (female newborns) by their parents through killing or abandonment because they are perceived as less valuable than boys! It sheds light on China's One Child birth control policy as well as decades of attempts by India to discourage or limit population growth and how the policies of these two nations are causing girls to go "missing" through killing, abortion and abandonment. Now, back to Facebook . . .

In response to my friend's original post

about the heinous subject of the trailer, there were a total of nine responses when I happened upon it, including the following posts: "We are lucky to be Americans"; "shameful"; "that is so sad"; "interesting, sad"; "Malthusian leftists"; as well as lengthier ones like: "The lady from India killed eight babies and talks about it like she just took out the trash . . . no biggie - appalling!" and this one: ". . . that is very disturbing. I can not fathom the depths of sickness of a society that would encourage a woman to kill eight of her children and laugh about it."

As I read through this expressed outrage at such horrific happenings in other parts of our world, I couldn't resist the opportunity - and the temptation - to bring the obscenity of this gendercide

Federal Courts Upholding Freedoms While Conscience Laws Under Attack



Professor Dwight Duncan told the Jan. 23 MCFL Caucus in Washington, D.C. that the Obama administration is adopting an extremely limited view of religious liberty.

While the furor continues over the Health and Human Services “compromise” mandate that insurers pay for contraception, abortifacient drugs and sterilization, recent cases in the federal courts have been decided in favor of religious freedom and conscience rights of health care workers. “Last week, the Supreme Court spanked the Obama administration over its overly restrictive understanding of religious freedom,” Law Professor Dwight Duncan told the audience at the MCFL Washington, D.C. caucus on Jan. 23.

“In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court decided that the case of a Lutheran school teacher fell within a constitutionally mandated religious minister exemption from government anti-discrimination laws,” said Duncan, referring to a case where a replaced teacher threatened to sue if she didn’t

get her job back. “The Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment bar suits brought on behalf of ministers against their churches, claiming termination in violation of employment discrimination laws. Otherwise we would be in a situation where government agencies could decide who could teach a particular religion, rather than a religion itself.”

Explained Duncan, “The case of Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church vs the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is evidence that the Obama administration is adopting an extreme and marginal understanding of religious freedom, mere freedom to worship without guarantees of respect for freedom of conscience.”

A federal court also upheld the conscience rights of nurses to refuse to participate in abortions in a decision on Dec. 23. The nurses filed a suit after the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey threatened them with losing their jobs after a policy change required them to participate in abortions regardless of their religious or moral objections, a clear violation of both state and federal laws.

Federal law prohibits hospitals that receive federal funds from forcing employees to participate in abortions. New Jersey state law also protects the conscience rights of persons not to be involved in abortion or sterilization.

These decisions could be pivotal if lawsuits against the mandate make it into the federal courts. A joint letter sent to Health and Human Secretary Kathleen Sebelius by attorney generals in thirteen states promised action in court should, “This unconstitutional mandate

be promulgated.” The letter continued, “The mandate represents an impermissible violation of the Constitution’s First Amendment virtually unparalleled in American history.”

Belmont Abbey College and Colorado Christian College have also both filed suit against Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. protesting the mandatory contraception and sterilization coverage in Obama care. Both colleges are being represented by the Beckett Fund for Religious Liberty, the same group which won the Hosanna-Tabor decision.

National Right to Life Legislative Director Douglas Johnson highlighted the dangers of applying the “compromise” mandate to Obama care. “The same twisted logic will be applied; by ordering health plans to cover elective abortion, health plans would save the much higher costs of prenatal care, childbirth, and care for the baby. If a procedure saves money, then that means that you’re not really paying for it when the government mandates it.”

“This could also be applied to other ‘cost-cutting’ mandates,” Johnson continued. “Perhaps every health plan will be mandated to cover physician-assisted suicide, in states in which assisted suicide is legal. After all, each suicide would result in a net savings to the plan, and under the Obama scam, that means it is really free and nobody really pays for it.”

“The law prevents the Secretary of Health and Human Services from including abortion in a list of federally mandated ‘essential health benefits.’ But the birth control mandate is based on an entirely different provision of the law, which allows the Secretary to man-

date that all health plans cover any service that the Secretary places on a list of ‘preventive’ services. There is nothing in the law to prevent the Secretary from placing abortion, assisted suicide, or any other additional services on the preventive services list.”

“This proves that Massachusetts Citizens for Life has been right all along in warning about the inherent dangers of Obama care,” said President Anne Fox. “While many were solely concerned about the funding of abortion, our objections included the larger package of abortion funding, rationing, denial of care, and slashing of conscience rights.”

Senator Scott Brown was also vocal in his support of conscience rights and his criticism of Obama care saying, “this is just one of the unhealthy side effects of Obama care, which seeks to impose a one-size-fits-all, government-knows-best health care program on the whole country. It’s bad law and needs to be repealed.”

Brown signed onto a bill sponsored by Senator Roy Blunt to restore conscience protections to what they were prior to the passage of Obama care.

Concluded Duncan, “The mandate rides roughshod over the conscientious moral and religious beliefs of Catholics and others who are opposed to abortion.” While the regulation is scheduled to go into effect on Aug. 23, 2012, compliance by church related organizations is deferred to 2013, after the Presidential election.

He quoted New York’s Archbishop Dolan, “In effect, the President is saying that we have a year in which to figure out how to violate our consciences.”

New Movie Shows 200 Million Girls Missing Due to “Gendercide”

FACEBOOK/From Page 4

reality closer to home. I placed my own post: “It is disgusting and absolutely inexcusable. Can’t fathom how some countries in our world allow, and even encourage, such tragedies! Thankfully, here in America we would never sanction killing or abandoning children because of their sex - but if we abort them, it’s OK and just a woman’s choice???”

I’ve often noticed that when controversial postings are placed on Facebook, the keyboards light up, so to speak, with many friends of all the people who’ve commented on a particular posting adding their thoughts to the discussion and as a result, the posting link grows exponentially. In this case though, the silence was deafening! The last posting of the day about the “It’s A Girl” trailer was mine!

The following day, as I prepared to write this article, I went to revisit the link sequence in order to get the quotes correct, but my friend, the pro-choice former elected official, had taken the entire conversation down! Ironically, it was like it never existed!

Fortunately, my own Facebook page had the full exchange that I’ve restated here, but the point of my retelling is to underscore the fact that there is no rebuttal to truth! Even those who are most staunchly “pro-choice” know that the taking of an innocent human life whether in the womb or just after birth is indefensible. The Facebook postings went silent because there was no way anyone could respond without agreeing that abortion is just as heinous, just as horrific and just as unconscionable as the killing or abandonment of newborn girls because “they’re not as valuable as boys.”

Now, we can just wait for the outrage and fury of all those organizations in the US that are so concerned with women’s rights (girl’s rights?), women’s issues (girl’s issues?), and women’s health (girl’s health?).

Hello? Are you out there??? Maybe they’re all tweeting their indignation on Twitter!

The Three Deadliest Words in the World

It's a Girl!

In India, China and many other parts of the world today, girls are killed, aborted and abandoned simply because they are girls. The United Nations estimates as many as 200 million girls are missing in the world today because of this so-called “gendercide”. - It’s A Girl website (www.itsagirlmovie.com)

“In China, female infanticide, the abandonment of baby girls and sex-selective abortion have so skewed male/female ratios that 30 million Chinese men will be unable to marry for lack of available brides. Rates of rape and gang activity have risen. Military recruitment will rise as unattached men look to the army as a substitute family.

“The Chinese government blames female infanticide on ‘feudal’ attitudes, blaming the people for a preference for sons. But in the areas where I’ve done research, there was no history of female infanticide until the one-child

policy began. In China, the custom is that the sons take care of their parents. There are retirement and medical benefits for Communist Party officials and for workers in government-run factories. But the villagers are on their own. The only retirement program known to villagers is a son who will work in the factories or fields in your place. By imposing the one-child policy and not providing support for the elderly, the Chinese government has forced people to choose between baby boys and girls.”

- Steven Mosher, Population Research Institute, MCFL Convention, 4/9/11

MCFL D.C. Caucus Draws a Crowd on Jan. 23

CAUCUS/From Page 1



A standing-room only audience fills the Kennedy Caucus Room in Washington, D.C. for the MCFL Caucus on Jan. 23.

luk's odyssey from pro-choice feminist to pro-life advocate. Duncan read a selection where Pakaluk was thinking of the words she would use to inspire young people into taking the arduous, all-night bus trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. "What unites all the hundreds of thousands of people there to attend the March?" Pakaluk wondered. "There are two diametrically opposed value systems in conflict in the US today trying to win your hearts and minds. The culture of life and the culture of death.

"What is the pro-life position? I think it's pretty obvious. No, it's not obvious. The media portrays us as religious fanatics against equal rights for women. We are motivated by the simple fact that we really do believe that all human beings are equal. What could that possibly mean? We are not all equally smart, equally athletic, equally nice. We are not equal in any of those categories. But we are equal in our essential dignity as human beings. And that means everybody. If you are human, then you have this basic equality."

Said Duncan, "This is the credo that lies at the heart of the pro-life movement, but even more importantly, at the heart of our country. Inscribed on the pediment of the Supreme Court building are the words 'Equal Justice Under Law.' That's the basic premise of human equality promised to us in the 14th amendment, 'No state shall deny any

person equal protection of the law.'

Duncan went on to link the notion of basic human equality that girds the pro-life position to opposition to the legalization of assisted-suicide. "Doctor-Prescribed Suicide undermines the principle that Ruth Pakaluk talked about: basic human equality. It says that for a certain category of people, who because of their age, illness or disability, who have only six months or less to live, it's going to be okay for doctors to prescribe poison. In a fundamental way this means that the protections of law for those people are less than they are for you and me."

Doctor-Prescribed Suicide

Jennifer Popik, Legislative Counsel for the Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics continued the theme of equal protection under the law by discussing the lack of safeguards in the proposed Massachusetts initiative to legalize assisted-suicide. "This is a bad law," Popik said. "You need to cast doubt and tell everyone you know to vote against this. The so-called safeguards are legally meaningless and difficult to enforce, they are pretty much an illusion."

"First of all, the proposed law says the person requesting the lethal dose has to be of sound mind, but nowhere in the language of the initiative is a psychiatric evaluation required. Scientific studies show that people with the desire to commit suicide are typically suffering from a diagnosable mental illness. Ap-

proximately 94% are suffering from depression or other undiagnosed mental impairment. How do we know if a person is competent if there is no requirement for a doctor to verify this?

"The second problem is the law allows for falsification of the death certificate. The death certificate won't say that suicide was the cause of death, instead, it will list the underlying condition as the cause of death. There will be no way to go back later and see if there are any problems. Doctors are supposed to self-report, but there is no penalty for not reporting.

"The third problem is that there is no requirement for a witness to be present at the time the lethal prescription is taken. We don't know what happens at this point. Was the person still competent?

"Suicide rates go up in states where assisted-suicide is legal. The suicide rate in Oregon is skyrocketing. Between 2000 and 2010, the rate has gone up to 35% above the national average, Oregon previously had a lower than national average suicide rate.

"Studies have shown that assisted-suicide is not needed for intractable pain. (Ganzini et al: Journal of General Internal Medicine (J Gen Intern Med) 2008 Feb; 23(2):154-7.) Studies from Oregon show that people are choosing physician-assisted suicide because of the fear of future pain, loss of autonomy, or the loss of enjoyment in activities.

"The Supreme Court ruled in Washington v. Glucksberg, 1997, that there was no Constitutional right to assisted-suicide. This ruling might be in danger if more states legalize assisted-suicide. This is why it is so important for Massachusetts to defeat the proposal and prevent its spread to other states."

Legislating in Massachusetts

State representative Geoff Diehl, 7th Plymouth District, received an ovation for his statement, "Lives aren't meant to be thrown away, either at the end of life, or right there at the beginning. I'm proud to be a pro-life legislator.

Diehl used opposition to the "bathroom bill" to illustrate how the imbalance of pro-life

legislators makes politics hard at the State House. In a scenario frustratingly familiar to pro-lifers, Diehl told how only one hour was given to debate the bill. Legislators filing amendments to increase the time allotted for debate were filibustered. Only one person was allowed to speak in opposition, and debate was closed.

"I am chief sponsor of a bill to allow opt-out of taxpayer funding of abortion," Diehl said, "but the bill is unlikely to see the light of day. We are hoping to get more conservatives elected, with a balanced legislature, more Democrats would be free to vote their consciences. Because of the power of the Speaker to control the process, we need to look for conservative Democrats and Republicans, and to continue to work for a responsive legislature."

Conscience Rights for Obstetricians

MCFL President Anne Fox presented Notre Dame law student Michael Frago, winner of the National Pro-Life Legal Writing Award, with a cash prize for his entry, "Taking Conscience Seriously or Seriously Taking Conscience?: Obstetricians, Specialty Boards, and the Takings Clause." Frago's article was published in the Notre Dame Law Review.

"I based my argument on challenges to physician conscience rights by obstetricians," Frago explained. "Its origin was a rule made five years ago where the obstetric professional association decided to make a new ethics rule that OBs had to perform or refer for abortions.



Karen Cross, Chair, National Right to Life Political Action Committee

Because obstetrical boards internalize the decisions of the professional organizations, there was fear that OBs who refused to perform abortions could be decertified by the Board, lose hospital admitting privileges and lose their livelihoods.

"I looked at this issue through the perspective of the 5th amendment and the takings clause. Based on earlier Supreme Court decisions, I hypothesized that if this were to happen to an obstetrician, since the obstetrics board was basically operating on behalf of the state, it would be a taking of the intangible property of his practice in such a way that it would be recompensible and unconstitutional without recompense."

Federal Races

Karen Cross, Chair of the National Right to Life Political Action Committee got enthusiastic applause for her bold statement that in the next election the NRLC PAC plans to, "Hold the House, secure the Senate, and win the White House. Every single person here is part of the plan," Cross said.

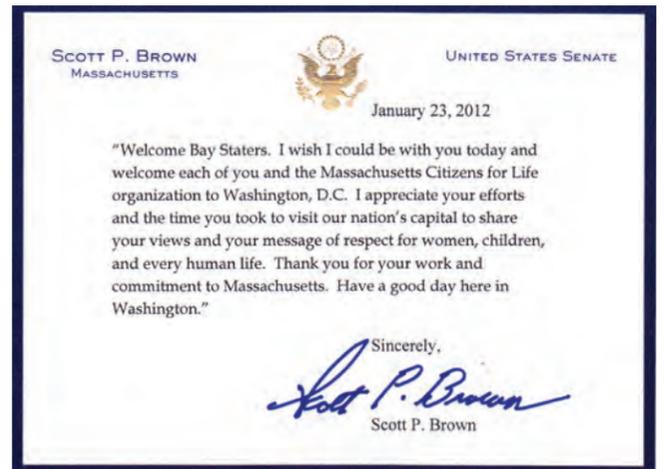
"In 2010, the NRLC was involved in 130 federal races nationwide, of those 88 were won. Because of that win, pro-



You can sit anywhere... as long as it's on the floor.



Caucus audience listens to early speakers (above). Note from Senator Scott Brown (top right). Pro-lifers sign notes to be left at Senator John Kerry's office (bottom right).



abortion speaker Nancy Pelosi had to hand over the gavel. Pro-life legislation is coming out of the House, but unfortunately dying in the Senate under Harry Reid.

"Of the 33 senate races in 2012, one third will have Emily's list candidate. Emily's list is a pro-abortion PAC that only endorses the most extreme pro-abortion female candidates. They have to endorse partial birth abortion and tax-payer funding of abortion. Elizabeth Warren is their doll-baby."

Concluded Cross, "Whether or not we're going to rip that gavel from Harry Reid's hands, hand it to Mitch McConnell's who's pro-life, have a pro-life agenda and start passing pro-life bills in the Senate side, is up to pro-lifers in Massachusetts. You guys have a pretty big responsibility and we need you."

The Foundation of Law

Dan Avila drew inspiration for his talk from a tour of historic Washington. "In the Chamber of the House of Representatives, there is a row of faces carved in stone along the balcony that goes all around the back," Avila began. "The only figure you see head-on and not as a side view, is the figure of Moses. Moses is there because he is the law-giver that so inspired the founders of our country as to the way we can govern ourselves. It is vitally important that we know that the

law of God and the law of life must govern our society. We must look upon our officials and say it's we the people, not you the elected officials, that govern this country. Remind legislators that the law does not come from us, but from God through us.

"In January we celebrate the life and witness of Martin Luther King. In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize King said, 'I refuse to accept the idea that the isness of man's present moral nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal oughtness that forever confronts him. The common DNA of great social movements lies precisely in the capacity of each movement to narrow the gap in human achievement between is and ought. Whatever the cause at stake, be it life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, the failure to abide by principles and values of eternal origin indicates a flawed design. Human frailties render every effort of ours to improve society imperfect. But some efforts succeed more than others. The better movements do not mistake short-sided desires and impulses with truth. They do not dismiss the search for truth as unnecessary or irrelevant.'

"King emphasized that civilization and violence are antithetical concepts," Avila said. "He continued his call for nonviolence in pursuit of racial justice saying that 'means and ends must cohere with an inner integrity. The internal principles will apply when choosing both ends and means. We cannot escape the law of God and Moses.'

"We went on to see what was once the original chambers of the House in the Capitol building," Avila continued. "There is a semi-circular room famous for whispering. You can stand in one spot and way over on the other side of the room someone can whisper and because of the architecture of the room, you can hear the whispering of someone far away.

"There are plaques on the floor representing members who went on to become President. I was standing near the plaque for John Quincy Adams, the only Congressman to have already served as President. He would have been able to spy on the whisperings of the other party from that spot.

"Adams decided to run for Congress because he wanted to do more to eradicate slavery. He served in Congress for six years and lost by a single Senate vote, a bill that would have eradicated or limited slavery. Adams was devastated. He said something that sticks with me," Avila said. "The duty is ours, the results are God's."

"In the main rotunda under the dome in the Capitol, there is a new statue, the bronze figure of Ronald Reagan. Reagan was convinced early on in his career that Communism had to be eradicated. He became aware of this at a time when Communism was strong. In the base of the statue is a stone from the Berlin wall.

"The Berlin wall exemplified the force and staying power of Communism. Now, we have a statue in our nation's Capitol of Ronald Reagan standing over the Berlin wall. We face a Berlin wall in the issue of abortion. Thirty-nine years is a wire and concrete dividing line between what is good and what is happening. We have to be convinced that our Berlin wall is not permanent."

Pro-Life Year in Review

The always ebullient University of Alabama Professor Michael New concluded the caucus program with a fast-paced year in review saying, "Pro-lifers had a great year in 2011, didn't we!

"For the first time there will be Congressional hearings about Planned Parenthood. For the first time ever, a majority in the US House voted to deny Planned Parenthood federal funding, that again is a first, that is real progress," enthused New. "Eight states stripped funding from Planned Parenthood costing them \$61 million dollars.

"Guttmacher reported that in 2011, 83 state level laws were passed, a record, more than double the previous high in 2005. Eight states banned abortion coverage in the new health insurance exchanges. Five states banned the use of telemedicine in medication abortions and six states banned the performance of abortion after 20 weeks.

"There were also gains in the court of public opinion. In 1995, 35% of Americans described themselves as pro-life,

in 2009, for the first time ever, a Gallup poll found a majority of Americans describing themselves as pro-life. Young people once demographically the most pro-choice, now are some of the most pro-life.

"Guttmacher and the CDC both report that abortion fell during the George W. Bush administration. The mainstream media didn't report it and abortions numbers have fallen about 25% since the 1990. We have made progress and it's progress we should celebrate. New received delighted applause from the audience for adding, "If you don't believe me, take our opponents word for it. Planned Parenthood said 2011 was their worst year ever.

"The bad news is that progress is in jeopardy because of Obama care. If the state-based insurance exchanges cover abortion, you will see an unprecedented amount of federal dollars flowing into the abortion industry. If abortion is a federal health benefit, that could easily jeopardize or undermine all of the state level pro-life laws we've worked so hard to pass.

"Obama care will take power away from patients and medical doctors and give it to bureaucrats who don't value the dignity and sanctity of human life. We have our work cut out for us. We have a narrow window to repeal Obama care.

New concluded the Caucus with cheers and applause. "This is the most important election ever. Next year I want to come to the MCFL rally to celebrate the election of a pro-life President!"



Professor Michael New received an ovation for saying, "Planned Parenthood called 2011 their 'worst year ever.'"



Lobby Day Attracts Students From Around the State on Feb. 21

LOBBY DAY/From Page 1

MCFL President Anne Fox began by explaining how the Doctor-Prescribed Suicide initiative petition proceeds through the legislative process. “The proponents have gathered sufficient signatures,” she said. “There will be a hearing on March 6, after which the legislature has the option of adopting it. But the legislators won’t let it through without the people’s vote because it’s too controversial. The initiative will be on the ballot in the November election.”

MCFL Lobbyist Eva Murphy talked about the five bills proposed by MCFL for this General Session: A Woman’s Right to Know (Laura’s Law), a Ban on Sex-Selection Abortions, a Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, Fetal Pain, and a Taxpayer Conscience Protection. Murphy explained that the taxpayer conscience bill would allow people to support the Baby Safe Haven Law instead of paying for abortion with tax money.

Freshman House Rep. Matthew Beaton of the 11th Worcester District told the students, “The legislative process can be daunting. There are a lot of checks and balances built in to make sure that legislators consider the issues carefully and not in the heat of the moment.”

Beaton ably handled the question of describing the process of how bills become law. “This legislative session is called the 187th General Court,” he began. “During the formal session, which lasts two years and in which representatives have two year terms, approximately 5,500 bills are filed.”

“Next, the bills are assigned to various committees, which can be either joint committees or committees in just the House or Senate. Those committees will then hold public hearings on each of the bills referred to it where legislators get input from the public and from various organizations with an interest in the subject matter of the bill. When a committee is prepared to take action on a bill, they will convene in Executive session and formally vote on whether to release the bill with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable one or choose to put the bill into a study committee and deliberate it further. If a bill is voted favorably, it moves on to the next stage.”

Beaton continued, “Bills that advance

from committee may also be examined by the Ways and Means Committee or some other committee that also has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill. If the bill receives favorable committee action, it can be put up for a vote in the House or Senate after which it would go to the other branch for them to deliberate and consider the bill. If they too are favorable toward the bill, they will vote it through as well. This initial vote to approve a bill in either branch is known as ‘engrossment.’ After a bill is engrossed in both branches, it then goes back to each branch for another final vote known as ‘enactment.’ Once a bill has been enacted by both branches, it is sent to the Governor for his signature. The Governor has the final say, he may sign or veto the bill.”

Beaton was asked if pro-life student groups, whose members are too young to vote, can have an impact on the political process. “It’s grass roots advocacy to call your legislators,” he replied. “If it’s that important for you to take your time to contact me, I’ll pay attention. Remember, the bigger the challenge, the bigger the reward.”

Do letters actually get through to the legislator or are they only seen by aides? “I see every one,” said Beaton. “We enter our constituents into a database so we’ll know where people stand on the issues.”

Sheila Harrington, Representative from the 1st Middlesex District, used a line from Narnia, the Musical to illustrate the dismissive treatment pro-life advocates often receive from those who disagree with them. “*They may mock you with scorn, still you were born to make the world right again,*” Harrington began. “You may think you’re swimming against the tide, but there’s a mission and you need to believe that you can do it.”

“The important part of our mission is to be consistent and don’t waffle under pressure,” Harrington advised the students. “Be an advocate for the underdog. It’s an honorable calling.”

Harrington is a sponsor of MCFL’s Fetal Pain Bill. She tactfully described the need for the bill to the audience of young children and teenagers. “Have you ever had a scrape on your hand?” Harrington asked. “Remember how painful it was when it wasn’t covered?”



Rep. Matthew Beaton did a great job in explaining what happens to the 5,500 bills filed in the 187th Session of the General Court.



Students gave up part of their February vacation in order to attend the Lobby Day. Afterward, they were treated to a guided tour of the State House by MCFL President Anne Fox.

“We know that when nerves are developed in an unborn baby, the endings of the nerve are still exposed. We have the capacity to anesthetize the baby to prevent suffering. We have compassion for suffering dogs and cats, why not for unborn humans?”

“Four states have outlawed abortion after twenty weeks because of fetal pain. Why does the other side oppose this legislation?” Harrington asked.

“It’s because once you’ve recognized that it’s a baby, abortion becomes harder to defend. That’s what the other side fears; recognition of an unborn baby as a human being.”



Rep. Sheila Harrington talked of the importance of retaining a consistent pro-life message even under pressure.



MCFL Lobbyist Eva Murphy explains the five bills that MCFL filed in the 2011-2012 legislative session.



Michael and Liam Beecher of Warren in front of the Massachusetts State House Directory.

Oratory Contest Begins For High School Juniors and Seniors



Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson

MCFL proudly announces the beginning of the 2012 Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson Oratory Contest for high school juniors and seniors.

Oratory Contest Chair Priscilla Keough said, "In recognition of the great devotion and work Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson provided to the youth of the Commonwealth during her lifetime, MCFL will again be holding its local oratory contest in her honor. The Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school juniors and seniors to share their pro-life views with others. Although speaking ability is important, this contest seeks to help teens organize and express their pro-life views. We also strive to give the contestants an opportunity to meet other pro-life teens."

Students who are currently juniors or seniors in high school are invited to take part in this contest. Contestants will research, write, and present an original

pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. The speech is to be 5-7 minutes in length.

First prize will be a trip for the winner and his/her guardian to the National Right to Life Committee Convention in Washington D.C. the weekend of June 28-30 to take part in the NRLC Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest. The national contest will take place on June 30.

Cash prizes will also be awarded. The second prize winner will receive \$200. \$100 will be awarded for third place.

Keough continued, "A few years ago we used the phrase, 'Stand Up, Speak Out, Save Lives' to promote the 2010 MCFL Youth Conference. It's still a very appropriate term for the Oratory Contest because it's what the students are literally doing, saving lives by their willingness to speak out in defense of human life."



2011 Oratory Contest winner Sean Harrington reprises his speech at the MCFL Respect Life Walk October 2 on Boston Common.



Stand Up

For Juniors and Seniors in High School

- Share your pro-life views with others by presenting an original pro-life speech on abortion, assisted-suicide/euthanasia, or stem cell research.

- Regional finals will be held, April 7 in Bellingham, Hingham, Methuen and a location in Western Massachusetts.

Speak Out

- Final Round, April 28 at the MCFL Office in Boston.

- First Place - Trip for the winner and his/her guardian to the National Right to Life Committee Convention in Washington D.C. the weekend of June 28-30 to take part in the NRLC Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest.

- Second Place - \$200 • Third Place - \$100

Save Lives

- For an application and contest rules contact: MassStudentsforLife@masscitizensforlife.org www.nrlc.org/Oratory/index.html

"You have one weapon, and that weapon is truth." - Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson

Help Save Lives With Rose Drives, Charitable Giving



"Now is the time to consider a Mother's Day Rose Drive at your Church or community event," said Janet Callahan MCFL Director of Special Projects and seasoned Rose Drive coordinator. "It's fun, it's easy, and the proceeds will greatly help our important life-saving work."

To order, call Janet at the MCFL office (617) 242-4199, Ext 230 or email at: jcallahan@masscitizensforlife.org.

MCFL President Anne Fox said, "In order to counter the 'Death with Dignity' petition, we have to continue to use every resource available. We must continue to push respect for life at all stages of development. We must fight the suicide question and defeat it."

"We need your help. Every year, because of your help, more people have become pro-life. We only have a few months before the election. We are counting on you again."

"Go to massprolife.com or masscitizensforlife.org and donate today!"

It's Easy to Donate Securely Online

Go to our web site at: massprolife.com/donate-now.html



Mary McDonald, wife of longtime member of the MCFL Board of Directors and former Cape Cod Chapter Chair Lloyd McDonald, passed away on December 23. This 2007 photo shows Mary with Claire Davies, one of the McDonald's 18 grandchildren.

Memorials

Martin Melia, MD

By Robert & Patricia Mirisola
Donald J. Slipp, MD
Joseph McCloskey
Brescome, Barton, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. DeBenedictis

Mary McDonald

By the MCFL Board of Directors

Andrew D. Colby

By Norma R. Colby

Francis X. Hall

By Leona M. Hall

Vincent J. Mazzi

By the MCFL Staff

Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson

By John D. Koob

Robert Amrhein

By Barbara Lund
Elaine M. Kenneally

David S. Forrester

By Francis Gibson

Cecile Martinville

By the MCFL Board of Directors

Bob Lueders

By Ken & Anne Fox

Congratulations

Laura Elizabeth Pencina

Karolina and Henryk join their parents Whitney and Michael in welcoming their new sister
By Anne Fox

Christopher Edward Triolo

Son of MCFL Assistant Director of Special Projects John and his wife Anne, brother to Jack and Anne
By the MCFL Board of Directors

Gianna Therese McLaughlin

Daughter of Andrew and Nicholi, MCFL Board of Directors Secretary
By the MCFL Board of Directors

Rose Drives

Greater Framingham Chapter

St. Linus Parish, Natick

\$400.00

St. Patrick Parish, Natick

\$1,648.00

St. Bridget Parish, Framingham

\$660.00

Total: \$2,708.00

Haverhill Chapter

All Saints Parish, Haverhill

\$215.00

North Suburban Chapter

Immaculate Conception Parish, Everett

\$546.00

MCFL Announces Legal Writing Award Winner



Winner of the National Pro-Life Legal Writing Award, Michael Fragoso speaking to the MCFL Caucus in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 23.

Massachusetts Citizens for Life has announced the winner of its first award for the best legal writing in the country. Michael Fragoso, a student at Notre Dame Law School, has won the cash award with a published legal review, "Taking Conscience Seriously or Seriously Taking Conscience?: Obstetricians, Specialty Boards, and the Takings Clause." MCFL presented the cash award to Fragoso at the MCFL Caucus on Jan. 23 in Washington, DC. (See related article on page 6.)

Legal Writing Award Founder and Award Judge Jason Miller said the award was created to "encourage law students who are passionate about pro-life issues to write about and publish those issues with the hope that these students will create high-quality legal scholarship on

pro-life topics. This kind of writing can influence the law in subtle ways. It can spark academic debate, influence judges, and slowly nudge the legal direction in a way of protecting innocent life."

Fragoso's research and paper explains how decertifying doctors because of their moral opposition to performing abortions and euthanasia could be a confiscatory action by the government, which would require compensation paid to doctors whose medical practices would be taken.

MCFL President Anne Fox stated, "Many risks have been identified in state-controlled health care, such as rationing, denial of care, and the slashing of conscience rights. Considering the number of pro-life physicians, especially obstetricians, whose livelihoods are at risk, this is a very timely entry. We are grateful to Michael Fragoso for explaining how slashing conscience rights will illegally drive doctors out of business."

Fox continued, "Since published legal research can have a significant impact on court decisions. MCFL started the National Pro-Life Legal Writing Award to reward those who are working to advance the cause of life in law. This is the only competition which encourages both the research and the publication of such research in a law school journal or review, or in an ABA journal."

Amy Pedagno, of Ave Maria Law School in Florida was chosen as the first runner-up for a soon-to-be-published piece on young women in state foster care, "Who are the Parents? In Loco Parentis, Parens Patriae, and Abortion Decision-Making for Pregnant Girls in Foster Care."

Announcing the 2012 National Pro-Life Legal Writing Award

- Legal scholarship has a large impact. Papers published in law reviews are frequently cited by courts when resolving new and undecided issues. For example, Roe v. Wade cited numerous law review articles. The majority opinion cited five different law review notes written by students. There is a significant shortage of pro-life legal scholarship, especially by students.

- Deadline: Received by November 30, 2012, midnight EST
Contest Rules: <http://massprolife.com/events/>

- Entries are currently being accepted for the 2012 year, submit yours today to legalcontest@masscitizensforlife.org and also be sure to check out contest rules before submitting.

- Prize \$750

- The winner will be announced by January 15, 2013



Komen Foundation Flip-Flops on Planned Parenthood Funding

Pro-life advocates were initially thrilled by the announcement of the Susan G. Komen Foundation of the withdrawal of future grant funding to Planned Parenthood. The excitement didn't last for long however.

Said Carol Tobias, President of the National Right to Life Committee, "Shortly after news broke earlier this week that Komen was withdrawing future grant funding to Planned Parenthood and its affiliates, the abortion giant and its allies began a shrill online campaign to bring Komen to its knees by bullying the organization into submission."

"Any decision to approve future grants approved to Planned Parenthood, which boasts a \$1.1 billion budget, would be extremely and sadly misguided. Even in their own press statements, PP states that they refer for mammograms, an indication they don't perform them."

Continued Tobias, "Planned Parenthood is not in the business of fighting breast cancer, they're in the business of performing abortions to the tune of more than 300,000 a year, which accounts for at least one-third of their non-governmental income. In fact, PP has announced that all of their affiliates will be required to perform abortions."

Beleagued Komen President Nancy Brinker tried to explain why her organization initially found Planned Parenthood unworthy of financial support. "Our original desire was to fulfill our fiduciary duty to our donors by not funding grant applications made by organizations under investigation," she said.

Pro-life nurse and blogger Jill Stanek wrote, "If Planned Parenthood is found guilty of criminal investigations, several of which are ongoing around the states, Medicaid fraud in Texas and California; fraudulent reporting and illegal abortions in Kansas, and the federal investigation; Komen's criteria will still disqualify Planned Parenthood from receiving grants. This is Komen's attempt

to get the abortion mafia off their backs. Planned Parenthood and its thugs have engaged in a typical shakedown: Give us money or we will destroy you."

A report in Investors.com showed that Planned Parenthood doesn't need taxpayer support saying, "Before Komen reversed its decision, donations exploded. Within a few hours 6,000 people donated \$400,000. A family in Dallas donated \$250,000 with New York City Mayor Bloomberg promising to match that amount. It makes it a lie that Planned Parenthood needs taxpayer money in order to function."

Another unwelcome consequence of the controversy was a February 4 Boston Herald article reporting that Susan G. Komen-Massachusetts and local Planned Parenthood affiliates were considering an alliance.

Karen Malec of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer said, "There is well-known and documented physiology supporting both induced abortion and hormonal contraceptives as risk factors for breast cancer. Yet these risks are largely unknown to women seeking family planning services. Without this knowledge, women cannot make informed choices when they are faced with the choice of an induced abortion or life for their child and the use of hormonal contraceptives."

"The role of combined oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy in the debate over the abortion/breast cancer link is related to the science of estrogen overexposure. The World Health Organization declared in 2005 that these drugs were 'carcinogenic to humans.'"

Concluded Tobias, "The National Right to Life Committee strongly urges Susan G. Komen for the Cure and all cancer research organizations to approve no further funding to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest chain of abortion clinics. Right to life supporters do not want their donations for fighting cancer to go to organizations that perform abortions."

Is March 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

Letters to the Editor

Assisted-Suicide Undermines Equal Rights for Disabled Persons

A long-time Edmonton broadcaster, Bob Layton, promoted assisted suicide on the local Global affiliate. I challenged him and we had quite an email exchange. Eventually he gave some ground but still had to remain loyal to his position.

He posed the idea of having suicide prevention for the young and assisted suicide for the sick and dying. In other words the root of the question is this: Are some lives worth protection while others are not? The answer to his question is that all lives are valued equally or the notion of equality of citizens does not exist.

If Canada will protect the suicidal but physically healthy person but not the chronically/terminally ill or disabled suicidal person...we will have effectively created a new under-class of citizen: the sick and disabled (people like me). To the 'boomers, personal choice trumps the common good. If Mr. Layton's question were to be answered in the affirmative it would prove intolerable. He talks about the young person being pressured and sees no choice but suicide and the terminally ill person who wants the right to choose. (Notice how Layton couches the question in a way to evoke certain responses in favour of assisted suicide.)

The fact is that people who are incurably ill and disabled often feel like burdens of loved ones and may opt for assisted suicide. They may be eating up the inheritance of their children and

feel pressured to get out of the way. The neglected or abused elder may grow despondent with life. It happens more often than you think. Things are not as clear cut as Layton puts them.

The fact is that terminally ill and chronically ill deserve the best palliative care available -- not imposed death whether requested or otherwise. Let me pose a question: Will euthanasia and assisted suicide curtail research for cures of terminal or chronic disease? Will the cheap compassion of euthanasia and assisted suicide triumph over expensive care and research in an area of strained government budgets?

Mark Pickup writes from Canada

Nurse Voices Opposition to Birth Control Mandate

It's been said that if you repeat a lie often enough people will start to believe it. This seems to be happening with the Obama administration's contraception mandate that would force Catholic institutions to provide birth control coverage with their health insurance. The administration has framed this solely as a health issue for women and providing access to contraception, which it is not.

The justification for forcing Catholic institutions to violate their conscience is that something like 90% of Catholics already use birth control. If this is true, then they have contradicted themselves, since clearly there is no problem accessing contraception.

The 'compromise' is that the insurance

companies would have to pay for the contraception, not the Catholic institution. It's obvious then that insurance premiums will simply go up and the Catholic institution will be paying for it. Besides birth control, the administration will also force Catholic institutions to pay for abortion drugs (the "morning after" pill) and sterilization.

Nurses such as myself, pharmacists, and other health care professionals were guaranteed during the Bush Administration the right to decline to participate in something, abortion in particular, that would violate their conscience, without fear of losing their jobs. The Obama Administration has a track record of working to remove such protection for health care workers.

I haven't heard any sympathy for the possibility of pharmacists or other health care workers losing their jobs because of their not having a choice to refuse to participate in abortion or in dispensing abortion drugs. All these "pro-choice" politicians are ironically against the choice not to violate one's conscience.

This is one line the Obama Administration must not cross. Their attempt to impose contraception, abortion drugs and sterilization on an institution that has a clear and long-standing doctrine against it should be rebuffed and exposed as the threat to religious liberty that it is. People who cry loudest about separation of church and state should not be pushing to insert state into church.

Robin Loughman is Chair of the North Adams Chapter

ultrasound

i am the child beginning to be
i am the child that no one could see
to whom no life or love is extended
barely begun and suddenly ended

i'm the rhyme that will never be written
the song that will never be sung
the soul of a life extinguished
whose time is forever undone

i am the canvas cold and white
where colors will never dance with delight
i am the promise who has no voice
the child within who has no choice

primordial soul with gifts to give
child enfleshed who cries to live
who longs to feel you warm and near
the ultrasound you cannot hear...

Linda Thayer is MCFL's Vice-President of Educational Affairs

Send Submissions for Letters to the Editor to: action@masscitizensforlife.org



We at MCFL News feel a strong obligation to reflect the interest of our readers. To this end, your feedback is essential. Please take a few minutes to fill out the short readership survey below, clip it out and return it to us at:

Survey
Mass Citizens for Life
529 Main Street, Suite 1M9
Boston, MA 02129

What you tell us will go a long way in helping us to understand ways that we can improve our publication.

How often do you read MCFL News?
Always ___ Sometimes ___ Rarely ___
Never ___

How much of each issue do you read?
All ___ Most ___ About Half ___
Less than half ___ Very little ___

After you read it, do you pass the newspaper (or particular articles) along to others?
Always ___ Sometimes ___ Never ___

How do you get the MCFL News?
By Mail ___ From my local church ___
At our Chapter Meetings ___

Overall, are you satisfied with MCFL News?

Very Satisfied ___ Satisfied ___
Ambivalent ___ Dissatisfied ___
Very Dissatisfied ___

How do you rank the coverage of MCFL events in MCFL News?

Excellent ___ Above Average ___ Satisfactory ___ Poor ___

How do you rank the quality of the writing in MCFL News?

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How do you rank the quality of the design of MCFL News?

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How do you rank the quality of the photography in MCFL News?

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Yes ___ No ___
If no, should there be more or fewer issues? More ___ Fewer ___

Which stories/sections do you read most often in MCFL News (check all that apply)

President's Message ___
State House Action ___
Lobbyist's Report ___
Federal Report ___
Letters to the Editor ___
Fictional Series ___
Calendar ___
Photo Spreads ___

Which of these sections is of least interest to you?

President's Message ___
State House Action ___
Lobbyist's Report ___
Federal Report ___
Letters to the Editor ___
Fictional Series ___
Calendar ___
Photo Spreads ___

What other content or sections would you like to see covered in MCFL News?

Chapter information ___
Speaker's Bureau Schedule ___
Other Pro-Life News ___
Other content (please explain) _____

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How long have you been a member of MCFL?

Less than 2 years ___
Between 2 and 5 years ___
Between 5 and 10 years ___
Between 10 and 20 years ___
Between 20 and 30 years ___
More than 30 years ___

What is (or was, if retired) your occupation?

Check here also if retired ___

Anything else about MCFL News or other endeavors by MCFL that you would like us to know:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you would like to become a bulk distributor of the MCFL News, please let us know by including your name, address, telephone number and the amount of newspapers you would like to receive.



Marchers from the Pine Tree State.



Waiting to start in front of the Museum of Natural History.



Young people from Evansville, Indiana carry the message from Students for Life.

D.C. March for Life January 23, 2012



Indefatigable walkers June Newman, Helen Cross and Jack Welch carried the MCFL banner the entire route of the March.

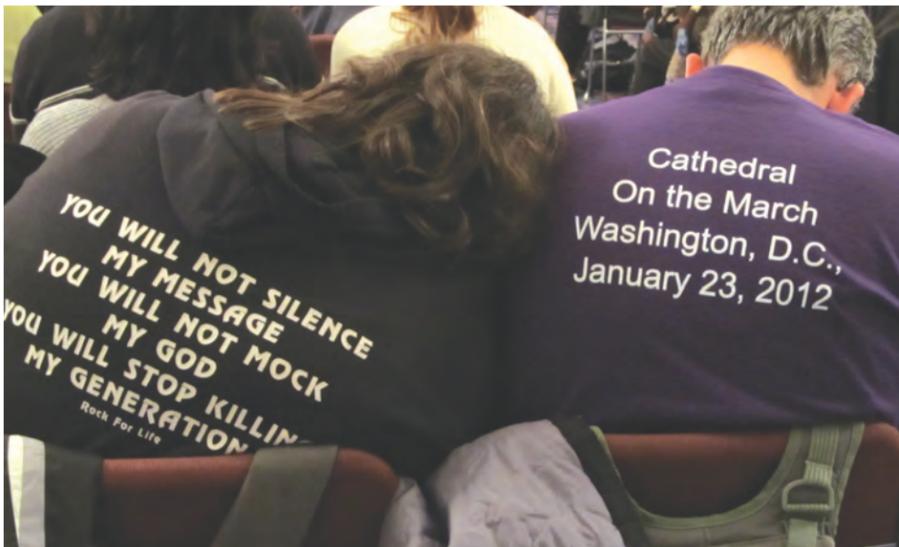
Nearly 500,000 Brave the Elements to Defend Life

Optimistic forecasts of temperatures in the 50's proved false as a crowd of nearly half a million pro-lifers endured a nasty day of biting cold and intermittent showers in order to commemorate the 39th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. So many people participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 23, that progress along Constitution Avenue resembled the worst of any Boston rush hour traffic jam. Unrelieved stop-and-go walking left many wondering if they would be able to get to the finish line at the Supreme Court in time to catch their transportation for the ride home.

"I've never seen it like this before," said MCFL Board of Directors member June Newman who carried the blue MCFL banner the entire length of the March route. "We thought we might not get home until Christmas," she quipped.

Getting to the March wasn't easy for many either. One group from Missouri reported riding their bus for 30 hours, six hours being a delay caused by a snowstorm in Indiana.

On returning home, family, friends fellow students or co-workers might ask a pro-lifer, why do you put yourself through such an ordeal? It's an opportunity waiting to be answered.



The MCFL Caucus in the Russell Senate Office Building gave exhausted travelers a chance to rest before the March.



Students from Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro.

