Steps Off at La Salette Shrine in Attleboro

A beautiful day showcases the monument to the unborn, a gift to the La Salette Shrine from the Knights of Columbus.

Ben Bailey, Walk Baby Julia, her mom Katie, sister Anna and dad Larry, Katie Fox, Beatrice and Amelia White, MCFL President Anne Fox and Luke Cerullo start the 2013 Respect Life Walk.

Walkers of all ages came out to raise money to support 43 organizations that help women in need choose life for their unborn children at the Respect Life Walk at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Attleboro on April 28. (Photos by Edward Boylan)

40 Years: A Dark Harvest of Inhumanity
Gosnell’s "House of Horrors"/Late-Term Abortions Provide a Teachable Moment for Pro-Lifers

It may be springtime on the calendar, but a plethora of horrors from the trial of late-term abortionist Kermit Gosnell, the revelations by undercover video from Lila Rose’s Live Action showing the willingness of cold-hearted abortionists to recommend and countenance infanticide, and an astonishing number of abuse cases being recorded daily at abortion facilities nationwide, show how 40 years of abortion on demand has led to the darkness of inhumanity and the devaluation of human life. “This is ‘movement moment’ for the pro-life community,” said MCFL consultant Tim Rosales. “This is a teachable moment for our movement to expose the brutality of an unlimited abortion license in injuring and debasing countless numbers of women and the destruction of millions of born and unborn children.”

Kermit Gosnell’s House of Horrors
The trial of Dr. Kermit Gosnell found the late-term abortionist facing 263 counts, including seven counts of first-degree murder and one count of third-degree murder. He was convicted of first-degree murder in the deaths of three babies who were born alive and killed by having their spinal cords severed, and found guilty of involuntary manslaughter for the death of a woman who died of a drug overdose during an abortion. Gosnell was facing the death penalty. After agreeing to drop any attempts at appealing the decision, Gosnell received three life sentences. In a 2010 raid at the Women’s Medical Society in West Phila-

Save the Date!
Live Action’s Lila Rose will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming MCFL Annual Banquet on October 10.

Convention/Annual Meeting, June 29
“Get Real” will feature topics on getting back to the basics of abortion and euthanasia.

MCFL Plans 2013 Summer Academy
Academy returns on July 10 with top-notch educational opportunities for youth.

How I Became Pro-Life
A new series of pro-life stories starts with a post-abortion woman’s journey to life.

Respect Life Walk
More photos from the 2013 Walk to Aid Mothers and Children.
Gosnell No Outlier: Late-Term Abortion Abuse Widespread

A premature baby close to the size of the children illegally aborted at Gosnell’s clinic. Pro-abortion groups tried to frame the case by saying that legal abortion protects women from degrading conditions. But Fox News got it right when it said, “This case wasn’t about abortion. It was about the killing of babies.”

delphia, police found much more than Mongar, a Bhutanese immigrant. Moreover, overdose death in 2009 of Karnamaya was only done to end the reflex movement or severing the spinal cords of the babies, abortion doctor’s practice of “snipping,” White women were treated by Gosnell given labor-inducing drugs in the filthy room where they sat on dirty recliners waiting in the waiting room or the recovery room where they sat on dirty recliners covered with blood stained blankets. Investigators found what they describes as a “house of horrors,” the remains of aborted fetuses stored everywhere, in the refrigerator next to employee lunchboxes, in cat food and orange juice containers, and in jars containing severed feet. Said former staffer Steve Masoff, “It would rain fetuses. There were fetuses and blood all over the place.

Abortions after 24 weeks are illegal in Pennsylvania, except to save the life of the mother. Despite this, by 2009, Gosnell’s reputation was so bad, that he began catering to women who had waited so long to get an abortion that they couldn’t go anywhere else. His main clientele, poor women of color, were given labor-inducing drugs in the filthy lobby by untrained employees, including a 15-year-old high school student. White women were treated by Gosnell himself in a separate, clean room. The women would give birth, sometimes to living babies, who, eyewitnesses said were, “moving, breathing, or whimpering.” Gosnell’s defense lawyer claimed that the abortion doctor’s practice of “snipping,” or severing the spinal cords of the babies, was only done to end the reflex movement of an already dead infant. Gosnell was also found guilty for the overdose death in 2009 of Kamaryaa Mongar, a Bhutanese immigrant. Mongar was given too much of the cheap and dangerous drug Demerol, when staff finally noticed she wasn’t breathing, a broken defibrillator made resuscitation impossible. Much of Gosnell’s equipment was broken and dirty. Women had acquired infections such as gonorrhea and chlamydia from his filthy instruments. At the time of his arrest, Gosnell was paying for 46 lawsuits from women he had injured.

The Grand Jury found numerous failures to report information which could have been used to close the clinic. In 1993, the Department of Health stopped inspecting abortion clinics, unless they reported information which could have been used to close the clinic. In 1993, the Department of Health stopped inspecting abortion clinics, unless they received a complaint. Complaints against Gosnell were frequent, from lawyers for women who were injured or were infected with venereal disease at the facility, to former staffers who warned about dangerous conditions. The Department of State ignored an insurance company report about a 22 year old woman who died of sepsis after a perforated uterus. The Philadelphia Health Department inspected after receiving reports that fetal remains were being stored in the refrigerator, but did noting. The hospitals where women injured by Gosnell received treatment did not report these injuries to any authority. Both Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the National Abortion Federation knew about the deplorable conditions at the Women’s Medical Society but they did nothing about it. After inspection of the wretched facility, an evaluator from the NAF denied Gosnell’s application for membership saying it was “beyond redemption.”

Wrote Dave Andrusko in National Right to Life News Today, “Why was Gosnell delivering babies alive and then killing them? He was paying money on 46 lawsuits. Gosnell had stopped killing them in 2009, the Department of Health stopped investigating. Live Action said Carhart’s testimony is shocking and sickening. He compares a baby in the womb to ‘meat in a slow cooker.’ He jokes about his abortion toolkit, complete with pick and drill. ‘You can’t have it both ways.’ said National Right to Life President Dave Andrusko in National Right to Life News Today, “Why was Gosnell delivering babies alive and then killing them? He was paying money on 46 lawsuits. Gosnell had stopped killing them in 2009, the Department of Health stopped investigating. Live Action said Carhart’s testimony is shocking and sickening. He compares a baby in the womb to ‘meat in a slow cooker.’ He jokes about his abortion toolkit, complete with pick and drill. ‘You can’t have it both ways.’

Another video has an abortion counselor in the Bronx describing what would happen to a baby born alive before the completion of the two to three day abortion procedure. “They would have to leave the baby to die in a container.” If it was moving or breathing, “The solution will make it stop. It’s not going to be moving around in the jar...that’s the whole purpose of the solution.” What to do if the baby is born at home before the abortion? “If it comes out, then it comes out. Flush it,” the counselor recommended. Washington D.C. abortionist Dr. Cesare Santangelo told a Live Action investigator that he would leave babies who survive an abortion attempt to die. “Legally we would be obligated to help it survive,” Santangelo said. “You know, it probably wouldn’t. It’s all how vigorously you do things to help a fetus survive at this point. We would not help it.”

In Phoenix, a fourth video records both the abortion doctor, Laura Mercel, and the counselor admitting that they would leave an abortion survivor to die. “These children are human beings, ” Lisa Rose said. “They have the same basic human rights and deserve the same protections all of us enjoy.”

Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of the Susan B. Anthony List said, “The abortion lobby claims Gosnell is an outlier, but the footage released by Live Action reveals that abortion treatment leaves women and children as pieces of meat. Congress must address the multi-state breakdown of oversight in the abortion industry as well as the barbarism of abortions performed on children capable of feeling pain and surviving outside the womb.”

Another Loss: Remembering Laura

The Woman's Right to Know Bill, an informed consent law proposed by MCFL, is also named “Laura’s Law” in remembrance of Laura Hope Smith who died during an abortion due to the negligence of her doctor. In 2008, Doctor Rapin Ousathansodh was charged with manslaughter for Smith’s death. Prosecutors alleged that he failed to monitor Laura while she was under anesthesia, delayed calling emergency services when her heart stopped, and later lied to try to cover up his actions. As reported by msnbc.com the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine issued a “scathing list of charges against him, alleging that he had engaged in conduct that calls into question his competence to practice medicine.”

“The board said Ousathansodh did not have any means of resuscitating Smith’s heart, and did not have oxygen or a functioning blood pressure cuff in the room during Smith’s abortion. The board also alleged that he “failed to adhere to basic cardiac life support protocol” and did not call an ambulance in a timely manner.”

MCFL contends that women seeking abortions are not safe absent any meaningful regulation of the abortion industry. Women deserve no less.

The Laura’s of “Laura’s Law,” Laura Hope Smith
Arkes Calls for Pro-Life Strategy in Wake of Gosnell Trial

Law Professor Hadley Arkes said now is a strategic time to put penalties back into the federal law that restores legal protection to babies who are born alive following an abortion. Arkes’s book, “Natural Rights and the Right to Choose,” recounts his crafting of the Born Alive Infants Protection Act.

industry claims they are, noting the re-voking of medical licenses of California’s Andrew Rurland and Maryland’s Steven Brigham.

USA Today columnist Kirsten Pow-ers received praise from NRLC’s Dave Andrusko for bringing the Gosnell case national attention. In an opinion piece for USA Today, Kirsten Powers reported that the closing arguments in the Gos- nell case “leave questions about clinics elsewhere in America. Gosnell’s abor-tion atrocities are no aberration.” Pow-ers recounted the closing of an abortion facility in Ohio with problems similar to Gosnells: assistants administering powerful drugs to patients, missing narcotics and sedatives, lapsed pharmacy licenses, and staff unscreeend for a communicable disease.

Wrote Powers, “Planned Parenthood of Delaware has suspended surgical abortions after charges of dangerous and dirty conditions. Two nurses who worked there quit to protect their own medical licenses, stunned by what they called a meat-market style of assembly-line abortions.” Powers cited the recent closing of three clinics in Maryland for unsafe conditions. In Illinois, after state officials began inspections after a lapse of ten to fifteen years, “improp-erly performed two clinics, including one fined for failure to perform CPR on a patient who died after a procedure.”

Andrusko lauded Pennsylvania State Rep. Marlo Davidson as the only mem-ber of the Democratic black caucus to vote in favor of a bill to strengthen abor-tion clinic regulations. Davidson was quoted by Powers as saying, “the choice community knew what was going on and said nothing.”

Powers wrote, “Davidson concluded that for the choice community, the in-stigation was more important than the individual lives.” Davidson knows what can happen when people choose to look the other way. Her 22-year-old cousin died after an abortion at Gosnell’s clinic.

A strategic moment

Chicago nurse Jill Stanek blew the whistle on the practice of “live-birth” abortion, abandoning babies to die who had survived an abortion attempt. Her explosive testimony helped to pass a fed-eral statute, the Born Alive Infants Pro-

tection Act in 2000. In a May 7 article in The Catholic Thing, Hadley Arkes, the architect of the bill, wrote that now is a strategic moment to restore penalties to the Act. Wrote Arkes, “The bill had a teaching premise, to plant a critical premise in law that even a child marked for abortion may have protection of the law. It was also the first congressional act marking the limits to the ‘right to abor-tion.’”

However, penalties for the failure to aid a child born alive after a failed abortion were removed for fear that pro-abortion President Bill Clinton would veto the bill. “The Gosnell case offers a dramatic case for holding hearings again on the Born Alive act for the sake of restoring penalties that had been dropped from the original bill,” Arkes continued.

At a recent House Judiciary Commit-tee hearing, Rep. Trent Franks asked US Attorney Eric Holder if he knew wheth-er the federal “Born Alive” law had been enforced even one time. “I don’t know,” Holder replied.

Congress also sent letters to public health officials in all 50 states asking them what they are doing to prevent “House of Horrors” abortion clinics like Kermit Gosnells. The House Energy and Commerce Committee sent the letters to see if state health departments are making sure that abortion facilities have the same safeguards as any other medical facility. Committee Vice-Chair Marsha Blackburn said, “Overight and enforce-ment are desperately needed so we can stop these Gosnell scenarios from happe ning.”

“Gosnell Grand Jury said a regu-latory collapse” let him operate for de-cades. The House Judiciary Committee sent a letter to all 50 state attorneys gen-eral. The letter seeks to find out if state and local governments are being prevented from investigating possible cases of new-born homicides.

Arkes explained the genius of the “Born Alive Bill,” in his own words, ‘a modest, first step.’ “Whatever the ‘right to abor-tion’ might be, it cannot be the right to kill a child who survived an abortion. We can then raise the question of what is different about that same child five minutes, five days, five months earlier. The other side knows that if we plant this premise, we can unravel their whole position - if we have a class of pro-life political leaders ready to push the whole argument forward.”

Another piece by Arkes on May 21, asked, “Are We In a Post Gosnell Mo-ment?” He quoted Kirsten Powers re-marking that pro-choice friends of hers are shocked to learn that abortions can be performed throughout pregnancy.

“It was one of the driving purposes of the Born-Alive Act to impart that precise effect - to break out to the public news that even pro-choicers would find jolt-ing,” wrote Arkes.

Arkes showed how the Born Alive Act established an important legal premise. “The Act also gave us the chance to prove this key point: that if the Supreme Court could articulate a new constitutional right - a right to abortion - the legisla-tive branch must be able to vindicate the same right on the ground in the Consti-tution discovered by the Court, and in filling out that right, marking its limits.”

“What should not be tenable is that the Court can articulate new rights - and then assign to itself a monopoly of leg-islative power in shaping those rights. What we sought to establish then was that the Congress may indeed legislate on this matter. Let us put these key points in place with new hearings on the Born-Alive Act.”

A Townhall.com article by Kathryn Lopez on April 13 said, “There is a com-placency that cannot stand. It was a lack of charity that drove women to Gosnells and they certainly found no love within the walls of his facility. The desensitiza-tion that 40 years of legal abortion has wrought must be undone. The legal cli-mate promotes an idea of unborn chil-dren as non-people, undeserving of care, love, or even the briefest consideration – that created a space for Gosnell to work.”

The Super Coil
From the Grand Jury Report (Pages 96-98)
“The Mother’s Day Massacre”

In 1972, Gosnell offered to abort fif-teen poor women who were bused to his clinic from Chicago. For women were in their second trimester of preg-nancy. Unbeknownst to the women, Gosnell planned to use an experimental device called a “super coil” devel-oped by a man who ran an under-ground abortion service in the 1950’s. The device was basically a ball of plas-matic razors coated in a gel to keep them closed. After insertion into a woman’s uterus, the gel would melt after several hours at body temperature and the 97 razors would spring open. Supposed-ly, this would cut up the fetus and it would then be expelled.

The device was never tested, even on animals, lacked FDA sanction, and there were never any other human tri-a ls. This experiment was decided upon by Gosnell and the developer of the coil. A follow-up investigation by the CDC and the Philadelphia Depart-ment of Public Health detailed serious complications suffered by nine of the fifteen women, including one woman who needed a hysterectomy. Complication s included a punctured uterus, hemorrhage, infections and retained fetal remains.

More information: Philadelphia Inquirer on super coil
Health Serve Report on super coils

Save the Date!
Massachusetts Citizens for Life
Annual Fundraising Banquet
Thursday, October 10, 2013
Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel
1125 Boston Providence Turnpike, Norwood

• Founder and President of LIVEACTION specializing in investigative journalism, media, and youth education

• Numerous undercover investigations exposing corruption and illegal activity at Planned Parenthood

• Award Winning National and International Pro-Life Speaker


• Featured newspaper and blog pieces by Reuters, the LA Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Times, and National Review

The Mother’s Day Massacre

From the Grand Jury Report (Pages 96-98)

Arkes Calls for Pro-Life Strategy in Wake of Gosnell Trial
Focus on Abortion and Euthanasia Issues in Massachusetts

A Message From President Anne Fox

McFL President Anne Fox hits the pavement at the Respect Life Walk.

"Late-term abortionist Kermit Gosnell has been convicted of first degree murder for killing babies after delivering them alive...."

- Professor Robbie George

"But Dr. Gosnell is only the front man; and the real trial has only just begun. The defendant is the abortion license in America."

- Professor Robert George

We have always known that it was good to have abortion in the news. The more people have to think about abortion, the more pro-life are their conclusions.

Well, abortion has certainly been in the news recently: the Gosnell conviction, the atrocities in Cleveland, the exposes on Planned Parenthood, the discovery of another Gosnell in Texas. By the time you receive this edition of the McFL News, there will probably be more examples.

The media is gleefully pointing out that public opinion has not changed much during the Gosnell trial. They are bragging because that is the result of their not covering the trial. Unless one dug around on the internet or received MCFL emails, one did not hear about the horrors – let alone the trial itself. That is also true about the Planned Parenthood lobbyist who testified to the Florida legislature that the life of a baby who survived an abortion should depend on the decision of the mother and her doctor, about facilities in Delaware and Florida which have just been closed by health authorities, or about the Texas Gosnell who twisted off the heads of babies who survived abortion - just like killing chickens.

The media and the pro-death lobby have hung themselves on their own petard over the Castro case on Cleveland. They featured it to take away interest from some of the presidential scandals. Then it developed that the monster had caused five abortions by stomping on the heads of babies. As J.R. Dunn writes in American Thinker, "A problem with the battle against abortion is that it did not have a face. Now, at last, it does. That face must now be fused to the features of his [Gosnell’s] supporters and collaborators, so it can’t be taken off. In truth, Gosnell resides in them all. They must be made to acknowledge that fact. When they look in the mirror, they must see Kermit Gosnell gaping back at them: the werewolf in Massachusetts! We can’t be sure - because Massachusetts has essentially NO regulations. In the 1970’s, Massachus- sets Citizens for Life was instrumental in passing a law which required, among other things, that abortion facilities have fire extinguishers and elevators that would accommodate stretchers. This sensible law was overturned. Massachusetts does not even require these basic safeguards for women. Abortion fac- ilities have much lower standards than any other type of surgical facility, and so-called ‘doctor’s offices’ like the one where Laura Hope Smith died, have no oversight at all! Massachusetts has the 9th highest abortion rate in the country! More than 22,000 babies are killed in our state every year. That has to stop! We desper- ately need our state to actively protect the lives and health of mothers and their babies.

Massachusetts Citizens for Life is starting a campaign to make the Massachu- setts Department of Public Health reveal whether or not they have any standards or do any inspections of abortion facili- ties. We will be pressing them to answer these questions and to apply the same standards to abortion facilities as they do to other ambulatory medical facilities.

As we embark on this endeavor over the next few weeks we hope that you will get involved in our effort. You can make a difference!

Now that the general public is aware of the Gosnell atrocities, we have the op- portunity to shed light on other Gosnells who are operating in the shadows, possi- bly right here in Massachusetts.

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An Interview With New Outreach Director Matt Hanafin

Hanafin: I come from a very large, pro-life family, but it wasn’t until I was a sophomore in high school when I started to become active in the movement. A coworker said she was pregnant and that her boyfriend didn’t want her to have the baby. Naively, I assumed she was giving the baby up for adoption. It wasn’t until after she left the job that another coworker said she was planning on having an abortion. It tormented me thinking there was a possibility I could have helped this young woman, and possibly saved that unborn child’s life. I learned quickly that there is a difference between calling yourself pro-life and actually being pro-life. From that moment on, I educated myself on pro-life issues and read everything I possibly could. My aunt asked me to co-chair a MCFL chapter, which began my involvement with MCFL. The pro-life ideology consumed me, and quickly began to define who I was, and who I am.

Hanafin: There is no doubt in my mind that the people of my generation are predominantly pro-life, and certainly more pro-life than the previous generations. The former president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, actually stepped down as President of the pro-abortion organization because she witnessed the hundreds of thousands of pro-life youth at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The pro-abortion lobby is petrified that the younger generations are not only personally opposed to abortion, but actively opposed to abortion. Hundreds of pro-life groups are populating college and high school campuses around the country. My role as the new Director of Outreach and Development is to work with MCFL’s Girard School of Business and Merrimack’s Business Honor Society, Sigma Iota Epsilon, and was the co-founder of Merrimack’s pro-life group on campus. While attending school as a full-time student, I was also working two jobs. I worked at a local bank in my hometown, while also working as the Data Clerk for MCFL. I also served on MCFL’s Board of Directors and Executive Board.

MCFL News: What is your new position at MCFL?
Hanafin: My goal is to increase our membership base by working with the youth as well as young established adults. A lot of individuals in the state of Massachusetts are pro-life, but in order to promote the pro-life agenda, individuals need to support pro-life organizations. MCFL is the pro-life organization in Massachusetts, and we need the financial support of these individuals to accomplish our pro-life goals.

MCFL News: What else is there about your life that readers might enjoy learning about?
Hanafin: I am one of about fifty individuals from around the country to have attended National Right to Life’s Summer Academy, a program that every pro-life college student should look into.

MCFL News: Would you share your background with us?
Hanafin: I just finished my undergraduate degree at Merrimack College studying Business Administration majoring in management and minoring in Political Science. I am graduating with a 3.9 GPA. I recently accepted an award from Merrimack’s Girard School of Business and International Commerce for having the highest GPA as a management student. I was also the Vice President of Merrimack’s Business Honor Society, Sigma Iota Epsilon, and was the co-founder of Merrimack’s pro-life group on campus.

MCFL News: What are some of the most important or compelling things that motivate you?
Hanafin: The thing that motivates me the most is the humanity of the unborn. I am not satisfied with living in a world that thinks it is morally permissible to take the life of an innocent human being. Abortion is truly the greatest injustice this country, and this world, has ever seen. Once my eyes were opened to the reality of abortion, I knew that I would never be able to turn my back on it because in my opinion, apart from is worse than ignorance. My objective is to try and work to create a culture of life where we love both mother AND child, and stop the culture that is pitting parents against their children.

MCFL News: Is it true that young people are more strongly pro-life, and fundraising events. If anyone is interested in starting a chapter, they can contact me at mhanafin@masscitizens-forlife.org.

MCFL News: As the youngest member of the MCFL Board of Directors, how do you hope to shape the future direction of MCFL?
Hanafin: My goal is to increase our membership base by working with the youth as well as young established adults. A lot of individuals in the state of Massachusetts are pro-life, but in order to promote the pro-life agenda, individuals need to support pro-life organizations. MCFL is the pro-life organization in Massachusetts, and we need the financial support of these individuals to accomplish our pro-life goals.


“We also oppose certain bills that others have filed concerning sex education. The Health Curriculum Frameworks bills (H 366, H 421, H 430 and S 202, S 209) need to be countered and kept from going forward. We need to support certain bills that would repeal the Transgender Law (H 1479) and prohibit the Transgender Law from applying to private spaces such as school bathrooms and locker rooms (H 1354). We also need to oppose a bill requiring equal access to all public places (H 1589) and a bill to make it difficult for children confused about their sexual orientation and gender identity to get appropriate counseling (H 154).”

2013-2014 Legislative Agenda
The Gosnell trial, another Gosnell trial in Texas, the gruesome abortion in Cleveland, scandals and closings at Planned Parenthood, and the concern about lack of standards and regulations in Massachusetts all bring us back to basics. We will explore the latest on why we are pro-life - opposing abortion and euthanasia, why women have abortions, what are the consequences, what are the barriers to decent care and accessible counseling, the current legal situation, and more.

Massachusetts Citizens for Life is launching a drive to make the Department of Public Health reveal their regulations, if any, and inspection policies, if any. The goal is for the department to treat abortion facilities the same as ambulatory surgical facilities.

My name is Kelly Coluci, and I am a 17-year-old senior at Burlington High School in Burlington, MA. I have attended the Respect Life Walk my entire life. These walks, along with the pro-life cause itself, are very important to me, and I am dedicated to standing up for innocent lives. After talking with my peers, I have found that many people are misinformed about abortion and other life issues. They are completely unaware of the effects, or the processes, of abortion, and in some instances, I have found people who do not even know what an abortion is. I was in awe when I realized this, and it caused both me and my sister Haley, Esq. to become more open to the pro-life position, and rarely, others get upset.

I believe more students should start pro-life clubs in schools, and students should advertise the Respect Life Walk as a way to educate their fellow peers on the pro-life cause.

One of the major fundraising events the Student Lifeline Club took part in was the Respect Life Walk. We were able to fill an entire bus with students, were introduced to the crowd, and helped lead the procession. In our club we were adamant about advertising this walk more than any other activity or fundraiser that took place. The great speakers and the people who walk are unparalleled in their encouragement, support, and information. The Respect Life Walk not only raises awareness about abortion, but it also raises funds for numerous beneficiaries that help pregnant mothers and children in need. As an active participant in the annual walk, I have also participated in collecting donations and sponsors for the Respect Life Walk and the pro-life cause.

Through the Eyes of a High School Student

The 2013 Respect Life Walk Experience

MCFL 2013 Convention Theme
“Get Real”

Confirmed Speakers
• Mary Girard, R.N. • Prof. Jackie Nolan Haley, Esq. • Rev. Jurgen Liias • Phil Moran, Esq. • Prof. Scott Fitzgibbons, Esq.
MCFL Summer Academy Gearing Up for 2013 Season

Tommy Keeley of Braintree received the Ruth V.K. Pakaluk Pro-Life Youth Award from the College of the Holy Cross at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester on April 8. Keeley is a graduating senior at Holy Cross and is an alumnus of St. Sebastian’s School in Needham. The award, named in honor of former MCFL President Ruth Pakaluk, honors a student who has shown outstanding witness to the value of human life. Keeley was chosen for the award by Worcester Diocese Bishop Robert McManus.

Keeley took over as co-chair of Holy Cross Students for Life with the goal of making the bi-weekly meetings more discussion-based. Said Keeley, “Our meetings were mostly about going to the March for Life and then talking about it afterward. We wanted to give students more of a reason to attend. We would listen to a song that had a pro-life message and read an article from Wall St. Journal or the New York Times and discuss them.

“We brought in local speakers such as people from Worcester’s Problem Pregnancy who would talk about what they offered to help women. Some of the students also had relatives involved in sidewalk counseling who would come to our meetings and tell us what they did to help save lives. We showed the pro-life movies Bella and October Baby. In the spring, we brought in an outside speaker. Continued Keeley, “A Cemetery of the Innocents with crosses representing aborted children gave us an opportunity to engage people on campus. We didn’t have any opposition in creating the display, instead we had many fruitful discussions with people who disagreed with us.”

“One of my rugby teammates who came to meetings said he was pro-choice but admitted to being unsure about his position. He ended up by becoming pro-life.

“The motto of Holy Cross Students for Life is: ‘Defending life from the womb to the tomb.’ We had discussions on other life issues such as capital punishment, unjust war and euthanasia.”

The pro-life ethic is strong in the Keeley family. Tommy is the youngest of Esther and Tom Keeley’s five children and has four older sisters.

“Everyone’s been involved in pro-life in one way or another,” Esther Keeley said. “Our daughter Megan was President of Teens for Life and we’ve gone to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. as a family. We’ve all prayed in front of abortion clinics.”

“Tommy’s four sisters had an influence on him. With the girls attending the Montrose School and Tommy at St. Sebastian’s, they are part of the John Paul II generation. Their great love for John Paul motivated them so much that they were compelled to attend his funeral. He impacted the lives of so many young people.”

Keeley remarked. Life goes on for the Keeley family. After graduation, Tommy will work for a finance firm specializing in portfolio management software. Esther and Tom will soon welcome their tenth grandchild.

“The most effective way to change someone’s position from pro-choice to pro-life is to talk to them respectfully,” concluded Tommy Keeley. “I heard someone say that you have to love people into the movement. Maybe sit down and pray with them.”

Tommy Keeley with his mother Esther and father Tom at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester on April 8.

Keeley Receives the Ruth Pakaluk Pro-Life Youth Award

In order to present a thorough overview of the main life issues, the pro-life movement, and the various ways that these students can and should get involved, we will hold eight weekly sessions. With the exception of the first and last sessions, our preference is for students who can and will commit to attending all, or at least most, of the sessions. An award certificate will be conferred during the last session, which will also serve as a “commissioning ceremony” for these MCFL Ambassadors.

2013 Summer Academy Dates:

WEEK 1: Wednesday, July 10
Topic: Prenatal Development and Abortion – how to share this information with your friends

WEEK 2: Wednesday, July 17
Topic: Consequences of Abortion – personal testimony. Pro-life counseling and Pregnancy Resource Centers

WEEK 3: Wednesday, July 24
Topic: Legislative Process and specific legislation in Massachusetts, meet local legislators

WEEK 4: Wednesday, July 31
Topic: Doctor-Prescribed Suicide and End of Life Issues

WEEK 5: Wednesday, August 7
Topic: Moral questions in the areas of life and reproduction

WEEK 6: Wednesday, August 14
Family and guests invited to ceremony and October Baby Call to Ambassadorship: Conferment of Awards and Commissioning as Ambassadors Movie: October Baby

Help Us Educate the Pro-Life Generation!

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

It’s Easy to: Donate Securely Online!

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It’s Easy to: Donate Securely Online!
Joe Hamel, with his late wife Joan, who died in 2003, has been a member of MCFL since 1972. He was a founding member of the Natick Chapter, later joined the Wellesley Chapter, and now is a member of the Greater Framingham Chapter. In January 1992 at the Interfaith Assembly for Life in Boston, the Hamel family received the Family of the Year Award. Joe gives out bumper stickers at the MCFL Walk for Life on Boston Common and at the March for Life in Washington D.C. He attends National Right to Life Convention every 4 years.

Peggy Bradford

Peggy Bradford is a life-long resident of Chicopee and holds a B.A. from the College of Our Lady of the Elms. She served as chair of the College Pro-Life Chapter, becoming involved at the age of 17. From 1983-1986 she was the first Office Director at the Pioneer Valley Office of MCFL. She has a background in legal work as a paralegal. Peggy was Chicopee Chapter Chairman from 1982-1988. Currently on the Pro-Life Commission of the Diocese of Springfield, she has been employed as a teacher, Director of Religious Education, Federal Census Worker and pastoral minister. Most recently, she served as Western Mass Field Director against Doctor Prescribed Suicide. Her interests are in fundraising, education and legislation.

William Donovan is the oldest of six siblings, two brothers and three sisters, growing up in Roslindale. He will have been married to Annmarie (Sheridan) Donovan for 40 years this October. They are parents to three boys. William received a Honorable Discharge from the U.S Navy SeaBees and has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 45 years. He works for Brodie Toyota Lift: A communicator at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Walpole and Walpole resident, William is the current Culture of Life Director for the Mass. State Council Knights of Columbus and a past State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus in Massachusetts.

Matt Hanafin

Matt Hanafin was elected to the MCFL Board of Directors after his freshman year of college, and has continued to serve on the board for the past three years. While on the board, Matt has been an advocate for youth involvement in the pro-life movement, and says, “The youth are not the future leaders of the pro-life movement, they are today’s leaders of the movement.” He is one of fifty college students to graduate from the National Right to Life Academy, a five week program for pro-life college activists around the country, in Washington, D.C.

J. David Franks

J. David Franks, Ph.D., is a member of the full-time faculty of Saint John’s Seminary in Boston, teaching courses in systematic and moral theology. He also serves as the vice president for mission of the Seminary’s Theological Institute for the New Evangelization, which provides whole-person formation for laypersons. He and his wife Angela co-host a series for CatholicTV called “Christian Witness.” They are the parents of Caterina, John-Paul, Thérèse, Benedict, Maximalian, and Cecilia Rose. David’s scholarly interests include integrating the theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar with the achievement of Saint Thomas Aquinas, as well as showing the centrality of family and the right to life for social justice.

Beth Joyce

Beth Joyce works in Compliance at Boston Children’s Hospital, and is an RN and has an MBA. She is a member of St. Theresa of Avila’s in West Roxbury, where she is a Lector. She has also served as a Lector at St. Paul’s in Cambridge and St. Mary of the Hills in Milton.

Sandi Martinez has shown her commitment to traditional values through her campaigns for the State Senate seat in the Third Middlesex District of Massachusetts, as a member of and former State Director for 11 years of Concerned Women for America, and as a regional director for the Coalition for Marriage and Family. A former President of the Mass. Republican Assembly and a two-term elected Republican State Committee-woman, Sandi believes, “government needs to be accountable to we the people.” She is producer and host of “Speak Our”, an issues oriented local access TV Show with over 100 shows to date, and is very interested in using the media to further the pro-life cause.

Sandi Martinez

Sandi Martinez (I)

Danielle Olsen (I)

Patrick Stewart (I)

Peggy Bradford

Bridget Fay

Bridget Fay has graduated from Tufts with a degree in engineering and from Washington and Lee Law School. She has been volunteering her legal skills with Massachusetts Citizens for Life. Bridget brings a valuable point of view to the movement.

“Immediately after graduating from law school, I worked as a research assis-

tant to a pro-life professor at my university, focusing on partial-birth abortion. I would love to do more work directly with the pro-life movement.”

J. David Franks

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1997. He serves on the Parish Council of Immaculate Conception in Revere and is the pro-life representative and Rose Drive coordinator for the parish. He helped to organize the Dana Concerts at St. Mary's in Franklin in 1997 and West Roxbury in 1998. For several years he has helped organize the registration table at the Respect Life Walk for Mothers and Children. Ed is part of a team trained by the Archdiocese of Boston to give talks on end-of-life issues.

and three children.

Although Kerry has been pro-life throughout her life, it was during her time at Georgetown, where she took a feminist bioethics course, that she came to realize that abortion not only hurts babies, but also women. Since then, she has tried to speak out regarding the damage abortion does to women. She has a passion for promoting an authentic feminism and for revitalizing the body politic through a re-commitment to thoughtful discourse and dialogue.

Stephen Mooney

Stephen Mooney, an attorney specializing in tax, estate planning, probate and bankruptcy, is admitted to the bar in Massachusetts and New York. Steve negotiated license agreements with most of the Fortune 100 and co-authored Digital Rights Management: Business and Technology. A citizen of Ireland and the US, Steve received a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire, a J.D. from Fordham Law School and an L.L.M (Taxation) from Boston University Law School. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) program at the Theological Institute for the New Evangelization (TINE) at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton where the ongoing, though not quite yet complete, divorce of the civil law from the natural law has become clearer to him.

For Steve, the problem is nicely summarized in A Canticle for Leibowitz: “To minimize suffering and to maximize security were natural and proper ends of society and Caesar. But then they became the only ends, somehow, and the only basis of law—a perversion. Inevitably, then, in seeking only them, we found only their opposites: maximum suffering and minimum security.” Steve believes that law and culture have come suffering and minimum security.” Steve

Danielle Olsen

Danielle Olsen works for the Archdiocese of Boston in the Office for the New Evangelization of Youth and Young adults. Through her position she is able to serve the pro-life cause by organizing a pilgrimage for young people to the D.C. March for Life each year for the Archdiocese and encouraging participation among youth and young adults for the annual MCFL Respect Life Walk. Danielle’s passion for the pro-life movement was cultivated as an undergraduate at The Catholic University of America (CUA), where she studied theology and psychology. She organized campus events to raise awareness of pro-life issues and frequently participated as a prayer team member and sidewalk counselor at Planned Parenthood. She was mentored by Msgr. Edward Riley, founder of Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, during annual retreats.

I would like to serve on the MCFL Board because I believe in the dignity of each person, and that life, in its every condition, is a gift from God, to be safeguarded. As the Jewish philosopher Levinas notes, the human body, in its powerlessness, commandos, “Do not murder me.” I recognize the importance of political action and prudence in moving our country away from a culture of death to becoming one that respects life and promotes laws that allow for the development and happiness of every person. My desire is to continue to encourage my peers and younger generations to be more actively involved in this most crucial of all humanitarian causes.

Kerry Pound, MD, studied Bioethics at Georgetown before going to Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship to study Philosophy and Theology for a second B.A. She then completed a medical degree at McGill University prior to moving to Boston for residency in pediatrics at Mass General Hospital. She currently works as a pediatric ER physician in Salem. Kerry lives in Marblehead with her husband.

Patricia Stewart


Currently, Pat advises clients and instructs lay and religious groups on advance health care planning and end of life care. In 2012, she served MCFL affiliated committees as legal advisor and speaker, opposing legalization of doctor-prescribed suicide in Massachusetts. Her efforts included testifying before the House Judiciary Committee, TV interviews, and organizing a statewide project of voter education for Councils on Aging.

“I am seeking re-election to the Board to further my commitment to using the law to serve pro-life interests. I believe that my focus on the later stages of life will fill out the range of pro-life issues to which MCFL is devoted and reflect its pledge to promote respect for human life at every age. It would be my privilege to serve MCFL in this capacity.”

Is June 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.

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How I Became Pro-Life: The Reality of Post-Abortion Syndrome

By Donna Rodgers

The culture of death encourages women to choose whether or not to give their child life by proposing motherhood-on-demand. I became fiercely pro-life after walking a rocky road to motherhood. With four grown children, I know mothering’s agonies and ecstasies. Before I became a mother, I unwittingly lived at the crossroads of Oblivion and the Culture of Death. Tragically, I refused to learn my address. When Roe v Wade was decided in 1973, I was a student at Smith College. As young feminists we parroted each other, saying choice was better than lack of choice. Trips to Planned Parenthood in Springfield were a rite of passage in my dorm. A friend and I spent an entire day on the bus, talking about sexual freedom and birth control. Friends whispered about taking “abortion vacations” when birth control or failure to plan resulted in an inconvenient pregnancy. Did we believe that our right to choose would somehow prevent a later emotional reckoning? Men and women really do regret their abortion experience. Post-abortion syndrome can take over one’s life and manifest itself as a terrible burden of “what if?” The decision to abort wreaks havoc on a couple’s relationship. Post-abortion infertility, a terrible consequence experienced by several of my friends, may also tear couples apart. In 1979 I was engaged and learned that I was pregnant. I told my fiancé. My fiancé, divorced with two children, said our bond was too new to take on the rigors of a new baby and that our financial situation was too precarious. He reminded me of the need to support his own two children. He said he would leave me if I had the baby.

The next day I asked my secretary for an abortion referral. She said, “Listen to me, I was pregnant once and I aborted my child. I wish I hadn’t done that. Think about it!” I didn’t listen to her, but I have had many years to think about it. “Choice” is so easy in today’s world. Taking deliberate pains to think about what choice entails is critically important to each mother and her unborn child.

I considered how my parents, friends and employer would view me as a single mother. My parents weren’t prepared to take us in. I went to a former boyfriend for help because my fiancé couldn’t get time off from work.

We experienced the violence and trauma of abortion offered by Cook County Hospital in 1979. No pre-abortion counseling or ultrasound was offered. About a dozen women were waiting their turn with the doctor. Dilation was painfully achieved by inserting a series of rods into my unanesthetized cervix. As I screamed in pain, the doctor said, “The cervix has no nerve endings.” He then used a scalpel to complete the abortion. I passed copious amounts of “tissue” afterward. The doctor told me it was normal. It did not feel normal.

On my wedding about a month later, I still suffered the after-effects of choice. My entire family begged me not to go through with the wedding, I contemplated divorce before the wedding even occurred. On the morning of the wedding, my first cousin pressed $140 dollars into my hands and whispered, “Run.” I did not take her advice.

I was pregnant once and I didn’t think of the child, instead, I thought about my job and things I wanted for my career. I didn’t regret the decision I had made without telling him. He asked, “Why couldn’t you have just had the baby? Was that so hard?”

In my progressive experience, I deliberated less each time as I asserted the right to choose. I didn’t think of the child, instead, I thought about my job and things I believed I could control.

I became a mother the first time after our eighth anniversary. In classic post-abortion syndrome fashion I de- spirited pregnancy almost immediately. Even though our baby was healthy I worried that she might die. Later, after our twins were born, I worried about their ability to thrive and worried that they too, would die.

Years later, after starting a home business and helping my children become successful adults, post-abortion syndrome reared its ugly head. Friends had congratulated me on “great motherhood,” but a long-overdue divorce occurred.

The culture of death wants women and families to believe that abortion allows us to take control of our reproductive destiny. Abortion did not provide me with control. Rather, abortion provided regret and unanswerable questions about the children I lost. The “what if?” of regret is a very hard burden to bear. I don’t recommend it.

Help is available for those suffering the aftermath of an abortion experience: Archdiocese of Boston: Project Rachel Elliot Institute: After Abortion Or Call: 1-800-5WE-CARE

Vermont Passes Doctor-Prescribed Suicide Bill

Most States Continue to Reject the Deadly Practice

The roller-coaster ride that was the debate on a bill legalizing doctor-prescribed suicide in Vermont has resulted in passage of a law that has even fewer protective guidelines than the state of Oregon. Vermont is now the third state in the country where doctors may write lethal prescriptions. Senate Bill 77 permits a doctor to write a lethal dose of medication for some with a “terminal condition,” defined as having six months or less to live. The law lacks all the safeguards that were debated during the Massachusetts ballot initiative: a doctor’s prognosis of six months is often a guess and is frequently wrong, there is no requirement for psychological testing to see if the patient is capable of making a ‘voluntary’ decision, and once the lethal dose is picked up at the pharmacy, there is no oversight, no requirement for the death to have a witness. In 2016, a “streamlined procedure” replaces the formal application process further endangering vulnerable patients and opening the door to abuse. S. 77 removes penalties for being present when a person self-administers a lethal dose of medication or for not preventing the patient from taking a lethal dose. MCFL President Anne Fox said, “The final vote in the Senate came because an outspoken opponent of DPP flipped. So the Senate originally passed a bill that didn’t change the way things are now. Then the House passed Oregon-style language,” she said.

“Our hope was that the Senate would hold out so that the two bills would have to go to Conference Committee to be reconciled – which held great hope. The vote on Tuesday May 7, was okay. On Wednesday May 8, language was added and passed which makes Vermont language worse than Oregon. That language was accepted by the House, so the last hope of it being rejected in the Conference Committee is gone.”

The bill will now go to Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin who is expected to sign the bill. Vermont Right to Life said, “What has been sent to his desk for his signature is a poorly-crafted and dangerous bill that has been described as ‘facilitating euthanasia.’ He is ultimately responsible for whatever loopholes, lack of safeguards and for any misuse or abuse that can and will occur.

“The bill that was passed by the House earlier in the session was drastically changed by the Senate and made far more dangerous. Senator Claire Ayer, author of the new Senate version, admitted that the newly amended S. 77 was ‘made on the fly’ and has been repeatedly described by others as a ‘hodgepodge,’ there was no Committee testimony taken on the bill after the changes were made.”

Bioethicist Wesley Smith told Life News, “Please notice the trajectory: As the doctor-prescribed death movement advances, its professed restrictions get progressively weaker. Whether it’s here
Montana saw attempts by both sides to pass a bill similar to the bill introduced in Connecticut last February, the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee rejected 10-2. In early May, the Health and Human Services Committee released the bill from committee. Montanans Against Assisted Suicide (SB 229) to make doctor-prescribed suicide a Class A felony. The bills were referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Another bill, drafted by the Public Health Committee in March, eventually died in committee on April 5. The suicide advocacy group Compassion and Choices, was denied in its request for an up or down vote on the bill.

In New Jersey, Bill A 3528, “The Death with Dignity Act,” was introduced in the legislature on September 2012 along with a Senate Companion bill, S2259. The bill sought voter approval to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide. In February, the Assembly Health and Senior Services released the bill from committee by a vote of 7-2 with 2 abstentions. The New Jersey Alliance Against Doctor-Prescribed Suicide is urging people to call their state legislators.

Suicide opponents in Maine saw a victory. In early May, the Health and Human Services Committee rejected 10-2 a bill similar to the bill introduced in Connecticut.

Montana saw attempts by both sides to change the law and to clarify the confusing legal situation in the state. A 2009 court decision denies the rights of citizens to doctor-prescribed suicide, but protects physicians from prosecution by allowing them to use patient consent as a defense.

Bill SB 20, a suicide legalization bill supported by Compassion and Choices, was defeated in the Senate Judiciary in February. Montanans Against Assisted Suicide supported HB 505, a bill to protect vulnerable patients from doctor-prescribed suicide. Supported by physicians and Not Dead Yet, a disability rights group, the bill passed the House in February. Hearings were held by the Senate Judiciary Committee in March. The bill was defeated by a vote of 27-23 in mid-April.

Steven Ertelt quoted a Washington Examiner report showing that billionaire George Soros has been funding advocacy groups such as Compassion and Choices. “There is no grassroots cry for assisted suicide. It’s an illusion. Receiving $1 million from the Soros Foundation, Compassion and Choices has been trying to convince Connecticut lawmakers that it would be in their best interest to promote ‘death with dignity’ in the state.”

Troubling is Soros’s involvement in funding for palliative care. Soros gave $2.7 million to the Partnership for Palliative Care in 2010. Enabled by Soros’s money a Chicago conference entitled “Heights of Compassion: Bridges to Choice,” found suicide advocates and palliative care specialists coming together to find “common ground.”

In Massachusetts, Rep. Louis Kafka again filed a bill to permit doctor-prescribed suicide or “compassionate aid in dying.” “Right now, no Public Health Committee hearings have been scheduled in 1998,” said MCFL lobbyist Eva Murphy. “We will be checking to see if it will come up for any discussion in this legislative session.”

Letters to the Editor

The Democratic Party is Failing the Unborn

Although the following story begins as many fairy tales do, it is far from a fairy tale. Sadly and tragically, it is true. Once upon a time, the Democratic Party was known as “the party of the little guy.” Now, it is known as “the party of abortion” and not without reason. For the primary plank in the platform constructed during last year’s Democratic National Convention (which resembled a pro-abortion pep rally) called for abortion on demand, i.e. the killing of preborn human beings (little guys and gals) for any reason at all. That abortion kills human beings is not a religious view, nor a personal opinion, but an irrefutable scientific fact.

In 1978, there were 125 pro-life Democrats in Congress who took positions strongly opposing induced abortion, the direct and deliberate destruction of the most defenseless members of our human family, the innocent unborn. Today, at last count, there are only 17 Congressional Democrats who will speak for those little ones unable to speak for themselves.

Each year in our country abortion, the only socially acceptable crime against humanity, takes the lives of more than a million unborn Americans. About half a million of these abortions are performed or provided by some of the same people who, before they began working in the billion dollar business, stated that “an abortion kills the life of a baby after it has begun.”

We, American taxpayers, annually pay $500 million to destroy our own descendants - and we call ourselves a “civilized” society? “Barbaric” would be a more accurate adjective. For a civilized nation, rather than fund anti-life organizations that push the negative non-answer of abortion, would assist pro-life groups that provide real and positive solutions for women with problem pregnancies. Is anybody there? Does anybody care? Does anybody see what I see? The answer is Yes. It’s not just me. There are millions of other members of an indefatigable, unstoppable pro-life movement made up of not merely oldsters like me, but also by many youngsters who will continue to fight for and defend our Declaration of Independence -described, Creator-endowed, “unalienable” right to life of all human beings, born and preborn.

While a pro-life victory in this forty-year-old war being waged against the unborn may not occur in my lifetime, the 1973 Supreme Court-issued license to kill will eventually be revoked when enough really pro-life voters, regardless of party, elect enough really pro-life politicians, regardless of party. It is then that pro-life crusaders will prevail, for no longer will America be a land where only the planned, the perfect, and the wanted are permitted to be born. Our holocaust and our genocide will be history, and it is at that time that our story will have a happy ending.

Richard A. Carey writes from Needham, MA.