FFL honors the many contributions of pro-life men.
“When a man steals to satisfy hunger, we may safely conclude that there is something wrong in society—so when a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is an evidence that either by education or circumstances she has been greatly wronged.” — Mattie Brinkerhoff, *The Revolution*, September 2, 1869
Feminists for Life proudly celebrates the many contributions that men have made to better the lives of women, children and families.

The remarkable pro-life men honored within these pages follow in the footsteps of suffragist supporter Henry Clarke Wright, who believed in the rights of women and children. Wright opposed slavery and the abuse of women, advocated nonviolence and referred to abortion as "ante-natal murder."

"No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child."
Or when he stands by the mother of his children and shares responsibility.
Or when he recognizes women's equality and honors women's life-giving capacity.
Or when he refuses to accept abortion as a solution and works to ensure there are better options.

Here's to the many men who work to create the respect and support that women, children and parents need and deserve.

Martin Sheen
Actor

Born Ramon Estevez in Dayton, Ohio, in 1940, Martin Sheen made his screen debut in 1967’s “The Incident.” Since then he has starred in numerous films including Francis Ford Coppola’s “Apocalypse Now,” the cult classic “Badlands,” and “The American President.” In 1994 Sheen received an Emmy for his guest appearance on “Murphy Brown.” Sheen was most recently recognized by the Screen Actors Guild as Best Actor and received a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series for his lead role in “The West Wing.”

Born the seventh son of an Irish Catholic mother and a Spanish Catholic father, Martin saw three siblings come after him and later became aware that his mother’s first two children died at birth. His own birth was extremely traumatic in that neither mother nor child was expected to survive. This heroic beginning remains the backbone of Sheen’s humanity.

In his role as President Bartlett on “The West Wing,” Sheen’s character has examined the death penalty. “I think the show gave us a public forum to debate the issue in a very fair and equitable way,” said Sheen, who opposes the death penalty, in a March 2000 interview with Our Sunday Visitor newspaper. In the episode of “The West Wing,” his character had the opportunity to stop a federal execution but did not. “We have a responsibility, but my character failed miserably,” he said. “He didn’t have the guts.”

A self-described left-wing activist since the ’60s, he has toured Nicaragua in support of the Sandinista government, worked with Mother Teresa to promote peace in the Persian Gulf, and supports the Seamless Garment Network, an organization committed to the protection of life in the face of human rights issues such as war, abortion, poverty, racism and capital punishment.
BEN STEIN HOSTS the five-time Emmy award-winning comedy game show, “Win Ben Stein’s Money.” He gained earlier fame for his portrayal of the hilariously dull and monotonous teacher in the film “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” (the “Bueller ... Bueller ... Bueller” scene has been ranked among the top 50 most famous scenes in American film). Beyond his television and film roles, Stein, an active Republican, is also a serious thinker and a conservative social critic of our times.

Stein received his bachelor’s degree in economics from Columbia University and his law degree from Yale University. At Yale, Stein was a founder of the Journal of Law and Social Policy and the valedictorian of his class. Stein served as a poverty lawyer in New Haven, Conn., and Washington, D.C., and as a speechwriter and lawyer in both the Nixon and Ford administrations.

Stein is an ardent opponent of abortion. “It has been medically demonstrated that babies show signs of life and personality in the womb,” he said. “Babies get extreme pain when they are murdered in the womb and to murder them strikes me as extremely outrageous.” He is quite vocal in his opposition to partial-birth abortion. “When you say you can murder a child halfway out of the womb,” he said, “you’re not far from saying you can murder it a day or two out of the womb.”

A prolific writer, he has authored 17 books, most recently one about his adopted son, Tommy. He is a diarist for The American Spectator and a writer for many other magazines, including New York Magazine, Los Angeles Magazine and E! Online. He has served as a law professor at American University in Washington, D.C., the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Pepperdine University in California.

Stein frequently addresses pro-life groups, displaying his wit and social insight. Stein serves as emcee at the annual Proudly Pro-Life dinner in New York City and is a favorite speaker at National Right to Life conventions. At a recent lecture to students and faculty at Boston College, he called upon his audience to reach out to women: “We have to tell women that we love them even if they are unwed, even if they are poor, even if they are young.”

And he challenged them to hold men accountable for the children they create, “Real men stay with their families.”

We have to tell women that we love them even if they are unwed, even if they are poor, even if they are young.”

Ben Stein

Actor, comedian
PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING columnist George Will is one of the world’s most widely read and recognized conservative authors. In more than 450 newspapers, in a biweekly column in Newsweek magazine and in regular appearances on ABC News and ABC’s “This Week with Sam and Cokie,” Will offers commentary that sparks debate and dialogue across the United States.

Will has won numerous awards in journalism and political commentary, including a Silurian Award for Editorial Writing, “Best Writer, Any Subject” award from The Washington Journalism Review and a 1977 Pulitzer prize for commentary. In 1997, the National Journal named Will among the 25 most influential Washington journalists.

Will’s columns often tackle abortion, infanticide, and bioethics. He added his voice to those speaking out against partial-birth abortion. Writing about a case of twin baby girls—one of whom was born prematurely by what is called “delayed-interval delivery”—Will said, “Location is the key factor: unless she is completely outside the mother, she is fair game for the abortionist.”

In a recent column discussing cell research at a Nebraska university hospital, Will wrote, “The bioethical problem is that the life-saving and life-enhancing potential of cell research can be furthered by cells harvested in ways that many consider destructive of respect for life—ways that treat some human lives as mere means for serving the ends of other lives.” He continued his defense of newly created life, writing, “It is a biological fact, not a theological postulate, that such life is a continuum from conception to death of an entity with a distinct genetic individuality.”

Will recently added his voice to the growing chorus of conservatives and liberals alike who are reconsidering the death penalty. In a column entitled “Innocent on Death Row,” Will appealed to conservatives to oppose the death penalty, writing, “Capital punishment, like the rest of the criminal justice system, is a government program, so skepticism is in order.” Writing about Actual Innocence (a book chronicling a number of true stories of persons wrongly sentenced to death), Will wrote, “Their cumulative weight compels the conclusion that many innocent people are in prison, and some innocent people have been executed.”

Educated at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and at Oxford and Princeton universities, Will taught political philosophy at Michigan State University and the University of Toronto. Until becoming a columnist for Newsweek, Will was the Washington editor of National Review, a conservative journal. Today Will serves as a contributing analyst with ABC News and is a member of The Washington Post Writers Group.
POLITICAL ANALYST MARK SHIELDS is perhaps best known for his television appearances as the political correspondent on “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” and as a member of “The Capital Gang.” Also a nationally syndicated columnist, Shields is an articulate proponent of the policies that protect the poor, minorities, prisoners, organized labor, the infirm and the unborn. “The sustaining right-to-life principle is morally egalitarian,” he wrote in a 1994 column in The Washington Post, “and, by definition, communitarian.”

Shields has had a distinguished career in Democratic Party politics, having served as a legislative assistant to Wisconsin pro-life Democratic Sen. William Proxmire, as a campaign manager for Robert F. Kennedy’s presidential bid, and as a leader of political campaigns in 38 states. At the same time, Shields has been a forceful critic of what he calls the Democratic Party’s intolerance toward pro-lifers as he eloquently defends the political vitality of a pro-life position. “You actually can be simultaneously liberal and pro-life,” he wrote. “It’s just lonesome.”

Writing about the pro-abortion politics of the Democratic Party, Shields said, “The orthodox Democratic position is not only ‘intolerant,’ it is losing political support. A 1998 New York Times national poll found that in the past decade, ‘public opinion has shifted notably away from general acceptance of abortion’ to the point where ‘nearly 80 percent support requiring parental consent and a 24-hour waiting period.’” Shields continued, “Faye Wattleton, the former leader of Planned Parenthood, now runs the Center for Gender Equity, where the poll she commissioned by Princeton Survey Research shows that 53 percent of women, up from 45 percent in 1996, now say abortion should be illegal except for rape, incest and saving a woman’s life, or else forbidden in all cases.”

“You actually can be simultaneously liberal and pro-life. It’s just lonesome.”
NAT HENTOFF CALLED FEMINISTS FOR LIFE “the most significant civil rights organization of our day” in a speech at the New York State Right to Life Convention in September 2000.

Hentoff’s column, “Sweet Land of Liberty,” ran in The Washington Post and is syndicated in 250 newspapers including The Washington Times. He is also a weekly columnist for the Village Voice. His favorite topics include civil liberties, civil rights, and criminal justice, and he has written several times about pro-life feminism, including a column called “Yes, There Are Pro-Life Feminists,” in which he described the pro-life feminist argument and its roots. In another column he criticized filmmaker Ken Burns for “censoring” feminist history by ignoring the pro-life convictions of the early feminists in his documentary on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, “Not for Ourselves Alone.”

Hentoff calls himself a Jewish atheist civil libertarian and left-wing liberal and was for many years a member of the ACLU, but he by no means follows the left’s “party line.” In addition to his opposition to abortion, he opposes the death penalty, due to his respect for life. Hentoff has criticized Bill Clinton, Jesse Jackson and other formerly pro-life politicians for betraying their pro-life convictions for political expediency.

When Hentoff revealed his pro-life convictions in the early ’80s, the response was dramatic: three female editors at the Village Voice stopped speaking to him, planned lectures were cancelled, co-workers wondered if he had converted to Catholicism, and he began to receive letters from pro-life liberals all over the country who had felt unable to proclaim their convictions. Soon he discovered the “bold, witty, crisply intelligent” members of FFL, and has since called FFL his favorite advocacy group of any kind.

Hentoff’s writings about free speech often highlight discrimination against pro-life activists. Commenting on a case of police brutality against pro-life activists in West Hartford, Conn., Hentoff wrote: “Why, then, in such a civilized place as West Hartford, most of whose residents deplore and are repelled by prejudice—let alone violence—against blacks or Jews, had there been such pervasive silence about the vicious police attacks on the pro-lifers?”

Hentoff’s books include Free Speech for Me—But Not for Thee and Speaking Freely. His other writings include Listen to the Stories, a book about the stars of jazz (he’s an expert on jazz and started out as a music critic and associate editor of Down Beat, a jazz magazine) and a couple of short mystery novels. He has been awarded the American Bar Association’s Silver Gavel award for coverage of the criminal justice system, a First Amendment Award from the People for the American Way, and an award from the American Library Association for support of intellectual freedom. In addition, Hentoff received the 1996 John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award for Freedom of the Press and the People’s Right to Know. ☺
“THIS IS FEMINISM rightly understood, and it is most admirable,” says Father Richard John Neuhaus about FFL’s point of view. Neuhaus is the president of the Institute on Religion and Public Life, a nonpartisan, inter-religious research and education institute in New York City, and serves as editor in chief of its publication, First Things.

Richard John Neuhaus
Author

Neuhaus was born in Canada, received his formal education in Ontario and in the United States and is a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He was initially a Lutheran clergyman and served as senior pastor of a low-income black parish in Brooklyn, N.Y., for 17 years. He was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1991. Neuhaus has played a leadership role in organizations dealing with civil rights, international justice, and ecumenism, and his work has been the subject of feature articles in popular and scholarly publications both here and abroad.

He has received many honors from universities and other institutions, including the John Paul II Award for Religious Freedom. He has also held presidential appointments in the Carter, Reagan, and Bush administrations, and was named one of 32 “most influential intellectuals in America” in a U.S. News & World Report survey of national leadership.

The abortion debate is not over private opinions about when human life begins. That is not a moral or political question, nor is it a matter of private opinion. The question of when human life begins is inevitably and very publicly settled by science. The question of which human lives belong to the community that is protected by law is inescapably a political question. If politics is about how we ought to order our lives together, then abortion is the unavoidable political question of who belongs to the ‘we.’ It is not a private question but the most public of questions, namely, whom do we include, and whom do we exclude, from the polis?”

John S. Walker
Activist

“War, poverty and abortion speak only of deprivation and death, and therefore none of these issues can be considered as justifiable because all are opposed to life,” says the Reverend John S. Walker. Walker has fought these problems throughout his life. He started with his leadership role in the civil rights movement and continued through his participation in the anti-apartheid movement where he challenged companies to pull out of South Africa. He was a founder of United Church Ministries, Inc., an African American Church ecumenical movement. He remains active with this organization as the social action coordinator.

Walker feels that “There is a campaign to glamorize abortion among the poor. Under the guise of creating better family health, this is an invasion to control the poor family and is a trespass into the religious and cultural traditions of African Americans, who have, until recently, equated children with happiness and abortion with unnaturalness.” Acting on this, he played a key role in challenging the United Way of Rochester to force the removal of Planned Parenthood as a member agency when it began doing abortions in African American neighborhoods. More than 30 ministers joined him in a public statement denouncing the racism of abortion.

Walker is currently the minister at Christian Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Henrietta, N.Y.
"It is my belief that government’s role is to promote, protect, defend and enhance human dignity," says Michigan Rep. Dale Kildee. “The irreversible attack on human dignity is to take the life of a human being.”

Calling himself a “pro-life Democrat all my life,” Kildee, a father and grandfather, represents Michigan’s 9th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives. First elected to the U.S. House in 1976, Kildee also served in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate. A former high school teacher, Kildee was educated at the University of Detroit, the University of Michigan and the University of Peshawar, Pakistan.

Kildee is a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and is a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families. His consistent pro-life voting record includes supporting such legislation as the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, the Child Custody Protection Act, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act and the Pain Relief Promotion Act.

"It is my belief that government’s role is to promote, protect, defend and enhance human dignity.

The irreversible attack on human dignity is to take the life of a human being."
JOHN LAFALCE, A DEMOCRAT, has served Western New York state’s 29th congressional district since 1974. As a member of the United States House of Representatives, LaFalce has been an outspoken advocate for women, children, the elderly and those in poverty.

During a debate on the House floor in July 2000, LaFalce proclaimed, “I do not believe that human life should be taken, whether it is human life within the womb or whether it is human life after the womb, and so I oppose the principle and practice of abortion on demand. I also strongly oppose the death penalty.” LaFalce has a consistent pro-life voting record and is a leader in addressing the root causes that drive women to abortion.

The author of the Women’s Business Ownership Act and the Women’s Business Development Act, LaFalce has a special interest in the needs and concerns of women who are small-business entrepreneurs. This legislation improved access to credit and other opportunities for women in today’s business marketplace. His work was noted and honored by the National Association of Women Business Owners.

“For many of these women,” says LaFalce, “the conflict between work and family is very difficult to resolve. Regardless of when a woman chooses to have children, the coordination of work and family can be difficult.” LaFalce supports legislation to protect the retirement benefits of workers who interrupt their careers or change jobs, as well as legislation to allow parents who leave the labor force for the birth or care of a child to make “catch-up” contributions to their retirement plans upon returning to work.

LaFalce is also concerned with end-of-life issues. He introduced legislation in Congress to provide essential services for senior citizens. This legislation, the Elderly Housing Quality Improvement Act, provides resources to help seniors access community services, maintain their independence and expand funding for affordable repairs to senior citizens’ rental housing.
As part of my pro-life advocacy,
I am committed to urging the Democratic Party to drop its support for federal funding for abortion.
“Nothing could be more foreign to the American experience than legalized abortion. It is inconsistent with our national character, with our national purpose, with all that we've done, and with everything we hope to be.” With these words to students at the University of Notre Dame in 1995, former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey continued his fight to be a voice for the voiceless. “You see, to me, protecting the unborn child follows naturally from everything I know about my party and about my country.”

Referred to as a “folk hero” by The New York Times, the late governor maintained his pro-woman, pro-life stance despite intense political pressure. Casey served as governor of Pennsylvania from 1987 to 1994. In 1992, he was denied the opportunity to speak before the Democratic National Convention because of his pro-life views.

The Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act enacted under Gov. Casey in 1988 continues to serve as a model for other states across the country. Supported by Casey, the legislation contained informed-consent and parental-consent measures. This right-to-know legislation echoed the anti-abortion laws enacted by the early American feminists in the last half of the 19th century. “Governor Casey believed that women had a right to know and could handle basic information about their body, fetal development, fathers' rights and responsibilities, and community resources that would enable women to make life-affirming choices,” said FFL President Serrin M. Foster.

Casey died in May 2000, after a long battle with familial amyloidosis, a disease that destroys internal organs.

Casey often remarked, “Paid operatives speak for the abortion industry, feminist zealots purport to speak for women, population controllers claim to speak for the planet—I speak for the child.”

“Paid operatives speak for the abortion industry, feminist zealots purport to speak for women, population controllers claim to speak for the planet—I speak for the child.”
F \text{IRST ELECTED} to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980 at age 27, Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey has been a tireless advocate for women and children—born and unborn. As chairman of the bipartisan House Pro-Life Caucus, Smith has led the Congress in developing and passing legislation protecting unborn children, ending funding for international abortion programs and enacting a ban on partial-birth abortion.

“As a result of \textit{Roe v. Wade} and its progeny and 26 years of congressional acquiescence and timidity,” said Smith, speaking on the House floor in 1999, “40 million unborn babies in America have been dismembered or chemically poisoned or have had their brains sucked out by what some euphemistically call choice. By systematically debasing the value of these children, it has become easier for adults to procure violent deaths of these little ones if they happen to be unwanted, unplanned or imperfect.”

“Partial-birth abortion is a gross violation of human rights—a barbarous form of torture directed against a defenseless girl or boy,” said Smith. “This is a practice that if done two minutes later and one inch further, would legally be considered murder. This is murder.”

Commenting on the Food and Drug Administration’s recent approval of the abortion drug RU-486, Smith spoke of the drug’s harmful effects on women. “RU-486 is not just poison for babies,” he said. “It is potential poison for the mothers who take it. The FDA should move to protect, shield and safeguard both women and their babies from this deadly concoction.”

Smith’s efforts on behalf of all life extend to those facing capital punishment. Speaking on the House floor, Smith, a Republican, proclaimed, “As a member of Congress for the past 20 years, I am adamantly opposed to the death penalty, and I was before I became a member of Congress.”

An advocate of adoption, Smith introduced legislation designating National Adoption Week and establishing a tax credit for adoptive parents. He introduced legislation to provide medical care, housing vouchers and other practical resources for women to choose to place their children for adoption. Smith has also sponsored legislation to ease international adoptions of orphaned children.

In recent years Smith has emerged as a leader in the fight against sexual trafficking of women and children. Speaking after the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, Smith said, “Let those who rape, batter, exploit, and abuse women and girls be put on notice—we’re coming after you to put you in jail.” Smith is also a sponsor of the Violence Against Women Act (legislation supported by Feminists for Life). Heralding the act as legislation that provides women an “opportunity to escape abusers and rebuild their lives,” Smith reminded his colleagues of the need for comprehensive domestic violence prevention programs, saying, “Every year, over 1.5 million women are victims of domestic violence nationwide, and a woman is raped every 1.3 minutes.” He praised the legislation, saying it will provide funds to “strengthen enforcement programs and allow battered women and children to access more programs offering housing alternatives and legal and counseling assistance.”

As chairman of the House International Operations and Human Rights subcommittee, Smith has used his position to highlight human rights abuses against women and children worldwide. “China’s horrific abuse of women comes to the forefront,” he said. “Fifty-six percent of female suicides worldwide occur in China. That is roughly 500 women a day who chose to die instead of suffering forced abortions and manual labor thrust upon them against their will.”

Describing Smith, \textit{The Times} newspaper of Trenton, N.J., said, “There can be few Members of Congress who work harder at their job. … his performance on constituent casework, from all reports, is exemplary.” Smith has received numerous awards for his work in Congress, including the “Leader for Peace” award from the Peace Corps and “Legislator of the Year” by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans and the International Chiropractors Association. Smith is a graduate of Trenton State College and served as executive director of the New Jersey Right to Life Committee before his election to Congress. Smith and his wife Marie have four children.
OPPOSED TO THE DEATH PENALTY, AND I WAS BEFORE I BECAME A MEMBER OF CONGRESS."
"M"ost important current research project," says Dr. Joel Brind, "is investigating the connection between abortion and breast cancer. It is particularly satisfying to think that my efforts not only advance basic medical knowledge, but also will help to spare many women the agony of breast cancer."

Brind is a professor of biology in the Department of Natural Sciences at Baruch College of the City University of New York. His work has been published in medical journals, such as Steroids, The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. He is a consultant to the Orentreich Foundation for the Advancement of Science. Since 1992, Brind has been studying and bringing to the public's attention the abortion-breast cancer link, or "ABC Link." He was initially ignored by the media and his peers, but persevered for several years until additional studies began to confirm his research. The publication of his peer-reviewed research paper, "Induced Abortion as an Independent Risk Factor for Breast Cancer: A Comprehensive Review and Meta-Analysis," in the October 1996 issue of the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health (published by the British Medical Association) drew attention to the issue. It led to numerous speaking engagements and appearances on news programs on all the major networks, in addition to interviews with major newspapers and news magazines. Since 1997, Brind has published the Abortion-Breast Cancer Quarterly Update.

In finding one opposing study "outrageous" for asserting the ABC link does not exist, Brind said, "This is not good news for women, who are still actively being kept in the dark by the very agencies who should warn them about avoidable cancer risks." In a 1998 interview with The American Feminist, Dr. Brind said, "If not for politics, the ABC link would have been acknowledged years ago. The weight of evidence is at least as much and as consistent as for other things universally acknowledged to be risk factors."

Brind says, however, that the risk of liability will eventually cause medical practitioners and government health officials to take notice, particularly on the national level. "It would be enormously useful to generate things like public hearings and to have the hierarchy of the National Cancer Institute have to defend their horribly unscientific, anti-women's health behavior before a congressional committee and before the American public."
Hadley Arkes’ staunch and active support of the pro-life movement rests on his firm moral beliefs regarding the sanctity of marriage and family.

His work is unique in its acknowledgment of the current status of the pro-life movement, along with a realistic identification of areas where gains might be made in securing more rights for the unborn child. He is active in developing strategies to guide future plans for preserving the lives of as many unborn children as possible. Through his vast accumulation of essays and writing, he sets forth methods and maneuverings designed to stall abortion while slowly churning the wheels of government with arguments for achieving the right to life for unborn children.

Arkes proposes a strategy of modest incremental steps beginning with a bill to protect the life of a child who survives an abortion. Writing in Crisis magazine, Arkes said such a policy “would at least plant the principles in the law: that the simple point that the child, at the point of birth, has standing as a human life; that his injuries ‘count’; that he may be protected by the law; and that Congress may lay its hands on this subject in marking the limits to any right to abortion.” Arkes proposes more limits on late-pregnancy abortion as a next step.

In his work, Fanaticism of the Moderates—the Republicans and Abortion, he debates constitutional issues regarding the role of the federal government in the abortion debate. He also challenges the conventional labeling used in describing the debate, pointing out that although pro-life activists are often called extremists, “Yet in the reports on National Public Radio and in The New York Times, the politicians who defend abortion on demand—the people who are not willing to restrict or forbid a single one of the million-and-a-half abortions performed each year—are referred to as ‘moderates.’ In all strictness, they should be labeled as ‘zealots.’” Only about 18 percent of the public share their judgment, and yet, remarkably, they are never called ‘extremists.’ That brand seems to be reserved for the members of Congress who are seeking to restrict a handful of abortions.”

For more than 30 years, Arkes has been a professor of political science at Amherst College, where he served as Ney Professor of Jurisprudence and American Institution. He has taken leave from that position to work as a visiting fellow with the Brookings Institution, the Woodrow Wilson Center at the Smithsonian Institution, and Georgetown University, all in Washington, D.C.

Arkes is active in political circles and has debated pro-choice senators Joe Lieberman and Barbara Boxer. He contributed a regular column, “Life Watch,” to the monthly magazine, Crisis.
RAVELING THROUGH INDIA in 1985, Jim Towey thought his credentials as a legal assistant to U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon would secure him an audience with Mother Teresa. To his surprise, no credentials were necessary—Mother, as she was affectionately called, talked to anyone who came to see her. Her accessibility and instantly recognizable compassion for the poor and friendless profoundly changed Towey’s life. In 1996, he established Aging With Dignity, a nonprofit organization addressing the needs of America’s forgotten ones: the old, sick and infirm.

Inspired by Mother Teresa’s ability to see the value of every man, woman and child, Towey has guided Aging With Dignity as an advocacy organization for the elderly and their caretakers. Aging With Dignity’s objective is to affirm the value of the aged and ensure that their spiritual, emotional and medical needs are respected in their final days. To this end, the Florida-based organization designed a document called “Five Wishes,” an advanced directive written in understandable language, making it easier for family and medical providers to follow when caring for a dying patient.

In a culture that makes aging seem horrible, people are reluctant to talk about death. “Right now,” says Towey, “Americans think that their only choice is either a painful death or a Kevorkian-type exit. We know there is a better way.” Part of Aging With Dignity’s mission is to remind people of faith that dying is the beginning of a journey back to God that began the day they were born. Having known Mother Teresa, who understood and taught others about the symmetry of birth and death, Towey respectfully refers to her as “a feminist for life of the highest order.”

A Florida State Law School graduate, Towey is also a husband and father of four. In a recent interview with The American Feminist, Towey was resolute when asked about his position on euthanasia, abortion and the death penalty: “We are stewards of life,” he asserts, “not takers of life.”
Feminists for Life Board member Peter Wolfgang says he became a pro-life activist as a Manchester, Conn., high school student. One of the founding members of an anti-nuclear weapons group called Learnpeace, he noticed that the pro-abortion stance that many of the members espoused was inconsistent with their commitment to the principles of nonviolence. Debating with students about this contradiction established him as a fierce defender of the unborn.

While attending Manchester Community College and American University in Washington, D.C., Wolfgang continued his activism. His international studies coursework led him to an internship for the youth wing of the Christian Democrat party in Brussels, and the opportunity to study the European Community and NATO. He wrote for the student newspaper at American University and was the president of the AU College Democrats. However, the anti-life position taken by the Democratic Party eventually led Wolfgang to abandon the “left” altogether.

Wolfgang’s interest in Feminists for Life began when he was a college student and read FFL’s educational ads in The New Republic and The New Oxford Review. “The ads espoused a philosophy—pro-life feminism—that I had always believed in but had never been able to articulate,” Wolfgang says. This viewpoint was often regarded with suspicion by other co-eds; in fact, posting an FFL ad on his dorm room door caused an irreconcilable rift between him and a girlfriend who couldn’t understand his unpopular position regarding abortion. Wolfgang became a member of FFL in 1992, interned for FFL while attending law school at the University of Connecticut and joined the FFL Board of Directors in 1997. In explaining his ongoing commitment to Feminists for Life, he describes the organization as “one of the very few authentic expressions of the ‘consistent life ethic.’”

Wolfgang received his law degree in 1997 and presently clerks for a Connecticut superior court judge. Last August, he and his wife Leslie became the proud parents of a baby girl, Elizabeth. The experience reinforced his pro-life views: “When my daughter smiles, I see my brother; when she pouts, I see myself; when she’s pensive I see my grandmother. The joy I feel as a participant in the creation of a new person is, at the same time, tinged with sadness for all the children who are victims of abortion or abuse.”
George Paci
Activist

George Paci, a computer software programmer from Cambridge, Mass., comes from a pro-life family. His mother, father, and two brothers are all Catholic Democrats who did not make the pro-abortion switch in the 1970s. Although his church is noted for being pro-life, Paci says that as a child he believed that “it’s not that you can’t kill because you are Catholic—you can’t kill because it’s wrong.”

Paci first remembers raising his voice for the unborn in the eighth grade while discussing *The Good Earth*. He recalls that his classmates were appalled by scenes in the book in which the Chinese people killed infants. Paci noted to his classmates and teacher the parallels between the novel’s scenario and modern America’s acceptance of abortion. It was around this time that Paci says he realized that not everyone shared his respect for all life.

Paci did not become actively involved in the pro-life movement until college. While double majoring in philosophy and computer science at Cornell University, he joined Cornell Coalition for Life. He quickly became an active member of the group, helping out with its newsletter and other campus activities.

In spring 1991, Paci, along with students from other Ivy League college pro-life groups, met at Yale University to learn about each other, trade information, and provide support for the work they were doing. This gathering was the beginning of the Ivy League Coalition for Life, which is still active on college campuses today.

When he was not involved in organized pro-life groups, Paci made a point to speak to students on campus about abortion and euthanasia. On reflecting on those conversations, he said, “I never made any outright converts, but I think I planted some seeds of doubt about the extreme pro-abortion propaganda that usually finds a home on college campuses and in college administrations.”

In January 1993, Paci attended the American Collegians for Life conference in Washington, D.C., and quickly began working with the group. He worked as newsletter editor and assisted in conference organization. It was not long after his college career that Paci was asked to be on the ACL board of directors. He currently serves as chairman of the board. In his capacity as chairman, he is involved in many aspects of ACL, from assisting students in the organization and implementation of the ACL annual Student Leadership Training Conference to maintaining organization communications and databases. Even though some of what he does can be seen as “grunt work,” he feels it is important, “because it all means something.”

Paci has always been a fan of Feminists for Life and the College Outreach Program. “The program is excellent: It’s focused on college students and the specific problems they have.” said Paci. FFL and ACL have a reciprocal relationship, which he feels is important because it is during college that people really examine their beliefs. “Students go to college with pro-life beliefs and leave pro-choice,” he says. “We really have to get in there and fight the cookie-cutter pro-abort orthodoxy.”
For Amburn, being pro-life means, “affirming and fighting for the sanctity of life in all forms from conception to natural death—whether it’s an unborn baby, an elderly person, or a criminal on death row.”

BRYAN AMBURN, A STUDENT at St. Mary’s University in Winona, Minn., recently finished serving a one-year term as president of American Collegians for Life, a national student pro-life organization. Amburn’s dedication to the pro-life movement stems both from religious convictions and personal experience. Amburn was born to a teen-age mother, who placed him for adoption with the Amburn family. He was raised in Wyoming and South Dakota, along with his sister, who was also adopted.

For Amburn, being pro-life means “affirming and fighting for the sanctity of life in all forms from conception to natural death—whether it’s an unborn baby, an elderly person, or a criminal on death row.” Of his experiences working with college pro-life activists through American Collegians for Life, Amburn says he was most encouraged to learn that “there are a lot of people like me who are passionately fighting for everybody’s right to life. It is very encouraging to see how large the pro-life movement is.”

Amburn is an active member of St. Mary’s University pro-life group, which provides information about alternatives to abortion to students on campus. He was inspired by several of his friends who discovered that they were pregnant in college. “They were very scared, unsure and nervous about their futures,” says Amburn. “But now they are proud parents who can’t imagine life without their children.”

Amburn will graduate from St. Mary’s University in May 2001, and intends to use his degree in mathematics to become an actuary.

Bryan Amburn

Student activist,
American Collegians for Life
Help FFL Help Women and Children! Your monthly electronic donations provide essential support as FFL works to bring about positive change for women and children. Electronic donors receive semi-annual President reports, detailing FFL’s progress. To begin your monthly contributions, simply fill out the electronic transfer form and send it (along with a voided check) to FFL. It’s that easy! Donations will be debited on the first business day of each month and will be put to work immediately by FFL. Your participation helps FFL continue the tradition of the early feminists—pro-woman and pro-life!

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Voices OF WOMEN WHO MOURN

I had my first abortion 27 years ago when I was 18. I was pregnant, unmarried, scared, and uninformed. Uninformed regarding fetal development, and that I might suffer seven years later from anger, depression, suicidal thoughts and emotional outbursts (a few of the many symptoms of post abortion stress). When I went to the Fan Free Clinic, there was no mention of adoption or prenatal care options. Roe v. Wade had recently been passed. In the midst of a crisis, I felt I had no choice but to have an abortion.

After two more abortions in seven years, I felt apathetic. Again, I was in the midst of a crisis. Though married, my husband and I were students and he said I must have an abortion. The two clinics I went to in Northern Virginia were sophisticated compared to the one here in Richmond, but I was never given any “choices” during the pre-abortion “counseling,” other than abortion.

The “uninformed” consent was an assault to my crisis pregnancies. Now, without any child to hold at age 45, I look back with much regret. Women need to be given those other choices to consider along with information on fetal development. They may then be able to choose adoption or carrying the baby to term and becoming a parent with the support of the baby’s father, family or friends.

Denise

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Event Calendar

FFL President Serrin M. Foster will present “The Feminist Case Against Abortion” at the following locations:
- April 10, 2001. Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Foster will moderate a Pregnancy Resource Forum at the following locations. Local FFL members will be informed of the exact date and location.
- March 28, 2001. Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

Honorary Chair and Emmy winner Patricia Heaton will present “Rewarding Motherhood” at the following location:
- May 9, 2001. New Jersey Right to Life annual banquet, East Brunswick, N.J.

Please contact the FFL national office at 202-737-3352 or info@feministsforlife.org for more information.
Eurice Agbagaa
1963 – 1989

EURICE AGBAGAA, a 26-year-old immigrant from the West African country of Ghana, died on Jan. 15, 1989. Agbagaa died only eight days after she had an abortion at the Y&P Women’s Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. Abram Zelikman did the procedure on Jan. 7.

Agbagaa bled continuously after her abortion. The receptionist at the clinic became nervous and informed Zelikman. He told the receptionist that bleeding was normal and then he left the building for the day. When the receptionist realized that not only was Agbagaa bleeding but she was also unconscious and in shock, she tried to contact Zelikman. When she could not find him she called paramedics.

Because Agbagaa had lost so much blood, she lapsed into a coma. She had emergency surgery to stop the bleeding and was placed on life support. However, she remained in a coma. She died soon after.

It was reported by New York State Health Department officials that Zelikman had performed Agbagaa’s abortion, left her alone with the receptionist and left to perform two other abortions. For all three abortions he failed to perform the regular medical tests, allowed his receptionist to anesthetize all three patients, and left his receptionist in charge of patients while he left the clinic. He also tampered with Agbagaa’s medical records to say she was 11-12 weeks pregnant when she was actually 19 weeks pregnant.

Zelikman’s license was suspended for 90 days by the state health commissioner and he is now back at his job.
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- **Embracing All Life: From Conception Until Its Natural End**
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  Summer 1999
- **Victory Over Violence: Rape, Incest and Domestic Violence**
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- **Work vs. Family: The Struggle to Balance Career & Family**
  Summer 1998
- **The Bitter Price of Choice: The Aftermath of Abortion**
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- **She’ll Ask. Don’t Tell: Women’s Right To Know**
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**College Outreach Program:** Send a Kit to Campus

Indicate number of items:
- __ $35 Health Clinic Kit
- __ $55 Pro-life Feminist History Kit
- __ $35 Pro-life Collegiate Kit
- __ $35 Pro-life Advisor Kit
- __ $35 Campus Counselor Kit
- __ $250-500 range for ad placement

Please send kit to where the need is greatest
- A college of my choice: _______________________________________

Name of kit recipient:_____________________________________
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**Materials** Indicate number of items:
- __ $16 Prolife Feminism Yesterday and Today
  (anthology of pro-life feminist essays)
- __ $18 Swimming Against The Tide:
  Feminist Dissent on the Issue of Abortion
  (anthology of pro-life feminist essays)
- __ $15 Different Voices
- __ $2 “Question Abortion” bumper sticker
- __ $2 “Voices of Our Feminist Foremothers” poster
- __ $5 *Man's Inhumanity to Woman*
  (essays by 19th-century feminists)
- __ “You’re Not Alone” brochures:
  50 for $5; 100 for $10; 250 for $20
- __ “What Women Really Want” brochure:
  Free with a self-addressed stamped envelope
- __ “You Have Choices” brochure:
  Free with a self-addressed stamped envelope
- __ “College Outreach Program” brochure:
  Free with a self-addressed stamped envelope

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