

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

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## Breakfast speaker confirmed

Janet L. Folger will be the main speaker at People for Life's 30th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast at the Avalon Hotel on February 2.

Janet is the president of Faith 2 Action, an organization that equips and encourages concerned citizens to assert their convictions in the public arena. She hosts a daily one-hour syndicated radio program and writes a weekly column for WorldNetDaily. Her 60-second radio commentaries are heard regularly in five countries.



Janet L. Folger

### Leader

Before she started Faith 2 Action in 2003, Janet served from 1997 to 2002 as the National Director of the Center for Reclaiming America, founded by the late Dr. D. James Kennedy.

Before teaming up with Dr. Kennedy, Janet served for nine years as the legislative director of Ohio Right to Life. "A very effective advocate – very articulate," in the words of National Right to Life Legislative Director Douglas Johnson, Janet successfully lobbied for passage of the nation's first partial-birth abortion ban, which sparked national opposition to partial-birth abortion in Congress and throughout the country. Janet also secured passage of a woman's right to know law, a parental consent law, a fetal homicide law, tougher abortion facility regulations, adoption reform, and legislation that stopped all state funding of abortion.

### Pro-Life Spokesperson

Janet has appeared on NBC's *Today Show*; ABC's *Evening News*, *20/20*, and *Nightline*; CBS' *This Morning*, FOX News' *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Hannity & Colmes*, *The Big Story*, and *Heartland with John Kasich*; MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*; and CNN's *Inside Politics* and *Headline News*.

Janet has been profiled in the *New York Times*, *People Magazine*, the *Los Angeles*

*Times*, the *Miami Herald*, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the *Dayton Daily News*, the *Akron Beacon Journal*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. She was listed as one of the city's 10 most fascinating faces in the *Miami Metro Magazine*.

Janet has debated Planned Parenthood President Gloria Feldt; two presidents of the National Organization of Women, Kim Gandy and Patricia Ireland; and Dr. Jack Kevorkian, as well as representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Janet has also been featured on hundreds of radio programs, including programs hosted by Colonel Oliver North, Alan Keys, Pat Buchanan, and Janet Parshall, with multiple appearances on *Focus on the Family*, *USA Radio Network News*, *SRN News*, and *Family News In Focus*.

From June 1998 to December 2000, Janet hosted "Reclaiming America with Janet Folger," a daily 60-second commentary on issues affecting Christians. It aired on more than 500 radio and TV stations, receiving the National Religious Broadcaster's *Genesis Award* and the *Silver Angel Award for Excellence in Media*.

### Strategist

Janet has spearheaded several high-profile national campaigns.

In January of 2003, Janet launched the *I am an American* campaign featuring a 3-D sonogram of an unborn baby's face and a call for action on the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Full-page newspaper ads, television commercials, billboards, church bulletin inserts, and bumper stickers were employed in nationwide public awareness project with the cooperation of National Right to Life and 35 Faith 2 Action partnering organizations. People for Life displayed one of Janet's *I am an American* banners in our outreach booths that year.

In 2001 and 2002 Janet led the *Shake the Nation back to Life* campaign, coordinating the efforts of more than 20 pro-life organizations, to send a "loud and clear" message to the U.S. Senate demanding fairness for President Bush's pro-life judicial nominees – by means of more than 45,000

baby rattles delivered to the senators' offices. Janet wrote and produced television commercials for the campaign. The commercials aired nationally and won the *Silver Angel Award for Excellence in Media*.

In 2000, Janet spearheaded the *Second Thoughts About Abortion* campaign to raise awareness of the life-altering consequences of abortion. The campaign featured a powerful, award-winning television commercial that aired in Philadelphia and Los Angeles during the weeks of the Republican and Democratic political conventions.

### Author

Janet is the author of four books, including *True to Life*, her life story, with dramatic lessons learned while working for the pro-life cause; and *What's a Girl to Do?: While Waiting for Mr. Right*.

### Admired and Respected

"...a dynamic speaker who captivates her audience." — John Willke, M.D., Past President, National Right to Life

"... her personal integrity and her sheer enthusiasm make her a great spokesperson. She is a real inspiration!" — John Kasich, Member of Congress, 1982-2000

"I am comforted that Janet Folger is on our side." — Gary Bauer, Former Presidential Candidate and Domestic Policy Advisor to Ronald Reagan

### Honors for Jean Hammer

People for Life Treasurer Jean Hammer will be honored with the PA Pro-Life Federation's *Lifetime Achievement Award* at the PA Pro-Life Conference this November 3 in Pittsburgh.

Jean has been an energetic supporter of the right to life and an active member of People for Life since the early '70s. She has served as our treasurer since 1985. She and her brother Ed Hammer have coordinated People for Life's annual Mother's Day Carnation fundraising project every year since 1988.

Janet has traveled with People for Life to  
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# CANDIDATE SURVEY: General Election, November 6

## Candidates who did not respond

The table on the opposite page includes all the candidates for elective office in the City of Erie, all candidates for Erie County Council, and all candidates for Erie County magisterial and school board offices – including those who did not respond to our questionnaire. All candidates were given ample time to respond to this brief survey.

Readers are encouraged to question the unresponsive candidates about their positions on human life issues whenever there is an opportunity. The substance of the candidate's remarks should be accurately recorded and passed along promptly to People for Life. Keep in mind that many people (and not just the candidates) contort the term "pro-life" to mean whatever suits their purposes. So rather than asking, "Are you pro-life?" ask questions such as, "What is your position on legal abortion?" or questions like the ones used in the survey.

## Survey Questions

**1. LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN...** If changes to *Roe v. Wade* make it possible, would you favor the enactment of a law prohibiting abortion, or prohibiting abortion with exceptions? (Please specify what exceptions, if any.)

**2. LATE TERM ABORTIONS...** Should abortions be prohibited in all cases where the unborn child is mature enough to survive apart from his or her mother?

### Key to Survey Table

Y - Yes N - No

nr - No response to survey  
b - Blank; returned survey but did not answer specific question.

◆ - See additional comment  
*Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are in upper case.*

**3. INFORMED CONSENT...** Should abortion providers be required to offer basic information to a woman who is considering an abortion, such as information about the medical risks, alternatives to abortion, the probable gestational age of her unborn child, the availability of detailed information (provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) about fetal development and the possibility of medical assistance benefits if the woman decides to continue her pregnancy? (These things are currently required under Pennsylvania law.)

**4. TIME FOR DELIBERATION...** After initially consulting with a physician, should a woman who wants an abortion be given 24 hours to carefully consider her decision before an abortion is carried out? (This is currently required under Pennsylvania law.)

**5. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT...** If a woman seeking an abortion is less than 18 years old, should the consent of at least one parent be required unless a judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved? (This is currently required under Pennsylvania law.)

**6. GOVERNMENT FUNDING...** Should public funds be used to pay for abortions?

**7. ASSISTED SUICIDE...** Should physician-assisted suicide be prohibited?

"The tradition of treating abortion as a crime was unbroken through nearly 800 years of English and American history... until the later twentieth century." — Joseph W. Dellapenna, Professor of Law, Villanova University Law School

## Additional Comments◆

**Mark Alexandrowicz** ◆1. "City Council members have no jurisdiction in this issue. I believe U.S. Constitution is supreme."

◆6. "Absolutely not!"

**Kerry W. Duncan** ◆1. "No exceptions"

◆4. "Not should but must"

**Brian Kramer** ◆ "Although I do not feel that these issues have any direct impact on the responsibilities and actions associated with the Millcreek Township School Board, I am always open and willing to discuss any issue that you may have."

**Fiore Leone** ◆1. "Health of mother or child"

**John E. Ogden** ◆1. "Exceptions: rape, incest"

**Lyle Sanders** ◆1. "[Exception:] When the

mother's life is at risk when carried to term"

◆2. "Not when the mother's life is at risk"

◆3. "When the patient has been determined terminally ill by several sources and family consent has been given."

**Joe Schember** ◆1. "No exceptions"

◆4. "We give people three days to consider whether they want to pledge their home as collateral on a home. One day to decide a human life doesn't seem like enough."

**Marlene M. Silbaugh** ◆ "I have 12 children (eight of them adopted). God has a home for every child."

**Ned Smith** ◆6. "I struggle with this. If it is the law of the land, provisions should be made for those who require medically necessary abortions but cannot afford the cost."

**Roger W. Stranahan** ◆ "None of these

questions have any bearing on school board policy or a school director position."

**Sue Weber** ◆1. "Rape, incest, medical necessity" ◆2. "If the person is in a sound medical state to make an informed choice"

**Jack W. Wood** ◆1. "Two or more doctors and two or more community members swear under oath that the unborn would have no quality of life after birth"

## Additional Note

Prior to the 2006 Primary Election, while running against State Rep. John Evans, Carol Loll had a conversation with a People for Life member during a candidate forum in Meadville. She reportedly declined to describe herself as "pro-life" and said that the acceptability of abortion should be decided on a "case by case basis."

## Rep. English: No \$ for PP

Last July, Congress voted on a measure to stop funding Planned Parenthood, by far the biggest abortion provider in the U.S. The attempt failed, 189-231, but we are pleased to report that Congressman Phil English (R-PA 3) voted for the measure.

Planned Parenthood carries out 265,000 abortions every year, charging customers \$100 million for the "service." Yet, in fiscal year 2004-2005, taxpayers forked over an additional \$272.7 million.

Democrats voted against the amendment (YES to PP funding), 210 to 16.

Republicans voted for the amendment (NO to PP funding) 173 to 21.

## State Judicial Elections

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC has announced recommendations for state Supreme Court and for state Superior Court in the November 6 General Election.

There are two openings on the state Supreme Court. In this election, the Federation PAC recommends Maureen Lally-Green and Mike Krancer for Supreme Court.

There are now three openings on the state Superior Court, since Judge Michael Joyce announced he would not run for retention. In this election, the Federation PAC recommends Cheryl Lynn Allen, Bruce Bratton, and Jacqueline Shogan for Superior Court.

There are also judges on the ballot for retention. The Federation PAC recommends the retention of Judge Thomas Saylor on the state Supreme Court. Judge Joan Orié Melvin and Judge Corry Stevens are recommended for retention on the state Superior Court

# 2007 Candidate Survey Responses

| QUESTION  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>Erie County District Attorney</b> (vote for 1)               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Brad Foulk  | nr |
| <b>Erie County Controller</b> (vote for 1)                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| John Steiner  | nr |
| Sue Weber   | Y♦ | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y♦ |
| <b>Erie County Coroner</b> (vote for 1)                         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Lyell P. Cook   | nr |
| <b>Erie County Council District 1</b> (vote for 1)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Phil Fatica   | nr |
| Charley Augustine   | n  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| <b>Erie County Council District 3</b> (vote for 1)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Fiore Leone   | Y♦ | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Mike Kobylka  | nr |
| <b>Erie County Council District 5</b> (vote for 1)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Kyle W. Foust   | nr |
| <b>Erie County Council District 7</b> (vote for 1)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Lyle Sanders  | Y♦ | n♦ | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | n♦ |
| Carol Loll  | nr |
| <b>Magisterial District Judge 3-8</b> (vote for 1)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Chris K. Mackendrick  | nr |
| <b>Magisterial District Judge 1-1</b> (vote for 1)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Sue Mack  | nr |
| <b>Magisterial District Judge 1-2</b> (vote for 1)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Paul G. Urbaniak  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| <b>City of Erie Treasurer</b> (vote for 1)                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Susan E. Di Vecchio   | nr |
| <b>Erie City Council 4-year term</b> (vote for not more than 3) |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Patrick S. Cappabianca  | nr |
| Mark Aleksandrowicz   | b♦ | n  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N♦ | Y  |
| Jessica Horan-Kunco   | nr |
| Tim Butler  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| <b>Erie City Council 2-year term</b> (vote for one)             |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Tim Butler  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Joe Schember  | Y♦ | Y  | Y  | Y♦ | Y  | N  | Y  |
| <b>City of Erie School Director</b> (vote for 5)                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Rich Szychowski   | nr |
| Gary Horton   | nr |
| John C. Harkins   | nr |
| Bob Casillo   | nr |
| Jeanine McCreary  | nr |
| Ned Smith   | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | b♦ | Y  |
| <b>Corry Area School Director</b> (vote for 5)                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Roger W. Stranahan ♦  | b  | b  | b  | b  | b  | b  | b  |
| Christine A. Johnson  | nr |
| Peggy J. Gates  | nr |
| Michael W. Kondrlik   | nr |
| Doris Gernovich   | nr |
| <b>Fairview School Director</b> (vote for 5)                    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Daniel Stroup   | nr |
| Michael P. Dougherty  | nr |
| Jim Breckenridge  | nr |
| Andrew Foyle  | nr |
| Michael G. Nelson   | nr |
| QUESTION  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| <b>Fort LeBoeuf School District</b> (vote for 5)                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Shirley Sackett   | nr |
| Carl M. Wolfrom   | nr |
| John E. Ogden   | Y♦ | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Benny Hunt  | nr |
| John A. Byrtus  | nr |
| <b>General McLane School District At-Large</b> (vote for 2)     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Becky M. Okel   | nr |
| Michael Holman  | nr |

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| William R. Weber  | nr |
| <b>General McLane School District Region 2</b> (vote for 2) |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Mona Buschak  | nr |
| Randy S. White  | nr |
| <b>General McLane School District Region 3</b> (vote for 1) |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Timothy D. Wise   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Girard School District</b> (vote for 5)                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Douglas J. Wright   | nr |
| Michele Stubenbort  | nr |
| Kelly Munro-Weidler   | nr |
| Kathleen Weed   | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Gary Faulkner   | nr |
| <b>Harborcreek School Director</b> (vote for 5)             |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Theresa Herrera   | nr |
| Robert McGahan  | nr |
| Terri Brink   | nr |
| James J. Dolak  | nr |
| Charles D. Spacht   | nr |
| Renee Gregorich-Uht   | nr |
| Jack W. Wood  | Y♦ | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| <b>Iroquois School Director</b> (vote for 5)                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Marlene M. Silbaugh ♦                                       | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Alfred Rial   | nr |
| James F. Crotty   | nr |
| William Kaliszewski   | nr |
| Richard L. Ragen, Jr.                                       | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| <b>Millcreek School Director</b> (vote for 5)               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Ronald H. Wilga   | nr |
| Brian Kramer ♦  | n  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Judy Wheaton  | nr |
| Susan Sullivan  | nr |
| Gary J. Winschel  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | n  |
| Michael J. Palermo  | nr |
| <b>North East School Director</b> (vote for 5)              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Richard E. Winschel   | nr |
| Robert Boyd   | nr |
| Thomas Kelley   | nr |
| James M. Barnes   | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Kathleen Weinheimer   | nr |
| <b>Northwestern School Director</b> (vote for 5)            |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Tracy L. Reiser   | nr |
| Linda K. Thompson   | nr |
| Valerie Y. Hoover   | nr |
| Harlod Merritt  | nr |
| Dolores K. Anderson   | nr |
| Richard A. Sembower   | nr |
| <b>Union City Area School Director</b> (vote for 5)         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| George R. Trauner   | nr |
| Loretta J. Price  | nr |
| John Tracy Daggett  | nr |
| Blain Blakeslee   | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  |
| <b>Wattsburg Area School Director</b> (vote for 5)          |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Sue Afton   | nr |
| Eric Duda   | nr |
| Kerry W. Duncan   | Y♦ | Y  | Y  | Y♦ | Y  | N  | Y  |
| Scott D. Rose   | nr |
| Joe Walko   | nr |
| Ken Watkins   | n  | n  | n  | n  | n  | n  | n  |

"This is the biggest moral issue of the day.... We've killed over 40 million people that should be here.... With every abortion there's at least two victims, one dead, one wounded.... We believe all people are sacred and they're beautiful.... We can get this done here. Once we win this fight, it will reverberate around the world." — U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS), October 11, 2007

# За ЖИТТЯ!

By Marielle Lafaro, education director

За ЖИТТЯ... It means "pro-life." It was a shared sentiment among the 100-plus Ukrainians enrolled in the English Summer School program where I taught over the summer.

During this language immersion program, located near the Carpathian Mountains of southwestern Ukraine, I had the opportunity to teach a weeklong elective course titled,

*Abortion in the United States.*

The students, mainly from the Ukrainian Catholic University, were dismayed by the abortion policies and practices of the USA. But the alarming abortion numbers were not entirely shocking to the students already familiar with the high abortion rates in their own struggling nation.

The former Soviet republic has seen more than its share of oppression and social ills, some which will be long remembered as some of the worst evils of the 20th Century. Still, however, after a decade and a half of

independence, the country's Soviet-era abortion policies need major reform. The students, some in very broken English, lamented this during our class conversations.

Each day, students not taking the abortion elective would come timidly to ask if I had an extra pro-life rubber bracelet or Precious Feet pin to spare. I only wish I had brought more! Thanks to People for Life, however, I was able to share a good amount of pro-life material with the students, both promotional items and literature.

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### Jean Hammer

the Washington, DC March for Life every year since the late '70s. She also volunteers regularly to help with a myriad of additional projects throughout the year.

People for Life President Tim Broderick praised Jean as "consistently one of our three or four most faithful demonstrators and sidewalk counselors *whenever* abortions take place in Erie, even during the long, dark, frigid evenings of winter."

Jean's pro-life work extends well beyond People for Life. She has also worked closely with the PA Pro-Life Federation PAC in the distribution of Pro-Life Voter Guides for over 20 years, and she has been active in a pro-life prayer group called The Shield of Roses since 1974.

Congratulations Jean! You deserve it.

### Abortion Facility Update

Thankfully, this update will be brief.

The American Women's Services abortion facility in Erie has remained closed since February. The AWS branch in State College has also been closed for a similar length of time. AWS' Pittsburgh location is currently closed as well. These three facilities are out of service largely because AWS was left shorthanded when Dr. Steven Regec, its previous abortionist in NW PA, moved to Marion County, South Carolina last February.

### VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY

In recent months, the only activities we have observed at the Erie location (from our Alternative Choices for Women Office across the hallway) have been visits by the AWS company handyman on August 21, September 21, and October 18.

### UTILITY SHUTOFF WARNING

A "Utility Termination Notice" from the Professional Building Condominium Association was taped to the door of AWS-Erie's Suite 310 on June 5. The notice stated that AWS-Erie owed \$22,475.97 in condominium fees for its six suites and that a payment of \$13,773.21 had to be made by June 18 to avoid termination of utility services, "i.e., gas and electric service."

We do not know what further steps, if any, have been taken, but there are some indications that a part of the abortion facility *might* be without electric service at this time.

### OVERDUE TAXES

In late August, overdue tax notices were posted on the doors to all six of AWS-Erie's office suites.

The property was kept off the auction block, however, when the county received a tax payment on the September 17.

### BRIGHAM EYES ATLANTIC CITY

In related news, an abortion business in Atlantic City, NJ that was scheduled to be taken over by AWS owner Dr. Steven Brigham closed permanently instead. The facility surrendered its license over the summer under pressure from the New Jersey Health Department. The Health Department had issued a 116-page report citing health and sanitation violations including bloodstained operating tables, expired drugs, and the lack of a sterilization sink.

The abortion facility, known as "Alternatives," had been the home of abortionist Dr. Alan Kline. Kline and Brigham have presumably known each other since at least 1994, when both abortionists worked at Pensacola Women's Medical Center in Florida.

Brigham's tenure there was short lived, his Florida medical license being revoked in a matter of months after his arrival in the sunshine state.

According to the *Press of Atlantic City*, Brigham had been personally doing abortions at the sub-standard abortion mill for several months prior to its closing and had already been issuing paychecks to its employees.

### BUFFALO LOCATION FIZZLES OUT

According to information obtained during a visit to Buffalo in early June, a property in Tonawanda, NY that was purchased by AWS owner Dr. Steven Brigham in early 2002 no longer belongs to Brigham. It is now owned by a reputable local doctor. Brigham had planned to turn the property, a former medical office at 3834 Delaware Ave., into another one of his abortion mills.

According to the owner of a nearby business, the local physician purchased the property during the summer of 2006 – from

the Town of Tonawanda, that is. How the town became involved was not explained.

As of last June, the new owner had demolished the old building and was building a new medical office for his already-established private practice.

### Abortion facility rapid response list

Although it is closed for the time being, the Erie abortion facility remains intact. And sooner or later if its owner, Dr. Steven Brigham, keeps up with his property taxes and condo fees, some unscrupulous physician who is short on cash will sign up for a tour of duty as Erie's village abortionist. When this happens, it will only take a week or so to hire a staff of young women on a "no experience necessary; will train" basis.

If – or more realistically, when – the killing resumes, some display of our community's disapproval will be necessary. Ideally, there will be enough pro-life people on the sidewalks outside the abortion facility to justify issuing press releases and warrant the attention of our local news media.

If we issue a press release and the news media respond, a poor turnout for the demonstration will send precisely the wrong message. Nothing anyone can say about the evil, injustice, or brutality of abortion will compensate for a shortage of people who care enough to act on their convictions instead of just talking. Talk is cheap. Actions – and inaction – speak much louder than words.

Abortion businesses want to stay in the shadows. It is up to the pro-life community to attract the news coverage that the Erie abortion facility would rather avoid. The amount of media coverage that is generated will depend on the number of pro-life people who heed the call for demonstrators.

If you agree that action is necessary and you would like a phone call in the event that, despite the hopes and prayers of thousands, a large-scale public demonstration becomes necessary, please e-mail or call People for Life today. Ask to be placed on the "Rapid Response" phone list. We are not looking for an absolute commitment. We just need to know whether you will want to help when the time comes if you are in a position to do so.

## Educational Work

People for Life did *Overview of Abortion* educational presentations for three audiences during October: the teens of the St. George Church youth group; a class of about 30 Family and Consumer Science students at Mercyhurst College; and about 50 students, grades 7-12, at the Warren County Christian School in Youngsville, PA.

Our presentations are illustrated with PowerPoint slides and normally cover seven topics: fetal development; basic abortion policy in the U.S. (*Roe v. Wade*); abortion procedures and associated risks; abortion-related statistics; legislation intended to moderate the harmful effects of legal abortion; abortion in Erie; and activism and volunteerism in response to *Roe v. Wade*.

People for Life appreciates every opportunity to educate any type of audience in northwestern PA. We are happy to modify the style and content of our presentations to suit specific groups, large and small, middle school to adult. All topics are discussed in an objective, academic fashion, with respect for different personal convictions, experiences, and sensitivities.

Presentations during November are scheduled for the religious education classes at St. Lawrence Church, Albion, grades 8-12 and for the combined religious education classes of several Corry area churches, grades 7-12.

Call (814) 882-1333 or e-mail [office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org) for more information or to schedule a free presentation.



## Community Outreach

People for Life's community outreach season drew to a close on Sunday, September 30, our final day at the Wine Country Harvest Festival in North East, PA. This was our second year at the "Wine Fest," and our 10th major event of the 2007 season. We were stationed in Gibson Park, where exhibitors such as People for Life set up for the two biggest days of the three-day community celebration.

Our season began on May 30 with the Erie Wild Rib Cook Off and Music Festival and continued with Corry Fest, Praise on the Bay at Liberty Park, Dan Rice Days, Warren County Fair (on behalf of the PA Pro-Life Federation), Celebrate Erie, the Erie County Fair at Wattsburg, the Waterford Community Fair, and the Albion Area Fair. During several of these events, our outreach volunteers staffed the booths 12 or more hours per day.

Celebrate Erie and the Warren County Fair were two very important new additions to this year's schedule.

Celebrate Erie is the biggest outdoor summer festival within the City of Erie. This event, like the Erie Wild Rib Cook Off, is an especially important venue from a pro-life perspective because it takes place in close proximity to Erie's first and second trimester abortion facility, American Women's Services.

The Warren County Fair lies a little beyond People for Life's normal range of operations, but we were happy to participate this year so we could introduce more Warren County residents to the PA Pro-Life Federation. The Federation covered most of our expenses, while People for Life provided the necessary personnel and items such as a tent, tables, literature racks, a helium tank, and several sets of fetal models.

Our "I love life" balloons could be seen circulating the parks and fairgrounds everywhere we went this summer. Almost

2500 balloons were given away to children. We also handed out at least that many copies of our *Did You Know?* brochure.

*Did You Know?* is a two-panel brochure that we produce very economically using our own copy machine. Our outreach workers routinely hand them to all of our teen and adult visitors, explaining that the brochure is "just a quick read" with a few key facts about abortion that "every American needs to know."

The outreach booths feature dozens of other free brochures, booklets, and fact-sheets as well. Some of the most popular items this season were a fact sheet on fetal pain; a fact sheet describing the 2008 presidential candidates' positions on three key human life issues; and various illustrated brochures on prenatal development, which are especially popular with expectant moms.

This year, we also handed out computer CDs with abortion information for teens. The CDs were provided by the PA Pro-Life Federation.

Hundreds of our outreach booth visitors signed NRLC's "Open Petition to the Republican Party." The petition simply tells the Republican National Committee that pro-life Americans want a presidential candidate they can support.

Occasionally someone would ask, "Why petition only one of the two major parties?" The answer is that eight people have announced their candidacies for the Democratic presidential nomination and every one of them is, unfortunately, pro-abortion. There would not be much point in asking the Democratic Party to support a candidate that does not exist.

On the other hand, all of the Republican candidates except Rudy Giuliani, the current front-runner, are substantially pro-life and vastly preferable to what the Democratic Party has to offer at the present time.



Outreach booths with a positive, pro-life message (top to bottom): Corry Fest, Praise on the Bay, Dan Rice Days, Warren County Fair, Waterford Community Fair

## One Small Favor

DEAR READER,

Let me get right to the point and ask one small favor of you: Please join People for Life. A regular annual membership is only \$10.00.

As director of our organization, I'm very excited about the many projects our volunteers are working on and the encouraging results being produced by all the hard work.

Of course, it's clear that People for Life can't do it all. We can't save all Erie-area babies from abortion or their mothers from post-abortion trauma. We can't ensure that every local young person forms pro-life convictions. We can't change every "pro-choice" person's mind or heart. We can't thoroughly

educate every person in the community about the emerging evils of euthanasia and human cloning. Nevertheless, we know we are making a significant, pro-life difference in the Erie region – by doing our part.

*You can make a difference, too.*

You might wonder what difference a mere \$10 membership donation can possibly make. But remember, People for Life is a relatively small organization, and \$10 donations are what keep our volunteers going. \$10 will allow us to make 200 of our *Did You Know?*

brochures, which our volunteers distribute by the 1000s at community events every year. \$10 will pay for educational materials to give the students who attend our next classroom presentation. And \$10 will buy about 25 *Before You Decide* booklets, which we

share quite frequently with women who are seriously contemplating abortion.

Your \$10, and your standing with us as a member of the organization, will definitely make a difference. Please join or renew your membership today.

Use the membership form on page 7 or simply send a note with your name, address, phone number (optional), and the word "Membership" to People for Life, Inc. / P.O. Box 1126 / Erie, PA 16512. Special membership rates apply to families (\$20), senior citizens (\$5), and students (\$5).

YOURS FOR LIFE,

*Tim Broderick*  
TIM BRODERICK  
President and Director  
People for Life

## Billboard discontinued

The pro-life billboard near the American Women's Services abortion facility on Peach Street was taken down in July.

A number of considerations led to the decision to discontinue the billboard, including the high cost of renting the space and the dormant state of AWS' Erie location. No abortions have been done at the facility since February 17, when the doctor that had been doing nearly all the abortions moved to South Carolina.

The billboard carried a pro-life message for seven years, beginning in July 2000, when the Women's Care Center of Erie County initially secured the location.

People for Life took charge of the billboard in July 2001 and held the location for the next six years.

The original artwork came down on April 4, 2005 after vandals defaced it. It was replaced with a new canvas bearing a new design, which People for Life purchased from CareNet. CareNet is a well-known national organization that provides extensive support for local pregnancy care centers.

People for Life was only able to maintain the billboard these many years because of a lot of very generous financial support given by local residents specifically for the billboard. Thank you to all who contributed!

## Terri Schiavo Case

As most people remember, Terri Schiavo died on March 31, 2005 after a prolonged period of intentional starvation and dehydration by the order of her estranged husband Michael. In the wake of her death, there was a good deal of confusion – confusion about the particulars of her individual case, and more importantly, about the general moral and ethical principles involved. The confusion was especially troubling when it manifested itself even

among local religious leaders and confirmed abortion opponents.

Within some Roman Catholic circles, it seemed that Pope John Paul II's very clear and timely statements about these issues were being badly misunderstood and mischaracterized, one might even say, creatively mischaracterized.

A statement signed by Pope Benedict XVI and issued on August 11, 2007 by the Roman Catholic Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) leaves very little excuse for confusion about the Roman Catholic Church's "take" on the deliberate starvation or dehydration of people with brain damage, like Terri Schiavo.

The CDF statement affirmed that the provision of food and water is "an ordinary and proportionate means of preserving life" and therefore obligatory so long as it fulfills its single, very obvious purpose, "*which is the hydration and nutrition of the patient.*"

Increasingly, the provision of basic medical care that is doing its job, even the provision of food and water, is being labeled as *futile care* simply because the treatment does not resolve the patient's underlying medical problem(s).

The CDF statement begins by answering the following questions, then continues with four pages of supporting commentary:

*"First Question: Is the administration of food and water (whether by natural or artificial means) to a patient in a 'vegetative state' morally obligatory except when they cannot be assimilated by the patient's body or cannot be administered to the patient without causing significant physical discomfort?"* Answer: "Yes. The administration of food and water even by artificial means is, in principle, an ordinary and proportionate means of preserving life. It is therefore obligatory to the extent to which, and for as long as, it is shown to

accomplish its proper finality, which is the hydration and nourishment of the patient. In this way suffering and death by starvation and dehydration are prevented."

*"Second Question: When nutrition and hydration are being supplied by artificial means to a patient in a 'permanent vegetative state,' may they be discontinued when competent physicians judge with moral certainty that the patient will never recover consciousness?"* Answer: "No. A patient in a 'permanent vegetative state' is a person with fundamental human dignity and must, therefore, receive ordinary and proportionate care which includes, in principle, the administration of water and food even by artificial means."

## Christmas Party

People for Life's annual Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 2 from 1 to 4 PM in the Conway Room at Holy Rosary Church. Everyone is welcome. Call Shirley Widomski at 452-3395 by Wednesday, November 28 if you plan to attend.

Please bring a dish to share and a toy or item of children's clothing (newborn to 12 years) to donate for distribution to needy families by Agnes Priscaro's Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System (MHEDS).

Preparations will begin at 12:30 PM. If you can help with the preparations, serving, or cleanup, please say so when you call in your reservation.

## BE A SPONSOR MARCH FOR LIFE ★ JANUARY 22

Help us make our Washington, DC March for Life Bus Trip possible for more students and families with children.

**\$40 per seat**

## FROM PAGE 4 Ukraine: За Життя

The students were very appreciative, displaying their American pro-life "souvenirs" everyday. Even the young neighborhood children gleefully received plastic fetuses and pro-life stickers.

The class itself was as much about building a vision for the future as about discussing facts and figures. The students, some of them seminarians, repeatedly expressed a common desire to see a strong pro-life movement in their own country.

Unfortunately, not unlike our own population, the majority of Ukrainians are pro-life but they fail to act on their convictions. And being relatively new to self-government, the people are not familiar with grassroots activism.

The whole experience gave me a new appreciation for the organized pro-life efforts in the U.S., from our own People for Life all the way up to organizations like National Right to Life, Silent No More Awareness, and the Elliot Institute. The students were encouraged to hear about the work being done in America by average citizens.

The world has already witnessed a tragic amount of genocide in Ukraine. Today, having barely survived years of communism, even systematic starvation under Joseph Stalin, this resilient people continues to suffer the oppression of abortion.

I left my new friends promising them that somehow we would try to help in their efforts to fight this ongoing tyranny. The summer school was a good first step, and I'm eager to see it continue. За Життя!

## New Study: Abortion Breast Cancer Link

27 of 33 studies done between 1957 and 2000 show higher rates of breast cancer among women who have had abortions.

A new study based on data from eight European countries was reported this month in the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*. It once again identifies a link between abortion and breast cancer.

The report, titled "The Breast Cancer Epidemic: Modeling and Forecasts Based on Abortion and Other Risk Factors," considers seven reproductive risk factors as "possible explanatory variables."

"Induced abortion," according to the author, "is found to be the best predictor [of breast cancer rates]."

## Memorials

| <i>Given by</i>          | <i>In Memory of</i>     | <i>Given by</i>                    | <i>In Memory of</i>                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The Scrimentis           | Baby Gemma Rose Burkett | Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald             | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | William Dorris          | Ella & Jerry Galvin                | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | Joan "Jennie" Ferretti  | Jean & Ed Hammer                   | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | David R. Gray           | Lawrence & Marsha Kisielewski      | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | Thomas Hughes           | Suzanne Scheuer & Charles M. Leone | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | Lucille Kerchansky      | Chuck & Peg Mitchell               | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | Emily J. Langer         | Rebecca Nelson                     | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | Mary Ann McCormick      | Mary & James Vogt                  | Jeanette Schultz                      |
| George & Leslee Vesneski | Bishop Michael Murphy   | Toni & Ann Scrimenti               | Robert Schultz                        |
| Jack & Margie Walsh      | Bishop Michael Murphy   | Jerry & Rosanna Stark              | The baby who died at Briggs apartment |
| Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald   | Jack Sapper             | Jean & Ed Hammer                   | Tom Wayman                            |
| Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald   | Bill Schilling          | Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald             | Leonard Zyck                          |
| Jean & Ed Hammer         | Geraldine R. Schmidt    | <i>Given by</i>                    | <i>In Honor of</i>                    |
| Richard P Becht          | Jeanette Schultz        | Thomas & Christine Yadeski         | Rose Ann Yadeski                      |
| Ann & Thomas Dennen      | Jeanette Schultz        |                                    |                                       |
| Teresa & Richard Fischer | Jeanette Schultz        |                                    |                                       |

People for Life is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-sectarian, citizen's organization committed to affirming the intrinsic value of human life. We are dedicated to advancing true justice by working for the protection of all innocent human lives, whatever the age, race, sex, physical condition, economic status, or place of residence (including the womb). We encourage local involvement through

education and by fostering political awareness. We advocate loving alternatives to the primitive and violent "solutions" of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Working together, we are determined to achieve a society in which all human lives are considered sacred. *The Erie Echo* is published bimonthly in Erie, PA by People for Life, Inc., Tim Broderick, editor.

### PEOPLE FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 AFFILIATED WITH \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_  
Church, Business, Civic Organization, etc.

New Membership  Renewal  **DUES:** INDIVIDUAL \$10  FAMILY \$20  SENIOR CITIZEN \$5   
 STUDENT \$5  GROUP \$25  PATRON \$50  BENEFACTOR \$100  OTHER AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_  
 DONATION (other than dues) \_\_\_\_\_ Specify if for other special purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

|                        |                               |   |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| ___ Fair Booths        | ___ Sidewalk Counseling       | ___ March For Life Bus Trip Worker      |
| ___ Phone Calling      | ___ Literature Distribution   | ___ Mother's Day Carnation Project      |
| ___ Office Attendant   | ___ Public Demonstrations     | ___ Erie March & Motorcade Worker       |
| ___ Newsletter Mailing | ___ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker | ___ 'Call when you need an extra hand.' |

Please make your check payable to:  
 PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.  
 P.O. Box 1126  
 Erie, PA 16512

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.  
 The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.  
 Registration does not imply endorsement.

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE INC**  
1625 W 26TH ST  
PO BOX 1126  
ERIE PA 16512

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**People for Life**  
www.peopleforlife.org

An affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation  
(814) 459-1333 ★ (814) 882-1333  
office@peopleforlife.org

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
People for Life, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512

**MAIN OFFICE**  
1625 West 26th St., Erie, PA  
— REGULAR HOURS —  
Tuesday - 10:30 to 1:30  
Thursday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
*Schedule subject to change*  
Other times by appointment.

**DOWNTOWN OFFICE**  
*Alternative Choices for Women*  
1611 Peach St., Suite 321, Erie, PA  
(814) 464-0266  
Open Monday thru Friday - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Ya'all remember to VOTE, now!  
**Election Day**  
is November 6, 2007

| 2007 PRO-LIFE DATE BOOK 2008 |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Nov. 3                       | 2007 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Conference - Pittsburgh            |
| Nov. 6                       | Election Day . . . Vote!                                      |
| Nov. 19                      | People for Life Meeting - 7:30 PM, 1625 W. 26th St.           |
| Dec. 2                       | Annual Christmas Party - 1 to 4 PM, Holy Rosary Church        |
| Jan. 19                      | Erie March and Motorcade for Life - 11 AM                     |
| Jan. 21                      | People for Life Buses leave for Washington, DC - 11 PM        |
| Jan. 22                      | 35th Annual March for Life - Washington, DC                   |
| Feb. 2                       | 30th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast - 9:00 AM, Avalon Hotel        |
| Feb. 18                      | People for Life Meeting - 7:30 PM, 1625 W. 26th St.           |
| Mar. 1                       | Entry Deadline - PA Pro-Life Federation Student Essay Contest |
| Mar. 17                      | People for Life Meeting postponed: St. Patrick's Day!         |
| Mar. 24                      | People for Life Meeting - 7:30 PM, 1625 W. 26th St.           |

# CLASSROOM CORNER

for Students and Teachers



Here are some suggestions about special learning experiences and pro-life activities that you might like to make a part of your school year.

**ORATORY CONTEST** This annual contest is open to high school juniors and seniors. Each contestant gives an original, five to seven minute pro-life talk about abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia. The first round of competition for northwestern PA will be held in Erie on a Saturday in late March or early April. The top contestants have the option of moving on to the statewide competition to be held in Harrisburg. The state winner will advance to the National Right to Life oratory contest, which will be held during the National RTL Convention, July 3-5 in Arlington, VA. Cash prizes are awarded at each level of competition.

**ESSAY CONTEST** This annual contest is open to students in grades 7-12. Contestants write a pro-life essay on abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia. The word limit is 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. Entries must be submitted directly to the PA Pro-Life Federation, Harrisburg, PA by March 1, 2008. Cash prizes are awarded.



**EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS** People for Life would be happy to come to your middle school or high school classroom to share our free Overview of Abortion presentation. The presentation will be tailored according to the grade level and particular needs of your class. See page 5 for additional information.

**SERVICE HOURS** Volunteers for various jobs such as general office work, phone calls, computer work, and fundraising projects are always welcome. Volunteers in especially large numbers are needed every spring for our Mother's Day Carnation fundraiser.

**MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP** Every January, People for Life sends two or more buses to the March for Life in Washington, DC. We are happy to host groups of students with chaperones. We do the entire trip in just over 24 hours, to accommodate busy schedules and keep expenses to a minimum. Bus seats are \$40 each. Inquire about the availability of partial sponsorships for students with limited financial means.

**ERIE MARCH & MOTORCADE FOR LIFE** On Saturday, January 19, beginning at 11:00 AM, there will be a well-organized March & Motorcade for Life in downtown Erie in observance of the 35th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Students are encouraged to participate, whether as a group, as individuals, or with their families, in this activity and all public events and activities sponsored by People for Life throughout the year.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Call People for Life at (814) 882-1333 to chat about any of these suggestions.

