

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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www.peopleforlife.org

December 2005

Brother to tell Terri's Story at Pro-Life Breakfast

The excitement is building in anticipation of People for Life's 28th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 7. Reservations are still available, but don't delay; make yours today! Don't miss this opportunity to hear and meet our internationally recognized keynote speaker Bobby Schindler, the brother of euthanasia victim Terri Schiavo.

The breakfast will take place once again this January at the Avalon Hotel, 16 West 10th Street, Erie. Seating begins at 8:30 AM and the program begins at 9:00 AM.

Among our guests of honor will be the following religious leaders who will assist during the breakfast or during the Memorial Service later in the day: Rev. Parris Baker, Associate Pastor, Believers International Worship Center and Professor of Social Work, Gannon University; Rev. Thomas Brown, Pastor, St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth R.C. Churches, Corry; Rev. Michael T. Gaines, Chancellor, Erie Catholic Diocese; Rev. Edward Krause, Administrator, Immaculate Conception R.C. Church and Professor of Medical Ethics, Gannon

University; and Mr. Roger Scarlett, Pastoral Assistant, Christ United Methodist Church, Erie.

Reservations are \$8.50 and \$5.50 for children ages 3 to 10. Free babysitting will be available; ask for details when making reservations.

Reservations should be finalized by Monday, January 2. Please send a check payable to People for Life, Inc. or stop in person at one of our two offices.

The Main (West 26th Street) Office will be open for last-minute reservations (as long as reservations are still available) from 9 to 5:30 beginning the day after Christmas, December 26. The Downtown (Professional Building) Office will be open from 9 to 5, Monday thru Friday as usual.

Visit www.peopleforlife.org for the latest on events this January.

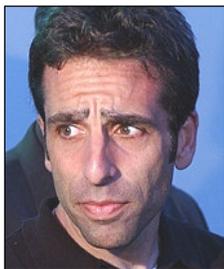


TERRI SCHIAVO

Bobby Schindler: Intimately involved in 'Terri's Fight'

By Marielle Lafaro

Before his sister's death, Bobby Schindler was an average citizen. He taught math and science in a Catholic high school in Tampa, Florida. He had moved to Florida from his native Pennsylvania in order to stay close to his family: his parents, his sister Suzanne, and his older sister, Theresa, or "Terri." The Schindler family was always very close and the relationship between Bobby and Terri was exceptionally strong.



BOBBY SCHINDLER

Years after Terri's unexplained collapse that left her brain-damaged, Bobby was called to become the main spokesman for his family. He addressed the nation through countless TV, radio, and print media, much of which was less than sympathetic. As the urgency of Terri's situation grew, so did Bobby's efforts. He traveled to Washington, DC to intercede personally with members of the U.S. Congress to help protect his sister's life.

Since Terri's untimely death last March, Bobby and his family have been working full-time to continue to address the unjust treatment of the disabled. Bobby left his high school teaching position and now teaches all over the world through speaking engagements, such as the one in Erie this January.

All of the proceeds from these appearances go to the Terri Schindler-Schiavo Foundation (TSSF) that the family established in 2002 for the defense of Terri's life. Today the goals of TSSF are to educate the general public on medical and end-of-life issues as well as provide support, both legal and material, and referrals to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Bobby's altruistic mission to inform and inspire his fellow citizens is evidence of a strong desire for justice, a justice that eluded his late sister. After being intimately involved in Terri's fight, Bobby is now motivated by a sense of personal responsibility to expose the truth about his sister's situation and about what he sees as the growing nationwide trend of devaluing human life, especially in its most fragile stages.

In his presentation, Bobby describes his late sister and the facts and details of her case as only he can do, having been one of the closest people to her from childhood until the day she died. He also pulls away the curtain for the audience and exposes the powerful groups in the country that were instrumental in ending Terri's life.

Through his unique experience, Bobby illustrates the inadequacy of the country's justice system and a diminishing respect for vulnerable life. He speaks sincerely and plainly, with no other agenda than to share
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BREAKFAST PROGRAM SPONSOR LISTINGS

Pro-life professionals, business owners, and organizations are invited to become sponsors of the upcoming 2006 Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast by purchasing a listing in the breakfast program.

Listings are available at \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, and \$10 levels (Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze).

Request a sponsor form from People for Life or download from www.peopleforlife.org.

Bobby Schindler FROM PAGE 1

his concerns and his desire for a compassionate society and to honor the memory of his sister.

Bobby Schindler's message is one that no person who values justice and equality should miss. He's traveling to Erie in the winter month of January, which is, he joked, "asking a lot," so that we too may share in his sister's story and in his compassion for our disabled sisters and brothers. And as he would agree, it's not just about Terri Schiavo: it's about the future of the country.

March for Life Bus Trip

Just \$38.00 and a little over 24 hours are all that are needed to be a part of the 33rd Annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Monday, January 23, 2006. Reserve your bus seats today and leave the driving to us (and Coach USA).

Some sponsorship money is being donated to help students and other people who are unable to raise the necessary funds. So if you would like to attend the march but the cost is prohibitive, please ask about a sponsorship.

Sponsors are greatly appreciated. If you are unable to attend the March for Life, please consider donating \$38.00 to send someone in your place.

Reservations should be made as soon as possible because seating is limited. Send \$38.00 per seat, making checks payable to People for Life, Inc. Please provide a name, address, and telephone number for each reservation. Church and student groups are welcome!

For more information, call People for Life or visit www.peopleforlife.org. The website includes links to Washington, DC weather forecasts and visitor information, the DC Metro System, and the official March for Life website.

The marchers will board buses in Erie at 11:00 PM on Sunday, January 22 and arrive in Washington the following morning at approximately 8:00 AM.

Local TV stations frequently carry live reports from our point of departure at the beginning of their 11:00 PM newscasts. Marchers and well-wishers are encouraged to arrive a little before 11:00 PM to hold signs and banners for the cameras.

The marchers will have opportunities to attend meetings with Sen. Rick Santorum and Rep. Phil English upon completion of the march. Congressman English and several other pro-life PA Members of Congress will hold a joint reception and provide refreshments.

People for Life is happy to provide special attention for first-time marchers who are unfamiliar with Washington. Those who want to venture out on their own will be able to do so, but anyone who prefers to stay with a group will have that opportunity.

Erie March & Motorcade

On Saturday, January 7, 2006, northwestern Pennsylvanians will have an opportunity to be a voice for the voiceless, bringing the pro-life message directly to the public and to the news media by taking part in the Erie March & Motorcade for Life.

We will walk peacefully with friends and neighbors through downtown Erie in memory of the more than 45 million lives taken by abortion in the United States since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. We will march to

affirm that deliberately ending human lives whether by abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia never fulfills our duty to care and provide for the most dependent members of our human family. We will also take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of addressing the needs of women facing challenging pregnancies or struggling with the emotional burdens resulting from previous abortions.

The March & Motorcade will begin at 10th & State.

Marchers should assemble at 12:15 PM on the sidewalk in front of the Avalon Hotel. Signs and banners will be provided. Other signs with *positive* pro-life messages may also be used.

Vehicles will assemble for the motorcade in the eastbound lanes of 10th Street between Peach and State Streets.

At 12:30 the march and motorcade will proceed south on State to 18th, west to Peach, north to 15th, east to State, and north to Perry Square.

All those who are able to walk are encouraged to do so. Those who would have difficulty walking are encouraged to join the motorcade.

The Erie March & Motorcade for Life will conclude with a brief Memorial Service at the Gazebo in Perry Square. We will remember the lives lost to abortion and the pain experienced by so many mothers, fathers, and families of aborted children.

The Memorial Service will be conducted by Fr. Tom Brown, pastor of St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth Churches in Corry and Rev. Parris Baker, Associate Pastor, Believers International Worship Center and Professor of Social Work, Gannon University.

Books on Health Care Issues

The fate of Terri Schiavo drew a lot of attention to the relationship between pro-life values, health care, and the rights of the mentally and physically disabled.

The case serves as a new milestone (largely because of the extensive publicity it received) in the slide from what is often described as a *Sanctity of Life Ethic*, which asks, "Can medical care help this individual?" toward a *Quality of Life Ethic*, which asks, "Does this individual *deserve* to be helped with medical care?"

It is important to note that Terri's case is far from unique in today's health care system. And although Terri's case shows that the Quality of Life Ethic is becoming the dominant view among medical ethicists and in the courts, most of the issues raised are not brand new. Pro-life medical and legal experts have been warning about these trends for at least 40 years.

People for Life's lending library has had

books on the subject since the 1970s. People need to read them now more than ever. The following titles are highly recommended:

- *A Different Death: Euthanasia & the Christian Tradition* by Edward J. Larson & Darrel W. Amundsen
- *Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia Past & Present* by J.C. Willke, M.D. et al
- *Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America* by Wesley J. Smith, J.D.
- *Deadly Compassion: The Death of Ann Humphry and the Truth About Euthanasia* by Rita L. Marker, J.D.
- *Death as a Salesman: What's Wrong with Assisted Suicide* by Brian P. Johnston A 25 minute companion video is also available.
- *Forced Exit: The Slippery Slope from Assisted Suicide to Legalized Murder* by Wesley J. Smith, J.D.
- *Handbook on Euthanasia* by Susan M. and Robert L. Sassone
- *Protecting the Medically Dependent:*

Social Challenge and Ethical Imperative by Fr. Robert Barry, O.P.

- *Seduced by Death: Doctors, Patients, and Assisted Suicide* by Herbert Hendin, M.D.
- *Silent Witness: The Untold Story of Terri Schiavo's Death* by Mark Fuhrman
- *Terri's Story* by Diana Lynne (We hope to have this book on sale at the Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast. Bobby Schindler recommended the book to us saying it is "very good.")
- *The German Euthanasia Program: Excerpts from "A Sign for Cain"* by Fredric Wertham, M.D.
- *The Right to Live - The Right to Die* by C. Everett Koop, M.D.

MOVING?

Bad addresses cost People for Life hundreds of dollars a year. Please phone or e-mail your new address and phone number when you move.

Why you should join People for Life

Are you a member of People for Life? If not, please join today! We value everything you do to protect and defend the Right to Life, and we definitely want to count you as one of our official members.

Joining is easy, and dues are less than \$1.00 a month! Just tear out the form at the bottom of this page and mail it today. Your dues—and your willingness to “stand up and be counted”—will help ensure a strong grassroots voice for life in northwestern PA.

Remember, numbers do matter. One of the first questions the news reporters ask us is “How many people belong to your organization?”

So, in addition to being a source of much needed funds, memberships make a very

important statement, and people do take notice. There is strength in numbers!

If you have been a member but are not sure if your dues are up to date, just call or e-mail. We will be happy to check the membership role. Please note that you will continue receiving this newsletter even if your membership has lapsed.

Please also encourage your friends and family to become members. “It costs less than a dollar a month!”

Religious Opinion

Some local religious figures have suggested that what happened to Terri Schiavo was OK. Here is a rejoinder from one notable, well-respected religious figure:

“The evaluation of probabilities, founded on waning hopes for recovery when the vegetative state is prolonged beyond a year,

cannot ethically justify the cessation or interruption of minimal care for the patient, including nutrition and hydration. Death by starvation or dehydration is, in fact, the only possible outcome as a result of their withdrawal. In this sense it ends up becoming, if done knowingly and willingly, true and proper euthanasia by omission. In this regard, I recall what I wrote in the *Encyclical Evangelium Vitae*, making it clear that ‘by euthanasia in the true and proper sense must be understood an action or omission which by its very nature and intention brings about death, with the purpose of eliminating all pain’; such an act is always ‘a serious violation of the law of God, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person.’” John Paul II (March 20, 2004)

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Jean & Ed Hammer	Pat Chapin	Jim & Rose Ann Yadeski	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer
Jean & Ed Hammer	Clara Czernek	Mary & Chuck Warner	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer
Fred & Maureen Anthony	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Mary Alice Wilczynski & Family	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer
Bob & Carolyn Brabender	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Jean & Ed Hammer	Cecilia Jares
Barb, Don & Meredith Cesare	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Jeanette Schultz	Cecilia Jares
Dr. Frank & Jane Episcopo	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Thelma Manendo & Children	Louis Manendo
Jean & Ed Hammer	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald	Florence Miller
Carol & Jim Javon	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Jean & Ed Hammer	Ray Ostrowski
Carol & Glenn Kuzma	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald	Harvey Ringhand
Teresa Lallman	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer		
Mary Pat Ringhand	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Jeanette Schultz	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer	Jack & Margie Walsh	Mr. & Mrs. Lew Sheasley
Donna Tatar	Robert F. “Bob” Hammer		50th Wedding Anniversary

People for Life is an all-volunteer, non-profit, 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. Together, we can create a society in which all human lives are held sacred.

The Erie Echo is published bimonthly in Erie, PA by People for Life, Inc., Tim Broderick, editor.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP		NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>
NAME _____		DATE _____	
ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____		STATE _____	ZIP _____
E-MAIL _____		PHONE _____	FAX _____
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT _____	ORGANIZATION _____	OCCUPATION _____	
Church, Business, Civic Organization, etc.			
MEMBERSHIP	INDIVIDUAL \$10 _____	FAMILY \$20 _____	SENIOR CITIZEN \$5 _____
STUDENT \$5 _____	GROUP \$25 _____	PATRON \$50 _____	BENEFACTOR \$100 _____
OTHER AMOUNT _____			
ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR: Peach Street Billboard _____ Other Purpose (please specify) _____			
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Booths	<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalk Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip Worker
	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother’s Day Carnation Project
	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Attendant	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March & Motorcade Worker
	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> ‘Call when you need an extra hand.’
Please make your check payable to: PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC. 1625 West 26th Street 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 in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.	

Help Build 'Terri's List'

The National Right to Life Committee has asked each of its local chapters to assist the Teri Schindler-Schiavo Foundation in developing a national network of medical and legal professionals who will be willing to step in and fight for the lives of vulnerable patients.

Please help People for Life identify pro-life physicians and lawyers in your area by sending in your recommendations. We will pass the information along to NRLC.

The physicians and lawyers will be contacted by NRLC and screened for inclusion in the nationwide database, which will be maintained by TSSF.

Please feel free to recommend candidates who feel strongly about abortion even if you are not currently aware of their stand on euthanasia issues.

Living Wills: Caution

Be careful of "living wills," also known as advance directives for health care. A common problem with "living wills" is vague language. In the hands of doctors, lawyers and judges who think that persons with serious disabilities are better off dead, this kind of language might be used to kill you or someone you love. A currently popular "living will," includes, for instance, a directive that food and water are to be provided only if doing so "offers a reasonable hope of benefit."

Benefit? How would Judge George Greer, the judge who sealed the fate of Terri Schiavo, interpret that word (...as a gigantic loophole or a blank check)?

Compare this with the no-nonsense language in the pro-life alternative to "living wills," National Right to Life's *Will to Live*: "Food and water are not medical treatment, but basic necessities. I direct my health care provider(s) and health care surrogate to provide me with

food and fluids orally, intravenously, by tube, or by other means to the full extent necessary both to preserve my life and to assure me the optimal health possible." These words at least stand a chance of getting someone's attention!

For a clear, concise, and more complete overview of this subject and more reasons to be careful of "living wills," get a copy of the NRLC Will to Live and read the several pages of notes that come with the document. Copies are always available from People for Life. Copies will also be available at the Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast on January 7.

Sen. Santorum: Protecting pro-life health care workers

U.S. Senator Rick Santorum on November 9 introduced legislation to protect health care workers who refuse to participate in abortions. Titled the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA), the bill would ensure that existing federal protection for "health care entities" that refuse to be involved with abortion also applies to individual physicians and other health care workers as well as to health care facilities and insurance companies. ANDA was introduced with 13 cosponsors, including a Democrat, Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE).

Abortion Presentations

People for Life has developed an exciting new and educational PowerPoint slideshow presentation that provides an overview of abortion. It is suitable for almost any

audience (middle school to adult), and can be modified according to specific needs and interests.

This fall, we brought the presentation to St. James School grades 7 & 8, St. John / Holy Rosary School grade 8, and the St. Lawrence Church religious education classes grades 9-12.

To schedule a presentation tailored for your school, church, youth group, or other organization please call People for Life and ask for Marielle Lafaro or Tim Broderick.

Student Essay Contest

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is sponsoring a student essay contest. The deadline for entries is March 1. Essay word limits are 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. Contestants must write about abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia from a pro-life perspective. Papers should be e-mailed to lifelines@paprolife.org or mailed to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, 4800 Jonestown Road, Suite 102, Harrisburg, PA; 17109. Contact People for Life for more information.

2006 PRO-LIFE DATEBOOK 2006

- Jan. 7** 28th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast
- Jan. 7** Annual Erie March & Motorcade for Life
- Jan. 22** 33rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
- Jan. 22** Bus Trip to the Washington, DC March for Life begins
- Jan. 23** 33rd March for Life - Washington, DC
- Feb. 20** People for Life Meeting - 7:30 PM, 1625 West 26th St.
- March 1** Student Essay Contest: Papers due
- April 17** Last day to register before Spring Primary
- May 16** General Primary Election

People for Life
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**OPEN 9:00 TO 5:30, DECEMBER 26
 THRU JANUARY 6, EXCEPT SUNDAY,
 AND JANUARY 16 THRU 21**

— **REGULAR HOURS** —
 Tuesday - 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
 Wednesday - 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 Thursday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 Saturday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Schedule subject to change

DOWNTOWN LOCATION
Alternative Choices for Women
 1611 Peach St., Suite 321, Erie, PA
 Open Monday thru Friday
 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM