

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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www.peopleforlife.org

November 2012

Welcome George Weigel

George Weigel, highly-acclaimed author and public policy expert, will be the featured speaker at People for Life's 35th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast on January 19, 2013.

Mr. Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC and one of America's leading public intellectuals. He has been awarded ten honorary doctorates, the papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, and the Gloria Artis Gold Medal from the Republic of Poland. He serves on the boards of

directors of several organizations dedicated to human rights and the cause of religious freedom and is a member of the editorial board of the journal *First Things*. He and his wife Joan have three children and one grandchild and live in North Bethesda, Maryland.

Mr. Weigel is the author of 20 books, including *The Cube and the Cathedral: Europe, America, and Politics Without God* and the official biography of Pope John Paul

II, in-print in at least 13 languages, *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*.

Pro-Life Breakfast Reservations

The Pro-Life Breakfast will be held for the first time at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Reservations (required) are \$13.00 for teens and adults and \$7 for kids 12 and under. Tickets can be obtained at our 1611 Peach St. office in Suite 321, through the mail, or through www.peopleforlife.org using a credit card or PayPal.

The Power of the Presidency

In the continuing battle to save unborn children from abortion and to reestablish societal respect for all human lives, the president of the United States is by far the most influential person in our country. This life and death struggle will not be won or lost in any single election, but a presidential election can produce breathtaking pro-life gains or quickly set back our cause by a generation or more.

The road to ultimate pro-life victory (full protection from all forms of imposed death for all innocent human beings throughout the entire continuum of life) will probably be measured in decades or perhaps generations. Nevertheless, a president's policies and actions can and do have a dramatic impact on progress toward long-term pro-life goals and on the near-term objective of saving as many babies as possible as soon as possible.

Supreme Court Appointments

Every president has the power to make lifetime appointments to the Supreme Court. These appointments have tremendous ramifications for the pro-life cause. Legal abortion on demand was imposed on all 50 states by the Supreme Court in the *Roe v. Wade* decision. And, as pro-abortion activists know very well, this policy remains in effect only because some members of the Court continue to defend that indefensible decision.

During the next presidential term, three of the Court's nine justices will turn 80 years old. Pro-abortion Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg is already 79, and she was recently treated for pancreatic cancer. Justice Antonin Scalia, who has upheld pro-life laws during

his tenure and would probably support an overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, is 76. It is not known to what extent Justice Anthony Kennedy, also 76, would be willing to change *Roe v. Wade*, but he has defended pro-life laws, even writing the majority opinion that rebuffed a pro-abortion challenge to the current ban on partial-birth abortion.

The replacement of just one pro-life justice with a pro-abortion justice would decisively shift the Court to an uncompromising pro-abortion posture. It would at the very least make *Roe v. Wade* (abortion throughout pregnancy) untouchable for decades to come, sealing the fate of untold millions of unborn children. At worst, it would also result in the repeal of hundreds of current state and federal abortion regulations, including laws that prevent government funding of abortion. These regulations are arguably responsible for saving at least 400,000 lives per year since the mid-90s.

Even pro-life laws with strong public support have survived the Court's judicial review by only the slimmest of margins. The Hyde amendment, which prevents Medicaid from paying for abortions with federal money, was narrowly upheld by a 5-4 vote in 1980. The *Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act*, legislation that was supported by a large majority of the American people and large majorities in both the House and Senate, was also upheld by only one vote in a 5-4 decision. That outcome would have been much different if George W. Bush had not recently appointed pro-life Justices Samuel Alito and John Roberts.

Simply put, it is not unlikely that the next President will appoint three Supreme Court justices. President Obama has already appointed two pro-abortion justices, and it is very clear he will continue to appoint only justices that share his extreme pro-abortion views. Three more pro-abortion appointments would cement the *Roe v. Wade* decision in place for the next 30 years and could very easily result in the repeal of hundreds of pro-life laws, causing abortion rates to skyrocket.

If the next three justices are appointed by a President Romney instead, they are likely to be conservative jurists who would be willing to reconsider *Roe v. Wade* and would respect the U.S. Constitution (which contains no right to abortion) and the democratically-enacted pro-life laws that are now in place.

Presidential Veto

A pro-abortion president, especially one who is beholden to Planned Parenthood and the rest of the abortion lobby, can be expected to veto any and all pro-life legislation that reaches his desk. President Obama, for instance, would almost certainly oppose even the most modest, common-sense regulation of the abortion industry. As a U.S. senator, Obama cosponsored the *Freedom of Choice Act*, a bill that would have invalidated practically every abortion restriction and regulation ever enacted, including those that protect the safety and basic rights of the woman seeking an abortion.

Obama could even be expected to veto legislation that would curtail only the most extreme and outrageous practices. He

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Election 2012

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee examined the voting records, public statements, and/or questionnaire responses of the candidates on the ballot in the General Election on November 6 and issued the evaluations presented below.

NOTE *Pro-life* means that a candidate supports legislation to protect unborn children and supports positive alternatives to abortion. *Pro-abortion* means that a candidate would not support legislation to protect unborn children; would add so many exceptions to such legislation as to render it meaningless; or, in the case of an incumbent, has a pro-abortion record. The following candidates are on ballots in northwestern PA.

President of the United States Barack Obama (D) is pro-abortion. Mitt Romney (R) is pro-life. (A flyer comparing the candidates on five key human life issues is available at www.peopleforlife.org)

U.S. Senate Bob Casey, Jr. (D) says he is pro-life. He has a 44% pro-life voting record, and he voted for ObamaCare. Tom Smith (R) is pro-life.

Congress PA 3 Mike Kelly (R) is pro-life. (100% pro-life voting record) Missa Eaton (D) is pro-abortion. (Eaton: "I don't want a situation where the government is involved in doctors [sic] office. That should be left to a woman, her doctor...")

Congress PA 5 Charles Dumas (D) is pro-abortion. Glenn Thompson (R) is pro-life. (100% pro-life voting record)

PA Attorney General Kathleen Kane (D) is pro-abortion. David Freed (R) is pro-life.

PA Auditor General Eugene Depasquale (D) is pro-abortion. John Maher (R) is pro-life.

PA Treasurer Robert McCord (D) is pro-abortion. Diana Irey Vaughan (R) is pro-life.

STATE SENATE

District 21 (includes eastern Erie County) Scott Hutchinson (R) is pro-life.

District 49 (western Erie County) Sean

Wiley (D) is pro-abortion. Janet Anderson (R) leans pro-life. (See below: "PA Senate Anderson/Wiley.")

STATE HOUSE

District 1 Pat Harkins (D) is pro-life.

District 2 Flo Fabrizio (D) is pro-abortion.

District 3 Ryan Bizzarro (D) is pro-life. Jason Owen (R) is pro-life on abortion. (However, Owen said he would have to see the specific legislation before deciding if he would vote against state funding for embryonic stem cell research.)

District 4 Curt Sonney (R) is pro-life.

District 5 Jason White (D) is pro-abortion. Greg Lucas (R) is pro-life.

District 6 Brad Roae (R) is pro-life.

District 7 Mark Longietti (D) is pro-life.

District 8 Dick Stevenson (R) is pro-life.

District 17 Michelle Brooks (R) is pro-life.

District 64 The position of Lee James (R) is unknown.

District 65 Kathy Rapp (R) is pro-life. (Rapp is the primary sponsor of the pro-life *Women's Right to Know Act*.)

FROM PAGE 1 The Presidency

opposed an Illinois bill that would have required that infants born alive during an attempted abortion be given the same care that any other child in the same medical condition would receive, rather than being killed or left alone to die. The language of the bill was taken verbatim from the federal *Born Alive Infants Protection Act*, which was approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate. Obama also voted against the *Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act* and against a bill to prevent minors from being taken across state lines for an abortion without parental consent. He even opposes a ban on "gendercide" abortions, where babies, usually girls, are targeted solely because of their gender.

In October 2011 Obama issued a formal veto threat against a bill that would have prevented federal money from being used to pay for abortion or to fund insurance plans that pay for abortion.

Pro-life presidents, in contrast, have repeatedly used the power of the veto to keep anti-life agendas in check during their terms in office.

International Consequences

The power of the presidency extends well beyond the ability to shape domestic abortion policies for the United States. The president also has immense power to bring his ideas and opinions about abortion to bear on people and societies all around the world.

The Mexico City policy provides a good example of how a president's attitude toward abortion directly affects other nations. Originally put in place by President Reagan in 1984, it was intended to get the United States out of the international abortion

business. Under the Mexico City policy, organizations that provide or promote abortion as a method of birth control or that campaign for the legalization of abortion in countries with pro-life laws are ineligible to receive money from U.S. taxpayers.

The Mexico City policy is clearly an effective pro-life tool. When President George W. Bush reinstated the Mexico City policy

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PA Senate Anderson/Wiley

Republican Janet Anderson and democrat Sean Wiley are vying for the 49th District state senate seat which has been held by Jane Earl since 1997.

Sean Wiley is rated by the Planned Parenthood of Pennsylvania Political Action Committee as "pro-reproductive rights." Similarly, Wiley is rated by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee as "pro-abortion."

In the primary election, Wiley was one of only five state senate candidates in Pennsylvania that were endorsed by Planned

Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. Planned Parenthood opposes any and all restrictions on abortion at any time during pregnancy and strongly supports government funding for abortion on demand.

Planned Parenthood also provided two college interns to work on Wiley's campaign during the summer months.

With memories of the Erie American Women's Services abortion facility (2003-2007) still fresh in our minds, it is disturbing to think about how a Wiley / Planned Parenthood political alliance might lead to Erie becoming, once again, the abortion center of northwestern Pennsylvania and the tri-state area.

Prior to his Planned Parenthood endorsement, People for Life made three attempts to arrange a meeting with Wiley, one of them during a face-to-face conversation with Wiley's campaign manager. Wiley, however, was unresponsive.

Janet Anderson, Wiley's opponent, did respond to our request for an interview and shared her views during a cordial, 75-minute meeting. She also responded to a questionnaire from the PA Pro-Life Federation. Anderson is substantially but not perfectly supportive of the PA Pro-Life Federation's positions and is described by their political action committee as "leans pro-life."

During our interview we learned that Anderson is fully supportive of the *Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act*, fully in opposition to government funding of elective abortion, and supportive of legal protection for unborn children in the vast majority of cases. She was, however, hesitant to support prohibiting abortion in cases of rape or grave medical and physical complications, which account for two or three percent of all abortions, at most.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE www.peopleforlife.org

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1126 • Erie, PA 16512

MAIN OFFICE

1625 West 26th St. • Erie, PA

— REGULAR HOURS —

Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE

Alternative Choices for Women

1611 Peach St., Suite 321 • Erie, PA

(814) 464-0266

Open Monday through Friday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

March for Life Bus Trip

People for Life's 40th Annual Bus Trip to the Washington, DC March for Life will set out from Erie on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 11 p.m. We will return to Erie at approximately 2 a.m. on the 26th. We hope you will be on board.

The March for Life is an amazing tribute to the sanctity of human life and to the determination of pro-life Americans to protect unborn children from the abortion industry. Every year the event becomes more powerful as our numbers, now in the hundreds of thousands, continue to grow.

The March will take place on a Friday this January. This will be a big benefit for all those who will *not* have to get up early for school or work on Saturday.

To make reservations, send \$48 per seat to People for Life or visit www.peopleforlife.org and use your credit card or PayPal account.

Please act quickly while seats are still available. Last January we had to turn people away because all seats were taken. Your early reservations will also help to maximize the success of our Bus Trip by helping us ensure that we have enough seats for everyone. After mid-December, it quickly becomes impossible to secure additional buses.

Be a Bus Trip Sponsor

Please consider being a March for Life Bus Trip sponsor. Your donation could help a college or high school student on a tight budget or a mom and dad with kids who will be making a sacrifice just to cover the cost of meals during the trip.

Forty-eight dollars will completely pay for one person's seat or allow two people to travel for half-price. In some cases even a partial sponsorship of \$10 or \$15 can make the difference between someone marching in DC or having to stay home. ☺

Erie March for Life

Please mark your calendar and set aside a couple of hours for the Erie March for Life on January 12, 2013. The March will begin at 11 a.m. at Erie's Perry Square. Plan to be at the Gazebo by 10:45 a.m. A Memorial Service following the March will conclude by 12:15 p.m. This is a brief event but it reaches a lot of people through television and newspaper coverage, so a big turnout is very important. Please begin right now to invite your friends and family. You may also be able to organize a group from your school, church or youth group.

Memorials

<p><i>Given by</i></p> <p>Ray & Peg Fitzgerald and Family John E. Auer Lawrence F. Berdis Daniel J. Brabender Ray & Peg Fitzgerald Eileen V. Cullen Gerald & Susan Verga Ella Galvin Marian E. Adelman</p>	<p><i>In Memory of</i></p> <p>J. Edward Adams Leona & George Auer Mrs. Lawrence (Johanna) Berdis Dan & Jane Brabender Gerri Cacchione James W. Cullen Tom Doyle Galvin Family Deceased Rev. Robert Kerner</p>	<p><i>Given by</i></p> <p>Donald & Rita Burick Keith & Melanie Wagner</p> <p><i>Given by</i></p> <p>Charles & Ann Siford Ray & Peg Fitzgerald Tom & Chris Yadeski Tom & Chris Yadeski</p>	<p><i>In Memory of</i></p> <p>Henrietta Sinnott Michael & Joanne Wagner</p> <p><i>In Honor of</i></p> <p>Jim & Mary Lou Speice 55th Wedding Anniversary Joe Wachter - 70th Birthday Jim Yadeski Rose Ann Yadeski</p>
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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 valued and protected. The Erie Echo is published in Erie, PA by People for Life, Tim Broderick, Editor.

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR MAKE A DONATION

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

To use a credit card, provide information below, go on-line to www.peopleforlife.org, or call (814) 882-1333.

MEMBERSHIP New Renewal DUES Individual \$10 Family \$20 Senior Citizen \$5
 Student \$5 Group \$25 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100 Other Dues Amount _____

GENERAL DONATION _____ Specify if for a special purpose: _____
 MEMORIAL DONATION _____ In Memory Of In Honor Of _____

Donations may also be made by using the PayPal button on www.peopleforlife.org. Call-in or e-mail your PayPal donation details.

- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
- ___ Fair Booths
 - ___ Phone Calling
 - ___ Office Attendant
 - ___ Newsletter Mailing
 - ___ Sidewalk Counseling
 - ___ Literature Distribution
 - ___ Public Demonstrations
 - ___ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker
 - ___ March For Life Bus Trip Worker
 - ___ Mother's Day Carnation Project
 - ___ Erie March & Motorcade 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.

NRL Convention 2012

People for Life Director Tim Broderick and Joe Caulfield, currently the vice-president of programming for Gannon University Students for Life, attended the three-day National Right to Life Convention in Washington, DC this past June.

The event featured scores of educational workshops and appearances by a diverse group of high-power pro-life leaders, from Live Action President Lila Rose to U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and Reggie Littlejohn, the attorney who had just negotiated the release of the blind Chinese anti-abortion activist Chen Guangcheng.

Joe says he thoroughly enjoyed his first NRL Convention and will long remember it as “a great introduction to the national pro-life movement.”

Broderick presented a convention workshop on right-to-life chapter activities. He used People for Life’s years of experience to demonstrate the benefits of harmonizing local pro-life projects with the priorities and objectives of National Right to Life and its state affiliates.

Community Outreach

People for Life’s community outreach program has taken us to 10 events all around Erie County so far this year: WCTL Women’s Conference; Erie Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival; CorryFest; North East Firemen’s Cherry Festival; Waterford Community Heritage Days; Dan Rice Days; Celebrate Erie; and the Wattsburg, Waterford, and Albion Fairs. We want to extend a huge thank-you to the dozens of volunteers, including many high school and college students, who took time out of their busy schedules to staff all of these events. We are also grateful to our members and donors whose generous financial support makes our ambitious outreach program possible.

Our life-size fetal models were the main attraction as usual.

Our balloons and “I Love Life” stickers were very popular as well. This year we also handed out hundreds of flyers comparing the presidential candidates’ positions on abortion and health care rationing.

Our last major event this year will be the Girls World Expo at the Bayfront Convention Center on November 4.

See pictures of our outreach booths and tables at www.peopleforlife.org and www.facebook.com/peopleforlife.

Pro-Life Presentations

A phone call or e-mail is all it takes to arrange a free pro-life presentation for your school, church, or other organization. Our *Overview of Abortion* presentation is very popular. The full version covers fetal development, *Roe v. Wade*, abortion procedures, statistics and public opinion, recently-enacted laws and current legislation, abortion in Erie, and pro-life activism. Age-appropriate versions are available for audiences ranging from middle school students to adults.

To learn more call (814) 882-1333.

FROM PAGE 2 The Presidency

after an eight-year suspension under pro-abortion President Bill Clinton, International Planned Parenthood’s budget was reduced by 25%. The Center for Reproductive Law said at the time that the Mexico City policy would significantly set back its efforts to expand abortion in the countries of Latin America, where the cultures are strongly pro-life.

Obama rescinded the Mexico City policy by executive order on January 23, 2009, restoring funding to international abortion

providers and pro-abortion lobbying groups only two days after taking office.

Shortly thereafter Obama restored funding for the United Nations Family Planning Agency. Funding for that entity had been withheld during the eight years of the Bush administration because of UNFPA’s involvement in the Chinese one-child-per-family program, which is implemented with forced abortions and sterilizations.

Speaking in China at Sichuan University, Obama’s V.P., Joe Biden, added “moral” support for the brutal practice of forced abortion to Obama’s financial support when he declared, “Your policy has been one which I fully understand – I’m not second-guessing – of one child per family.”

On March 27, 2009 Obama’s secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking at a Planned Parenthood national conference in Houston, announced that “reproductive rights” would be at the top of the U.S. government’s international agenda. Clinton frankly admitted, a month later during a Congressional hearing, that the Obama administration’s definition of “reproductive rights” most certainly includes abortion on demand.

In 2010, Kenya became a focal point of Obama’s international abortion ambitions. He exerted so much pressure on Kenya to legalize abortion that the U.S. Government Accounting Office opened an investigation to see if Obama had broken any U.S. laws.

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith summarized the situation this way: “The Obama administration basically hired surrogates to do its dirty work of abortion promotion in Kenya. U.S. policy on international constitutional reform is, by law, supposed to be abortion-neutral. This new [GAO] report shows that at a minimum the Obama administration ignored the prohibition with the end result being a new Kenyan constitution that vastly expands access to abortion in Kenya, courtesy of the U.S. taxpayer.”

2012 PRO-LIFE DATE BOOK 2013

Nov. 6	General Election
Nov. 13	PA Pro-Life Federation Celebrate Life Banquet - Camp Hill, PA
Jan. 12	Erie March for Life - Downtown Erie
Jan. 19	2013 Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center, Erie
Jan. 24	Buses leave for the Washington, DC March for Life, 11 p.m.
Jan. 25	40th March for Life - Washington, DC
April 15	General Meeting, 6:45 p.m. - Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St.
May 10-12	Annual Mother’s Day Carnation Project
May 12	Mother’s Day
May 20	Election of Officers, 6:45 p.m. - Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St.