

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

Vol. XLI No. 1

www.peopleforlife.org

January 2013

George Weigel to Speak at 35th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

People for Life will hold its 35th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast on January 19, 2013. We hope you will join us. The event will take place at Erie's Bayfront Convention Center, a brand-new location for the Breakfast with lots of room and lots of free parking.

Tickets are on-sale now. General tickets are \$13 and tickets for children ages 3-12 are \$7. There is no cost for younger children. Tickets must be purchased in advance; the last day to get them will be January 15.

The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 11:30 a.m. Doors will open at 8 a.m. Come early and browse our displays of pro-life educational and promotional materials.

Free child care with fun activities for kids of all ages will be available during the speaking part of the program.

Our very special guest speaker will be the highly acclaimed author and public policy expert George Weigel. The topic of his speech will be: "Pro-Life Challenges and Opportunities in the Years Just Ahead."

Mr. Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) in Washington, DC. He also serves on the boards of directors of several organizations dedicated to human rights and

the cause of religious freedom. He is a member of the editorial board of *First Things*, an inter-religious journal of moral and political philosophy.

Mr. Weigel is regarded as one of America's leading public intellectuals. He has been awarded 15 honorary doctorates, the papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (the highest papal award a layperson can receive), and the Gloria Artis Gold Medal from the Republic of Poland.

In 1994, Mr. Weigel was a signer of the document *Evangelicals and Catholics Together*. It was written to spell out "the need for Protestants and Catholics to deliver a common witness to the modern world at the eve of the third millennium."

Mr. Weigel is the author or editor of 21 books. He is perhaps best known for the best-selling, 1,000-page biography *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*. The book was originally published in English, French, Italian, and Spanish editions in 1999 and subsequently published in nine more languages. A documentary movie based on the book was released in 2001.

Mr. Weigel and his work also figure prominently in a 2010 Citizens United documentary about John Paul II, *Nine Days that Changed the World*. The movie, hosted by Newt and Callista Gingrich, includes a good deal of commentary by Mr. Weigel.

Mr. Weigel and his wife Joan live in North Bethesda, Maryland. They have three children and one grandchild.

Evangelical Catholicism, Mr. Weigel's latest book will be published this January.



George Weigel

Copies will be available to purchase and have autographed at the Breakfast along with copies of an earlier work, *The Cube and the Cathedral: Europe, America, and Politics Without God*.

Michael Ciccocioppo, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, our state-level voice for life in Harrisburg, will attend the Breakfast.

Several pro-life religious leaders from the Erie area will participate in the program: Rev. Mel Bendig, Pastor of Calvary United Methodist Church, Albion; Fr. Dan Hoffman, Parochial Vicar, St. Luke Church, Erie; Rev. Jack McClintock, Pastor, Crossroad Community Church, McKean; and Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, the recently-installed Roman Catholic Bishop of Erie.

Three easy ways to make BREAKFAST AND BUS TRIP RESERVATIONS

- 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK**
People for Life
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Downtown...1611 Peach St., Suite 321
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Main Office...1625 W. 26th St.
Call for hours.

Call 814.882.1333 or go online for more
information about our January Activities.

www.peopleforlife.org

Erie March for Life

Join us for the Erie March for Life on January 12. Invest an hour because entire lifetimes are at stake. Be at the Gazebo in Perry Square by 10:45 a.m. The March will begin promptly at 11 a.m.

Signs will be available, but feel free to bring your own homemade signs with positive pro-life messages. (People for Life, however, reserves the right to exclude messages that do

not reflect the purpose and spirit of the March.)

Dress for winter weather and wear warm, non-slip footwear. Beware of icy patches on the streets and sidewalks.

The March will proceed west from Perry Square on 6th St., south on Sassafras, east on 10th St., north on State, and back to the Perry Square Gazebo, where the March will conclude with a brief, interfaith memorial service.

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March for Life Bus Trip

Would you like to go to the 40th March for Life in Washington, DC this January?

The March is always inspiring and memorable. If you are able to take a day-off from work, school, or whatever your routine is, you should do it. It is usually scheduled for January 22, but this year it has been moved to Friday, January 25 because of the Presidential Inauguration, which takes place on the 21st. This is welcome news for many of our marchers who will now be able to sleep in on Saturday morning instead of getting up early for work or school.

People for Life sponsors a Bus Trip that makes getting back and forth to the March easy and worry-free. We take care of the transportation, parking, and all the planning. You won't have to pay for a hotel, and the cost of meals can be kept to a minimum. The entire activity is compressed into just a little more than 24 hours. Best of all, you will share the experience with many wonderful people from here in the Erie area.

Would you like to bring along a group from your church or school? Groups are welcome, and we would be happy to help you get organized.

Occasionally someone who has never been to the March worries that it could be rowdy or dangerous. There is no reason for such concerns. You will not find a public event that is more peaceful, orderly, and family-oriented than the March for Life.

The Bus Trip costs only \$48 per seat. You will also need \$6.20 for a roundtrip ride on the DC Metro (subway) and some money for meals. Bring your own snacks to economize.

A limited number of seats are available, so you should make your reservations as soon as possible. As interest in the March for Life has increased over the years, so has the demand for charter buses. It is now practically impossible to secure additional buses to accommodate those who decide to go at the last minute. Last year a number of people had to be turned away because all the seats were taken and there were no additional buses to be found.

The March for Life has grown steadily since 1974, when about 20,000 people marched for the first time. Last January the attendance was estimated at around 400,000. The growth rate has been accelerating in the

last few years, and now the marchers assemble each January eagerly *expecting* to shatter all previous records.

People for Life's Bus Trip has also been growing. Our numbers have exceeded 200 in each of the last three years. Last year we maxed out at 224 marchers. This time we chartered an additional bus for a total of five, and we expect to fill all 280 seats.

This growth adds to the excitement and helps us continue to attract local news coverage, a good thing for the pro-life cause. The beginning of our trip always coincides



with the local late-evening news broadcasts, so it is not unusual to have live TV coverage of our departure.

Some of our larger groups this January will be from St. George School, Gannon University Students for Life, Mercyhurst College Lakers for Life, Federated Church, Mercyhurst High School, and Meadville Area Catholic Youth Ministries.

Our buses will depart from St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie on Sunday evening, January 24 at 11 p.m. We will then make brief stops to pick up more marchers at the Edinboro and Meadville I-79 Exits.

We will arrive in Washington at approximately 7:30 a.m., Friday morning. A

few hours will be available for sightseeing, as part of a group or "on your own." Some marchers choose to visit such points of pro-life interest as the March for Life Convention, National Right to Life headquarters, the U.S. Holocaust Museum, and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (the largest Roman Catholic church in North America and a favorite destination for thousands of Catholic marchers). Other popular, admission-free destinations include the Capitol Building, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the

World War II Memorial, and the Smithsonian Museums.

It is always advisable to be prepared for wintry conditions. Thankfully, though, January weather in Washington, DC is normally quite mild by Erie standards.

The March for Life program officially begins at noon with a huge rally on the National Mall,

somewhere between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument.

The March itself will get underway at approximately 1:30 p.m. A sea of marchers will pour into Constitution Avenue for hours – thousands and thousands of peaceful, joyful Americans thankful to be alive and determined to defend the gift of life. The winter daylight will be waning before all of them reach their destination: the Supreme Court Building, where abortion at any point during pregnancy was legalized by judicial decree on January 22, 1973.

Those of us who finish the March early enough will also be able to visit our pro-life federal legislators: Senator Pat Toomey and Representatives Mike Kelly and Glenn Thompson. All of the pro-life members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation usually collaborate in hosting a lively reception, complete with speeches, photo ops, and plenty of refreshments.

The return trip will begin at 5 p.m. There will be a dinner stop at the Premium Outlets food court in Hagerstown, Maryland. Our arrival back in Erie will be at approximately 2 a.m., early Saturday morning.

If you have never been to the March for Life, you really ought to try it. Many people go every year. Anyone who has been there will tell you it is a truly moving experience that you will never forget.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

www.peopleforlife.org

(814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333

office@peopleforlife.org

Twitter: gopeopleforlife

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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.

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Alternative Choices for Women

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Erie March for Life

The memorial service will be jointly conducted by Rev. David Bousquet, Pastor of Cranesville Bible Church, and Rev. Jason Feigh, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Peace Church. Both leaders are active supporters of the right to life. Pastor Bousquet's church is always well-represented on our March for Life Bus Trip. Father Jason takes students to the DC March for Life from Our Lady of Peace Church and School.

Those who are able to walk should do so, but anyone who would be unable to go the distance may join the motorcade that will follow the marchers. The motorcade will be assembled on S. Park Row between State and Peach Streets. Vehicles that will be in the motorcade should arrive at Perry Square between 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 with their four-way flashers on. Drivers should watch for directions from the parade marshals.

Please support the Erie March for Life. In the face of such a huge national tragedy as government sponsored abortion, weighty

arguments, lofty words, and stirring rhetoric are not enough. Change begins and justice prevails when good people are willing to go public with their deeply held convictions.

Be a Bus Trip Sponsor

Please consider being a March for Life Bus Trip sponsor. Your donation could help a college student on a tight budget get to the March, 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 cover the cost of one seat or allow two people to travel for half-price. In some cases even a partial sponsorship of \$10 or \$15 could make the difference between someone marching in DC or having to stay home.

Breakfast Sponsors

People for Life is offering advertising listings in the 2013 Pro-Life Breakfast program for professionals, businesses, and organizations that would like to help sponsor the event. The one-line listings can include an address, telephone number, and/or website, as space permits.

**For the latest information about our January Pro-Life Activities, monitor...
www.peopleforlife.org
and People for Life's free
E-Mail Updates**

To receive updates by e-mail, send your request to office@peopleforlife.org.

The sponsorship levels are: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$750 (Friend, Patron Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond). Sponsors also have the option of a year-long listing on our website.

Sponsorship funds are used to help offset the costs associated with the Breakfast, including pro-life awareness and educational outreach efforts that accompany the event.

If you would like to have a listing, please request sponsor forms from People for Life or download from our website.

Everyone is welcome to nominate potential sponsor-advertisers and to obtain sponsor forms to share with pro-life business owners and professionals. The deadline for listings is January 15.

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Marian Adelman	Virginia Foley	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wright	Roman Goergen
Peg Mitchell	Nellie Gray	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wright	Edwin Wright
Regina Lewis	Ralph Lewis		
Rick & Judy Oros & Family	Pauline Oros		

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

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Donations may also be made by using the PayPal button on www.peopleforlife.org or by calling-in your credit card information.

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- ___ 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.

Student Essay Contests

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and People for Life are sponsoring essay contests for students in grades 7-12. Winners will receive cash prizes. The word limit is 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. Students may write on the topic of abortion, euthanasia, or stem cell research. Grades 7-9 and 10-12 will be judged separately. Students are welcome to enter just one of the contests or both. The entry deadline is March 1, 2013. For the PPLF contest, send essays to lifelines@paprolife.org or 4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA 17109. For the People for Life contest, send essays to office@peopleforlife.org or P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512. Include a cover sheet with the student's name, address, phone number, grade and school. Visit www.paprolife.org or contact People for Life for more information.

High School Oratory Contest

People for Life will hold a regional pro-life oratory contest on April 13, 2013 for high school students from Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties. Each contestant will deliver an original 5-7 minute, pro-life speech on abortion, euthanasia, or stem cell research.

There will be separate divisions for grades 9-10 and grades 11-12. The first-place winners in each division will receive \$100 and the second-place winners will receive \$50. The first and second place winners in the 11-12 grade contest will also have an opportunity to compete at the state level in Harrisburg on April 21.

The winner of the statewide contest will have an opportunity to compete in the National Right to Life High School Oratory Contest, which will be held on June 29 during the NRL Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Contact People for Life for the contest rules and registration forms.

2013 PRO-LIFE DATE BOOK 2013

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 13	Northwest Regional High School Oratory Contest - Erie, Pa.
April 15	General Meeting, 6:45 p.m. - Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St.
April 21	State High School Oratory Contest - Harrisburg, Pa.
April 22	Last day to register to vote in Pa. primary election
May 10-12	Annual Mother's Day Carnation Project
May 12	Mother's Day
May 14	Last day to apply for a Pa. civilian absentee ballot
May 17	Last day to return Pa. civilian absentee ballots
May 20	Election of Officers, 6:45 p.m. - Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St.
May 21	Pennsylvania Municipal Primary Election
June 27-29	National Right to Life Convention - Dallas, Texas

Election Review

The reelection of pro-abortion President Barack Obama was a big setback for the most basic of all human rights, the right to life. Those at the dawn of their lives were the biggest losers: the unborn as well as those being killed in their first weeks to become the raw material of Obama-funded embryonic stem cell research. Prospects have all but vanished for averting a gradual implementation of government-controlled health care rationing. Worst of all, Obama is now positioned to reshape U.S. Supreme Court by appointing more pro-abortion justices.

Some people are seeing Obama's victory as not just a big setback for the right to life, but the final, decisive triumph of the culture of death. But a closer look at the election results tells a different story, thankfully.

Even in Pennsylvania, where Obama won by 52% to 46.6%, pro-life candidates fared remarkably well. Of the 146 candidates officially endorsed by the PA Pro-Life

Federation, 91% won their races.

Pennsylvania continues to have pro-life majorities in both the State Senate and the State House of Representatives. In the House more than 130 of the 203 seats will be held by pro-life members for the next two years.

Pennsylvania's congressional delegation is in even better shape. Out of the 18 U.S. House races, 12 were won by solidly pro-life candidates. Only four seats were won by hardcore pro-abortion candidates. One of the other two seats was retained by an incumbent with a mixed pro-life voting record,

and the other was won by a candidate who is said to be pro-life by his campaign manager (even though he did not return his candidate questionnaire to National Right to Life).

Unfortunately, the three statewide "row house" races were won by well-funded pro-abortion candidates. Incumbent Treasurer Robert McCord (D) was reelected, and in open races, Kathleen Kane (D) was elected as attorney general with strong support from Bill Clinton and Eugene DePasquale (D) was elected as auditor general.

Taking a closer look at northwestern Pennsylvania, all of our pro-life incumbents running for reelection won their races: U.S. Reps. Mike Kelly (R) and Glenn Thompson (R) and State Reps. Pat Harkins (D), Curt Sonney (R), and Brad Roe (R). Both open State House seats were won by pro-life candidates: Ryan Bizzarro (D) and Greg Lucas (R). In the open District 49 State Senate race, pro-abortion Sean Wiley (D) defeated pro-life-leaning Janet Anderson (R).

Wiley's campaign left very little room for hope that he will have a change of heart on abortion anytime soon. Nevertheless, it is certainly possible that as an intelligent person he will eventually be swayed by thoughtful discussion and careful review of the facts and fallacies surrounding the abortion issue.

Roe v. Wade
January 22, 1973
"A date which will live in infamy"
...when our government renounced its founding principles and abandoned America's unborn children