

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

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May 2014

## Peace and Justice for all

Members of the Erie pro-life community had an important opportunity to speak up for peace, justice, and proper priorities on March 26, when a Catholic nun, best known for a politically-driven bus tour called "Nuns on the Bus," was in Erie to get an award from Mercyhurst University and speak about peace and justice. The nun's name was Sister Simone Campbell.

Sr. Campbell is the director of a left-leaning organization of politically-active nuns called Network, which lobbies for larger government social welfare programs and backs pro-abortion politicians, even ones as extreme as President Obama.

Sr. Campbell conducted one of her bus tours in the middle of the 2012 presidential campaign, to attack a Republican budget proposal and denigrate its author, U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

A few months later Sr. Campbell was singing the praises of President Obama at the Democratic National Convention, where she was invited to deliver a speech.

The presidential campaign, you will recall, featured a Republican ticket of Governor Mitt Romney and Congressman Paul Ryan, both strong supporters of legal protection for unborn children, and a Democratic ticket of President Barack Obama and Vice-president Joe Biden, both strong supporters of abortion on demand and taxpayer-funding for abortion.

During the Democratic Convention, a

reporter from *National Review* asked Sr. Campbell about the crime of abortion: Should abortion be legal? Her response: "That's beyond my pay grade. I don't know."

Fifty people were delighted to gather at the Mercyhurst main entrance in 20-degree weather to offer a different answer: Babies deserve to be legally protected, not legally killed! Protect every child! "Peace and justice" should not have to wait until birth or any other arbitrary point in a human lifespan. We described the gathering as a "Demonstration of Solidarity with Unborn Children and Their Mothers." One person, 6th District state Rep. Brad Roae, came all the way from Meadville to participate. Ed Franz, a candidate for state representative in the 17th District who lives near Conneautville, also took part.

Sr. Campbell's stated lack of conviction about peace and justice for all, helps account for her lack of discernment about the *Affordable Care Act* (Obamacare), which channels huge amounts of federal money (an estimated \$5 billion this year alone) into insurance plans that pay for abortion on demand, reversing a policy that had been in effect for more than 30 years. (Sr. Campbell publicly denies that this funding is taking place.) It also helps explain her support for the reelection of President Obama, a pro-abortion extremist of epic proportions. (Sr. Campbell, while attending the Democratic National Convention, opined that President

Obama is "not in favor of abortion," saying that she had "never seen him act in that way.")

Responding to the pro-life demonstration in an interview with the Mercyhurst student newspaper, Sr. Campbell asserted that she and the pro-life demonstrators were in full agreement about abortion. That is *not* the case.

Deliberately depriving another human being of his or her life is the gravest of injustices. As Pope Francis reiterated on April 11, 2014, "Life, once conceived, must be protected with the utmost care; abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes."

Only by enacting and enforcing just laws can the government effectively provide the necessary protection. For our nation to willfully withhold this protection from the most innocent and defenseless members of the human family is a grave crime in itself.

The only remedy for the crime of abortion that Sr. Campbell proposes is more government spending on social-welfare programs. But the crux of the matter is legal protection for the unborn, not the size of the federal government. Legal protection of justice for the unborn is indispensable.

Sr. Campbell's approach, like that of a number of similarly-partisan religious figures, ignores legal protection, is at best indifferent to government-funding of abortion-killing, and obviously has no problem with running political cover for even the most aggressively pro-abortion politicians.

### Erie March for Life 2014

Despite the severe winter, we were blessed with remarkably good weather for each of our three January pro-life events this year. The temperature was well above freezing and the winds were calm as two hundred people, including scores of young people, took part in the Erie March for Life on January 11. This year's theme was, "All human rights begin with Life!" Gannon Students for Life led the March carrying the Erie March for Life banner. Rev. Rick Plucknet of the Federated Church and Fr. Mike Polinek of St. George Church led the marchers in prayer and shared some encouraging words at the conclusion of the March. Thanks to all of our marchers!

### 36th Pro-Life Breakfast

Five hundred people attended the 36th annual Pro-Life Breakfast on January 18 at the Bayfront Convention Center. We were honored to host so many dedicated members of the pro-life community and many distinguished pro-life leaders, including: our main speaker Dr. Angela Franks and her mother Dr. Wanda Franz, a past-president of the National Right to Life Committee; PA Pro-Life Federation Executive Director Michael Ciccocioppo; Catholic Bishops Lawrence Persico and Donald Trautman; Congressmen Glenn Thompson and Mike Kelly; State Reps. Michele Brooks and Brad Roae and a number of other government officials and religious leaders.

Prayers were led by Rev. Donald Valasek, pastor of Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, Rev. Scott Jabo, president of Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy; and Rev. Clifford Hamilton, pastor of East Erie Assembly of God. Saving Simon, a new band of young singers and musicians from Hermitage, Pennsylvania, made the morning extra-special by sharing their passion for the pro-life cause as well as their great music.

### 41st MFL Bus Trip

Our most remarkable "good weather blessing" came during the 41st annual March for Life Bus Trip. On Tuesday, January 21, as we were making our final preparations, Washington, DC was being hit by a rare

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# Pennsylvania Primary Election: May 20, 2014

The following candidates will appear on northwestern Pennsylvania ballots for the May 20 Pennsylvania Primary Election. Determinations about the candidates' stance on human life issues provided here were made by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC or the National Right to Life PAC. They are based on each candidate's answers to a questionnaire, other statements by the candidate, and/or, in the case of an incumbent, voting records and executive actions.

Governor			State Legislative District 1		
Tom Corbett	R	pro-life (incumbent)	Pat Harkins	D	pro-life (incumbent)
Robert R. Guzzardi	R	pro-abortion			
Robert M. McCord	D	pro-abortion	State Legislative District 2		
Katie A. McGinty	D	pro-abortion	Flo Fabrizio	D	pro-abortion (incumbent)
Allyson Y. Schwartz	D	pro-abortion			
Thomas W. Wolf	D	pro-abortion	State Legislative District 3		
			Ryan Bizzarro	D	pro-life (incumbent)
			Luke E. Lofgren	R	pro-life
Lieutenant Governor			State Legislative District 4		
Jim Cawley	R	pro-life (incumbent)			
Mark S. Critz	D	mixed			
Brad J. Koplinski	D	pro-abortion	Curt Sonney	R	pro-life (incumbent)
Brandon P. Neuman	D	pro-abortion	Curtiss B. Smith	D	unknown
Mark W. Smith, Jr.	D	pro-abortion			
Michael J. Stack III	D	mixed	State Legislative District 6		
			Brad Roae	R	pro-life (incumbent)
			Juanita K. Shutsa	D	unknown
3rd Congressional District			State Legislative District 17		
Mike Kelly	R	pro-life (incumbent)	George D. Biros	R	unknown
Dan C. LaVallee	D	unknown	Edward J. Mad+Franz	R	pro-life
Mel M. Marin	D	unknown			
5th Congressional District			James P. Gehrlein	R	pro-life
Glenn Thompson	R	pro-life (incumbent)	Gary J. Temple	R	pro-life
Kerith K. Strano	D	unknown	Parke H. Wentling	R	pro-life
Thomas Tarantella	D	unknown	Wayne E. Hanson	D	unknown
			Dennis P Webber	D	unknown
State Senate District 50			Please let us know if you have additional information about a candidate's position on human life issues (e.g., abortion, infanticide, doctor prescribed suicide, embryonic stem cell research, health care rationing).		
Michele Brooks	R	pro-life			
Greg Lucas	R	pro-life			
Jane L. MacPherson	R	pro-life			
Michael T. Muha	D	unknown			

## PA Pro-Life PAC endorsements

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC has endorsed Gov. Tom Corbett (R) and Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley (R) for reelection. In legislative races of local interest, the PPLF PAC has endorsed state Rep. Curt Sonney (R-District 4) and state Rep. Brad Roae (R-District 6)

## Governor

Gov. Tom Corbett is the only pro-life candidate in the Republican gubernatorial primary.

During his first term, Corbett put his pro-life convictions into action in several important ways: He took swift action in response to the Kermit Gosnell scandal. Gosnell is now in prison for murdering newborn infants in his Philadelphia abortion mill. Pennsylvania had, for years, ignored a steady stream of complaints about Gosnell's mistreatment of his female patients. Eleven state employees resigned or were fired outright in the wake of the scandal. Corbett ordered annual inspections and instituted numerous changes at the Pennsylvania

Departments of Health and State to ensure proper monitoring of abortion facilities and quick action when deficiencies are identified. He then signed SB 732, a measure which requires abortion facilities to meet the same standards for patient safety as apply to ambulatory surgery centers. At least six abortion facilities have chosen to shut down rather than address their safety deficiencies. Corbett also signed HB 818, a bill to prohibit Obamacare-funded insurance plans from paying for elective abortions within the Commonwealth.

Planned Parenthood says it will spend \$18 million in 2014 to defeat pro-life candidates in at least 14 states. Gov. Tom Corbett, not surprisingly, is one of the candidates in their crosshairs.

Four candidates are vying for the Democratic nomination for governor. The entire field is pro-abortion. However, the hands down favorite of the abortion industry in Allyson Schwartz. The abortion giant Planned Parenthood picked her out of a crowded field of anti-life candidates and endorsed her in February.

**Carnations for Mother's Day** will be available this Mother's Day weekend, May 9-11 directly from People for Life at two convenient locations:

### Millcreek Mall Community Booth

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
During regular Mall hours

### Rog's Warehouse

German St., between 18th and 19th Sts.  
Friday noon to 7 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Order in advance or just stop by

Credit card payments will be accepted. Pay on-line with PayPal or your credit card by using the [Donate+button](#) on [www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org); use your credit card when you call in your order at (814) 882-1333; or pay with a check or cash when you get your carnations.

Schwartz was the founder and director, from 1975 to 1988, of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Philadelphia. Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood, put it this way in an April fundraising letter: "Some people just talk the talk but my friend Allyson is the real deal. She opened one of the first women's health care centers in Pennsylvania, just after the law had changed with *Roe v. Wade*. Accomplishing such a bold vision at that point in our country's history took a lot of courage, but Allyson rolled up her sleeves and got the [baby-killing] job done."

## Congress

Incumbent U.S. Reps. Mike Kelly (3rd District) and Glenn Thompson (5th District) are running unopposed in the Republican primary, but both will face Democratic opponents in the fall. Both congressmen have perfect voting records on human life issues: perfect zeroes from NARAL Pro-Choice America and Planned Parenthood and perfect 100% ratings from National Right to Life. The two congressmen attended our 2013 and 2014 Pro-Life Breakfasts, and both spoke eloquently about their pro-life convictions on each occasion.

## State Senate

Three pro-life Republicans and one Democrat (position unknown) are seeking the District 50 state Senate seat, which will be open due to the retirement of pro-life state Sen. Bob Robbins. Two of the Republicans are currently serving in the state House of Representatives: Michele Brooks (District 17) and Greg Lucas (District 5).

Brooks has represented the 17th Legislative District since 2007 and has attended several of our Pro-Life Breakfasts, most recently this past January. She was a

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# MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS

**suggested donations**  
**\$1.00 single**  
**\$5.00 half-dozen**  
**\$10.00 dozen**

Donations benefit the educational work of



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## FROM PAGE 2

### State Senate

strong supporter of HB 1077 the *Women's Right to Know Act*, along with state Rep. Brad Roae (District 6).

HB 1077 would have ensured that women preparing to get an abortion would have the option of seeing the sonograms that are routinely taken before practically all surgical and drug-induced abortion procedures.

### State House

Seven candidates are in the race for state representative in Pennsylvania Legislative District 17, and at least four of them have pro-life positions. This district has an open seat because Michele Brooks, the current representative, has decided to run for the District 50 state Senate

seat instead of her current House seat.

One of the pro-life candidates is Republican Ed Franz. Franz has been active with People for Life and Crawford County Citizens for Life for many years. He and his wife Patti conduct our Mother's Day Carnation Project each year at their church in Linesville. Franz also participated in the pro-life demonstration this past March at Mercyhurst University.

### Pls. Support our Sponsors

Forty-eight area businesses and professionals sponsored our 36th annual Pro-Life Breakfast last January. Many of them are listed on our website at [www.peopleforlife.org/sponsors2014.html](http://www.peopleforlife.org/sponsors2014.html). Please patronize all of them as much as you can. And let them know that you, too, are pro-life and that you appreciate their support for local pro-life projects and activities.

## Memorials

### Given by

Daniel J. Brabender Jr.  
 Lawrence F. Berdis  
 Charles E. Burger  
 Amy Mulligan  
 Ray & Peg Fitzgerald  
 Carol A. Doyle  
 David & Peggy Jacquiel  
 Helen L. Guth  
 Guy D. Hagen  
 Patrick Martin & Renee Russ  
 Jerilyn Schultz  
 Thelma Manendo and Family

### In Memory of

Dan & Jane Brabender  
 Mrs. Lawrence (Johanna) Berdis  
 Justine A. Burger  
 KJ Carroll  
 Jim Considine  
 Tom Doyle  
 Alice Froess-Kuhn  
 Ralph Guth  
 Donald D. Hagen  
 Alice Kuhn  
 Alice Kuhn  
 Louis Manendo (husband and father)

### Given by

Joanne Nagy  
 Marla Pellegrino  
 Mary Pat Ringhand  
 Gretchen & Paul Lorei  
 Gratia Wittmann  
 John S. Young

### In Memory of

Mary Alice Nagy (daughter)  
 Jeanne Pellegrino (mother)  
 Florence Ringhand  
 Antonio Del Rio  
 Richard Wittmann  
 Maryann Young

### Given by

Amy Anderson  
 Cynthia Dougan  
 Linda Etter

### In Honor of

My friend Barry  
 Bethel Baptist Church  
 Mark Borowy

People for Life is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-sectarian, citizen 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

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1. MEMBERSHIP DONATION    New     Renewal     DUES:    Individual \$10     Family \$20     Senior Citizen \$5   
                                  Student \$5     Group \$25     Patron \$50     Benefactor \$100

2. MEMORIAL DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory Of     In Honor Of  \_\_\_\_\_

3. GENERAL DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ Specify if for a certain purpose: \_\_\_\_\_    4. TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations may also be made by using the DONATE button on [www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org) or by calling-in your credit card information.*

### 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.

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
[www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org)

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**— Office Location —**  
 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA  
 Open 9 to 3:30 weekdays  
*Call for evening and Saturday hours*

## FROM PAGE 1 41st MFL Bus Trip

winter snow storm. However, the fast-moving storm was expected to be out of the DC area by 10 p.m., even before we left Erie. Bright sunshine, moderate and diminishing winds, and a 0% chance of precipitation was forecast for January 22, the day of the March.

Our buses left Erie right on schedule, and sure enough, we had exceptionally smooth sailing all the way to Washington. We reached our parking area around 6:30 a.m., well ahead of schedule.

The day was indeed sunny and dry with just a light breeze. The temperatures were exceptionally cold for Washington, but they did not interfere with the March or the marchers' high spirits. Approximately 145 people traveled to the March with People for Life this year.

### January News Coverage

All three of our January events received a good deal of news coverage: JET-24 / FOX-66 covered all three events; WICU / WSEE covered the Pro-Life Breakfast and the March for Life Bus Trip. Coverage from the *Erie Times-News* / GoErie.com was limited to a brief announcement in early January, prior to our events. The *Times* did, however, print an op-ed piece about the DC March for Life that was circulated by the PA Pro-Life Federation. Reports about the Pro-Life Breakfast appeared on TV all weekend. JET-24 / FOX-66 provided live coverage from our point of departure at St. George Church and School.

Please go to [www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org) and/or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/peopleforlife](https://facebook.com/peopleforlife) for lots of pictures of this year's January Activities.

### Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2014

## 2014 PRO-LIFE DATE BOOK 2014

<b>May 9-11</b>	Annual Mother's Day Carnation Project
<b>May 11</b>	Mother's Day
<b>May 13</b>	Last day to apply for a Pennsylvania civilian absentee ballot
<b>May 16</b>	Last day for Pa. boards of election to receive absentee ballots
<b>May 19</b>	Election of Officers Meeting, 6:45 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
<b>May 20</b>	Pennsylvania PRIMARY ELECTION
<b>May 28-31</b>	Community Outreach: Erie Wild Rib Cook Off
<b>Jun. 12-14</b>	Community Outreach: Lake City Fire Company Carnival
<b>Jun. 15</b>	Father's Day
<b>Jun. 26-28</b>	National Right to Life Convention - Louisville, Kentucky
<b>Jun. 28</b>	National Right to Life H.S. Oratory Contest - Louisville, Kentucky
<b>July 15-19</b>	Community Outreach: North East Firemen's Cherry Festival
<b>July 31-</b>	
<b>Aug. 2</b>	Community Outreach: Dan Rice Days, Girard
<b>Aug. 25-30</b>	Community Outreach: Erie County Fair at Wattsburg
<b>Sept. 1-6</b>	Community Outreach: Waterford Community Fair
<b>Sept. 9-13</b>	Community Outreach: Albion Area Fair

at 6:45 p.m. It will be held at the office of People for Life, 1625 W. 26th St. Members whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting will be eligible to vote. The nominees are: Tim Broderick for President, Carol Struchen for treasurer, Mark Borowy for secretary, Marielle Lafaro for first vice-president, Gretchen Lorei for second vice-president, and Dale Klobusnik for third vice-president. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life.

### Politics is a 'Duty'

Politics is the arena where the struggle between truth and lies, justice and injustice, takes place.... In the American tradition, people have a duty to bring their beliefs to bear on every social, economic and political problem facing their community. That's not just a privilege. And it's not just a right. It's a duty. Most Rev. Charles Chaput, Catholic Archbishop of Philadelphia

### Student Contest Winners

People for Life recently held its annual student essay and oratory contests.

The winners of the essay contest were announced in mid-April:

Emily Larimer, a 10th grade, homeschooled student, took first place in the grade 10-12 division. Her topic was euthanasia.

Grace Larimer and Andrea McCormick tied for first place in the grades 7-9 division. Grace is Emily's sister and an 8th grade, homeschooled student. Andrea is a 9th grade student at Villa Maria Academy in Erie. Both students chose to write on the topic of abortion.

All three essay contest winners received \$35 cash prizes.

Our High School Oratory Contest was held on April 19.

Theresa Caulfield, an 11th grade student, took the \$100 first place prize in the 11-12 grade division. She spoke about abortion and Planned Parenthood.

In the 9-10 grade division, the \$100 first prize went to Tim Caulfield and the \$50 second prize went to Emily Larimer. Tim and Emily are in the 9th and 10th grades respectively. Tim spoke about abortion, and Emily spoke about euthanasia. All three oratory contest winners are homeschooled.

Please keep our 2015 contests in mind, especially if you are a student or an English teacher.

### Mother's Day Carnation Project

May 9-11 will be an extremely busy time for People for Life. Many volunteers will be needed for our Mother's Day Carnation Project. Please call (814) 882-1333 and find out how you can help. Student-volunteers are always appreciated. The busiest day will be Friday, May 9.

Our carnations will be available this Mother's Day weekend at many Erie-area churches, at the Millcreek Mall Community Booth, and at our base of operations at Rog's Inc. on German St. between 18th and 19th Sts. Suggested donations are \$1.00 for single carnations and \$5 for each half-dozen.

### When does life begin?

The undeniable conclusion is that a zygote is a human organism and that the life of a new human being commences at a scientifically well-defined moment of conception, that is, upon fertilization. The Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines (April 8, 2014)