

News Release

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SUBJECT: People for Life is sponsoring three pro-life events this month to mark 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the abortion decision

CONTACT: Tim Broderick or Marielle Lafaro 814.882-1333 / 814.459-1333

35th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast ... January 19

The biggest of the three January events is expected to be the 35th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast, which will feature best-selling author George Weigel as the main speaker. The Breakfast will take place on Saturday, January 19 and will be held, for the first time, at the Bayfront Convention Center. Doors will open at 8 a.m. and the program will run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. General tickets are \$13; tickets for ages 3-12 are \$7. There is no cost for younger children.

Mr. Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC. He is the author or editor of more than 20 books, with another due to be released this month. He is probably best-known for his 1000-page *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*. He is the recipient of 15 honorary doctorates, the papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (highest papal honor awarded to a layman), and the Gloria Artis Gold Medal from the Republic of Poland. Mr. Weigel frequently writes about human life issues and is featured regularly on National Review On-line. He has been a consultant on Vatican affairs for NBC News since 1999, and he appears frequently on NBC Nightly News, CNBC, and MSNBC.

At this time, our confirmed special guests and program participants include:

State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro

Rev. Mel Bendig, Pastor, Calvary United Methodist Church, Albion

Rev. Dan Hoffman, Parochial Vicar, St. Luke Church, Erie

Rev. Jack McClintock, Pastor, Crossroads Community Church, McKean

Mr. Michael Ciccocioppo, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

Bishop Lawrence T. Persico of the Erie Catholic Diocese

Bishop-Emeritus Donald W. Trautman of the Erie Catholic Diocese

The seminarians of St. Mark Seminary

Mercyhurst University Lakers for Life

Gannon University Students for Life

40th Annual Washington, DC March for Life Bus Trip ... Leaving January 24

People for Life has sponsored a bus trip to the Washington, DC March for Life every year since the first March for Life on January 22, 1974 to mark the first anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Attendance in 1974 was about 20,000. Attendance continues to grow each year and is now approaching one-half million people.

People for Life's bus trip continues to grow as well. This year we are adding an additional bus for a record five, 56-seat buses.

The March for Life is usually held on January 22. However it was moved to Friday, January 25 this year because of the presidential inauguration, which will take place on January 21. Both events utilize the National Mall.

People for Life's buses will depart at 11 p.m. on Thursday evening, January 24th from our traditional starting point, St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., and return about 2 a.m., Saturday morning. Seats for the Bus Trip are \$48.

The Bus Trip includes people of all ages, mostly from Erie County. There will also be some people from Warren, Crawford, and Ashtabula Counties (even though there is also at least one bus trip originating from each of these counties).

Some marchers will come alone or with a few friends or family members; others will come as part of a larger group. The larger groups that will be joining us this year include: St. George School (7th & 8th grade students), Mercyhurst Prep, Mercyhurst University, Gannon University, The Federated Church (East Springfield), Corry Catholic Youth Ministries, and Meadville Catholic Youth Ministries.

Although the marchers gather to board the buses at a church, and some come as part of church groups, the bus trip is a very broad-based activity that includes area residents from all walks of life irrespective of religious commitment or involvement. People for Life is a non-sectarian, community organization with a single mission: to restore and maintain respect and legal protection for the right to life of all human beings during the entire continuum of life.

Erie March for Life ... January 12

Our first event this January will be the Erie March for Life. The March will take place on Saturday, January 12. It will begin at 11 a.m. and proceed from the Gazebo in Perry Square west on 6th Street, south on Sassafras, east on 10th, north on State, and back to the Gazebo.

The theme of this year's Erie March for Life will be: "Protect ALL the Children."

A brief interfaith memorial service will conclude the March by approximately 12:15 p.m. The service will be conducted by Rev. David Bousquet, Pastor, Cranesville Bible Church and Rev. Jason Feigh, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Peace Church.

People for Life has been active in northwestern Pennsylvania since 1973. We are a volunteer-based, non-sectarian and non-partisan organization dedicated to legal protection for the lives of all human beings: protection from abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and medical experimentation that does not maintain respect the life of the human subject.

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PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th St. and 1611 Peach St., Suite 321
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512
814.882.1333 (voice or text) - 814.459.1333
office@peopleforlife.org

www.peopleforlife.org