

# MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR LIFE

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Mass. Citizens for Life, North Adams Chapter

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- 11,000 reasons to salute post-Dobbs pro-life laws.
- Abortion pill analysis prompts Action Alert
- MCFL rolls out its newest initiative: foster care and adoption resources
- West Wing celeb to headline our events.
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## The ProLife Legacy Society

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# A Message From President Myrna Maloney Flynn

**O**n Sunday, May 18, 2025, we lost Phil Moran, a pro-life hero and one of the Massachusetts Citizens for Life founders. He was 87. I did not know Mr. Moran well but was highly aware of the words always accompanying his name – descriptors like “giant,” “great,” “committed,” “pillar.” Author of this organization’s bylaws and articles of incorporation, he offered his parliamentary expertise during a board meeting several years ago, lending a hand in managing our evolution, ensuring MCFL would become a dynamic entity capable of meeting contemporary demands our movement presents.

As we marked MCFL’s silver anniversary, Phil penned a short history of the organization he helped to create. Originally published in our magazine’s winter 2023 issue, we share excerpts of it again here. There’s none better suited than a man who brought us MCFL to fill the president’s column this time around.

Thank you, Phil, for the outstanding legacy you have left behind. We’ll carry it always in our continued fight to protect unborn life.

“In August of 1972, Irving Kane, my law partner at the time, came to my office and said “I went to a meeting last night and after the meeting I told the host, Dr. Joseph Stanton, that I thought you might be interested in joining us at the next meeting.” He briefed me on the fact that Planned Parenthood had selected certain Wards and Precincts in Lynn and Nahant, among other places, to place a non-binding referendum on the November ballot which stated that abortion should be an issue between a woman and her doctor.

“A couple of nights later, Irving and I traveled to Newton to meet with Dr. Stanton and other interested parties,

including Frank O’Connor from Worcester, Ann and Ray Scarpato from Wayland, John and Jean Svagdys from the South Shore, Priscilla Laveaga from Boston and Dick Carey from Newton. I might add Maryanne Rea Luthin, who was a student intern for Dr. Stanton.

“We discussed how to proceed and Irving was selected to be the Director, due to his political experience, having been the Mayor of Lynn. I was appointed Chair of Lynn and Nahant and the Scarpatos Chair of Framingham and selected towns and Frank O’Connor the chair of Worcester. John and Jean Svagdys covered Scituate and Hingham. Priscilla and Dick were in charge of keeping score of what each of us were doing....

“In November we were defeated by a 50.5 to 49.5 margin and as far as I and the others knew, that was it.

“On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, announced in *Roe v. Wade* that abortion was legal everywhere in the United States in a poorly written decision by Justice Harry Blackmun that read more like a piece of legislation as opposed to a landmark Constitutional decision. In a companion case announced the same day, *Doe v. Bolton*, abortion effectively became legal for any reason or no reason at all through all nine months of pregnancy.

“Four days later, Dr. Stanton called the members of the previously mentioned ad hoc committee together. It was decided to form a corporation and since I had recently left the corporate world, I was selected to prepare the Articles of Organization.

“We voted on a corporate purpose and bylaws and then the following were voted as the original Officers and Board of Directors: President: Roy Scarpato,



Early days: Roy and Anne Scarpato, Carole and Phil Moran, MCFL President Kathy and Joseph Healy

Treasurer: John Svagdys, Clerk: Philip D. Moran, Directors: Joseph R. Stanton, M.D., Roy Scarpato, M.S., Irving E. Kane, Esq., Francis O’Connor, Esq., John Svagdys, CPA, Jean Svagdys, Priscilla Laveaga, Rabbi Samuel Fox, Philip D. Moran, Esq., Executive Director: Richard Carey.

“On January 27, 1973, I drove to the Secretary of State’s office and filed the corporate papers and Massachusetts Citizens For Life, Inc. was born!

“Shortly afterwards, Roy was contacted by the National Right to Life Committee and was asked for the MCFL to become the official Massachusetts member of the NRLC. Due to his work schedule, he decided that he could not serve as the Director for Massachusetts and it was agreed that Dr. Mildred Jefferson would serve as our Director to the NRLC. Soon after she was elected President of the NRLC.

“We were contacted by State Representatives Ray Flynn and Charles Doyle asked if we would lobby for the Doyle Flynn Bill which would prevent State tax dollars from being spent for abortion in Massachusetts. It was a forerunner of the Hyde Amendment.

“In order to comply with the law, Roy enlisted the assistance of Professor Jim Smith of BC Law School and Thayer Fremont Smith, Esq. and others to form a separate organization known as the Pro Life Legal Defense Fund, which would be the lobbying arm of MCFL. Indeed, with the assistance of the PLLDF, the Doyle Flynn Bill became law.” (Continued on page 15)



## Bishop W.C. Martin Keynote: "What is Your 'Yes' to God?"

Photos by Jim Patten and Juan Perfetti



First Lady Donna Martin and Bishop W.C. Martin



MCFL President Myrna Maloney Flynn

**M**CFL's Mother's Day Dinner was filled with stories – stories of the joys and challenges of parenting vulnerable children through foster care and adoption. The Martin's story was made into a feature film: "Sound of Hope, The Story of Possum Trot." Said Bishop W.C. Martin, "We adopted seventy-seven children from our church which has fewer than 200 members. God showed that if you can do it in Possum Trot, you can do it in Massachusetts. Even if you can't adopt, you can still do something. Ask, 'What can I do, Lord? Everyone can love a child.'"



# From the Berkshires to Boston

MCFL members come to celebrate life



## Remarks from the Mother's Day Dinner

“A mother is the greatest gift you can ever have. Mothers are why we are here today. We celebrate with hope, love, endurance, and gratitude,” began First Lady Donna Martin’s tribute to mothers.

Martin was one of 18 children raised in a four room shack. She remembers how loving and kind her mother was at all times. “I’m here in honor of my mother. She was an angel.”

Fostering was an assignment in the spirit of her mother. “I watched my mother pray and believe,” Martin said. Her mother’s unwavering faith inspired her own. “I never thought that I couldn’t raise my foster kids.”

“We brought children that no one else wanted. We wanted to turn Possum Trot into something that could show love. When the Lord tells you to do something, it’s an act of obedience.”

When the task turned dark and challenging, Martin prayed. She could not give up on the babies. “Love is just love,” she explained. “Love comes from the womb and the heart. My five-year-old said that other kids had told him that he was not loved because he was adopted.

“Every child deserves a loving home,” she said. “Jesus saved us, we saved others. Keep hope alive, and we can solve this problem.”

Claire Riberdy and her husband, Matt, became foster parents for the first time in December 2020. “The call was strong,” she said. “We had to answer.”

They weren’t fully prepared for their first placement. A social worker arrived with two young boys and bags of stuff. “She gave me the babies and said, ‘Good luck’ as she left,” recounted Riberdy.

On the good days, “It was not so scary. Trust was building. The hard days were impossible.” The second baby came with only a diaper and couldn’t sleep

well. The third was a 6-month-old boy, malnourished and dehydrated. “After two months, he laughed for the first time,” Riberdy remembered. “He was so surprised, he cried. Now he says things like, ‘Mama, you’re funny.’”

The original young boys were returned to Claire and her husband after their family could not keep them. Claire brought them to work. “They told everyone, ‘That’s our mama.’ When they returned to the house, they were so happy. They said, ‘This is my home. I love my home.’ One of them slept holding his bike.”

Riberdy said the suffering of the children they care for is hard to bear. “Sometimes it wakes me up at night.” Fostering is only possible through understanding love and forgiveness through God’s unfailing love. “You must completely surrender yourself to Jesus,” she said.

“There is nothing easy about foster care. Kids need to experience God’s love. We are the people who look at injustices to fix them. Are you strong enough? Say ‘yes.’ Let God do the rest.”

Bishop W.C. Martin reminded us that we are all adopted children of God through his son, Jesus. By following God’s example of rescuing His people, we can reach into the darkness and bring others into the light.

“I am one of the King’s kids—a precious gift from God,” Bishop Martin said. “The people of God must understand that if God brought us out, we can bring one another out. We all can do something.

“Adoption started with God. We need universal help. We need God’s help. Children are in a place where they do not know God’s love. We must be visible to others. Adoption is what we ought to be doing. We need to come out of our comfort zone. It is not easy,



The Martins listen to questions from the audience.

but the reward is great.”

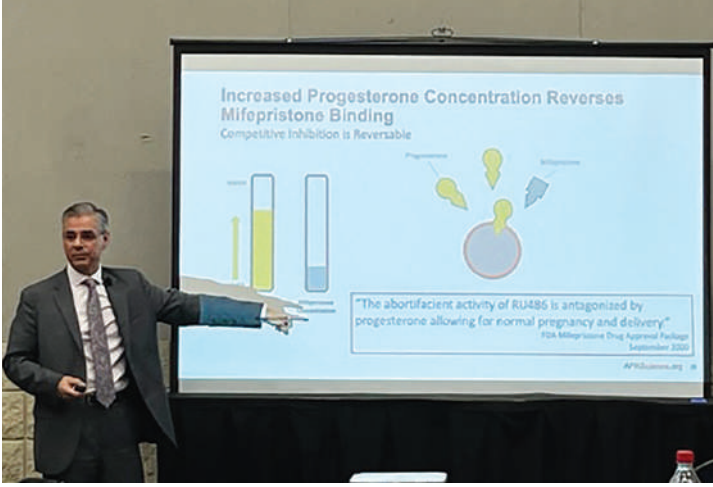
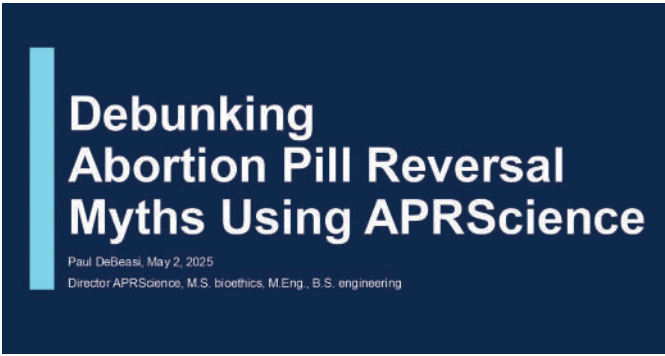
Bishop Martin talked about the horrors experienced by the children they brought to Possum Trot. “These children came from hell, but we didn’t quit,” he said. “I can do all things in Christ Jesus. Satan didn’t want our efforts to work. But Satan can’t defeat God.”

Seventy-seven children were adopted from Bishop Martin’s Church, which has fewer than 200 members. “God showed that if you can do it in Possum Trot, you can do it in Massachusetts,” he exclaimed. “We can accomplish the will of God in Massachusetts.”

The community was not always welcoming, asking, “Why are you bringing in these children? I love it when God messes up folks,” chuckled the Bishop. “I’m not going to give up. I love to fight the enemy.

“I’m a fighter, too. The devil doesn’t have power. I have the power to overcome the devil. I’ve got some tough stuff in me. Don’t wait. No one else is going to fix this problem. The Church is the only entity to which God gave power.”

Bishop Martin had the entire audience stand and pledge that they would be part of ending the problem of homeless and unloved children. “If God says you can do it, then you can. What is your ‘yes’ to the Lord?” he asked. “Even if you can’t adopt, you can still do something. Ask, ‘What can I do, Lord? Everyone can love a child.’”



Paul DeBeasi explains the science behind APR

# DeBeasi Shares Data on the Efficacy of APR at Heartbeat International Conference

**M**CFL Executive Board member Paul DeBeasi was a featured presenter at the Heartbeat International conference in May. Heartbeat manages a network of 2600 Pregnancy Resource Centers in 102 countries. The 2100 attendees represented 20 countries.

DeBeasi is the director of APRScience.org, an educational non-profit project of Massachusetts Citizens for Life. The website, developed by DeBeasi and Juan Perfetti, MCFL Director of Digital Marketing & Communications, assists clinicians and researchers seeking access to Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) medical evidence. DeBeasi's peer-reviewed article on APR won the 2024 Linacre Award, presented by the Catholic Medical Association, for best medical research.

DeBeasi's workshop attendees were PRC nurses, nurse managers, and executive directors. A few doctors were also in attendance. A nurse asked, "My medical director hesitates to provide APR because it is 'controversial.' Do you have any advice on how to respond?"

A physician asked about the Creinin APR study, which had only ten participants. "Isn't this a very small sample size upon which to claim that APR is dangerous?" he asked DeBeasi. Another physician said, "I use ACOG

practice bulletins. They are excellent. But why does ACOG continue to oppose APR when a growing body of evidence supports its efficacy and safety?"

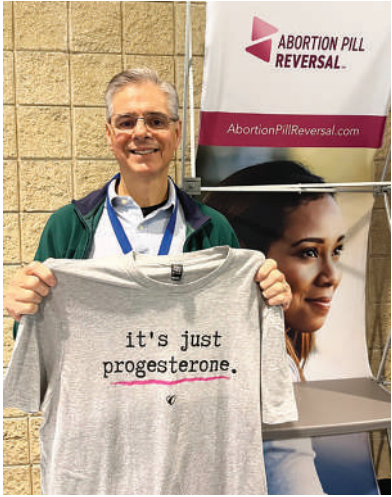
DeBeasi's presentation outlined the five most common myths and five truths that rebut those myths.

### Five Myths

- Myth 1: It is not possible to reverse an abortion once it is started.
- Myth 2: Embryo survival rates after APR are no different than placebo.
- Myth 3: APR is based upon junk science.
- Myth 4: APR is unsafe.
- Myth 5: APR may increase the risk of birth defects.

### Five Truths

- Truth: Increasing progesterone concentration reverses mifepristone binding effects using the principle of competitive inhibition.
- Truth: 2/3 of women who change their minds and receive progesterone after starting medication abortion with mifepristone can safely continue their pregnancies.
- Truth: APR studies use well-established scientific methodologies and undergo rigorous peer review.
- Truth: Creinin study: Only women who did NOT receive APR needed medical intervention. Four studies



The T-shirt says it all

showed that mifepristone without misoprostol does not increase the risk of hemorrhage.

- Truth: No increased risk from using progesterone during pregnancy. No evidence of mifepristone's teratogenic effect. No evidence of an increase in birth defects after ingesting mifepristone and progesterone.

More information, studies, and evidence are available at: [aprscience.org](http://aprscience.org)



# ACTION ALERT!

## Insurance Data Reveals One in Ten Patients Experiences a Serious Adverse Event

By Jamie Bryan Hall, Director of Data Analysis, Ethics and Public Policy Center  
and Ryan T. Anderson, President, Ethics and Public Policy Center

### SUMMARY

- This largest-known study of the abortion pill is based on analysis of data from an all-payer insurance claims database that includes 865,727 prescribed mifepristone abortions from 2017 to 2023.
- 10.93 percent of women experience sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or another serious adverse event within 45 days following a mifepristone abortion.
- The real-world rate of serious adverse events following mifepristone abortions is at least 22 times as high as the summary figure of “less than 0.5 percent” in clinical trials reported on the drug label.
- The FDA should immediately reinstate its earlier, stronger patient safety protocols to ensure physician responsibility for women who take mifepristone under their care, as well as mandate full reporting of its side effects.
- The FDA should further investigate the harm mifepristone causes to women and, based on objective safety criteria, reconsider its approval altogether.

Send the message to Congress, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and FDA Commissioner Martin A. Makary, M.D., to ACT NOW and pull the dangerous chemical abortion drugs!

Go to:

[stopharmingwomen.org/takeaction](https://stopharmingwomen.org/takeaction)

### Talking Points

#### • The Abortion Pill Harms Women

The analysis shows that the abortion pill hurts women at a 22x higher rate than previously reported. 1 in 9 women suffer severe or life-threatening complications.

#### • The Risk is High, Not Rare

According to Guttmacher (Planned Parenthood), 2 out of 3 abortions in the U.S. are chemical, primarily utilizing mifepristone and misoprostol.

#### • The Claims of the FDA and the Manufacturers are Misleading and Outdated

Cash abortion payment may mean the adverse impact is even higher.

#### • Big government and big pharma have prioritized profits over women's health

The vibe is that chemical abortion is simple because it's available by mail. The relaxed safeguards make it look like it's no big deal. Pressure the FDA and lawmakers to reconsider or suspend their approval until there are more studies counter the idea that it's an easy fix to a crisis.

See more at: [stopharmingwomen.org](https://stopharmingwomen.org)

Serious Adverse Events by Category		
	Number with adverse events	Serious adverse event rate
Sepsis	824	0.10%
Infection	11,707	1.34%
Transfusion	1,257	0.15%
Hemorrhage	28,658	3.31%
Hospitalization (related to the abortion)	5,699	0.66%
ER visit (related to the abortion)	40,960	4.73%
Ectopic pregnancy	3,062	0.35%
Other life-threatening adverse events (cardiac, pulmonary, thrombosis, anaphylaxis, surgery)	1,956	0.22%
Repeated (surgical) abortion	24,563	2.84%
Other abortion-specific complications	49,169	5.68%
Overall	94,605	10.93%

Note: The overall serious adverse event rate of 10.93% is adjusted for the fact that some women suffer from adverse events in multiple categories.



**PREGNANCY CARE ALLIANCE**  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Citizens for Life wishes a happy second birthday to the Pregnancy Care Alliance of Massachusetts (PCAll), the state’s first pregnancy resource center network. A press release from PCAll included its 2024 Impact Report, which stated, “The compilation, an overview of cost-free goods and services provided to women in need, continues the upward trend highlighted in the 2023 report: Massachusetts pregnancy resource centers provide increasing value to their communities year over year.”

PCAll’s press release highlighted two bills sponsored by MCFL. The first bill, H.D. 3995, “An Act Relative to Ensuring Resources and Support for Pregnant and Parenting Families,” would provide comprehensive support to pregnant and parenting families and ensure fair treatment of all organizations offering these vital resources.

Pregnant women and families would receive unbiased information about all available pregnancy and parenting resources, and prohibit state agencies from discouraging access to pregnancy resource centers.

The second bill, H.D. 4193 “An Act Protecting Pregnancy Resource Centers from Taxpayer Funded Negative Ad Campaigns,” would guarantee that state resources are used fairly to promote a range of options, without bias or negative campaigns targeting these centers.

Learn more at MCFL’s Legislative Action Center:  
[masscitizensforlife.org/legislation](http://masscitizensforlife.org/legislation)



## PCAll Going Strong 2025 Marks Second Birthday

### Pregnancy Care Alliance 2024 Impact Report

<b>Clients Served:</b>	<b>4,061</b>
<b>Client Visits:</b>	<b>5,975</b>
<b>Pregnancy Tests Administered:</b>	<b>1,698</b>
<b>Ultrasounds Conducted:</b>	<b>1,250</b>
<b>Value of Food, Diapers, Baby Clothing, Supplies, and Services Distributed Free of Charge:</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>

Data compiled from PCAll member centers: Abundant Hope (Attleboro), Boston Center for Pregnancy Choices (Boston), Clearway Clinic (Worcester & Springfield), First Concern (Clinton & Marlborough), Heartbeat (Burlington), Pregnancy Care Center (Haverhill, Lawrence & Lowell), and Your Options Medical (Brookline, Fall River & Revere).



# Kayleigh McEnany to Keynote MCFL Fundraising Banquet September 26

Kayleigh McEnany is the former White House press secretary and current co-host of Outnumbered on the Fox News Channel. Prior to serving in the White House, Kayleigh worked as the national press secretary for the Trump Campaign and formerly the national spokesperson for the Republican National Committee. Before joining the RNC, Kayleigh worked as a political commentator at CNN.

Kayleigh graduated from Harvard Law School with a Juris Doctor and Georgetown University School of Foreign Services with a degree in international politics. Kayleigh is a recipient of the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Public Service Award.



Kayleigh is the author of the New York Times bestselling books, "For Such a Time as This" and "Serenity in the Storm: Living through Chaos by Leaning on Christ."

Buy Your Tickets Now!



## Sponsorship Opportunities

### Platinum Rose \$10,000

20 Dinner tickets (2 tables), 20 VIP tickets, 2 VIP seats at head table with Kayleigh McEnany, recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Full-page ad, first placement on sponsor list, logo included.

**Website recognition:** First placement on sponsor list, logo included with link to website.

**Event signage:** Stand alone.

### Gold Rose \$5,000

10 Dinner tickets (1 table), 10 VIP tickets, and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Half-page ad, Prominent list placement, logo included.

**Website recognition:** Secondary placement on sponsor list, logo included with link to website.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

### Silver Rose \$2,500

10 Dinner tickets (1 table) and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Quarter-page ad, Prominent list placement.

**Website recognition:** Secondary placement on sponsor list.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

### Bronze Rose \$1,000

4 Dinner tickets and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Prominent list placement

**Website recognition:** Inclusion on sponsor list.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

### Red Rose \$500

2 Dinner tickets and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Included on sponsor list.

**Website recognition:** Inclusion on sponsor list.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

[MaProLife.org/banquet](https://MaProLife.org/banquet)



# Answering a Call From the Heart: Julie's Story

*As you read this, approximately 8,500 children in the Mass. foster care system await homes and loving families. Massachusetts Citizens for Life proudly announces its newest initiative: foster care and adoption resources. You can see our first resource, an online information hub, at [www.masscitizensforlife.org/adoption](http://www.masscitizensforlife.org/adoption).*

*In the coming years, we will provide additional content and channels of support. You'll also find stories shared by local men and women like you -- residents with families, jobs, demands, responsibilities -- and pro-life hearts. We're excited to share stories of how these "regular" people sacrificed to open their hearts and homes to children in need, changing forever the lives of some of our most vulnerable. Our hope is that, in reading their stories, you might be moved to open your home, too.*

## Julie's Story

"Our twins, a boy (J) & a girl (G), came to our home two and a half years ago at the age of just 2 months. In their short lives, their first month was spent in NICU (after drug exposure in-utero). When they arrived at our house 2 days before Christmas—DCF (Department of Children and Families) had removed them both from a hotel room where adults were doing various drugs and substances—they had no home. They were dirty with a strong odor, dressed in mismatched clothing and tired. The caseworker with them said J cried most of the hours she had them and G was completely detached—she would barely make eye contact or a sound.

"They are completely different children today, both happy and confident toddlers who have been able to remain in one stable home with

mom, dad and big sister for these two and a half years.

"We show compassion and love to their parents as well. We pray that our relationship with the twins and their father will continue as they reunify and that we can continue to 'Be Jesus' to their family as they grow and go on.

"I have always known infertility would be a struggle in my future and God gave me an early burden for the foster system. Patrick shared that burden, most specifically for sibling sets. But just like so many other families I have met over the years, who share the same burden and desire to help, I had said a final "No" because I just knew I couldn't handle the pain. But one day, the Lord clearly spoke to me through another family—a 30-second sound bite where this mother clearly spoke to me—she said 'We adopt every child that comes through our home who can't be reunified with their own family.' It was never about them staying in my home and being adopted but about being Jesus to other people.

"Boystown walked us through every single step. Once we got through all of the paperwork and classes—they sat down with us and helped us with a plan. They helped field the requests coming from DCF and plugged us in with what we told them we could handle.

"Our contact at Boystown is an amazing foster mom. She and her husband have adopted five children through the DCF system over the years. Her heart for the foster care system is infectious. We also had a small community of other foster families in our church and during the first year of fostering.

"DCF has a reputation for being hardened, overstretched, and hard



Julie and Patrick Burke holding twins, J and G, and their daughter

to navigate. By using an agency like Boystown, we were removed from that process initially, until we were assigned the twins. Our first interaction with a DCF caseworker was on the night our kids were brought to our home. Two Boystown workers arrived before DCF came with the babies. They stayed until the paperwork was done, the babies were bathed/dressed for the night and our nerves were settled. The entire process was much less intimidating with them present.

"We have interacted for two and a half years with the same office and a few different caseworkers. Our current caseworker will remain a true friend for the rest of my life. The people we have interacted with have affection for these children and want their very best life. I don't think J and G would be here today—at least not in the capacity they are now—if DCF hadn't intervened. And through these workers & the DCF system, they are on their way home to a parent who can be the father he was meant to be.

"There *will* be some mourning in our home forever—because we love them. They deserved to have us love them! But there will be *more* joy in our hearts and in heaven knowing that they are home with a family that is on its way to healing. We got to witness that and have a small part in it."

# Pro-Life Success in the States: Strategies for the Dobbs Era

Pro-life efforts led to a 50% reduction in abortion rates under Roe. What opportunities for progress exist post-Roe?



Professor Michael New addresses MCFL's Virtual Speaker Series on Feb. 25

Michael J. New, Ph. D., assistant professor of practice at the Busch School of Business at the Catholic University of America and a senior associate scholar with the Charlotte Lozier Institute, lent his trademark pro-life enthusiasm to a fast-paced, humorous, and highly informative presentation for MCFL's Virtual Speaker Series on February 25.

"We did it!" New began, his face beaming. "Roe was overturned after years and years of blood, sweat, tears, and prayers. It all paid off. Even though the pro-life movement made mistakes and didn't do everything right, we never gave up. Now, we can do a lot more to protect preborn children."

New has long been a familiar face at many MCFL events. New recounted how he began his acquaintance with MCFL as a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard from 2002-2004 and as an adjunct professor at UMass Boston. "I had an idea to study the impact of pro-life laws, but had trouble finding a good data set," New said. "Fortunately, NARAL willed away their archives to Harvard, and he was able to find them at the library. I had a great response to my first study and never looked back."

## Part 1: Pro-life Progress Under Roe

"The good news is that the U.S. abortion rate fell by 50% while *Roe*

*v. Wade* was still on the books and is a success story we should promote," he said. "Many public policy success stories get attention, such as the fall of Communism or declining crime rates, but not the fall of abortion rates. The lack of interest concerning the drop in abortion rates is surprising since public policy changed little between 1980 and 2020."

How can the decline in the U.S. abortion rate from 1990 to 2019 be explained? "Except for Poland (down 77%), Japan (down 54%), and the U.S. (down 48%), most other countries have not had the same sort of success. The abortion rate in the U.K. has gone up. Similarly the Netherlands has seen a 40 % increase.

"If I had told pro-lifers leaders in 1980 that it would take 42 years to overturn *Roe* but that we would cut the rate in half, they would have been skeptical," New continued. "If the abortion rate were still at its 1980 level, there would be 1 million more abortions happening every year.

"Our opponents concede abortion numbers are dropping. However, they bend backward to avoid giving pro-lifers any credit," New said. "As pro-lifers have gained in the court of public opinion, our opponents have tried a new strategy. They do not argue that

we are wrong; they argue that we are ineffective. i.e., 'If you wanted to get abortion numbers down, you would support contraception programs, sex education, welfare, or universal health care, etc.'"

When looking at strategies that reduce abortion rates, you must look for research that proves which ideas are practical. New's data show what works: sexual restraint, pro-life laws, shifting attitudes, and assisting pregnant women. New's studies also show what strategies don't work: more spending on welfare, universal health care, and more spending on contraceptives.

"While it is true that contraceptive use has increased, so has the unintended pregnancy rate," New said. "The data shows no consistent downward trajectory, just fluctuations in the unintended pregnancy rate. If increased contraceptive use were the cause for the drop in abortion rate, you would see a clear drop."

In 2017, the U.S. abortion rate hit a historic low of 13.5, lower than in 1973 when *Roe* was decided. The statistic that best explains the drop in U.S. abortion rates is that a smaller percentage of unintended pregnancies result in abortion. The data showing the drop in women with unplanned pregnancies choosing abortion is precise: from 50%

(1990-1994) to 34% (2015-2019).

"This is extremely important for one reason. It shows pro-life efforts are effective. Suppose more and more women are choosing life after unintended pregnancies. In that case, there are one of three reasons: we are either shifting public opinion, caring for the material needs of pregnant women, or enacting pro-life laws. It all flows back to the activity of pro-lifers: education, service, legislation."

## **Part 2: The Post-Dobbs Pro-Life Success Story**

The post-Roe landscape shows 12 states that protect unborn children throughout pregnancy. In Georgia, Florida, Iowa, and South Carolina, unborn children are protected after a fetal heartbeat can be detected (around 6 weeks). Arizona has a 15-week ban, and Nebraska and North Carolina have 12-week bans.

Texas data shows that gestational age limits are already saving lives. After the Texas Heartbeat Act took effect in September 2021, 8 months before the Dobbs decision, abortion numbers in Texas plummeted. Eight months before the Texas Heartbeat Act took effect, abortions totaled 5,143/month. Eight months later, abortions fell to 2,685/month, a 47% decrease.

"The *New York Times* argued that there wasn't that much of a decrease; women were either going out of state to get abortions or getting the abortion pill by mail," News said. "There are problems with the *Times*' analysis. Out-of-state abortion numbers were self-reported by abortion facilities, and chemical abortion pills ordered are not the same as chemical abortions obtained. Some women may have had second thoughts. Some women may be stockpiling the pills for future use.

"The best way to analyze the impact of Texas's Heartbeat Act is to look at the birth data," New continued. "If

**"If more and more women are choosing life after unintended pregnancies there are one of three reasons: we are either shifting public opinion, caring for the material needs of pregnant women, or enacting pro-life laws. It all flows back to the activity of pro-lifers: education, service, legislation."**

more pregnancies are being carried to term, then we can be sure that the Texas Heartbeat Act is saving lives. The abortions that were averted in September 2021 were births that took place in March 2022. From 2019 to 2022, the annual number of births in Texas totaled 285,799, 277,947, 284,862, and 293,262.

"The Texas Heartbeat Act is saving lives. From September 2021 to May 2022, there were approximately 22,000 fewer abortions than expected. From March 2022 to November 2022, there were approximately 11,000 more births than expected. Almost half the children who would have been aborted were carried to term. The Texas Heartbeat Act is saving about 1,000 babies every month. In 2022, the Texas birthrate increased by 4.7%, the largest increase in the country."

In November 2023, the Institute for Labor Economics Study reported that in 14 states with pro-life laws, births increased by 2.3% (compared to states where abortion was legal). Data from the first 6 months of 2023 show that 32,000 more children were born as a result of pro-life laws.

"Despite pro-life progress, there are storm clouds on the horizon," New observed. "There has been a recent (pre-Dobbs) increase in the abortion rate. The rate started to increase slightly around 2017, about the time the rules governing chemical abortion were being relaxed. The prescribed use for the abortion pill has lengthened from

6 weeks to 10 weeks of gestation, and there is no requirement for an in-person medical exam.

New finds it problematic that chemical abortions are increasing. Pro-abortion push-back has been fruitful, with blue states repealing pro-life laws. "Abortion opponents have been mobilized and energized. They are winning through ballot initiatives."

New reminded the audience of the challenges faced by the pro-life movement. "In the 1970s, we needed to defend incremental pro-life laws. In the 1980s, we needed to develop a network of constitutionalist judges. The task of the 1990s was nominating those constitutionalist judges. In the 1990s and 2000s, the movement was required to oppose pro-abortion Democratic judicial nominees and prioritize conservative pro-life judicial nominees. The work in the 2020s will be defeating pro-abortion state ballot propositions. As we have overcome those challenges, we shall overcome these," New said.

"There are reasons for optimism: pro-lifers control more state legislatures. We have passed more pro-life laws. There is more youth activism and better pro-life outreach, such as Students for Life and 40 Days for Life. There is more scrutiny for Planned Parenthood and more support for the pro-life position.

"Remember all of the progress we have made," New concluded. "If we stay the course, victory will someday be ours."



# Pro-life Actions Bloom As Spring Arrives



President Myrna Maloney Flynn at the Boston Catholic Men's Conference at the Quincy Marriott on March 22.



In April MCFL Young Adults volunteers supported the Boston Center for Pregnancy Choices by helping prepare mailings for their upcoming gala.



North Adams Chapter May Rose Drive at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, North Adams.



MCFL Board member Judy Cross, Esq. (left) at a screening of the film "Sound of Hope" in Springfield on April 5.



Joan Bailey, Executive Director of Friends of the Unborn speaks at an April event co-hosted by MCFL South Shore Chapter and Hingham Catholic Collaborative. The chapter held its annual Sanctity of Life Plant Sale at Resurrection Church in Hingham on May 10-11 and St. Paul's on May 18.



Christine Lehane displayed MCFL's educational materials for an April pro-life event in Natick.

## Excerpts from Phil Moran, Winter 2023 (Cont. from page 3)

“The following Spring, at the annual election of Officers and Directors, I was asked to challenge Mildred as the NRLC Director despite the fact that she was still President. In a stunning surprise, I was elected as the new Director from the Commonwealth to the NRLC.

“During this period, Anne Fox was in charge of the MCFL newspaper and she had a Special Edition which listed the candidates for Federal and State offices. Although she was unable to endorse any of the candidates, she did put photos of those she thought would be pro-life votes. Someone from one of the opposition groups reported this to the Federal Elections Commission, who filed a complaint against the MCFL in Federal District Court. Shortly before this, I had attended a seminar in Washington and the major topic of conversation was about a case involving the Boston Globe and I noted that its attorney was Francis Fox from the firm of Bingham, Dana Gould in Boston. I spoke to Kathy Healy and she called Fran and set up an appointment.

Together we went to his office and while reviewing the corporate papers he said that ‘I see one of my classmates is a new member of your Board.’ She asked who was that and he said ‘Joe Reilly.’

“As a fellow Holy Cross guy like Joe Reilly, I immediately knew Fran was also a Holy Cross alumnus and that gave us all a feeling of comfort.

“Fran represented us at the District Court and Federal Appeals Court and prevailed. The FEC wouldn’t give up and appealed to the US Supreme Court and they agreed to hear the case. I had the privilege of being present when Fran successfully argued the matter at the Supreme Court. Even today, the case of *FEC v. MCFL* is one of the most quoted cases involving freedom of the press and the First Amendment.

Over the next several years, I had the

honor to serve as President, Chairman and NRLC Director representing the MCFL, including representing the MCFL at the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in the matter of *Planned Parenthood v. Attorney General Scott Harshbarger*, in which we were allowed to intervene to protect parental rights.

“From 1998 to 2012, I was elected President of the Pro Life Legal Defense Fund, the group of lawyers that Roy founded in 1974, as mentioned above.

“I tell all of this to reflect over 49 years and eleven months that both my wife Carole and I have been largely involved in the Pro-Life movement and when the Dobbs decision was announced on June 24th and became official on July 26, 2022, overturning the false assumption that somewhere in the United States Constitution that there ever was a constitutional right to kill the unborn and we were thrilled.

“Is there satisfaction knowing that those other members of the MCFL and the PLLDF from Day One until today were right all along? Should all of us in the pro-life movement celebrate? I guess we should, but still be ever mindful that the battle might be won but the war is still ongoing, especially in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

“Yet, yes, after all of these years of being told that you were on the wrong side, except of course by the Supreme Court in the matter of *McCullough v. Coakley*, of which I was counsel of record to begin the case and which the Supreme Court ruled in our favor 9-0. I guess that there is a warm comfy feeling that perhaps what we did was not in vain. That is a nice feeling. So the bottom line is that I, along with my wife Carole, are proud to be part of a historic battle and yes, we can and will celebrate Dobbs as our victory! Ever keeping in mind that life is precious from the moment of conception until natural death.”

## Memorials

**Joyce and her baby, Holly  
Debra L. Leavitt**

**Philip Moran  
MCFL Board of Directors**

**Claire Putnicki  
Paul Putnicki**

**Dr. Mark Rollo  
Herbert and Robin Greenspan**

**In Honor of Mother’s Day**

**Mary E. (Plummer) Taylor**

**Ione S. Siehr**

**Margaret S. Taylor**

**Paul J. Taylor**

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# MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR LIFE

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PREGNANCY CARE ALLIANCE  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Mission

In recognition of the fact that each human life is a continuum from conception to natural death, the mission of Massachusetts Citizens for Life is to restore respect for human life and to defend the right to life of all human beings, born and preborn. We will influence public policy at the local, state, and national levels through comprehensive educational, legislative, political, and charitable activities.

## Coming Events

### FATHER'S DAY

June 15

NEW foster care and adoption  
resources published!

Visit [www.masscitizensforlife.org/adoption](http://www.masscitizensforlife.org/adoption).

### SOULFEST

August 14-16

Greenfield

### PRO-LIFE BOOTH AT THE BIG E

September 12 - 28

West Springfield

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

September 26

Newton Marriott

Keynote Speaker:

**Kayleigh McEnany**

Former White House

Press Secretary

[masscitizensforlife.org/banquet](http://masscitizensforlife.org/banquet)

