



# DEFEND LIFE

*Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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## Rush to judgment, rush to death in Phoenix Brain-injured son targeted for organ donation, says father

Clouds covered the moon and stars as the bicyclist pedaled his black 15-speed mountain bike eastbound on Lower Buckeye Road in Phoenix, Arizona, the night of November 3, 2015.

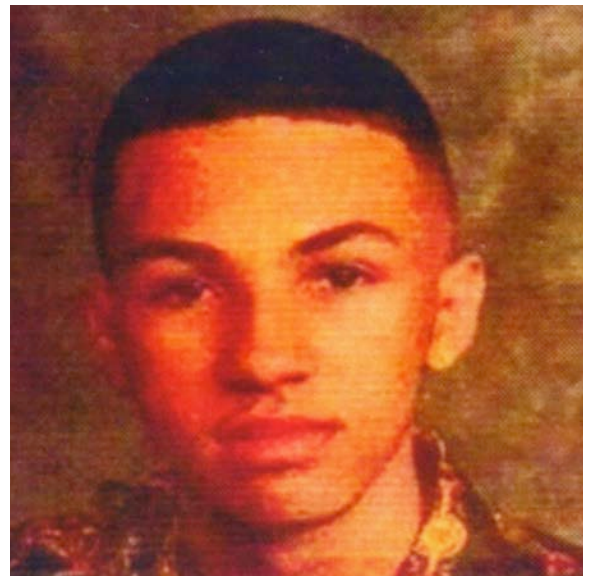
At 8:42 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, a driver in a gray 2004 Dodge 4-door sedan, also heading eastbound, struck the bicycle from behind.

"I kind of bumped him," the 25-year-old driver, Al'darius Martinez Martez Ware, told Detective Forrest Wright of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

Ware then swerved hard to the right, smashed through a block wall and came to rest in the front yard of 7001 West Lower Buckeye Road.

Evidence later indicated that Ware may have crossed over the fog line with headlights off before striking the unaware bicyclist.

The property owner, Rafael Hernandez, called 911.



**Paul Robinson, Jr., suffered a traumatic brain injury after his bicycle was struck by an auto.**

Arriving on the scene within minutes, Unit 34 of the Phoenix Fire Department found the bicyclist lying unconscious in the street, with blood in his mouth, 4-5 cm. cuts to each eyebrow, and breathing on his own, although labored. A nurse who had stopped at the accident to render aid was holding him and comforting him.

A wallet with identification could not be found. Early Sheriff's Office reports described him as "an unidentified male thought to be in

his mid-20s." A question mark appeared in the early record of his nationality, leading to the belief that he might be an illegal alien and possibly homeless.

### Catastrophic injury

"I spoke to police multiple times, patient's name not known, could not therefore find family" was the initial physician's report at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix, where the victim was

taken. "Patient may have been homeless," the reporting physician speculated.

"This was a 20-something-year-old male with a devastating brain injury following an auto versus pedestrian accident," Banner physician David A. Wilson stated in an Assessment and Plan report at 11:50 MST that evening.

"His physical exam findings are consistent with a devastating injury with no demonstrable brainstem reflexes and no signs of neurological

function. . . .

“Given the CT findings and the patient’s grim neurological examination, this is a catastrophic injury, which is not compatible with functional survival,” Wilson concluded.

By the following day, however, officials had located the victim’s father, Paul E. Robinson, and had identified the victim as Paul D. Robinson, Jr., 34.

Paul Robinson, Sr., 57, had spent 26 years in the medical field: six years as a clinical specialist in the Army and the remainder as a nurse in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

From the start, Robinson had strong misgivings about the handling of the case by both the Sheriff’s Office and Banner University Medical Center.

The Sheriff’s Office “profiled” his son as a homeless and as an illegal alien, he contends.

“Racism took place at the scene of the accident,” says Robinson.

“That rush to judgment at the scene was followed by a rush to judgment at the hospital; they believed that he was 20 years old—a prime candidate for organ donation, he told *Defend Life*.

“That influenced their decision not to properly treat him,” administering palliative care rather than aggressively treating his traumatic brain injuries.

“The only value to his life appeared to have been as an organ donor,” he concluded.

Robinson’s protracted disputes with hospital staff concerning procedures of which he was highly critical ended tragically on December 1.

That evening, he said tearfully, “My son suffocated in my arms.”

The Expiration Document on

Paul Robinson’s Preliminary Cause of Death gives a terse description of what happened next:

“Pt [Patient] was observed to be pulseless and apneic.

“No cranial nerve responses observed.

“There was no movement of extremities to noxious stimuli.

“Pt was pronounced dead with family at the bedside and then was taken to the OR [Operating Room] for DCD [Donation by Cardiac Death].”

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**With proper treatment,  
Paul Robinson, Jr.,  
would still be alive:  
‘But the goal was  
to get his organs.’**

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#### **Organs worth \$1-\$5 million**

By 9:30 p.m. on November 3, just 15 minutes after Paul Jr.’s arrival at Banner but well before his father had been contacted, according to a hospital ED Continuing Care Flowsheet, the Organ Donor Network was called to inform them of the patient’s status.

“This young man’s organs were worth \$1-to-\$5 million to the organ transplant industry,” Dr. Paul A. Byrne told *Defend Life*.

“They looked at him like he was 20 years old, because he was unidentified,” he added.

“He was actually 34, but it made no difference; he still had young, healthy organs.”

With proper treatment, Paul Robinson, Jr., would still be alive, maintains Dr. Byrne: “But the goal

was to get his organs.”

Byrne, a neonatologist, clinical professor of pediatrics and past president of the Catholic Medical Association, has written and spoken extensively for decades against organ donation from living donors.

“There are no organs that are suitable for transplantation from a cadaver,” he says bluntly.

“Vital organs deteriorate very quickly after a patient is actually dead”—after *true* death, when a person’s breathing and heart have stopped for a very short period of time, he explains.

“But when organs are removed from a ‘brain dead’ donor, all the vital signs of the ‘donors’ are still present prior to the harvesting of organs, such as: normal body temperature and blood pressure; the heart is beating; vital organs, like the liver and kidneys, are functioning; and the donor is breathing with the help of a ventilator.”

#### **No EEG done for 8 days**

Robinson’s father was gravely troubled by the medical treatment of his son on many counts.

“[T]he ED medical staff knew that he had suffered a traumatic brain injury,” he says, but “No attempt was made to treat that condition or monitor his intracranial pressure, which are protocols in any level 1 trauma center.

“Upon Paul Jr.’s arrival at the hospital, his vital signs were high normal and he was breathing on his own; however, that would soon change due to the misdiagnosing the degree of his brain injuries and to intubating him and inserting a

**See ORGANS, page 19**

## ‘Donation by Cardiac Death’ is doctor-imposed death

“You’ve probably heard and read a great deal of positive publicity about the benefits of the organ donor program—information which is provided by those in the medical profession deeply involved in the so-called ‘gift of life.’” writes Dr. Paul Byrne (“Facts About Being an Organ Donor,” [truthaboutorgandonation.com](http://truthaboutorgandonation.com)).

“But when presenting their information, they deliberately leave us believing the donor is already truly dead before the organs are taken. They intentionally omit the in-depth explanation of the necessary procedure a donor must undergo *while still alive*.

*“In actuality, it is the excruciating vital organ removal procedure which causes true death of the donor,”* he states.

“They kill them in the process of organ transplantation,” Dr. Byrne told *Defend Life*.

“They make an incision from the neck to the pubis; the physician sees the beating heart—he knows the patient is still alive.”

Writes Byrne, “More recently, when there is a desire to get organs while the donor still has obvious brain activity [has not been declared ‘brain dead,’], a Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) is obtained. Life support is taken away.

“When the donor is pulseless for as short as 75 seconds (but the heart is still beating) the organs are taken—this is called Donation by Cardiac Death (DCD).

“When a heart is taken for transplantation, after about 1 hour of operating, while the heart is



**Organ donation involves the removal of organs while the donor is still alive, explains Dr. Paul Byrne.**

beating and blood pressure and circulation are normal, the heart is stopped by the transplant surgeon. Then the surgeon lifts the heart from the donor’s chest.”

Organ removal is performed while the patient is given only a paralyzing agent but no anesthetic, writes Byrne.

“Multi-organ excision, on the average, takes three to four hours of operating during which time the heart is beating, the blood pressure is normal and respiration is occurring albeit the patient is on a ventilator.

“Each organ is cut out until finally the beating heart is stopped, a moment before removal.”

As for Paul Robinson, Jr.’s death, says Dr. Byrne, “I do know the system killed him; he was not dead on November 3 and not dead until life support was stopped and organs excised on December 1.

“This is doctor-imposed death.

It’s no longer a *culture* of death; it’s a *system* of death—a medical and legal system of death,” he charged.

“Some of us have opposed this for a long time.”

Dr. Byrne testified on organ donation and ‘brain death’ before the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the Vatican in 2005.

He wrote against the Uniform Declaration of Death Act—“a terrible, terrible law”—but was not permitted to testify against it before the President’s Commission in 1980.

Dr. Byrne testified on life-death issues to nine state legislatures beginning in 1967.

He opposed Dr. Jack Kevorkian on “Cross-Fire” and has appeared on “Good Morning America,” the BBC documentary, “Are Donors Really Dead?” and public television in Japan.

Byrne warns that it is not enough to verbally decline to be an organ donor when you register at your DMV. That is not recorded.

According to the Revised Anatomical Gift Act (2006), you must “opt-out” in writing, using “explicit language.”

“Otherwise, it is ‘presumed’ that you have consented to be an organ donor to be utilized for the purpose of ‘organ transplantation, education and research,’” he writes.

Dr. Byrne’s website, [lifeguardianfoundation.org](http://lifeguardianfoundation.org), offers directions on how to document your decision to refuse to be an organ donor.



## In My Humble Opinion

# Dynamic duo engage pro-lifers at March for Life kick-off talks

By Janet Baker

The airline flight attendant approached Bob Dornan and whispered in his ear: two Roman Catholic cardinals in the First Class section of the plane wished to speak with him.

Awed, the Congressman hurried up the aisle, entered First Class and knelt before them.

“Your eminences, to what can I attribute this honor?” he asked humbly.

It was the letter he had written to Pope John Paul II concerning pro-abortion Jesuit Congressman Fr. Robert Drinan, they told him.

“Your letter is on the pope’s desk,” they assured the California Congressman.

“I didn’t actually write the letter,” he confessed to the pro-lifers at his Defend Life-sponsored March for Life kick-off lecture at the Rock Creek Knights of Columbus in Bethesda January 13.

A scholarly priest friend had done the actual writing. “It was a powerful and beautifully written letter,” said Dornan.

“But I added a P.S.: I wrote to the Holy Father, ‘There are 21 Democrats who cluster around Father Drinan. They vote for abortion; they’re using him as an example.’”

The letter worked. In 1980, John Paul II unequivocally demanded that all priests withdraw from electoral politics, and Father Drinan complied.

The feisty 83-year-old former Air Force pilot and ardent pro-lifer regaled his audience with Congress-



**David Bereit (left) listens as Bob Dornan urges pro-lifers to pray for an end to abortion at the March for Life kick-off lecture in Bethesda.**

sional pro-life war stories.

“When I got re-elected, House Speaker Tip O’Neill said, ‘Bob Dornan needs a psychiatrist!’ he recalled

“Being an Irishman against another Irishman, I had a pretty good comeback; I said, ‘Maybe I do, but you know what you need, Mr. Speaker? A good confessor, a good priest, with your defense of abortion!’”

Dornan pointed with pride to his battle to outlaw federal funding of abortions in military hospitals in the U.S. and overseas in 1979, a ban that still exists.

Congressman Henry Hyde had advised him not to take on that fight, he said; “‘You’re taking on admirals who want abortions for their mistresses,’ he told me.

“I was crestfallen. I said, ‘Let me pray on it.’

“I came back the next day and told Henry, ‘I want to do this.’ And we won!”

Turning to the current fight

against abortion, Dornan urged, “Let’s get out there and ask the Holy Spirit to put some fire in our blood; let’s give them the fight of their lives for life this year!”

### Time to go on offense

Leading off the “double-header” lecture on January 13, David Bereit, founder and former director of 40 Days for Life, said that one goal of the 40 Days campaigns last year was to have a presence in all 50 states simultaneously.

40 Days felt that it was important to have that kind of presence in the country during the crucial 2016 presidential campaign season.

To help accomplish this, the 40 Days team did a bus tour throughout the 48 contiguous states.

The pro-life movement is active and its participants younger than in

**See KICK-OFF, page 6**

# Harrisburg pro-lifers challenge buffer zone law

Two Harrisburg, Pa., sidewalk counselors have taken the fight to restore their First Amendment free speech rights to federal circuit court.

Colleen Reilly and Becky Biter filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on November 29, asking the court to reverse a district court ruling against them.

The bone of contention in this battle is an ordinance passed by the Harrisburg City Council in 2012, “Interference with Access to Health Care Facilities,” that creates multiple 20-foot buffer zones, one for each entrance, exit, or driveway in the city’s 78 licensed health care facilities.

The ordinance, which prohibits “congregating,” “patrolling,” “picketing” and “demonstrating” in the buffer zones, has forced pro-lifers to move outside public sidewalks and streets, in some cases, more than 50 feet from clinic entrances,

the November 29 appeal contends.

The pro-lifers have peacefully counseled and leafleted abortion-minded women on the public sidewalks and streets near the city’s two abortion clinics, Hillcrest and Planned Parenthood, for years.

“Because of the personal nature of their messages and the emotional stress that the women are experiencing, Plaintiffs engage in calm, one-on-one conversations,” the appeal states.

“[T]heir experience has shown that the most effective way of connecting with women and couples facing unplanned pregnancies is to engage in peaceful one-on-one conversations in a quiet tone of voice with a friendly demeanor.”

“We reach out to them in love,” Ms. Biter told *Defend Life*.

But because the ordinance-imposed buffer zones have kept them at a distance where a normal level of conversation is impossible, they

are now forced to “reach out in love loudly!” she said.

The pro-lifers launched their lawsuit against the City of Harrisburg, Harrisburg City Council and Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse in March 2016.

As part of the suit, they asked U.S. District Court Judge Sylvia Rambo for a preliminary injunction stopping enforcement of the ordinance while the case proceeds.

Judge Rambo denied their motion for a preliminary injunction on August 31, but ruled that the lawsuit may continue. The pro-lifers are appealing that denial.

## Planned Parenthood writes law

The pro-lifers’ appeal states that to resolve purported problems associated with the pro-lifers’ free speech activities, the Harrisburg City Council accepted and adopted language provided by Planned Parenthood.

Former City Councilman Brad Koplinski, who voted for the ordinance, testified that a clear motivating factor for imposing the buffer zone was his discussions with Planned Parenthood representatives who said that they had confronted what they called “protesters” at the abortion clinics.

Mr. Koplinski offered no evidence of any actual problems with women gaining access to abortion clinics, but instead stated that the buffer zone was useful to help the city save money on law enforcement during the time when the city had financial trouble, the appeal states.

“Chief of Police Thomas Carter confirmed Mr. Koplinski’s testimo-



Becky Biter (right), along with fellow Harrisburg sidewalk counselors (from left) Denise Rentschler and Diane Bird, toured Pennsylvania in the Save the Storks mobile ultrasound unit behind them last March.

ny about staff shortages and financial issues at the police department and that having the anti-speech buffer zone is helpful in saving potential costs of responding to calls at the abortion clinics,” the appeal states.

But neither the police chief nor Koplinski gave testimony of actual instances when pro-lifers blocked entrances or sidewalks or threatened public safety.

### **Conversations cut by half**

Colleen Reilly has been a regular sidewalk counselor outside the Hillcrest clinic for about ten years.

Prior to the ordinance, Colleen would generally stand on the public sidewalk next to the driveway entrance to Hillcrest to hand out pro-life literature and speak to people entering the clinic on foot or in cars.

Reilly said that many people changed their minds and decided not to have an abortion after she spoke to them.

Thus, “in multiple instances, her speech within the public fora was the difference between life and death,” the appeal states.

As a result of the ordinance, Colleen’s ability to have personal conversations has been cut to less than half.

“I cannot reach persons entering the driveway by car or on foot without raising my voice, which, in my experience, may alarm the women and make them less receptive to my

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message,” she states.

Becky Biter has sidewalk-counseled for over two years—outside Hillcrest about three days a week, and at the Planned Parenthood clinic about once a week.

Becky shares her experience with abortion-minded women of having had two abortions and suffering grief, anguish and guilt until she found healing and forgiveness from God.

She is director of operations for

Rachel’s Vineyard retreats in Central Pennsylvania.

She also heads a pro-life ministry called Undeclared Courage, which is affiliated with the Texas-based Sidewalk Counselors for Life.

“We have held two sidewalk counselor training courses and have trained 17 counselors,” she said. They plan a third training course in the spring.

“Planned Parenthood has called the police on us three or four times” since the ordinance was enacted; “but every time the police were called, there were never any violations” found against the sidewalk counselors, said Becky.

Reilly and Biter are being represented in their lawsuit, *Reilly v. City of Harrisburg*, by Liberty Counsel, a nonprofit organization that specializes in litigation related to religious freedom, the sanctity of human life and the family.

In 2014 the Supreme Court, in *McCullen v. Coakley*, unanimously struck down a Massachusetts buffer zone law around abortion facilities.

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### **KICK-OFF, from page 4**

the past, observed Bereit.

Commenting on Trump’s victory, he noted, “What happened on election night changed the entire landscape; people of conscience realized the impossible is possible.”

As a consequence, he said, “The pro-life movement now has to change its entire mindset. For decades we’ve been playing defense. This is a time for bold courage and this is a time for you and me to go on the offense.

“We have a limited window of opportunity. If we fail to take advantage of this narrow window of opportunity to make progress that hasn’t been possible for at least the last decade, if not longer, then we may not have this opportunity again for decades to come.”

We need to be focused on results, and extraordinary results, he advised.

Bereit recommended a book titled *The One Thing* by Gary Keller. It’s a business book, he explained, but a main theme is that a successful person will focus on one activity

that he or she can do well, that will have such a great impact that it will eliminate the necessity for other activities.

“If you chase two rabbits, you won’t catch either one,” author Keller points out.

I think the meaning of that is obvious, yet pro-lifers fall into the trap of trying to accomplish many things in one activity.

I myself have seen it happen (and have tried to prevent others

**See TALKS, page 8**



# Cecil County Pregnancy Center meets the moms where they are

By Bob Brown

In the fall of 2015, Samantha (not her real name), a straight-A student at Elkton High School in Cecil County, Md., learned she was pregnant.

Over Christmas break, her father forced her to go to Planned Parenthood-Wilmington (Delaware).

As the abortion industry giant so often does, it accommodated the male abuser. A Planned Parenthood abortionist killed Samantha's preborn baby, who was almost five months old.

Samantha had wanted her baby, though, and she was devastated. A school guidance counselor noticed Samantha's heartache and reached out to Cecil County Pregnancy Center (CCPC) in Elkton.

The guidance counselor asked what CCPC could do for Samantha. Atira Nozzo, a Life Affirming Specialist at CCPC, met Samantha.

And wept with her.

When I sat down with Atira, CCPC director Dan Mohler, and Client Services Director Lisa Tallman, RN, on January 16 at CCPC's Elkton center, Atira told me she herself had been pregnant at age 16.

Ten years later, she found herself with two children and in an abusive relationship, trying to survive. She was also pregnant again, and she aborted that child.

She made that regrettable decision in the early 1990s. But Atira came to Christ a few years later, remarried, and is now also the mother of 16-year-old twins.

She volunteered at Alpha's Glory Pregnancy Center in Aberdeen (featured in the November-December 2016 *Defend Life*) until she was put on bed rest before her twins' birth.

Clients who visit CCPC never turn down the opportunity to hear Atira tell her story.

Atira's encounter with Samantha began a relationship between CCPC and Elkton High School. Since then, at the school's invitation, Atira has made weekly trips to the school to meet with girls—two or three at a time, and most of them pregnant.

She honors the school's requirement not to say certain things; for example, she doesn't cite Scripture references or use the word "abstinence."

Instead, she listens. And she talks about her own painful history. She also tells the girls that they have the power to say "no" to casual sex.

Another Cecil County public high school has encouraged some of its students to meet with Atira, but so far hasn't set aside a space for her on its campus.

Unfortunately, many of the girls don't have access to transportation from the school to CCPC. Still, Atira would like to grow the ministry to reach more high school students, and even one day to work with girls as young as fifth and sixth grade.

She said that many of the girls she has counseled have from a young age experienced sexual abuse, often at the hands of family members.

CCPC maintains two official satellite centers in Cecil County churches: North East United Methodist Church in North East is open Thursdays, and Janes United Methodist Church in Rising Sun is open Fridays.

CCPC's main center at 138 Cathedral Street in Elkton (across the street from Union Hospital's Emergency Room), is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

From its earliest days, CCPC



**Cecil County Pregnancy Center's staff works together to help moms and save babies: (from left) Patty Hall, Director's Assistant/Graphics; Bette Green; volunteer Marci Cross; Client Services Specialist Cindy Kremer; volunteers Judy Conklin and Levine Joiner; Lisa Tallman; and Center Director Daniel Mohler.**

staff and volunteers have made it their ministry to go out to young women facing unplanned pregnancies—like Samantha—and meet them where they are. That means anywhere.

Founded by Bette Green in 1977, CCPC set up its first office in a custodial closet at St. Jude's Catholic Church in North East.

Atira said that Bette was known for making appointments with girls at McDonald's, where she would give them pregnancy tests.

Bette has long since retired, but her example laid the groundwork for those who have followed in her footsteps. Today, Dan Mohler, a pastor at First Baptist Church of North East, directs the center's staff and 12 non-staff volunteers.

Claudia Dodds is bilingual in English and Spanish and often

works with the center's Hispanic clients. Two registered nurses, including Lisa Tallman, number among the staff.

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**Bette was known for making appointments with girls at McDonald's, where she would give them pregnancy tests.**

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Under the oversight of Dr. Jennifer Nunez, CCPC's medical director and an OB/GYN at Union Hospital, the nurses at CCPC's Elkton center provide women with free ultrasounds. Dan said they performed 12 ultrasounds in 2016.

"But what makes us different is

prayer," Dan said. "We recognize our dependence on the Lord."

CCPC also offers pregnancy testing, one-on-one mentoring (there were 525 visits in 2016), parenting and child safety classes, and post-abortion counseling.

Women can come in six times per year for free material assistance (diapers, clothes, formula, etc.), after which they must take classes to earn "baby bucks" to receive more supplies.

Lisa said the center is in particular need of cribs, high chairs, diapers and wipes.

*To contact Cecil County Pregnancy Center, call (410) 398-7888, email [cecilcountypc@verizon.net](mailto:cecilcountypc@verizon.net), or click on [cecilcountypregnancy-center.com](http://cecilcountypregnancy-center.com).*

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## TALKS, from page 6

from this tendency).

The writer urged us to pray and ask God what each individual can do: "What is the one thing I can do right now such that by doing it, everything else will be easier or unnecessary?"

Bereit suggested a "pro-life modification" to that question, appropriate to this post-election era: "What is the one thing that our pro-life movement can do to make the greatest impact such that by doing it, everything else will be easier or unnecessary?"

Obviously, the answer will be

different for each individual, based on the talents and circumstances of each person. We need to make sure that 2017 is a year of victory.

Both speakers emphasized the need to act quickly and decisively while the climate in Washington is decidedly friendlier—or at least less hostile—towards Christianity than it has been in at least eight years.

As I write this, President Trump has reinstated the Mexico City Policy that in essence stops federal funding of Planned Parenthood's international abortions.

The House of Representatives has also voted to enshrine into law the Hyde Amendment. This law is called the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, sponsored by Chris Smith. It would also strip funding from the exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

This is a partial victory owing to fund fungibility. The only way to completely dry up that funding is to completely cut funding for Planned Parenthood.

Our activism cannot be confined solely to the political arena. We must continue to engage in protests—perhaps pickets at pro-abortion events.

We need to be in front of abortion mills praying and offering help. We need to be conducting educational outreaches.

Activists affiliated with Defend Life and other pro-life groups (such as 40 Days for Life) are already involved in such endeavors. More need to be involved.

Contact the editors of this newsletter to explore ways you can participate. As David Bereit suggested, pray to God and ask Him what you should do.

**FIGHT ABORTION**  
*Your very life depends on it!*



# A Tale of Two Priests: Father Allgood and Father Heesbad

By Rosalie Gross

Everyone is acquainted with Charles Dickens' book, *A Tale of Two Cities* (London and Paris): "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . ."

In like manner, I have penned "A Tale of Two Priests" (Father Allgood and Father Heesbad): "He was the best of priests, he was the worst of priests!"

Over the course of many years and spanning many state and federal elections, I have been a volunteer distributor of pro-life voter guides for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation.

The purpose of these voter guides is to identify pro-life candidates, so they can get elected and act on the behalf of the unborn.

These voter guides are intended only for members of churches that affirm the God-given right to life of the unborn. (This naturally includes all Catholic churches.)

They are distributed to churchgoers by standing on a public sidewalk and handing them out person-to-person or by leafleting cars in the church parking lot.

This past election—the 2016 general election—was crucial. In the balance hung the perilous plight of the unborn and the calamitous fate of the Catholic Church.

Never was there a clearer choice between good and evil, between life and death, between freedom and coercion, as there was between pro-life Trump/Pence and pro-abortion Clinton/Kaine.

In this past election, as a distributor of these voter guides, I worked very hard to get pro-life candidates on the federal and state levels elected

to office.

I covered 18 Catholic parishes and one monastery in my particular county, distributing approximately 8,500 voter guides.

Of course, I did not do this alone. I received help from many of my pro-life colleagues—help for which I am extremely grateful.

Of the 18 parishes covered, in only one of them was there a real

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**Laymen distributing  
pro-life voter guides are  
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problem. The pastor of this one church strongly objected to having the cars in his parking lot tagged with pro-life voter guides.

I ask the question: why? Why do priests rant and rave and become disgruntled and angry at pro-lifers at work, trying to save unborn babies?

Actually, laymen distributing pro-life voter guides and urging their fellow parishioners to vote in accord with the teachings of the Church are really only doing the job the priests themselves should be doing (but are reluctant to do for various unfounded reasons).

The priests should praise and support these laymen, not condemn or hinder them.

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life calls laymen who distribute pro-life voter guides at election time "Witnesses to Christ."

He says these people have heard

the call of Christ and His Church to actively get involved—to labor long and hard to bring their beloved nation, which has gone astray, back to God.

They are the "Apostolate of the Laity," as defined by the Second Vatican Council. They educate their fellow pro-lifers by handing out literature at churches—the very place pro-lifers are most likely to be found.

Then, what happens? Often, they are thrown off church property, and the very pastors who are ordained to call them to be Witnesses to Christ and Laymen Apostles condemn them for being so.

Father Pavone not only praises the actions of laymen distributing pro-life voter guides on church property; he defends their actions as perfectly legal.

Lawyers specializing in Constitutional law and the tax law have advised Father Pavone that the 1964 Johnson Amendment of the Internal Revenue Code—the so-called tax-exemption privilege (which Trump has promised to abolish)—was designed to limit political activities and expenditures of non-profit organizations (such as churches), but it does not apply—in any way—to individuals.

The distribution of campaign materials by individuals, acting on their own, outdoors, in a public parking lot, is not an activity or expenditure of the church.

In fact, such activity is protected by the Freedom of Speech clause of the First Amendment, and the Church will not suffer any ill consequences as a result.

Father Pavone has this to say to

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DefendLife.Org

# DEFEND LIFE

*Proclaiming the Culture of Life and  
Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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[Jack@DefendLife.Org](mailto:Jack@DefendLife.Org)



*February 14, 2017 Anno Domini  
Feast of Saint Valentine*

Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

First, thanks to all who gave so generously to our Christmas Matching Grant Campaign. Thanks to **YOU**, we met our goal and can continue our efforts to **make abortion both illegal and unthinkable!**

## AMERICA HAS BEEN GIVEN A REPRIEVE



During the election campaign, my wife Mary Lou and I often watched **One American News Network**. This wonderful family-owned network based in San Diego covered Trump's campaign in a refreshing, comprehensive and unbiased manner. Because of the huge crowds Trump was drawing, I was mildly optimistic he would win. His campaign was absolutely brilliant making up to **5 campaign stops a day**, mostly at airports, traveling in his company-owned planes. By having so many campaign stops at airports, he virtually eliminated drive time from airports to downtown locations where such rallies are typically held. He was doing this while Hillary snoozed and maxed out at 2 campaign stops a day. **At 12:30 AM Election Day morning, 30,000 Trump supporters** gathered to hear him at a campaign stop in Grand Rapids, Michigan. That gave me even more reason for optimism.

Weeks before the Election, **Pat Buchanan** had said that for Trump to win he'd have to carry my home state of Pennsylvania and how right he was. Pennsylvania is the state where I grew up, attended a great public high school, learned my Catholic values, attended Villanova where we arranged for speakers such as **William F. Buckley** and **Barry Goldwater** with the help of the late Father **George Lawless, OSA**, who was a remarkable Catholic priest. The last time I visited him, he asked if I were still a conservative. I replied, **You bet I am!**

How correct Pat Buchanan was and how ecstatic I was when Pennsylvania put Trump over the top!!

## PRESIDENT TRUMP IS BRILLIANT, FEARLESS, TIRELESS AND TOUGH

Donald Trump is brilliant, fearless, tireless and has the toughness of typical New Yorkers, which I begrudgingly came to admire during my college years. For example, he has the toughness of my maternal grandmother, Pauline Cebrelli, whom I never knew. After taking care of her many children, she went from her farm in the Bronx at night to clean office buildings in Manhattan. Her goal was to save enough money that my grandfather, Anthony Cebrelli, could start his own road building business. He built roads in the Bronx using horses, wagons, and most likely steam-powered construction equipment.



Donald Trump knows how to surround himself with great persons and discharge those who are not up to his standards. A splendid example is **Kellyanne Fitzpatrick Conway**, his third campaign manager, who brilliantly engineered his campaign from mid-August through November 8.

What a thrill it was to stand at the west front of our beautiful Capitol as Donald Trump took the oath of office. On that balmy day, I spoke to dozens of persons. I counted persons from **23 states**, many from Texas, Louisiana, Florida and California. Many loved my **PRO-LIFE** T-shirt and I promised to have one sent to them if they would simply promise to wear it at least 1 day per week in public. There was a great sense of hope on the faces of these patriotic Americans, many of whom worked tire-



lessly for Trump's election. I even met Floridians who had temporarily moved to Ohio to work for Trump in key districts of the Buckeye State.

The opening days of the Trump Presidency have been heartening to say the very least. He is moving **like a tornado** to accomplish all those promises on which he so staunchly campaigned. His nomination of strict constructionist **Neil Gorsuch** to the Supreme Court has been a highlight. So was the reinstitution of the **Mexico City policy** forbidding the use of U.S. funding of foreign organizations that either provide or promote abortion, not to mention his great cabinet appointments such as **Dr. Ben Carson**, **Rex Tillerson** who like myself is an engineer, and **Betsy DeVos**. All are a breath of fresh air, all from **outside the Beltway**. His move to **eliminate the Johnson Amendment** which prohibits clergy from speaking on political issues is **HUGE!**

President Trump recalls that the **5 words** he most often heard from well-wishers during his campaign were ***I am praying for you.***

## MARCH FOR LIFE 2017

If the inauguration was uplifting, the **March for Life** was even more so. I have been privileged to attend **all 44 of them**. The crowds and enthusiasm at this March were out of sight. I estimate that there were at least twice as many as the next largest March. Official estimates ranged from **650,000 to 1,000,000**. The talks were great, including those of Kellyanne Conway, Vice President Pence, Baltimore Raven's tight end Ben Watson, and Utah Congresswoman Mia Love who gave one of the most remarkable speeches ever heard at any March for Life.

Some persons I met in that sea of humanity included Peter McGlynn from Midlothian, Virginia (Richmond area). Peter had completed a full day's work and then decided to drive to the March. I met a couple from Northern Virginia who had heard about the March that morning on the radio and decided to come on the spot. I met a lady from Cape Cod who had driven all the way to Washington by herself, arriving at the tail end of the March and planning to drive back that evening to Cape Cod. **How's that for dedication!**



## BILL SIMPSON RIP



I first met Bill Simpson back in 2007. Bill had arranged a meeting with leaders of various **PRO-LIFE** groups in our area. Each of us explained our mission and discussed various ways we could work together. Bill and I bonded at that meeting because our approaches to **PRO-LIFE** were much the same. Soon after, Bill and I went on a tour of **The Capitol** conducted by his Texas friend **David Barton**, founder of **WallBuilders**, who has taught us much about America's forgotten history and heroes. I met Congressman **Louie Gohmert** from Texas that evening, a stalwart American patriot. Bill seemed to know just about everybody in Texas going back to

George W. Bush before he was Governor of Texas. He once recalled a meeting he had somehow arranged with **Bunker Hunt**, then a Texas billionaire. Bill was trying to raise money for a Dallas Boy Scout Council. The meeting was hilarious because Hunt had mistaken Bill for someone else and had gone on a verbal tirade.

Bill could never do enough for **DEFEND LIFE**. He was brilliant, always coming up with outside the box schemes to curtail and end abortion and make life less than comfortable for abortionists and abortion supporters. One of Bill's latest brilliant ideas was **Printing for Life**, which would provide high quality printing at a fraction of local prices to **PRO-LIFE** groups. He was well on his way to accomplishing this when serious health issues intervened. **If there is someone out there who would like to carry on, please contact me.** A special Mass was held for Bill's immortal soul on February 11 at **Our Lady of Lourdes** in Bethesda. His ashes were buried at **Christ the King** in Towson. **Well done, Good and Faithful Servant!**

**Long Live Christ Our King,**

*Jack Ames*

**Jack Ames, Director**

**410-337-3721**

***Jack@DefendLife.org***

**P.S. Dear Lord, please send us another Bill Simpson soon!**



## TALE, from page 9

his fellow priests at election time: “Wouldn’t it be great if we stopped worrying about what *might* happen, but instead *do* something and start worrying about what might happen if we do nothing?”

Now for the saga of Father Allgood (a real priest with a fictitious name).

On Sanctity of Life Weekend (the first weekend in October), at all his masses, Father Allgood delivered a powerful sermon addressing the moral issues posed in the upcoming election.

The main points of that sermon are herein paraphrased:

*Let us reflect upon the gift of faith and the gift of life.*

*Faith must guide us in all our earthly undertakings. While we are thankful to God and our parents for the gift of life, we must fight a battle in our nation for the right to life of millions of our preborn brothers and sisters.*

*We must fight against the evils of abortion, in vitro fertilization, artificial contraception, assisted suicide, and homosexual marriage.*

*All of us know that an election will be held next month to determine the next president of the United States.*

*The media keep us well-informed as to the flawed nature of both the Democratic and Republican candidates.*

*Candidates come and go, but they represent parties, with each party having its own official platform, outlining its particular policies and programs.*

*The Democrat Party platform says that every woman should have access to abortion and it should be funded with taxpayers’ dollars.*

*It also repudiates traditional marriage between a man and a woman,*

*by stating that marriage should be open to all (especially homosexuals).*

*The Republican Party says the exact opposite, asserting the sanctity of human life, which protects the right to life of the preborn, and affirming the dignity of marriage—that a marriage can only be between one man and one woman, thus precluding so-called homosexual marriage.*

In conclusion, Father Allgood told his congregants that they needed to vote their conscience, but first, they needed to form their conscience in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church, which uphold the

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### **Father Heesbad: ‘Those voter guides were downright insulting! It is insulting to call a person pro-abortion!’**

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sanctity of life and the sacredness of traditional marriage.

Father ended his sermon with a prayer that our nation would once again find its moral compass, that human life would once again be respected and protected by law and finally, that the faithful would not be led by any political ideology, but by the teachings of the Church.

By the way, the Knights of Columbus in Father Allgood’s parish did the job of tagging the cars in his parish parking lot with the Pa. Pro-life Federation voter guides.

Now, for the saga of Father Heesbad (a real priest, with a fictitious name).

Father Heesbad’s parish is not a city parish, with a public sidewalk. It is located in a residential development, off a main highway.

The only way pro-life voter guides can be given to his parish-

ioners is to leaflet their cars in the church parking lot.

Father Heesbad’s predecessor had a real problem with this particular practice. One month prior to the state and local 2015 general election, his predecessor chased pro-life voter guide distributors off his parking lot, voicing his concern for protecting his church’s precious tax exemption (an inherent right of church, bogusly granted to them by the IRS, in exchange for a muzzling of their clergy).

What a shame this priest’s priorities didn’t allow him to be concerned foremost about protecting the right to life of the unborn.

Since Father Heesbad was the newly appointed pastor of the one problematic parish in the county, no one knew what to expect. It was hoped that he would be far different than his predecessor.

With the Knights of Columbus standing at the front door of the church, recruiting new members and offering no objection to what was going on in the parking lot, pro-life volunteers tagged cars with Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation voter guides during the masses Saturday evening and Sunday morning, October 1 and 2.

Since there were no immediate repercussions as a result of our tagging, everyone went away that weekend feeling elated that the new pastor was on board with the rest of the priests in the county—that he supported our efforts to get pro-lifers elected to office.

Sad to say, that was not the case at all.

Monday morning, October 3, at 10:00 a.m., the phone rang in my house. It was Father Heesbad. Here is how the conversation went:

Father: “Are you responsible for putting voter guides in my parking

lot over the weekend?”

Me: “Yes, Father, I take full responsibility for this.”

Father: (in an angry tone) “You did not ask my permission to do that!”

Me: “Father, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation tells us volunteers not to ask the pastor’s permission to tag cars in his church parking lot, so he can claim ‘plausible deniability’—that he knew nothing about this and was in no way involved.”

Father: (in an angrier tone) “Those voter guides were downright insulting! It is insulting to call a person pro-abortion!”

Me: (unruffled) “Well, Father, people who are involved in abortion or support it in any way *are* pro-abortion.”

Father: (in the angriest tone possible) “I am pro-life! This past weekend, I gave a sermon on tolerance. Many of my parishioners were very upset by those voter guides.”

Me: (very ruffled) “Well, Father, they *should* be upset over the fact that abortion is going on in our nation—that over a million unborn babies are killed every year.”

Father: “My predecessor forbade you to put voter guides on the cars in the church parking lot and you disobeyed him. The next time you do this, there will be dire consequences. I intend to call the Bishop and report what you did.”

Me: “Father, instead of phoning the Bishop, I think you should call Father Pavone of Priests for Life and get on board with the entire program.” (Besides, what was the Bishop supposed to do about the distribution of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life voter guides, when as the keynote speaker at their 2015 banquet, he stated that he supported their work 100 percent?)

At my outrageous suggestion,



### Johns Hopkins Bayview’s ugly secret

**Pro-lifers, including four Knights of Columbus men, braved frigid temperatures on December 21 to protest the aborting of babies through the second trimester at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center: (from left) Steve Potorti, Walt Klausmeyer, Kurt Linnemann, Jim Bocklage, Jack Ames; (kneeling, from left) Walt Hunt, Chris Stachlinski. Linnemann, director of CBR Maryland, returned to the monthly protests after six months’ absence due to a concussion from a car accident. Many motorists rolled down their windows to accept fliers detailing Bayview’s abortion practices, including two Baltimore City police officers, cab drivers and truck drivers. Defend Life and CBR Maryland sponsor the protests, held the third Wednesday of each month.**

Father Heesbad slammed down the phone on my ear.

So ends *A Tale of Two Priests*. With support from Father Allgood and despite opposition from Father

Heesbad, pro-life Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election.

Thanks be to God! It was a victory for the unborn! It was a victory for the Church. God bless America!

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## Book Reviews

# Saline abortion survivor reveals her dramatic story

By Diane Levero

*The Washington Post* called Melissa Ohden a liar.

WaPo's "fact-checker" Josh Hicks gave Ohden two Pinocchios in 2012 for claiming that after her birth mother's saline abortion in 1977, the medical staff "discarded" Melissa, assuming she was dead.

"In fact, [a birth record] shows that the medical staff took steps to preserve her life . . ." the intrepid Hicks points out.

Hicks nitpicks about Ohden's choice of words ("discarded" is too dramatic; her later description that the staff "laid her aside" is less inflammatory, he sniffs).

Like many who have attacked Melissa over the years, he sidesteps the horror of the abortion itself, seemingly miffed only that she had the temerity to survive the abortion and the gall to talk about it.

Melissa had known from early childhood that she was adopted, but didn't learn that she had survived an abortion until she was 14.

With this explosive revelation, all hell broke loose.

Ohden writes of her subsequent tumultuous life in *You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir*.

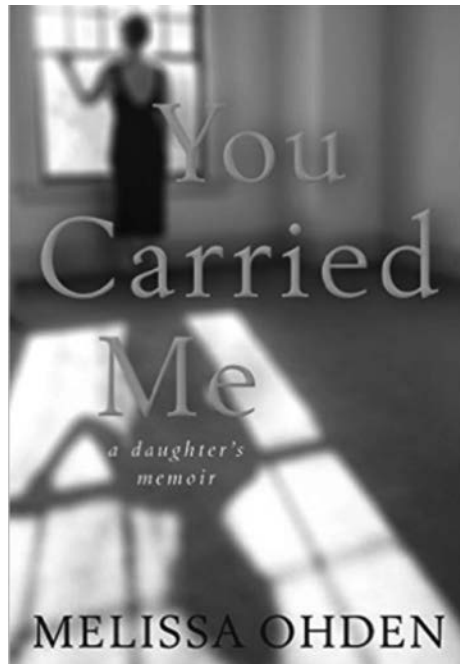
As a teen, behind a façade of being well-behaved and responsible, Melissa Cross hid her feelings about being aborted by her birth mother by "self-medicating" with alcohol, bulimia and promiscuous sex.

After her eighth grade English teacher encouraged her to speak about her abortion survival to the class, she began to talk about it

openly, even making it her subject in a speech and debate competition.

Eventually, Melissa realized that her destructive coping mechanisms were intensifying her suffering, not alleviating it. Raised as a nominal Protestant, she developed a closer relationship with God.

She headed off to college with top grades, determined to "change the world" for the better.



But a rude awakening awaited her on campus.

As a precursor of her treatment by Josh Hicks and his ilk, she writes, "I learned quickly that my story was one that could not be heard, and therefore must not be told.

"Abortion-on-demand was the holy grail of the feminist ideology my classmates adhered to; anything that challenged its essential rightness must be suppressed . . . I learned that there was no place in the femi-

nist fold for women who object to the procedure that had nearly ended my life before it began."

This experience was reinforced later when, assigned to write about a "pivotal life experience" as part of her studies for a master's degree in psychology, she wrote unflinchingly about her abortion survival experience.

Her paper elicited an "A" from the brilliant and respected psychology professor who had assigned it. But he "floored" her with this comment: "This must be a lie. Why would your [adoptive] parents tell you such an awful thing?"

"I'd been silenced again," says Ohden—"not by my peers, but by a professional, someone esteemed in his field.

"But this time, I clearly recognized the reason for my professor's denial: he simply could not reconcile his support for abortion with the existence of a living, breathing survivor."

His words made her realize that she could "lie down and acquiesce in the silencing" or "stand tall" and "force people to face the contradiction that my existence posed to their ideology."

She chose the latter.

Life went on. Melissa earned a master's degree in social work rather than psychology, and got a job at the Iowa Department of Social Services. In 2005 she married Ryan Ohden, and they had two daughters.

Prompted by her conscience and by others to "stand tall" to defend

See SURVIVOR, page 16



# Prof sheds scholarly light on Jesus' 'Who do you say I am?'

By Diane Levero

Did you ever wonder about Jonah and the whale?

We've all seen the kids' books and cartoons showing Jonah camping out for three days inside the whale after it swallowed him, until it finally spits him out onto land, not too much the worse for wear, so he can go to Nineveh and warn them to repent, just as God had told him to do in the first place.

But did you ever have a gnawing doubt about the veracity of the story?

I mean, how could he have gotten oxygen, which every human has to have in order to stay alive, inside the whale's body?

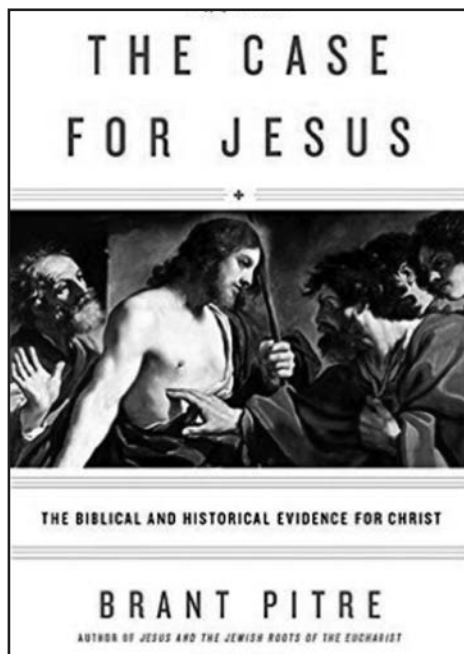
Did you mentally shrug your shoulders, maybe just shove the whole story aside as not that important? After all, it's just the Old Testament; the really important stuff is in the New Testament, especially the four Gospels, right?

Actually the Jonah and the whale story is *very* important, according to Brant Pitre—so important that Jesus cited it as a direct prophecy of His resurrection from the dead on the third day.

When the scribes and Pharisees asked him for “a sign,” Jesus replied, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign; but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

In *The Case for Jesus*, Dr. Pitre, professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Or-



leans, explains that a proper reading of the passage in Jonah in its original Hebrew shows that Jonah actually *died* inside the whale—and after three days, when his body was expelled, God raised him from the dead.

Pitre, a Biblical scholar *par excellence*, wrote *The Case for Jesus* to counter the “fake news” that has been promulgated for well over a century by other scholars ostensibly searching for “the historical Jesus.”

As a young Catholic undergraduate at Louisiana State University, he first encountered this phenomenon in an introductory-level class on the Bible, in which the professor calmly told the class that no one really knows who wrote the four Gospels. They were written by no-one-knows-who, and only much later were ascribed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Shocked but undaunted in his quest to learn about the real Jesus, Pitre took courses in ancient Greek, so he could read the New Testament

in its original language.

As a Ph.D. student at the University of Notre Dame, he studied Hebrew and Aramaic. He also immersed himself in the study of ancient Judaism.

Meanwhile, the “historical Jesus” scholars were telling a gullible public—especially in TV and magazine “specials” just before Easter and Christmas—that the four Gospels were simply folklore. And they were written down *way* too long after Jesus lived to be reliable.

Many Biblical scholars also assert that Jesus never claimed to be God—and that He was merely a prophet or a great moral teacher.

Of course, the Gospel of John portrays Jesus as divine; but Matthew, Mark and Luke contain no such claims, they say. So John is outnumbered 3 to 1 and should be dismissed.

“Confusion about who Jesus claimed to be is everywhere, and it’s spreading,” warns Dr. Pitre—which is why he wrote *The Case for Jesus*.

Pitre first tackles the claims that the Gospels were anonymously written, showing that the earliest extant manuscripts bear the Gospel writers’ names; there *were* no anonymous Gospel manuscripts.

He explores evidence for their authorship in writings of both the early church fathers and of pagan historians.

He then examines the literary genre of the Gospels, explaining, “if you get the genre wrong, you will misinterpret the writing.”

His conclusion: “The old idea that the Gospels are not biographies but folklore and fairy stories completely fails to reckon with the liter-

ary evidence.”

His scholarly research on the dating of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) leads him to conclude that, rather than being written in the 70s, 80s and 90s of the first century as is popularly thought, they were written in the 60s or earlier.

“They are ancient biographies written by the students of Jesus and their followers, written well within the lifetimes of the apostles and eyewitnesses to Jesus,” is his unflinching conclusion.

Perhaps the most enlightening portion of *The Case for Jesus*, however, is Dr. Pitre’s exposition of how Jesus was fulfilling—and *proclaimed* he was fulfilling—the prophecies of the prophet Daniel regarding the coming of the Messiah.

Employing his understanding of Jewish tradition and prophecies and his fluency in Greek and Hebrew, the author additionally sheds welcome light on: how and why Jesus only gradually reveals His divinity; on His crucifixion; and on His resurrection.

As I read *Case for Jesus*, I could easily picture Pitre’s presenting the same material to his classes of eager young seminarians at Notre Dame in New Orleans in much the same manner: chatty, kind of casual; pos-

## SURVIVOR, from page 14

life, she began speaking before pro-life groups, sharing her unique experience and perspective.

All the while, Melissa had been searching for information about her abortion. Beyond the date it occurred and the name of the hospital—St. Luke’s Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa—she knew little else.

Who were her birth parents?

ing provocative questions to pique their interest; tantalizing them with, “We’ll be getting into that more deeply in a coming class [chapter].”

But while his style is accessible, it is rich with fascinating insights and understandings.

Pitre paraphrases C. S. Lewis’ classic argument that Jesus had to be one of three things:

1. Liar: Jesus knew he wasn’t God, but said He was.
2. Lunatic: Jesus thought He was God, but He actually wasn’t.
3. Lord: Jesus was who He said He was—God come in the flesh.

*The Case for Jesus* makes a powerful Biblical and historical case for the third option.

Why did her mother have an abortion? Was she forced by her own parents or by the birth father?

With the advent of internet access in the late 1990s, Ohden’s hopes for discovery grew. She became a frequent participant in online adoption search forums.

An indefatigable detective, she used every avenue available to track down her origins.

Gradually, one by one, small nuggets of information about her mysterious background were pried loose.

Ohden reveals the glacial-like resolution of this mystery—which took place over many years—with masterful narration.

With her, we feel her anxiety, joy and heartache as, bit by bit, various pieces in the puzzle of her past fall in place, and players, small and large, appear on stage in her dramatic story.

From the very beginning of her search, there was no room in Melissa’s heart for vindictiveness—only for forgiveness and understanding for the people who tried to take her life.

Encouraged by the faith and witness of many pro-life Catholics she met along her journey, Melissa eventually became Catholic.

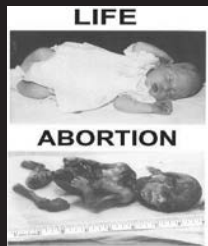
When the truth concerning the individual most responsible for her abortion came to light, she knew she had to forgive this person.

Gazing at a crucifix above the altar at Mass on a Sunday morning, and remembering His prayer to “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,” she was able to forgive and be at peace.

*Melissa is founder of The Abortion Survivors Network (see [theabortionsurvivors.com](http://theabortionsurvivors.com)). She writes a blog at [melissaohden.com](http://melissaohden.com).*

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## Priests for Life preaches pro-life truths at Baltimore church

“Why didn’t you tell us you were a celebrity?” an excited parishioner chided Fr. Denis Wilde after 11:00 a.m. Mass December 4.

The lady, who had seen Father Wilde on EWTN, was properly impressed that the TV “star” had come to offer Mass at her parish, St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Baltimore.

Wilde, who is associate director of Priests for Life, hadn’t come to tout himself, of course, but to speak in defense of the unborn child and against abortion.

In his homily, he described a “60 Minutes” TV show about a child, born at 5½ months and weighing just 1½ pounds, who was born blind and with serious physical disabilities.

Yet at the age of 3, after attending church, the child went to a piano and thumped out—with his elbows—the hymn he had just heard in church.

Now 32 years old, he gives concerts, asking his audience, “What key do you want me to play this song in?” He will play the song in ragtime or any other musical style his audience requests, said Father.

“Yet, in our culture, this child could have been aborted,” he pointed out.

Referring to the day’s second reading, in which St. Paul tells the Romans, “Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,” the priest said that Christians should always act on the principle of welcoming people. We should welcome immigrants, for example.

How do we do that? For our country, that’s a matter of using prudential judgment in regard to our immigration policy, he advised.



**Fr. Denis Wilde greets a parishioner after Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church.**

“But welcoming the child from the womb into the world is a different matter,” he cautioned: “Every child is wanted by somebody! He is certainly welcomed by God, who created him.”

Abortion isn’t “just a mistake, but a very grave sin,” Father warned. As such, those who have had an abortion or cooperated in one can be helped by the Church’s Rachel’s Vineyard retreats.

Just as John the Baptist, in the day’s Gospel, called for his listeners to repent, change their hearts, and let God come into their lives, “At the retreats [women who have had abortions] acknowledge their sin. Then the floodgates of mercy are released.

“People who have gone through these retreats often become leaders in the pro-life movement,” Wilde noted.

“We should choose to be always in favor of life, and welcome those

who are the least of our brethren,” he urged. “God can do wonders with all of us, even a blind child born at 5½ months.”

Fr. Martin Nocchi, pastor of St. Mary, had invited Father Wilde to say Mass and speak at the church on the December 4 weekend, when he himself was conducting a local Rachel’s Vineyard retreat.

“We do not get many invitations to speak at churches,” Father admitted after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Priests for Life was “really moving,” speaking at many parishes at the invitation of their pastor.

But currently, he said, “there has been a ho-hum attitude” among the clergy as regards to inviting Priests for Life clergy to speak to their congregations.

Father Wilde, an Augustinian priest, joined Priests for Life in 1998. He has traveled to over 750 locations in 47 states, Canada, Mex-



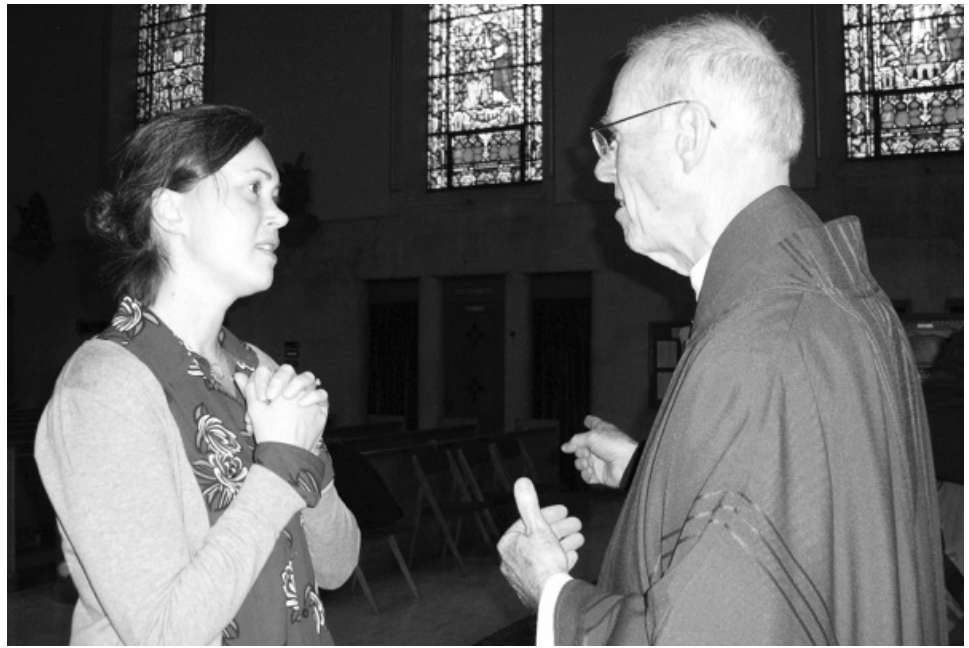
ico and Europe, speaking on and supporting pro-life efforts.

Fr. Stephen Imbarrato, a priest associate with Priests for Life, is “an excellent speaker” who also will come to parishes, said Wilde.

Father Wilde has taken part in Defend Life’s summer Face the Truth tours in recent years, holding protest signs in the street and speaking at Tour luncheons.

An accomplished pianist, he has also treated Tour participants to impromptu organ recitals at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore.

*See [Priestsforlife.org](http://Priestsforlife.org) for more information. To invite Father Wilde or Father Imbarrato to speak, call 288-PFL-3448, ext. 255 or email [travels@priestsforlife.org](mailto:travels@priestsforlife.org).*



**After Mass, Rachael Soto asks Father Wilde’s advice on how to incorporate information about Rachel’s Vineyard retreats into the Respect Life Ministry at her parish, St. Pius X, in Baltimore.**

## Was there another reason for Trump’s election victory?

**By C.J. Rubis**

Following Donald Trump’s election victory, all of the media were in a frenzy to explain this incredible win when national polls had him trailing by four points or more.

The entire media, goaded by this unbelievable event, searched for explanations: how could the polls have been so wrong?

Both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have been very strong proponents of abortion. Trump was known not to favor abortion in general.

Yet this crucial moral question, admittedly a third-rail issue that no one seemed to want to touch, rarely surfaced in the presidential campaign.

But abortion is a critical issue to all Christians and many others, who surreptitiously kept this issue among themselves.

Being a grave personal matter

of individual conscience, and probably to avoid disputes, people (the silent voter group) kept their abortion views to themselves, resulting in a huge group of voters not accounted for in the poll surveys.

Post-election surveys showed that Trump carried the Evangelical vote and did surprisingly well among Hispanics in Florida, where he won unexpectedly.

The Florida vote was an election turning point and was much influenced by Hispanic voters, who were expected to vote for Clinton.

But let’s recall that most Hispanics are of the Catholic faith, and to Catholics, abortion at any stage is a very serious sin against God and a never-ending horror to the aborting mother.

As post-election surveys showed, rebuilding the economy and jobs was a key issue for the once-forgotten

working class voters.

But the silent issue among Christians was their vehement opposition to Hillary’s championing of abortion on demand and partial-birth abortion. So they voted for Trump as less likely to condone abortion with its government supported status in all its many forms.

We are left with the conclusion that voter’s consciences, their faith and millions of prayers influenced this bizarre election, leaving a president largely unqualified for the job, and everyone mystified at all levels: how could this have happened?

But people of faith have their answer. God intervened in a very spectacular fashion to change the course of this election.

*C.J. Rubis is a former engineering professor, consultant and founder/operator of a technology think tank.*

**ORGANS, from page 2**

chest tube, both extremely painful and traumatic, without the benefit of sedation or pain medication,” said Robinson.

“This was clearly represented by the drastic rise in his heart rate and blood pressure, both associated with a detrimental rise of intracranial pressure,” he contends.

Although Paul Jr. was admitted to the hospital on November 3, no EEG (electroencephalogram—a measurement of the electrical activity of the brain measured from an array of electrodes on the scalp) was done until November 11, “reluctantly, at my request,” says Robinson.

After Robinson’s repeated clashes with the initial medical team treating his son, they were replaced with a second medical team which, Robinson says, increased his son’s tube feeding and hydration, and started him on antibiotics for a hospital-acquired pneumonia.

Records of a meeting between the medical team and Paul’s parents and aunt on November 15 state, “Parents need to think about next steps in light of an irrecoverable neurologic injury. They asked questions about organ donation.”

By November 28, the distraught father appeared to be acquiescing to the possibility of organ donation.

“I met with Mr. Robinson around 2,” the Physician Progress Notes read in part. “He wanted to initiate the donor process, can’t imagine his son living in a facility in a permanent vegetative state.

“I spoke with Donor Network rep who came to hospital and met with Mr. Robinson. He requested a modified apnea test which I agreed to.

“They wanted my best estimation if I think patient would die

within 90 mins of extubation. I don’t think he will, will probably take longer, again just a professional guess,” wrote Dr. Grigory Horonenko DO.

The estimate that it would take longer than 90 minutes for the patient to die after extubation “should have disqualified him from any consideration as a donor,” Robinson commented in a margin note on the medical record.

A December 1 breathing test was scheduled.

“We had decided that if he could breathe on his own, we would continue to fight with him, thereby

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**‘The records show that they had started him on morphine and Ativan without our permission, and this led to respiratory arrest.’**

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placing the decision between him and God,” Robinson explained.

But because information that Paul Jr.’s parents were entitled to was withheld, they were limited in the knowledge of facts that would make this difficult decision clearer, said Robinson.

Paul Jr. was clearly and successfully breathing on his own during a November 28 apnea test, Dr. Byrne concurred after reviewing the medical records.

But, prior to the December 1 breathing test, a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order was reportedly issued by two physicians.

“They took away our rights to decide DNR status, and violated HIPAA guidelines by discussing Paul Jr.’s condition with someone

other than his parents. Disregard for Paul Jr.’s rights and the rights of his parents was made clear when they gave him morphine prior to extubation without informing his parents and not for pain (pain medication had been reduced) but to depress respiratory efforts,” said Robinson.

On December 1, the day scheduled for the extubation, said Robinson, “I received a call at approximately 4:00 p.m. from Donor network requesting that we change the time of the removal of the ventilator from 8 p.m. to 7 p.m. to facilitate a donor surgeon that would not be available until 8 p.m.” and to allow family to gather before the surgeon’s arrival.

“How did they know he would stop breathing?” Robinson asks rhetorically.

“The records show that they had started him on morphine and Ativan without our permission, and this led to respiratory arrest—that was done to make sure that he died while a surgeon was available—again, putting the value of a donor above his right to live,” he concludes.

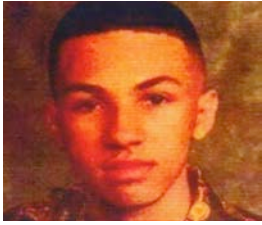
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