



# DEFEND LIFE

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

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## Mark Houck Acquitted – And Fighting Back

In the Sep-Oct 2022 of the Defend Life newsletter, we relayed to our readers news of the harassment and legal persecution of Mark Houck, a Catholic pro-life activist who regularly witnesses in front of the Planned Parenthood in Philadelphia. The Biden administration's Department of Justice brought bogus charges against him. Houck was well-represented by attorneys from the Thomas More Society as the case went to trial in late January 2023.

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, the jury announced its verdict of "not guilty". Mark Houck was officially acquitted while the pro-abortion Biden administration, with their cronies, were handed a stinging rebuke. Pro-life activists all around gave thanks to God and broke out in jubilation. They believed that this victory would be the death nelly of any future attempts to stifle their voices. In reality, significant though this victory is, it is not sufficient to provide future protections.

The charges that the Department of Justice brought were frivolous, and most likely they knew that. For all we know, they might not even have had a legal victory as a realistic goal. Perhaps they simply intend to wear us down by continually hauling us into court. They have the



**Houck and his legal team are interviewed after the verdict.**

deep pockets, we don't. Moreover, we tend to eschew legal action ourselves for a variety of reasons. In reality, some of us believe that we must be willing to be proactive and flex the legal muscles that we have by virtue of our US citizenship. We need to stop contenting ourselves with mere avoidance of legal penalties and start bringing legal actions ourselves.

That is why I was particularly pleased to hear that Mr. Houck intends to do precisely that. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, War Room host Steve Bannon asked Houck if he planned to press charges. Houck replied in the affirmative and is seeking counsel for that.

We know that on September 23, Houck and his family suffered

brutality that one might imagine from Nazi Germany or some Communist hell-hole of a banana republic, not from the United States of America. They were awakened to the sound of loud banging on their door at 6:45am. Fifteen or twenty of them came in unmarked vehicles with rifles at the ready, pointed at the entire family. They attempted to take him away without a proper arrest warrant. Only when his wife insisted to see one did they grudgingly show it to her. He was taken away and chained to a table for several hours. After that, he was released on his own recognizance.

We don't know if a selection of counsel has been made since

**See HOUCK, page 9**

## Michael Hichborn Addresses Pro-Life People In Bethesda MD

On Friday January 13, 2023, just days before the first post-Roe March for Life, the annual Kick-Off Rally was held at the Knights of Columbus Rock Creek Council in Bethesda MD. One of the main speakers was Michael Hichborn, President of the Lepanto Institute for the Restoration of All Things in Christ. Hereafter in this article, we'll call it Lepanto for brevity's sake. The website is [lepantoin.org](http://lepantoin.org).

Hichborn began by stating the focus of his talk, regarding the multitude of evils in the Church. He made an important distinction in that it is men in the Church who will let us down, but the Church herself is inviolate. He read from the first chapter of Paul's letter to Titus, focusing on Paul's list of necessary traits for a bishop. He asked how many of today's bishops meet all of these markers. We all agreed that not too many do. Paul described the bishops as stewards. Our Lord told several parables regarding stewards who were put under scrutiny by their employers. All of the apostles heard these parables, including Judas Iscariot, who had been given charge of the common purse. We read in John's gospel how Judas protested the pouring of oil on Jesus's feet, protesting that the oil could have been sold to care for the poor but was really a thief who stole from the common purse. By the way, the Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen, for that reason, quipped that Judas was "the patron saint of social justice".

Then Hichborn asked, "what of the stewards who don't merely squander the funds under their charge, but actually use it to



**Michael Hichborn addresses pro-life people in Bethesda.**

provide funding to the Master's own enemies?" He mentioned an example of which we should all be aware by now: the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. He has been actively investigating the CCHD since 2009, that is, for

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**Of the 214 organizations that received grants from the CCHD during that time, 66 of them are ineligible for Catholic funds, over 30% of them.**

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fourteen years. During that time, he uncovered the funding by CCHD of organizations that were directly promoting abortion, contraception, homosexuality and Marxism. A few months ago, the Lepanto Institute published the results of a five-month long investigation of the 2020-2021 CCHD grants list. Of the 214

organizations that received grants from the CCHD during that time, 66 of them are ineligible for Catholic funds, over 30% of them. Those 66 organizations are from 46 of the 196 diocese in the United States. The CCHD distributed \$11,249,000.00 to "various organizations of the Saul Alinsky variety."

Since 2004, those 66 organizations received \$16.633 million. The average distribution to such an organization is \$51,969.00. 47 of those 66 organizations are in direct violation of Catholic moral/social teaching; that is 71% of the offending organizations. 22 of them are abortion-related. 6 are contraception-related. 37 were in LGBTQ activism. 10 were Marxist organizations. Obviously some organizations violated several aspects of moral teachings. Hichborn then gave some examples from the Lepanto report.

Just Economics received a total of \$125,000.00 since 2018. Besides being involved in homosexuality and transgenderism, they are involved in the Party for Socialism and Liberation and they employ pro-abortion, LGTBQ and Marxist staff members. In 2015, they sponsored the "LGBTQ South Conference". The workshops at the conference featured a variety of topics, including those aimed at children to groom them into acceptance of homosexual ideologies. Topics include "Advocating for Trans Inclusion in Schools", "Intersection of Race, Poverty, LGBTQ Identity and the Law", "First Comes Love,

**See HICHBORN, page 11**

# Pope Benedict XVI Has Died

On the morning of Saturday December 31 2022, New Year's Eve, Pope Benedict XVI passed away. For almost ten years prior to that, he had been living in retirement, for all intents and purposes secluded from just about everybody and everything (except for some very controlled appearances and meetings), while Francis has been occupying the Chair of Peter. To be frank, there are questions regarding the canonical proprieties regarding Benedict's resignation as well as lobbying occurring during the papal conclave that might have rendered Francis' election invalid. These are



**Pope Benedict XVI**

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## **He enforced church teaching regarding contraception, homosexuality etc.**

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matters that must be taken seriously and addressed, but that would go beyond the scope of this article.

Joseph Ratzinger was born on Holy Saturday 1927 in Germany. He knew early in his childhood that he wanted to be a priest. His childhood was marred by the presence of Nazis. After the war ended, he resumed his seminary studies and was ordained to the priesthood on June 29, 1951. He then assumed various teaching roles. On May 28 1951 he was ordained a bishop and became archbishop of Munich and Freising. Soon thereafter he was made a cardinal by Pope Paul VI.

On November 25 1981, Pope John Paul II named him Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine

of the Faith. He enforced church teaching regarding contraception, homosexuality etc. Several dissidents, including Matthew Fox, were censured. He therefore earned the nickname "pope's rottweiler". It was in this position that Cardinal Ratzinger issued instructions to the US bishops in July 2004 when the latter were discussing the distribution of Holy Communion to pro-abortion politicians. In that memo he stated quite clearly that they were not to be admitted to Communion without repentance. That memo was intercepted by Archbishop Gregory who was at that time president of the USCCB. Assisted by then-cardinal McCarrick, he conspired to keep the bishops in the dark, stating instead that Cardinal Ratzinger left the matter to the judgment of individual bishops.

In 2005 after Pope John Paul II died, Ratzinger was elected pope and he took the name Benedict XVI. We will focus on a few key accomplishments of Benedict's papacy. The first is the Summorum

Pontificum that he issued in the summer of 2007. This greatly liberalized the celebration of the Tridentine Mass. Essentially, he reinforced the earlier one issued by Pope John Paul II. He made clear that the Vatican II council *never* abrogated the use of the Tridentine Mass and that priests

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were completely at liberty to do so, independent of restrictions that their bishops might attempt to place, provided that they had the knowledge to do so. With that, the Latin Mass was celebrated in many more places, and in places suitable for large reverent celebrations. Many faithful Catholics, particularly young Catholics, flocked to

**See POPE BENEDICT, page 9**



# Outreach at Baltimore Planned Parenthood

Here is Jim Altoff's accounts of two trips to the Planned Parenthood at Howard and Mulberry in Baltimore. Now in his words....

I was there for Christmas Caroling in '21 and for the witnessing at the overthrow of Roe v Wade.

In the first instance I had no interaction with the deathscorts until the very end. As I was leaving, I touched the elbow of an older gentleman, about my age and said "I'll pray for you". He immediately recoiled as though I assaulted him, but then realized there was no video evidence and he yelled "Get your hands off me." I smiled and left.

On my second experience things were a lot different. Jack Ames had

the bull horn. Jay Walton was a great witness along with the inimitable John Roswell as they let all passers-by know the significance of the day.

This gave me an opportunity to interact with the deathscorts. It's hard to explain the experience. As a lifelong 'lifer' it's so hard to believe a fellow member of the human race can devote time and effort to facilitate a woman's killing her child.

We all have friends who are in some degree pro-abortion. We communicate and interact on the basis of some commonality. I attempted to establish that with the deathscorts. "Are you a veteran?" "Do you have children?" "Why are you masked?" "Is it because

you're ashamed?" No response to any outreach at all. Instead, one of the women deathscorts said "I hope your granddaughter gets raped and pregnant".

What's occurring in the aftermath of the correction of the 1973 decision and my experience at Planned Parenthood on Howard Street says more about a very small radical minority than it does about our population in general. I may be a Pollyanna, but I think God's plan is on schedule and we're on the road to an awakened 'moral majority' to borrow a phrase from yesteryear. As Fr. Meeks, Pastor of Christ the King has sometimes pointed out, "The Devil always overplays his hand".

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## The People Who Ended Roe – Part One

**By Theodore King**

Editor's note - This article and one that will appear in the next issue were written by Ted King and appear on his blog [theodorekingnews.blogspot.com](http://theodorekingnews.blogspot.com). The two posts are dated January 22 and January and is reproduced by his kind permission. In pondering the fall of Roe v Wade, it is indeed fitting that we examine the contributions of those leaders who dedicated their lives to the fighting of abortion. All but three of these luminaries beheld the fall of Roe from the afterlife. And now, the article.

This is a two-part series on the people who overturned Roe v Wade. Today, January 22nd would be the

50th Anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, the Texas case that made it to the United States Supreme Court mandating abortion on demand. Today the abortion lobby

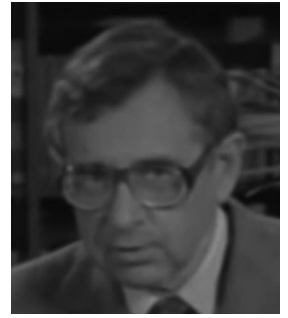
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**Nellie Gray began  
what we know as The  
Right to Life (Pro-Life)  
movement with the  
March for Life.**

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would be holding celebrations from Hollywood to Washington, D.C. thanking their dark lord Lucifer for 50 years of child sacrifice on demand. But for them, due to the

2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Organization, it was not to be. This essay is about the people who came from everyday walks of life and stepped out of the safety of anonymity to take a stand against the evil of our time. This essay is about several leaders of the Right to Life movement. And while it is about their leadership that is highlighted all their efforts would be for not had it not been for the thousands of Right to Life activists across America. They are the people who run the crisis pregnancy centers, the donors who make the movement possible, the side walk counselors and participants in the annual March for Life. This article is about you as much as it is about the people

**Jerry Falwell****Joe Scheidler****Nellie Gray****Randall Terry****Bernard Nathanson**

mentioned in this two-part series.

Nellie Gray began what we know as The Right to Life (Pro-Life) movement with the March for Life. She was born in west Texas in 1924. During World War II Nellie Gray joined the military at age 20 serving in the Woman's Army Corps. After the war she went on to pursue her education at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. After graduating from Georgetown she became a civil servant in the

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### **It was Joe Scheidler who began in the Chicago area what is known today as sidewalk counseling.**

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federal government for nearly three decades. A convert to Catholicism, Ms. Gray was appalled by the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, that originated from her home state of Texas. Ms. Gray decided to organize a Right to Life March for the following year and leave behind her government career. From 1974 to 2022 people in the millions descended on Washington D.C. around January 22 to hold a rally in the National Mall and then march up Constitution Avenue and over to the Supreme Court building. The rally started by Ms. Gray became the annual event for the Right to

Life movement and an opportunity for activists to stay focused on one day overturning the *Roe* decision no matter how long it would take. Ms. Gray would not live to see that day, at least in this life. She died in 2012 at the age of 88.

Another crusader whose life was changed by the infamous Supreme Court decision was Joseph M. Scheidler, who left behind his career in public relations after the *Roe* decision to devote himself full time to the Right to Life movement. It was Joe Scheidler who began in the Chicago area what is known today as sidewalk counseling. In sidewalk counseling, the pro-life activist would approach women going into an abortion clinic in an attempt to talk them out of their decision. If a woman was joined by a man, Scheidler would call the man "Dad" as in "Hey Dad." He would then would show pictures of babies in the womb at three months, six months, etc. Mr. Scheidler's methods found himself at odds with more established Pro-Life organizations who did not like his direct tactics. He went his own way in the movement when he founded the Pro-Life Action League in 1980.

He wrote books on how to close abortion clinics and instructional videos on how to side walk counsel women. In 2021 Mr. Scheidler died at age 93, one year before the *Dobbs* decision overturning *Roe*

Joe Scheidler created side walk counseling as a way to save the unborn. Randall Terry took the Pro-Life movement from the sidewalk to the front door of the abortion clinic and crossed a line many in the movement were unwilling to follow. His Operation Rescue took the Pro-Life movement into civil disobedience which proved to be a turning point in the fight against abortion.

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Beginning in the mid-1980s Mr. Terry's Operation Rescue began staging sit-ins in front of abortion clinics across the nation. These acts of civil disobedience not only led to Mr. Terry's arrest as well as the arrest of his supporters, they also gained a great deal of press. Before Operation Rescue the abortion issue would be talked about at election time, perhaps mentioned by the press every January 22 as the

**See PEOPLE, page 8**



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Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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*February 14, 2020 Anno Domini  
Feast of Saint Valentine of Rome*



Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

So many good things have happened since I last wrote. Here are just a few of them.

First was the March for Life Kickoff Rally on January 15, at which Chris Powers, Laura Bogley, and myself spoke. It was at the Father Rosensteel Knights of Columbus in Silver Spring, Maryland. Nearly **100 persons** attended, thanks to the good work of Jim Manion and other Knights.

- **Chris Powers**, Maryland State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus, spoke about the millions of \$ the Knights have given for high definition ultrasound machines so that abortion-minded mothers can not only see their babies as they appear but **can actually see them as they are moving**.

- **Laura Bogley**, Executive Director for Maryland Right To Right and lobbyist, spoke about the seemingly overwhelming challenges PRO-LIFE Marylanders face in the current session of the Maryland General Assembly now underway in Annapolis. These include such evils as **PAS** (Physician Assisted Suicide), enshrining abortion in the Maryland Constitution, and HB/SB 119, which would, among other things, set up Boards of Review to certify that the woke agenda is being implemented in every single government-owned school throughout the state. **Wake up, Marylanders, before these evil bills become law and are jammed down our throats.** Laura's talk is posted on our home page at [DefendLife.org](http://DefendLife.org).

- **Yours truly** gave a talk on **Four Great Heroes of the Pro-Life Movement**, including **Congressman Chris Smith, Nellie Gray, Joan Andrews Bell** and **Joe Scheidler**, the very best friend of my life. You can also see it posted on our homepage at [Defendlife.org](http://Defendlife.org).

January 20 was the **50th Annual March for Life**. It was also the **50th** time I personally marched against abortion in Washington. I remember attending the very first March. I recruited **12** of my friends, and we chartered a bus from Richmond to the Capitol in Washington. We assembled at the west front of the Capitol to hear Nellie Grey and other heroes, like Congressman Larry Hogan, speak. Hogan, not to be confused with his son, former Governor Larry Hogan, introduced the very first Human Life Amendment days after **ROE V WADE** legalizing abortion on demand, was **falsely issued** by the Supreme Court on what was certainly the darkest day in American history. I spoke about Nellie, without whom **Roe** never would have been reversed.

I spoke about Joan Andrews Bell, another of our great heroes, who was rescuing by herself well before **Operation Rescue** was founded by Randall Terry. Joan has rescued and been arrested well over **100** times, and she is still doing it at age **74**. I spoke about her adopted son **Emiliano**, who had been abandoned in a garbage can in Mexico City and was rescued by a policeman. Emiliano, with his severe handicaps, rescues in a wheelchair, following in his adoptive mother's footsteps. He was a member of our **2022 Maryland Face the Truth Tour** Core Team, and we pray that both **he** and **YOU** will be members of our 2023 Truth Tour, scheduled for **July 24 – 28**. Chris Bell, Emilio's adoptive father is director and co-founder of **Good Counsel Homes**, which provides support, housing, and job training for out-of-wedlock mothers before and after they give birth. It owns and operates four homes for unwed mothers and their babies in the New York City Area. Visit them at [GoodCounselHomes.org](http://GoodCounselHomes.org). The other



co-founder was the late **Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.**, who should be canonized a saint. If you have a special need, pray to him for God's intervention.

Finally, I talked about Joe Scheidler, my best friend and pro-life mentor. See what I said about him and the other three **PRO-LIFE** heroes on our home page at **DefendLife.org**

Here are a few recollections from this year's 50th annual March for Life. Thanks to Jeanne Mancini, who is carrying on the leadership of the March established by Nellie Gray in the summer of 1973 shortly after Roe was announced. Some of the outstanding speakers she recruited included:

- **Tony Dungy** and his fabulous wife Lauren. Tony was the first Black head coach in NFL history, coaching both Tampa Bay and Indianapolis, which he led to a Super Bowl victory in 2006. Both were thrilling speakers. The Dungys are adoptive parents of 8 children, all of whose names begin with the letter **J**.

- **Dr. Giana Emanuella Molla**, an obstetrician, is the daughter of **Saint Gianna Beretta Molla**. That Saint, who was canonized under the papacy of Saint John Paul the Great, gave up her life in childbirth that her daughter might live.

- **Jonathan Roumie**, the Hollywood actor, who currently plays Our Lord Jesus Christ in a TV series called **The Chosen**, was captivating. A trailer of his soon to be released movie was shown on a gigantic screen on the stage set up on the Mall.



Here are some of the memorable persons I met along the way as I marched to our beautiful **Capitol**:

- Erica, a home-schooling mother of **12** with another child arriving soon. Erica Lives in West Virginia, not far from Front Royal, Virginia. She was playing **Martha** by providing coffee and sandwiches to speakers on the stage. Erica, who attended Christendom College, is the **hero** who was primarily responsible for organizing outdoor Masses at the Fairgrounds near Front Royal and recruiting a courageous priest to celebrate Holy Mass while virtually **every** Catholic Church in America was **CLOSED** during the early days of the **COVID**.

- **Bill Gallagher**, who by transporting our signs is one of our **Face the Truth Tour** heroes.
- **Jay Walton** and his daughters **Jade** and **Silver**, who passed out *40 Days for Life* signs.
- **Fletcher Armstrong** from Knoxville, Tennessee, who brilliantly leads **Pro-Life on Campus**, getting the PRO-LIFE message to tens of thousands of students on college campuses annually.

- **Larry Cirignano**, who works behind the scenes for a plethora of PRO-LIFE causes.
- **Keith** and **Barbara Thompson**, dear friends from Columbia, Maryland.
- **Susan Healy**, who befriended us in our early days and now lives in Richmond, Virginia.

The day after the March for Life, we were blessed to have a table at the annual Cardinal O'Connor Conference at Georgetown University. This is the first time in three years that the Conference was held in person because of COVID. Last year it was virtual. The year before, it was canceled. About **550** persons, mostly students, registered for this conference. Nearly **230** were from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. That's 5 busloads traveling **30 hours. That's like flying to Australia!** Attending with them was their President, Monsignor James Patrick Shea. We received **78** requests for our **PRO-LIFE** t-shirts, **31** of them were from those enthusiastic students at the University of Mary.

Without your continued support to **DEFEND LIFE**, none of these good things would have happened.



UNIVERSITY  
of MARY

**Long Live Christ Our King!**

*Jack Ames*

**Jack Ames, P.E., Director**

Enclosure

## PEOPLE, from page 5

anniversary of Roe v. Wade along with the March for Life. Abortion had become a part of American society because it was out of sight and out of mind. Mass arrests in front of abortion clinics would change that.

Not everyone on the side of Life was in agreement. Reverend Charles Stanley of the First Baptist Church in Atlanta was a critic of Operation Rescue's tactics stating that he was unwilling to break the law in defense of the unborn. Randall Terrys rebuttal to that was if everyone thought like Rev. Stanley everyone would be Catholic and America would be British. In later years Terry would himself join the Catholic Church. Randall Terry's work on behalf of the unborn even came home with him in that he and his wife adopted several kids whose mothers had planned on having an abortion. Mr. Terry left Operation Rescue to pursue other endeavors for the Right to Life and the broader culture war. In 2012 he ran as a Democrat for president to challenge that party's stance on abortion. He won several counties in Oklahoma over incumbent President Obama in the primary.

Reverend Jerry Falwell was born in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1933. He came from a non-religious, dysfunctional home. He got religion in his teens when he met his future wife. They had three children. One went on to lead Thomas Road Baptist Church and another Liberty University both founded by Falwell.

Like most of his fellow religious, politics was not something of interest to Rev. Falwell. Politics was worldly stuff the people of God should avoid. The cultural changes of the 1960s that included the sexual revolution brought about by the birth control pill and the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, along with the violent protests against the war in Vietnam were alarming to conservative Christians. The 1976 election of evangelical Christian Jimmy Carter was comforting to many evangelical Protestants. But in time many would turn against the man they considered one of their own. Jerry Falwell founded The Moral Majority which became the largest political organizations of evangelical Christians in the nation. In 1980 it delivered two thirds of white evangelical voters to President Carter's Republican challenger former California Governor Ronald Reagan. The Moral Majority was an important faction in the Reagan coalition of the 1980s. It was essential to bringing Protestants into the cultural war on behalf of the Right to Life and it inspired other groups that followed such as The Christian Coalition. Reverend Falwell died in 2007 of a heart attack. He was 73.

Dr. Bernard Nathanson was a prominent defector from the abortion movement. Dr. Nathanson's career would be like that of Saul of Tarsus and we know the rest of that

story. He was born in New York City in 1926 and his father was an obstetrician/gynecologist. This was the career he pursued as an adult. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and later received his medical degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada in 1949. He became a licensed medical doctor in New York state in 1952. In 1960 he was a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist. Dr. Nathanson was a pioneer for "abortion rights", becoming a founding member of the Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health or "CRASH." He had performed many abortions in his career including one on a woman he himself had impregnated. Dr. Nathanson was one of the founding members of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws which became the current National Abortion Rights Action League or NARAL Pro-Choice America. His and their intention was to legalize abortion.

Dr. Nathanson wrote his autobiography in 1996 titled *Hand of God* about his involvement in the legalization of abortion and how he came to regret what he had done. While he was raised as a Jew he had become an atheist during his change of heart on abortion. This proves that you don't need a God, a church, or dogma to know that killing an innocent life is wrong. Eventually Dr. Nathanson became a Roman Catholic in December of 1996. He was baptized by John Cardinal O'Connor of New York City. An acquaintance of mine attended his baptism. He died in 2011 at the age of 84.

Editor's note: We will continue this series in the next issue, highlighting the accomplishments of other pro-life front-runners.

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**POPE BENEDICT, from page 3**

these Masses, rediscovering their Catholic patrimony that had been downplayed in the Novus Ordo Masses.

In September 2006 the late Pope gave an address to officials at the University of Regensburg regarding faith and reason. It caused quite a stir at the time for he stated the Muslim belief that their god can disregard reason. He even quoted a French muslim who stated that “god isn’t bound by his own word”. This lack of adherence to reason is a reason why the Koran is approving of “holy war” and of “conversions” by threat of violence. He emphasized the importance of the use of reason as defined by Greek philosophy and aligned with Catholic doctrine, stating that they were a key foundation for western European civilization. Indeed, much of this address deals with the necessary alignment of Christian revelation with Greek thought. The interested reader would do well to read this address for him/herself at <https://familyofsites.bishopsconference.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/07/BXVI-2006-Regensburg-address.pdf>.

Benedict supported the Pontifical Academy for Life. During his pontificate, its membership consisted in truly pro-life people. He addressed their meetings several times, reiterating Church teaching on topics such as organ donation and medical assistance for infertile couples. When Pope Francis ascended to the chair of Peter, he revamped this Academy by dismissing the pro-life members and installing others more questionable, and even some outright pro-abortion supporters.

Pope Benedict named

Archbishop Burke a Cardinal and appointed him to several influential positions in the Vatican. Cardinal Burke has always been a stalwart for tradition and the Church’s teachings on life. After Pope Francis took over, Burke was stripped of his positions one by one.

The circumstances behind Pope Benedict’s resignation remain shrouded in mystery, despite official protests to the contrary. Of these circumstances, the attempt to bifurcate the papacy into “the office” and “the ministry”. This should be seen in light of his prayer request at the beginning of his papacy, that he not “flee for fear of the wolves”.

So have the wolves prevailed here, if only for the short run? When we look at Traditiones Custodis that severely (and in direct contradiction to Quo Primum), we see the wolves attacking the Mass of the Ages. Good people are taking action (an example to be seen in another article in this issue). We see that Pope Francis decimated the Pontifical Academy for Life, firing many truly pro-life people (Judie Brown of American Life League being one of them) and replacing them with others who support abortion and contraception, that looks like wolves having their way. We watched the treatment of Cardinal Burke while others hostile to the pro-life movement (such as Cardinal Cupich and Cardinal Joseph Tobin). The signs are there. Some opine that now that Benedict has passed on, the velocity at which insults to the faith occur will only increase.

Our Lady of Fatima promised that in the end, her Immaculate Heart would triumph. In the meantime, though, much damage can and will ensue. We will need to stay faithful to Our Lord and

**HOUCK, from page 1**

the time that he announced his intentions. We do know that the Thomas More Society did a superb job in representing Houck. They do their work pro bono and rely on donations to assist Houck and other Christians who are pursuing legal justice. Donations can be made at their website at <https://thomasmoresociety.org/>.

Meanwhile, **DEFEND LIFE** hopes to have him come speak during one of our lecture tours. Check your mailboxes and your emails for any announcements of the same.

Holy Mother Church. Those of us who are younger will have to educate themselves accordingly, since their Catholic formation has been influenced by the so-called “spirit of Vatican II” and its inherent deficiencies. I am, however, quite encouraged to see so many young people, with their many babies, at the Traditional Latin Mass, giving proper and due worship to God. We stay faithful to God and His Church and stand against error. Pope Benedict XVI could ask for no greater tribute. We will of course pray for his eternal repose.

**DEFEND LIFE**

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## Book Review

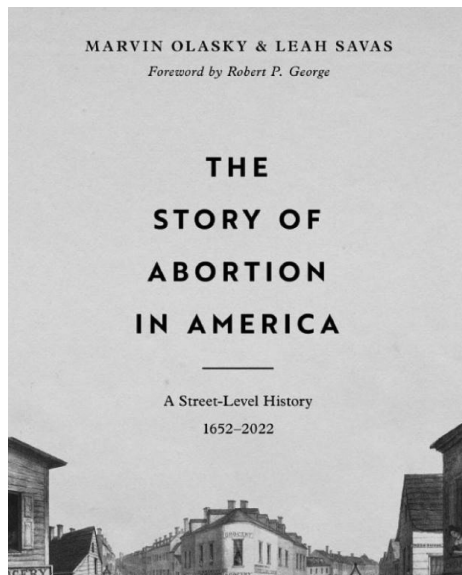
# The Story of Abortion

By Bob Brown

Here's a must-have title for your prolife library: *The Story of Abortion in America: A Street-Level History, 1652 – 2022*. Marvin Olasky and Leah Savas have written the definitive history of abortion in the United States, from pre-colonial America through the first few months after the fall of *Roe v. Wade* less than a year ago.

As the title states, readers should expect street-level (as opposed to suite-level) reporting. This means the authors paint the social and political landscape through stories and cases rather than with academic abstraction. Still, the book is as exhaustively researched as any academic tome, as is to be expected from Olasky, editor-in-chief of *World Magazine* from 1994 – 2021. More of Olasky's street-(and suite-) cred: He was a reporter with *The Boston Globe* in the 1970s and then Professor of Journalism from 1983 – 2008 at the University of Texas, Austin. (His wife, Susan, also a former *World* editor, founded the Austin Crisis Pregnancy Center more than 45 years ago.) Savas is a current *World* reporter.

The book cites manuscripts from the Library of Congress, historical records such as the *Archives of Maryland*, countless newspapers, and other sources. One example illustrates the depth of the research. The book examines the 1883 case of Philadelphia abortionist Isaac Hathaway who buried babies he had aborted in a basement. A single footnote in the book lists the 96



newspapers, with page numbers, that carried the story over a two-month period.

So, by the way, abortion was mainstream news once, although usually when the mother died or a graveyard of tiny skeletons was found.

A few themes from the book stand out. Abortion has been present in America from its earliest days, when, most often, it was used to cover up the results of extramarital affairs or to keep female indentured servants and slaves on their feet. But abortion was rare because of social pressure and colonies' laws criminalizing abortion. Families and communities generally protected vulnerable women, even those pregnant by adultery.

The book documents how the growth of large cities lured many young men and some young women to find employment far from home. Removed from accountability structures of family and church,

young men sowed their wild oats. Cities became cesspools of vice: adultery and prostitution exploded, and so then did abortion numbers.

The breakdown of the family unit in the 1700s, therefore, directly contributed to the spike in abortions. Some things never change, it seems. Still, centuries ago, abortion was illegal and socially unacceptable. Many newspapers published articles condemning abortionists, while others discretely advertised abortion services. Enforcement of anti-abortion laws faded, though, as the wealthy and powerful increasingly procured abortions. In Massachusetts, for example, the book notes that between 1849 and 1857, there were 32 abortion trials but no convictions.

*The Story of Abortion* also shows that the age of notorious abortionists who killed thousands and made millions did not begin with Tiller, Carhart, and Gosnell. The book chronicles 19<sup>th</sup> century villains, the most notorious of whom was Madame Restell, whose blood money afforded her a Fifth Avenue mansion in New York City. Although her forty-year reign of abortion terror was interrupted by a year in a cushy jail cell, she largely avoided prosecution through bribery and blackmail. The book details how she even kept Boss Tweed under her thumb.

That should be enough to whet your appetite. If there's one thing that *The Story of Abortion* makes clear, it's what Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision: Abortion has never been "deeply rooted in this nation's history and tradition."

I emailed Olasky and Savas, asking them one question: What do you hope readers of your book will do? Olasky said studying street-level

history “helps people go beyond slogans and understand reality.” He added that future “enforcement of pro-life laws will be hard, even in red states.” Community, therefore, is “crucial.” Pro-lifers “need to create new communities for women in crisis and reduce structural abortionism.”

Since “abortion is ultimately a heart issue only Christ can solve,” Savas said, she hopes the book will encourage people “not to leave spiritual conversations out of the abortion debate.”

*The Story of Abortion* is available from Crossway books.

Bob Brown is President of Harford County Right to Life and Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for Maryland Right to Life

## HICHBORN, from page 2

Then Comes Marriage, Then What?”. The leadership promotes the LGBTQ agenda, as well as abortion and communism. Their “Housing and Wages Organizer is Claire Clark, a guy pretending to be a female. (editor’s comments) I won’t call him a man since real men don’t carry on as he did. In October 2021 he disrupted a political forum and was hauled away by police. The incident was filmed with him screaming – wearing a dress, but with an obviously masculine voice. See it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcE0mf3C6Gk>. Just consider that part of this guy’s paycheck is funded with CCHD dollars. (end editor’s comments) Clark’s bio on the JE page indicates that he is pro-abortion.

Faith in Action receives CCHD grants, too. It was founded in 1972

by two Jesuit priests (a big clue as to its misbehaviors). At that time it was called the PICO Network and changed their name in 2017, two years after CCHD gave them a \$500,000.00 grant. In summer of 2022, they formally announced their support and advocacy of abortion.

Moving onto the Vatican, we heard of Pope Francis promoting the Sustainable Developmental Goals, communistic in nature. I, the editor, urge the readers to google them or visit the Lepanto website. I myself have been looking at these and they are quite inimical. Early on in his papacy, Pope Francis started hobnobbing with Ban Ki Moon and Jeffrey Sachs, both key players in the one world government push, to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals. In these meetings, the pope promised to commit the Catholic Church to the SDG efforts. We have seen that in many of the pope’s speeches. The encyclical *Laudato Si* is not much

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more than a promotion of those goals.

Hichborn contrasted that with the Lord’s great commission to the apostles: to baptize all nations and teach them all things that the Lord commanded. God gave that command because He desires the salvation of souls. Referring to the parable of the three servants, he suggested that we imagine the

servants to be bishops and the talents to be souls entrusted to their care. The third servant who buried his talent in the earth can be likened to a bishop who employs talents and resources only for earthly ends. These earthly ends include worldly social justice issues like environment, immigration, and others that have no relation to eternal life. We see what is happening with those dioceses: diminishing attendance, liturgical abuses, neglect of eternal life of souls. We can see why Our Lady of Fatima begged for prayers for such souls, many of which were falling into hell.

We should pray daily for these souls.

Editor’s note: Michael Hichborn gives weekly podcasts wherein he gives updates on the topics of his research and other matters. These podcasts are called the Anchor Team. To get these podcasts when they are first broadcast AND to be able to join in live chat during the broadcasts, go to [lepanto.org/anchor-team-live/](http://lepanto.org/anchor-team-live/) and follow the instructions to sign up.

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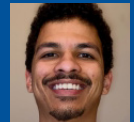
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