

## Preface

VOLUME SIXTEEN of *Life and Learning* presents a selection of papers from UFL's 2006 conference. We are deeply grateful to Villanova University for providing a wonderful venue for this meeting. As the Program Chair for this conference, Prof. Jeanne Heffernan Schindler deserves our heartfelt thanks for arranging a fine program. In particular we would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Dr. Thomas W. Smith of the Villanova Department of Humanities, Dr. Christopher Janosik of the Villanova Office of Mission Effectiveness, and Dean Mark Sargent of Villanova University School of Law. We would also like to express our grateful appreciation to Our Sunday Visitor Institute for a special grant in support of the 2006 UFL Conference and to all the benefactors of UFL who have made possible its annual meetings as well as the publication of its newsletter and of its annual volume of proceedings. Without their generous contributions this organization would not be able to continue its work.

The first set of papers in this volume concern the right to life in domestic and international law (Flood, Strang, Snead, Calhoun, and Lugosi). The paper by Prof. Calhoun and the one by Prof. Frasca mentioned below should have appeared in *Life and Learning XV* – the editor regrets his error and would like to express his gratitude to the authors for allowing their work to be included in the present volume. In the section on philosophical perspectives, four UFL members (Beckwith, Tully, O'Rourke, and Garcia) treat such important issues as the duties of physicians in handing requests for euthanasia and the efforts to redefine “embryo” and “person” in debates over abortion. In a related section there are two papers (Conley and Gerdtz) that treat questions of disability from a pro-life perspective. Three of the papers in this year's volume consider questions of ethics and political philosophy (Charles, Bayer, Manchester), while three others (Parente, New, Heaney) raise important questions about abortion and American politics. In yet another group of papers (Brown, Gardiner, Frasca, and Koloze) there is an enriching discussion of a variety of topics pertaining to the relation of the life-issues and American culture (Brown, Gardiner, Frasca, and Koloze). And in the final section we are pleased to present the reflections of four UFL members on the trials faced by pro-life academics within the academy (Calhoun, Gilroy, Koloze, and Fehring).

Finally, I want to offer special thanks to Prof. Carol Nevins Abromaitis (Loyola College of Maryland) and to Prof. Jacqueline Nolan-

Haley (Fordham University Law School), for their invaluable help yet again this year in the reviewing the papers submitted for this volume. And I am grateful to Brendan Palla, my graduate assistant at Fordham, for his fine proof-reading eye.

Electronic versions of these papers and many of those delivered at previous UFL conferences are available on our web site at [www.uffl.org](http://www.uffl.org). For additional copies of this volume or for bound versions of the proceedings of our earlier conferences, please contact me at [koterski@fordham.edu](mailto:koterski@fordham.edu).

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