



ProVita

Online Newsletter of the
University Faculty for Life



In this edition we gear up for the 2013 UFL Conference at the University of San Francisco in June.

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UFL Updates

In which we highlight the scholarly activities of our organization, members, and chapters, including publications, talks, and consultations.

UFL

➤ **2013 Conference.** The 2013 UFL conference will be held at the University of San Francisco from May 31 to June 1. The plenary speakers include:

William B. Hurlbut, M.D., Consulting Professor in the Neuroscience Institute at Stanford, Stanford University Medical Center. He served on President George W. Bush’s Council on Bioethics from 2001 to 2008.

Wesley Smith, lawyer and prolific writer, is a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute’s Center on Human Exceptionalism. He will speak on "The Danger of an Undignified Bioethics."

Janet Smith, the Fr. Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Issues at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan and consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Family.

There will also be a panel discussion called "Roe v. Wade at 40" with: Jon Shields, Associate Professor of Government, Claremont McKenna College; **Francis Beckwith**, Professor of Philosophy and Church-State Studies, Baylor University; **Samuel Calhoun**, Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law; and **Richard Myers**, Professor of Law, Ave Maria School of Law.

Other presenters will include: Christopher Kaczor, Jason Eberl, Jennifer Lahl, Nyna Caputi, Scott Gaylord, **William Saunders**, and Clarke Forsythe.

More information can be found on the [UFL web page](#). Information about the University Faculty for Life Scholarly Achievement Award in Creative Writing, Literary Criticism, or Research can be found at the end of this newsletter.

➤ **Cardinal O'Connor Conference for Life.** UFL co-sponsored the Cardinal O'Connor Conference for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 26. A summary of the meeting, "[College Students Encouraged to Create Culture of Life](#)," by Connie Marshner can be found on the National Catholic Register web page. There were 695 registrants, making it the largest Cardinal O'Connor Conference to date. The keynote speaker was **Helen M. Alvaré**. Some breakout sessions included: "The Injustice of Assisted Reproductive Technologies," "The Pro-Life Movement and

the Death Penalty,” “Fertility Awareness” and “Refuse to Choose: Reclaiming Feminism.”

- The latest edition of UFL's conference proceedings is completed and will soon be available: *Life and Learning XIX: Proceedings of the nineteenth University Faculty for Life Conference at the University of St. Thomas School of Law*, 2009, ed. Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. (Washington, D.C.: University Faculty for Life, 2013). The volume will soon be mailed to members. For online versions of the papers, go to the [UFL Annual Proceedings](#) link on the UFL web page. The new proceedings will be posted soon.
- The Marquette University chapter of UFL co-sponsored with the Milwaukee Guild of the Catholic Medical Association a conference called “Bioethics: Past and Present; Topics of Relevance in Today’s Culture.” It was held at Marquette on May 4th. Talks included “The Beginnings of Bioethics Principlism and the Natural Law,” by **Barbara Freres**, “A Catholic Ethos in Health Care,” by **Peter Colosi**, “POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment): Threats to Patients and Catholic Health Care,” by Frank Smith, M.D., and “Spiritual Care of Fertility,” by **Richard Fehring**.

UFL in the News

- Dr. **Keith Cassidy**, former UFL President, recently was awarded the [Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal](#). “The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, which is a symbol of the Queen’s selfless service during her 60-year reign, is a way to honour other dedicated citizens [of Canada].”
- There was an [article in the July-August 2012 Celebrate Life Magazine](#) by Barbara Curtiss about **Jerome LeJeune**, genetic researcher, former UFL Advisory Board member and candidate for canonization in the Catholic Church, whom we highlighted in the [July 2012 issue of ProVita](#). LeJeune was an

indefatigable promoter of the culture of life. After discovering the gene anomaly that leads to Down’s Syndrome, LeJeune spent his life seeking a cure and trying to promote the dignity of those affected with the condition. “Though a scientist, Dr. Lejeune was first and foremost a godly man who understood that science must be at the service of life—not death. Since the only hope for saving lives would be to find a cure for genetic intelligence disabilities, Dr. Lejeune devoted the rest of his life to this purpose.” LeJeune spoke out against abortion, which was more and more being touted as the response to a diagnosis of Down’s Syndrome. “For the rest of his life, Dr. Lejeune would also speak out against abortion—which put him at odds with the elite scientific community, threatened to disrupt his family life, and probably deprived him of the Nobel Prize he deserved.”

Publications and member activities

- **Peter Colosi** is organizing the fourth [Theology of the Body International Symposium](#) to be held in Fatima, Portugal from June 13-16. The theme of the symposium is “*Verbum Caro Factum Est*.” Speakers will include **Janet Smith**, Michael Waldstein, the translator of Pope John Paul II’s reflections on the theology of the body, and Christopher West, plus many other renowned experts in the field.
- **Francis Beckwith** (Baylor University), spoke at the pro-life conferences on April 5-6, 2013, called “[Advancing a Culture of Life: Pro-Life Argument in the Coming Generation](#)” at the Catholic Center, New York University. The conference was sponsored by [The Thomistic Institute](#), Washington, DC, [Center For Ethics and Culture](#), Notre Dame University, [First Things](#), [The Institute for Religion and Public Life](#), New York, NY.
- The [Pro-life Center at the University of St. Thomas](#), cofounded by UFL President **Teresa Collett**, has been very active this

academic year. Recent events include the April 3 talk by Hadley Arkes, Edward N. Ney Professor in American Institutions at Amherst College, architect of the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, and lifelong pro-life advocate. The title of the talk is “Natural Rights and the Right to Choose.”

Other recent events at the ProLife Center included a talk on Feb 7th by **Helen Alvaré** on “[Politics of Freedom](#),” and a talk on January 15th by Clarke Forsyth, Americans United for Life, Senior Counsel called “[Defending life in 2013. The Tragic History of Roe v. Wade.](#)”

- One of the perennial debates among pro-life activists is whether to use graphic images of abortion in public. Recently blogger Simcha Fisher weighed in on the *National Catholic Register* with “[Eight Reasons Not to Use Graphic Abortion Images at the March for Life.](#)” Responding with the opposing opinion on the Pro-Life Action League web page was **Monica Migliorino Miller**, with “[Why Graphic Images Need to be Displayed.](#)”

Monica Miller also recently wrote *Abandoned: The Untold Story of the Abortion Wars* (Charlotte, NC: St. Benedict Press, 2012), a book about her experience in pro-life activism.

- The [Public Discourse](#) symposium on *Roe* at 40 featured the following six articles by UFL members and others: **Michael New**, “[Abortion Promises Unfulfilled](#),” **Gerard V. Bradley**, “[The Paradox of Persons Forty Years After Roe](#),” Ryan T. Anderson, “[On the Fortieth Anniversary of Roe v. Wade: A Public Discourse Symposium](#),” Elise Italiano, “[Forty Years Later: It’s Time for a New Feminism](#),” Daniel K. Williams, “[The Real Reason to Criticize Roe](#),” Michael Stokes Paulsen, “[Abortion and the Constitution in Another Forty Years: A Right to Life for 2053.](#)”

- **Anne Barbeau Gardiner** reviews *Abortion and the Moral Significance of Merely*

Possible Persons: Finding Middle Ground in Hard Cases, by Melinda A. Roberts. *Modern Age* 54:1 (Winter 2012), 161-164. Gardiner demonstrates why Roberts’ proposal isn’t really a middle ground at all, but “as extreme as Swift’s *Modest Proposal*—only without the irony.”

- **Hanna Klaus, MMS, MD** wrote “[The Missing Asset in Understanding Our Sexuality](#),” *Voices Online Edition* 27:4 (Advent-Christmas 2012).
- **Helen M. Alvaré**, “Bishops v. Nuns in Jeeps? Why a Facially 'Intra-Catholic' Health Care Dispute Matters” (September 5, 2012). *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics and Public Policy*, Vol. 25, pp. 563-591 (2011); George Mason Law & Economics Research Paper No. 12-58. “This article examines USCCB documents issued in response to the PPACA as well as various documents of the universal Church, explains how the USCCB tested specific provisions of the PPACA against the principles in these documents, describes competing views of the bill, and comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the USCCB’s articulation of its principles and methods, particularly in light of current political and cultural trends.” Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2142126>

Social Networking

- Don’t forget, UFL is on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. On Facebook you can “like” the “University Faculty for Life” page. On Twitter follow “Faculty4Life”. Our blog can be found at www.ufl.org/blog/. There is also an active “University Faculty for Life” subgroup of the “Pro-life Professionals” group on LinkedIn.

Scholarly Opportunities

In which we highlight opportunities for members to engage in further research and networking regarding the issues of

abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia in their respective fields.

Calls for papers, conferences, other opportunities

- ***Prolife World Congress***. The sixth [Prolife World Congress](#) will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador from Oct. 3-6. The Congress is dedicated to the promotion of a global culture of human life, especially in the public arena. For more details... <http://www.prolifeworldcongress.org/>

Resources

In which we highlight scholarly journal and online articles and resources regarding abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia representing all sides of issue.

Recent and upcoming research and data

- ***Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity***. The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity offers information, bibliographies, links to research in diverse disciplines, and events concerning a variety of bioethical issues. “The Center is a bioethics research center at [Trinity International University](#) and is one aspect of the University’s Bioethics [at Trinity] initiative. Our mission, “exploring the nexus of biomedicine, biotechnology, and our common humanity,” designates our commitment to anticipate, interpret, and engage the pressing bioethical issues of our day. As a center of rigorous research, theological and conceptual analysis, charitable critique, and thoughtful engagement, we seek to bring clarity to the complex issues of our day.” Several UFL members, including **Eugene Diamond, MD., William Saunders, and Richard Doerflinger** are associated with the Center.

Some of their initiatives include: Academy of Fellows, Communities of Influence, Global Bioethics Education Initiative, Global Women’s Health Initiative, Healthcare Ethics Council, and Current Research.

- Prochoice scholars Linda Greenhouse and Reva Siegel have put together a free collection of historical documents reflecting the debate over abortion pre *Roe v. Wade* called “[Before Roe v. Wade: Voices that Shaped the Abortion Debate Before the Supreme Court’s Ruling \(2d edition, 2012\)](#),” available for free download at the Yale Law School Documents Collection Center.
- ***Post-Abortion Review***. The Elliot Institute publishes a collection of articles about peer-reviewed resources in the [Post-Abortion Review](#). There are some direct links to peer-reviewed articles. The data is mostly from 2000 on.
- ***Vademecum for John Paul II***. Bl. Pope John Paul II did a great deal both philosophically and theologically to bolster the culture of life both before and during his pontificate. Many of us use his thought in our teaching and research. The [Humanitas Christian Anthropology and Culture Review](#) of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile has published a free downloadable [Vademecum](#) of his anthropology. It is in the form of an alphabetical list of terms with definitions and commentary taken from John Paul II’s papal writings. Topics include Abortion, Contraception (and abortion), Culture (of death and of life), Death (fifth commandment, penalty, Euthanasia, Justice, Law, Liberty, Man, Morality, Right to Life, Science).
- ***Reproductive Research Audit***. The [Reproductive Research Audit](#) web page, run by Jacqueline Harvey and **Michael New**, publishes regular analysis of research in the area of reproduction to discover activist-driven distortions. “This web site exists to shine a light on the methodology of scientific studies on reproductive health issues,

exposing their bias, flaws and propensity to ignore data that does not support a pre-determined political agenda.” Responses and to the analyses corrections are encouraged.

- ***Charlotte Lozier Institute***. The [Charlotte Lozier Institute](#) is the educational and research arm of the Susan B. Anthony’s List. The page features statistics, fact sheets, testimonies, public policy, science and medicine, and commentary.
- ***A Call for Data Reform***. Jacqueline C. Harvey, Ph.D., recently wrote “[Arrogance, Apathy or Fear: The Only Three Reasons to Oppose Abortion Data Reform](#),” for *Ethika Politika, the Journal for the Center for Morality in Public Life*. *In it she supports a common ground of accurate data in controversial areas.*
- “[The Preembryo’s Short Lifetime. The History of a Word. La Vida Breve del Preembrión: Historia de una Palabra](#),” by Modesto Ferrer Colomer, Director Back Unit, Fundación Kovacs. Hospital Mesa del Castillo. Murcia and Luis Miguel Pastor, Department of Cell Biology and Histology, Medical School, IMIB, Regional Campus of International Excellence Campus Mare Nostrum, University of Murcia, Murcia, Spain. “This article is a study of the historical aspects that gave rise to the term ‘preembryo/’ We look at how the appearance of this term was related with attempts to justify ethical aspects associated with the destruction of embryos in the context of in vitro fecundation.”
- Rev. Javier Bustos’ article entitled “The Uncertainty of Living Wills” will appear in the Summer 2013 edition of the *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*.

Other News and Analysis

On campus

- The Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life has been responsible for some encouraging initiatives, including the [Vita Institute](#) and [Project Guadalupe](#). Now, the University administration has decided to back out of an agreement that it entered into several years ago that permitted the Fund to operate under the direction of an independent committee. See [the article on the National Right to Life web page](#). O. Carter Snead, of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture wrote [an encouraging response](#) to the recent Notre Dame decision.
- A recent decision by the Student Government Association at Johns Hopkins University to deny a pro-life group, Voices for Life, official recognition (see [Students for Life article here](#)), was overturned by the school administration. The initial denial of recognition was based on the inclusion of sidewalk counseling as a group activity, deemed to be a form of harassment prohibited by university policy. Voices for Life appealed the decision to the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity, who ruled that sidewalk counseling was a form of free speech protected by the Constitution, therefore could not constitute a violation of school policy. See [the follow-up Students for Life article here](#).
- Seán Cardinal O’Malley, of Boston, has declined the invitation to attend the commencement exercises at Boston College because they have not rescinded the invitation to Irish Prime Minister (Taoiseach) Enda Kenny to speak and receive an honorary degree. Kenny has aggressively promoted pro-abortion legislation in Ireland, where abortion is now illegal. See the article on [LifeSiteNews.com](#).

Other

- **Pope Francis.** The Catholic Church recently chose a new pope. Some have speculated that Pope Francis will be more “liberal,” meaning softer on some of the Church’s moral stances. Here is a quote from Pope Francis in 2005, while he was archbishop of Buenos Aires: “Defend the unborn against abortion even if they persecute you, calumniate you, set traps for you, take you to court or kill you. No child should be deprived of the right to be born, the right to be fed, the right to go to school. No elderly person should be left alone, abandoned.” HT, Prolife Center at the University of St. Thomas (MN) Facebook page.

Editor’s Corner

A “college” in the Middle Ages was first and foremost a community of scholars from different disciplines who were gathered together to teach. It was important for both the scholars and the students (apprentices) that the scholars formed a community so that the scholars could make the fruits of their own learning available to each other as well as the students, demonstrate how to expand knowledge and how to debate disputed questions. It was also important that the scholars were from different disciplines so that the whole body of knowledge could grow together.



UFL isn’t technically a college, but we are a *community* of scholars who are dedicated to sharing and handing on the fruits of our own learning, expanding knowledge, and engaging in intellectually solid disputes.

One of the ways we can help build the community is to actively share our knowledge of our field with others in our field and in other fields. The *ProVita* Newsletter is an excellent place to do share our knowledge of research that

is going on in areas that affect the culture of life. The more people who contribute, the richer this newsletter will be.

Please begin to think about items for next issue, which will come out in July, 2013. We need

- Notices of member’s publications, presentations and other activities,
- Calls for papers and notices of upcoming conferences.
- Citations of relevant significant research in any discipline, whether from a pro-life perspective, neutral, or the opposing perspective.
- Useful online and print resources.

You can send them to me any time. I will put them on the [blog](#) first, and then put them in *ProVita*.

Any contributions may be forwarded to provitanews@yahoo.com.

Masthead

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ProVita is the quarterly online newsletter of the [University Faculty for Life](#). Its purpose is to promote research, dialogue and publication by faculty who respect the value of human life from inception to natural death, especially focusing on abortion, euthanasia, and infanticide. More information about UFL can be found on our web site at ufl.org. Editorial correspondence can be sent to the editor at <mailto:provitanews@yahoo.com>.