



PROVITA

The University Faculty for Life Newsletter

Vol. 11, No. 1

Spring 2023

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Letter from the President

Hello Everybody,

The clock is ticking for attending this year’s conference on *Post Roe Policy Considerations*. The deadline for proposal submissions is May 10th. If interested, email your paragraph-length proposal to me at rmlemmons@stthomas.edu. Registration Deadline is May 10th and the link to register is on our website at uffl.org. If you would like to participate in a roundtable discussion of pro-life pedagogy let me know and I’ll give your contact information to that Specialty Panel organizer.

For those who would like to come but need help with expenses, there is *The Koterski Fund for Conference Expenses*. The Koterski Fund is made possible through the generosity of a couple of donors. Although funds are currently rather limited, some funds are available.

Also, please join me in thanking Dr. Barbara Freres for serving for ten years as our conference coordinator. She is resigning as coordinator and as a Board member because Cardinal Stritch University is closing in a couple of weeks. Her wisdom, wit, and generosity will be sorely missed.

In a few weeks, keep your eyes open for the 2022 volume of *Life and Learning*. My apologies for its delayed printing as we continue to learn how to fill the void left by Fr. Koterski’s passing. He was a marvel; he was able to do so much for UFFL and other organizations, while living with students in Fordham’s dorms, offering Masses, giving retreats, writing sermons, and publishing prolifically. In fact, the 2022 *L&L* eulogizes Fr. Koterski.

Not to be missed in this edition of *ProVita* is the Legal Realities column written by Prof. Richard Myers (Ave Maria Law School). He details the ways in which law remains a battlefield for life.

Thanks for all that you do for life,

Mary
R. Mary Hayden Lemmons, Ph.D.
 UFFL President

Member News & Publications

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

*Note: all names in **bold** are members of UFFL.*

- **Larry Chapp, Ph.D.** (Theology, DeSales University) wrote *Confessions of a Catholic*

Worker: Our Moment of Christian Witness.
San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2023.

- **John Crosby, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville) contributed “Newman’s Vision of Intellectual Virtue in its Relation to Moral and Religious Virtue” to *A Guide to John Henry Newman: His Life and Thought*, ed. Juan Vélez. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2022.
- **Richard Fehring, Ph.D., R.N.** (Nursing, Marquette University) published, with Michael Manhart, “The Association of Family Planning Methods with the Odds of Divorce in the 2015 – 2019 National Survey of Family Growth” in *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 64:1 (Online, Feb. 2023).
- **John M. Grondelski, Ph.D.** (Theology, Independent Scholar) received the Centennial Medal of the Catholic University of Lublin (Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawła II, KUL) from University Rector, the Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Mirosław Kalinowski, for his service to the University. Dr. Grondelski has been involved with KUL since his first visit, as a student of the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture in 1987, especially in the areas of philosophy, theology, and Polonia studies. He received the Medal in Washington.
- **Melissa Moschella, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, Catholic University of America) published “Defending the Fundamental Rights of Parents: A Response to Recent Attacks” in *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics, and Public Policy*, 37.2 (Spring 2023).
- **Bernadette Waterman Ward, Ph.D.** (English, University of Dallas) reviewed *Lead Kindly Light: Essays for Ian Kerr*, edited by Paul Shrimpton, for *Irish Theological Quarterly*, 88.2 (May 2023).
- **Paul Vitz, Ph.D.** (Psychology, New York University) published, with Amanda Faria, “The Absence of Positive Psychosocial Characteristics in the Lives of Mass School Shooters” in *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 37 (2022).

Scholarly Opportunities

- The [University Faculty for Life](#) will host its thirty-third annual meeting from June 2 -3, 2023 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. The theme of the conference is “After Roe: Public Policy Issues.” There is still time to submit an abstract for priority consideration. For details see [uffl.org](#).
- The Catholic Medical Association will host its [Medical Resident and Student Boot Camp](#) from June 11 – 18, 2023, in Ave Maria, FL.

Legal Realities

Richard S. Myers, J.D. (*Professor of Law at Ave Maria School of Law, UFFL Vice-President*) provides a brief overview of significant legal developments since the last issue of *ProVita*.

It's been nearly a year since the Supreme Court's June 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The *Dobbs* ruling overruled *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), which had created and reaffirmed a constitutional right to abortion. *Dobbs* did not, however, end the moral, political, and legal debate about abortion. The debates have largely moved to other venues. We have seen this continue to play out over the last few months.

The Biden Administration responded to *Dobbs* by aggressively trying to use federal power to preserve wide access to abortion, as detailed in [this article](#) by Rachel Morrison. The Administration has placed a particular emphasis on promoting chemical abortion (via the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol). For example, in January 2023, the FDA removed the in-person dispensing requirement and allowed the abortion drugs to be distributed by pharmacies. The FDA's approval (which originally dates to 2000) and further deregulation of the abortion drugs were challenged in federal court. The plaintiffs argue that the FDA's actions ignored important health and safety safeguards.

Judge Kacsmaryk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas suspended the FDA's approval of the drugs. The Federalists offers an [analysis](#) of Judge Kacsmaryk's opinion. That ruling was modified by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The Fifth Circuit reversed Judge Kacsmaryk's decision suspending the FDA's initial approval in 2000 but upheld his ruling on the FDA's later actions that expanded the availability of the drugs.

On April 21, 2023, the United States Supreme Court stayed the lower court's ruling in full. [The Court's ruling](#), by a 7-2 vote, keeps the FDA's approvals in place. The case has now returned to the Fifth Circuit and will be argued before that court in mid-May 2023. The case will likely return to the Supreme Court in due course.

An important consequence of Dobbs has been an emphasis on state constitutional law. Supporters of abortion rights have argued that the right to abortion is protected by state constitutions, including arguments based on the religious liberty provisions of state constitutions. State court rulings have varied. Some courts, such as the South Carolina Supreme Court, have protected access to abortion. Other state courts, such as the Idaho Supreme Court, have rejected the arguments that there is a fundamental right to abortion. Important cases are still pending in Florida, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky.

On March 21, 2023, [the Oklahoma Supreme Court found a limited right to abortion in the Oklahoma Constitution](#). The Court concluded that there was state constitutional right to an abortion to protect the life of the mother. The Court did not, however, find a broad right to elective abortion.

In contrast to the situation with respect to abortion, the assisted suicide debate has largely not been decided by the courts. In 1997, in *Washington v. Glucksberg*, the United States Supreme Court rejected the argument that there is a fundamental right to assisted suicide. State courts, even those that are thought of as quite adventuresome, have largely followed the Court's example and have rejected state constitutional attacks on laws banning assisted suicide. As noted in my Winter 2023 *ProVita* column, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

recently rejected a state constitutional challenge to a state law banning assisted suicide.

Despite successes of this sort, there is a continuing need to respond to threats to life. There have been efforts at the state level to expand access to assisted suicide in states where assisted suicide has been legalized. For example, there is an effort underway in Vermont to eliminate the requirement that assisted suicide is only available to residents of Vermont. The residency requirement has already been eliminated in Oregon. Pro-lifers contend that eliminating the residency requirement might lead to suicide tourism and make it more difficult to enforce regulations that are designed to protect patients.

Efforts such as the proposed change in Vermont underscore the need for opponents of assisted suicide to remain vigilant and to continue efforts to protect life at all stages. In jurisdictions where assisted suicide and euthanasia have been legalized there seems to be a relentless effort to expand access and remove restrictions. For example, the Netherlands recently approved eligibility for physician assisted suicide for children from ages 1-12, as long as their parent's consent. These disturbing developments must be resisted on various fronts. A recent [article](#) by Margaret Somerville is particularly helpful in making this point.

Reminders

- ***Lifetime membership*** UFFL offers Lifetime Membership. Five hundred dollars will enable you to support our mission more easily throughout your golden years. More details are posted on our [website](#).
- ***2023 Dues Reminder*** Many thanks to all those who have already paid the 2023 dues! Annual dues are \$40. On-line payment is possible through PayPal and our website, as well as by mailing them to **Dr. Margaret Hughes**, University Faculty for Life, Thomas Aquinas College, 231 Main Street, Northfield, MA 01360. Dues are important for receiving the print copies of our peer reviewed *Life and Learning*.

➤ **Keep your email address updated**

Updates can be made by contacting **Dr. Margaret Hughes** at provita.editor@gmail.com. Updated email addresses enable one to receive our *ProVita* electronic newsletter as well as important messages about UFFL.

➤ **Social Media** UFFL is on Facebook and LinkedIn. On Facebook, you can “like” the “University Faculty for Life” page. Our blog can be found at www.uffl.org/blog/. There is also an active “University Faculty for Life” subgroup of the “Pro-life Professionals” group on LinkedIn.

Please begin to think about items for next issue, which will come out in the spring. 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.
- Reviews of promising prolife publications.


Please submit all contributions for the Summer 2023 issue by July 15th. Any contributions should be sent to provita.editor@gmail.com.

Masthead

Publisher	University Faculty for Life
Editor	Margaret I. Hughes, Ph.D.
Columnists	Richard Myers, J.D.; Christopher Kaczor, Ph.D.
Web Support	Stephen Feher of the Ridgefield Group

Pro Vita is the quarterly online newsletter of the [University Faculty for Life](http://www.uffl.org). 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 UFFL can be found on our web site at uffl.org. Editorial correspondence can be sent to the editor at provita.editor@gmail.com.

2023 Life and Learning Conference



33rd ANNUAL LIFE AND LEARNING CONFERENCE JUNE 02-03, 2023

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul Campus
 HOSTS: Department of Philosophy; School of Law's Pro-life Center

Post Roe: Public Policy Issues

The Rupert & Timothy Smith
2023 Award Recipient


*"The Challenges of a Pro-life
Professor and NFP Researcher."*



Richard J. Fehring, Ph.D., RN, FAAN


Developer of the Marquette Method of NFP,
 Founder & Former Director of Marquette
 University's Institute for Natural Family
 Planning and Professor Emeritus.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS




Clarke Forsythe, J.D.
 Senior Counsel, Americans
 United for Life. Published *Abuse
 of Discretion* (2013) and *Politics
 for the Greatest Good* (2009).

"The Limits of Law"



Donna Harrison, M.D.
 Director of Research & former
 Executive Director /CEO of
 the American Association of
 Pro-Life Obstetricians and
 Gynecologists (AAPLOG).

"What is & isn't an Abortion"



Richard Doerflinger, M.A.
 Fellow, University of Notre
 Dame's de Nicola Center,
 former Secretariat of USCCB's
 Pro-Life Activities.

*"After Dobbs: The Challenge in
 Culture and Politics."*

Specialist Panel: The Academy's Role in the Culture of Life; Other specialist panels TBA

Priority Consideration of Proposal Ends May 10, 2023

All proposals should be one page (maximum) including the proposed paper's working title and a brief abstract.
 Email proposals to [Professor Barbara Freres](mailto:bjfreres@stritch.edu) at bjfreres@stritch.edu. Excellent conference papers are eligible
 for publication in our peer-reviewed proceedings, *Life and Learning*.

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Submission Topics

Post-Roe policy considerations, whether specific recommendations, in-depth analyses of legal, political,  
 philosophical, spiritual or cultural issues at the beginning or end of life, or hopeful pedagogies.

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Registration Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/university-faculty-for-life-conference-on-post-roe-policy-considerations-tickets-611512108177>
 Conference begins 1:00 pm Friday, June 2nd and ends after Saturday's evening banquet.

For more information see www.uflf.org; or contact UFFL President R. Mary Lemmons, mlemmons@stthomas.edu

Web Resources for Research and Education

<p><i>Life and Learning</i> The Journal of the University Faculty for Life</p>	
<p>UFFL Blog</p>	
<p>Member web pages and blogs Please forward any other member’s web pages to provita.editor@gmail.com.</p>	
Beckwith, Francis	Lemmons, Rose Mary Hayden
Bachiochi, Erika	Smith, Janet E.
Colosi, Peter	Irving, Diane
Koloze, Jeff	
<p>Online Resources</p>	
<p>Bad Cripple Blog: A Resource for Pro-lifers</p>	<p>A blog written by William Peace, Ph.D., who advocates for the rights of the disabled.</p>
<p>Before Roe v. Wade: Voices that Shaped the Abortion Debate Before the Supreme Court’s Ruling (2d edition, 2012)</p>	<p>“In this ground-breaking book, Linda Greenhouse, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who covered the Supreme Court for 30 years for The New York Times, and Reva Siegel, a renowned professor at Yale Law School, collect documents illustrating cultural, political, and legal forces that helped shape the Supreme Court’s decision and the meanings it would come to have over time.”</p>
<p>Culture of Life Foundation</p>	<p>Complex moral issues made simple</p>
<p>Global Health and Human Rights Database</p>	<p>“The Global Health and Human Rights Database is a free online database of law from around the world relating to health and human rights. Developed by Lawyers Collective and the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, in collaboration with a worldwide network of civil society partners, the database offers an interactive, searchable, and fully indexed website of case law, national constitutions and international instruments.”</p>
<p>Human Life International Truth and Charity</p>	<p>“The <i>Truth and Charity Forum</i> is an online publication of Human Life International (HLI), dedicated exclusively to the sacredness and gift of all human life, the mission and vocation of the family, and the right to live in accord with our Catholic faith.”</p>
<p>Life Issues</p>	<p>Updated daily with articles to provide “clear thinking about crucial issues.”</p>
<p>Mirror of Justice</p>	<p>A blog dedicated to the development of Catholic legal theory.</p>

National Museum of Health and Medicine, Human Developmental Anatomy Collection, Stage 1a	From the Carnegie Stages of Human Embryonic Development.
Social Science Research Network (SSRN)	SSRN (the Social Science Research Network). “Our vision was (and still is) to enable scholars to share and distribute their research worldwide, long before their papers work their way through the multi-year journal refereeing and publication process.”
USCCB Human Life and Dignity web page	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Witherspoon Institute Public Discourse	Public Discourse is an online publication of the Witherspoon Institute that seeks to enhance the public understanding of the moral foundations of free societies by making the scholarship of the fellows and affiliated scholars of the Institute available and accessible to a general audience.
World Expert Consortium for Abortion Research and Education	International research collaboration, Scientific information dissemination, Professional education, Consultation, Expert testimony, Program evaluation, Grant writing
Journals and Online Publications	
Charlotte Lozier Institute (Susan B. Anthony List)	The education and research arm of the Susan B. Anthony List
Ethika Politika	Ethika Politika is a publication of the Center for Morality in Public Life. Its purpose is to put the search for wisdom at the service of good practical decisions, and to engage contemporary ethical and cultural issues from an elevated yet common sense perspective.
Human Life Review	
Linacre Quarterly	Journal of the Catholic Medical Association.
Post-Abortion Review	“Documents abortion’s injustice and harm to women”
Organizations	
Americans United for Life	
Bioethics defense fund	Bioethics Defense Fund (BDF) is a public-interest law firm whose mission is to advocate for the human right to life via litigation, legislation and public education. BDF provides legal expertise and public education on the issues of healthcare rights of conscience, abortion and its impact on women, human cloning/destructive human embryo research, and end of life issues including physician-assisted suicide and healthcare rationing.

Catholic Medical Association	
Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity	“The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity explores the nexus of biomedicine, biotechnology, and our common humanity. Within a Judeo-Christian Hippocratic framework, we 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 bring clarity to the complex issues of our day.”
Feminists for Life	
Healing the Culture	Promotes the Life Principles of UFFL co-founder Robert J. Spitzer, SJ.
The International Center on Law, Life, Faith and Family (ICOLF)	“The International Center on Law, Life, Faith and Family (ICOLF) was established with a view to producing, compiling and providing a broad range of resources and materials for a number of interested parties working on “Law, life, faith and family” issues on the national, regional and international levels.”
National Catholic Bioethics Center	Publishes the <i>National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly</i>
Prolife Center at the University of St. Thomas	Founded and headed by UFFL member Teresa Collett to defend the sanctity of human life by training law students and lawyers, by assisting government officials in drafting, passing and defending prolife laws, and developing the necessary legal scholarship necessary to create a culture of life.
Society of Catholic Social Scientists	
Women Deserve Better	
News	
Bioedge	LifeNews.com
National Right to Life News	LifeSiteNews