

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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www.peopleforlife.org

October-November 2005

Brother of Terri Schiavo to speak at Pro-Life Breakfast

Bobby Schindler will be the keynote speaker at People for Life's 28th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast on January 7. Bobby is the brother of Terri Schindler-Schiavo, who died in Florida on March 31 by way of court-ordered dehydration and starvation.

Bobby was the main spokesperson for his family during the Schindler's long battle to save Terri's life. He appeared on numerous TV and radio programs, did countless interviews, and successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to pass special legislation that attempted to restore Terri's food and water.

Bobby will tell the story behind the headlines and take you inside the Schindler family, sharing his own heart, the heart of a young man who fought with all his strength to save the life of a sister he dearly loved. You will get an inside look into the family's struggle against many powerful forces, including the courts, the national media, the pro-euthanasia groups, and public indifference toward the disabled.

A graduate of LaSalle University (Philadelphia) and Florida State

University, Bobby has become a passionate pro-life advocate, specifically in opposition to euthanasia and the doctors, lawyers, and activist judges who are working to impose their pro-euthanasia agenda on America. Bobby is also a staunch supporter of pro-life efforts to restore legal protection for unborn children.

Since his sister's death, Bobby has left his high school teaching position and dedicated himself to protecting other people with disabilities and raising public awareness about the growing threat of euthanasia. "I don't think people even realize," says Bobby, "how easy it is to kill someone in Terri's condition."

Bobby and his family continue to work through the Terri Schindler-Schiavo Foundation, which they established in 2000.



BOBBY SCHINDLER
Brother of Terry Schiavo

Breakfast Sponsor Listings

Pro-life professionals and business owners are invited to be sponsors of the upcoming 2006 Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast by purchasing a listing in the breakfast program. Listings are available at \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, and \$10 levels (Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze). Sponsor forms are available now.

March for Life Bus Trip

Plan now to attend the 33rd March for Life in Washington, DC. We leave Erie at 11:00 PM on January 22, march in DC on Monday, January 23, and return home a little after midnight on January 24. Groups are welcome. Seats are still only \$38.00! Some student sponsorships are available. Reserve your seat today by sending in your name, address, and phone number along with payment.

Community Outreach

People for Life kept busy this summer with outreach booths at the Erie Wild Rib Cook Off, CorryFest, the Edinboro Fireworks Festival, the St. Thomas Church Festival, the Wattsburg, Waterford, and Albion Fairs, and Kingdom Bound by the Bay.

Erie March & Motorcade

The annual Erie March & Motorcade for Life will take place on January 7, after the Pro-Life Breakfast. It begins at 10th and

Tickets on Sale Now!

28th Annual

PRO-LIFE PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 7, 2006

9:00 AM

Avalon Hotel, 16 West 10th Street, Erie

Reservations: \$8.50 (\$5.50 ages 3-10)

Free reservations for children under 3

Reservations required. Send payments to:

People for Life, Inc.

P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512

Watch for updates at www.peopleforlife.org.

State at 12:30 PM and finishes at Perry Square in about an hour. This is a good opportunity to remind N.W. PA that under *Roe v. Wade* every fourth baby dies from "choice." Bring your family and friends!

Christmas Party

People for Life's annual Christmas Party will take place on December 4 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM in the Conway Room at Holy Rosary Church. Everyone is welcome.

Guests are asked to bring a dish to share and a toy or item of children's clothing (newborn to 12 years) to donate.

RSVPs must be received no later than November 30. Call Shirley at 452-3395. Preparations will begin at 12:30 PM. If you can help with preparations, serving, or cleanup, please let us know when you call in your reservation.

Abortion Facility

Erie's American Women's Services abortion facility has been dormant since April 15. AWS workers are maintaining the office but are not seeing clients. People for Life continues to support orderly demonstrations outside the building every week: Saturdays from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM and for an additional hour during the workweek. Monthly schedules are available.

Our Alternative Choices for Women office across the hall from AWS remains open 9 to 5, Monday through Friday.

New Abortion Presentation



People for Life has developed a brand new PowerPoint presentation about abortion that can be modified for public and private high school and middle school classes, religious education settings, and adult audiences as well.

The full version currently contains 79 slides with over 100 illustrations including dozens of amazing fetal development photographs. It covers fetal development, *Roe v. Wade*, abortion methods, risks to the woman, public opinion, recent legislation, abortions in Erie, and more.

To schedule a free presentation call People for Life and ask for Marielle Lafaro, our education director. (Marielle replaces Cecil Daniel, who recently moved out of the Erie area.)

CANDIDATE SURVEY

General Election ★ November 8

1. INFORMED CONSENT Should abortion providers be required to offer basic information to a woman who is considering an abortion to inform her about medical risks, alternatives to abortion, fetal development, the probable gestational age of her unborn child, and the availability of assistance benefits if the woman decides to continue her pregnancy? (Pennsylvania law currently requires these things.)

2. TIME FOR DELIBERATION After initially consulting with a physician, should a woman who wants an abortion be given 24 hours to carefully consider her decision before an abortion is carried out? (Pennsylvania law currently requires this.)

3. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT If someone who is seeking an abortion is less than 18 years old, should the consent of at least one parent be required unless a judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved? (Pennsylvania law currently requires this.)

4. LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN CHILD If *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, would you favor the enactment a state law prohibiting abortion unless necessary to prevent the death of the mother, or prohibiting abortion with certain exceptions. (Please specify what exceptions, if any.)

5. LATE TERM ABORTIONS Should abortions be prohibited in all cases where the unborn child is mature enough to survive apart from his or her mother?

6. GOVERNMENT FUNDING Should public funds be used to pay for abortions?

7. ASSISTED SUICIDE Should physician-assisted suicide be prohibited?

8. PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS Are you comfortable with peaceful, non-obstructive individuals using public sidewalks near abortion facilities to express opposition to abortion or to advocate alternatives to abortion?

9. SIDEWALK COUNSELING Does the First Amendment in your opinion protect individuals who politely communicate with abortion facility customers by offering literature or suggesting alternatives to abortion to the same extent that other kinds of literature distribution and public discourse are protected?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Cleaver #4 "Let state set exceptions." (Does support exceptions for various cases.)

DiPaolo "As you probably already know the Rules of Professional Conduct and Cannon Law does not permit the Judiciary from responding to such a survey."

Garhart #4 (Exceptions?) "Rape and incest"

Gatlin "I do not believe it is appropriate for a candidate for the office of Erie City Council

Y = Yes N = No b = Did not respond yes or no
 Empty = No response; did not return or acknowledge our questionnaire
 Pro-life, or more resolutely pro-life, responses are in **BOLDFACE CAPS**.
 Other responses are in lower case.

QUESTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Erie County Judge of the Court of Common Pleas									
John Garhart (Cross Filed)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Erie County Executive									
Mark A. DiVecchio (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Dale R. McBrier (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	N*	Y*	Y*	Y
Erie County Sheriff									
Bob Merski (D)									
Clerk of Records									
Patrick L. Fetzner (D)									
Erie County Council 2nd District									
Joe Giles (D)									
Vicki L. Taylor (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Erie County Council 4th District									
Ronald Whitey Cleaver (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	y	Y	Y	Y
Tim Zarnick (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Erie County Council 6th District									
David E. Mitchell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Magisterial District Judge 3									
Thomas Carney (Cross Filed)									
Magisterial District Judge 4									
Joseph R. LeFaiver (Cross Filed)									
Magisterial District Judge 5									
Dominick D. DiPaolo * (Cross Filed)	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
City of Erie Mayor									
Joe Sinnott (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Jack Anderson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
City of Erie Controller									
Casimir J. "Kaz" Kwitowski (D)									
City of Erie Treasurer									
Susan E. DiVecchio (D)									
Erie City Council (vote for 4)									
Lonny Gatlin (D) *	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Rubye Jenkins-Husband (D)									
Curtis Jones, Jr. (D)									
James N. "Jim" Thompson (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
James H. Eichler (R)									

to take a position on this issue.... I feel that any decision by the voters of the City of Erie respecting my qualifications and fitness for office should be based on factors other than my personal views regarding this issue." (Gatlin recently characterized himself as "pro-choice" in a conversation with a People for Life member.)

McBrier #5 (Yes) "But I can imagine extraordinary physical handicap that would mean the child had no hope or consciousness that would suggest a cause for finality."

McBrier #6 (No) "unless... (candidate refers back to his response to question #5.)"

McBrier #7 (Yes) "But this is harder. Does a person die with less dignity if assisted or more dignity."

McBrier #8 "The right of public assembly is protected by the Constitution."

Sinnott #4 "If the laws would be constitutional alternatives to federal law. Federal law generally supercedes state law."

Thompson #4 "It is difficult to say under

what exception other than to prevent the death of the mother, but somehow there will always be an exception, but who and how that is determined is beyond me."



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 People for Life is helping to raise awareness about the Abortion-Breast Cancer (ABC) Link with a display in the front window or our main office. Call or write for ABC Link literature and visit AbortionBreastCancer.org.

**Editorial
FROM PAGE 4**

“[The Schiavo] case goes beyond the character and the importance that the media have rightly attributed to it.... I must confirm the moral judgment which does not change: It is an illicit and grave act.”

In this country, the chairman of the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Pro-Life Activities William Cardinal Keeler was sharply critical: “She deserves no less than human care and the respect due every human

being. She is not in a coma, she is not on ‘life support’.... She needs only basic care and assistance in obtaining food and water.”

Why the vast difference between these clear statements from such prominent church leaders and the misinformation and confusion I have witnessed locally? My guess is that those responsible for informing the people in the pews are not taking the time to properly inform themselves. And because they are not very familiar the human life issues and thus naïve about the contemporary culture of death, many are too easily satisfied with the

input they get from second-rate experts who are themselves out of step with mainstream pro-life thinking. There is obviously an urgent need for accurate information.

It is imperative that we educate *ourselves*. These matters are too important to leave to “experts” or so-called experts, religious or secular.

If we as a society accept the proposition that life is only a privilege, for those who measure up, it will be a “brave new”—and terrifying—world for each and every one of us.

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Ann DiMarco	Mario Bagnoni	Bill Schilling	William H. “Bill” Williams
Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald	Emma McClintock Dignan	Jean & Ed Hammer	William H. “Bill” Williams
Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald	Tom Dudenhoefer	Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald	William H. “Bill” Williams
James & Delores Garvey	James Hayes	Dan & Tanya Fitzgerald	William H. “Bill” Williams
Jean & Ed Hammer	Madge Hymers	Patrick & Lera Fitzgerald	William H. “Bill” Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bednar	Richard Kinsel	Michael & Inna Fitzgerald	William H. “Bill” Williams
Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald	Eleanor Lehr	John Fitzgerald	William H. “Bill” Williams
Charles & Mary Warner	Harvey Ringhand	Amy & Matt Roach	William H. “Bill” Williams
Helen Prizinski	Harvey Ringhand	Julia & Bob Whaling	William H. “Bill” Williams
Gail Smith	Harvey Ringhand	Mary & Lee Simmons	William H. “Bill” Williams
Jim & Rose Ann Yadeski	Harvey Ringhand		
Rene Calabrese	Harvey Ringhand	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Bob & Dolly Theiss	Harvey Ringhand	Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Scrimenti	Margaret Baronowski
Anonymous	Harvey Ringhand	Sue Weber	Her Mother, Fran Bauer
Jean & Ed Hammer	Harvey Ringhand	Marian Adelman	Fr. D.G. Davis
Mary C. Kujan	Harvey Ringhand	Cynthia Manna	Jean & Ed Hammer and all the Carnation Project volunteers
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Scrimenti	Rita Sgarlata	Dave Wayman	His Mother, Rosemary Wayman
Bob & Dolly Theiss	Robert Stewart	Jane Levesque	Dave Wayman’s Birthday
Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald	Mary Jane Wiest		
Dr. Frank & Mary Jane Episcopo	William H. “Bill” Williams		

People for Life is an all-volunteer, non-profit, citizen’s organization committed to affirming the intrinsic value of human life. We are dedicated to advancing true justice by working for the protection of all innocent human lives, whatever the age, race, sex, physical condition, economic status, or place of residence (including the womb). We encourage local involvement through education and

by fostering political awareness. We advocate loving alternatives to the primitive and violent “solutions” of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Together, we can create a society in which all human lives are held sacred.

The *Erie Echo* is published bimonthly in Erie, Pennsylvania by People for Life, Inc. Tim Broderick, editor

PEOPLE FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP		NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>
NAME _____		DATE _____	
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CITY _____		STATE _____	ZIP _____
E-MAIL _____		PHONE _____	FAX _____
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT _____	ORGANIZATION _____	OCCUPATION _____	
<small>Church, Business, Civic Organization, etc.</small>			
MEMBERSHIP	INDIVIDUAL \$10 _____	FAMILY \$20 _____	SENIOR CITIZEN \$5 _____
STUDENT \$5 _____	GROUP \$25 _____	PATRON \$50 _____	BENEFACTOR \$100 _____
OTHER AMOUNT _____			
ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR: Peach Street Billboard _____ Other Purpose (please specify) _____			
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother’s Day Carnation Project
	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Attendant	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March & Motorcade Worker
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Please make your check payable to: PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC. 1625 West 26th Street P.O. Box 1126 Erie, PA 16512		Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.	

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Terri Schindler-Schiavo
EDITORIAL by Tim Broderick

The death of Terri Shindler-Schiavo last spring spawned a number of local church-sponsored presentations about "end of life issues." Unfortunately, distortions and inaccuracies, especially about the Schiavo case, have been plentiful.

Somewhere in the midst of discussing brain death and the rights of dying patients to refuse excruciating medical treatments, the name Terri Schiavo is interjected.

Apples and oranges! The Terri Schiavo case was *not* an "end of life issue"—at least not until the woman was deliberately dragged to death's door by court-mandated starvation and dehydration (no feeding tube and *nothing by mouth*, not even Holy Communion, as you might recall).

This was a *disability rights* issue rather than an end of life issue. That is why 25 disability rights organizations strongly opposed the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube.

I have heard at these presentations that "every case is unique" and that we have no business "passing judgment" on what was done in this or that particular instance.

Unfortunately, Terri's case is not so unique. All across America patients considerably less cognitively disabled than Terri Schiavo have also been denied the right to receive food and water—not because they are on death's doorstep but because someone has decided that their lives "are unworthy of life."

My list of objections continues:

♦ Terri Schiavo was *not* "brain dead." If she had been "brain dead" she might have been a candidate for a heart-lung transplant donation, but *not* starvation.

♦ The autopsy did *not* vindicate those who arranged Terri's death nor did it prove that her supporters had it all wrong: The autopsy verified that Terri's brain was

2005 PRO-LIFE DATEBOOK 2006

- Nov. 1** Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot
- Nov. 4** Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive absentee ballots
- Nov. 8** Election Day
- Nov. 21** People for Life Meeting - 7:30 PM, 1625 West 26th St.
- Dec. 4** People for Life Christmas Party
- Jan. 7** 28th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast
- Jan. 7** Annual Greater Erie March & Motorcade for Life
- Jan. 22** 33rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
- Jan. 22** Bus Trip to the Washington, DC March for Life begins
- Jan. 23** 33rd March for Life - Washington, DC

extensively damaged and that she would never be "normal" again. That came as a surprise to *no one*! But since when is it okay to deny medical treatment, much less food and water, simply because it won't restore the patient to perfect health and fitness?

♦ A "living will" is *not* always a good thing. "The vernacular of living wills—such phrases as 'terminally ill,' 'no reasonable

expectation of recovery,' 'heroic measures,' and 'life-prolonging procedures'—is so fuzzy and open to interpretation (*U.S. News & World Report*)" that signing the wrong living will can be like signing a blank check, to be placed at the disposal of people who might not have the signatory's best interests at heart: hospital attorneys, insurance companies, or even life insurance beneficiaries and heirs. Living wills, by the way, were first introduced by organizations working to legalize euthanasia.

♦ The Terri Schiavo case was *not* about "patient autonomy" or respecting Terri's wishes. Her wishes were never established. Terri's guardian/husband never suggested that Terri had ever given a passing thought to health care options—not until years after Terri's injury and after he had hired the nationally known euthanasia promoter George Felos as his personal attorney.

♦ True, the Catholic Bishops of Florida had remarkably little to say as this tragedy was unfolding, but the matter *was* addressed by the Vatican. In a Vatican Radio address, for instance, Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life stated:

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PEOPLE FOR LIFE

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— HOURS —

Tuesday - 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Wednesday - 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Thursday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Saturday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Schedule subject to change

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