

SEPTEMBER 2010

Consistent Life News

New Book, Hot Off the Presses

CONSISTENTLY PRO-LIFE: THE ETHICS OF BLOODSHED IN ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY



Author Rob Arner (a CL Board member) takes up the question of when and under what circumstances is it morally justifiable for a Christian to take human life. The murder of abortionist Dr. George Tiller on Pentecost Sunday 2009 reignited the national debate over abortion by focusing attention on the seeming hypocrisy of those who would kill to defend life. But many who would condemn the killing of Dr. Tiller would readily justify the killing of human beings in other circumstances.

This leads to the question: What basis do we have to judge a specific act of violence as morally good or ethically justifiable in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Readers will discover in the witness of the ancient Christian church an example of how people might apply a consistent view to questions of the taking of human life. Through a new taxonomy that categorizes the ancient Christian witnesses according to individual issues such as abortion/infanticide, killing in war, and the bloody Roman "games," *Consistently Pro-Life* demonstrates that the early church consistently opposed the killing of human persons, and suggests that the discipline and moral clarity of the ancient Christians on issues of violence can show all of us, Christian or not, a new way forward in a time of polarizing culture wars.

The book is available from the publisher at wipfandstock.com and from some other book retailers.

Finally – *Consistently Opposing Killing* Coming Out in Paperback!

It was in 2008 that our anthology was published by Praeger, a publisher with an excellent reputation but also a predilection for charging high prices for hard-cover books. Libraries prefer those, but most of us prefer paperbacks with more reasonable prices – especially if we want to buy them in bulk to share.

Co-edited by Rachel MacNair and Stephen Zunes, chapters include Mary Meehan's classic 1980s article on the the Left betraying the sanctity of life in *The Progressive*, Nat Hentoff commenting on



PEACE & LIFE CONNECTIONS COMING WEEKLY!

Since the wonders of modern technology allow rapid communication, Consistent Life is taking advantage by sending out a roughly one-page newsletter by email every Friday.

We keep it short since we cater to busy people, but there are links to other websites for anyone who needs more. We can now bring your attention to consistent-life aspects of general news that just happened, and keep you updated on what consistent-life events are happening. We have suggestions for sharing the message and other kinds of participation, along with ways of delving deeper into different topics. We also offer a Quotation of the Week, and people have used those in their own publications.

The weekly email format also allows us to be more of a community rather than merely one-way communication. We encourage people to contribute short items to share with the rest of us.

If you're not yet a subscriber, you can find a button to subscribe for free at www.consistent-life.org/weekly.html (and each issue gives you an easy click to unsubscribe). That site also gives all the past issues – plus index!

Activist groups and the general public are becoming more and more aware that the web is more resource-efficient than sending paper through the mail. Therefore, we're doing more than offering our occasional multi-page newsletter, which we still do for lengthier articles and to reach non-web people. *Peace & Life Connections* is important because of its weekly frequency and its electronic nature, but is unique primarily because no other place draws out the kind of connections between issues of violence we do and explains why doing this is so very important. It's also important to hear about it more frequently.

his experience with adding abortion to his list of anti-violence concerns, an oral history of Prolifers for Survival by those active in it (Juli Loesch Wiley, Mary Rider, and Mary Meehan), ancient roots of the ethic, scholarly looks at surveys and studies, and a variety of other topics. It's divided into a section on Connected Problems and a section on Connected Solutions.

Once it's ready, the book can be ordered through www.iuniverse.com by putting the title in the search at the top.

Voices for Peace and Life

CONSISTENT LIFE ENDORSERS PLAY LEADING ROLE AT PEACE AMONG THE PEOPLES

BY ROB ARNER, CL BOARD MEMBER

Peace activists and educators from across the spectrum of Christianity convened in Elkhart, Indiana for the Peace Among the Peoples conference July 28-31, 2010, a preparatory gathering for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica in May 2011 by the World Council of Churches – the culmination of the WCC’s “Decade to Overcome Violence.”

The major focus was on achieving some common ground on the morality of war. Historically, a division has existed between pacifist (Historic Peace Churches) and adherents of the just war theory. Pacifists *always* reject violence and war, while the just war tradition says in certain instances warfare may regretfully be a moral option *only* as a last resort when strict criteria have been met. Traditionally, the two views have talked past one another. Yet both are based on the conviction that war is a grave moral evil. One goal was to get them to begin working together and talking *to* one another, not against one another, to advance the common goal of reducing and eliminating war and violence.

At the opening service on Wednesday, Catholic peace advocate, author, and Consistent Life endorser Mary Jo Leddy offered a quiet but powerful sermon on how peace and life activists can struggle against the dominationist spirit of empire. We should be like termites, she said, slowly chewing away at the foundations of the violent structures that undergird the empire to usher in a new world of cooperation instead of competition, where people come before profits and personal relationships come before corporations.

On Thursday there were presentations by Rita Nakashima Brock of Faith Voices for the Common Good, and by Philip LeMasters, an Orthodox priest and associate of Consistent Life member organization Orthodox Peace Fellowship. Brock gave a lively presentation on ancient Christian art. Ancient Christians, she argued, did not depict the dead Jesus because their theology stressed his resurrection life. LeMasters explained that Orthodox spirituality is an ongoing process, known as *theosis*, becoming more and more like Jesus in every area of life. The Orthodox maintain that Jesus’ absolute nonviolence is the normative standard for all Christians to grow into. There is no such thing as a “just war” in the Orthodox tradition. War is *always* a sin, regardless of its justification, and though Orthodox laity sometimes take up arms and even kill in defense of justice, it’s always with repentance and mournfulness, because killing another human being always traumatizes and harms the killer.

The next session brought the just war tradition and pacifism directly into dialogue. Prominent theological ethicist and Consistent Life endorser Stanley Hauerwas issued a scathing indictment of the just war mentality. The Christian church, he argued, doesn’t *have* an alternative to war, but rather is a people among whom Jesus’ pacifism and nonviolence are (or should be!) normative and therefore is an alternative to war. Wars are often justified by those waging them on the notion of “sacrifice,” Hauerwas observed; it’s argued we must not dishonor the

sacrifices of those who’ve died by abandoning their cause. “[F]or Americans war is a necessity to sustain our belief that we are worthy to be recipients of the sacrifices made on our behalf in past wars. Americans are a people born of and in war, particularly the Civil War, and only war can sustain our belief that we are a people set apart.” For Americans, deaths in war thus come to have redemptive meaning. But for Christians, “If the Civil War teaches us anything it makes clear what happens when Christians no longer believe that Christ’s sacrifice is sufficient for the salvation of the world. As a result, Christians confuse the sacrifice of war with the sacrifice of Christ.” Christ’s self-giving on the cross ended the necessity of war’s “sacrifices.”

Offering a counterpoint to pacifism, Gerard Powers of Notre Dame University’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice distinguished between “permissive” and “restrictive” versions of the just war tradition. A common misperception is that just war is a means to justify wars over against pacifism. In its best form, it’s not meant to *justify wars*, but to *make wars more just* and merciful than they would otherwise be. A *permissive* form assumes war and conflict are the normal order and seeks to justify wars, while a *restrictive* form sees war is an amoral intrusion into the moral order, with a strong presumption against war, even if we might allow for its possibility in certain tightly-controlled instances. It’s this restrictive form that can find common ground with pacifism.

On Friday, content moved to practical questions. Concurrent sessions focused on such topics as “Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Accountability,” countering violence against women, moral questions surrounding nuclear weapons, and legal implications of selective conscientious objection to particular wars. Consistent Life endorser Glen Stassen of Fuller Theological Seminary led a seminar on the emerging concept of “Just Peacemaking,” a series of ten practical strategies for both pacifists and just war adherents to prevent wars from starting.

That afternoon there were two powerful presentations. Author, Consistent Life endorser, and leader in the emerging church movement Brian McLaren explored six narratives contemporary Christians allow themselves to be shaped by that impede their witness for peace and negatively impact their faithfulness. Then Paul Alexander, cofounder of Pentecostals and Charismatics for Peace and Justice, told of how Pentecostal Christians, with powerful testimonies to the transformative power of God, are leading a new movement of protest against violence and oppression. These charismatic Christians combine their protest against violence with their testimony to the peaceable reign of God into “*pro-testimonies*” as they “*pro-testify*” against war.

Consistent Life was officially represented by board member Rob Arner, who spoke at the microphone several times about the need to draw connections between different issues of violence to see how they’re all united under the agreement to solve problems by killing people. Arner met and greeted the Consistent Life endorsers mentioned earlier in this article, all of whom played prominent roles in the conference’s plenary and concurrent sessions. CL’s official presence also included a display table with literature and CL-related books, which attracted a number of curious peacemakers interested in how they might offer a more consistent witness to peace and life in their communities and organizations.

MARCH FOR LIFE & ASSOCIATED EVENTS

Every year, on or about January 22, the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, the March for Life is held in Washington, DC. Simultaneous events are held across America, including the West Coast Walk for Life in San Francisco. This year, just like virtually every year, Consistent Life had a strong presence at the DC March. Board Members and volunteers Debbie Biesack (Bookkeeper), Carol Crossed, Tony Masalonis, Mary Rider (Treasurer), Bill Samuel (President), and Richard Stith, most of whom came from many miles away, all marched with the Consistent Life "Pro-Life, Pro-Peace" banner and/or related placards promoting the CLE. We were joined by CL member groups PLAGAL and Secular Pro-Life. Richard and Tony attended the breakfast meeting of CL member group Democrats for Life of America.

While in the DC area, Carol gave a talk on the Consistent Life Ethic at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Arlington, VA. Her joint presenter was Nancy Tanner of Silent No More Awareness, a group of people affected by abortion who share their experiences in order to help others in their situation to find healing, and help those considering abortion to choose life. The same week, Carol also presented on a panel at the Students for Life of America Conference in DC, held every year around the time of the March for Life. She gave a background and history of CL, including the mission statement, representative examples of signers and members, and CL statements by notable figures. Her presentation ended with the time-honored symbol of a dove holding a rose....an arm band still worn in New York State at various events to connect issues.

CL members and supporters nationwide are encouraged to find a March for Life event next January and every January in a location near (or not so near) you, and stand up for the value of all life, unborn and born. Let us know you're coming, and we can march together in solidarity!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSLATIONS FOR WEB

For outreach to a more international audience, we're translating consistent-life material into French, Spanish, and Chinese. Those languages were selected because we had volunteers for them, but we'd love to have translations into any language that people speak in any place with computers. If you have the ability to translate and would like to volunteer, please let coordinator Rachel MacNair know at admin@rachelmacnair.com. We are also looking for people knowledgeable on how to get information into the language's search engines and linked on appropriate pages.

CONSISTENT LIFE YOUTUBE CHANNEL (WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/CONSISTENTLIFE)

The CL YouTube Channel is up and running with some PowerPoint videos available for viewing! It's still quite a bit incomplete— but we plan to continually add new material! For starters, we're hoping to add music to make the PowerPoint videos on our channel more attractive (having decided that narration would be distracting), so any volunteers with skills along those lines would be much appreciated. Also, anyone who has appropriate videos that can be added can submit them for consideration to weekly@consistent-life.org.

EMBRACING A CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE SR. HELEN PREJAN

"CL endorser Sr. Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, is speaking on "Embracing a Consistent Ethic of Life" in Derwood, Maryland (St. Francis of Assisi Parish) at 7 PM, Monday, October 4, 2010. We want to videotape her talk and put it on our YouTube channel. We are looking for someone in that area with video equipment and skills to do this. If you can help, or know someone who can, contact us at weekly@consistent-life.org."

VIDEO NARRATED BY CL ENDORSER

A short documentary feature film has been released by the organization Nonviolent Peace Force. Entitled *Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping: Building a Nonviolent Peaceforce*, the video is narrated by Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire, a CL endorser, and produced by documentary filmmaker Jerry Smith.

This 18-minute video makes the case that unarmed civilian peacekeeping is the best hope for reducing and preventing violent conflict around the world. Filled with images and audio of NP peacekeepers at work and the people they protect, the film offers a concise and compelling description of what NP does, how it does it, and why it works.

"We're not romanticizing these concepts," says NP Executive Director Mel Duncan near the conclusion of the film. "This is hard-nosed hope that's been fostered in some of the most violent places in the world today and is working. There is growing recognition and deep understanding among people that this is not only working, but this is the way that we have to go."

The film can be viewed at: <http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/partone>



Screenshot from Nonviolent Peaceforce video: *Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping*

ARTICLES IN EVANGELICALS FOR SOCIAL ACTION'S MAGAZINE

A recent issue of Prism – magazine of member group Evangelicals for Social Action – contains not one but two articles related to the Consistent Life Ethic. One article documents how performing abortions is traumatic to the staff that do them. The other covers how the promise of “choice” has not turned out as envisioned by the pro-choice movement in the actual experience of widespread abortions. Both come from the book *Achieving Peace in the Abortion War* by Rachel MacNair, which covers these topics plus other aspects of applying the insights of peace psychology to the current abortion situation in the U.S.

We have a large number of copies of this issue of Prism, so it's available from the national office on request to anyone for lit tables or study groups. For the full book, visit www.iuniverse.com and put “MacNair” in the author search. This will also bring up the paperback version of *Perpetration-Induced Traumatic Stress: The Psychological Consequences of Killing*, which is a more scholarly work that includes the information on abortion staff in one chapter but also has chapters on combat veterans, executioners, and others.

CALL TO ACTION CONFERENCE

Last November, Tony Masalonis and Rachel MacNair ran a table at Call to Action, a conference of around 2,000 Catholics who focus on progressive causes. Catholics for Choice was also there, so it was especially good that Consistent Life had literature and books available. Many visitors took one of both of the buttons (“No War, No Death Penalty, No Abortion”, and “No Violence. Period.”) that we offered for free in exchange for a promise to wear them during the convention. As with tabling the same place the previous year, there were many people who were struggling though the issue of abortion and came to us to help talk it out. Some were pro-life but not clear on how to word it in ways that suited their liberal leanings; others were not pro-life because of displeasure with the pro-lifers they knew in their own diocese, but not comfortable with abortion either. Some just needed to be acquainted with the concept of cooperation with pro-lifers rather than regarding us as competitors to peace and justice concerns. Dialogs this fruitful are very gratifying, and so we look forward to doing this table again this year. If anyone who is going to this conference would like to hook up with us there, please contact us in advance at michaelgarcher@gmail.com

A HISTORICAL SUCCESS STORY

BY RACHEL MACNAIR

Within Consistent Life we've had long discussions about which issues to include when brevity is needed, and we often expand to related issues when writing at length. But there's one form of socially-approved killing we've never seriously contemplated adding to the list: duels.

This is of course because they aren't socially approved any more, and haven't been for a long time. We'd add the issue if there were a move to legalize or otherwise approve them. This is not anticipated.

Yet the practice used to be so prevalent that anyone with access to U.S. currency can see a portrait of a man who was killed in a duel on the \$10 bill: Alexander Hamilton, the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, was killed by Aaron Burr, the third Vice President. Hamilton participated despite being opposed to duels on moral grounds. This was after they were out of office, and Burr never got into office again, but it shows the grip that “defending honor” had on those with high prestige. This was in spite of the fact that duels were illegal at that point, and the punishments were harsh. One would think the natural consequences of a duel would be punishment enough, since an individual going into a duel is in more danger of death than an individual going into the average battle. But in some states there were laws saying the winning party would be hanged and both parties would lose all their property. Legal disapproval couldn't have been clearer. And undoubtedly there were far fewer duels as a result. But they still happened.



People that were the 18th-century equivalent of consistent-life advocates did oppose duels. William Wilberforce, best known for his work in helping end slavery in England, but also active on a host of compassion issues, noted that duels were a major sin of the upper class. He said this was a sin of which almost every male in the class was guilty, because even if they never actually engaged in a duel, they always stood ready to.

Duels had quite a grip on the upper class mind. Legislative prohibition didn't end them, though it probably helped. Growing social disapproval similarly helped, but more was needed.

The very heart of the belief in dueling as a solution to disputes comes from a sense that there is an “honor” that needs defending to the death, and to the death is how to defend the honor. Perhaps there was also a residual idea of the medieval trial-by-ordeal, whereby God would see that the person who was in the right won; in that case, a man that was sure he was in the right thought of the duel as less dangerous than it was. Both of these ideas dissipated over time, as “honor” became something to defend by writing an irate letter or standing up to make a cogent argument. The idea that God stood behind either of the dueling parties lost its verisimilitude.

Besides, the growing norm of freedom of speech made aversive speech easier to simply dismiss on the grounds that people had a right to say foolish things. The idea that honor was defended by killing someone became more bizarre.

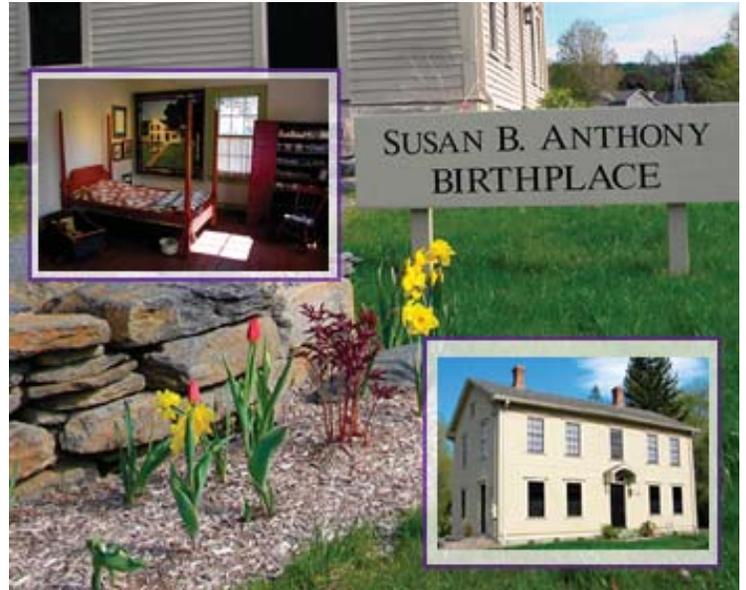
So we have a historical success story: legislative prohibitions and social objections were both quite necessary but also insufficient. Time was needed for them to work. But perhaps the final necessary condition was that the underlying root of the ideas driving the problem virtually disappeared, and the problem disappeared with it. That can serve as a lesson for all the other issues of violence we oppose today. We need to work on all angles, and especially the underlying ideas that drive the violence.

MUSEUM HONORING RENOWNED PRO-LIFE FEMINIST OPENS

The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 14 in Adams, MA. CL Board member Carol Crossed purchased the birthplace so it could be used as a museum, and serves as President of the Museum Board of Directors. The 2010 opening initiates the national 90th Anniversary celebration of the Susan B Anthony Amendment to the US Constitution in 1920, winning for women the right to vote.

Keynote address for the celebration was given by Democratic State Senator and Majority Whip Marian Walsh of Massachusetts. Exhibits include Quaker Life, Abolition, Suffrage, Opposition to Abortion, Temperance, and Winning the Vote.

For Museum hours of operation, check out their website at www.susanbanthonybirthplace.org or call 413-743-7121



TAKE ACTION: SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CPC

Crisis Pregnancy Centers are a perfect example of the pro-life movement "walking the walk". While well known for providing facts and support about all their options to women who are considering abortion, and encouraging life-giving choices, most of these centers do far more than counseling pregnant women. CPCs operate on the philosophy that "life does not end at birth" and provide ongoing support for mothers, fathers, and families who choose life for their babies, as well as providing referrals to post-abortion counseling. For example, Northwest Center in Washington, DC, like many centers of its kind, operates a goal planning and material assistance program for new mothers and fathers, and a maternity home for women who are in troubled home situations or find themselves homeless due to their pregnancy, and their born and unborn children. Several years ago, Northwest Center also instituted a career counseling program which assists new parents, especially those with limited job skills, to assess their immediate needs and long-term career goals, and plan their job searches and career paths, including education that might help them to realize their dreams.

The extensive availability of CPCs in the Washington, DC area was recently written up in Street Sense, a newspaper on issues relating to homelessness that is sold by homeless and underprivileged vendors. The article included an interview with CL Board Member and Northwest Center volunteer Tony Masalonis.

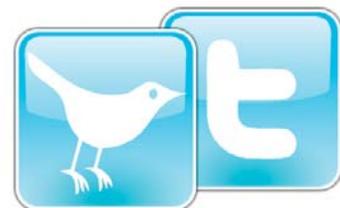
Crisis Pregnancy Centers are non-profit organizations staffed by professionals in the medical, social work, and other relevant areas, as well as volunteers from all walks of life who help out with everything from clerical work to "handyperson" activities to computer support. CPCs not only provide a valuable service to the communities where they are located, they also represent an excellent way for Consistent Life Ethic supporters to give of their time, talent, and/or treasure by supporting solutions to both abortion and poverty. They not only help parents and families to choose life, they also support a just world for women and families in tough situations.

For more information, see <http://optionline.org>, <http://www.care-net.org/>, or call 1-800-395-HELP.

Outside (or within) the US, visit <http://www.heartbeatinternational.org>

TWITTER

CL is now on Twitter!
Please follow us at
"ConsistentLife"



FROM OUR RESEARCH ARM

BY RACHEL M. MACNAIR, PH.D.

DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATED SOCIAL ANALYSIS

I've presented the "Heated Debates" survey, which shows that the consistent life ethic is rated as effective at moving people toward opposition to violence on one issue if they already oppose it on another issue, at several academic conferences:

- University Faculty for Life, June, 2009
- Peace & Justice Association, October, 2009
- Psychology of Religion & Spirituality, March, 2010
- International Peace Research Association (Sydney, Australia), July, 2010
- American Psychological Association, under the aegis of the Peace Psychology division, August, 2010.



Anyone wanting the PowerPoint or papers that were presented can send me a request (contact information below).

Nick DiFonzo and I have completed the pilot study on a survey designed to provide empirical evidence for the use of cognitive dissonance in persuasion as outlined in my book *Achieving Peace in the Abortion War*. I think initial results are promising. If anyone would be willing to take a set of paper surveys and get people to fill them out, this would be very helpful. In this case, we're looking for people who aren't particularly active on any of the issues, because we're checking how well a certain approach works with such people – not that it's bad if an activist sneaks into the respondent pool, but just that we're mainly looking for "non-activists".

Meanwhile, I'm working on a paper entitled "Research Agenda on Abortion from a Peace Psychology Perspective," which will be three-sided in its discussion (abortion as choice, abortion as tragic necessity, and abortion as violence). This paper has already been accepted for presentation at the Peace & Justice Studies Association conference this October. Anyone who has comments on the topic or would like to see the current draft of the paper can send me a request; feedback is helpful. *Contact: admin@rachelmacnair.com; Phone: 816.753.2057, Central Time Zone*

IT'S THAT SEASON

BY BILL SAMUEL, CL PRESIDENT

It's the season when you are bombarded with political ads in all the major media, your mail is flooded with campaign literature, and your phone is ringing with incessant robocalls from campaigns. This is the year for Congressional elections, and there are also state and local races in the majority of states.

It can be a very discouraging time for supporters of a consistent life ethic. Very few candidates campaign for such an ethic. Most clearly are at odds with us on at least one major issue.

However, we can also view it as a time of opportunity. The issues are being debated, so we have a chance to make thoughtful arguments for our perspective.

Some ways you can do that:

- Ask thoughtful questions at candidate forums tying together different life issues.
- Write letters to the editor and post on-line comments in response to political stories, highlighting the consistent life ethic alternative.

- Express your point of view when candidates knock on your door or greet you in a public location.
- Respond to mailed "surveys" and requests for contributions explaining why you are not supporting that campaign committee, and expressing the need for political positions favoring life in all circumstances.



Don't forget to visit the Consistent Life on-line store and share the message of Peace and Life!

www.cafepress.com/lifecounts

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Rachel has also written a college textbook as an introduction to peace psychology, so the other video comes from that work and is considerably more cheerful: "Nonviolence as Lively" details some sound psychological principles behind how nonviolence works. Both are over half an hour, but each includes a question-and-answer period at the end that can easily be dropped when in situations where a shorter presentation is called for.

The third video came from a presentation Rachel did at a Gandhian nonviolence conference and is called "Integrating the Culture of Peace and the Culture of Life." In this case, the question-and-answer period which followed is in a separate video.

We encourage people to not only view the videos to know more about these topics, but to encourage others to see them as well, link to them on your Facebook pages and elsewhere, and to use them in classes and groups that might be interested.

VISIT US ON THE WEB
www.consistent-life.org

VIDEOS ADDED TO YOUTUBE CHANNEL

New full-fledged videos (in addition to the PowerPoint slideshows) are up on the CL YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/ConsistentLife -- stay tuned as more are added.

The first two came from a single 90-minute presentation on peace psychology by the director of our research arm, Rachel MacNair, at a Historic Peace Churches conference. Rachel has a Ph.D. in psychology and specializes in Perpetration-Induced Traumatic Stress, which is the term for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder when it's caused by acts of killing or other horrific violence. So the video is entitled "Killing as Trauma," covering sufferers including combat veterans, executioners, and abortion staff.



SIGN US UP!

WE WANT TO BECOME MEMBERS OF CONSISTENT LIFE OF TO RENEW OUR MEMBERSHIP.

Our contribution of \$_____ is enclosed. (Select Membership Type) Organizational Member or Individual Member

Name: _____
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Phone Number: () _____ - _____ FAX: () _____ - _____

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBER DUES

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER DUES

- \$50 Groups under 100 members
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- \$____ For Communities living in voluntary poverty

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 Website: www.consistent-life.org

For on-line and other giving options, please go to:
www.consistent-life.org/join.html

To donate in other than American currency, please go to:
www.ammodo.com/nonprofit/consistent-life

CL ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Jim Balmer was a draft resister during the Vietnam War and has been active in peace and racial justice organizations and pro-life activities. He's been committed to the consistent ethic of life for many years. He is President of Dawn Farm, which offers treatment and support for those with drug and alcohol problems. He is an experienced and effective fundraiser. Jim brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm to Consistent Life, as we pursue our vision of a world of peace, justice and respect for everyone's life, and now chairs our Fundraising Committee.



CONSISTENT LIFE

OUR MISSION

We are committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in today's world by war, abortion, poverty, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia.

We believe that these issues are linked under a 'consistent ethic of life'. We challenge those working on all or some of these issues to maintain a cooperative spirit of peace, reconciliation, and respect in protecting the unprotected.

OUR PURPOSE

We serve the anti-violence community by connecting issues, building bridges, and strengthening the case against each kind of socially-approved killing by consistently opposing them all.

SEAMLESS GARMENT WORKSHOP



In March, CL Board member Tony Masalonis and Advisory Board member Paul Magno Jr. attended a Seamless Garment Dialogue Workshop at Mt. Providence Center near Baltimore. Sponsored by the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative, the conference featured talks by activists in the pro-life and social justice areas (or both), and several small group workshops were held to train participants to engage in fruitful, respectful dialogue in situations where they agree with others on some but not all life issues (or any issues). CL literature and merchandise were available, and a number of attendees signed up for further information on CL.



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