



An International Network for Peace, Justice and Life

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## **Summer 2006 Newsletter Updated Information**

Please note that our address has changed since the Newsletter was sent out. Neither the D.C. or Tennessee addresses for us in the Newsletter are valid anymore.

All correspondence and donations should be sent to:

P.O. Box 9295  
Silver Spring, MD 20916-9295

Thank you.

Bill Samuel  
President, Consistent Life

# Consistent Life News

*An International network for peace, justice and life*



Issue #6  
Summer 2006

## Consistent Life Continues Challenge to Amnesty International on Abortion

Following its action this Spring in response to Amnesty International's 2005 International Council Meeting decision to begin consideration of policies on abortion, Consistent Life has responded with the following announcement:

The movement of Amnesty International in the direction of recognizing a "right" to kill an unborn child is a matter of great distress to its consistent-life constituency. All those who report on having called AI's national office in the United States received curt responses stating that AI is maintaining neutrality, in contradiction to the form letters the same people receive after writing to AI. We have found no indication that the phone calls or the letters are being tallied in order to give decision-makers an accurate assessment of the widespread dismay their decisions can cause. The "policy consultation process" the form letter claims to be underway must be problematic when those who call are not having their names and addresses taken down, while being told emphatically that this process is nothing but a rumor.

Accordingly, Consistent Life, an international network for peace, justice and life, is organizing a drive to allow this constituency to be registered and counted (see text below). All those who have ever supported AI are invited to sign it

at:

**[www.petitionspot.com/petitions/consistentlife](http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/consistentlife)**

We ask sympathizers to forward this message on to all individuals and listserves who may be interested. Links on web pages and notices in newsletters and newspapers would be much appreciated, along with any other ideas for getting the word out.

The on-line format allows a running tally to be seen by anyone at any time. Tallies will be announced to the media periodically at appropriate points.

The online petition text reads:

**"Registry of Consistent-Life  
Supporters  
of Amnesty International**

We have contributed money or actions to Amnesty International, and want to be able to continue to do so in good conscience. We are distressed about the move to frame abortion as a right, rather than understanding it as a form of violence.

Abortion is violence against unborn children. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child states that every child "needs special safeguards and care, including legal protection, before as well as after birth." [Resolution 1386(XIV) of 20 November 1959]

Abortion is violence against

women. Unjust pressures on women become more likely with abortion availability, such as sexual exploitation and lack of services or workplace accommodations for mothers.

Large numbers of women have indicated that their abortion was a major trauma for them.

We are afraid Amnesty International could lose its most important asset: its credibility. We support AI's advocacy against the death penalty for the guilty. Will the sincerity of this be discounted by some if AI supports legalizing it for the innocent? "Human rights" can be dismissed as partisan propaganda when used by people advocating some form of violence. Because AI's work is so crucial, the consequences of squandering its well-earned reputation are truly dire.

The proposed stand for medical care for women who have had botched abortions is reasonable, as for women who have suffered torture or rape or any other kind of violence. From our point of view, it is in the same category. The current stand AI takes against coerced abortion is also admirable.

Beyond these, since AI has another large constituency that would keep it from taking our position, the previous long-standing position of neutrality on abortion is a reasonable compromise."

*Those unable to go to the online petition are asked to contact our office for assistance in signing on.*



## Doing Stuff



We were able to debut our new banner at the January March for Life in Washington DC. Its simple, positive message stood out, inviting cameras and conversations all along the march route. That's Sarah Magno looking into Bill Samuel's camera & Paul Magno looking, where else, to his left.

### HARMONY To Cease Publication

Publisher Rose Evans is discontinuing Harmony, the consistent ethic magazine. There will be one last, triple sized issue, a wide ranging account of the whole consistent ethic movement. Subscribers will receive this automatically, others may order it by sending \$5 to harmony, P.O.Box 210056, San Francisco CA 94121-0056.

### Pax Christi honors former Consistent Life President

Pax Christi USA honored four Catholic peace and justice activists with the "Ambassador of Peace" designation for their service to Pax Christi over many years at its July annual conference at Duquesne University. Honorees included former Consistent Life President Rev. Joseph Nangle, OFM. Fr. Nangle currently serving on Consistent Life's Advisory Board, is a founding member of the Assisi Community in Washington, D.C.

### Supreme Court Agrees with CL on Right to Protest

In February, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Scheidler v. National Organization of Women* that Federal laws against racketeering and extortion can not be used to prevent demonstrations against abortions. It was the third time the Court had ruled on the case, which NOW initiated in 1986.

Consistent Life has organized a number of national organizations and peace and justice leaders to sign an amicus brief to the Court each time. On this third trip to the Court, two major labor unions also signed on to the Consistent Life brief.

Groups which are not necessarily pro-life on abortion joined the brief because they could see that any group demonstrating for a cause would potentially be at risk if protest actions were treated as if they were racketeering and extortion. Because Consistent Life stands for six major life issues not only for the lives of the unborn, it was particularly well placed to bring a diverse coalition of groups together to urge the Court to protect the rights of Americans to express their views on any cause in public demonstrations.

With regard to filing our amicus brief this last time, Consistent Life Board member Carol Crossed, who has spearheaded our efforts in this case, said, "Enough is enough. Why drag this on and on at enormous cost to people who have the courage to dissent?" Apparently the Court agreed with her.

## Announcing Cafe Press

Consistent Life has begun offering several gift items that will give you a chance to spread the message. You'll be able to wear it, drink from it, stick it on your fridge or car! Check out our site at:

[www.cafepress.com/LIFECOUNTS](http://www.cafepress.com/LIFECOUNTS)

Some images you'll see:  
BUMPER STICKERS/MAGNETS:



T-SHIRTS:

No violence to our earth.  
No violence to our unborn.  
No violence to our partners.  
No violence to our enemies.  
No violence to our children.  
No violence to our prisoners.  
No violence to our dying.  
  
No violence. Period.

Consistent Life  
[www.consistent-life.org](http://www.consistent-life.org)

CHILD'S GEAR:





### Coming On Board:



**Julie Shockley** joined the Consistent Life Board of Directors in January. She agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer, filling a vacant Treasurer's post and replacing longtime Secretary Rose Evans, who asked to curtail her duties due to declining health. Rose will graciously continue to serve Consistent Life on the Board of Directors.

Julie's personal pro-life ministry investigates the physical, psychological, and spiritual devastation of abortion at [www.AbortionHurts.com](http://www.AbortionHurts.com). She earned her B.A. in psychology from Arizona State University in 1991, and has over twenty years of experience working in private and public accounting. Julie currently lives in Jackson TN



**Rachel Muha** who just joined our board this July, is from Cleveland OH and received her degree from Ohio State University; She is married and the mother of two sons, Chris (just graduated from Yale Law School) and Brian. She also has a Catechetical diploma from the Catholic Distance



**Scott Schaeffer-Duffy** accepted an invitation to join our Board in February.

Scott is a father of four, living with his wife Claire and their children at the Catholic Worker in Worcester MA. He received his degree in religious studies from the College of the Holy Cross. He reports continuous efforts, from college to the present, to persuade people to see the connections between life issues.

He embraces "radical nonviolence, nonviolence that goes to the root of its highest ideals and to the root of violence's seductive allure," and maintains that the "consistent life ethic is not only morally and intellectually correct, but enormously powerful for initiating long-awaited creative change for the better."

University; has held various positions in local and state Right to Life organizations; founded Christifideles (children's group, later evolved into home school group and now independent school); and founded The Brian Muha Memorial Foundation. Her primary work currently is to administer the Foundation's various programs, which prioritize needy inner city children; speak and write on forgiveness, the death penalty, suffering, God's grace. Her son Brian's brutal murder at the hands of burglars in 1999, has been the impetus for these commitments.



**Linda Naranjo-Huebl** agreed to join our Board in March

Linda grew up in a large family in Denver CO. She became involved with Denver's first independent crisis pregnancy center in 1981, and her family has hosted over fifty young pregnant women in their home since then. In 1982 she joined Feminists for Life and began work with its Denver chapter, as a writer and speaker at colleges and other public forums and with various prolife coalitions promoting prolife and prowoman education and legislation initiatives.

In 1995 she co-edited, along with Rachel MacNair and Mary Krane Derr, *Prolife Feminism: Yesterday and Today*, recently expanded and reissued. She serves on the board of directors of the Feminism and Nonviolence Studies Association and conducts research and teaching in the areas of women's studies, American ethnic literatures and history, and peace issues.

In 2001, she earned a Ph.D. in English, in Women's and American Ethnic Literature, at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Linda is currently a Professor of English at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI and remains close to her extended family as a part-time resident of Denver.



## *Our Members In Action*

### ***Sr Helen Prejean Withdraws from Anti-Bush Ad Due to Inclusion of Abortion***

Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking* and endorser of the Consistent Life mission statement, withdrew her name from the endorsement of a *New York Times* ad urging the removal of George W. Bush from the Presidency. She had signed the ad based on a draft, and was not shown the final version before publication.

Sister Helen's endorsement of the draft ad was based on opposition to President Bush's pursuit of war in Iraq, approval of torture, zealous promotion of imprisonment and executions, and fiscal policies causing an increase in poverty. Her statement withdrawing her endorsement said in part (emphasis in original):

There is, however, one issue addressed in the ad that I cannot endorse, which if I had seen the

final version of the ad would have led me to withhold my signature. The statement reads: "Your government is moving to deny women here and all over the world the right to birth control and abortion." The life issues involved in the beginning of life are exceedingly complex. **My stance on abortion is a matter of public record. I stand morally opposed to killing: war, executions, killing of the old and demented, the killing of children, unborn and born. As I have stated publicly many times, I stand squarely within the framework of "the seamless garment" ethic of life. I believe that all of life is sacred and must be protected, especially in the vulnerable stages at the beginning of life and its end.**

The full statement can be read at Sr. Helen Prejean's website, <http://www.prejean.org>

Consistent Life thanks Sr. Helen for her clear statement on the consistent ethic of life

### ***Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Acquired by Pro-Life Feminist***

Feminists For Life, a Consistent Life member organization, announced in August that the Adams MA birthplace of suffragist organizer Susan B. Anthony was sold at auction.

Carol Crossed, a Director of Feminists for Life of New York, and also a Director of Consistent Life purchased the historic house, which will be managed and cared for by Feminists for Life of America. Others who care about Susan B. Anthony will be provided a means to contribute ideas. Femists for Life continues the tradition of Susan B. Anthony and

and other early American suffragists who fought for women and children—born and unborn.

"Susan B. Anthony challenged us to address the root causes that drive women to abortion—the same problems that face women who parent today," said FFL President Serrin M. Foster.

"We are thrilled and grateful that Carol Crossed stepped forward to buy Susan B. Anthony's birthplace," said Foster. Feminists for Life recognized Crossed in 2003 year as a "Remarkable Pro-Life Woman." Crossed lives in Rochester NY, home of Anthony in her later years of activism.

### ***Sojourners Announces "Significant Changes"***

Sojourners, a progressive evangelical Christian periodical, and its sister organization, Call To Renewal, announced this summer the formal merger of the two organizations to strengthen its growing movement to overcome poverty and "put faith to work for justice"

Sojourners, a Consistent Life member organization, in which we published our ad calling people of conscience to our mission a few years ago, explained the "significant changes" in its recent issue of the magazine. Editor Jim Wallis wrote: "... in June it became official, with the boards of Sojourners and Call to Renewal joining forces to create a new and much stronger organization. For the moment, we are simply calling it 'Sojourners/Call to Renewal ... 'The creation of this new organization ... has the particular vocation of seeking to build a movement that puts faith to work for justice. The particular mission of Call to Renewal in overcoming poverty will continue, and now even more strongly with the Covenant for a New America and a commitment to put poverty on the forefront of the political agenda by the 2008 elections. But we will also serve larger and broader purposes that Sojourners has stood for over the last three decades."

Susan B. Anthony died 100 years ago. Foster thanked the new owner of Anthony's birthplace for all she is doing to "keep the memory of Susan B. Anthony alive, and giving birth to a new legacy. We hope that this purchase will renew interest in the early American feminists."

FFL's work to advance holistic solutions for women can be found at [www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org).



## Membership Dues

We rely on your donations to help fund the work we do, so please be generous when you send in your dues. Amounts for organizational and individual memberships are listed below.

**SIGN US UP!** We want to become members of *Consistent Life* (or renew our membership). Enclosed is our contribution for membership.

☐ Organizational Member

☐ Individual Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Organization and Contact Person or Individual Member)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( ) - . Fax: ( ) - .

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Organizational Member Dues

\$50 Groups under 100 members

\$100 Group 100- 500 members

\$200 Groups over 500 members

\$\_\_\_\_ For communities living in  
voluntary poverty (whatever can be given)

\$\_\_\_\_ Pledge in addition to Consistent Life Dues

### Individual Member Dues

\$25 Individual Members

\$40 Household Membership

\$75 Supporter

\$100 Patron

\$15 Low Income Membership

☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ annually

Donations and membership fees to Consistent Life are tax deductible

Summer 2006

**Send to: Consistent Life, 105 Glenhurst Dr., Jackson TN 38305**

**Consistent Life**

[www.CONSISTENT-LIFE.org](http://www.CONSISTENT-LIFE.org)

## IISA Update:

### News From the Research Arm of Consistent Life

#### New Books

*PROLIFE FEMINISM: YESTERDAY & TODAY* came out in January, in a second expanded edition. Full of the writings of the feminists of yesteryear and contemporary views, IISA has been helping get the word out. Good comments have come in from self-identified pro-choices reviewers as material that made them stop and think. For more information, see <http://www.fnsa.org/pfyt.html>.

*PROTECTING THE UNPROTECTED:  
THE POWER OF BEING CONSISTENT* is an anthology on the consistent life ethic from a wide variety of

perspectives. The chapters are all collected. For more information, see [www.rachelmacnair.com/prolifebooks](http://www.rachelmacnair.com/prolifebooks).

#### Travel

Director Rachel MacNair has made many trips to academic conferences, especially peace-oriented ones. She reports that there are themes that seem to be accepted and draw interesting discussions among people who say they're given pause to think beyond their "pro-choice" assumptions: integrating the culture of peace and the culture of life, the impact of the abortion debate on the achievement of peace movement goals, and conflict transformation skills for the left-wing/right-wing divide. Handouts on these points are being developed for wider use by CL sympathizers.

#### Networking

Anyone who would like to participate in the network to promote quantity and quality of scholarship on the consistent life ethic can find the form to fill out at: <http://www.consistent-life.org/research.html>

#### Vietnam/Cambodia

Vietnam apparently has the highest abortion rate in the world (though Russia has the highest ratio). Might this be connected to the major traumatization of the war? Though answers are not likely to be found in a few days, Rachel will be visiting Vietnam and Cambodia on a People-to-People delegation of psychologists this November. Watch future newsletters to see what she finds out.

Note: Contributions Should Go To:  
105 Glenhurst Dr., Jackson TN 38305

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Consistent Life  
1426 9th St NW  
Washington DC 20001

## Randall Balmer Endorses Mission Statement

Consistent Life is pleased to announce that Randall Balmer has endorsed its Mission Statement. Dr. Balmer is Ann Whitney Olin Professor of American Religion at Barnard College, Columbia University.

Dr. Balmer has published widely both in academic and scholarly journals, and in the popular press. He is Editor-at-Large for *Christianity Today*. He has written or co-written ten published books, including recent works *The Encyclopedia of Evangelicalism* and *Religion in Twentieth Century America*.

Dr. Balmer has also written three scripts for documentaries shown on PBS. He was nominated for an Emmy for his work on *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in*

*America*. In his article "Jesus Is Not a Republican" in the June 23, 2006 issue of *The Chronicle Review*, Dr. Balmer argued that evangelicals should expand their concern for human life:

"Evangelicals opposed to abortion would be well advised to follow some Catholic teaching a bit further on this issue. As early as 1984, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, the late archbishop of Chicago, talked about opposition to abortion as part of a 'seamless garment' that included other 'life issues': care for the poor and feeding the hungry, advocacy for human rights, and unequivocal opposition to capital punishment. Surely the adoption of what Bernardin called a 'consistent ethic of life' carries with it greater moral authority than opposition to abortion alone.

## Consistent Life Books

*Working for Peace: A Handbook of Practical Psychology and Other Tools*. In collaboration with Psychologists for Social Responsibility, this is expertise for activists on how to make activism of all kinds more effective. Consistent Life is explained on page 168. The book is described and is available at: [www.impactpublishers.com/books/Working\\_for\\_Peace.html](http://www.impactpublishers.com/books/Working_for_Peace.html)

*Perpetration-Induced Traumatic Stress: The Psychological Consequences of Killing*. This book pulls together scholarship that suggests that killing can be a stressor that kicks off cases of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, apparently being even more severe than being the victim in traumatic situations. Available at: [www.rachelmacnair.com/orders.html](http://www.rachelmacnair.com/orders.html)