

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first issue of our 24th volume. We open with Professor James Hitchcock's "Abortion and the 'Catholic Right' Part II," in which he discusses critical reactions to "Abortion and the 'Catholic Right'" (Spring 2007). Rather than introduce Hitchcock's sequel here, I have written an "Afterword" (p. 24) which discusses reactions *we* received to Professor Hitchcock's controversial article, and my thoughts about them.

Sadly, we have lost two great men in the last six months: Representative Henry J. Hyde, a giant of the pro-life movement and an irreplaceable American statesman, died on November 29; and then, on February 27, we lost our dear friend, and peerless nobleman of so *many* causes, William F. Buckley Jr. We have a collection of tributes in a special section, "Remembering Henry Hyde," with an exceptionally fitting piece written for the *Review* by senior editor William Murchison, "The Right Man" (p. 77).

It is with poignancy that I note the last time I heard from Mr. Buckley: It was in a note, dated January 21, in which he commented on a tribute to Henry Hyde I'd written for another publication. "Dear Maria," he began, "That was a lovely tribute you gave to Henry Hyde. He was such a super man, in every way. . . ." Well, we can say the same about Mr. Buckley, and senior editor Faith A. McFadden does so in "Remembering 'Sir William'" (p. 31). Some readers may not know that there might never have been an *HLR* without Bill Buckley and *National Review*: Faith tells the story of the relationship between my father, James P. McFadden, and WFB, a connection that meant so much to us all. The world seems much the poorer without these men, but I like to think of my father enjoying a heavenly meeting with two men whose friendship he cherished.

In a special section beginning on p. 35, we feature the *earthly* story of our 2007 Great Defender of Life dinner. It was an inspiring evening, and we have reprinted all of the speeches and some festive photos as well. Father Richard John Neuhaus told of the decisive moment when he knew that he was "recruited for the duration" in the fight to restore a culture of life; Professor George McKenna highlighted his decade-long connection to the *Review*; and *National Review* senior editor Ramesh Ponnuru, author of *The Party of Death: The Democrats, the Media, the Courts and*

the Disregard for Human Life, discussed current realities in the pro-life movement. Our Great Defender of Life for 2007, Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey, wowed the audience with his wide-reaching and impassioned speech about the many issues opposing a culture of life, and the urgency of fighting them now. (“Do enough of us understand the overwhelming urgency for action? Do enough of us really understand the big, moral, global meltdown, and that it can get worse, very quickly? Clones, chimeras, the 2008 election: all of this money that is pouring in to the pro-abortion movement.”)

If there was a unifying message from all the speakers of the evening, it was that we must not grow weary or despair. “It couldn’t be more clear,” Smith concluded, “that both at home and abroad, we need to do more now. If any of us are tired, you know we just don’t have the luxury of getting discouraged or tired. We really have to be in this for the long haul and ask for the grace, and the sustaining power that comes from the Lord, to really take this on anew, in every way.”

Contributor Stephen Vincent reports for us next on a movement that *is* generating new life and energy in many pro-life warriors. “40 Days for Life,” which took place last fall and again during Lent this year, is a national campaign to organize 40-day continuous-prayer vigils outside of abortion clinics across the country. Unlike Operation Rescue, participants do not attempt to bar women from entering clinics; they remain outside, praying in peaceful witness, and ready to speak with anyone who approaches them. It is a campaign of “prayer and fasting.” Thanks to the efficiency of email, thousands of people unite themselves in prayer with the thousands who sign up for hours outside the clinics. Vincent writes: The “fasting, or self-giving sacrifice comes from participants who go way beyond giving up chocolate for Lent by going to the abortion clinic—a ‘modern-day Calvary’—to fill one or more of the 24-hour slots” during the 40 days. Vincent has interviewed David Bereit, the national director, who is hopeful about the campaign’s effectiveness. Bereit reports that

40 Days for Life is reviving many who had grown weary in the pro-life movement, and it is building a whole new generation of hope-filled pro-life leaders and activists. I really believe that we are witnessing the beginning of the end of abortion in America.

We pray he is right!

Over the years, the *Review* has been pleased to develop relationships with pro-life journalists from other English-speaking countries, notably England and Ireland. In “A Pro-Life Special Relationship” (p. 65), Edward Short profiles Jack Scarisbrick, the British founder of the impressive organization LIFE, who is also reaching “across the pond” to collaborate with American pro-life activists. Short had the opportunity to meet Scarisbrick at his headquarters in Royal Leamington Spa, “where he described the work that he and LIFE are doing to combat the scourge of abortion.” LIFE, an organization with “over 26,000 active supporters throughout the U.K. and indeed around the world,” was founded by Scarisbrick and his wife

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Nuala in 1970, as a response to Britain's Abortion Act of 1970. LIFE is the leading provider of crisis-pregnancy and post-abortion counseling in the U.K.; it also sponsors conferences, publishes a journal, and operates natural-fertility programs and even infant hospices. Short's essay for us is also a compelling report on the history of the pro-life movement in Britain, and how it compares to our struggles here.

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We lead our appendices with two accounts of this year's March for Life (on January 22nd, the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*), from Mark Hemingway, writing on National Review Online, and from our own managing editor, Anne Conlon. Mrs. Conlon is the editor of the newsletter *catholic eye*, also founded by my late father, and her *In the News* section on the march is an invaluable addition to this issue, as well as to the *Review's* record of our movement. Anne and I went together this year, and I brought one of my children, Anna (11) who took the photos we included. I wanted Anna to see the young people out in full force, and we were not disappointed—I'd say about 85 percent of marchers were between 14 and 22! This is precisely why photos of the march don't seem to make it into the mainstream press: not a cheery sign for those ageing grande dames of the abortion-rights movement, like Frances Kissling (former president of Catholics for a Free Choice) and Kate Michelman (former president of NARAL), whose oddly confessional editorial in the Los Angeles *Times* both Hemingway and Conlon found noteworthy.

Appendix C is a reprint of a column about our *Review*, published in a special *Roe*-anniversary section in the Catholic newsweekly, *Our Sunday Visitor*. We were proud that the section also includes an interview with our friend, *HLR* contributor and Great Defender of Life of 2005 awardee, Nat Hentoff ("Atheist journalist fights for all human life") whose column about Henry Hyde is reprinted on p. 91. And finally, we have reprinted one of the abundance of tributes to William F. Buckley. G. Tracy Meehan's column is an exceptional account of the breadth of Buckley's character, accomplishments and influence, and he acknowledges Buckley's part in supporting the founding of our *Review*, about which he says "there is nothing like it in the developed world."

Well, if there isn't, it's largely thanks to our readers and supporters, and to signature touches like the Nick Downs cartoons we adore, including those here. Hope you enjoy it all.

MARIA MCFADDEN
EDITOR