

July 26, 2011

Memo to: All friends of the Foundation

From: Maria McFadden

Re: [A Special Offer](#)

Last week I got an unexpected phone call from a friend of ours. It was a grace, because I hadn't talked to him in a while, and he is one of those people whose extraordinary goodness refreshes my spirits. This time he also renewed my hope! He said he'd read my last letter—of course he didn't have to read between the lines to know that I was especially worried about the Foundation's funds—and he wanted to let me know that he would be making a generous donation; he asked if offering it to us as a matching grant would help.

It didn't take long for me to say: Yes! Actually, as our financial manager Rose remarked when she heard the news, it is an answer to our prayers. It is a great incentive for supporters to know that contributions will be doubled until we make our goal; our past matching grants have brought us a real jump in support. This is our first summer matching-grant drive, but even in these extra hot, slow-moving days, I am hoping for an energetic response, because the Foundation really needs the help—now.

So here is the deal: Our friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, will match any donation until we reach \$24,000—his total gift! This is the first time this individual has made such an offer, and I am hoping to impress him with the caliber of Foundation supporters—the sooner we can match the grant, the better! Let me remind you as well that it's now possible for you to donate to us online; just go to our website, www.humanlifereview.com, and use the code 3MG so we know it is a matching-grant contribution.

Believe me, I'd like nothing more than to do well enough so that I could stop worrying about—and stop asking you for—money. But while I can dream about that, I do need to ask for your support now. What we do here is, I am convinced, crucial in the struggle to regain respect for the sanctity of human life. I was at a meeting recently where a college professor remarked that the seat of *anti*-life thinking and rhetoric was still academia, and that proliferators had to fight the culture of death vigorously on the intellectual level. Well, the *Human Life Review* publishes the most intelligent, persuasive (and often scholarly) articles around, but we've got to let more people know about us. In my last letter, I specifically asked for help in getting more copies into the hands of students. I'm happy to report that thanks to your response we've been doing just that—not long ago we shipped several boxes of the *Review* to a priest in Chicago who distributed them at a bi-national (U.S. and Mexico) pro-life congress in Phoenix, Arizona.

The *Review* is unique because it features such a variety of articles: research-based academic papers; legal, medical, and political analyses; news reporting; thoughtful philosophical and/or theological essays—and stories that, in the words of another friend of ours, “Tear at your heart.” Minds and hearts need to be opened and swayed toward conversion, pro-life thinkers need to be strengthened, and young people need to be educated. As several distinguished pro-life advocates have reminded us lately, it's well and good to attempt to effect change in the political realm, but politicians must have the support of their constituents—the *culture must support* the pro-life message. And with so many mainstream cultural influences against us, it's more urgent than ever that the *Review* continue putting the truth out there. We may be small, but the truth itself is powerful. We need not fear that our message will be lost; it will take root.

(over, please)

As you know, in the *Review's* appendices section we reprint important work from the U.S. and abroad that readers might otherwise have missed. One of our favorite writers, whose columns have appeared in dozens of *Reviews* over the years, is Paul Greenberg. A Pulitzer Prize winner, he is the editorial-page editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and a stalwart and outspoken defender of life. I am pleased to announce that we will honor him with our Great Defender of Life award at our annual fundraising dinner on October 27. Greenberg has a unique style that combines powerful truth-telling with dashing good humor and a southern gentleman's sensibility. If you want to read more of his columns, you can find them online at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (<http://www.arkansasonline.com>), *Townhall.com* or the *Jewish World Review* (<http://www.jewishworldreview.com>). Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, will introduce our honoree, and Jack Fowler, publisher of *National Review* and a former *HLR* editor, has agreed to be Master of Ceremonies. It is shaping up to be a great evening; you can check out details on our website at www.humanlifereview.com. (Send your friends to our site too. We've got articles—including Ronald Reagan's "Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation"—posted there, a bookstore, Foundation news . . . and, again, book orders and donations can be made online.)

As many of you are longtime friends and correspondents with us, I will share some difficult news regarding my mother, our Senior Editor Faith McFadden. Just when she was starting to come back to work and hoped to be zipping around again on the subway (her favorite way to travel), she started experiencing pain that we hoped was not serious but which rapidly increased in severity. In late June tests showed a recurrence of cancer, near her shoulder, which is pressing on nerves and causing the pain. She is at home now, undergoing treatments and resting. This has been a great blow for Faith, and for us all; we ask for your prayers.

In such times of adversity, though, we have my late father J.P.'s example shining before us. Throughout his own struggle with cancer—during which time he also suffered the loss, from cancer, of his son, my older brother, Robert—J.P. did not falter in his devotion to the Foundation's work. He kept the issues coming, he wrote his unforgettable letters to you; like the brave soldier he was, he got up every day and persevered in his mission. And he did so with grace and wit—so that there were still joyful times. My mother too is actively involved in our work, vetting the newspapers for us, reading and editing articles. She has a tiny home office, and I am at her apartment now, as a matter of fact, writing this on my handy little computer, so I can keep her company and work at the same time. It cheers her greatly to know that we are making things happen at the Foundation, to which she has devoted so much time and energy.

I hope you will share our devotion to the Human Life Foundation's work by helping make the matching grant, so generously offered, a resounding success. Remember, especially now, no gift is too small—each contribution helps us on our way to the culmination of the grant. I know we are not alone—families have times of suffering, and organizations often struggle; and we can help bring the joy of truth and life to others by continuing here. I am grateful beyond words for your support to do just that.

I wish you and yours a safe rest of the summer, and may you be rewarded for your generosity.

Yours faithfully,

Maria McFadden
President