

Pro-Life Wisconsin Speakers' Bureau

Pro-Life Wisconsin is pleased to offer a variety of speakers with extensive knowledge on a diverse range of pro-life issues. To schedule one of these speakers or to learn more about how a PLW spokesperson can share the pro-life message in your community, please contact Virginia Zignego, Director of Communications, at the PLW State Office: (262) 796-1111 ext 12 or info@prolifewisconsin.org. Tell us about the audience and the message you want them to hear and we'll match you with the right member of PLW's Speakers' Bureau.



Julie Archibald - Julie graduated from Loyola University in Chicago with a B.S. in Education. She is a board member and past president of PLW and represents PLW on the Archdiocesan Respect Life Committee. She has done extensive volunteer work for MACC (Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer), the Mothers' Guild of Marquette High School, and in youth ministry for the Milwaukee Archdiocese. Julie is available to speak to teens and young adults about the stages of life before birth, about chastity, modesty, starting a high school or college pro-life group, the horrors of abortion, the effects of the pill, the contraceptive mentality, Silent No More, the evils of Planned Parenthood, and the spiritual battle. Handouts and Q. and A.

Julie and her husband, George, live in Greendale and have five children and fourteen grandchildren.



Marisa Beffel - Marisa has a BA in Spanish, a BS in Nursing, a Master's and a doctorate in Medical Bioethics. She also has a Certificate in Business Management and is currently an associate member for the Milwaukee Guild Catholic Medical Association.

Marisa has extensive speaking experience in the Milwaukee Metro area regarding bioethical issues. Her talks have an emphasis on building a culture of life in America, the teachings of the Catholic Church and how the Church's teachings conform with natural law. She speaks on The Constitution, The Declaration of Independence and the role of the Founding Fathers, contraception (with an emphasis on the harmful nature of the pill), abortion (Roe v Wade, Planned Parenthood and Margaret Sanger), reproductive technologies (IVF, GIFT), genetics and eugenics, infertility treatments (NaPro Technology), quality of life, tube-feedings, end of life issues (hospice care, terminal sedation, durable power of attorney), euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, withholding treatment vs. withdrawing treatment, and the overall nature of the medical profession with an emphasis on the Hippocratic Oath and the role of the physician.

Marisa and her husband John have been married for fourteen years, have nine children and live in the Brookfield area.



Julie Grimstad - Julie is the executive director of [Life is Worth Living, Inc.](http://www.lifeisworthliving.org) a member of **Pro-Life Wisconsin's Speakers' Bureau**, on the **Human Life Alliance board of advisors**, and a member of the **Respect Life Committee of the Diocese of La Crosse**. Julie's **topics** include: "From Birth Control to Death Control"; "The History of the 'Right to Die' Movement in America"; and "Making Moral Medical Decisions: Protective Advance Directives for Health Care."

She served as **director of the Center for the Rights of the Terminally Ill, Inc.** (CRTI) from 1985 through 2003. A **patient advocate, speaker, and writer on end-of-life issues**, Julie edits and is a contributing author to "Imposed Death: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide," a 12-page Human Life Alliance educational supplement (available at www.humanlife.org). A Catholic journalist and book editor, she has authored **numerous**

brochures and articles on life issues. Julie and her husband William have five living children and are grandparents. Her earlier experiences include being a licensed practical nurse caring for the elderly and disabled in a Catholic hospital; Birthright volunteer in Lincoln, NE, opening her home as a refuge for unwed mothers; Natural Family Planning instructor for the Diocese of Lincoln; founder and director of a Pregnancy Aid office in Tacoma, WA; volunteer with Adopt a Grandparent and Befrienders programs; co-founder and director of CRTI; as well as involvement in numerous other pro-life, pro-family activities, such as praying and peacefully demonstrating at abortion mills throughout this nation.



Peggy Hamill – Peggy (Margaret Mary) family knows what it means to "choose life". She and her husband Bob are the parents of eleven children (ten living, one lost through miscarriage). Since receiving a BA in liberal arts from Mount Mary College in 1969, Peggy has worked and volunteered (with her family) in politics, education, pro-life, Church, and Irish community activities.

Peggy began her pro-life work in the early '70s as a volunteer with Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Life. Over the years, she has gone on to volunteer with Wisconsin Right to Life, Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Missionaries to the Preborn, held baby showers for Pregnancy Help Center of Milwaukee, and worked independently as a regular sidewalk counselor at Milwaukee's surgical abortion centers.

Peggy has served in leadership with Pro-Life Wisconsin since 1994 as an affiliate leader, a board member, and President of the PLW Board of Directors. **Since 1999, Peggy has served as state director of Pro-Life Wisconsin.**

In the past few years, much of Peggy's work at Pro-Life Wisconsin has involved **working to combat the contraceptive mentality and educating about the deadly link between contraception and abortion.** Peggy also speaks out **in defense of vulnerable people with disabilities and those faced with terminal illnesses.** Peggy feels especially blessed having the privilege to work with students, families, and clergy throughout Wisconsin **in defense of God's plan for innocent human life.**



Steve Karlen- Steve is the president of Vigil for Life, a Madison-based organization dedicated to ending the intentional destruction of innocent human life through prayer, fasting and peaceful witness. Steve helped spearhead a statewide response in January of 2009 when it was revealed that the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and Meriter Hospital had reached an agreement to perform late-term abortions at the Madison Surgery Center. In particular, he orchestrated a series of demonstrations, vigils and large rallies that have drawn thousands of participants from across Wisconsin. As a result, no abortions have been performed at the MSC to date.

Steve helped implement the 2008 and 2009 40 Days for Life campaigns at Madison's Planned Parenthood as well as a 2010 vigil at the Madison Surgery Center. He also serves as the development director for Our Lady of Hope Clinic, a 100 percent pro-life family practice clinic that opened in Madison in 2009. Steve lives in Madison with his wife Laura and son Peter.



Dr. Michael J. Phillips – Dr. Phillips is the former chairman of the Pathology Department at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital, treasurer of the Milwaukee Guild of the Catholic Medical Association, and also serves as president of Pro-Life Wisconsin's Board. He is a past president of the Wisconsin Society of Pathologists and serves on the Ethics Committee at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital. Dr. Phillips has testified numerous times before the Wisconsin Legislature on issues regarding

the sanctity of human life. He is the husband of Jacqueline for the past 34 years, the father of six and the grandfather of four.



Dr. John Puchner – Dr. Puchner graduated from the University Of Minnesota College Of Liberal Arts Magna Cum Laude, with a triple major in Biology, English Fiction of the 19th Century, and Human Physiology. John also earned a minor in piano performance. After graduating from the Medical College of Wisconsin with a Doctor of Medicine degree, he completed an internal medicine residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis and a Cardiology fellowship at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak Michigan. Since then, he has been active in the

prolife movement and teaching at Trinity Academy and MATC in the nursing program. John is happily married to Marya and currently have 3 beautiful children, Anthony, Benedict, and Monica.



Matthew Sande – Matt joined Pro-Life Wisconsin as the organization's Director of Legislative Affairs in 2003. Public policy and politics are his passion. A 1991 political science graduate from the University of Notre Dame and a former legislative aide in both the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate, Matt has studied and directly participated in the political process for over fifteen years. He served as the Director of Legislation for the Wisconsin Hospital Association for three years before joining Pro-Life Wisconsin. Matt's

expertise in the policy and politics of the pro-life movement in Wisconsin, combined with his ability to clearly articulate the 100%, total protection position of Pro-Life Wisconsin makes him an effective lobbyist on behalf of preborn babies and all innocent, vulnerable people, including the aged and disabled. He effectively educates grassroots pro-lifers to influence their own state legislators and is frequently quoted in the media on issues such as the morning-after pill, reproductive technology, and end of life issues. Matt lives in Cambridge with his wife Rebecca and their four children.



Rebecca Sande – Involved with Pro-Life Wisconsin since its formation in 1992, Rebecca is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a native of New Berlin. A former director of communications for American Life League, Rebecca left her position as a legislative assistant to a state legislator in Madison to care for her growing family. Rebecca and her husband Matt reside in Cambridge. Rebecca is well-versed on a **variety of**

pro-life subjects from abortion to assisted suicide, from stem cell research to abstinence.



Jerry Schmutte – Jerry is **one of the leading authorities in the state on Planned Parenthood and its anti-life agenda**. Jerry has addressed a variety of groups around the state including youth groups, college students, community groups, and even state legislators. Jerry is a retired business executive. His “Defending God’s Plan” **seminars exposing the Planned Parenthood agenda** can be scheduled through Pro-Life Wisconsin. A father and grandfather, Jerry and his

wife Bonnie live in Delafield.



Virginia Zignego- A 2005 graduate from the University of Wisconsin Madison, Virginia is vocal in speaking out against the UW's life-destructive agenda. Virginia was the president of the pro-life student group at UW-Madison and worked for a Latino newspaper in Madison before she joined Pro-Life Wisconsin. Virginia also speaks on chastity, purity, teen and young adult pro-life involvement, and how abortion and contraception are destroying our youth. Virginia is a board member of the Catholic young adult group Lolek and is active in pro-life activities at her parish in

Milwaukee and with pregnancy help centers. Virginia joins Peggy Hamill and others in praying and sidewalk counseling at abortion facilities.