

**THE HUMAN LIFE REVIEW**

**20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
GREAT DEFENDER OF LIFE  
DINNER**



**HONORING**

**Thomas Brjcha & George McKenna**

*And Remembers our Founder*

**J.P McFadden**

*And Celebrating*

**The Overturn of Roe V. Wade**

*Thursday October 12th, 2023 - New York City*



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**20th Annual  
Great Defender of Life  
Dinner**

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&  
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**Thursday, October 12th 2023 - New York City**

THE HUMAN LIFE FOUNDATION HONORS

**THOMAS BREJCHA, ESQ**

AND

**PROFESSOR GEORGE MCKENNA**

AND REMEMBERS OUR FOUNDER

**J.P. McFADDEN**



COCKTAIL RECEPTION

WELCOME

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MARIA McFADDEN MAFFUCCI

INVOCATION

W. ROSS BLACKBURN

REMARKS

ANNE CONLON

ANN SCHEIDLER

PRESENTATION OF GREAT DEFENDER OF LIFE AWARDS

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## About Our Honorees . . .

**Thomas Brejcha** is president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Society, a 25-year-old national public interest law firm defending high-profile proliferators like David Daleiden and Mark Hauck, as well as lesser-known Americans whose liberties are threatened by politically zealous prosecutors. A graduate of Notre Dame and New York University Law School, and recipient of the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam, Brejcha was for many years an anti-trust litigator at two private firms in Chicago. “Abortion was never [one of] my priorities,” he once told a *Chicago Tribune* reporter. Then in 1986 came *NOW v. Scheidler*, a federal anti-trust lawsuit filed by the National Organization for Women, charging Chicago pro-life activist Joe Scheidler and other clinic protesters with conspiring to deny women access to abortion. “I was fascinated by the law involved,”



Brejcha said, “I just couldn’t grasp how the anti-trust laws could be used to regulate protests.” He volunteered to assist in Scheidler’s defense but when after 10 years, and having become lead counsel, his law partners asked him to “quit the case or quit the firm,” Brejcha had to “rethink things.” As he recalled in the *Tribune* interview: “Suddenly your morals couldn’t be pushed to one side of your law practice.” He opted to quit and in 1998 founded the Thomas More Society. It took another 10 years and three trips to the Supreme Court before Joe Scheidler was finally vindicated. By then Thomas Brejcha was established as a passionate—and successful—defender of pro-life and religious liberty causes. His article in the Summer 2023 issue of the *Human Life Review*, “*NOW v. Scheidler: A Reminiscence*,” is an important contribution to the history of pro-life activism and one of the most infamous challenges it has faced down. Tom and his wife Debbie live in Evanston, Illinois, and have two adult children.

**George McKenna** is professor emeritus of political science at City College of the City University of New York and retired director of Office of Concern Food Pantry in Englewood, New Jersey, where he volunteered for 17 years (after 40 years in academe). The author of several books, including *The Drama of Democracy* (McGraw Hill) and *The Puritan Origins of American Patriotism* (Yale), Professor McKenna reset the abortion debate with his 1995 *Atlantic Monthly* cover essay “On Abortion: A Lincolnian Position,” which was, “in its depth and insight,” says Lincoln historian and former executive director of the congressional Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Michael F. Bishop, “a rare example of responsibly using history as a guide to the present.” The essay was reprinted in the Fall 1995 issue of the *Human Life Review* and since then McKenna has been a steady and highly regarded contributor. In 2006, the *Review* was proud to publish “Criss-Cross: Democrats, Republicans, and Abortion,” which the eloquent defender of the unborn, and sorely missed pro-life leader, Fr. Richard John Neuhaus called “about as fine a treatment of important aspects of how we got to where we are as I’ve ever read.” Having asked McKenna to participate in several *Review* symposiums over the years—including one provoked by controversial remarks William F. Buckley made at our inaugural Great Defender of Life dinner two decades ago—this year we turned the tables and asked several of our Great Defenders of Life to respond to provocative prescriptions the seasoned political scientist made in his latest essay, “Getting There,” for how the pro-life movement should proceed now that *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned (“Where Do We Go from *Dobbs*?” Spring 2023). In the Summer issue, our new Great Defender of Life graciously addresses their yeas and nays. George and his wife Sylvia live in Tenafly, New Jersey, and have three adult children.



## *About Our Speakers . . .*

**Maria McFadden Maffucci** is president of the Human Life Foundation and editor in chief of the *Human Life Review*, its nearly 50-year-old quarterly journal. Before joining her father J.P. McFadden's staff in 1990, she was managing editor at *First Things* and *This World*. When J.P. died in 1998, she assumed his editorial and managerial mantle, fulfilling her promise to keep the *Human Life Review* in print, which she has done, while raising three (adult) children with her husband Bob Maffucci.

**W. Ross Blackburn**, who lives with his family in Tennessee, has been a pastor in the Anglican Church in North America for 20 years. He has a PhD (Old Testament) from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and has written articles for the *Human Life Review* and *Touchstone*, as well as educational materials for Anglicans for Life. Rev. Blackburn and his wife Lauren, married for 31 years, have shared homeschooling responsibility for their five children.

**Ann Scheidler** helped her late husband Joe Scheidler (the "Godfather of the Pro-life Movement") found the Pro-Life Action League in 1980 and has worked to save unborn children through non-violent direct action ever since. Between 2000 and 2009 she served as the League's executive director and for the last several years as vice president. A passionate advocate of sidewalk counseling, she has shared her expertise in numerous appearances on radio and television. Mrs. Scheidler, who is chairman of the board of the Thomas More Society, is the mother of seven children, including Eric Scheidler, who currently heads up the League.

**Anne Conlon** came to the *Human Life Review* in 1995 as managing editor after a 12-year career on Madison Avenue as an advertising copywriter. She became editor in 2020, just in time for Covid, and has since worked from her home in Paxton, MA, to which she and her husband Raymond retreated during the lockdown. Their only child, Gabriel, a Capuchin friar, is blessedly stationed outside Boston, just 40 miles down the road.

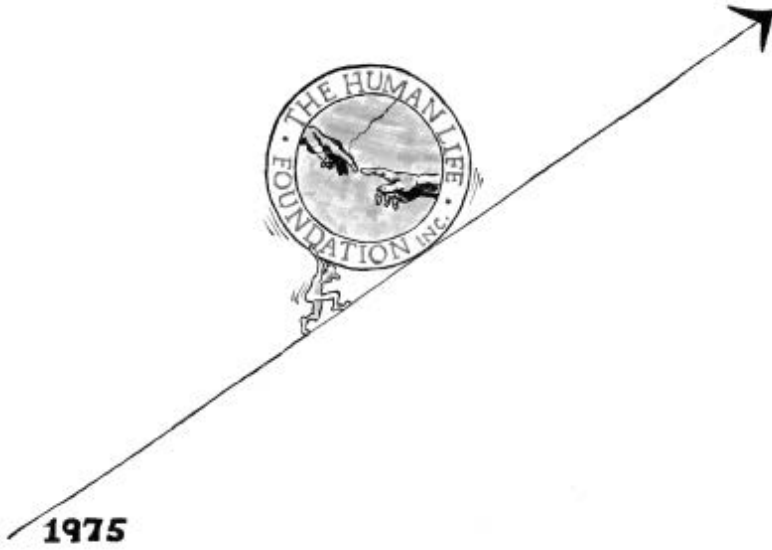
## *About the Human Life Foundation . . .*

**Founded in 1974**, the Human Life Foundation, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization chartered specifically to promote—and to help provide—alternatives to abortion. The Foundation seeks to achieve its goals through educational and charitable means, and welcomes the support of all those who share its beliefs in the sacredness of every human life (however helpless or “unwanted”) and are willing to support the God-given rights of the unborn, as well as the aged, the infirm—all the living—whenever and wherever their right to life is challenged. All contributions to the Human Life Foundation are deductible from taxable income according to the Internal Revenue Code: Section 501(c)(3). The Foundation, which is chartered in the State of New York, is not affiliated with any other organization or group.

**Education:** Since 1975, the Human Life Foundation has published the *Human Life Review*, a quarterly journal focusing on abortion and a variety of other life-and-death issues. In almost 50 years of continuous publishing, the *Review* has compiled perhaps the most extensive record that exists of the abortion debate since *Roe v. Wade*. The entire archive is accessible online to subscribers at the Foundation’s website, [www.humanlifereview.com](http://www.humanlifereview.com), where one can also read the *Review*, up-to-date news, blogs, and Pastoral Reflections.

**Charitable Outreach:** The Human Life Foundation, from its beginning, has helped to support crisis pregnancy centers around the country through a Baby Saving matching-grant program. Contributions to the Foundation may be earmarked for this alone.





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## *From the Chairman of the Board:*

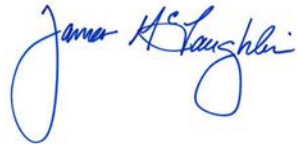
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Human Life Foundation's 20th Great Defender of Life Dinner. We are pleased to honor Thomas Brejcha and George McKenna as our Great Defenders of Life 2023. You will be hearing more about them, and from them, in due course this evening. In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy the dinner program we have prepared for you.

The cause of life contends against powerful contrary forces across moral, social, legal, and political ground. As the battle lines shift, sometimes in kaleidoscopic fashion, the *Human Life Review* steadfastly continues to play a vital role in that struggle. We gather together here to renew old friendships, to make new ones, to revivify our commitment to the cause, and most of all to thank each of you. Nothing that we do would be possible without you.

The *Review's* continued survival is due to your generous support and to the dedication and hard work the *Review's* editors, writers, staff, volunteers, and board members, especially Christina Angelopoulos, Rev. W. Ross Blackburn, Anne Conlon, Rose Flynn DeMaio, Jane Devanny, John Ferrari, Dana Hendershott, Maria McFadden Maffucci, George Marlin, Chris McEvoy, Fr. Gerald Murray, Patricia O'Brien, and Ida Paz. To all of them, and to all of you, thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,



James McLaughlin  
Chairman of the Board

## *From the Editors:*

October 17th will mark the 25th anniversary of the death of our founding editor, James Patrick McFadden. We reprint here a column written at his passing by the late, great Cardinal John J. O'Connor (1920-2000) in (now, sadly, also late) *Catholic New York*, October 22, 1998.

### *Cardinal John J. O'Connor*

**T**he only way I could have been at his Funeral Mass would have been to absent myself from another Mass reflective of everything he lived for. He would not only have objected; he would have censured me in his beloved *Human Life Review*. That is the quarterly publication Jim McFadden edited, arguably the finest collection of articles and commentaries on human life to appear anywhere in any language. The Mass I was already committed to celebrate on the day and at the very hour of his funeral liturgy was a Pro-Life Mass for high-schoolers. That is precisely what he would want me to be doing.

Jim McFadden's whole life was the cause of human life. I can perhaps best honor him by encouraging readership of the *Human Life Review*, which will certainly continue if its Executive Editor has anything to say about it. She is Maria McFadden Maffucci, master writer and editor herself, and equally passionate about the "cause." I have before my eyes as I write the Summer 1998 edition of the *Review*. Maria has provided a special section: "The RICO Outrage: Are 'Pro-Lifers Really Mafia Mobsters?'"

What is RICO? As I have written in this space before, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act was drafted in 1970 to combat the activities of organized crime. A couple of FBI agents who have enough self-assurance to admit they are my friends were possibly the first to use RICO "big time," as we say. They put some highly deserving hoods very solidly behind bars.

Had my friends ever dreamed that RICO would be perverted to bring suit against "pro-life" activities, they would be at least as outraged as Maria McFadden Maffucci and the writers she has brought together in this issue of the *Review*. They happen to include the professor of law who authored RICO in the first place, for radically different uses. "Such a weapon of terror against First Amendment freedoms is not what I was directed (by Sen. John L. McClellan, of Arkansas) to draft in 1969. Had it been, I would have declined. It is a legal outrage that, at the behest of NOW, the federal judiciary is rewriting the law in a fashion that Congress, after careful consideration, specifically refused to draft in 1970." (G. Robert Blakey, O'Neill Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School.)

The section on RICO is but a sample of the Summer or any other issue of the *Review*. Popular journalist Maggie Gallagher, for example, asks about the rights of live, frozen embryos, declared by a New York judge to be dead meat. Matthew Scully writes of "partial-birth abortion" under the apt title of "Partial Truth." Re-



flecting on the “ghoulish poster boy” for “assisted suicide,” Jack Kevorkian, Wesley J. Smith does a brilliant piece under the title of “The Serial Killer as Folk Hero.”

What size is an embryo’s soul? How does one make prostitution for fun and profit respectable? Why love dare not lie? How are we slouching toward infanticide?

Then there are writers like Ellen Wilson Fielding (who tells us precisely why love dare not lie). Ellen not only shares her own sculptured prose with us in describing our current national shame; she calls on the prose-poetry of others. So, for example, in her own words: “Private and public bleed into one another. They are not watertight compartments—and certainly not now, when our ship of state has, like the Titanic, sliced open its hull on the black ice of modernity. In a more innocent era, a head of state might commit adultery and thereby sin, and experience guilt and moral discomfort. He might repent of it or he might persist uneasily, ashamedly. But he would know what he was doing and had done. He would be unable to defend it to himself as something other than the breaking of a vow and a trust.”

Ellen turns then to Robert Bolt, author of *A Man for All Seasons*.

“[Thomas] More was a very orthodox Catholic and for him an oath was something perfectly specific; it was an invitation to God, an invitation God would not refuse, to act as a witness, and to judge; the consequence of perjury was damnation . . . A man takes an oath only when he wants to make an identity between the truth of it and his own virtue; he offers himself as a guarantee. And it works. There is a special kind of a shrug for perjurer; we feel that the man has no self to commit, no guarantee to offer.”



*John Cardinal O’Connor with Jim and Faith at a party celebrating the publication of William F Buckley, Jr.’s Nearer My God (Oct. 1997).*

The last time I visited Jim McFadden in the hospital (his wife, Faith, was there, as always), cancer had consumed his larynx. He scribbled replies to my comments. I reminded him of how parched the throat of Christ had been on the cross. He didn’t need the reminder. He was way ahead of me. I reminded him that in uniting his sense of powerlessness with that of Christ on the cross, he now shared the power of that same powerless Christ, the power to help save the world.

I saw him again not long ago, struggling but obviously not winning. I knew I

wouldn't see very much of him on this earth anymore. But for one who did so very much for the cause of human life, he deserved to live it to the fullest, and I am more than reasonably sure that is precisely what he is doing now. I wish he could write about it. Short of that we will continue to have the *Human Life Review*.



From My Viewpoint

The Finest Work on Human Life

By CARDINAL JOHN J. O'CONNOR

The only way I could have been... Funeral Mass would... myself from... thing he li... objected; he... beloved The... quarterly pu... arguably the... commentaries... where in any... committed to... very hour of hi... Mass for high-sc... he would want... Jim McFadden... human life. I ca... encouraging rea... Review, which... Executive Editor... She is Maria McFa... and editor herself... the "cause." I have... summer 1998 editio... provided a special s... Are 'Pro-Lifers' Real... What is RICO? As I... before, the Racketee... Organizations Act was... the activities of organ... FBI agents who have... admit they are my frien... to use RICO "big time,"... highly deserving hoods... Had my friends eve... would be perverted to... life" activities, they wo... raged as Maria McFadden... ers she has brought togeth... Review. They happen to in... law who authored RICO... radically different uses. "S... ror against First Amendm...



October 22, 1998

Dear Faith,

The attached conveys but one-billioneth of my esteem and affection for your beloved Jim.

You and all the McFaddens remain in my Masses and prayers.

Faithfully in Christ,

John J. O'Connor  
Archbishop of New York

Mrs. Faith Abbott  
1050 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

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*Prior Recipients of the Great Defender of Life Award*

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**2011 PAUL GREENBERG**

**2012 JAMES BUCKLEY**

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# Truly Inspiring

To the Great Defenders of Life.

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to

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You galvanize us all.

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"Our Bobbie"

June 28, 1931

—  
February 26, 2022



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## The Christophers

The Christophers join in celebrating the Human Life Foundation's 2023 Great Defender of Life honorees: Thomas Brejcha, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Society, and George McKenna, professor emeritus of Political Science at City College of the City University of New York. Their dedication to the education of men and women alike, regarding the values underpinning a just society, serves as a guiding beacon for all those working to build a better world. In addition, Pregnancy Help, Inc. is also an invaluable source of inspiration, as they demonstrate the profound worth of every human life through their compassion and the daily help they provide to countless women and children. May they reflect God's love and mercy to all, now and in the future.



*"It's better to light one candle  
than to curse the darkness."*

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and its  
important voice  
in civil,  
intellectual,  
abortion  
debates



We honor Senator James L. Buckley (March 9, 1923 – August 18, 2023) for his service in the cause of life. Pictured with *Human Life Review* founder J.P. McFadden



Rich Lowry, Editor-in-Chief  
(and 2019 Great Defender  
of Life Honoree)

Congratulations to  
**Thomas Brejcha and George McKenna**

In appreciation  
for the  
**Human Life Foundation**  
and its  
2023 honorees

**Thomas Brejcha**  
and  
**George McKenna**

In memory of  
**Catherine N. and Thomas J. Dillon**

*Salute e Cent'Anni!*



To Dr. Emil Maffucci, our beloved Papa!

Can't wait to celebrate 100 years  
on November 21st!

We love you!

Bob, Maria, James,  
Anna and Grace (pictured)

**Maffucci**



**Feminists Choosing Life of New York  
Congratulates Thomas Brejcha, the  
Greatest Defender of Life!**

**Thank you for all you have done  
and continue to do!**



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and

George McKenna

For their defense of the  
sanctity of life.

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Visit [Franciscan.edu/Veritas](http://Franciscan.edu/Veritas) to learn more about the Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life.

**Congratulations to Great Defenders of Life**

**Thomas Brejcha and George McKenna!**



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FAITH MURPHY

*Joan & James McLaughlin*

*Congratulate our*

**Great Defenders of Life 2023**

Thomas Brejcha and George McKenna

*and wish to thank:*

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*Ross Blackburn*

*Anne Conlon*

*Rose Flynn DeMaio*

*Jane Devanny*

*John Ferrari*

*Dana Hendershott*

*Maria McFadden Maffucci*

*George Martin*

*Chris McEvoy*

*Reverend Gerard Murray*

*Patricia O'Brien*

*Ida Paz*

***The Human Life Review continues to publish thanks to  
their dedication and hard work***

# James Patrick McFadden



September 25, 1930

—

October 17, 1998





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# *Kudos to Tonight's Honorees*

And We Also Remember Our Late Friend

HLF Honoree, and Friend of All Innocent Human Life



( James Lane Buckley 1923 – 2023 )

We Prayerfully Hope Reunited with  
His Brother and Great Friend  
of the Human Life Review

*William F. Buckley*

**Congratulations to Pregnancy Help, Inc.  
&  
The Human Life Foundation  
on their continuing contributions  
to preserving the  
sanctity of human life from conception!**

**Mr. & Mrs. John I. & Engie Lee Forry**



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***A man, even if seriously ill or disabled ...is and always will be a man, and he will never become a "vegetable" or an "animal".***

*- St. John Paul the Great*



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# CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE!



**The (née) McFaddens**

*McKenna coat of arms kindly provided by [crestsandarms.com](http://crestsandarms.com)*

# CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE and TOM!



**The McKennas**

*“I have no greater joy than to hear  
that my children are walking in the truth.”*

*3 John 1:4*

*God bless  
The Human Life Review*

*Great Defenders of Life!*

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GOD BLESS  
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**SAVE THE DATE**

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 2023

6:00 P.M. MASS AT THE CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER

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In Loving Memory of  
Another Great  
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**Faith Abbott McFadden**

February 25, 1931 - August 30, 2011

It's been twelve years since you returned to Our  
Lord, but we know your Blessed Acts of Faith  
ripple through Eternity.

As ever,  
Stella



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Thomas More Society thanks  
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# **Congratulations**

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*Heroes and their families who are wrongfully imprisoned*

*for a rescue protest in the District of Columbia.*

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