



*Pro-lifers for Peace*

*Peaceworkers for Life*

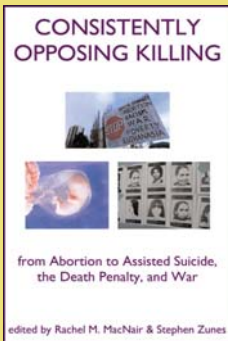


*Consistent Life*  
Annual Report 2010

## CONSISTENTLY OPPOSING KILLING

Praeger published the hardcover version of our book in 2008, and in 2010 allowed us to purchase the paperback rights so we could put out a paperback version with a print-on-demand publisher.

We also redesigned the cover, making it more to our liking. Chapters include William Brennan discussing how language is used to dehumanize people, Mary Meehan's classic piece from the Progressive magazine, an oral history of Prolifers for Survival, Mary Krane Derr on the ancient roots of the consistent life ethic, Nat Hentoff's story of his conversion to the pro-life cause based on the dangers of the "slippery slope", and more. Having a paperback which is more reasonably priced will enable us to get this book into far more hands, helping our supporters be better prepared to discuss the CLE with their friends and neighbors. *Consistently Opposing Killing* can be ordered at [www.iUniverse.com](http://www.iUniverse.com). For bulk discounts call 1-800-288-4677, ext. 5022.



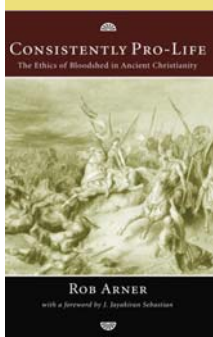
## CONSISTENTLY PRO-LIFE: THE ETHICS OF BLOODSHED IN ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY

This exciting new book was published by CL Board member Rob Arner. It's excellent for Christian audiences who would most appreciate an authoritative Church-based approach, and anyone interested in this aspect of the consistent life ethic's ancient history.

Rob reports: "every author that I encountered from before Constantine seemed to denounce

human bloodshed in a variety of contexts, from abortion, to killing in war, and everything in between, espousing and living what may be termed a consistently pro-life ethic. This project is my attempt to comprehensively flesh out this thesis." The book thoroughly documents how across-the-board opposition to violence was in early Christianity, including one long-gone practice CL has thankfully never had to

actively oppose – the bloody spectacle of gladiator games. Consistent Life of course prides itself on its religious diversity, and we would love to report further on the ample ancient Jewish and Hindu and Pythagorean roots for the CLE, some of which are detailed in *Consistently Opposing Killing*. *Consistently Pro-Life* can be ordered at [www.wipfandstock.com](http://www.wipfandstock.com)




## PEACE & LIFE CONNECTIONS

Modern technology allows for people as geographically diverse as we are to still remain a sharing community, and we've taken full advantage of that by launching a new weekly e-newsletter, published regularly on Fridays starting in March of 2010. It's short so busy people can glance at it to get the highlights, yet also has links for those who want greater depth or who have their curiosity aroused. Once out, issues go up on our web page ([www.consistent-life-org/weekly.html](http://www.consistent-life-org/weekly.html)), and we even maintain an index there, updated weekly.

Topics range from activities of our member groups and endorsers, to U.S. and international news of interest with short comments from our perspective. Opportunities for taking action are often reported. Every issue has a Quotation of the Week, some of which we occasionally see popping up in member groups' newsletters. Subscribers share their own concerns and let us all in on the world of wisdom that becomes available when considering the consistent life ethic. If you're not already subscribed and would like to be, visit [www.consistent-life.org/weekly.html](http://www.consistent-life.org/weekly.html).

Peace & Life Connections  
Weekly E-Newsletter  
Visit our website to subscribe

### Peace & Life Connections



#### HOLIDAY EDITION


*Note: Due to the holidays, Peace & Life Connections will not be published on the next two Fridays, and is scheduled to start a new year on Fridays in January.*

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#### It's a Wonderful Movement

Now a popular classic movie for the season, *It's a Wonderful Life* shows George Bailey standing on a snow-covered bridge, ready to kill himself by jumping into the icy river below. Defining himself by his failures, at the height of his despair, he was visited by an angel who showed him what the world would have been like had he never lived.

Let's take that same approach with the [pro-life](#) and peace movements. What would likely have happened without us?



## NEW BOARD MEMBER: JIM BALMER

CL was delighted when Jim Balmer joined our Board. Jim was a draft resister during the Vietnam War and has been active in the peace, racial justice and prolife causes. He is President of Dawn Farm which offers treatment and support for people with drug and alcohol problems. Jim is an experienced and effective fundraiser and chairs our Fundraising Committee.

He has also spearheaded our picture cards project, showcasing notable endorsers and supporters of Consistent Life and the Consistent Life Ethic, complete with quotes and CL-related bios. We have already produced cards on Martin Sheen, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Sister Helen Prejean, and Father Dan Berrigan. Projects in the works include Gandhi.



**CL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE  
PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TODAY.**

## SPREADING THE WORD: CL AT CONFERENCES



CL works ceaselessly to carry out our work of changing hearts and minds to consistently respect life. A major way that we do this is by speaking, presenting, networking and tabling at conferences and rallies. In 2010, we achieved a rich presence at such events. We had ads, tables and/or speakers at more than a dozen conferences given by peace, social justice and pro-life organizations, academic and professional organizations, religious organizations and more. CL Board members, Advisory Board members and endorsers of our Mission Statement have spoken for us at these events. This work has been highly effective – many people have newly learned of the CL view and have signed up to receive our new e-letter Peace and Life Connections, and other communications.



## YOU TUBE CHANNEL

**CL added the following videos and presentations to our YouTube Channel in 2010.**

*([www.youtube.com/user/ConsistentLife](http://www.youtube.com/user/ConsistentLife))*

Two PowerPoint slideshows, "Connections on Issues of Violence" and "Culture of Peace and Culture of Life."

Three presentations by Rachel MacNair that were videotaped in front of groups:

1. "Killing as Trauma," about how Posttraumatic Stress Disorder symptoms become Perpetration-Induced Traumatic Stress, given in front of a Historic Peace Churches conference;
2. "Nonviolence as Lively," psychological theories behind how nonviolence works, given at the same conference;
3. "Integrating the Culture of Peace and the Culture of Life," presented at a Gandhian nonviolence conference. This is in two parts – the presentation and the question & answer period.

A 2010 presentation by Helen Prejean, also divided into the presentation and the question and answer time.

Most popular of all, our 1980s videotaped documentary with comments by Juli Loesch, Nat Hentoff, Eileen Egan, Consuelo Beck-Sague, and others.

Subscribers to Peace & Life Connections and our Twitter followers will get notification whenever something new is available on the channel.

## PEACE & LIFE CONNECTIONS

**Sign up today!!!**

This new weekly email publication contains brief notes, including action suggestions, news of events past and present, notifications of resources available, and relevant quotations.

[www.consistent-life.org/weekly.html](http://www.consistent-life.org/weekly.html)



### SOME EXAMPLES, OUT OF MANY:

- **March For Life**, Washington, DC
- **West Coast Walk for Life**, San Francisco, CA *(pictured above)*
- **Pax Christi USA**, Chicago, IL
- **Peace Among the Peoples Conference**, Elkhart, IN, sponsored by the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation of the World Council of Churches and featuring talks by CL endorsers Mary Jo Leddy, Glen Stassen (speaking on how pacifists and just war folks can work together to prevent war), and Brian McLaren; and CL Board member Rob Arner.
- **Open Hearts, Open Minds, Fair-Minded Words**, at Princeton University in NJ a conference which brought together pro-choice and pro-life advocates to promote civil dialog, with speeches and panel participation by CL endorsers David Gushee and Sidney Callahan, and CL Vice-President Rachel MacNair.
- **Auckland Friends (Quaker) Meeting**, Auckland, New Zealand
- **International Peace Research Association Conference**, Sydney, Australia
- **American Psychological Association Conference**, San Diego, CA
- **Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture's Annual Fall Conference**, Notre Dame, IN
- **Call to Action Conference**, Milwaukee, WI

## CL MEMBERS WORK FOR PEACE, JUSTICE & LIFE

CL's many member groups and individual supporters do invaluable work for peace, justice and life. Just a few of many examples from 2010 are presented here.

Longtime CL member group **Pax Christi USA** did much work for nuclear non-proliferation in 2010, including an interfaith nuclear weapons elimination workshop in March. Pax Christi also worked for Muslim/Christian dialog and solidarity, campaigned for the rights of Palestinians and against the expropriation of their land, and is promoting Brothers and Sisters All, an anti-racism initiative.

**Mairead Corrigan Maguire**, a CL endorser and Nobel Peace Laureate, sailed on the Freedom Flotilla, a nonviolent campaign in which a number of ships set off to bring humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, in defiance of the Israeli blockade. Maguire also narrated a video titled *Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping: Building a Nonviolent Peaceforce*. The video has images and audio of such peacekeepers at work around the world.

**Feminists for Life of America**, a CL member group, worked as always for the support of mothers and children, born and unborn. FFLA fought against unjust budget cuts in WIC (the Women's and Infants Nutrition Program), SNAP (the food stamp program) the Child Care Food Program and the school meals program. These programs provide food for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and other women and children.

Famed death penalty opponent and CL endorser **Sr. Helen Prejean** spoke on Embracing a Consistent Ethic of Life at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood, MD, last October. This talk was videotaped and can now be seen on CL's YouTube channel. Sr. Helen said, in her recommendation for the book *Consistently Opposing Killing*, "If more people were familiar with the consistent life ethic, as expounded in this book, then the voice of all unseen vulnerable people would be better heard."

**Jubilee Partners**, a longtime CL member group, is an intentional Christian service community in northern Georgia. Its primary mission is offering hospitality to newly arrived refugees. When the U.S. government began deporting many Central American refugees back at a time when they often faced arrest and torture, Jubilee bonded out hundreds of people and brought them to interviews with the Canadian consul. Almost everyone interviewed was accepted into Canada as a political refugee, and lives were saved. Jubilee founder Don Mosley wrote a book about this work, published last May, *Faith beyond Borders: Doing Justice in a Dangerous World*.

Member group **The Houston Catholic Worker** also ministers to refugees and immigrants. They have welcomed 3,000 refugees from danger zones around the world. Founders Mark and Louise Zwick published a book on their experiences called *Mercy without Borders*.

CL Endorser **John Dear, SJ**, who appears in CL's original video, *The Seamless Garment*, published the inspiring book, *A Persistent Peace*. He was also arrested and tried for an action protesting the use of unmanned drones to kill people in Afghanistan and other places.

CL endorser **Jim Wallis**, whose ministry has largely focused on opposition to poverty and economic injustice, wrote a new book: *Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street and Your Street, a Moral Compass for the New Economy*.

CL member group **Democrats for Life of America** worked hard for the Pregnant Women Support Act. This act includes a lot of much needed support for women and families. Many of its provisions were incorporated into the health care reform bill. DFLA supported the bill, as did many pro-life Democrats in the House and Senate.

CL member group **Feminists Choosing Life of New York** (State) filed a lawsuit against the state's Stem Cell Board for paying women for harvesting their eggs for research, and not adequately informing women of the risk of hyperstimulation drugs.

**Pax Christi**, Rochester, NY, hosted a vigil for the victims of war and abortion at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

CL Board member **Carol Crossed** achieved a marvelous triumph in 2010. Crossed is the founder and President of the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum. This amazing creation, which opened in February, is on the site of Anthony's birthplace in Adams, MA. It has a rich array of exhibits which present the whole spectrum of Susan B. Anthony's views, including opposition to child labor, poverty, abortion and the lack of universal education. CL welcomes this invaluable new asset to the movement for justice, peace and life!

STOP BY AND VISIT US ON THE WEB  
[www.consistent-life.org](http://www.consistent-life.org)

# NEW CONSISTENT LIFE ENDORSERS

## SHANE CLAIBORNE

Shane Claiborne, writes Brett McCracken on his blog *The Search*, "is fashioning a new kind of Christian—in the lineage of Dorothy Day and Mother Teresa—that is radically different ... This is a Christianity uninterested in all forms of power except that of love... and community in Christ. ... it's definitely provocative, inspiring, and quietly revolutionary."

Claiborne endorsed the Consistent Life Mission Statement in October, 2010. He is a founder of The Simple Way Community, a prime example of what is sometimes called "the new monasticism," where people seek to truly follow Jesus via a way of life that stands in stark contrast to the world of militarism and materialism. The Simple Way Community feeds the hungry, does art with children, runs a community store, and reclaims trash-filled lots into gardens. Shane has worked with Mother Teresa and spent time in Iraq with the Iraq Peace Team.

His writings include the celebrated article "What If Jesus Meant All That Stuff?" and books including *Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals*, and *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*. Of the latter book, Michael Spencer said, " ... he's been arrested with activists for the homeless and protesters against the war ... He's part of a Christian community in Philly that's living out the economic implications of the Gospel ... I want you to read this book to simply feel the fresh wind of the Spirit blowing through the church."

Consistent Life welcomes the endorsement of this young man who has drawn many people into his creative work for a peaceful, loving world.

## DR. P. JAYARAMAN

A welcome new endorser of CL's Mission Statement is Dr. P. Jayaraman, a noted scholar of Sanskrit and the sacred texts of India. He has been the Executive Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA since its founding in 1981. This is the US branch of Baratiya Vidya Bhavan which was founded in India in 1938, by Dr. K.M. Munshi, with the blessing of Mahatma Gandhi. It was founded to revive Indian culture, heritage and education, long suppressed by foreign rule. It has published over 1000 works on history, religion, philosophy and other subjects.

Dr. Jayaraman has received many awards, including the Padma Shri, a national honor from the government of India, for his work in literature and education. At a celebration, placing floral garlands on the statue of Gandhi, Dr. Jayaraman recalled his meeting with Gandhi as a young student, and spoke of Gandhi's influence on the civil rights movement. Jayaraman is involved in interfaith and peace works.

## JOHN D. ROTH

John D. Roth, a new endorser of the Consistent Life Mission Statement, is a Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at Goshen College, Indiana. He has been the Editor of the *Mennonite Quarterly Review* for 15 years. He is the author of several books. His book, *Choosing Against War: A Christian View*, has been called "a theologically sophisticated and yet wonderfully readable book about pacifism as a Christian response to war. This book balances careful theological thought, effective stories and illustrations, a historic survey, and questions of practical application." Roth has also written books on the history and the practices of the Mennonites.



New CL Endorsers, (Left to Right) Shane Claiborne, Dr. P. Jayaraman, and John D. Roth

## NEW MEMBER GROUP

Another new organization has joined CL's list of member groups. All Our Lives was co-founded by Mary Krane Derr and Jen Roth. Both are former CL Board members and current CL Advisory Board members. Mary Krane Derr is the pioneer writer who first uncovered and publicized the strong pro-life views of the pioneer feminist leaders, such as Susan B. Anthony. A lot of her work is included in the much-admired book *ProLife Feminism, Yesterday and Today*. Jen Roth is an advocate for the Consistent Ethic of Life in the secular and non-religious community – an area where her advocacy is much needed.



## CONSISTENT LIFE ON WEB 2.0

### Facebook Presence Grows

Facebook is perhaps the most popular social media site. In 2010, we continued and strengthened our presence on Facebook. We have both a Facebook page and a page on the Causes application. As of this writing, 250 people like our Facebook page and we have 396 members on the Causes page. We use Facebook to share information about Consistent Life.

Supporters have increasingly also posted Consistent Life Ethic related information. The Causes application can be used to donate to CL, and we received 22 donations that way in 2010. Users have taken advantage of the Causes application to ask people to donate to CL for their birthday or Christmas, which frequently draws in new donors. We have also used the Facebook Events application to promote CL-related events.

### Twitter Presence Established

Twitter is an important component of the social media revolution that allows the posting of "tweets" of 140 characters or less which go to everyone that has opted to follow a person or organization that has established a Twitter feed. Consistent Life established a Twitter presence in 2010 and currently has about 30 followers (and growing!) We have mutual "following" relationships so far with two of our member groups, Secular Pro-Life and All Our Lives.

Follow us (<http://twitter.com/ConsistentLife>) for announcements of national and local events, new publications such as issues of *Peace & Life Connections*, and occasional thoughts and insights from a Consistent Life perspective.

**IN MEMORY...** Pax Christi reports that CL endorser Bishop Leroy Matthiessen died on March 22. We mourn the loss of this noted peace and anti-nuclear advocate.



## **Consistent Life**

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Don't forget to visit the Consistent Life on-line store and share the message of Peace & Life!  
[www.cafepress.com/lifecounts](http://www.cafepress.com/lifecounts)

### **OUR MISSION**

*We are committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in today's world by war, abortion, poverty, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia.*

*We believe that these issues are linked under a 'consistent ethic of life'. We challenge those working on all or some of these issues to maintain a cooperative spirit of peace, reconciliation, and respect in protecting the unprotected.*

### **OUR PURPOSE**

*We serve the anti-violence community by connecting issues, building bridges, and strengthening the case against each kind of socially-approved killing by consistently opposing them all.*

## **Consistent Life: Voices for Peace and Life**

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

CL IS NOW ON **TWITTER**

Please follow us at  
"ConsistentLife"

