All Life Is Sacred

“Therefore, in this command of God, no exception must be made. It is always wrong to kill a person whom God has intended to be a sacred creature.” – Lactantius, 4th century Christian writer

In the first three centuries of Christianity, there was a remarkable unanimity among the leaders whose writings have come down to us. Every one of them understood the teaching of Jesus as requiring his followers not to be involved in the taking of another human life – not in war, not through abortion, not through capital punishment, not in any way.

After the time of Constantine, much of the institutional church lost this commitment to a nonviolent way of life. But there have always been Christians who held to this witness, often at great personal sacrifice. In the last 50 years, there has been a growing movement among Christians, as well as those of other faiths or no faith, for a consistent life ethic. Evangelicals have increasingly been represented in this movement.

Consistent Life is a network of groups and individuals which spreads the consistent life ethic message. As a network, we unite those who agree on the dignity and worth of all human life, but may have different perspectives on how to work towards that end and on other issues.

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.

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.

Will you join us?
Who Supports Consistent Life?

**Member Groups (partial list)**
- 8th Day Center for Justice
- Benedictines for Peace
- Casa de Pax y Bien
- Catholic Peace Fellowship
- Center for Action and Contemplation
- Christian Center for Women (Nigeria)
- The Christophers
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- Crusade for Life (Nigeria)
- Disabilities Perspectives
- Durham, NC, Mennonite Church
- Evangelical Partners in Mission
- Evangelicals for Social Action
- Feminists Choosing Life of New York
- Feminists for Life of America
- Friends Witness for a Prolife Peace Testimony
- HOPE Network
- Jonah House
- Jubilee Partners
- Just Organization for Natural Growth (India)
- Liberals for Life
- National Council of Catholic Women
- Orthodox Peace Fellowship
- Pax Christi USA
- People of African Interest & Descent
- Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians
- Sisters of Life
- Sojourners
- Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum
- Weaker Community Development Trust (India)
- Woodcrest Bruderhof
- Numerous religious orders
- Numerous Catholic Worker houses

**Individual Endorsers (partial list)**
- Randall Balmer, Columbia University
- Rev. Dan Berrigan, SJ
- Wendell & Sonia Berry
- Sidney Callahan, psychologist, author, speaker
- Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB
- Shane Claiborne, The Simple Way
- Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
- Dorothy Cotton, Speaker & Singer
- Harvey Cox, Harvard Divinity School
- Fr. John Dear, SJ, Writer and Peace Activist
- Jim Forest, Orthodox Peace Fellowship
- Richard Foster, Renovaré
- David P. Gushee, Mercer University
- Stanley Hauerwas, Duke Divinity School
- Nat Hentoff
- Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC
- Rev. Johnny M. Hunter, LEARN
- Rev. Patrick Mahoney, Christian Defense Coalition
- Colman McCarthy, Center for Teaching Peace
- Brian D. McLaren
- Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
- Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, Sisters of Medaille
- Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
- Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM
- John D. Roth, Editor, Mennonite Quarterly Review
- Martin Sheen, Actor
- Ron Sider, Evangelicals for Social Action
- Glen Harold Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary
- John K. Stoner, Every Church A Peace Church
- Karen Swallow-Prior, Liberty University
- Jim Wallis, Sojourners

**Consistent Life Ethic Resources**

**Weekly E-Letter, Peace & Life Connections**, sign up for free at our Web site


T-shirts, bumper stickers, buttons, mugs, tote bags and more are available from our on-line store at [http://www.cafepress.com/lifecounts](http://www.cafepress.com/lifecounts)

**Books**

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<th>Consistently Opposing Killing: from Abortion to Assisted Suicide, the Death Penalty, and War, edited by Rachel M. MacNair and Stephen Zunes. An anthology of consistent life ethic writings.</th>
<th>Consistently Pro-Life: The Ethics of Bloodshed in Ancient Christianity, by Rob Arner. An examination of how the early Christian church opposed all forms of killing of human beings, and its relevance to the present day.</th>
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