

Life Matters

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Pope Praises Americans' Efforts to Defend Life and Marriage to New US Ambassador

New US Ambassador Glendon expected to promote the cause of life and marriage

By Michael Baggot

As reported on the Life Site News website
<http://www.lifesitenews.com/>



ROME, IT, March 3, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - In his message to new United States Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon on Friday, Pope Benedict praised the pro-life and pro-family work of numerous Americans.

In the address marking the Pope's acceptance of Glendon as US ambassador, the Pope celebrated "the efforts of

so many of your fellow-citizens and government leaders to ensure legal protection for God's gift of life from conception to natural death, and the safeguarding of the institution of marriage, acknowledged as a stable union between a man and a woman, and that of the family."

The Pope also noted that "a just global order can only be based on the acknowledgment and defense of the inviolable dignity and rights of every man and woman." He called on the United States to recognize the truths of the fundamental equality of men and their inalienable rights. Pope Benedict added that "the principles of the common moral law, enshrined in its founding documents" should guide the country as an international leader.

Few doubt Glendon's intention to support pro-life and pro-family efforts. In her first address in Rome as US ambassador, Glendon said that quality of relations

between the Holy See and the US "has at its core a common commitment to the human dignity of every man, woman and child."

Pope John Paul II appointed Glendon to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in 1994 and made her president of the same academy a decade later. She was also the head of the Holy See's delegation to the United Nations sponsored 1995 Beijing Conference on Women. At the time she gained much attention for her unequivocal statement of the Holy See's opposition to contraception.

Her 1987 work "Abortion and Divorce in Western Law" attacked the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

In a February 2004 Wall Street Journal editorial, Glendon defended President Bush's endorsement of a marriage amendment that would define the institution as one between a man and a woman. Glendon argued that the idea that "alternative family forms are just as good as a husband and wife raising kids together" produces tragic results.

Glendon has repeatedly criticized the "old feminism" of the 1970s, "with its negative attitudes toward men, marriage and motherhood, and its rigid party line on abortion and gay rights."

In her own address to the Pope on Friday, Glendon emphasized her concern for protecting human dignity in various ways. She argued that continued interfaith dialogue was important in fostering common commitment against the misuse of religion for the sake of terrorist violence.

Glendon went on to praise both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. She also celebrated US efforts against human trafficking.

Glendon stated that the US is "eager to work in partnership with the Holy See to enhance the lives of all the world's people, but in particular, those who are caught up in the despair that comes from poverty, hunger and disease."

The new ambassador insisted that the relationship between the Holy See and the US is key "in the quest for freedom, justice, peace and human dignity throughout the world."

In this we know that we love the children of God:
when we love God, and keep his commandments.

1 John 5:2

William Buckley: A Voice against Liberalism and for Life

By Michael Baggot

As reported on the Life Site News website
<http://www.lifesitenews.com/>



On Wednesday Feb. 27, 2008 William Buckley Jr. left this world after 82 years of life. During his life it seemed that practically every person familiar with Buckley or his work, whether political friend or foe, had strong words of praise for the recently deceased hero of

conservatism.

"For people of my generation, Bill Buckley was pretty much the first intelligent, witty, well-educated conservative one saw on television," said William Kristol, editor of the influential conservative Weekly Standard, in 1999. "He legitimized conservatism as an intellectual movement and therefore as a political movement," added Kristol.

Liberal historian Arthur Schlesinger, in words that delighted Buckley, called him the "scourge of liberalism."

However, while many of Buckley's achievements regarding political and economic thought are well documented, his contributions to the cause of life and family are less well known.

For instance, the National Review magazine that Buckley was pivotal in founding and guiding has been one of the most prominent pro-life voices among magazines without explicit religious connections.

Buckley himself used his column in the National Review to speak out with typical eloquence for the cause of life. For instance, during John Kerry's 2004 campaign for president, Buckley lambasted the supposedly Catholic democratic candidate for his purported private opposition to abortion yet public promotion of child slaughter.

Criticizing those who would reduce opposition to abortion to a sectarian view based on religious faith, Buckley wrote that the Catholic Church does not oppose abortion because of the Gospels, but because of "the proposition that human beings are human beings even if they have not yet been born. Those who are helpless are, it is all but universally held in America, to be protected. The one-day-old child is protected with the full force of the law. The proposition that he is without rights when he is minus one day old is nothing more than a social convention conflating various concerns."

Hence, Buckley continued to make clear that the pro-life cause was not one to be reserved to Catholics, or those who are religious, but could and should embrace any

person of good will still convinced of the fundamental equality of each human being.

As late as May of last year, Buckley urged his readership to recognize the serious moral question of the rights of pre-born children. In an article reflecting on Mitt Romney's position on abortion, Buckley recounted how he had argued in 1966 that Catholic's could not dictate their abortion opposition to non-Catholics by opposing state legislation allowing abortion. A response from a fellow founder of the National Review prompted Buckley to reflect on his position and prompted him to deeper pro-life convictions. Subsequently, Buckley articulated a pro-life stance in natural law language accessible to those without the Catholic faith.

In the same Romney article, Buckley writes "We need to remind ourselves that deep moral questions have at other times in American history engaged public thought." He goes on to cite slavery and the civil rights movement as instances of political issues that required moral principles to access and could not be left to the prejudices of the ruling majority. He reminded readers that perfectly good, kind, intelligent, and well-read people accepted the institution [of slavery] many without question, for years." Thus, anti-life practices like abortion cannot be accepted merely because they have long been permitted by the law of the land.

Buckley goes on to attack the efforts of the Democratic Party to stifle serious moral reflection on life issues. He criticizes the party for forbidding the Pennsylvania governor from speaking at its 1992 convention due to his pro-life stance. Buckley exhorts all men to regain their moral conscience in the midst of intellectual tyranny.

Buckley also used his column in the National Review to call attention to life issues that were shaping the world. In a November 2007 article, Buckley highlighted the growing interest in contraceptives shown in Afghanistan and the different contraceptives available in the United States. Buckley also commented on the nature of the morning after pill and its abortifacient capacities. He encouraged voices of natural law to address concerns about the growing availability of various contraceptives.

While many may remember William F. Buckley Jr. for his support for Barry Goldwater or Ronald Regan, the voice he offered on behalf of the voiceless children at risk of abortion due to leftwing political dominance should not be forgotten.

Where Do You Want Your Children To Go To School?

The prestigious Yale University has again held their annual Sex Week (Feb. 10 – 18, 2008) a time when the entire school focuses on sex and pornography. Dr Janice Crouse, Senior Fellow and Director of the Beverly LaHaye Institute [Concerned Women for America] notes that since its inception, other schools have been picking up in this trend.