

Super Bowl Champ Matt Birk to Speak at March for Life

2016 THEME: PRO-LIFE & PRO-WOMAN GO HAND-IN-HAND

Baltimore Ravens Star a Strong Pro-Lifer

March For Life leaders announced that, among many other notable speakers, pro-life advocate Matt Birk will speak at this year's March for Life Rally on the National Mall on January 22, 2016.

As a Center for the Baltimore Ravens, Matt is a 15-year NFL veteran, recognized as the 2011 NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year. Named to the **Pro Bowl 6 times**, Matt's career culminated in February 2013 in a Super Bowl win for the Ravens.

Following the Raven's victory, Matt **did not participate in the White House Super Bowl celebration** because of the President's support for Planned Parenthood, a decision that received wide media coverage. Matt and his wife, Adrianna, have 6 children and are both actively involved with their local pregnancy center and past participation in pro-life marches.

"We are very excited about Matt Birk's participation in this year's March for Life and annual Rose Dinner," said Jeanne Mancini, President of March for Life Education & Defense Fund. "Matt has been a **role model** for all Americans by combining his successful football career with his inspiring leadership in his community."

The March for Life in Washington, D.C., began as a small demonstration on January 22, 1974, the first anniversary of the now-infamous Supreme Court decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, and rapidly grew to be the largest pro-life event in the world. The peaceful demonstration that has followed on this somber anniversary every year since is a witness to the truth concerning **abortion, the greatest human rights violation of our time.**

Any rally with a few hundred people is duly reported in the major media outlets. But a rally of **several hundred thousand people** gets scant reporting. Media bias, anyone?

If interested in participating in the March for Life, please contact your local church or diocesan Respect Life office. Buses depart from every state and county on the East Coast for the one-day event. Many individuals set the day aside to participate and to show their solidarity with the cause.

Where God is denied, and people live as though he did not exist, or his commandments are not taken into account, the dignity of the human person and the inviolability of human life also end up being rejected or compromised.

Pope Saint John Paul II, **Gospel of Life, no. 96**

To Be Pro-Woman Must I Be Pro-Choice?

Quite the opposite, says the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. On November 4, the March for Life hosted a Capitol Hill briefing that featured women heading up organizations that provide a variety of wonderful **services for women and their babies.** Speakers at the event included Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler (R-MO), Jeanne Mancini, Pres. of March for Life Education & Defense Fund, Helen Alvaré, Founder, Women Speak for Themselves, Serrin Foster, President, Feminists for Life, Leanna Baumer, Executive Director, Assist Pregnancy Center, and Mary McClusky, Assistant Director, Project Rachel Ministry Development, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. [\[www.MarchForLife.org\]](http://www.MarchForLife.org)

A Sandra Bullock Instagram Message

"Both Louis and Laila are my everything. Being a mother has taught me how to love unconditionally. We have to stop and be thankful for our children, and children should stop and be thankful for their parents. What I truly learned most of all is, every child needs love."

Sandra Bullock #family #prolife #prolifeprowoman #moms #Motherhood #kids [\[www.MarchForLife.org\]](http://www.MarchForLife.org)

Marriage in America

"The proportion of those women married before the age of 30 has fallen from 50% in 1960 to around 20% today." So says a national magazine in an in-depth article on American marriages. There's good news and bad news. "New data show that **America's divorce rate has continued its plunge** from its 1981 peak, but this decline is largely concentrated among the better-educated."

"The proportion of children being raised by a single parent has more than doubled in the past four decades." There is a growing gap between better- and lesser-educated adults. "Mismatched desires among lesser-educated men and women have shrunk the share of households headed by a married couple from two-thirds in 1960 to less than half today."

Yet, "most Americans are already quite convinced of the value of marriage, and even poorer people hold the institution in high regard. Most agree that **marriage is the best arrangement for raising children**, and many still hope to trade vows one day." [\[The Economist, 11/28/2015\]](http://TheEconomist.com)

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Growing Social Divide Colors Voting

“The most important feature of America’s political landscape is a deep and growing ideological divide.” So reports Gerald F. Seib in a *Wall Street Journal* report. [12/29/2015] Deep disagreement over social issues is reflected in the latest WSJ/NBC News poll taken in mid-December of primary voters.

Big differences among voters include the traditional **definition of marriage** as being between a man and a woman, the **right to life**, and **gay rights**.

The Associated Press issued a report on why abortion will be a hot campaign issue. [Ed’s note: pro-abortionists were described as ‘defenders of abortion rights’ while pro-lifers were described as ‘anti-abortion.’] “It’s an amazing convergence of events,” said the head of Americans United for Life. The growing social divide among voters is evident among lawmakers dealing with issues such as a late-term abortion ban and halting taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood.

Several factors will help keep the abortion debate in the spotlight. The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments in March regarding a Texas law imposing health requirements on abortion clinics. Also, new investigations are scheduled to examine the practices of Planned Parenthood, stemming from undercover videos of their officials. [Newark Star-Ledger, 12/28/2015]

On receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Blessed Mother Theresa had the courage to say: "If we let a mother kill the fruit of her womb, what is left to us? It is the principle of abortion that endangers peace in the world." There can be no peace without respect for life, especially innocent, defenseless life. No pro-peace activity can be effective unless attacks on life at all stages ...are energetically opposed. Pope Saint John Paul II

Life Issues That Confront Us

The fifth commandment, “You Shall Not Kill,” has many implications for us in modern times. The foundation of the commandment is respect for human life. As such, many human evils are addressed by the precepts of a culture of life:

- Murder
- *In Vitro* Fertilization
- Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide
- The Death Penalty
- Terrorism
- Abortion
- Stem-Cells of Embryos
- War
- Rights of the Dying

These topics are discussed in an excellent book published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, entitled **United States Catholic Catechism for Adults**. To purchase a copy, call USCCB at 202-541-3000.

Organizations with Varied Approaches to Life Issues

• **Population Research Institute.** A non-profit research group whose goals are to expose the myth of overpopulation, to **expose human rights abuses** committed in population control programs, and to make the case that people are the world’s greatest resource. Its growing, global network of pro-life groups spans over 30 countries. [www.pop.org]

• **Just Facts.** Researches and publishes verifiable facts about the leading public policy issues of our time, including abortion, and sex trafficking. It attempts to accomplish this with impartiality and excellence, and is careful to **verify every factual statement**. Its vision is to equip individuals throughout the world with facts that empower them to make truly informed decisions. This requires authoritative facts that accurately convey big picture realities, not half-truths or talking points. [www.JustFacts.com]

• **Priests for Life.** One goal is to galvanize the clergy to preach, teach, and mobilize their people more effectively in the effort to end abortion and euthanasia. A second goal is to **reach and enrich every aspect of the pro-life movement, for clergy and laity** alike, in a wide variety of activities. They refer to this wider family of ministries as Gospel of Life Ministries, to indicate that what unites them all is the Gospel of Life, the good news that life is victorious over death! [www.PriestsForLife.com]

• **Center for Bio-Ethical Reform.** As a non-profit educational corporation, CBR works to establish prenatal justice and the right to life for the unborn, the disabled, the infirm, the aged and all vulnerable. It publishes educational resources and conducts seminars to establish the humanity of the unborn and the inhumanity of abortion. CBR believes that abortion represents an evil so inexpressible that words fail us when attempting to describe its horror. **Until abortion is seen, it will never be understood.** CBR opposes violence against babies and against the abortionists who kill them. Just as Dr. Martin Luther King sought to create a “creative tension” to awaken the nation to the horrible injustice of segregation, we too are creating a “creative tension” to awaken the nation to the horrible injustice of abortion. [www.cbrinfo.org]

• **LIFENET.** It works at the community level to educate the public on abortion and promote alternative solutions to unexpected pregnancies. It trains speakers and brings its message to youth groups, schools, and colleges. [www.LifeNetEducation.org]