***Life Ministry Speaker Bureau***

**Deacon Bob Anderson**

**St. Frances Cabrini Parish****deaconbob1982@tampabay.rr.com**

Deacon Bob Anderson was ordained a Permanent Deacon in June 1982 in Hartford, Connecticut. While living in Connecticut, he and his wife spent eight years working with the St. Vincent DePaul Society running a homeless shelter and other low-income properties. In addition to volunteering there every Saturday night, his wife was the business manager for the society and Deacon Bob served as Secretary of the Board of Directors. They left Connecticut as a result of a company transfer to New Hampshire. After taking an early retirement from a high tech company, Deacon Bob went to work for the Diocese of Manchester, NH, as Director of the Respect Life Office, Director of Institutional Ministries (being responsible for all Catholic chaplains in health care and corrections institutions in the state), and co-director of the Office of Public Policy. He also worked with hospice patients. Since moving to Florida, he has been assigned to St. Frances Cabrini parish.

**Topics:** **Respect Life; Social Justice Issues;** **End of Life and Stem Cell Research**

**Emma M. Boe**

emmaboe@aol.com

A graduate of Nicholl's State University in Louisiana, Emma Boe has been part of the Respect Life Ministry since moving into the Tampa Bay area in 1972. Formerly the Director of Life Services of Catholic Charities for 17 years Emma retired in June 2010. Presently the Director of Project Rachel Ministry for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Emma has been facilitating Rachel's Vineyard Retreats since 1998 and has trained individuals to provide post abortion support throughout the diocese. Emma also leads a group of individuals in a "prayer vigil"

outside the abortion mill on Fletcher on the first Sat. of the month called "Helpers of God's Precious Infants."

Topics: Post abortion Healing, Sidewalk Prayer Ministry.

**Barbara Cowne BSN, RN**

bcowne@ccdosp.org

Cell: 727-432-4864

Work Cell: 813-690-2479

Nurse – Medical Specialist

Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center

Catholic Charities, DOSP

Barbara graduated from the University of Southern Maine with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and has been a registered nurse since 1978. She has worked in a variety of health care settings, including nursing home, hospital and community health care, caring for babies, children and adults. Since relocating to Florida, her focus was on home health care, primarily for the elderly, until an opportunity arose for her to volunteer for Catholic Charities’ Pregnancy Plus Medical Center, presently Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center, performing ultrasounds for abortion-minded and abortion-vulnerable women in the center and on a clinic bus next to an abortion facility.

Barbara found her vocation through volunteering and eventually changed career paths. She now works full-time for Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center as a nurse sonographer and lay counselor. Barbara is a member of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and has given her testimony as an outreach for Project Rachel, the diocesan post-abortive healing program. She is married to Tom and they have six adult children and six grandchildren.

**Topics:** Embryonic and Fetal Development; Abortion procedures, risks and complications; Post-abortion healing; Ministering to women with unplanned pregnancies

**Mike Ferreira****mmferr@aol.com**

Mike Ferreira has earned his daily bread as a technology professional for the past 33 years, taking him to many countries including Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Italy. He was largely responsible for setting up new manufacturing of printers and scanners in these countries, as well as within companies in the US. In his more mature years, Mike has throttled down a little and is currently employed as a computer analyst for a major U.S. company.

Mike decided later in life that he needed to know more about his Church, the Catholic faith and Scripture so he attended Belmont Abbey College and completed his bachelor’s degree in Theology in 1999. This spiritual life drives Mike to reach out as he can to those he can help so he is active in the Forty Days for Life and the Justice for Immigrants programs in the Diocese.

Mike has also participated in two Just Faith programs, one in Saint Petersburg and as a facilitator for a group in Seattle, Washington. This experience has made him aware of the many acts of oppression throughout the world and especially the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Mike is a member of Holy Cross Church in Saint Petersburg where he is a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Arts and Environment Committee.

**Topic: The situation in Darfur**

**Chris Gladu**prov24-11@juno.com

Chris Gladu is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and holds a Masters in Pastoral Studies from Saint Leo University. Together with his wife Lupe he has been involved in many aspects of pro-life missionary work since 1993 including sidewalk counseling, promoting Natural Family Planning, supporting the efforts of Pregnancy Resource Centers and helping parish pro-life groups and Knights of Columbus Councils to organize their efforts to build the culture of life.

 Topics available:

* sidewalk counseling, (30 min - 1 hour)
* implementing the USCCB plan for Pro-life Activities with a parish group or Knights of Columbus Council, (30 min - 1 hour)
* theology and origins of the Church's teachings on the sanctity of life, (30 min - 1 hour)
* 3 hour class on Pro-Life theology, activities, best practices, sidewalk counseling
* 3 hour guided small group study of Humanae Vitae

Chris is also the author of Catholic, Pro-Life novel, Presence of My Enemies, which is designed to communicate the truths of Church teaching on the sanctity of life through character dialog. The goal of the book is to make these teachings accessible to a generation Y audience. A small church group and RCIA discussion leaders guide will be forthcoming as well.   It is available from Amazon.com as well as through local Catholic bookstores. There is never a charge for any talk or class but if food and gas money are offered, they are graciously accepted.

**Chaplain Blair Holtey, BCC
Morton Plant Mease Health Care****Blair.Holtey@baycare.org**

Blair Holtey, M.Div., serves as the National Board-certified Staff Chaplain at Mease Countryside Hospital in Safety Harbor, Florida, is a Board member of the Clearwater, Homeless Emergency Project (HEP), and Committee member of the Partners for Creative Aging in Pinellas County, Advance Care Planning Partnership of Suncoast Hospice and Project Grace, Ethics Committees of Morton Plant Mease Health Care and BayCare Health System, and a member of the Healing and Spirituality Committee of Morton Plant Mease Health Care and the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) Task Force for the Recruitment of Chaplains.

He is trained in Basic Critical Incident Stress Management, Relaxation Response, Advance Care Planning Facilitation for Respecting Choices, and he has taught classes at St. Petersburg College Continuing Education Health Department. He is published in the American Journal of Geriatric Cardiology: “Ethical Issues in the Management of Geriatric Cardiac Patients.”

His recognitions and/or awards include a Circle of Excellence Bronze Award – Recognizing Teams who Demonstrate Quality Improvement, “With Wings As Eagles” Leadership Award – Department of Pastoral Care, Contributions to Arts in Medicine in the September-October “Parent Guide” magazine, Co-coordinator with Ruth Eckerd Hall - Marcia P. Hoffman Institute Performing Arts for developing, implementing and coordinating the Arts In Medicine Program at Morton Plant Mease Health Care.

**Topics: Palliative Care and End of Life Issues**

**Mary Ann C. Holtz****walt231@mindspring.com**

Mary Ann C. Holtz has been a justice and peace educator and activist since 1979 and a Christian psychotherapist in the Counseling Ministry at St. Paul's Parish in St. Petersburg since 1985. Mary Ann and her husband, Walt Davin, are founding members of St. Paul’s Partners with Haiti. She helped to facilitate the JustFaith process at St. Paul's and led the parish Green Team for several years.

For the last 6 years Mary Ann's focus has been in the area of Caring for Creation.  As Pope Francis has been reminding us, we are all called to protect the natural world,

To assist our community in this endeavor, this Earth Day, April 22, 2013, Mary Ann updated a worksheet which she presented at a workshop during ourDiocese's Caring for God's Creation conference in April 2008. "**Ten Action Steps for Individuals and Families Responding to the Current Global Crises of Energy, Environment, and Economy,** **Discovering Active Hope".** Available online at <http://paxchristiflorida.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/10actionstepsupdatedforearthday4-22-13.pdf>.

If you are interested in offering this workshop or similar presentations at your parish, please contact Mary Ann for more information.

**Topic: Environmental Justice**

**Lily King**

**Lmking2@mail.usf.edu**

Lily King is a 2012 graduate of USF with a B.A. in Psychology. She is currently finishing her M.A. in Theology at Saint Leo University. Lily discovered her passion for Theology and Catholic apologetics while in in her second year of undergraduate studies , reading Scott Hahn, Fulton Sheen, Augustine, Aquinas, Chesterson, and C.S. Lewis (who never became Roman Catholic, but advocated many Roman Catholic doctrines). Lily was born and raised in the Catholic Church, which is evident to those around her, being that her mother is one of 12 children and she has 40 cousins. She hopes to eventually teach at the University level and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Philosophy with a concentration in Religious Studies.  Lily just began an internship with the USCCB working for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), promoting awareness of general Catholic Social Teaching principles and CCHD's mission to combat domestic poverty. She also works part-time as a fourth grade teacher's aide at the Cathedral School of St. Jude the Apostle.

Rose Llauget

rllauget@ccdosp.org

Rose Llauget joined Catholic Charities in November 2009 as Program Coordinator for Pregnancy Plus Medical - Pinellas. In February, 2010, she assumed Haitian Relief responsibilities following the 2010 earthquake. In July 2010, she was appointed Program Manager for Pregnancy and Adoption Services overseeing Catholic Charities’ four Foundations of Life Pregnancy Centers and Adoption Services in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Venice and Orlando.

 Prior to joining the Catholic Charities, Ms. Llauget retired after a 28 year career with GTE Telecommunications, Inc. (now Verizon). She served as Director – International Sales for Latin America and the Caribbean with GTE Telecommunications Services (now Syniverse) establishing GTE as a major player in the Latin American wireless market. Ms. Llauget also taught Business Communication, a college level course adapted for grades 6-8, at Villa Madonna School.

She is a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Hillsborough County Florida, providing a strong voice in court on behalf of abused and neglected children. She is the Catholic Religious Medal Counselor trainer for the Diocese of St. Petersburg Committee on Scouting. She attends St. Timothy Catholic Church where she is a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Catholic Council of Women.

Ms. Llauget holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of South Florida and a Master’s degree in Education Leadership from Saint Leo University. She is a former licensed private pilot and certified scuba diver. She is married to Ron and has two sons, Michael and Alexander. She enjoys spending time at their beach home, beachcombing, shell collecting, biking, and occasionally surfing.

Speaker Bureau Areas:

Pregnancy Center Topics, Adoptions, Catholic Charities

**Howard McNier**

howietwins@yahoo.com

Howard McNier is on the Board of Directors of the Living Water Center (LWC) of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Bangkok , Thailand . The LWC Executive Director is a Redepmtorist priest, Fr. Robert Martin. LWC cares for over 2,000 trafficked, abandoned, orphaned, and migrant children at schools and orphanages in Burma and Thailand . The children are often malnourished to the extent that even age determination is difficult. At the LWC they receive loving care and education -- including one hour daily of the Good News of Jesus! The Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, and volunteer missionaries daily risk their lives to recover children stolen by the sex traders and aide children in Burma . Howard’s experiences with these amazing men and women have changed his life.

**Topic**: Child trafficking in Southeast Asia

**Pat Mermelstein****pmerm7@cs.com**

In 1995, Pat resigned from her nursing supervisory position in an OB/GYN office after she became aware about the highly abortifacient nature of the contraceptive materials, routinely prescribed in the busy office.  This event coincided with her return to the Catholic Church after 25 years.  Pat soon became active in her Long Island parish Respect Life Committee, until moving to Florida in 1998.  She accepted a position as Diocesan Respect Life Area Coordinator for West Pasco and worked with Sharon Iler for about three years and now serves in that capacity under Life Ministries Director, Sabrina Burton Shultz.

Pat works with Project Rachel and is the Respect Life coordinator at St. James the Apostle. She is the Chairperson for the Directors of Development Committee at Catholic Charities Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center, in Spring Hill and is also a freelance writer and speaker. Pat and her husband, Stan, have four adult children and eight grandchildren.

**Topics: Advancing the Culture of Life, (in the parish and in the community), Human Embryonic Development and the Personhood of the Human Embryo.**

**Mary Palamar****mpalamar@tamparbay.rr.com**

Mary C Palamar, born in Brooklyn NY, has a BA degree (biology major) from Rutgers University, a master’s degree in elementary education from SUNY Brockport, and a doctorate in education from the University of Rochester. She holds certification in elementary education, special educ**ation and administration. Mary has been a bacteriologist, special education teacher, special education secondary administrator and, for twenty years, a professor of education at Nazareth College of Rochester. At Nazareth she served as director of graduate and undergraduate programs in special education and later as chairperson of the Education Department. When she retired in 2002, the college named her Professor Emeritus. In Florida, Mary is a hospice volunteer. Mary and her husband Peter live in New Port Richey, Florida and in the Thousand Islands, New York. They have three grown sons and six grandchildren.**

**Topics: Human Trafficking, Human Rights and Women’s’ Issues**

**Lou Pekrul****pwh@tampabay.rr.com**

Lou Pekrul has been a parishioner at St. Paul Parish in St. Petersburg since 1972. He has been involved with the parish ministry to Haiti since 1998. In 1999, the parish entered a twinning relationship with St. Isidore Parish in Haiti. Lou had been the coordinator of this ministry for the past ten years, having made seven trips to Haiti. He is now the  coordinator of the water program the ministry has established to supply a means for the parishioners of St. Isidore to have access to clean water. Lou has been a teacher in Pinellas County for the past 43 years. He and his wife, Peg, have been married for 43 years. They have five children and six grandchildren.

**Topic: Parish Twinning**

**Dan Pepin****pepindan@hotmail.com**

Dr. Dan Pepin is a professor of anatomy & physiology, instructor of human biology and consultant on bioethics.  He has developed six programs dealing with some of the more controversial bioethical issues of today. These programs are designed to educate audiences, small or large, and are appropriate for churches, pro-life organizations, the public at large, as well as high school and college campuses.  The goal of each program is to replace the “complacency of ignorance” with the “responsibility for knowledge”.

**Topic: Bioethical Issues**

**Anne Richter****arichter58@msn.com**

 Anne Richter is a certified nurse-midwife, with a master’s degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She has worked in a variety of maternal and child health programs for over 30 years in Africa, Asia and the United States. After retiring from The Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center at USF in 2003, Anne worked in Kabul on projects aimed at reducing Afghanistan’s high maternal and infant mortality rates, and in Haiti with St. Paul’s (St. Petersburg, FL) Parish Twinning Project. Over the past few years, Anne has spoken onher work in Afghanistan and Haiti to women’s groups, classes in schools and universities and community organizations.

**Topics:  Catholic Social Teaching, international work, parish twinning**

**Dr. Joseph Roebuck****drjoeroebuck@yahoo.com**

Dr. Joseph Roebuck, is an engineer, scientist, physician, radiologist, and post-abortive father, as well as a member of the St Frances Cabrini chapter of the Knights of Columbus and a third degree Knight. He earned his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the University of Michigan and his M.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit. He trained in radiology at the State University of New York, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard Medical School's Brigham and Women's Hospital. He was most recently on the radiology faculty of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where he served as the Director of Experimental Clinical Imaging. Dr. Roebuck's life hit a brick wall after he left UTMB in 2010 and his epiphany started after he attended a local Rachel's Vineyard retreat earlier this year. He will be discussing why many men and women who have been directly affected by abortion suffer in silence, how to identify the debilitating effects of abortion on their lives, and how to start the process of recovering from underlying trauma, grief, and shame. He is a supporter of Project Rachel and has served as a team member on Rachel's Vineyard retreats which are available locally for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion.

**Claire Thuning-Roberson, Ph.D.,
Consultant to the Biopharmaceutical Industry**

**claireroberson@aol.com**

Dr. Thuning-Roberson has held multi-disciplinary positions in clinical, non-clinical, and manufacturing in the biopharmaceutical industry. Her therapeutic expertise in international drug development includes oncology, infectious, cardiovascular, and inflammatory diseases. She was Director of Pharmaceutical Development at Thallion Pharmaceuticals for nine years and continues to serve in a consulting capacity.  Prior to Thallion, she was Vice President of Product Development and Compliance at Sunol Molecular Corporation from 2000 – 2004, co-founder in 1993 and CEO of Goodwin Biotechnology (GBI), a contract manufacturer of biologics for clinical trials, and Director of the Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research before establishing GBI. Her early research experience was as Research Associate in microvascular research at St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Thuning-Roberson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, Indiana, in 1967, Medical Technology certification at St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1968, and Masters and Ph.D. degree in Biological Sciences from Nova University, Florida, in 1978 and 1982, respectively. She has published in the fields of tumor biology, immunology, infectious disease, and physiology. Her affiliations include BioFlorida Board (Member and Past Chair); Florida Atlantic University Schmidt College of Science Advisory Board (Vice Chair, Legislative Committee Chair); Florida Atlantic University; Chair, Center of Excellence Research Advisory Committee; Executive Advisory Council Member, CISAT, James Madison University; Science Advisory Board Member; and Member, AACR, AAI, and MT/ASCP.

**Topics: Donating Eggs for Research, Stem Cells, The Life Journey of the Unborn.**

**Ethel Sharp
Executive Director, Aging Matters****sharppax@gmail.com**

Ethel Sharp served as the Director of the Office of Older Adults for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Appointed by Bishop W. Thomas Larkin in 1988. After leaving this position some 21 years ago, she founded Aging Matters, an organization that advocates for and serves mature adults, adult children of aging parents, and family caregivers. Ms. Sharp serves as a consultant, geriatric care manager, resource counselor, and personal advocate.

In 1991 Ethel was appointed to a special committee under the personal direction of Governor Lawton Childs creating the first State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs. She has written numerous articles for different publications and for 13 years was a columnist for the St. Petersburg Times writing with a focus on Mature Adult issues and needs, Family Caregiving and Adult Children of Aging Parents. Ethel has over 35 years of personal experience as a Family Caregiver and has worked in the community to build awareness and mobilize support for family caregivers and older adults living independently in their own homes.

**Jennifer Elizabeth Stracick
Executive Director for ALPHA House of Pinellas County****jstracick@alphahousepinellas.org**

Jennifer Elizabeth Stracick has been the Executive Director for ALPHA House of Pinellas County since 2006. She received her Associates in Human Services from Niagara County Community College, her Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Buffalo State College and her Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Buffalo with a Concentration of Children and Youth.

She herself was a homeless teen Mother with no one to help her and was forced to place her child up for adoption. She spent the rest of her life dedicated to helping homeless Teen Moms first with her education and now at the agency she works for.

She is currently working on taking her exam to be a Licensed Social Worker and has also started "The Book Angel Club" which provides books to Chemotherapy patients.

Topics: Teen Pregnancy, Homeless Women and Youth, Adoption

**Rev. John Tapp
Pastor of Holy Family Parish, St. Petersburg****jgtapp@aol.com**

 **Fr. Tapp holds a Master of Arts degree in liturgical studies from St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN. Ordained in 1984, he has ministered as associate pastor, pastor and campus minister. Fr. Tapp is currently the pastor of Holy Family Parish in St. Petersburg and the Secretary of Worship for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Fr. Tapp is co-chair of FAST (Faith and Action for Strength Together), an inter-denominational social justice ministry in Pinellas County. He also serves on the diocesan Presbyteral** **Council and various diocesan liturgical boards.**

**Topic: The Mass and Social Justice**

**Debi Vinnedge**

**Executive Director of Children of God for Life**

**debi@cogforlife.org**

Debi Vinnedge is the Executive Director of Children of God for Life, a non-profit, pro-life organization focused on the bioethic issues of human cloning, embryonic and fetal tissue research. Ms Vinnedge is a nationally recognized author and speaker and has provided written testimony for Congressional hearings on embryonic stem cell research. She has appeared on both local and national television programs and has been a guest speaker on major national television and radio broadcasts, including Fox News’ Hannity & Colmes, Vatican Radio, Ave Maria Radio, EWTN, Human Life International and Living His Life Abundantly. Her work has been featured in leading Catholic publications including the Vatican’s Medicini e Morale.

Ms Vinnedge is considered the foremost authority on the use of aborted fetal cell lines in medical products and vaccines. She has given numerous speaking engagements nationwide on the subjects of stem cell research, human cloning, aborted fetal research and vaccines. Ms. Vinnedge currently resides in Largo, FL. She has been married 39 years and has 2 children and 6 grandchildren.

**Diana White**
**whitedl@tampabay.rr.com**

Diane has been a memberof St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Spring Hill for almost 20 years. Last summer she accompanied her son, Steven, on a trip with Catholic Relief Services to Ghana in West Africa, where they learned about and observed many of CRS’s humanitarian programs.

**Topic: Catholic Relief Service humanitarian programs**

***Non-Diocesan Speakers***

**Hillsborough County Homeless Coalition Speakers Bureau**813-223-6115; [www.unexpectedfaces.org](http://www.unexpectedfaces.org); [www.homelessofhc.org](http://www.homelessofhc.org)

The “Unexpected Faces, Unexpected Places” Speakers Bureau aims to dispel the myths, misconceptions and stereotypes that exist about our homeless neighbors. By opening up a dialogue between our neighbors, with and without homes, we begin to emphasize our similarities and better understand one another. This dialogue helps us address the causes of homelessness and implement long-term workable solutions.

Homelessness affects more than 9,500 of our neighbors; in fact, Hillsborough County has the largest homeless population in the state, making these long-term solutions particularly important. The “Unexpected Faces, Unexpected Places” Speakers Bureau is not only significant for implementing long-term solutions and building awareness; but provides an opportunity for speakers to share their story and become empowered by conversing with their neighbors. By using their own voices and stories to put a face on homelessness, these speakers help inspire individuals with homes to participate in the effort to help all of our homeless neighbors.

The UFUP Speaker Bureau offers several different types of presentations, including:

Brown Bag Project

* Panel Presentations
* Informational Tables
* Short Speeches
* Talks and Discussions

“Minute for Missions”
We can also tailor a presentation to meet your needs.

**Pinellas County Homeless Coalition Speakers Bureau**

[**http://www.pinellashomeless.org/**](http://www.pinellashomeless.org/)

In July 2008, the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless began their Speakers’ Bureau, and recruited a formerly homeless person to coordinate it. Utilizing a cadre of diverse homeless and formerly homeless persons, the objectives of this speakers’ bureau are to: 1) educate the public about the changing face of homelessness in Pinellas County, 2) encourage the public to become vigilant activists for the cessation of violence against street homeless people, and 3) raise awareness and funds to support coordinated efforts to address the homelessness issue in Pinellas County. This group is developing original media tools, including a 15-minute video and a homeless newspaper, to help promote these messages. This growing ten-person speakers’ bureau, which receives training and coaching from an Advanced Communicator from Toastmasters International, participates in five to ten speaking engagements each month.
Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless
5180 62nd Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Ph: (727) 528-5763; Fax: (727) 528-5764

**Center for Human Trafficking Awareness, St. Petersburg College:** <http://haltht.spcollege.edu/Speakers.htm>