

## Thomas More The Lawyer Saint

Thomas More was a lawyer in sixteenth century England. He had been a boyhood friend of Henry VIII and served as Chancellor of England from 1529 to 1533. King Henry sought More's approval for both his divorce and declaring himself head of the Church in England. More could not in conscience assent to either request. Rather he resigned as Chancellor. Thomas More had solid faith in the law. He was convinced that if he did not speak out publicly about the King's role in the Church or about the divorce and succession to the throne, English law would keep him safe. What he had not counted on was the deceit and betrayal of those who craved power at his expense.

Thomas More adhered to the principles in which he believed. He was jailed, tried in a travesty of a trial, sentenced, and finally beheaded. Hundreds of noblemen and clergy went along with the King and saved their heads. But the man whom we remember and honor and whom the Church canonized is Thomas More.

He is a fitting role model for both pro-life activists and those answer-

ing the call to defend them. It would be easy to walk away from pro-life activism, to let the babies die. After all, it is not the fault of pro-lifers that abortion is legal or that women choose abortion. But conscientious persons cannot ignore these evils. They must hold to principle, as did Thomas More, "set like metal," as playwright Robert Bolt put it, who "could no more be budged than a cliff."

Doubtless, there will be consequences. Pro-life activists are not likely to be beheaded. But they will be persecuted. They may be prosecuted. Their lawyers too may be mocked, threatened, or even sanctioned. But with Thomas More, the lawyer saint, as the patron of our Pro-Life Law Center, the activists and their attorneys are confident of ultimate victory.

**Thomas More Society**  
**Pro-Life Law Center**  
**A Public Interest Law Firm**  
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## The Thomas More Society



**Pro-Life Law Center**  
Chicago, Illinois

## The Thomas More Society Pro-Life Law Center

**T**he Thomas More Society was founded in 1997 to meet the burgeoning legal needs of the pro-life movement, and, in particular, to defend those who face legal battles as a result of their commitment to the protection of elementary civil rights for innocent prenatal human beings.

**P**ro-life activists are often the targets of aggressive, over-broad or baseless prosecutions or civil law suits under both federal and local laws and ordinances. These activists are seldom in a position to enlist the help of the legal professionals in order to mount an effective defense.

**I**n addition, those who work in the medical profession and are committed to a pro-life approach to medical care are often harassed and intimidated in their work places.

**T**he Thomas More Society is staffed and equipped to provide legal advice and assistance to those who face harassment, employment discrimination, unjust treatment or prosecution as a result of their pro-life position.

**T**he attorneys affiliated with the Thomas More Society have accumulated many years of experience with pro-life legal issues.

**T**homas Brejcha, president of the Thomas More Society, has served as the lead defense attorney in the *NOW v. Scheidler* federal RICO case since 1986. This case has already been before the Federal District Court, Federal Appellate Court and U.S. Supreme Court three times. The Court decided the case in favor of Scheidler by an 8 to 1 ruling in 2003. The latest appeal was argued in November, 2005.

**T**he Thomas More Society has also come to the aid of nurses and doctors whose right to refuse to support or participate in abortion has been challenged. The TMS lawyers have provided counsel and advice to attorneys handling other pro-life cases around the country.

**T**he Thomas More Society is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to insure justice for those defending the sanctity and inviolability of all human life.

**T**he Thomas More Society is a public interest law firm, a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, Illinois corporation. It relies solely on private donations from individuals and foundations who share the Society's desire for justice for the unborn and those who work for their protection.

**T**o become a supporter of the Thomas More Society, please complete the form below and mail to:

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