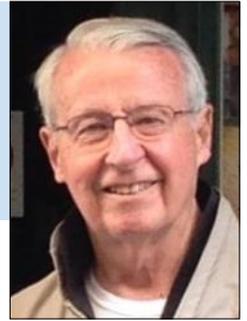


# I'm a Kansan for Life!

## Earl Hogan, Fairway, Kansas



### How I became involved in the pro-life movement:

I recall serving as an usher at 10 a.m. Mass at St. Peter's Church in Kansas City, Missouri, on the last Sunday in January of 1973 when our pastor spoke on the Supreme Court's decision to allow for the legal abortion of unborn children. I know that I and I think most people attending Mass that day recoiled at the thought of it.

However, following that, I never paid too much attention to the subject of abortion, but always considered it as extremely evil.



*Earl and Jo Marie Hogan with their children, Dan Hogan, Kelly Randall, Kathleen Wendland, and Peggy Everhart. All of Earl's children and their spouses are strong pro-life advocates.*

Several years later, our oldest grandson chose Maximilian Kolbe as his patron saint – a saint with whom I wasn't familiar. This prompted me to buy a book to acquaint myself with him. I learned that he was the famous martyr of Auschwitz in Poland. At the end of July 1941, after three prisoners had disappeared from the camp, the SS deputy camp commander picked ten other men to be starved to death in an underground bunker to deter further escape attempts. When one of the selected men cried out, "My wife! My children!", Maximilian Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

In his prison cell, Kolbe led the prisoners in prayer. Each time the guards checked on him, he was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell — looking calmly at those who entered.

A few weeks after reading about Maximilian Kolbe, I woke up suddenly in the middle of the night, and began thinking what would I have done had I been a citizen of Auschwitz and knew what was happening inside that camp. Would I have volunteered with other Polish citizens to storm the camp, intending to free the prisoners being held there? What could I have done?

And then it suddenly dawned on me that an even worse Holocaust was taking place, right now, within a few miles of my home – one in which over one million unborn babies were being savagely put to death. Yet, I wasn't doing anything in their defense!

The next day, I called our Parish Rectory at St. Agnes in Roeland Park, Kansas, and asked if there was a pro-life ministry in the Parish. When I was told there was not, I said that I'd like to start one; I was encouraged to do so.

To form it, I sought the help of Ron Kelsey, Pro-Life Consultant for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas; he kindly provided the suggested organizational structure for a pro-life ministry. Soon after, I enlisted the help of several other St. Agnes parishioners, many of whom have remained active in our ministry for the past 14 years.

### What I do for the pro-life movement:

Since forming pro-life ministry at St. Agnes, I've been invited to serve on the Boards of Johnson County Kansans for Life and the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic. I'm honored to have been asked and to serve.

### My other activities, outside the pro-life movement:

I own a direct marketing agency that serves business-to-business companies. In my free time I enjoy being with my wife, Jo, our children and their spouses, and our 12 grandchildren. I also enjoy reading and fitness training.



*Jo Marie, Kelly, and Earl at the National March for Life in Washington DC.*



*Ten of the Hogans' twelve grandchildren.*