



# THE PRESIDENTIAL RECORD ON LIFE

## President Ronald Reagan 1981-1989

*"My administration is dedicated to the preservation of America as a free land, and there is no cause more important for preserving that freedom than affirming the transcendent right to life of all human beings, the right without which no other rights have meaning."*

*-President Ronald Reagan*

- President Reagan supported legislation to challenge *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand.
- President Reagan adopted the "Mexico City Policy," which cut off U.S. foreign aid funds to private organizations that performed or promoted abortion overseas.
- The Reagan Administration cut off funding to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) because that agency violated U.S. law by participating in China's compulsory abortion program.
- The Reagan Administration adopted regulations to prohibit federally funded "family planning" clinics from promoting abortion as a method of birth control.
- The Reagan Administration blocked the use of federal funds for research using tissue from aborted babies.
- The Reagan Administration helped win enactment of the Danforth Amendment which established that federally funded education institutions are not guilty of "sex discrimination" if they refuse to pay for abortions.
- President Reagan introduced the topic of fetal pain into public debate.
- The Reagan Administration played a key role in enactment of legislation to protect the right to life of handicapped newborns and signed the legislation into law.
- President Reagan designated a National Sanctity of Human Life Day in recognition of the value of human life at all stages.
- President Reagan wrote a book entitled *Abortion and the Conscience of a Nation*, in which he made the case against legal abortion and in favor of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.