

**THE 2018 RUPERT AND TIMOTHY SMITH AWARD  
FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO PRO-LIFE SCHOLARSHIP**

**Dr. Francis “Frank” Zapatka**

**UFFL Co-Founder  
Emeritus Professor of Literature  
American University**

**Intended Laureate Lecture\***

“Life Issues  
in Ralph McInerny’s Fiction:  
A Perpetual Work in Progress”

\* Ill health prevented the delivery of  
this speech. His son accepted the  
award on his behalf.



### **Dr. Zapatka’s Personal Reflection**

“I would consider co-founding University Faculty for life as one of my most important accomplishments. Along with that, I’d say being a contributing co-editor of UFL Pro Vita (as redundant as that title is—someone else had taken Pro Vita earlier) was as well.

Psychiatrist Patricia Wesley of Bellevue and Yale med school and I prepared the first issue, Jan.22, 1991. Pat continued as co-editor for several more years. I edited alone for 5 or 6 issues. Father King began as co-editor in Oct. 1999 and continued to May 2009 about a month before he died. I stepped down later that year. My goal was to make the publication more than a collection of dates and a list of member publications and pro-life activities but also to publish substantive research (for me that was often literary).

Parallel and prior to UFL, I was the first and a very involved faculty advisor for the AU student pro-life group. That was from 1978 to about 1991. Similarly, on the parish level, I was Respect Life Committee coordinator for a number of years and since 2004 have been writing Respect Life Notes/news for the parish bulletin. These I’ve done very frequently (recently weekly); they vary in length from a paragraph to a full column. Both the campus and parish activities, I would describe as applied pro-life research, perhaps exemplifying subsidiarity, at any rate sharing what I know or learn about the life issues with others. Many of our members, of course, have published far more than I have but, I would also consider my Life and Learning articles on Walker Percy and Bl. Clemens von Galen and my blogs on our website as significant accomplishments.”

Dr. Zapatka’s pro-life publications can be found by searching on our website [UFFL.org](http://UFFL.org).