



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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Man Awakens After 12 Years in a “Vegetative State,” Says “I Was Aware of Everything”



In the 1980's, 12-year-old Martin Pistorious became seriously ill with what doctor's believed was Cryptococci Meningitis. His health started deteriorating and Martin lost his ability to move, make eye contact and even speak to others. His doctors told his parents, Rodney and Joan Pistorious, to bring him

home and let him die. They told them he was as good as a vegetable.

For twelve years, Martin's family cared for him without any sign that he was improving. Martin spent most of those days at a care center where his caregivers played Barney reruns over and over again. They did this because they believed he was a vegetable too. He said, “I cannot even express to you how much I hated Barney.”

Now Martin is married and has penned a memoir about his life. He has gained control of his body and in his book [Ghost Boy](#), he writes, “My mind was trapped inside a useless body, my arms and legs weren't mine to control and my voice was mute. I couldn't make a sign or sounds to let anyone know I'd become aware again. I was invisible—the ghost boy.”

Martin's survival is a testament to how little we actually know about the human brain and a good reminder that we should value all life—even when we hear the terrifying words “your loved one is a vegetable” or in a “vegetative state” from a medical professional.

LifeNews.com 1/12/15

Abortions Drop to All-Time Low in Pennsylvania

Abortions in Pennsylvania have dropped to an all-time low as more women find access to the education and resources they need to choose life.

In 2013, the number of abortions in Pennsylvania dropped by 7 percent to 32,108, according to a report from the state Department of Health. The total is the lowest number of abortions in Pennsylvania since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

National Right to Life News Today 2/3/15

Canada Strikes Down Ban on Assisted Suicide, Says it Violates the Right to Life

The Canadian Supreme Court has struck down Canada's ban on assisted suicide, saying it violates the right to life of terminally ill people.

The Supreme Court of Canada released its decision today in the Carter case concerning Canada's laws that protect people from euthanasia and assisted suicide. The court ruled that people have a right to kill themselves with assistance from a physician.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is very concerned about the ruling and the negative effect it will have on disabled people. “Canada needs to focus on how it cares for people in difficult circumstances, not how to kill its people,” it added.

<http://m1e.net/c?204359875-9cMHMWHmeI9Ns%40250172191-8TB.IPrIbFm.o>

Judge Rules Mother of Six Who Has Learning Disabilities Can be Forcibly Sterilized

In the United Kingdom, a mother-of-six will be taken to the hospital and forced to undergo a sterilization.

In 2014, the department of health and social services applied for permission to enter the woman's home and take her to get sterilized against her will. The woman, who has not been identified, reportedly has a learning disability. Justice Cobb today authorized medics and social services staff to: “Remove (the woman) from her home and take steps to convey her to hospital for the purposes of the sterilization procedure.” And he said “necessary and proportionate steps” could include “forced entry and necessary restraint”.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2015/02/04/judge-rules-mother-of-six-who-has-learning-disabilities-can-be-forcibly-sterilized/>

Supreme Court to Decide if “Choose Life” License Plates are Offensive

Children First Foundation, is a pro-adoption nonprofit that has been promoting its mission through specialty “Choose Life” license plates. Some states allow groups to apply for specialty license plates, which provide revenue both to the state and to these nonprofits. While a myriad of other plates were permitted, the state of New York denied Children First Foundation's “Choose Life” license plate after it determined that the plate was “**offensive.**” Litigation on behalf of Children First Foundation is ongoing in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The US Supreme Court is considering an almost identical issue in *Walker v. Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans*, dealing with a plate that the state of Texas found to be “**offensive.**”

Independence Law Center 2/16/15

Bishops Praise Supreme Court Examination of Death-Penalty Protocols

The U.S. Supreme Court has announced it will consider the case *Glossip v. Gross*, brought by three Oklahoma death-row inmates, Richard Glossip, John Grant and Benjamin Cole. The inmates' lawsuit asks the court to reject the three-drug protocol used in Oklahoma executions, saying it can cause extreme pain that violates constitutional bans on cruel and unusual punishment.

Several bishops in the U.S. have welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to re-examine death-penalty protocols and have called for the abolition of the death penalty.

"We pray that the court's review of these protocols will lead to the recognition that institutionalized practices of violence against any person erode reverence for the sanctity of every human life. Capital punishment must end," Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, who chairs the U.S. bishops' pro-life activities committee, said Jan. 27. Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, who chairs the committee on domestic justice, said recent executions have shown "how the use of the death penalty devalues human life and diminishes respect for human dignity." National Catholic Register 1/29/15

Measles Are Making a Comeback, So What Does the Church Teach About Vaccines?

Dr. Marie Hilliard is a canon lawyer and the director of bioethics and public policy at the [National Catholic Bioethics Center](#) (NCBC), a nonprofit research and educational institute committed to applying the moral teachings of the Catholic Church to ethical issues arising in health care and the life sciences. The NCBC, along with the Pontifical Academy for Life, have studied the moral issues surrounding vaccines and have determined that it is morally licit, and even morally responsible, for Catholics to use even those vaccines developed from aborted fetus cells.

The Pontifical Academy for Life determined that the good of public health outweighs the distanced cooperation in the evil of the abortions performed in the 1960s from which the cell lines were developed. No new abortions have been performed to maintain these vaccines, and no cells from the victims of the abortions are contained in the vaccines.

Currently, the vaccine lines for rubella, chicken pox and hepatitis A are the remaining vaccines that have been developed from aborted fetal cells and for which there is no alternative available.

The document goes on to say that Catholics should express their opposition to vaccines developed from aborted cells and that **there is an obligation to use alternative vaccines, should they exist.**

National Catholic Register 1/29/15



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

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Operations: **computer** (software: Altiris, Backup Exec, Endpoint Protection, IDS, Norton products, Partition Magic, pcAnywhere, ProComm, WinFax), **internet** (products/services: 4FrontSecurity, MessageLabs, Mi5 Networks, PC Tools, Storage Foundation, SwapDrive, Sygate, Veritas).

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President & CEO
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www.symantec.com

**Tell him to
stop funding
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Symantec has been on *The Boycott List* for more than 10 years and we last wrote to them in May 2005. We must never give up on the pre-born. Let's keep sending those letters!

"When a child is described as a burden or is looked upon only as a means to satisfy an emotional need, we will stand up and insist that every child is a unique and unrepeatable gift of God, with the right to a loving and united family."

—Pope John Paul II, Holy Mass on the National Mall, October 7, 1979

Cardinal O'Malley Welcomes House Passage of 'No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act'

Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, welcomed passage of the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015" (H.R. 7) by the U.S. House of Representatives. "By passing this legislation, the House has taken a decisive step toward respect for unborn human life, reflecting the will of the American people," he said. The bill codifies a permanent, government-wide policy against taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion coverage. It also requires health plans offered under the Affordable Care Act to disclose the extent of their coverage for abortion and the amount of any surcharge for that coverage to consumers.

H.R. 7 also requires health plans under the Affordable Care Act to provide full disclosure on their abortion coverage to consumers," said Cardinal O'Malley. "This lets Americans choose health coverage that reflects their values. Just as most Americans do not want their tax dollars used for abortion, they do not want their own health coverage misused to pay for abortions. I hope the U.S. Senate will take up this important legislation soon." United States Conference of Catholic Bishops 1/23/15