



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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Pittsburgh Diocese Eliminates Annulment Fees

Bishop David Zubik announced April 1st that, effective immediately, the Pittsburgh diocese has eliminated all fees for annulments—a move triggered by remarks from Pope Francis

“My staff and I have long dreamed of this move,” Zubik said. “Our dear Pope Francis has called for marriage tribunals to ‘do justice freely, as we have freely been forgiven by Jesus Christ.’”

Annulments are declarations that a marriage was not spiritually binding. Annulments can only happen once a civil divorce is final.

The average fee in Pittsburgh was \$650 but now those costs will be covered by a grant from Church Alive and Parish Share funds.

Annulments are on the decline. Pittsburgh reports handling fewer than 200 per year.
Pittsburgh Tribune Review 4/2/15

Kansas Becomes First State to Ban Dismemberment Abortion

On April 7, 2015, Kansas became the first state to ban abortions by a procedure known as “dilation and evacuation,” which is common during second-trimester abortions and is called “dismemberment abortion” in the law.

Local pro-life advocates say the legislation is an opportunity to save the unborn from a horrific procedure, while providing a model for other states. The law contains an exemption for medical emergencies or when a pregnant woman’s life is in danger. It also makes clear that a woman who seeks a dismemberment abortion is not liable under law.

The law allows civil action against physicians who perform dismemberment abortions in violation of the law. The Oklahoma Legislature is considering a similar bill, as are Missouri and South Carolina. National Catholic Register 4/9/15

Viral Image Of 101-Year-Old With Newborn Baby Sparks Unbelievable Response

The pro-life movement celebrates human life at both ends of the spectrum. We fight for the right to life of unborn children who are targeted by abortions and we fight just as passionately for the elderly and disabled who are targeted by assisted suicide and euthanasia.

This image has gone viral on social media as millions of people are touched by the beauty and the circle of life it represents.

The photo was shared by Sarah Hamm of Gilbert, Arizona. She had brought her two-week-old daughter Kaylee Rowland to meet her 101-year-old Grandma Rosa Camfield. Hamm said she was delighted that her photo triggered such a response. “People were really drawn to the image for reasons we didn’t foresee. They thought of all of the things this woman has seen and lived through in her lifetime and imagined how her experiences will shape the life of the baby just starting her own journey,” The Huffington Post 4/1/15



Abortion Activists Vandalize Pro-Life Cross Display at Clarion University of Pennsylvania

For the second time in four years, the Clarion Students for Life Cemetery of the Innocents display, which consists of dozens of white crosses each representing 10 babies who were aborted that day, has been vandalized.

Clarion Students for Life put up the crosses Sunday night April 12 around 7pm and by 8am Monday April 13, the club’s leaders were notified that the display had been vandalized – a few crosses were written on, others were broken, and others stuffed into the nearest trashcan.

In 2011 at Clarion University, pro-choice vandals pulled up 350 crosses and re-inserted them in inverted fashion, a well-known anti-Christian symbol. Additionally, red paint was splattered on crosses and signs. Even eerier was the mock bloody footprints of an infant painted in front of the display.

“Instead of dialogue, abortion supporters have once again taken to bullying to silence those with whom they disagree,” said Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America.
<http://studentsforlife.org/clarion-students-for-life-crosses-display-vandalized/>



China's One-Child Policy Creates 13 Million Undocumented Children Who Can't Attend School

In 2010, China conducted its latest census, which revealed that the country had *13 million undocumented children*. The majority were "over-quota" children born in violation of China's one-child policy, and who were accordingly denied legal identification or "household registration" known as *hukou*. Without *hukou*, a person cannot attend school, receive healthcare or government support, travel by train or plane, or get married.

Parents were encouraged to admit if they had unregistered children during the census with the promise that their information would not be forwarded to local officials who would fine them. However, in previous censuses, similar promises of anonymity to parents were broken. So the true population of hidden children could be significantly higher.

With 13 million children – about one percent of the population – who lack legal rights, clear evidence of sex-selection abortion against girls in the womb, and about 400 million aborted children overall since its instatement in 1979, it is clear that China's one-child policy has wrought endless human rights abuses against its citizens and should be abolished. LifeNews.com 4/1/15

Connecticut Defeats Legislation to Make it 4th State to Legalize Assisted Suicide

Connecticut will not follow Oregon, Washington and Vermont as the fourth state to legalize assisted suicide. Backers of the bill said they would try again next year in an attempt to get the state legislature to sign off on such a bill.

A pro-life group, Family Institute of Connecticut, was one of the many groups opposing the bill. The group said assisted suicide is not the best way to help the elderly, disabled or terminally ill patients.

"FIC Action does not support keeping a patient alive by extraordinary means against that patient's will. We support *true* aid-in-dying, which is hospice and palliative care. What we oppose is licensing doctors to prescribe lethal drugs for the purpose of taking a human life, prescribing suicide as a treatment," it said.

<http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/connecticut/>

Company Harvests Kidneys From Aborted Babies to Transplant Into Lab Rats

Hailed as a "research breakthrough," biotech company Ganogen, Inc. in Redwood City, California has recently harvested kidneys from aborted babies and transplanted them into lab rats. The goal of Ganogen researchers is to transplant fetal organs into a rat, where the organ could grow to a larger size, and then be transplanted into a human patient in need of a kidney. The process is known as Xenotransplantation. Have we become a society where a human baby's organs are now a commodity greater than the baby's life itself?

<http://www.lifenews.com/2015/04/03/company-harvests-kidneys-from-aborted-babies-to-transplant-into-lab-rats/>



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ACLU Sues to Force Catholic Bishops to Push Abortions on Children of Illegal Immigrants

In February 2014, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) objected to a new regulation proposed by the Obama administration that would require contractors to provide access to contraception and abortion for unaccompanied immigrant children who have been raped. In an official letter, the USCCB as well as World Relief, the National Association of Evangelicals and Catholic Relief Services, explained that the new regulation violates religious liberty, specifically the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. They wrote, "There is little question that a government requirement to provide or refer for items or procedures to which an organization has a religious and moral objection would impose a 'substantial burden' on its exercise of religion." Additionally, the USCCB said they were opposed to transferring teenagers to other groups that would do abortions because they believe it still enables actions that violate their religious beliefs.

Now, The pro-abortion American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is suing the Obama administration for documents it says will show that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is restricting access to abortions for unaccompanied immigrant children. Brigitte Amiri, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU, said, "The bishops want to take millions of dollars in government contracts, but at the same time, they don't want to comply with the terms of the contracts."

Thankfully, the USCCB has not wavered on their opposition of abortion or their refusal to be apart of it in any way. In fact, in 2014, the Catholic bishops were so upset about taxpayer funding of abortions in Obamacare they urged Congress to shutdown the federal government so the issue can be addressed.

LifeNews.com 4/9/15