



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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“Ice Bucket Challenge” is For a Good Cause, But . . .

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease is a progressive and fatal neurological disease that causes the neurons that control voluntary muscles (motor neurons) to degenerate. In the United States, as many as 20,000 to 30,000 people have the disease, and about 5,000 people are diagnosed with it each year. Since late July, the ALS Association has raised over \$15 million for research through the “Ice Bucket Challenge.” We’ve seen former presidents, current governors, heads of corporations, movie stars and average citizens have ice-cold water dumped on their heads to raise money.

However, a close look at the ALS Association raises some ethical concerns about the type research they fund. A look at their website indicates the ALS Association believed adult stem cell research was important and should “be done alongside embryonic stem cell research as both will provide valuable insights.”

The Catholic Church teaches that embryonic stem cell research, which requires the destruction of pre-born people, is inherently unethical and a violation of fundamental human rights. *American Family Assoc. 8/23/14*

- 1.) Contact the ALS Association at advocacy@alsanational.org or phone at 202-407-8580.
- 2.) Support organizations that use ethical means of research using adult stem cells. One such is the [John Paul II Medical Research Institute](#) in Iowa City, Iowa.
- 3.) Warn others of the ethical concerns of the ALS Association funding embryonic stem cell research.

Concerns Over Girl Scouts Persist Following USCCB Investigation

Tensions between Girl Scouts’ messaging and Catholic teaching have led to a national boycott of Girl Scout cookies, the ousting of Girl Scouts from parishes, and a significant drop in Catholic membership in the Girl Scouts.

Now a panel of U.S. bishops has released the results of a two-year investigation into Girl Scouts’ problematic messaging, ties to Planned Parenthood, and continued advocacy of so-called reproductive rights by the organization’s international affiliate, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Their findings indicate that the concerns continue to persist, regarding the problematic connections between the Girl Scouts and groups that promote policies contrary to Church teachings on life and sexuality.

The bishops’ committee pointed out that it was “not exhaustive” but attempted to address Girl Scouts’ relationship with Planned Parenthood, GSUSA’s relationship with WAGGGS, GSUSA’s policy on sexuality, contraception and abortion, and the organization’s programmatic content and resources. The bishops’ committee remained neutral on future offerings of Girl Scouts at the parish level, because that authority rests with the local bishop. However, in a section outlining ways “to promote, foster and safeguard Catholic scouting for boys and girls,” the panel did recognize the freedom of local dioceses to begin “formalizing relationships with complementary or alternative” organizations. Such groups include American Heritage Girls, Challenge Girls and Little Flowers Girls Club.

National Catholic Register 7/16/14

Comment From the Pittsburgh Diocese About The Ice Bucket Challenge

Diocesan priest Father Dennis J. Colamarino, pastor of Christ the Light of the World Parish in Duquesne, has recently been diagnosed with ALS. There is much publicized attention to Bishop Zubik’s acceptance of the “Ice Bucket Challenge,” and some confusion as well. Permit me to offer some background.

Last week, the youth of Christ the Light of the World Parish decided to take a local spin on the recent national “Ice Bucket Challenge” and do an “Ice Bucket Challenge for Father Dennis.” They also came up with the idea to challenge Bishop Zubik. When asked by Father Colamarino, Bishop Zubik responded that he wanted to make this a spiritual coming together of the parish, first by celebrating the Mass for Father Colamarino, during which Bishop Zubik will celebrate the

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with Father Colamarino. He will do so on Saturday, August 23. Following Mass, both Father Colamarino and Bishop Zubik will—in appropriate attire—go to the parish parking lot for the “Ice Bucket Challenge.” As part of the challenge, **Bishop Zubik** will be making a financial contribution to the **John Paul II Medical Research Institute**, which supports ALS research that respects our Catholic beliefs by the use of adult stem cells. Taken from 8/22/14 email to all parish Respect Life Coordinators



Religious Liberty Threats



In the last week, two Pennsylvania businesses—a bakery and a bridal shop—declined to provide services for same-sex weddings. That these two incidents were announced so close to one another in time and space (the businesses are 40 miles apart) strongly suggests that these businesses were targeted to create PR buzz for HB/SB 300, which would create special classes in state law for sexual orientation and gender identity—and would bar business owners like these from making decisions about what services they will render based on their religious convictions under threat of jail time.

As in all the other celebrated cases of wedding vendor "discrimination" against same-sex couples, these Pennsylvania business owners do not object to their customers as people. The Bloomsburg bridal shop owner specifically indicated that the family is happy to fit apparel for people who identify with the LGBT community, but that applying their craft to the celebration of a marriage that violates their beliefs is unacceptable. This is about marriage and **whether the state's redefinition of marriage must be assented to by all of its citizens regardless of their opinion on the matter.**

PA Family Institute 8/14/14

Pope Francis Asked to Ban Planned Parenthood Staff From Catholic Church Positions



In anticipation of the Vatican's October 2014 Synod on the Family, American Life League is launching a new campaign called Defend the Family. Rooted in prayer, this campaign seeks to expose Planned Parenthood as the most dangerous enemy of traditional families and of the Catholic Church.

The Defend the Family campaign is centered around a report entitled *The Vatican Can Help Save Souls from Planned Parenthood in 2014. HERE'S HOW!* The report, which has been translated into Spanish, Italian, and French, builds a case that an official declaration from the Vatican that Planned Parenthood is an enemy of the Church would be a powerful way to defend families. The report is available on the campaign web page at www.DefendTheFamily.org. An official declaration of Planned Parenthood as an enemy of the Church will be a real game changer. Such a declaration will prevent Planned Parenthood employees and volunteers from serving in positions of responsibility in our parishes. Simply put, Catholics could no longer hide behind an uninformed conscience in order to assist or promote Planned Parenthood or its agenda and be able to continue calling themselves Catholics in good standing. Even if no designation occurs, the increased communication could help local Catholic Churches ensure they are not letting Planned Parenthood abortion business officials receive a platform within the church. LifeNews.com 8/25/14



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

ADOBE.

Operations: **computer** (software: Macromedia products).

Please write to:

Mr. Shantanu Narayen
President & CEO
Adobe Systems, Inc.
345 Park Ave.
San Jose, CA 95110
www.adobe.com

**Tell him to
stop funding
Planned
Parenthood**

Like the previous two letter recipients, Adobe has also been on *The Boycott List* for a number of years. We last wrote to them in October 2004

As World Mourns Robin Williams, Suicide Cult Pushes Homemade Suicide Kits

Even as the world mourns a celebrity's self-destruction, Derek Humpry's group ERGO—Euthanasia Research Guidance Organization—continues the death proselytizing—this time pushing a booklet, *How to Make Your Own Helium Hood Kit*. He was a featured speaker at the World Federation Conference on the Right to Die held September 2014 in Chicago. See their flyer at: http://www.wfconf2014.com/bios_of_speakers_w_photos_F.pdf Center for Bioethics and Culture 9/1/14

European Court: Gay Marriage is not a Human Right

The highest human rights court in Europe shattered hopes that it would judicially impose same-sex marriage when it told a male to female transsexual and his wife that a civil union should be good enough for them.

European human rights law does not require countries to "grant access to marriage to same-sex couples," according to a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in a case that tests the remote boundaries of possibility in law and fact.

Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute 7/25/14

Lawsuit challenges Pittsburgh's buffer zone around abortion clinics

Pittsburgh's ordinance regulating protests around abortion clinics is as unconstitutional as a Massachusetts law the Supreme Court struck down in June, five local activists claim in a federal lawsuit filed on Thursday. The Supreme Court ruling is based on whether anti-abortion counselors can have one-on-one conversations with women entering the clinic. The city can argue that 15 feet does not prevent those conversations. The plaintiffs can argue that it does.

The people suing the city, City Council and Mayor Bill Peduto are Nikki Bruni of Verona, Julie Consentino of Bridgeville, Cynthia Rinaldi of Coraopolis, Kathleen Laslow of Pittsburgh and Patrick Malley of Trafford. All regularly stand outside Planned Parenthood on Liberty Avenue, Downtown, and try to talk to the women entering the clinic, the lawsuit says. Trib Total Media 9/4/14