September – October 2023

#### NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE

NEWS

### MBW Unites for a Rosary Rally

Judie Brown's

By Katie Brown, Director, Marian Blue Wave

This summer, participants in the Marian Blue Wave united for a rosary rally in Ohio.

In early August, our team received word that Ohioans would be hosting an emergency rosary rally leading up to a special election in the state. Voters would decide if they wanted to raise the threshold needed for a constitutional amendment from 50% to 60%. This was a tactical move by pro-life advocates in the state trying to stop a Planned Parenthoodfunded amendment to the state's constitution that, if passed, would enshrine abortion at any time for any reason. The amendment will be on the ballot this November. The threshold did not change, so they will only need 50% of the votes to pass it.

The rosary rally was held in person in Ohio, but the Marian Blue Wave team sent an urgent request to every MBW prayer partner, asking them to join Ohio in prayer from wherever they live.

The response was incredible!

Over 400 emails came in from MBW prayer partners with pledges for prayers. People from all over the country expressed their support for life in Ohio, saying they would join in spirit from their homes.

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#### **Trump & Abortion** Does He Truly Understand and Support the Pro-Life Position?

Leading Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump refused to commit to signing a nationwide 15-week limit on killing preborn children should he be elected again. When asked by NBC News on *Meet the Press* if he is willing to go as far as Florida's six-week limit, Trump expressed outrage, calling Governor DeSantis' action "a terrible thing ... a terrible mistake."

Trump's comment sparked criticism from pro-life and Republican leaders, including DeSantis, who in an interview on Radio Iowa warned pro-life voters in that state that Trump will "sell you out."

Ever since Trump's appearance at the 2020 March for Life, the pro-life movement has celebrated him as the most pro-life president, yet his willingness to enter negotiations with the abortion lobby is a serious concern. Planned Parenthood and its allies never negotiate abortion, and the pro-life movement can never negotiate the lives of preborn children.

### From Our Supporters

Mary and her husband have been faithful supporters of American Life League for many years. They have seen and heard just about everything you can imagine as pro-life people living in a nation that seems devoted to killing the preborn. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering dedication to pro-life truth.

They exemplify the sentiments of so many. One such gentleman is **Wilbur**, whose godfather Richard had been a loyal supporter for years. When he passed away, we promised Wilbur that we would pray for the happy repose of Richard's soul every day.

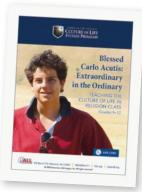
Finally, I want to thank **Corrine** for her lovely letter and faithful support. She wrote, "The work American Life League has done for so many years covering different aspects of the fight to save unborn babies is truly remarkable. It's a privilege to be able to help in this fight."

To all of our faithful supporters, we extend our gratitude, our prayers, and our ongoing promise to never give up this fight until every single child of God—from the first moment of her life onward—is protected from the scurrilous attacks of the enemies of life.

#### CLSP's Latest Lesson Is Here!

By Susan Ciancio, Director, Culture of Life Studies Program

Last month, we introduced a lesson on Blessed Carlo Acutis—the first millennial to be beatified just in time for his feast day on October 12. Young Carlo was only 15 when he died after a sudden illness, but the impact he left on Catholics around the world continues. Now, high school students can learn about his life in this one-day lesson that highlights his care for the poor, his moral courage, and his efforts to catalog the



Eucharistic miracles affirmed by the Church. Students will not only learn about his love for others, but they will learn how to build a culture of life using his example. You can purchase the downloadable lesson from our online store at shop.all.org/clsp.

## STOPP Continues Its Important Work

By Ed Martin, Director, Stop Planned Parenthood International

American Life League's



Last month, I visited a Southern California city (which I will keep to myself since some of our plans are not yet public!). I sat in a pro-life office just a few hundred yards from the local Planned Parenthood facility.

The new executive director of this pro-life group had called ALL to ask STOPP to help her "get up to speed on fighting Planned Parenthood." Our conversation focused on practical steps to stop the killing machine that is Planned Parenthood. We fell back on all of the great tools of Judie Brown and the late Jim Sedlak. The director identified members of her volunteer army who would help, and we agreed to assist in any way we could.

After an hour or two of brainstorming, we had a new idea. In Southern California, clean air and water get a ton of attention. We both had heard of the growing problem of contaminated drinking water—water that has chemicals from abortion, contraceptives, and recently from gender transitioning. This Southern California leader and I talked it out and decided that a strategy to highlight water safety would draw scrutiny on Planned Parenthood and its conduct. Our tactics would include groundwater testing in a few areas of the city and then political pressure on city government to "protect our water."

My California meeting shows the power of STOPP—combining creativity and the commitment of local citizens to stop the killing and take back their communities.

In these first months with STOPP, I have loved receiving emails with messages like "I worked with Jim Sedlak in the past, and I wanted to touch base" or "I promise Jim Sedlak would vouch for me!" Jim brought so many great people together.

Pro-life leadership—whether by Judie Brown or Hugh Brown or Jim Sedlak or Rita Diller—brings people together and builds a community that trusts each other. Together, we can do good and hard work to succeed for the greater glory of God. I look forward to working with them and with each of you.

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Many prayer partners told us that similar anti-life forces are trying to take hold in their own states and countries.

One thing is for certain: Evil forces are at work around the world, but so is the Marian Blue Wave! Our rosaries for the MBW intentions do not go unheard by our Blessed Mother. We will continue to unite in prayer for mothers and their babies and for the end of all abortion!

"The word of the Lord is a light for the mind and a fire for the will, so that man may know and love God. For the inner man, who lives through the living grace of God's Spirit, it is bread and water, but bread sweeter than honey and water better than wine or milk. . . . It is a weapon against a heart stubbornly entrenched in vice. It is a sword against the flesh, the world and the devil, to destroy every sin."

St. Lawrence of Brindisi



# Wisdom from Catholic Bishops

We encourage each of you to reach out with gratitude to these courageous bishops. Visit USCCB.org/find-a-bishop-and-diocese for contact information.



**Bishop Thomas Tobin** (Providence, Rhode Island) faced vitriol for tweeting: "A reminder that Catholics should not support or attend LGBTQ 'Pride Month' events held in June. They promote a culture and encourage activities that

are contrary to Catholic faith and morals. They are especially harmful for children." His message was immediately met with negativity by the mainstream media, but Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler, Texas, praised him.

Strickland tweeted: "Please stop labeling bishops who speak the truth of the gospel as homophobic. God gave us sexual intimacy for the procreation of children and the deeper union of a man & woman in marriage. Stating this truth is not homophobia, it is simply reality."



**Bishop Thomas Paprocki** (Springfield, Illinois) said in a homily: "In order to care for, protect and welcome new life in the womb, we must first care for, support, welcome and serve pregnant women, especially those facing

difficulties or challenging circumstances. All mothers, like Our Blessed Mother, bear the miracle of new life into the world. In a special way, they are entrusted by God with the gift of life. It is the role of the Church to walk with all mothers, offering support, encouragement and assistance as they seek to answer God's call in their lives."



**Bishop Michael Burbidge** (Arlington, Virginia) is chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities. He wrote in a letter: "Protecting taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortion in violation of their conscience is

a principle that has enjoyed historically broad support among Americans, regardless of their otherwise passionately divided views on the topic. It has also been life-saving.... Congress can better serve the common good by prioritizing policies that comprehensively assist women, children, and families in need in ways that will not only encourage childbirth but make it easier to welcome and raise a new child."

## The Bicker Ticker

By Judie Brown, President, American Life League

One of the most historic conflicts within the pro-life movement has been between two groups: those who affirm that every abortion kills a person and those who desire a political consensus regarding which abortions are to remain legal. Such misguided posturing has deadly results.

Today, abortion is viewed as just another medical practice, not a violent act. When you argue over exceptions in the laws that regulate abortion rather than outlawing it completely, this is the result.

Why does the pro-life movement exist? Is it not to focus attention on what the act of abortion does to a fellow human being and to rid the nation of this blight? The answer is a simple yes.

So how could it be, half a century after the infamous *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* Supreme Court decisions, that there is a widening chasm between truth and tactics? Every pro-lifer knows that abortion kills someone, but that is where the agreement ends. The strategy for ridding the nation of this pox is diverse. And so the body count mounts.

Enter Logic 101. When human beings begin is a matter of biology. It takes one sperm uniting with one egg to result in a unique, individual human being. Each of them is a member of the human family and thus innocent and deserving of respect and protection.

But when this question enters the realm of politics, logic is the first casualty. And what remains is the bickering over how best to get from point A (the actual baby) to point B (legal protection).

> The bicker ticker is running, and millions of children are dying as people become anesthetized by the alleged right to choose who lives and who dies. The result is more dead children.

> > We say stop killing the innocents and choose life so that you and your descendants may live!

> > > New commentaries from Judie Brown and guest authors are posted daily at ALL.org!

#### **QUESTION & ANSWER**

How many politicians work to end abortion by supporting a human life amendment to the United States Constitution?

Given the prevailing attitude among not only politicians but Catholic bishops, it is now clear: There is no support for total protections for preborn babies, either by amending the Constitution or simply passing a powerful personhood law at the federal or state level. Ohio bishop Earl Fernandes explained why in an article in the *Catholic Times*, saying, "Moral issues are routinely addressed from our pulpits, and preaching about these moral issues serves to inform our consciences more fully so that we may participate in the political process to build a culture of life and to defend the weak and the vulnerable."

This statement defers the legal protection of the innocent preborn child to the realm of personal responsibility, which is fine as far as it goes. But as we know, the law is the best teacher, especially in the protection and defense of our citizens—born and preborn. Until our bishops, elected officials, and the people themselves stand up to defend and protect the babies by using the political process to amend the Constitution, the current indifference toward taking definitive action will continue.

As the voices of the babies, we must insist on total protection.

