



# Judie Brown's ALL NEWS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE

## Educating and Encouraging Pro-Lifers at the March for Life

In January, American Life League staff traveled to our nation's capital for the annual March for Life, where we sponsored a booth at the three-day Expo.

During the Expo, the ALL team interacted with hundreds of pro-lifers and distributed materials on various pro-life topics. Attendees were given brochures explaining who ALL is and what we do. We invited them to access our online resources and subscribe to *Celebrate Life Magazine*. Most importantly, we offered resources that lay out ALL's unique no-exceptions position on abortion.

While this year's Expo was much smaller than in years past, the team noticed that the crowd was hungry for answers on how to end abortion violence.



**Hugh Brown converses with fellow pro-life speaker Ashley Lawton about why all human beings deserve protection.**



**Researcher Katherine Van Dyke shares information about ALL's Charity Watchlist with pro-lifers.**



**Katie Brown connects with a grassroots advocate regarding ALL Associates for Life.**

**You will find the ALL team at the Bringing America Back to Life Convention in Ohio from March 8 to 9.**

## Latest CDC Abortion Numbers Show Rise in Preborn Killing

Pro-life efforts to convert hearts and minds against the murder of preborn children appear to have stalled. New national data published by the CDC shows a post-COVID-lockdown increase from approximately 620,327 abortions in 2020 to 625,978 in 2021. (Totals in four abortion-heavy states are not included in this data.) If that increase appears insignificant, consider that the CDC recorded a low of 612,719 abortions back in 2017.

So why the upward trend?

Since 2016 (and particularly during and after the pandemic), multiple rule changes have made it easier to get the abortion pill. As of 2021, 57% of reported abortions are committed by the pill regimen. These numbers prove once more that trying to regulate the killing rather than end it hasn't been—and will never be—a successful pro-life strategy.

## From Our Supporters

**Mary** wrote to affirm that “times are tough.” She told us, “I was there before you even. I was an RN in charge of OB at the U.C. Davis Medical Center in 1964–65. A patient was brought to me very infected and delivered into my hands the body of a beautiful four-pound baby girl. I stood there holding that baby wondering, ‘How can anyone do this to an innocent baby?’ When they convinced Gov. Reagan to sign the abortion bill in 1967, I left the medical center and went to Mercy Hospital. I have insisted all along that abortion is the inhumane act of killing innocent humans. I joined Catholics for Life and tried to educate people. We here in Sacramento were the first to sign on to 40 Days for Life. We have made great strides in curbing the problem. We have closed four clinics here and only have Planned Parenthood left. We have made great inroads there too, but they have figured out how to make up their losses. They are now doing ‘gender care.’ It just makes me sick. So many people are so very evil.”

**Nancy V.** told us: “It has been a couple of rough months. Almost all of us in our family have had a nasty respiratory ‘bug’ but recuperated with antibiotics, prednisone, etc. The worst one hit our six-year-old granddaughter who would get better for a day or so, then get worse. She also had intermittent severe chest pain and her parents took her to the ER and the doctor. She now has pneumonia and pleural effusion around one of her lungs and is hospitalized. My daughter and son-in-law are frantic. Please pray for my granddaughter’s speedy recovery!”

## Middle School Group Hears Pro-Life Arguments for the First Time

Katie Brown, ALL’s director of communications, recently traveled to South Carolina to talk to a group of Catholic middle school students. She spoke about the dignity and sanctity of all human beings and presented pro-life arguments against abortion and euthanasia.



Katie outlined all the cases for abortion exceptions and then debunked them for the students. During the Q&A portion, the young crowd asked questions that made it apparent that they had never heard these arguments. But what was most encouraging was the way the young people asked their questions. Katie said it was obvious the kids were hungry for the truth!

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## MBW’s Year in Review: Sharing the Power of the Rosary

*By Katie Brown, Director, Marian Blue Wave*

As we begin a new year, we look forward to more exciting growth for the Marian Blue Wave!

Last year, as I’m sure you remember, we dealt with the crash of our MBW map. This was a blessing in disguise. The crash meant we were well past our 10,000-person sign-up limit! That means in 2023, we had around 5,000 new people commit to the MBW and that more than half a million rosaries were prayed for our intentions. That’s a miracle in itself!



The other major impact from 2023 was the distribution of bumper stickers that read “Help America Pray the Rosary.” Last fall, one of our major supporters offered free bumper stickers to anyone

interested. He was so inspired by the MBW members and their commitment to the rosary that he wanted to do this as a special gift. He mailed out 25,000 stickers to MBW prayer partners alone!

These stickers will be shared with communities, churches, and families who can spread the message of the rosary far and wide. If you want a packet of 250 bumper stickers to use and share, please email Katie at [kbrown@all.org](mailto:kbrown@all.org) for more information.

Our team is excited to hit the ground running in 2024! We will encourage MBW prayer partners new and old to keep embracing the power of the rosary. Now more than ever, our world needs our Blessed Mother’s intercession. *Our Lady of Life, pray for us!*

# CLSP's Pro-Life Essay Contest Winners

By Susan Ciancio, Director, Culture of Life Studies Program

Throughout the month of October—Respect Life Month—middle and high school students around the country wrote and submitted essays answering one of two prompts for CLSP's 2023 Pro-Life Essay Contest, cosponsored by the Institute for Excellence in Writing.

We received hundreds of entries, and in December we chose the following winners:

## HIGH SCHOOL:

**1st Place:** Adriana Wendling

**2nd Place:** Zoe Berthiaume

**3rd Place:** Tristan Green

**Honorable Mention:** Isabelle Ohlhaut

## MIDDLE SCHOOL:

**1st Place:** NoaRose Rogers

**2nd Place:** Amy Rogers

**3rd Place:** Audrey Doscher

**Honorable Mention:** Augustine Rogers

We are incredibly proud of these bright young students! You can read all of their essays at [cultureoflifestudies.com](http://cultureoflifestudies.com).

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**“The more humble and obedient to God a man is, the more wise and at peace he will be in all that he does.”**

Thomas à Kempis

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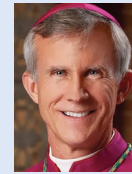


**ALL** produces a wide range of educational materials and pro-life merchandise crucial to building a CULTURE OF LIFE! Visit our online store at [ALL.ORG/SHOP](http://ALL.ORG/SHOP).

# Wisdom from Catholic Bishops

In light of *Fiducia Supplicans*—the highly debatable document from Pope Francis' Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith on blessing same-sex couples—we have found plenty of bishops with wise words to share.

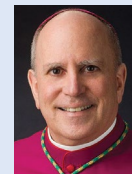
We encourage each of you to reach out with gratitude to these courageous bishops. Visit [USCCB.org/find-a-bishop-and-diocese](http://USCCB.org/find-a-bishop-and-diocese) for contact information.



## Bishop Joseph Strickland

(Tyler, Texas) cited these words from Father Thomas G. Weinandy, OFM, Cap., in a December blog post: “While couples in irregular marriages

and same-sex couples can be blessed, what cannot be blessed, and so validated, is the sin in which they are engaged. It is impossible to bless an immoral act, and to attempt to do so is blasphemy, for one is asking the all-holy God to do something that is contrary to his nature—the sanctioning of sin.”



## Archbishop Samuel Aquila

(Denver, Colorado) penned an article for the *Denver Catholic* that stated, “The blessing is never to be given in a liturgy, must be spontaneously asked

for, and must have the intention of desiring the good that God desires for human beings. The blessing can never be seen as legitimizing sin. This type of blessing should be done with discretion, preferably privately to avoid scandal and confusion.”



## Cardinal Joseph Tobin

(Newark, New Jersey) wrote in a statement on the archdiocesan website: “The Church’s teaching on marriage remains unchanged, and the

statement underscores the importance of blessings as a support for people on their spiritual journeys, recognizing that everyone can benefit from God’s healing love and mercy.”



# Heroic People Never Boast

By Judie Brown, President, American Life League

One of the most inspiring Catholic priests in my lifetime was the inimitable Father James Buckley, FSSP. At one point, he was the spiritual director for American Life League and continued as a personal guide to my husband and me for many years. But most of all, he was a man wholly devoted to his vocation as a Catholic priest.

Rather than extol his virtues, which he routinely refused to acknowledge, I want to share an excerpt from his July 2008 homily about the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart when he discussed the shedding of Christ's blood:

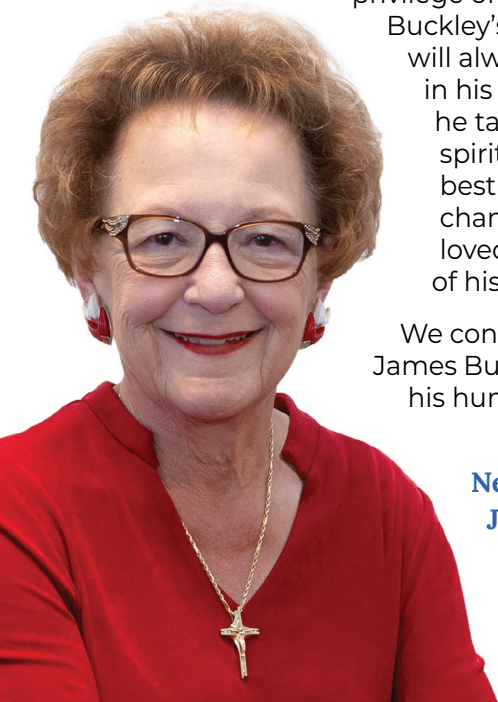
In order that one love Christ in deed and not merely in word, he should try to make an improvement in his life. If, for example, he notices that he has some habit of venial sin, perhaps it is taking God's name in vain, using bad language or talking about the faults of his neighbor, he should strive to improve first by resolving as soon as he awakes in the morning, to avoid the offense. Then at some time during the day he should examine his conscience, marking down on a piece of paper the number of times he has fallen. When he goes to confession, he should not only mention the offense but the number of times he has committed it. In a very short time, he will make extraordinary progress.

The Blood of Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, lavishly shed in the Passion is the price of our salvation. In our gratitude for the redemption He won for us at such a great price, we must engrave upon the walls of our mind those stirring words of Saint Ignatius: Christ died for me. What have I ever done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What will I do for Christ?

Several years ago, I had the distinct privilege of attending Father Buckley's Ignatian retreats. I will always be grateful that, in his humility and holiness, he taught me the value of spiritual reflection, which is best achieved in silence. He changed lives because he loved Christ with every fiber of his being.

We continue to miss Father James Buckley, but the memory of his humble faith will never fade.

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



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### Can you explain Pope Francis' recent teaching on same-sex couples?

Ministering to our fellow human beings with truth and love is a duty for every one of us. And while there is controversy about the manner in which the pope has addressed the topic of gender confusion, we believe it was the awkwardness of his words in *Fiducia Supplicans* that led many to take issue with what he wrote. This is why we particularly appreciate the analysis provided by Catholic attorney John Bursch, who wrote the following in a December article entitled "Pope Francis Did Not Just Authorize Priests to Bless Same-Sex Unions" for the *National Catholic Register*:

*Fiducia Supplicans* misses an opportunity when it does not expressly call individuals in same-sex relationships to live chaste lives in conformance with God's plan for marriage but instead merely insists that blessings bring grace that allow such change to be possible. The declaration also blunders when it does not instruct priests asked to bless the individuals in a same-sex relationship to not only bless but to teach God's marriage plan and why it is best for human flourishing.

Had the pope encouraged those experiencing same-sex attraction to commit to chastity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2396 and 2397), we would see much less confusion.

Self-mastery is the pivotal behavior that protects the human person from sexual sins that are offensive to God. Thus, we hate the sin but love the sinner.

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