May-September 2024

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE

NEWS

## A New Chapter in American Life League's Fight for Life

Judie Brown's

By Katie Brown, National Director, American Life League

Since taking over as the national director, I've been working on some exciting program updates.

ALL's mission—creating a culture of life without exception or compromise—has never changed, but I'm excited to help our programs fight today's evils—from the abortion pill crisis to the woke mob to the degradation of all human life, born and preborn—more effectively.

We've quickly realized that we need to better meet the changing needs of our Associates Group, which helps grassroots pro-life groups nationwide. We will start by offering our team's many gifts and talents to our Associates, free of charge. These include dynamic social media management, decades of fundraising experience, hard-hitting PR work, and more.

Our STOPP team is addressing similar concerns. How do we stop Planned Parenthood when 70% of the abortions it commits now happen in homes via the abortion pill regimen? We're currently updating Jim Sedlak's training techniques, originally developed to help grassroots activists rid their communities of PP. We'll now apply Jim's tried-and-true methods to addressing the abortion pill crisis.

Along with this, we're nearly finished with a first-of-its-kind report that addresses the abortion pill crisis directly. Our research team

has been working all summer to answer the questions we hear most often: What exactly is going on with the abortion pill and what can we do about it?

These are just some of the exciting updates I thought our supporters would find most encouraging. ALL's task remains the same: to cultivate a culture of life. I am so excited to lead ALL into this new chapter. I ask for your continued prayers and support as we leverage our decades of wisdom for a new generation of pro-life warriors!



#### 'Saving as Many as We Can' Isn't Working It's time to rethink state abortion bans born of political compromise

New data suggests that efforts to regulate, rather than end, preborn child killing are not working. A March 2024 report by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute shows that over a million preborn babies were murdered last year, bringing the rate of preborn child killing to levels not seen in a decade, despite the US Supreme Court overturning the *Roe* and *Doe* decisions.

Why is this happening? Easier access to pill abortions could be the culprit. Guttmacher reports that 63% of all US abortions (not just PP) are done by the mother at home. This will make it harder to tally the deaths for the next few years. Until the pro-life movement rallies around equal protection, babies may soon be dying at rates not seen since the 90s.

## From Our Supporters

**Peg** in Wisconsin writes: "Back in 1984, when we founded our local pregnancy care center, now Vida, ALL was our first source for honest, easy-to-understand, and factual handouts. Since 1984, thousands of young people have passed through our doors at Vida and owe their babies' lives to a picture, a kind word, the touch of a hand."

**Mary** in California writes: "Through 40 Days for Life we have closed four abortion clinics here in Sacramento. Now we are zeroing in on Planned Parenthood and have cut in on their numbers too. However, they are now doing 'gendercare.' It is all about the money. They do not care about anyone, just the money."

**Bess** in Delaware writes: "Just realized we have something in common since we both turn 80 this year. I pray you are enjoying a wonderful birthday. You have a beautiful supportive family. The pro-life community will always be grateful to you for your steadfast courageous support of the babies."

**Tony** emailed to share his appreciation for ALL's work, writing: "I have been a donor for many years and love how your organization boldly proclaims the truth about the evils of abortion and its promoters in our country, especially of late via Hugh's passionate email messages. May Our Lord continue to bless all your efforts on behalf of the culture of life!"

## STOPP Calls Out Planned Parenthood's Lack of Transparency

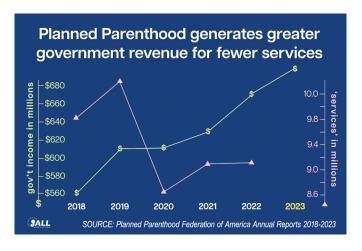
By Ed Martin, Director, Stop Planned Parenthood International

Planned Parenthood's 2022–2023 annual report touts that it went "Above & Beyond" for its clients. The devil is literally in the details here: The numbers in the report are terrible for life but also misleading. Planned Parenthood's "services" and patient numbers continue to decline, yet its revenue increased and abortion numbers hit an all-time high.

Planned Parenthood has clearly gone above and beyond to grow its deadly business financially. It made \$2,054,300,000 in revenue, up 8% annually. Private contributions rose 44%. Approximately \$699,300,000 of its revenue is taxpayer funded, a 4% increase.

Planned Parenthood brags that it killed 392,715 children, a staggering increase from 374,155 abortions the year before. However, the report doesn't say if that includes the number of preborn children killed through abortion pills. Despite the CEO's recent claim that 70% of Planned Parenthood's abortions are chemical abortions, there is no mention of the abortion pill anywhere in the report.

Eleven "services," including abortion, increased. Yet the number of patients Planned Parenthood served dropped nearly 4%. It saw just



over 2,000,000 patients—the lowest number seen within at least the past decade.

With the number of patients and more than half of its services decreasing, why does Planned Parenthood need more

taxpayer funding? It claims state bans limit its ability to offer abortions and abortion pills, so how has its killing hit a record high? Do these numbers even include abortion pills?

One thing is crystal clear: Planned Parenthood's annual report does not give the full picture. It only shows that its child killing, its lies to the American people, and its thirst for blood money are stronger than ever.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Matthew 24:35



## In Memoriam

Aldonna Josephine Ugenas, known to her family and friends as Aldy, passed away in March. Beloved by all who knew her, Aldy spent her life caring for the needs of others, first as a hospital

nurse, then as an honored military nurse and nurse practitioner of obstetrics within the Air Force, from which she proudly retired as a lieutenant colonel after over 21 years of active-duty service. Even in retirement she continued using her nursing skills to care for her elderly brother and her mother. Aldy also held a great devotion to her friends and to her faith, and those who knew her are mourning her loss, but they remain firm in the hope that she is living in eternal glory with our heavenly Father. For over 34 years, Aldy regularly supported American Life League's pro-life mission, and she included a generous bequest for ALL in her will so that her support of our pro-life work would continue as her own personal legacy for life. ALL will arrange for a Gregorian Mass (a set of 30 Masses) to be said for the repose of her soul. Please keep Aldy and her family in your prayers.

### **CLSP Releases New Lessons!**

By Susan Ciancio, Director, Culture of Life Studies Program

Just in time for school to start, the Culture of Life Studies Program has released two new lessons! *St. Ignatius: Cura Personalis* is a two-day lesson for high schoolers that teaches the Ignatian concept of *cura personalis*—care for the whole person. And *St. Ignatius: Loving and Caring for the Whole Person* is a one-day lesson that introduces middle schoolers to St. Ignatius and explains how a cannonball changed his life and led him to become the great saint he is today.

Both downloadable lessons are easily integrated into any curriculum—at

home or at school and are adaptable for both individual students and groups.

Find all of our lessons at shop.all.org/clsp.



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

## Wisdom from Catholic Bishops

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



#### Archbishop Leonard Blair

(Hartford, Connecticut) said in a recent homily: "Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead ... tells us, 'Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes in the

one who sent Me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.' And yet, as the Gospel of John expresses it, it is precisely at the moment of His crucifixion, that the glory of Christ is mysteriously revealed. What a cause of hope that has to be for us, amid this vale of tears. And yet what a challenge, what a stretch of faith it is for us to see victory at the foot of the cross."



#### **Archbishop Gregory**

Hartmayer (Atlanta, Georgia) released a statement after the *Dobbs* decision that said the following: "We ask all people to pray and act in a way that will build a greater respect for life.

While politicians and judges wrestle with words, benchmarks and legal challenges, let us redouble our efforts to help pregnant women, expectant fathers and families so that they can choose life and thrive. Laws alone cannot establish a culture of life in our nation. Catholics and people of goodwill must dedicate ourselves to this work. All human life is sacred. No civil law can counter this truth."



#### Timothy Broglio, JCD,

Archbishop for Military Services, released this statement after the Department of Veterans Affairs decided to provide abortions: "The notion that killing an unborn child can

somehow be considered 'medical or surgical care' certainly violates the dignity of the human person and suggests that some lives are more important than others. I deplore this decision that once more removes the right to life for the defenseless and inflicts untold physical and psychological trauma on mothers."

# Ted Cruz, IVF, and the Death of Preborn Babies

By Judie Brown, President, American Life League

Recently, Texas senator Ted Cruz (R) and Alabama senator Katie Britt (R) introduced a piece of legislation designed to protect in vitro fertilization a practice that places the creation of human beings into the hands of men and women of science.

Though it was blocked, Cruz's support for this deadly practice is disturbing, as ALL's Dwain Currier explains in a new video about IVF on the ALL website. Currier tells viewers that IVF "is incredibly lethal for embryonic children in their most vulnerable state of human development."

He goes on to explain that this practice kills more preborn children each year than abortion.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger made clear in the Vatican document *Donum Vitae* (*Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation*), IVF is but one of the technologies that violates the principles of Catholic morality by making "it possible to intervene in the initial phase of the life of a human being and in the very processes of procreation."

While we understand the great pain suffered by those who find that they are unable to procreate children due to sterility, we also know that even in suffering God has a plan, and we must uphold the dignity of preborn babies at all stages.

IVF is illicit because it denies the dignity and respect due the child from her beginning, replacing nature's design with test tubes and a petri dish. Yet God calls us to surrender to Him the suffering caused by infertility.

> This simple truth is lost in the world of politics because for some reason total understanding of God's plan evades those who feel empowered by their political position to set themselves up as gods.

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

#### **QUESTION & ANSWER**

## Why do so many Catholics use contraception?

The simple answer to this question is that when the pulpits of parish churches are silent on Catholic teaching with regard to contraception, we cannot expect today's Catholics to know, understand, and then follow it.

As any Catholic can learn, St. Paul VI in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* declared that "any action ... specifically intended to prevent procreation" was "absolutely excluded as lawful means of regulating the number of children" in a Catholic marriage.

The Catholic News Agency spoke to John Grabowski, professor of ethics and moral theology, about contraception. He stated that those Catholics who utilize artificial contraception "don't realize that in choosing to contracept they are bringing something toxic into their marriages." This is so because contraception poisons the act of procreation by rendering it sterile, which is but one reason why the Church teaches that the marital act should be open to the creative power of God.

The use of contraception says NO to God, it says NO to being faithful to His teaching, and it says YES, I know better than God!

It is therefore up to us who know the truth to share it with love, mercy, and gentle persuasion. God will take care of the rest.

