NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE

Protecting Life on the Ballot

By Katie Brown, National Director, American Life League

The Marian Blue Wave has worked hard over the summer and fall months. This year 10 states were faced with ballot initiatives that sought to enshrine abortion into the state's constitution. In July we set off on a mission to ask for prayers for these 10 states and for the voters who would decide the fate of these ballot initiatives.

The response from our MBW prayer partners was overwhelming—in a good way!

This issue hit close to home for many of them, as many live in one of these 10 states and were involved in the grassroots efforts to encourage voters to choose life on the ballot.

Even for prayer partners who don't live in these 10 states, the stakes were still high. They know full well that these types of ballot initiatives will soon be coming to all 50 states in our nation.

Our campaign against these initiatives used two tactics to change hearts and minds: prayer and education—an approach that has always set American Life League apart. We created educational materials for voters to distribute, and the MBW prayed every week for the 10 states and their voters. Between prayer and education, we left the action portion up to God and the voters in these 10 states.

After November 5, the result was victories for life in Florida, South Dakota, and Nebraska! This is a huge win, as no abortion ballot measure has ever been defeated.

While this is not a total victory for the babies, it reminds us that life STILL matters in America! Our prayers must now turn to unity for all Americans, our new president, and the fight for life at every stage.

Our Lady of Life, pray for us!



Pro-Life Mother Jailed for Defending Life

A judge denied Bevelyn Beatty Williams, a 33-year-old wife, mother, and pro-life advocate, her stay of appeal request for sentencing charges related to participating in a nonviolent protest at a Manhattan Planned Parenthood abortion facility. Williams was sentenced to three years and five months in prison for blocking the facility's entrance, violating the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. An employee of the facility claims Williams intentionally closed the door on her hand, injuring the worker during the protest. Williams is one of over a dozen pro-lifers convicted for peaceful protests this year.

In a video posted to her Facebook account, Williams describes how she will be assigned to a low-level facility for the nonviolent offense of "unlawful assembly." Awaiting her time in jail, Williams expressed optimism saying, "You know what? I'm going to preach that gospel."

From Our Supporters

Brother Mewes wrote to Judie Brown: "It must be wonderful to have your kids working for you. I hope they are as devoted to life as you are. May God bless you all and the work you do!"

NOTE: Judie's son Hugh, her daughter-in-law Ann, and her granddaughter Katie are on the front lines defending life and making Judie and her dearly departed husband Paul very proud.

Del questioned why Pope Francis has been less than forthcoming in his defense of preborn babies, though the pope did say in 2021 that abortion is murder. We know that the Ten Commandments are explicit when they teach that we do not condemn anyone to death, especially innocent babies, and it is incumbent on us to follow the commandments.

JoAnne wrote: "I am so glad I found [the Charity Watchlist] on your site....I have tried to be careful as much as I can in donating. I am so glad to be a donor to ALL for many years, and all your good works have continued to inspire me."

"Only in Christ can men and women find answers to the ultimate questions that trouble them. Only in Christ can they fully understand their dignity as persons."

Saint John Paul II

STOPP Combats Planned Parenthood's Latest Deadly Strategy

By Ed Martin, Director, Stop Planned Parenthood International

Over the past few months, STOPP has noted that Planned Parenthood is decreasing its surgical abortion services and centers. For example, the *New York Times* reported that the Manhattan Planned Parenthood would cease performing abortions after 20 weeks and that four additional New York facilities would close as well.



While this is good news, STOPP still has reason to worry. Planned Parenthood has moved quickly to provide pill abortions and deliver the killing via the US Postal Service. The abortion giant has already admitted that 70 percent of all its abortions are pill abortions, and it is now moving into the business of drugs.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, for instance, announced via social media that it will soon open a pharmacy in Akron, Ohio. A closer look at PPGO's website explains that

the pharmacy will offer "gender-affirming hormone therapy medications" and guarantees that it will fill prescriptions for abortion pills, whether obtained from a local doctor or via a telehealth appointment. Just as every Planned Parenthood facility stands as a front for "healthcare," this so-called pharmacy is a front for "medicine." Operating five days a week, this new extension of Planned Parenthood will only cause more devastation for innocent human beings in Ohio.

Planned Parenthood never sleeps in its efforts to destroy life and corrupt human dignity. That is why STOPP must keep fighting to expose them.

Visit ALL.org for the ALL report entitled Beneath the Surface: Exposing the Abortion Pill Drug Cartel that reveals the organized criminal effort to kill the babies.

ALL Together for Life!

There are many ways to build a culture of life. We love how these organizations are fighting for the babies! **EveryLife** (everylife.com) offers safe, chemical-free diapers and uses its profits to fund local pregnancy centers and to fight for the preborn. **Contend Projects** (contendprojects.org) is teaching accurate science about the beginning of a human being's life in schools across the country through updated science standards and its upcoming K–12 science curriculum!

Sharing Jesus' Teachings with the Culture of Life Studies Program

By Susan Ciancio, Director, Culture of Life Studies Program

The Culture of Life Studies Program recently released three new lessons and an Advent reflection booklet!

Living the Beatitudes teaches 3rd and 4th graders about the Beatitudes. Students in 1st and 2nd grade will learn about the Golden Rule with Living the Golden Rule, and 5th and 6th graders will learn about it in The Golden Rule and Love for Those Who Hurt Us. Both Golden Rule lessons use real-life scenarios to teach students that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and that all deserve respect and love.

The Mysteries of Advent—our new daily reflection booklet for Advent—is geared toward families with kids of all ages. This booklet walks families through each mystery of the rosary and suggests ways we can all build a culture of life through lessons from Jesus' and Mary's lives. Entries for each mystery include a related Bible verse, an explanation, a reflection, a challenge, and a brief prayer.

You can find all of these and more educational materials at **shop.all.org/clsp.** Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram so that you can help us share these valuable resources!



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.



Archbishop Samuel Aquila (Denver, Colorado) wrote in a pastoral note about Eucharistic revival: "In acknowledging the crisis of faith and that the crisis extends to lack of faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist,

we must ask the Lord, what must we do? In the Bread of Life discourse, Jesus says, 'It is written in the Prophets, "And they will all be taught by God." . . . I am convicted that Jesus desires to teach each one of us and reveal His eucharistic mystery more deeply."



Bishop Joe Vásquez (Austin, Texas) urged Catholics to accompany mothers who are in need of assistance, emphasizing that the Church is pro-child and pro-woman. He tweeted, "We can't just simply say we're against

abortion. No, we're pro-life. We're pro-child. And we're pro-woman."



Bishop Michael Burbidge (Arlington, Virginia), chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, expressed his disappointment about the Supreme Court's ruling allowing the abortion pill to remain available

to women. He told the Catholic News Agency, "We know it was a procedural ruling, and we did not speak to the ultimate legality of the abortion pill, but it's still very disappointing because now the abortion pill remains very available."



Archbishop Joseph Naumann (Kansas City, Kansas) leads the pro-life parish-based ministry Walking with Moms in Need and encourages Catholics to support and "walk in the shoes" of pregnant and parenting mothers in the

community who are facing difficult situations. Archbishop Naumann has always had a sincere heart and love for single mothers. He once told the Catholic News Agency, "In the long run, we have to build a consensus within the culture that killing our own children is not the way we want to address difficult pregnancies."

Building a Culture of Pro-Life Nonviolence

By Judie Brown, President, American Life League

Within the pages of *Rebuilding Pro-Life Nonviolence* by John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe and Elise Ketch, we are reacquainted with the principles that have always defined nonviolent direct action as one of the cornerstones of pro-life work.

In essence, we involve ourselves in education, political action, lobbying, and grassroots development with a single goal in mind: End the slaughter of innocent preborn children. And it is the people who place themselves, body and soul, between the abortionist and the expectant mother who comprise the heart of that work. Nonviolent direct action requires sacrifice above and beyond all else, so I am proud to recommend this latest work by O'Keefe and Ketch to everyone with a desire to understand the entire context of living a pro-life life.

For the past 50 years, we have worked to stop the killing. And throughout that time, we have joined in nonviolent rescues and public protests of every sort to call attention to the plight of the babies, the misery their parents are suffering, and the tragic effect aborting preborn children has on our society. Abortion creates deep sadness and so much more.

We are called to protect the most vulnerable among us, no matter their stage in life or how uncomfortable it may be for us to defend them from the threats in our midst.

In my mind, the most important message in this book is that we are confronting every manner of threat and seeking, as Saint John Paul II taught, solidarity with our brothers and sisters in every stage

of existence. To do less is to be

fearful, and as we have learned, our quest is always the same in the work that we do: Imitate Christ and welcome His children regardless of the social attitudes of the day.

This is the challenge, and the building of a culture of pro-life nonviolence is pivotal to the affirmation of the value of the human person.

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

QUESTION & ANSWER

Why do some pro-life people tell us that choosing the lesser of two evils is an acceptable response? Aren't exceptions just excuses for aborting babies?

This is really the wrong question. As prolife people, we are called to speak for the preborn child in every case, not simply in those that appear to have political traction. This is why we insist that abortion is not a question of politics but rather a matter of life and death. A pro-life person is a defender of human persons, whether conceived in rape, incest, or any other situation, including the argument that the baby is a threat to his mother's life. We are not Solomon, and we do not choose who should live and who should die. We speak for both moms and babies, and we defend both. Choose life is not a slogan, it is a command from God, the Author of Life.

Are your charitable donations supporting abortion? Before making your end-of-year donations, use our updated **Charity Watchlist** report to see how your favorite charities use your money. Find it at all.org/charity-watchlist.



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