



# Judie Brown's **ALL NEWS**

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2026

## Fighting for the Rights of Every Person, without Exception or Compromise

*By Hugh Brown, Executive Vice President, American Life League*

In 2026, we celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. The founders of this great nation believed in 1776 that each human being deserved the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. There is nothing vague or confusing about the words they enshrined in the Declaration of Independence.

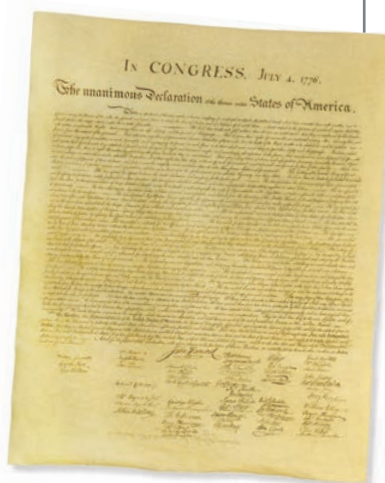
These three rights form the moral and political backbone of our United States of America. The founders understood that these rights were given by God and that no government had any right to infringe upon them.

The **Right to Life** protects an individual's right to exist from the moment of his creation until his death. We have the God-given, inherent right to life and to not be arbitrarily harmed or killed by others—including the state or the abortionist!

The **Right to Liberty** ensures an individual's personal freedom to make decisions—good and bad—but not to infringe on the right to life of any other human being, regardless of his health, age, economic condition, circumstances of conception, or stage of development.

The **Right to the Pursuit of Happiness** is not a guarantee of happiness but of the God-given right to pursue it without oppression from a tyrannical government or a blood-lusting abortionist.

We live in the greatest country in the world. Join me this year in thanking God for placing us here at this time and place to fight for life, to fight for liberty, and to fight for the happiness and joy that come from serving our God as we protect the least of these!



## Kentucky Abortion 'Ban'?

### Compromised Legislation Fails to Protect Most Abortion Victims

Melinda Spencer, 35, was charged with first-degree fetal homicide after she admitted to ordering abortion pills online, self-inducing her abortion, and burying the baby in her backyard. She later sought care at a clinic, which reported the incident to the police.

Kentucky currently has a near-total abortion ban in place, but its fetal homicide law explicitly states that a pregnant mother cannot be prosecuted for causing the death of her own preborn child. Because of this exception, prosecutors dismissed the fetal homicide charge.

Injustice committed against preborn children is expected from the abortion industry but not from pro-life groups that coauthor and endorse "bans" that fail to protect every baby. It's hard to argue that "pro-life laws" are saving lives when two-thirds of US abortions are committed with pills and the majority of those committing the crime are immune to prosecution.

Equal PROTECTION requires equal JUSTICE.

# Congratulations to Our Pro-Life Essay Contest Winners!

*By Susan Ciancio, Director,  
Culture of Life Studies Program*

Throughout October—Respect Life Month—we held our annual Pro-Life Essay Contest. Nearly 500 students from around the country, and even the Bahamas, participated! This record number of students gives us great hope for the upcoming pro-life generation.

Thank you to everyone who entered and to all the teachers and parents who helped promote our contest. It was truly a blessing to hear the thoughts of these amazing kids! Congratulations to the winners!

Check out our winners by visiting [prolifeessay.com](http://prolifeessay.com). To read each essay, click on the title below the winner's name.

## From Our Supporters

**Jean** talked about her love for the pro-life movement and how she has formed a pro-life foundation for her children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren by emphasizing the value and dignity of each individual. At 90 years young, she is an inspiration to us all.

**Del** asks us to pray for his dear wife Doris, who is suffering. We offer prayers for both of them and for all those who are reading this and need prayers at this moment.

**Cecelia** told us of the time years ago when she met Paul Brown at one of his speaking engagements in her area. She could not get over the humor that he was able to weave into a speech about the terrible subject of abortion. She said she will never forget how he emphasized the need to be positive because pro-life work can be so overwhelming.



# Celebrating Seven Years of the Marian Blue Wave

*By Katie Brown Xavios, National Director,  
American Life League*

The start of 2026 marks the Marian Blue Wave's seventh year! It's incredible to look back and see just how much God has done with our prayers during this time. We've seen hundreds of Planned Parenthood facilities close, 54 of them just last year! And if you ask me, we're currently seeing a cultural shift regarding the dignity and sanctity of human life.

When I speak with high school students, I usually expect questions or pushback that seeks a reaction, but in the last few years, I've noticed a shift with our young people. Their questions are more geared toward effective ways they can become involved and help. Praise God!

This year, as we continue to grow the MBW, we will work to expand our prayer partners to include more young people, encouraging them to pray for an end to abortion and to foster a devotion to our Blessed Mother and the rosary. That is, after all, how we not only change our culture, but how we will finally see an end to all abortion.

As Marian Blue Wave founder Jim Sedlak used to say to me often, we do our best and leave the rest to God. I invite you to join me in this sentiment for 2026! May we do our absolute best to share our message with new people, especially the young, and leave the rest to the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother's powerful intercession!

## In Memoriam

**Joan Jean Cleary** was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother; a faithful Catholic; a dedicated nurse; a loving supporter of American Life League; and so much more. She passed away in October 2025, but her legacy lives on in her family and in the memories they carry and share. It is said that faith and family were her passions, and this was evident every day of her life. She not only cared for every member of her family but also for the patients in the hospitals where she worked as a nurse and for the many parishioners in her parishes over the years. The love and devotion she bestowed upon each person she met filled their hearts with happiness as she acknowledged their true value as human beings. Joan also had a special devotion to our Blessed Mother, especially her apparition at Fatima. She and her late husband traveled there and to many apparition sites, praying and thanking our spiritual mother and her Son for all their gifts. Joan's family misses her terribly, but they live in the hope that they will one day be reunited in heaven, where they will celebrate with joy.



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Are your charitable donations supporting abortion? Before making your next donation, read our updated **Charity Watchlist** report to see how your favorite charities use your money. Find it at [all.org/charity-watchlist](https://all.org/charity-watchlist).

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## In New Report Update, STOPP Reveals the Extent of Planned Parenthood's Troubles

By Katherine Van Dyke, Researcher, American Life League

In a follow-up to its 2025 *Planned Parenthood Facilities Report*, STOPP released an update summarizing Planned Parenthood's record-breaking facility closures in 2025. STOPP discovered that 54 brick-and-mortar facilities closed; this is the highest number of closures STOPP has ever recorded in a single year. Our update to the initial report also examined the number of affiliate closures and mergers within the year, illustrating the chaos that engulfed Planned Parenthood in 2025. STOPP emphasized that while the number of facility closures is certainly good news, the reality is that Planned Parenthood has expanded its virtual centers across its affiliates so it can continue to dispense abortion pills, contraceptives, and gender hormone drugs. Last year alone, the number of the abortion giant's virtual centers rose from 43 (in May) to 49 (in December).

Through detailed reports such as these, STOPP seeks to not only educate but to also inspire action, especially from our country's leaders, as we work to end all government funding to Planned Parenthood through Medicaid reimbursements and Title X funding. Our research was featured in state lawsuits and legislative efforts against Planned Parenthood in 2025, and we hope for even more success in this new year.

For more information on STOPP International and its findings, please visit [all.org/STOPP](https://all.org/STOPP), where you can find our reports, our biweekly newsletter, and tools to help you force Planned Parenthood out of your schools and communities.

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



## Wisdom from Catholic Bishops

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



### Cardinal Raymond Burke

said in a recent homily that “we have, in fact, the treasures of the work of divine grace in our lives to offer Our Lord at every moment.” He continued, “Uniting our hearts to His glorious-pierced Heart in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, we offer all these gifts to Our Lord, gifts which He has first given to us. As Blessed Columba Marmion teaches us: ‘On this day, when her mystical nuptials with Christ begin, she [the Church] offers to God no longer gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but the One Who is Himself represented by these gifts, immolated upon the altar and received into the hearts of His disciples.’”



### Bishop Robert Barron

(Winona-Rochester, Minnesota) said in a *Respect Life* homily: “Christians must raise their voices in protest against the culture of death. And they must

do so by claiming and publicly proclaiming the values that come from their faith. For too long, believers have been cowed into silence by the insinuation that religion is a ‘private’ matter. Nonsense. Christian values have informed our society from the beginning and have provided the coherent moral framework that most of us still take for granted. Now is not the time for quietude. It is time for us to shout our convictions from the rooftops.”



### Archbishop Edward Joseph Weisenburger

(Detroit, Michigan) said in his first homily as Detroit's archbishop, “From my childhood, priests were always my heroes. . . .

It was what I wanted to be from the time my memories of life began. I witnessed them with their people in the most joyful moments of life and the most challenging moments of life, and perhaps on a subconscious level, even at an early age, I perceived this to be a life of great purpose and meaning.”



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**“If a man wants to reform the world, either by reason of the authority of his position or the duty of his office, he must begin with himself.”**

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

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## A Good Time to Celebrate Life!

*By Judie Brown, President, American Life League*

Pro-life leader Randy Engel recently announced a new project called Church Bells for Life. She recommended that church bells ring on January 22 to remind the world of the Supreme Court decision that permitted the killing of millions of preborn babies.

This is a wonderful idea, as are all those that remind the public that something is dreadfully wrong in our country. Our laws protect baby seals yet also protect the practice of preborn child killing. Obviously, something is amiss.

My dearly departed husband once said that the best thing pro-life people can do is celebrate the gift of life by making it clear that not one single human being is expendable. In other words, we must embrace life and celebrate the fact that each person is both a gift and a miracle.

The recent birth of our first great-grandchild inspired awe in my soul. Knowing that God lovingly gave this little baby boy to our family brought—and still brings—such great joy.

With more than eight billion people in the world today, that should mean billions of celebrations of life. But as it turns out, many are more interested in celebrating the practice of chemical, medical, and surgical abortion than they are in affirming the dignity of the human person.

So, let us never forget what Saint John Paul II taught in *Evangelium Vitae*, “Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life.”



While we certainly must remember January 22, we cannot forget the other 364 days of the year as we make our efforts an ongoing daily commitment to celebrate life, focus on the beauty of every human being, and remind everyone that society has a duty to promote human dignity at every moment!

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

### QUESTION & ANSWER

## Why did American Life League start the Marian Blue Wave?

Because we believe in the power of prayer, we founded the Marian Blue Wave with the specific intention of ending abortion and closing all Planned Parenthoods. Many years ago, a wonderful priest, Father Denis O’Brien, MM, ALL’s spiritual director, explained that the rosary is the most powerful weapon we have in our fight against abortion. One of our founding directors, Professor Charles Rice, felt the same and wrote a marvelous article entitled “The Pro-Life Movement: A Spiritual Perspective,” explaining his thoughts. In it, he stated, “Our Church has always militantly protected the rights of the defenseless using the weapons of prayer and penance—especially the rosary.”

Today we must focus anew on the power of the rosary in our efforts to end the slaughter. We need, as Rice noted, a “regular time in every parish when the rosary (or holy hour) is recited publicly in a group for the intention of ending all abortion.”

It is our hope that every Catholic will act on the time-honored tradition of praying the rosary and join us as we pray to our Blessed Mother to help us end the murder of the most innocent among us.

*Judie Brown's*  
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