

Family & ProLife News Briefs

September 2021

Promoting Life to the Public

New Pro-Life Flag

Nowadays, symbols are widely used to promote political & cultural ideas. A new flag design was selected in an online vote organized by the Pro-Life Flag Project, a **grassroots effort** involving over 70 partners including the March for Life Education & Defense Fund, Students for Life of America, New Wave Feminists, Democrats for Life, Save the Storks, Mary-land Right to Life & Focus on the Family. The



flag features baby's feet held in a mother's hands, serving as the universal symbol for protecting the lives of the unborn.

Will McFadden conceived the project's idea while attending the 2017 March for Life in Washington, where he observed no unifying symbol.

James Chapman, the project's spokesman, said there were several thousand design entries. Contest winner, Nanda Gasperini, a pro-life graphic artist in Brazil, was chosen from nearly 6,000 votes cast. Visit www.prolifeflag.com for more information.

Something similar has been occurring over the past five years in New Jersey. The Working Together for



New Jersey Coalition aims to stop radical pro-abortion legislation in the state and has been using its own symbol for protection of unborn babies. It is uncanny how the two logos feature baby feet. For more information, visit www.lifeneteducation.org.

Pro-Lifers Use Social Media Successfully

In a recent article, NARAL Pro-Choice America admitted that the group has been losing the online messaging battle with pro-lifers. In Arizona and Michigan, NARAL found that focus-group participants often used **pro-life language** when discussing New York's 2019 Reproductive Health Act, which explicitly legalized abortion for any reason up to 24 weeks' gestation and with broad exceptions after that point.

This is another helpful sign that the pro-life movement is successfully using the Internet and social-media platforms to bypass the mainstream media, which tend to favor the abortion-rights argument. Websites such as LifeNews, LifeSiteNews, & Live Action provide timely analysis and commentary from a pro-life perspective.

In 2020, Students for Life of America launched a YouTube series called "#Why," a project that provides pro-life perspectives on a range of life issues. Live Action has its own video series entitled "Pro-Life Replies" which provides pro-life responses to common arguments from abortion supporters. [Michael New, www.lifenews.com].

"Right to Life is Fundamental"

Those were the words of Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone (San Francisco), saying that the right to life is a **fundamental human right**. He stated that "to use the smokescreen of abortion as an issue of health & fairness to poor women is the epitome of hypocrisy. Let me repeat: no one can claim to be a devout Catholic and condone the killing of innocent human life, let alone have the government pay for it." [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 8/8/21]

Supreme Court to Revisit Abortion

Lynn Fitch, the attorney general of Mississippi, gets right to the point in the state's legal brief in defense of its ban on abortion after 15 weeks' gestation [*Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*]: "On a sound understanding of the Constitution, the answer to the question presented in this case is clear and the path to that answer is straight. Under the Constitution, may a State prohibit elective abortions before viability? Yes, because **nothing** in constitutional text, structure, history or tradition supports a right to abortion. A prohibition on elective abortions is therefore constitutional if it satisfies the rational-basis review that applies to all laws."

Case precedents, *Roe v. Wade* and *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, ignored our Constitution to pretend that abortion requires federal courts to extend it special protection. The brief notes that in 2020 the five justices who agreed to strike down another abortion regulation could not agree on the basis for doing it. Justification on sound legal grounds just can't be done. The justices may duck the issue, but **they cannot refute it**. They should have the courage and integrity to admit that the Court has been wrong all along. [*National Review*, 8/16/21] Note: the Court will release a decision sometime after June 2022.

9/11 commemorations will take place this month on the 20th anniversary of the attacks in which nearly 3,000 innocent people died. Some pro-life groups compare this to the more than 20,000 innocent human lives in the U.S. that are lost every week to the horror of abortion.

Early Feminists Were Pro-Life

They didn't consider children an "undue burden" as the Supreme Court has said. The mother of the women's movement, **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, equated abortion with infanticide and called it the "murder of children, either before or after birth" and "pointed to the only remedy, the education and enfranchisement of woman," adding, "We believe the cause of all these abuses lies in the degradation of woman." [Serrin Foster, president, Feminists for Life of America, www.LifeNews.com, 8/19/21.]

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“Just 19 Years Old and Pregnant”

Jill (name changed) was working when she found out she was pregnant. That same month, her boyfriend was let go from his job. The pressure of it all was too much and Jill decided her only option was abortion.

Her family also pushed for abortion. “They insisted on abortion, saying it’s no bigger than a grain of rice.” Jill searched online and found a pregnancy clinic offered free ultrasounds. “When the nurse zoomed in on the baby, I saw this pulse. I asked myself, “Is that what I think it is? The nurse didn’t have to even tell me. I knew. It was her heartbeat. That’s when my life changed and I became a new person instantly. It was love at first sight.” Jill chose life.

More than 54% of abortion-minded women who receive counseling and an ultrasound choose life. [Focus on the Family brochure]

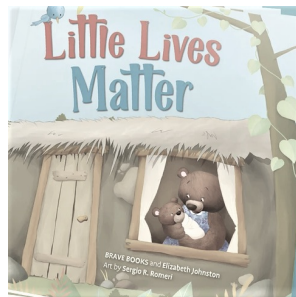
New Kids Book Teaches Pro-Life Values

Elizabeth Johnston, a best-selling Christian author and home schooling mom, just published *Little Lives Matter* (BRAVE books), a children’s book to help them understand the **value of every human life**. The mother of 10 children, Johnston said she knows how much modern culture is pushing abortion on society, including on young children. She said celebrities like Miley Cyrus & Alyssa Milano openly promote abortion.

“Hollywood. Social media. Indoctrination in school. From EVERY angle, our children are being bombarded with propaganda convincing them abortion is normal,” she wrote on Twitter. “Abortion kills a human life made in the image of God. It’s an affront to our Creator.”

She wrote her new book to help parents teach their children that “every life deserves a chance, even the unborn.” Her book follows Momma Bear and her son Mobi, who was born missing one of his arms. Momma Bear has to defend her son against Culture the Vulture and guard herself against temptations of an easier life. Despite constant calls to live for themselves, the beloved duo defend each other with the self-less refrain: “It’s his life, not mine, that means most to me.”

Johnston said her book teaches children about respecting the sanctity of all lives, including babies in the womb, people with disabilities and the elderly. She said she wants to help parents “prepare our children to be brave enough to stand up and defend life.” The book is the latest in a series of children’s books by Johnston to counteract the negative messaging of “woke” culture that is being targeted at children. “We need to do just as much work as the culture to teach our kids *Little Lives Matter*,” she said. [M. Bilger, www.LifeNews.com, 8/24/21]



What About Pro-choice?

After a detailed review of past “crimes against humanity,” author Lyle R. Strathman makes the following comparisons:

- Slavery: You may harness a Black man to your plow to cultivate your cotton field, or you may assist him to guide his own plow to cultivate his own cotton field. Your choice.
- Native Americans: You may dispossess people of their ancestral lands, or you may facilitate their assimilation into your neighborhood on land you seized from them. Your choice.
- Holocaust: You may surrender your Jewish friends to Nazi executioners, or you may seek and find and escort them to safe harbor. Your choice.
- Abortion: You may kill your pre-born children, or you may nurture them into fulfillment. Your choice.

The author’s point is that supporting “choice” in any of these situations really means you are okay with supporting the **bad option**. In other words, today “pro-choice” supporters, even if they say they are “personally opposed to abortion,” are fine with people who choose the destruction of developing human life. “A contemporary pro-choice elector is, by default or indifference or ignorance or negligence or selfishness or hypocrisy, an advocate of legalized abortion.” [*Human Life Review*, Spring 2021.]

Your Child’s First Phone

Parents of elementary- and middle-school students are wondering if they should send their kids to school with a phone. The nonprofit *Common Sense Media* says: “Sixth grade is a big transition for kids, when they start middle school and start to have more independence.” But are they ready? Do they show a **sense of responsibility**, such as getting their homework done on time? Are they responsible for their things? Do they already keep other devices charged? Would they be able to resist texting or scrolling in class?

Many kids start asking for a phone once their friends have one. **Peer pressure** heats up in middle school. Or a coach might require students to check Facebook for scheduling updates. Parents of younger kids sometimes band with like-minded families through *Wait Until 8th* that lets families pledge together not to give kids smart phones until 8th grade. Parents also qualify whose kids’ phones can only text & call.

Linking your kids’ phone account to yours allows you to **set screen-time limits**, choose which apps you want them to have, approve purchases, and track their location, if desired. Phones such as Gabb and Pinwheel give kids the ability to call and text but don’t include internet access. Kids’ smart watches, including Gabb’s version and the GizmoWatch 2 (Verizon), do the same. The Apple Watch has good controls.

Talk to your kids about your **expectations** for phone use, and consequences for losing or damaging the phone or for violating the rules. Ground rules include when/where phones should be used, where to charge at night (hint: not in their bedroom), how to treat others on social media & reporting cyberbullying. Families should write an agreement outlining the rules concerning phone use. See *Common Sense Media*’s template. [For the full article, see Julie Jargon, *Your Child’s First Smartphone*, www.WSJ.com, 8/14/21]