

Family & ProLife News Briefs

Respect Life Month – October 2021

Abortion Back in Headlines: Prime Time to Speak the Truth

US Bishops Continue to Speak Out

Here are recent items from the USCCB Pro-Life Activities Page. You are encouraged to log onto the page (<https://www.usccb.org/prolife>) and click items of interest, especially the Action Alerts.

- **ACTION ALERT:** Act Now to Stop Most Extreme Abortion Bill Ever (September 15, 2021)
- Letter to Representatives in Opposition to the Women's Health Protection Act (September 15, 2021)
- **ACTION ALERT:** Congress: "Human Infrastructure" MUST NOT fund abortion! (September 10, 2021)
- Letter to the Committee on Energy and Commerce on Abortion Funding (September 13, 2021)
- Statement of U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Chairman on Supporting Pregnant and New Mothers (September 9, 2021)
- **FACT SHEET:** The Women's Health Protection Act (September 2021)
- U.S. Bishop Chairmen Speak Out on U.S. Department of Justice Dismissal of a Case Involving Conscience Law (August 12, 2021)
- U.S. Bishops' Chairmen Respond to House Vote to Force Taxpayers to Fund Elective Abortions (July 29, 2021)
- U.S. Bishops' Chairmen Call on House to Retain Longstanding, Bipartisan Pro-Life Policies (June 28, 2021)
- **MAY WEBINAR:** Stop Taxpayer-Funded Abortion
- **ACTION ALERT:** Stop your tax dollars from paying for abortion!
- **FACT SHEET:** Equal Rights Amendment Fact sheet (April 2021)
- Letter to Congress on the Equal Rights Amendment (March 12, 2021)
- U.S. Bishop Chairmen for Doctrine and for Pro-Life Address the Use of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine (March 2, 2021)
- **FACT SHEET:** Abortion is Not Healthcare (Feb. 2021)

Advice to College Graduates

Young people today experience various pressures and expectations that can make them anxious. In a recent essay, Professor Timothy P. O'Malley, of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life, describes some of the **over-the-top pressures that graduating college students** are likely to encounter in commencement addresses.

"Notre Dame students are told that their degree is not exclusively an accomplishment ... but a pledge to change the world. They are charged ... to go cure cancer, secure a spot on the Supreme Court, end political polarization and corruption, and renew communities through being a transformative teacher.... The future is presented as a series of endless accomplishments that they must complete to be judged as worthy by their alma mater..... No wonder students get drunk and hook up on weekends to escape the

[continued on page 2]

Abortion: What's at Stake?

With the Texas ruling by the Supreme Court, Catholics find themselves with a prime opportunity to speak the truth about what abortion really is and is not. It's these kinds of conversation – rather than participation in political debates – that can help make ground in the cultural struggle for life and help move the country in a pro-life direction. Here are some points to keep in mind.

Abortion is:

An act that intentionally ends life in the womb, pure and simple. And it does so in a way that attacks those who are unable to speak for themselves. "It is not right to 'do away with' a human being, however small, in order to solve a problem," Pope Francis said during a general audience in 2018. "It is like hiring a hitman to solve a problem."

A violation of the Fifth Commandment and a grave sin that separates one from Jesus' Church. "No one can under any circumstances claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being," states the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Not the only way an unwanted pregnancy can play out. Thousands of pro-life crisis pregnancy centers across the country stand ready to provide mothers in need with compassionate, nonjudgmental and practical care. These centers provide medical assistance, help mothers meet their basic needs, and can even offer housing. Adoption agencies also are available to assist moms in crisis pregnancies, and can connect babies with parents desperate for a child to love.

Abortion is not:

Women's health care. As a USCCB document says, abortion "does violence to a very young child, has no clear justification in terms of women's health, and may attack women's health and their very lives." (*Our Sunday Visitor*, editorial excerpt, 9/19/21)

Respect Life Month in NJ:

3K Rosary for Life

A NJ project sponsored by Ray of Hope & LIFENET, the 3K represents the goal of having 3,000 people pray together for the Protection of Babies in the Womb and in Reparation for the Sin of Abortion. This will be done via computer link & conference call, on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 7 pm (Eastern Time). October 13 is the anniversary of the 1917 Miracle of the Sun at Fatima. To join, visit the event website page: www.lifeneteducation.org/3krosaryforlife

This free monthly newsletter is used by dozens of churches as a bulletin insert, and has had over 30,000 readers. To receive a copy in your inbox, email Frank Tinari, Ph.D. at tinarifr@shu.edu

Advice to Grads (continued from p. 1)

impending and seemingly impossible responsibility of changing the very arc of human history before they reach the age of thirty.” He notes that **marriage and family life** are seldom part of what commencement speakers at Notre Dame and other institutions of higher education propose. Many graduates think putting off marriage will help them achieve those goals.

I had a chat with my father as he was declining in health. He had had a long career as an astrophysics professor at the University of Arizona. I mentioned how impressive his professional accomplishments had been, not only in teaching and research, but also in authoring various notable books. “Ah, the real achievement, “what really matters are the children,” the gift of his family. After more than 50 years of marriage and raising five children he signaled what authentic satisfaction and human fulfillment had come to look like for him.

O’Malley notes that young people “want to hear how to be happy, and they want this happiness not to be tied to their accomplishments.” They want to be able to say, “I cannot control every dimension of the future, but I can dwell with this person for the rest of my days. I can commit to a common project, to a hopeful future with this man or woman.” In a sense, **marriage and raising a family** are becoming **revolutionary acts** in today’s world. They declare something positive, hopeful about the future and push back against the fear and insecurity that plague our human condition. [Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, Nat. Catholic Bioethics Center, syndicated column, 7/23/21]

Doctor: “You must abort this baby”

“The baby has no skull. She can't survive outside your womb.” “She is alive. She is there,” Chiara replied, refusing to abort her child. Baby Maria lived 40 minutes after birth. In that brief time, Chiara had her baptized, holding her closely until she breathed her last.



Then . . . a 2nd pregnancy! And the same demand: “You must abort this baby. He has no legs; his lungs and kidneys will not develop.” Chiara refused. Baby Davide was born, his mother received & embraced him

tenderly. “My son, my love,” she whispered to him. He was baptized, and **died 38 minutes after his birth**. Chiara would say he had, “an appointment in paradise.”

A third pregnancy! This time good news: you're going to have a healthy baby! And then bad news, almost immediately, while Francesco was still in the womb: “Chiara, you have cancer.” Doctors proposed treatment that would risk the life of Chiara's unborn child. “I have no intention of putting his life at risk,” Chiara responded despite knowing it might cost her life.

It did. Baby Francesco was born healthy but his mother, Chiara Corbella Petrillo, just 28 years old, soon died from her cancer (June 2012). Smiling in the face of death's horror that had stalked her and her three babies since the very first days of her marriage, happy she had chosen her young son's life over her own, and joyful she would soon be with her beloved Jesus.

Chiara was not born a saint, nor was she particularly holy as a young adult. Her stormy engagement with Enrico was punctuated with frequent quarrels, breakups, and reconciliations. She had to learn many essential things about living a good life in our turbulent modern world. Read her beautiful, powerful story in *Chiara Corbella Petrillo: A Witness to Joy* written by her close friends Simone Troisi and Cristiana Paccini (Sophia Institute Press, 184 pp.)

“A true story of the unconditional love of a young couple for each other, for God, their families and friends. This woman's life story will take your breath away. Her embrace of God's Will in every circumstance allowed His Life to shine through her in a powerful way. This book melts your heart. Such a witness to the value of life. Recommend to families struggling with loss of pregnancy or children with special needs.”

Google Bans Pro-Life Ads

According to the pro-life group Live Action, the search engine Google canceled its advertisements for **abortion pill reversal services**. On Sept. 13, Founder Lila Rose said, Google “disapproved” all of Live Action’s ads for abortion pill reversal, that had been running for over 4 months, claiming they were “unreliable” and contained false information. Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) sent a letter to Google’s CEO, asking why the ads had been removed and at what rate ads by pro-life organizations are ruled ineligible for Google’s platform, Live Action reported.

Rose disputed Google’s label of “unreliable claims,” noting that the abortion pill reversal regimen uses **progesterone treatment** that has been FDA-approved to prevent miscarriages. A 2018 case study, published in *Issues in Law and Medicine*, showed that in 261 successful abortion pill reversals, the reversal success rates were 64% with high-dose progesterone.

A chemical or medication abortion is a two-step process that involves the ingestion of two drugs: mifepristone & misoprostol. The first drug, mifepristone, effectively starves the unborn baby by blocking the effects of the hormone progesterone. The second drug, misoprostol, is taken up to two days later, and induces labor to expel the body of the deceased baby. Chemical abortions can be reversed after a woman takes mifepristone, but before she takes misoprostol, although this action must be taken quickly. **Live Action** advertised a **hotline for women** seeking to potentially reverse the first step of a chemical abortion, with an available doctor to help. (Christine Rousselle, Catholic News Agency, 9/15/21)