



# PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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St. Gabriel Pro-Life Committee

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Pat Barnett, Editor 412-926-9792

**For active links, please view under “Bulletins & News” at the Grouping website ([shcpgh.org](http://shcpgh.org)).**

## **U.S. Bishops Re-issue Call for Political Responsibility**



As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all. With renewed hope, we, the Catholic

Bishops of the United States, are re-issuing [\*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship\*](#), our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics, which provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens...The call to holiness, writes [Pope Francis], requires a “firm and passionate” defense of “the innocent unborn.” “Equally sacred,” he further states, are “the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection.” Our approach to contemporary issues is first and foremost rooted in our identity as followers of Christ and as brothers and sisters to all who are made in God’s image ...In choosing to re-issue this statement, we recognize that the thrust of the document and the challenges it addresses remain relevant today. At the same time, some challenges have become even more pronounced. Pope Francis has continued to draw attention to important issues such as migration, xenophobia, racism, abortion, global conflict, and care for creation. In the U.S. and around the world, many challenges demand our attention. The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed. At the same time, we cannot dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty and the death penalty.

## **SCOTUS Examines Louisiana Abortion Restrictions**

In oral arguments, Supreme Court justices expressed mixed views about a Louisiana law that requires abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital and if the abortion providers have the legal standing to challenge the state law on behalf of their patients. The court struck down a nearly identical law in Texas four years ago saying the requirements imposed on abortion providers placed “a substantial burden” on women who were seeking abortions and the law wasn’t necessary to protect women’s health. Chief Justice John Roberts, viewed as a key vote in this case, joined the dissenting opinion in the Texas decision, but last year, he sided with the justices who agreed to stop the Louisiana law from going into effect while its challengers pursued their appeal. More than 70 friend-of-the-court briefs, including one from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) were filed on both sides of this case with health care professionals, researchers, lawmakers, states, and religious and advocacy groups alike weighing in. Kat Talalas, with the USCCB’s Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said, “Louisiana is right to prioritize women over abortion industry profits. All states, not only Louisiana, have a strong interest in regulating a procedure which is lethal to children and immensely damaging to women. The Catholic Church encourages all people of faith to pray about the outcome to this very important case. A decision in this case is expected at the end of June. [The Pilot](#), 3/4/2020

## **Archbishop Appalled by Senate Rejection of Pro-life Bills**

The Pain-Capable bill, which would protect unborn children from late-term abortions, failed to advance by a vote of 53 to 44. The Born-Alive bill failed to advance by a vote of 56 to 41. It would have prohibited infanticide by ensuring that a child born alive following an abortion would receive the same degree of care to preserve her life and health as would be given to any other child born alive at the same gestational age. Neither measure received the 60 votes needed in the Senate to overcome a filibuster and advance to a vote on passage. “It is appalling that even one senator, let alone more than 40, voted to continue the brutal dismemberment of nearly full-grown infants, and voted against protecting babies who survive abortion,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities. [The Pilot](#), 2/26/2020



## PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

### OFFICE DEPOT

Operations: **office/school supplies** (Grand & Toy, OfficeMax), **retail outlets** (Grand & Toy, OfficeMax).

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Mr. Gerry P. Smith, CEO  
Office Depot, Inc.  
6600 North Military Trail  
Boca Raton, FL 33496

Tell him to stop  
funding Planned  
Parenthood

[www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com)

Office Depot was added to the most recent issue of The Boycott Handbook. After 47 years since Roe v. Wade, we must never give up on those with no voice – the pre-born. Let's keep sending those letters!

### UN Expert Believes World Religions Should Defer to Secular Authority

In his newly launched annual report, Ahmad Shaheed, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, wrote about the intersection of religion and gender equality. He concluded that laws based in traditional morality, often religious in nature, should be repealed if they conflict with the opinions of human rights scholars and UN experts. The report cites the work of scholars who have worked to promote "progressive" reinterpretations of faith traditions, adding that the source of gender-based violence or discrimination is not necessarily religions, but, rather, certain interpretations of them, "which are not protected per se." The position of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief is part of the subset of the UN Human Rights Council known as Special Procedures. As such, he serves as an individual in an unpaid capacity, and his reports are advisory and nonbinding. Nevertheless, they feed into the UN's library of human rights documents that frequently cite each other in defending interpretations of human rights that are far from gaining widespread support among UN Member States. Previous special rapporteurs, including those whose mandates include torture, violence against women, and the right to health, have used their posts to advance pro-abortion positions. [C-Fam](#), 3/5/2020

### Pope Brands Transgender Theory as Evil

When asked where he sees evil at work today, Francis answered, "One place is 'gender theory.'" He went on to say that gender theory is "dangerous" because it seeks to destroy basic differences between the sexes. "It would make everything homogenous, neutral. It is an attack on difference, on the creativity of God and on men and women." [Catholic League](#), 2/13/2020

### How Catholic Is Organ Donation?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity" (No. 2296). The Church teaches that the remains, after organ donation or medical research, should be treated with reverence and should be entombed or buried. As to gifts from living donor—bone marrow, say, or a lung—this is morally permissible so long as it is not life-threatening to the donor and does not deprive the donor of an essential bodily function, and provided that the anticipated benefit to the recipient is proportionate to the harm done to the donor. In his 1995 encyclical "The Gospel of Life," Pope St. John Paul II called organ donation an example of "everyday heroism," and in 2014, Pope Francis told the Transplantation Committee for the Council of Europe that organ donation is "a testimony of love for our neighbor."

[The Pilot](#), 3/18/2020

### Double-double Valentine

A couple in the U.K. [beat](#) 32 million-to-1 odds when the mother gave birth to her second set of Valentine's Day twins. Identical sisters Ella and Ava were due April 7, but concerns about the pregnancy led doctors to deliver them by emergency cesarean section on Feb. 14, *The Sun* reported. Their older sisters, un-identical twins Lola and Lexie, celebrated their fifth birthday that same day. The newborns weighed a little more than 3 pounds at delivery. Babies born at about 32 weeks of gestation can generally [survive](#) thanks to today's advanced medical technology. [WORLD Magazine](#), 3/16/2020

### ACTION ALERT

Senate Bill 857 is a telemedicine bill. The PA House of Representatives inserted an important amendment that would ban the telemedicine distribution of dangerous drugs, such as the RU486 abortion pill. Telemedicine abortions take place when an abortionist is not physically present, and communicates with the woman via an electronic screen. The woman is then left to deal with the traumatic aftermath of a chemical abortion alone in her home. The PA Health Department website indicates that four facilities have applied to perform telemedicine abortions in Pennsylvania, including one in Wilkes-Barre, where abortions were not previously performed. For more information about this issue, see the National Right to Life News story [here](#). Please call and email your state Senator in the Pennsylvania Senate with this urgent message: *I want to prevent telemedicine abortions in Pennsylvania. Please support the House-passed version of Senate Bill 857.* If you do not know who your state Senator is, or you need contact information, please click [here](#). Since this is a state issue, not a federal one, there is no need to contact Senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey. Thank you for making these critical calls and sending these important emails! [PAFamily.org](#), 3/13/2020